

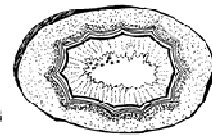
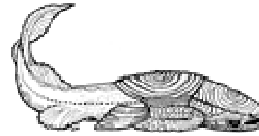
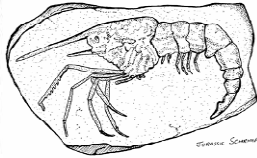


Bathurst Lapidary & Collectors Club Inc

NEWSLETTER

Issue 249 – September – October 2024

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH AT
12 NOON - EXCEPT JANUARY AT THE CLUBHOUSE (OLD EGLINTON



FIRE SHED), PARK STREET, EGLINTON.

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www.philas.org.au/bathurst

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2024 - UPCOMING PROGRAM

- 25th August** Sunday – Workshop open 9.00 am to 3.00 pm.
- 4th September** Wednesday – Monthly Meeting – 12 noon (after the normal Workshop Session). Remember to bring your 'Latest Acquisition'.
- 8th September** Sunday – Workshop open 9.00 am to 3.00 pm.
- 22nd September** Sunday – Workshop open 9.00 am to 3.00 pm.
- 28th–29th September** Saturday and Sunday - The New South Wales Gem and Mineral Show (GEMKHANA 2024 Competition), at the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Showground, 40 Racecourse Road Clarendon in Sydney. Opening times – Saturday 9am – 5pm and Sunday 9am – 4pm. The event will be offering handcrafted jewellery, faceted stones, polished stones (cabochons), stone carving, minerals and fossils, along with a great variety of crystals. Traders will be offering jewellery, crystals, cut stones, lapidary equipment, lapidary books, faceting and slabs. There will be free parking and an ATM on site. Camping sites are also available. Entry fees are adults \$10 and children under 16 are free. For more information or to make enquiries contact: Tony Offord gemkhana@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au Also keep up with the latest news on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GemLapidaryCouncilNSW>
- 2nd October** Wednesday – Monthly Meeting – 12 noon (after the normal Workshop Session). Remember to bring your 'Latest Acquisition'.
- 2nd and 3rd November** Proposed Weekend Field Trip to Windeyer, 43 kms south of Mudgee NSW. Panning and detecting for gold and social weekend. Long Creek runs through the caravan park which is suitable for gold fossicking. Windeyer is an old gold mining township south of Mudgee on a sealed road, approximately two to two and a half hours travelling depending on conditions, or can be accessed from Bathurst through Sofala, Sally's Flat and Pyramul on partially unsealed roads. Approximately one and a half hours depending on conditions.

Weekend trip – camping/caravan/cabin hire all available at Windeyer Bushlands Tourist Park. Phone 6373 8252. You must make your own arrangements for accommodation – please book in advance. Standard cabins are \$75 per night for 2, \$5 extra for extra person. There are other cabins available. Powered caravan sites are between \$32 - \$35 for 2 occupants, unpowered sites \$20 for 2 occupants. Camp kitchen with BBQ. Pets welcome. Fossicking equipment available for hire – make arrangements when you book.

There are other accommodation options in the vicinity of Windeyer – check on Google. The well-stocked general store and the caravan park are adjacent to the Gold and Fleece Hotel. Meals available at the Gold and Fleece Hotel on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Suitable for sedan or 4WD. Carpooling - make your own arrangements. Expressions of interest for the weekend. Please put your name down on the form at the Club or let an executive member know that you will be attending

It is simple courtesy to follow these requirements so that any potential participants can be kept informed of any last-minute plan changes, and we can know who to expect will be going along.

Please note to attend a field trip you MUST be a fully financial club member.

Note - membership renewal was due from 30th June, 2024.

6th November **Wednesday – Monthly Meeting** – 12 noon (after the normal Workshop Session). Remember to bring your ‘Latest Acquisition’.

4th December **Wednesday – Monthly Meeting** – 12 noon (after the normal Workshop Session). Remember to bring your ‘Latest Acquisition’.

20th-23rd March 2025 Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday - Sydney Stamp & Coin Expo 2025 – This exhibition will be held at the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex very close to the Sydney CBD with many public transport options plus good parking. The exhibition will be on Level 1, which can be securely locked. The theme of the exhibition will be the 175th anniversary of the Sydney View stamps, the first stamps issued in Australia. From Geoffrey Lewis, President of the Organising Committee.

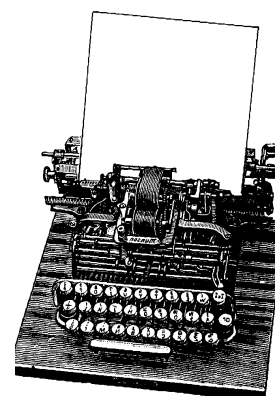
CLUB REPORT



A number of our members are not 100% at present and we wish them well whilst undergoing treatment. Our thoughts are with you and keep positive. We are thinking of you lots and we hope each new day brings you closer to a full and speedy recovery. It's a bugger getting old!

The Annual General Meeting took place with the following results: - President - Jeff West, Vice President - Judy Attard, Secretary - Craig Spink and Treasurer - Paul Martensz. The

Committee Members are: - Brian Boydell, Neil Adams, Elaine Holland, Helen Kowlaski and Colin Hogg. Special roles were filled by volunteers from the floor.



A special thanks to Alan McRae for his bi-monthly Newsletter - always full of interesting material.

Congratulations and thanks to all who have put their hand up to help out with the operation of the Club, without your help things wouldn't run as smoothly as it does.

Our electroforming and enamelling instruction sessions have been completed for the most part. Electroforming can be continued on the 2nd Wednesday each month from about 11 am until close. Enamelling can be done on the 3rd Wednesday each month. Please be aware that to participate in either of these activities, an extra \$5 per work session will be required. Note - This is over and above the normal \$7 per session. The materials for both these Allied Crafts are quite expensive, hence the need to cover those costs. See later article in this newsletter.

Remember that the Sunday openings are an opportunity for our Junior members to come along and work on projects. Slabs of different rocks are available for purchase at minimal cost, just ask if you haven't already seen a rock you like. These will provide different polishing outcomes and help develop new or better skills for ALL members!!

As an aside, but also important, cutting and polishing lumps of rock or quartz found in a creek bed is often a waste of both time and the use of club machines. If you are unsure, please ask before embarking on grinding rock which may be unsuitable.

Be sure to add this very large Gem and Mineral Show being held on 28th and 29th September, a Saturday and Sunday, to your diary if you haven't already. The New South Wales Gem and Mineral Show (GEMKHANA 2024 Competition), will be held at the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Showground, 40 Racecourse Road Clarendon in Sydney, less than a two and a half hour run. The opening times are Saturday 9am – 5pm and Sunday 9am – 4pm. If you haven't been to one, the event will be offering handcrafted jewellery, faceted stones, polished stones (cabochons), stone carving, minerals and fossils, along with a great variety of superb and varied crystals. Traders will be offering all sorts of items such as jewellery, crystals, cut stones, lapidary equipment, lapidary books, faceting and slabs. There will be free parking and an ATM on site. Camping sites are also available. Entry fees are adults \$10 and children under 16 are free. For more information or to make enquiries contact: Tony Offord gemkhana@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

required. This is over and above the normal \$7 per session. The materials for both these Allied Crafts are



quite expensive, hence the need to cover those costs. Remember when using the solutions in electroforming, PLEASE be very careful to avoid careless operation.

Remember, like any technique, electroforming takes skill, patience and precision to perfect.

Using agate slices is most appropriate with electroforming and once you develop some skills you could use silver or gold, if you have the money.

Agates naturally develop in rocks when an empty pocket is filled with micro-crystals and form colourful concentric bands or various other patterns.

Artificially coloured agate slabs are quite attractive as you can see above. They are dyed using a conventional procedure consisting of dipping pre-treated agate slabs into heated types of dye solutions after which they are washed and then polished. Dyes can be inorganic and organic colorants that have been mixed with water. Various minerals are also used to get certain colourants.



VALE TONY JOHNSON



Longtime member and Life member Anthony Maurice Johnson, known to us as Tony, passed away in Orange Hospital on Friday 2nd August, 2024, aged 81. Tony was born in Tasmania on 17th January, 1943, during World War Two, and was schooled at home for primary school. He went on to High School and boarded away. Later he went on to University where he did an Agricultural Degree.

He married Margaret and later they started their family.

Tony joined the collecting fraternity in the mid 1980s and always had a distance to travel, firstly from Freemantle and then Trunkey. He missed very few meetings and was a hard worker for the club. His handyman skills were invaluable.

Tony later took on the roll of treasurer to help out before continuing on for many years as well as being on the committee. He helped doing possibly more than a dozen Exhibitions at the Bathurst Showground over the decades. The club bestowed Life Membership on Tony for his service and dedication. He enjoyed his crystal collecting and had a reasonable collection. He also relished at going out gold panning and into the bush.

Tony had his farewell with a Celebration of Life Service at the Bathurst Crematorium at 11am on Monday 12th August, 2024, with an enormous number in attendance which included several from the Bathurst Lapidary and Collectables Club.

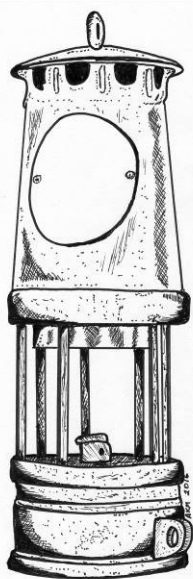
COAL MINING ACCIDENTS AT LITHGOW

While many collectors may have some samples of coal mined from the Lithgow district few will be aware that there were fatal accidents at these mines.

Coal was mined first in the Lithgow Valley during the 1830s and went on to boast some 189 mines that came and went into extinction. Over the time some ninety two recorded deaths have been recorded in several of the local newspapers.

At 6pm on Sunday 14th February, 1886, in response to a report that the Lithgow Valley Mine was on fire and producing thick smoke, three men, manager John Doig, miner William Rowe, and banksman Charles Younger went to investigate. Joined by William Martin, they proceeded down the tunnel and were overpowered by smoke in the main

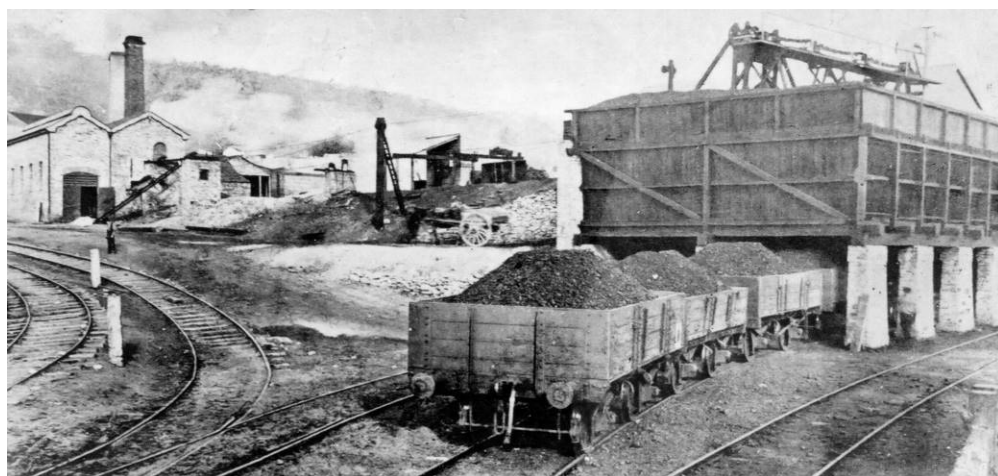
heading so they retreated some distance. Three of the men died from inhaling carbonic acid gas the coroner found. They were John Doig (33), William Rowe (56) and Charles Younger (42).



One of the earlier explosions occurred at the Lithgow Valley Colliery in April 1886 in the afternoon between 3 and 4 o'clock. It occurred about half a mile from the pit's mouth. There were thirteen men working in the shift, five of whom were killed, viz -Isaiah Hyde, a married man with two children, Thomas Mantle, married with one child, Thomas Rowe whose father was killed at the later disaster at the Lithgow Colliery Company's pit and who had five children, Joseph Bussa, married with four children and Lancelot Allison, married with one child.

The following are the names of those who escaped the accident – Gilbert Kirkwood, Archibald Dune, John Donkin, William Mantle, Charles Norwood, Andrew Grant, James Rowe and Thomas Norwood. These men were more or less injured, but not seriously. The latter three were working at the steam engine and they were hurled to the pit's mouth, about 30 yards distant. Other bodies were recovered in close proximity, about 400 metres from the tunnel mouth. Drs. Asher and Gibbons were promptly in attendance, but their efforts were unavailing. The scenes at the pit's mouth and in the homes of the deceased men were heartrending with strong men being moved to tears. The catastrophe cast complete gloom over the town.

Later, Mantle and Donkin, two of the survivors, who were more seriously hurt than was at first thought were both very severely bruised. Explosions were said to have been heard throughout the day, but no danger was anticipated. Inspector Rowan was reported to have been in the mine in the morning. The rescuing party, composed of fellow miners of the deceased men, displayed great bravery, and their conduct is deserving of the highest praise. The mine was much wrecked.



Left – Loading coal at the Lithgow Colliery Mine at Lithgow ca 1910.

The Sydney Morning Herald reporter interviewed some of the survivors, but the only information to be gleaned was that the explosion occurred without warning. The doomed men finding they were entombed, grasped each other by the hands, saying, "We will all die together." William Mantle was in a low state, but

the doctors say that he may recover. The inquest on the bodies of the deceased miners was to be held the following day.

Mr. Mackenzie, Examiner of Coalfields, Mr. Rowan, Inspector of Collieries; and Mr. Wilton arrived by the evening mail train in Lithgow that night. They were met by Mr. Campbell, manager of the Lithgow Valley Mine, and others connected therewith, all of whom appeared deeply impressed with the sadness of the occasion which had brought them together. These gentlemen were engaged in the early morning with private interviews, during which the authorities will learn, as far as they know, what occurred and will probably determine what course of action to pursue. It was stated that all the deceased are married men

Right – A piece of Lithgow coal. Collectors of coal classify it into four main types - anthracite, bituminous, subbituminous and lignite.

The inquest commenced the following morning. Charles Norwood related that - starting at noon, volunteers were engaged in attempting to subdue the fire by applying high pressure steam to it for 80 hours, erecting brattice, clearing debris and 'using their coats to beat back the flames'. This failed and the fire increased in intensity as it was fed by the entry of oxygen into the tunnel. Then water was used, but only sparingly, as supplies were limited before the explosion took place.

The proceedings, as determined last evening at a mass meeting of miners, were watched, in the interests of the Miners' Association, by a legal adviser. The



The treaty was named after the location bearing its name in the Bay of Islands where it was signed finally on 6th February, 1840.

The Maori people first settled New Zealand some 1,000 years ago after they sailed and paddled their canoes from Hawaiki in Polynesia. Cannibalism was present and went on to last some hundreds of years until the missionaries ended the practice in the 1830s.



Above – A set of New Zealand Waitangi Treaty silver coins of which only 1,128 sets were struck, so they are scarce. The obverse, front of the coin, shows the Ngāpuhi chief Tāmāti Waka Nene facing right and the first governor of New Zealand, William Hobson, R.N., facing left, shaking hands with the Chief who wore a dog skin cloak. Underneath is the legend ‘Waitangi’. King George V appears on the other side, the obverse.

The 1935 set came about after members of the New Zealand Numismatic Society decided to contact the New Zealand Government asking that a new coin be issued to mark the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. Little did they know it at the time the coin series would become the rarest group of New Zealand's predecimal coins.

The famous coin and postage artist in New Zealand, James Berry, drew up a design whilst British artist, Percy Metcalfe, adapted his colleague's design.

Struck in 1935 the Waitangi crown is a commemorative crown size coin struck by Britain's Royal Tower Mint on behalf of the Dominion of New Zealand to celebrate the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. Many regard the signing as the founding constitutional document for New Zealand. The agreement was entered into by some representatives of the British Crown and mainly two Maori tribes as well as some sub tribes.

The important document was signed by Captain William Hobson, Britain's consul representative and with a number of local English residents, along with a combined number of almost 90 Maorie, many of whom were chiefs from New Zealand's North Island. A number of Maori Chiefs declined to sign the Treaty on the day. It assured the Maoris of the British Crown's





Almost from the beginning the British Government saw opportunities to break the Waitangi Treaty by buying land occupied by the Maoris at exceedingly low prices. Like in Australia they failed to set aside reserves of land to allow the natives to feed themselves. They also confiscated land from native occupiers as punishment for the New Zealand Wars.

Heading out of the Great Recession numbers of New Zealanders purchased sets as souvenirs ensuring that they did not circulate.

In 1974 New Zealand marked the signing of the Waitangi document with a national holiday which has, over the years, grown in importance. New Zealanders are encouraged to celebrate themselves as people, as a country and as a nation, whilst taking on occasion to ponder on their past, present and their

future.

FLYING BOATS ONCE CARRIED POST OFFICE LETTERS AND PARCELS

With World War Two over various aircraft manufacturers looked for other avenues to use their aircraft. One was to carry letters and parcels. This unusual looking dual aircraft was made by the Short Brothers Aviation Company. These composite British flying boats served the British Post Office.



This aerospace company was initially located in Belfast in Northern Ireland. Short Brothers was founded in 1908 in London. It claimed to be the initial company which manufactured the first production aeroplane in the world.

Left – Painting by Penelope Douglas of the Short
– Mayo Composite.

The company was particularly noted for the design and production of its well known flying boats during World War Two and into the 1950s after the war.

the unique design using a modified Short Empire flying boat they called 'mother' and 'Mayo', a smaller and heavier seaplane mounted on the top of mother.

The smaller plane, when fully loaded and filled with aviation fuel, was unable to take off on the water, so it was transported into the air by the larger seaplane. After the two aircraft reached their operational height, they separated. By that time most of the fuel was expended and the smaller plane with its payload carried in its floats, slowly returned to earth, landing in the conventional manner.

DAGGY TALLAHASSEE RAIL ROAD COMPANY ONE DOLLAR NOTE

This tattered and torn American one dollar banknote or script was issued in 1866 just after the end of the American Civil War. See note on the next page.

Many private businesses and banks issued their own notes at the time in the United States as there was a shortage of money. In 1789 the United States Constitution was ratified and it forbade the colonies (States) from issuing their own paper money. By the end of the Civil War with few coins around both Colonies, especially railroad companies and other businesses decided to issue their own just to get businesses and projects going again.

One, two and three dollar notes were printed on cream paper, though all notes were not issued by the company. Those officially issued saw each and every note hand signed, dated or had a number on it. The one dollar note was printed using black and green ink. Two series of notes were printed, the first were dated 1866 and the second lot printed in August 1870.

Numerous notes were ensued everywhere with fancy designs and vignettes being painstakingly engraved onto copper plates with various coloured inks used to print the notes. Later on, mechanical lathes were introduced to produce some very eye catching designs on notes. Then watermarked paper was introduced, all to prevent notes from being forged. Counterfeiting was rife especially amongst the earlier typeset notes as they were easy to copy.

The Tallahassee Rail Road Company notes were printed by the American Bank Note Company. Notes were printed with multiple notes per sheet after which each note was cut to size. Many of the notes are miniature design masterpieces and lessons in history.

Beautiful or not, the countless issues suffered from a tarnished reputation. This was darkened by the depressions and the collapse of hundreds of banks during the panics of 1819, 1837 and 1857. Australia was to experience a similar problem decades later. During the American Civil War even the issues of the private banks proved incapable of producing the quantity of notes needed.



Left - The obverse states that: 'THE TALLAHASSEE RAIL ROAD COMPANY WILL PAY ONE DOLLAR ON DEMAND IN TRANSPORTATION TO BEARER' with a '1' inside a scroll in both the top left and lower right corners. There is a woman in an oval in the lower left corner with a group of people in the top centre waving at a passing steam train.

After being incorporated in 1834 the owners of the Tallahassee Rail Road

Company in Leon County in Florida received their authority, after an Act of the Legislative Council. The company started their operations around 1834, however no steam engines were available and the lines were made of timber so the train was pulled by horses/mules until the mid 1850s. The railway line workmen commenced from Tallahassee making their way to St. Marks some 22 miles away.

The company's notes were used for paying for goods or services needed, though they were not legal tender even though they were regularly used as currency.

The reverse was printed in green ink with an emblem in the centre with the words – 'Tallahassee Rail Road Company with the numerals '1' for one dollar on each side.

Though it would not effect the Tallahassee Rail Road Co. in 1892 the United States Mint Act was passed, however their own Mint was hampered by worn machinery which limited their output. As well there was a shortage of suitable metal. Businesses and the Colonies were fed up with the situation. Things hadn't really changed too much.



MOUNT TENNYSON MOLYBDENUM MINE

The Mount Tennyson Mine was an open cut mine that produced molybdenum as well as gold, copper and tungsten. It was often called the Yetholme Mine in some newspapers. Over the years molybdenite was found in a number of mines throughout the Bathurst district. Besides that at Mount Tennyson there was Gemalla, Perthville, Tarana, Cow Flat, Yetholme and O'Connell.

Left – Molybdenite found at the Mount Tennyson Molybdenum Mine at Yetholme.

Molybdenite was first discovered in 1874 near Bathurst when the No. 7 contract for the Great Western Railway was in full swing. It was discovered by Stephen Wade, an old, rugged, weather-beaten, yet hale and hearty man, for whom mining had

been a lure for many years. “We were near the top of Mount Tennyson, overlooking the valley along where the Bathurst railway line (at the foot of the mountain) passed through Gemala Railway Station on the run to Locksley. We were in front of some primitive workings on what has been described by some local enthusiasts as the richest and longest molybdenite lode ever found in Australia.”

But this is the opinion of people who had seen molybdenite for the first time, and would never have known that the shiny star-shaped, flaky looking mineral in the rock was worth over £500 per ton of 95% concentrates, had they not been in a position to compare it with ore from the Sachs’ of Kingsgate molybdenite and bismuth mine near Glen Innes and a molybdenite and bismuth mine near Pambula.

“I was prospecting this mountain,” continued Mr. Wade, “looking for copper and found something I knew nothing about. The silver-grey colour of the mineral in the ore puzzled me. I knew it was not copper, nor anything like it, and as I was looking for copper I did not trouble about the puzzling metal. But I took some small lumps of the ore and about ten years after I showed them to an old miner, who said it was ‘mollybenight’ as he had had some of the same sort of stuff assayed, and the assayer told him that was the name of the metal. The old miner also told me the mineral was of no value.” “What really brought me back to the mountain, was the fact that last Christmas Day, when living in Lithgow, I read an article in the ‘Sydney Morning Herald’ on ‘mollybenight’ and from the description of the ore given I was satisfied my old miner friend of 30 years ago was right, and that what I had found was ‘mollybenight’ which had since become so valuable. I looked up my present mate, Mr. Kirk, and told him I knew where I could show him a ‘mollybenight’ deposit. We both started off for the mountain, but it was such a long time since I had been near it that it took me some time to find the lode. At last, I came across this stuff and such as it is here it is.”

Right – A piece of the silvery molybdenite ore found at The Mount Tennyson Mining Company’s Mount Tennyson Molybdenum Mine at Yetholme.



The locality of the find was about 110 miles, from the Sydney General Post Office, and within two and a half miles of the Gemalla Railway Station, on the Great Western Railway, or about twenty miles on the Sydney side of Bathurst. Mount Tennyson rises fully 800 feet and the lode outcrops on the western side of the mountain about 300 feet from the top, it has a north and south strike, and apparently underlies to the west. The ore body appears to be well defined and has been traced a considerable distance through at least two of the prospecting blocks.

The molybdenite lode, as molybdenite, was located only in 1914, hence it was easily understood that the amount of prospecting work done was very small. Much more would have to be done before any definite conclusion could be arrived at as to the length of the pipes if they are ore pipes and whether the ore becomes cleaner or dirtier, that is, free from arsenical or any form of pyrites. As far as was shown by the small amount of work done, the prospects are encouraging, but no ‘massive’ molybdenite has been found. Out of the few tons of ore, broken lumps of ore as big as a man’s fist could lie broken off, carrying up to 30 or 40% of molybdenite, whilst the remainder is of lower grade, as low as 2%.

Messrs. Wade and Kirk’s trenches undoubtedly reveal encouraging prospects, but whether the lode is 40ft. wide, as some claim that it is, or whether it forms in pipes, can only be determined by future work. While no tonnage of ore has been broken, though it is there to break, the Mount Tennyson deposit is a good prospecting show, for the reason that most of the ore carries from 1 to 3% of molybdenite, while some small pieces of ore show up to 40% of metal. So far very little base matter is seen, but its presence in minute portions of iron, arsenical and copper pyrites raises the question, “Will they disappear or increase with depth?” This is important because ore buyers demand a clean ore or concentrate. They won’t buy ore or concentrates carrying pyretic impurities and as Australian molybdenite is mostly associated with pyrites of one kind or the other, their elimination will be necessary.

It was concluded that the Mount Tennyson deposit was a good ‘prospecting’ show. It carried molybdenite in an apparently large ore body, low grade in the bulk, with splashes of rich ore with traces of arsenical and copper pyrites, and white iron. The deposit was worthy of vigorous prospecting, in order to prove whether it is a mine or another false

[illegible]

Francis Jonathan Clarke's Miraculous Salve ointment was considered by the manufacturer as the best application for ulcerated bad legs, boils, abscesses, eczema and all other skin eruptions and irritations. The salve was prepared only by the proprietor of the Lincoln & Midland Counties Drug Company Ltd in Lincoln in England who considered himself a chemist.

As newspapers were commenced in Australia and around the world, especially from the 1880s until World War One there were countless advertisements in the broadsheets and periodicals for ointments, pills, tonics and various mixtures for curing everything from gout and gastric upsets to hair loss and even cure diabetes and cancer. Despite some attempts to regulate the medicinal trade by the medical bodies and the Government, quackery still abounded. It was particularly prevalent in the late Victorian age.

The first series of ointment pots of the Clarke's Miraculous Salve ointment were marketed in white ironstone pottery and decorated with the intricate typography advertising transfer applied to it. Prices at the time were one



shilling and a penny halfpenny, two shillings and nine pence and four shillings and sixpence. The first size container measures 5.6cm in diameter and 5.8cm tall. Francis was initially helped by his wife Betsy Ann, even though she had four children.

Left - The second series of salve retailed for one shilling and three pence, three shillings or for the largest size one paid five shillings per pot. Below – a Queen Victoria silver five shilling piece that bought a large pot of Clarke's salve.



The Clarke Company also produced other products such as Clarke's B-41 pills that cured all ailments concerning all sorts of urinary issues for both men and women. Also, nervous debility, pains of the back, gout, lumbago and what was known as gravel prostate. They were sold in boxes by Bathurst and other chemists for two shillings and ninepence.

Certainly by 1880 Francis Clarke of the London and Midland Counties Drug Company of Lincoln was a substantial and respected pharmaceutical business. He was always on the lookout for new products such as his Clarke's B-41 Pills which was promoted as "Clarke's World-Famed Blood Mixture." Again, this product was heavily advertised and lots of blurbs and testimonials abounded. The merchandise claimed to cure everything that one could imagine, including gout, ulceration, ringworm, rheumatism, dropsy, itchy skin eruptions, lethargic and obstructed veins. These legendary pills became a staple to be taken daily, however one wonders whether if they fixed the problem was another matter.

Born in 1842, Francis Jonathan Clarke was the son of Robert Clarke, also a Lincoln druggist. From a young age he



Stromatolites are considered an important source of information on the early development of life on our Earth and possibly even other planets.

If you own a stromatolite, you have one of the oldest fossils on earth.

+ Throughout time miners had various superstitions such as never having a woman underground, or even near a mine, as it was considered bad luck. If a miner's candle went out, he needed to think about leaving the mine and never, never whistle whilst underground.

+ On 10th September, 1851, a letter was sent to the Bathurst Free Press and Mining Journal – “MY DEAR SIR - I have much pleasure in congratulating the good people of Bathurst on the fact of their having an extensive South Western Gold Field on the Abercrombie River. There are now 40 persons at work earning from 7 to 10 shillings per day each, and I have no doubt when the waters subside the river will prove highly auriferous. The geological structure of the country is highly favourable to the production of gold and is of great extent. You are therefore quite correct in your statement to me a short time ago that the next gold field of any magnitude would be discovered on the Abercrombie River. The place has been visited by Mr. Hargraves the gold discoverer, who named it ‘Tarshish,’ (also called the Albert Diggings) as you see by the heading of my letter. The diggings are situated 10 miles S. E. from Carcoar about 17 miles from Mulgunnia, 50 miles from Bathurst and 70 miles from Goulburn. They are claimed by the Goulburn people who have given them the designation of the ‘Albert Diggings’, but I can assure you that they have no more claim upon them than upon your Turon or Ophir, as the locale is not in their district, neither have they any right to name them. They unquestionably belong to the Bathurst country. I procured 115 small scales of gold in a pan of earth. Its general distribution through the soil is favourable to industrious miners. A good hand would earn £1 a day in the bank of the river.”

+ The Queen of the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt ruled from 51 to 30 BC, this was Cleopatra VII. Her most favourite gemstone was peridot known as “the gem of the sun.” Later historians went on to believe that many of the “emeralds” that Cleopatra wore were actually peridot. At the time the Egyptians and Burmese were the main providers of this gemstone during ancient times.

+ Gold prospectors and miners in the 1850s needed to acquire a pick which was used to break up various pieces of rock, a round-nosed shovel or spade to remove the gravel and dirt and a timber gold cradle and a metal prospectors' dish to separate the gold from the dirt. Other helpful tools might include – a pickaxe, a sturdy hook to hang a bag to keep it out of the water, felling axes, a magnifying glass, iron wedges, a trowel, knife or spoon to scrape out cracks for gold in bedrock, a magnet, a geologist's pick, crowbars, metal buckets, some type of container to put the gold in and a wheelbarrow. Initially prospectors had to buy equipment wherever they could, but it wasn't long before they could purchase their tools from storekeepers or even from exhausted diggers leaving the goldfields.

+ Silver is the best conductor of heat and electricity that is known to man. It has been used in photography, dental alloys, glass coatings, soldering and brazing alloys, LED chips, all sorts of electrical contacts, medicine, nuclear reactors, batteries and was once used by Mints to mint silver coins for more than 3,000 years.

+ Obsidian is formed during volcanic eruptions which produces magma from which forms what is known as natural volcanic glass. This glass can be worked to make tools and weapons since prehistoric times.

+ Most specimen collectors will have more than one piece of malachite in their collection. Malachite is a bright green copper carbonate hydroxide mineral containing over 50% in its purest form. Bright green malachite paste was used by Cleopatra on her lower eyelids as the colour green was highly symbolic, representing new life and fertility. The Romans believed that malachite would protect them against lightning strikes. Even the Greek soldiers wore it around their necks or wrists in order to prevent injuries on the battlefield. Malachite was also used during the Middle Ages as it was believed to ward off the evil eye as well as protecting children from childhood diseases.