



Bathurst Lapidary & Collectors Club Inc

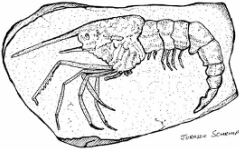
NEWSLETTER

Issue 252 – March – April 2025

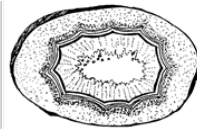
MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH AT
12 NOON - EXCEPT JANUARY AT THE CLUBHOUSE (OLD EGLINTON
FIRE SHED), PARK STREET, EGLINTON.

Enquires 63315404 or write P.O. Box 9156, Bathurst 2795 bathurstlcc@gmail.com
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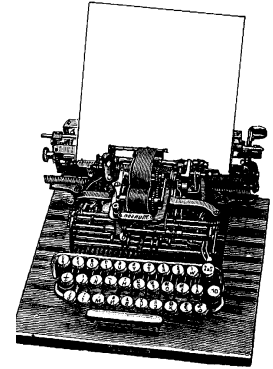








MARCH – APRIL 2025 - UPCOMING PROGRAM

- 20th March** **Thursday – A talk by Ronald Cardwell** author of the “The Handsome and Extravagant George Bonnor.” The talk takes place in the Uniting Church Hall in William Street commencing at 7.30pm. Come along to learn about George Bonner a great cricketer from Bathurst. See more in newsletter.
- 2nd April** **Wednesday - Monthly Meeting** – 12 noon – Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’.
- 12th and 13th April** **Saturday and Sunday - Heritage Trades Trail at Bathurst Showground.** Open 10am – 4pm each day. The Bathurst Lapidary and Collectors Club will mount a large display of promotional material along with lapidary and jewellery demonstrations as well as numerous displays. We will need to call on members to help mind and keep an eye on the displays. As part of the Heritage Trades Trail the Bathurst District Historical Society will have on display photographs from the late 1800’s to early 1900’s and an exhibition of period costumes from that era.
- 2nd to 4th May** **Bathurst Show** - details have been sent.
- 7th May** **Wednesday - Monthly Meeting** – 12 noon – Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’.
- 4th June** **Wednesday - Monthly Meeting** – 12 noon – Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’.
- 2nd July** **Wednesday - Monthly Meeting** – 12 noon – Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’.
- 6th August** **Wednesday - Monthly Meeting** – 12 noon – Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’.
- 3rd September** **Wednesday - Monthly Meeting** – 12 noon – Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’.
- 13th & 14th September** - **Saturday and Sunday - The State Gem and Mineral Show, GEMKHANA 2025**, will take place at the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Showground at Clarendon. It is organised and run by the Gem and Lapidary Council of New South Wales Inc. The show will feature handcrafted jewellery, faceted stones, polished stones (cabochons), stone carving, minerals, fossils and crystals. Traders will be on site selling jewellery, crystals, cut stones, lapidary equipment, faceting and slabs and rock and mineral books.
- 1st October** **Wednesday - Monthly Meeting** – 12 noon – Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’
- 1st & 2nd November** **Saturday and Sunday – the Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc will be holding their Jewellery Gems and Minerals Festival** on their 63rd Anniversary. Opening hours are Saturday between 9am – 4pm and Sunday between 9am to 3.00 pm at the Heininger Hall, Ribbonwood Centre, 109 Princes Hwy, Dapto. Entry: Adults \$5, children under 12 years free. The festival will feature Gemstone Faceting, Cabochon Cutting, Silver Crafts, Jewellery Making and Valuations, Mineral Group, Club and Fossicking Information, Refreshments, Raffle and Kid’s Games. Traders will be on hand selling: Lapidary Supplies, Minerals, Jewellery, Crystals, Findings, Fossils, Beads and Opals.



Remember to visit our club's webpage www.tinyurl.com/blandcc

Congratulations, Tony and Johanna, thanks for all you have done over many years.

MORE IMAGES FROM WEEKEND FIELD TRIP TO WINDEYER



Some more images of the weekend field trip to Windeyer on 2nd and 3rd November last year which was a great success. This particular gold mine was operated from 1863 until 1990.

The precious alluvial gold was first discovered in the region towards the end of 1851. Then until 1862 the village boasted 29 pubs, lots of Chinese miners in their flimsy tents along with their joss houses and numbers of schools. Accommodation on the fields was sparse and were mainly canvas tents, however there were shacks built from bush timber covered with bark and tied down with wire.

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CLUB DISPLAY AT EGLINTON COMMUNITY FAIR

On Saturday, 22nd February, under the coordination of Neil Adams, the Club set up an Information Stall at the Eglinton Community Fair.

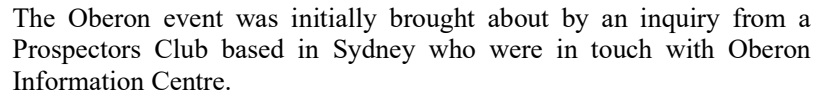


The display attracted quite a good range of public interest from adults to children. We now have a list of some students who have expressed an interest in future Holiday Workshops and also a couple of adults who may arrive when they have time to learn the skills of lapidary.

Overall, thanks to Club members who volunteered to set up and/or supervise the stall for the time it operated on the day.

It was a good opportunity for the Club to advertise what is done during its work sessions and potential field trips.





It started off in typical Oberon weather - cold, misting rain and windy! During the day, fortunately the sun tried appearing and things became more pleasant.

Overall, it was a good opportunity for the Club to be represented to a wider audience.



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SENIORS FESTIVAL VISIT



INTRODUCTION TO LAPIDARY COURSE FOR U3A



The Club hosted and ran an "Introduction to Lapidary" course for U3A again this year. The course was over seven weeks from February to April. Paul Martensz was the Course Facilitator.

We had five participants looking at the basics of gemstones, minerals and rocks suitable for making cabochons and other items using the skills of lapidary - cutting, grinding, shaping and finally polishing.

In one session, the participants looked at a range of tests used to determine the properties of minerals and gemstones to ascertain the suitability to respond to the various processes used in lapidary.

General aspects such as types of lapidary, fakes, history and uses of gemstones were covered in other theory sessions. Judy Attard and Elaine Holland outlined a range of ways of setting polished stones, many of which are taught through the Club's activities.

Thanks to all who helped as tutors in the practical sessions - Piper Boulter, Craig Spink, Helen Kowalski and Jeff West.



BATHURST HERITAGE TRADES TRAIL WEEKEND



Our Club's display at the Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th April, 2025, with the event open from 10am to 4pm at the historic Bathurst Showground was well attended by our Club members. The weekend saw some twelve members participate over the two days, a magic effort.

Left – William Forbes with his silver chainmail with patrons who were commenting on the quality of his workmanship. He constantly answered questions for two days.

Bathurst celebrates over 200 years of history as it paid homage to the various trades and traditions that has long shaped Bathurst and surrounding regions. There were over one hundred accomplished artisans who displayed their aptitudes as they demonstrated their various traditional trades and crafts. It was certainly

an accomplished group of artisans.

With Bathurst rightly acknowledged as Australia's oldest inland European settlement it was appropriate that the event be held at the historic Bathurst Showgrounds as it is more than 160 years old.

Right – The crowd rushed in when the doors were opened on the Saturday morning at 10am bombarding members with numerous questions that they wanted to have answered. It was shoulder to shoulder for maybe three hours before the crowd died down a bit and we only had a row of people in front of us, instead of three rows. Some even arrived with specimens to be identified, or often fixed.

A quick walk around revealed the variety of the rare and lost trades and handicrafts that were showcased both indoors and outdoors. One could see blacksmithing, saddlery, lapidary, dry stone walling, whip cracking and making, glass artistry, tapestry, lapidary, carpentry and joinery, cigar box guitar making and violin making, along with finer crafts such as embroidery and lace making. There was a very special display of traditional Aboriginal tool and weapon making.



Above – Lots of on lookers



Above - Alan McRae and John McCumskie



Mervyn Gray imparting his knowledge



Dave Collins with his display of lockets and brooches



Above left – Right Wendy Hands and Judy Attard along with Elaine Holland were responsible for the display of local period costumes from the Bathurst District Historical Society. There were also some eighty enlarged historical photos with their captions from the past also from the Bathurst District Historical Society's photographic Collection. Above right – The polishing station was well patronised also and rarely was it vacant.



Left - Wendy Hands in her colonial costume who walked around all the time on both Saturday and Sunday.

Right - Again the rides on the Cobb and Co coach proved very popular with young patrons lining up to enjoy a ride in a genuine coach.

Already the dates for next year's Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail have been set – they are Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th April, 2026.



Some 3,500 patrons attended over the weekend which included 1,100 children.

Thanks to all who gave their time to make the weekend the success it was.

Annand, Smith & Co, for his grocery business in Melbourne, these being released in October 1849.

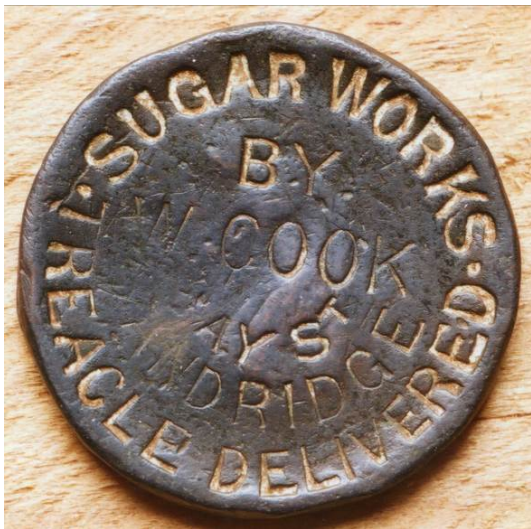
All sorts of establishments issued them such as general stores, shipping merchants, tobacconists, tea merchants, grocers, saw millers, jewellers, hotel keepers, valuers, drapers; pawnbrokers, opticians, haberdasheries, general ironmongers, wine and spirit merchants to name a few. Tradesmen's tokens are not rare by any means and are usually found in worn out condition as they constantly circulated for some twenty to twenty five years.

Many of the tokens were struck by private mints, mainly in England and some within Australia, this was because the Royal Mint in London couldn't keep up supplying official coins for Britain and the various colonies around the world. Initially these pennies and half pennies were struck in copper up until 1860 after which they were predominantly minted in bronze. The Colonial Government deemed the issues as illegal however they tolerated them until the British Government was able to supply enough official imperial coinage.

There were several advantages of issuing one's own tokens, firstly the issuer made a profit on every shilling's worth of tokens issued, secondly, they had free advertising and thirdly it added to the amount of circulating small change.

The 1850s gold rush just added to the difficulties of being in business which saw more and more businesses deciding to order from the Soho Mint in Birmingham. The Southern Colony soon after established the Sydney Mint though they struck large numbers of gold sovereigns and half sovereigns, and later the Melbourne Mint in 1872.

Tokens relied on the other party accepting it. Supposedly the token could be swapped for legal coinage by the receiver at any time although this would in reality have not been possible in many cases. Sometimes the token would be accepted at a reduced value. Tokens usually were produced at a cost of around eight pence (8d) per dozen.



Left – W.C. Cook Sugar Works - treacle delivered, whose business was in Bay Street in Sandridge in Victoria and surcharged copper penny token of Professor Holloways c.1860. Cook was operating his general grocery store which he called his Oddfellows Store.

W.C. Cook was a retailer at Port Melbourne who also had some tradesmen's tokens struck in 1862 by Thomas Stokes, a Melbourne medallist and token maker. This surcharged token was struck on a worn round copper coin during the reign of King George IV.

As long as the tokens bore some relative size and weight to the official British issues that they were obviously replacing they were readily accepted. One issuer, a grocer and tea dealer, in Hobart in Tasmania in 1874 decided to reduce the size of his penny tokens to only 31 mm, one assumes to save on metal. As it turned out his

customers would not have anything to do with them, so he obviously made a loss on them.

The obverse (front) of the token usually has the issuer's name and address on the front. To save the issuer money the token maker had a number of reverse (back) designs to choose from. This also saved time in having a special new die cut and many issuers opted for this practice. The date was usually incorporated into the design though numbers of tokens are not dated. Almost all tokens have plain edges.

In 1852 the first dated tokens were issued by Peek and Campbell (Tea Stores) in Sydney. These tokens were made by a local Sydney jeweller and diesinker Mr J C Thornthwaite.

There was certainly a need for good quality tokens to be struck on our shores, and it came in the form of William Joseph Taylor, a die-sinker and engraver from London who had business plans in the new colonies down under. His equipment had originally been brought out to the Colony of Victoria on the sailing ship, the "Kangaroo" and set up in Melbourne. Taylor called his business the Kangaroo Office. This young man had intended to make his fortune, one way or another and in 1855 he had even prepared pattern dies for a shilling and a sixpence and struck samples using the equipment. The samples were sent to England to see if they could be accepted as Australia's regal coins, Taylor obviously hoping to secure the job. Later Taylor set himself up to manufacture copper tokens. He struck tokens and sold them to businesses in the eastern colonies and New Zealand.



A photograph of a fossilized fern frond, likely from the Carboniferous period. The fossil is preserved in a dark, possibly black, rock matrix. The frond is composed of a central rachis and several pinnules. The pinnules are elongated and have a distinct venation pattern, with a central midrib and numerous secondary veins branching off. The fossil is shown against a light-colored, textured background, which appears to be a display board or a piece of paper.

Left – A leaf fossil *Pecopteris arborescens*. The word *Pecopteris* comes from the Greek word *pekin*, meaning to comb and *pterus*, referring to a fern, as the *pterus* fronds were organised like the teeth on one's comb.

As time goes on more and more types of Pecopteris species have been found. There were some 300 species found by the year 2000 and more have been found since especially by palaeontologists who are finding many more new types as time goes on.

A long, thin, translucent, yellowish-brown fossil specimen, likely a plant fossil, showing a segmented or jointed structure, resting on a light blue surface.

It has been found that the pyramids also contained gypsum with the Ancient Egyptians transporting it to the various sites. They also used it to pave their roadways. The Greeks also mined gypsum.

Are you aware that gypsum can be one of the ingredients in a number of foodstuffs. For example, the mineral is added to some flours, to enhance breakfast cereals, bread conditioners, yeast, baking flour, dessert jellies, jams, even in canned vegetables, especially from China. The mineral is finely crushed to add extra ingredients to pharmaceutical products. Many gypsum mines are exploited to utilise it for fertiliser and is used as the leading constituent in numerous types of plaster and drywall products. It was once used to manufacture blackboard chalk for teachers though this product is no longer required as ‘blackboards’ are now electronic.

Lake MacDonnell is currently the largest supplier of gypsum in Australia, having been mined from 1919, just after the Great War was over. It is currently quarried by CSR Ltd and Boral Ltd, thus combining their distinctive workings.

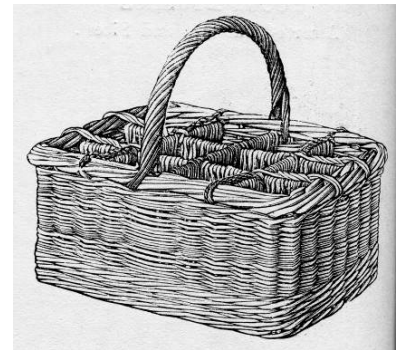
What is mined in Australia is a mere pittance when compared with China as it holds that honour of being the largest producer worldwide and boasts the largest reserve of gypsum with the United States coming in second. Iran comes in third with its stockpiles. Other countries that mine gypsum includes Jamaica, Thailand, Canada, Spain, Brazil, Pakistan, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

CODD BOTTLES AND THEIR UNIQUE GLASS STOPPERS



The Codd bottle almost from the start set itself up to fail all because it had one little marble inside which children found tempting. Because the bottle didn't have a deposit on it many were not returned.

Aerated waters, even before 1870 in Australia were consumed at a greater rate per population than in any other country in the world, I suspect it was probably due to our hotter climate. One of the types of bottles used to hold this flavoured aerated water had a unique glass marble stopper to hold the contents in. These marble bottles are known as Codd bottles.



Right – A cane bottle basket which held 12 Codd bottles of aerated cordials ca 1890

An Englishman, Hiram Codd, came up with the idea, designed and developed a bottle with an internal stopper which would not impede the flow of the contents when it was being poured out. Codd's bottle had projecting ridges (called dimples) along the inside of the neck, usually one on either side to hold the glass (and occasionally ceramic) marble which constituted the stopper. The number of dimples may be either two or four. After filling the bottle, the marble was kept pressed against a ring, usually made of rubber, by the gaseous pressure of the contents, thus keeping the bottle sealed. Sometimes the gas pressure would slowly decrease allowing the marble to drop down. If the ring seal deteriorated, then it could easily be replaced before refilling. To open the bottle, one just had to dislodge the marble with a knife or pointed object if the

proper wooden opener was not available. By turning the bottle at the right angle when pouring, the marble stayed out of the opening. The method of trapping the stopper is unique to the Codd bottle. Later Codd even established his own glass bottle making company trading under the name of Hope Glass Works.

His patent application, number 2621, was made in England on Tuesday, September 3, 1872. One of the main problems with this design was that it was expensive to produce. Many of the English Codd bottles were made with a patent number on the bottom for each year from 1876 until the 1920's. In 1896 the crown seal was patented so by the first World War these and internal threads were increasing in popularity, thus leading to the demise of this design also. As there was no deposit payable on empty bottles in the early days this bottle became a favourite with children who constantly smashed them to get out the marble to play with or add to their collection. So great was the problem that it sent many aerated cordial manufacturers broke.

Right - A.B. James, Bathurst, Codd.

Around 1897 an oval marble was tested to see if it could alleviate the problem, with little effect as the children didn't realise it was oval until the bottle was smashed. Some of the unscrupulous British bottle manufacturers would send out copies of Codd bottles with



Also, the note authorities were worried about the amount it was costing in their budget just to print one dollar notes. They generally had somewhere of 80 million of these low denomination notes at any time. They already had worked out that the life expectancy was some seven months and wanted to find out if they used a better quality paper how much longer would they last. They also discussed whether or not they stop printing the notes and issue a metal coin instead.

The 'other' better paper was called Double Fold Paper and the trial proved that it wasn't much better so they continued with their original paper. Most of the DBP were sent to Perth with a lesser number to Brisbane and even a smaller number to Tasmania.

Ironically it took some time for a banknote collector to notice a DBP note that had been printed by Note Printing Australia.

[illegible]

DID YOU KNOW

+ FATAL ACCIDENT AT BATHURST. BOILER EXPLOSION AT A MINE. BATHURST, Friday 27th August 1897 - A mining accident occurred at the Lagoon, about 10 miles from Bathurst, this morning. A party known as Weine's had been working alluvial ground in the locality for several months, and as the prospects were such as to encourage sluicing on a large scale, an engine and boiler were set up and started work yesterday, putting through a small parcel of stone this morning. The fire was lighted about 6 o'clock, and steam was got up preparatory to a formal start to-day. About 8 o'clock Lawrence Guthe, William Rawson, John Weine, and others were clearing the ground around the engine getting ready for the reception of wash dirt. They were working within 12 paces of the boiler, when suddenly a terrific explosion occurred, and instantly a dense cloud of dust and debris was thrown into the air. Rawson and Guthe, who were near the boiler, received the full force of the explosion. Guthe was killed instantaneously, his body being terribly mutilated. His companion received a terrible wound in the face and was rendered unconscious. One thigh was broken, and also one hand. He also sustained a scalp wound, and other serious injuries. J. Weine was thrown into a cutting and received injuries to the thigh and face. A messenger galloped into Bathurst, and Dr. Machattie drove out and attended the wounded men. Rawson was brought to the Bathurst Hospital, but there is no hope of his recovery. Guthe's body was found 40yds. from the spot where he was working. It is surmised that the boiler struck him when flying through the air. His legs were cut off at the knees, and were lying some distance from his body, which was fearfully mutilated. In the absence of the coroner from the town the deputy coroner, Dr. Richard Bassett, visited the scene of the accident and held an inquest. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and added a rider to the effect that they did not consider blame attachable to anybody.

+ THE TARSHISH DIGGINGS, ABERCROMBIE RIVER - 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 shillings 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," as you see by the heading of my letter. The diggings are situated 20 miles S. E. from Carcoar, about seventeen miles from Mulgunnia, fifty miles from Bathurst, and seventy 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, but I suppose you can well afford to allow the Goulburnites to amuse themselves baby fashion by calling them theirs. They are badly off, poor people, for a golden bait. What do you say if we transfer them as a present. This act of generosity on our parts would help to cheer their drooping spirits. 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. Tarshish, Sept. 9th, 1851.

+ FITZGERALD VALLEY GOLD FIELDS – diggings recently opened at Fitzgerald's Valley, are attracting some attention in Bathurst, from the fact that Mr. William Smith, of that place, brought into town 20 ounces of gold, a few days ago, which he sold at the Union Bank. He also spoke of a nugget of a pound weight having been found by one of the parties upon the ground, which would also make its appearance in town on the occasion of his next visit. In consequence of these statements obtaining circulation, a goodly number of gold seekers coming from Bathurst. Some 90 to 100 people are at work, principally at Mr. Smith's paddock, but a considerable number scattered over some four miles of country. At one spot a party are driving a tunnel into the side of a hill about 40 feet below the surface. Should the country at the base of Fitzgerald's Mount prove a remunerative gold-field Bathurst will benefit.