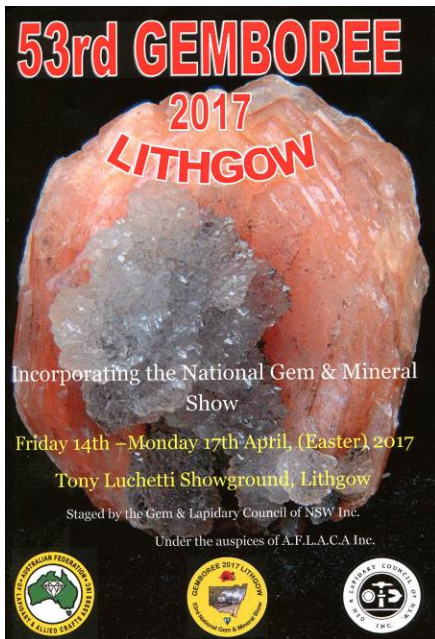


FROM THE E-NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Welcome to Edition 2 of the GEMBOREE 2017 e-newsletter. The first edition was well received with over one hundred extra requests to receive these issues. If you have not received the first newsletter you can request any earlier issues to be emailed to you or you can find them at <http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/>



The 53rd GEMBOREE 2017 booklet and schedule was printed and distributed at the GEMBOREE 2016 event at Ulverstone in Tasmania last month. It also contains the various forms for Registration, Tailgating – both commercial and non-commercial, Competition, Non-Competitive displays and Voluntary Assistance.

The booklet has a welcome from the Mayor of Lithgow, Cr. Maree Statham, a short history of Lithgow giving an insight into this city's past, an account of the development of the coal miner's lamp, a story on Lloyd's Copper Mine at Burruga that sent copper to Lithgow and its association with Lithgow and other articles.

GEMBOREE 2017, the 53rd National Gem & Mineral Show, will be held from Friday 14th to Monday 17th

April, 2017, at Tony Luchetti Showground in Lithgow, New South Wales. It is staged by the Gem & Lapidary Council of N.S.W. Inc. under the auspices of the Australian Federation of Lapidary & Allied Crafts Association Inc. Various gem and lapidary clubs from around New South Wales assist in organising and co-ordinating the various aspects of this mammoth event which will draw a large crowd of lapidaries, hobbyists and collectors, as well as the general public.

Lithgow is situated on the western side of the Great Dividing Range in the foothills of the Blue Mountains and will be welcoming visitors to the GEMBOREE 2017 next year. There are plenty of attractions for those lapidarists and collectors who are staying for the event and wish to stay longer.



Above is our GEMBOREE 2017 Co-Ordinator, Colin Wright from Loftus, a suburb in southern Sydney. He has been putting in a great deal of time, along with the committee, to get everything booked in, measured up, planned out, allocated and numerous other details to ensure things operate smoothly next year.

Even though it is just under a year away be sure you contemplate where you plan to stay for the GEMBOREE 2017 – either on-site at the showgrounds where you can park your caravan or pitch your tent in

the designated areas (book in ASAP) or off-site in one of Lithgow's caravan parks, hotels or motels. It is expected that sites and accommodation will be at a premium. If you need assistance with accommodation off-site in Lithgow or surrounds get in touch with the



Lithgow Visitor Information Centre, 1137 Great Western Hwy, Lithgow. NSW 2790 or telephone 1300760276 or email tourism@lithgow.com or www.tourism.lithgow.com

It will be great to meet people in person and I hope you all make the effort in a year's time to visit Lithgow in the Central Tablelands of New South Wales and its

picturesque environment.

Alan McRae, FAIHA – GEMBOREE 2017
e-newsletter Editor and Publicity Officer

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LITHGOW SCHOOL OF ARTS

The aim of many towns and villages in the late 1800s was to build their own School of Arts and Lithgow was no exception, becoming a significant contributor to the township's society culture, industry and politics. It was an idea brought from Scotland and was to provide a library and to assist the working classes.

On Tuesday 27th January, 1880, in a slight drizzle of rain a gathering of several hundred local Lithgow citizens witnessed the ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone of the School of Arts. It was performed by Mr. Thomas Brown, J.P., with much elation.

A procession of Friendly Societies with banners and regalia, headed by two bands of music, traversed the principle streets. A handsome silver trowel and crocus wood mallet was presented to Mr. Brown by Mr. Targett, on behalf of the School of Arts Committee. Addresses were delivered and a collection was taken at the stone.

The Grand United Order of Oddfellows celebrated their anniversary the day after with a picnic and sports. About one thousand persons were present. A ball was held in the evening with proceeds going towards their new School of Arts building.

The same evening Mr. Wilkinson, geological surveyor, and Mr. Teece, gave an entertainment in aid of the School of Arts building fund, and a fair sum was realised.

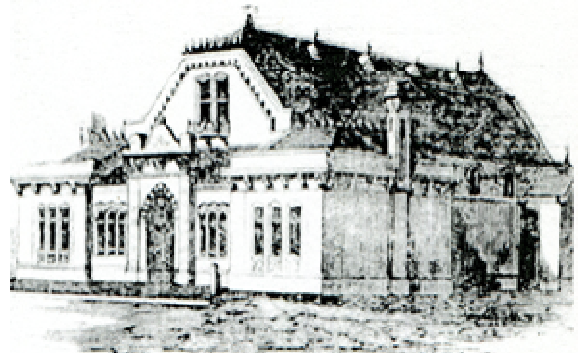
Lithgow was much in need of such a facility as the town, the result of railway communication, the seat of a variety of industries and enterprise, the headquarters of the monetary, literary, and Judiciary institutions of

the district, was the chief, settlement in the busy valley.



With The Lithgow Mercury being published the townsfolk felt great pride that a start had been made on its literary institution - the School of Arts. It was described as “a very commodious edifice, with large hall for lectures, dramatic entertainments, concerts, and other public purposes, together with all the usual accessories of a library, reading-rooms, committee rooms, &c.” The edifice would become the venue of many local meetings, debates and lectures in Lithgow.

On Tuesday 9th August, 1887, a Protectionist demonstration was held in the Lithgow School of Arts. The hall was well filled. The speakers got a patient and attentive hearing after Mr. J.F.T. Caulfield was voted to the chair.



At a meeting of the committee of the A.H. and P. Society held in the School of Arts on Thursday evening 24th February, 1898, at 8 o'clock, a number of members were present. In the chair was Rev. P.J. McGlone along with Messrs. Hayley, Lee, Gripper, Cohen, G. Cook, Brownrigg, Beveridge, Everitt, Watson, Broughall, Wiseman, Clapin and Dr. Asher (secretary).

The secretary stated that he had received two protests, one from Mr. Everitt against the award of a prize in the amateur class to Mr. Bottington, on the ground that he (Mr. Bottington) had employed skilled labour in the

cultivation of his plants. The secretary stated that he had written to Mr. Bottington but he had replied that he did not employ skilled labour. Finally Mr. Everitt withdrew his protest. Another complaint was about Charlie Ah Sing who was accused of “picking out and polished up” his onions entry. Charlie sent in a solemn declaration to the effect that the onions exhibited by him were grown by him in Lithgow. A letter was to be written to Ah Sing stating that the committee regretted the action complained of.

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MESSRS. J & J. LONERGAN'S LITHGOW DEPARTMENT STORE



In May 1879 it was reported that in the main street of Lithgow on the opposite side of the road to the station was the store of Messrs. J. and J. Lonergan, the finest private building in the township. These handsome premises, illustrated by the accompanying engraving (above), were recently finished for the branch business of this enterprising firm which first commenced operations in the district about the year 1872. What then was started on a small scale, has developed into a large business through the energy of the proprietors.

The premises in question were designed by Mr. Edward Gell, of Bathurst, and erected under his supervision. The building consists of three stories, occupying a ground space of 50 by 30ft. The lower floor is used as a storage for bulk goods. The second is fitted up for the retail trade of drapery, grocery, ironmongery, &c. The top storey is fitted out for furniture, bedding, and crockery, and is approached by a convenient staircase, the goods being taken up by means of a patent lift. The building is close to the site of the Lithgow station, on a corner allotment facing the street running down to the present Lithgow platform.

One of the products in stock at J. & J. Lonergan's Lithgow store were pottery water filter units and coolers. At a time when safe drinking water was less readily available and 'pure' water was essential for good health, small purification units were in demand, though unfortunately only the well-off could usually afford them. Water supplies were either obtained from creeks or local wells so although water could be obtained it was often polluted due to poor sanitation.

It was during the Victorian era that scientists and authorities recognised the health dangers present in drinking water. It was Queen Victoria who asked the owners of Dalton Potteries if they could do anything. As it turned out they came up with the gravity fed stoneware filter. By 1862 Henry Doulton devised their Manganous Carbon water filter, ironically the same year that the renowned French chemist and microbiologist Louis Pasteur's experiments with bacteria debunked the myth of spontaneous generation and demonstrated that all microorganisms arise from other microorganisms.



The stoneware filter unit (above) complete with lid and decorative handles was made by Slack & Brownlow Ltd of Canning Works, Upper Medlock Street, in Manchester in England. They were listed as china and earthenware dealers and merchants. This unit features a compressed filter made of charcoal and were manufactured in the later 1870s till the 1900s. A brass tap would be screwed into the tap socket at the base of the filter.

At the Sydney International Exhibition in 1879 Slack & Brownlow's design was awarded the "First Degree of Merit" by the judges. The unit was a light tan in colour (sometimes referred to as Yellowware) with applied white banners, emblem and fern frond motifs. The Exhibition Catalogue of the time gave some of the unit's performance details – "Speed of filtration per gallon, 12 minutes ; degree of purity, very bright and clear. The filters were capable of discharging salt from

sea-water and almost perfectly, arrest soap and dirt from soap-suds almost entirely”.

They were simple to use – simply by removing the lid and pouring in the ‘impure water’ into the upper chamber. Water then slowly filtered through the charcoal or later micro porous ceramic filter made of diatomaceous earth cartridges which were capable of removing more than 99% of bacteria. The pure water was collected in the lower chamber where it was accessed through the tap. The company at one time advertised that their water filters were a “safeguard against cholera, typhoid and kindred water borne diseases”.

With Slack and Brownlow manufacturing stoneware water filters in Manchester from the mid-19th century they soon realised that they had a world-wide market.



As it turned out Australia and New Zealand were a large market however, it was 1921 before they relocated to Tonbridge to be nearer the wharves.

The Pottery Gazette in London in February 1890 reported that Brownlow & Brownlow, trading as Slack & Brownlow, Canning Works, Medlock Street, Manchester, filter manufacturers, were experiencing debts by Eleanor Brownlow, Frederick W. Brownlow, Herbert H. Brownlow and Richard S. Brownlow, but were continuing the business.



Slack and Brownlow Ltd appointed a number of agents such as Mr. J.S. Thompson, 20 Winthrop Street, Cork and Mr. Joseph Saunders, 33 Dame Street, Dublin. Later the company marketed a range of filters especially for hospitals and other medical institutions under the Brownlow British Health Filter. There were also experiments in larger scale water and sewage purification units. They were made from metal, some 7 feet in diameter. They added chemicals such as lime, soda, and alumina, and the cost of treatment was stated to vary from a farthing to two pence per 1,000 gallons.

In February 1877 Frederick William Brownlow patented several products for the business. Later the Brownlow ‘Health’ Water Filter was also registered.

These stoneware filter units sold for £1 2s 6d in 1880 with replacement cartridges costing 5 shillings. As time went on Slack & Brownlow’s ceramic pottery water filtration units became more elaborate and decorative in design. The capacity of units varied from larger ones like the type pictured with this article but smaller squat one and two gallon units that sat on the table were also manufactured.

In 1909 Messrs. Slack and Brownlow, advertised their address as Abbey Hey Pottery, Gorton, Manchester.

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QUARTZ ON FLUORITE FROM MOROCCAN MINE

With the interest increasing in collecting rocks, mineral and fossils there are some superb mineral specimens finding their way into the market place these days at gem and mineral shows. Mineralogists usually find the various crystalline forms of great interest and it comes in a great range of colours, as well as being found bi-coloured. Thus fluorite can be an ornamental stone.

One such specimen is the quartz on fluorite (above) from the El Hammom Mine, Djebel Meknes, in Morocco which has given up some beautiful specimens and is composed of calcium fluoride. The fluorite mine is located some 40 kilometres south-west of Meknes where the mine was named after the mountain where it is situated - Djebel el Hammam.

This mineral’s name was stemmed from the Latin word “fluere” which means “to flow”, with fluorite being a popular mineral with both the Romans and Greeks. For the Romans fluorite related to the Goddess of Women, Bona Dea, who was responsible for fertility and children. The Romans were so involved with their gods and goddesses they often put allegorical figures or personifications onto their coinage. The Goddess of Women is generally portrayed sitting on a throne accompanied by a cornucopia signifying great abundance. Intertwined somewhere would be a snake which embodies healing.

The Greeks, like the Romans, used fluorite for ornamental carvings which were worn on special

occasions, along with special drinking cups, even though the fluorite was a bit soft, as fluorite has a hardness of four on Mohs Hardness Scale. Both civilisations used fluorite as a talisman to maintain their health, and to bring children and wealth. In the 1500s fluorite was used as a flux in metal making. Ironically excellent quality fluorite was sought after to use in manufacturing high grade optical lenses for equipment such as microscopes, telescopes and cameras.

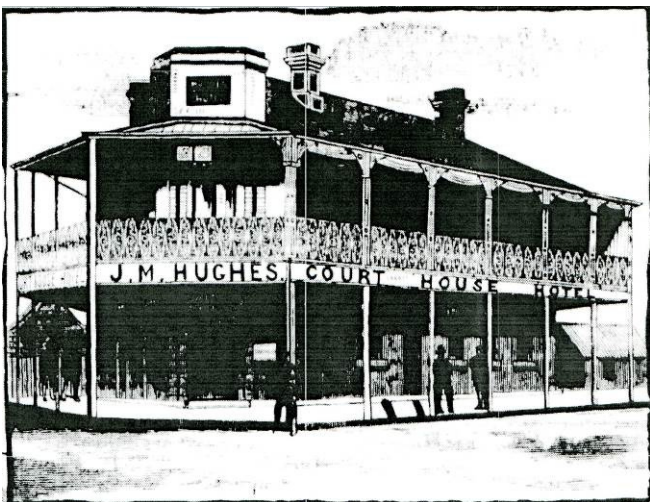
Fluorite is known for its colour variety and can be found in a multiplicity of hues – from greens, purples, blues, yellows, reds, pinks, browns, white and black, as well as colourless. Often collectors will put specimens of pieces of fluorite under an ultraviolet light to allow it to fluoresce. Generally it seems the colour blue is the most predominant colour to show up in the fluorescence, whilst other specimens will give purples, reds and varieties of green. The different colourations are due to distinctive impurities.

The El Hammam vein, which is about four kilometres long, isn't the only fluorite mine in Morocco as other veins are also worked to yield differing colours such as yellow, pale green and purple.

Fluorite can be found in various locations around the world such as Canada, Africa, Switzerland, Greece, Britain, United States of America, Germany, Mexico and where else but China. Fluorite is often found associated with metallic ores such as silver, lead, zinc and galena. As collectors would know fluorite can crystallise in massive forms as well as statuesque isometric cubes, clusters and nodules. The mineral has a transparent to translucent look with a vitreous lustre and make great display items.

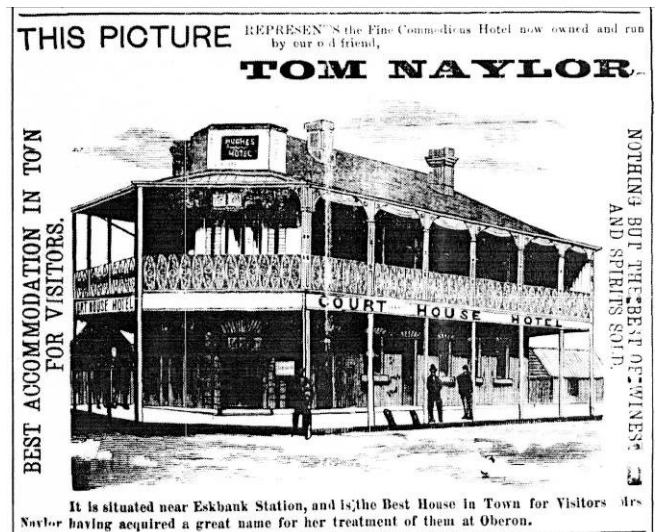
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LITHGOW HOSTELRIES



Hotels were one of the first businesses established in almost every town and Lithgow was getting better quality hotels being built by 1880 as the population grew.

Among the establishments, the hotels naturally occupied a conspicuous position along the streets. Among these in 1884 were the Imperial Hotel (H. P. Corbett, proprietor), which was situated facing Eskbank Station, and was well known for the excellence of its accommodation by tourists and others. It possessed suites of rooms for the use of families, who were desirous of spending some time in the vicinity of the town. The Court House Hotel licensee was Mr. J.M. Hughes (below, left), which was a favourite place for commercial travellers and others, occupying a fine corner site in Main Street, opposite the Eskbank Railway Station. It possessed a lofty and spacious balcony which ran for a great length around the front of the house and from where admirable views of the surrounding country could be obtained. Tattersalls Hotel with John Connell as the licensee, possessed excellent accommodation and had lately been renovated and decorated in the best style thus ensuring to attract the attention of those visiting the town from the Lithgow railway platform, which was very nearly opposite.



By February 1898 Mr. Tom Naylor and his wife had taken over the Court House Hotel situated near Eskbank Station and they considered their hotel as the "best house in town." The couple had run a hotel in Oberon before taking over the Court House Hotel.

Mr. Naylor would be purchasing his aerated cordials from the Lithgow Steam Aerated and Cordial Factory in William Street, off Main Street. The manufactory was owned and operated by Mr. Thomas Young who specialised in hop beer, 'clear and piquant' and considered 'just the drink for summer.' T. Young & Company were always cautioning any person known to wilfully destroy their aerated water bottles. Such perpetrators would be prosecuted as the law directs, without respect to persons.

Mr. Naylor paid his hotel cook £1-5-0 a week and his general servant in the hotel £1 a week. He stocked a wide selection of drinks in his bar. He would have purchased some beer locally from the Lithgow

Brewery and the colony such as Albury Port Wine and McWilliams Quinine Wine as well as other stock which had been imported from Great Britain. Some of the stock would include - Wilkinson's celebrated Coolalta Wines, Risk & Sons Scotch whisky, Jeffries English Ales, Moses Port, Sherry, Muscat of various brands as well as Guinness.



Many hotels sold all sorts of drinks including this universal compound cordial containing sarsaparilla. It was ideal for tee-totallers and one could have it with lemonade or soda water, or something stronger. The label claimed that it will be "*found very effective in Cutaneous and Eruptive Complaints, Glandular Swellings, Scurvy, Ulcers, Sores, Pimples, Boils, Tumours, Blotches, Scrofula, Rheumatism, Neuralgia and all other complaints and diseases arising from impurity of the blood.*"

Mr. William Smith operated the Tattersalls Hotel in Main Street, Lithgow, which since being taken over by the then proprietor had gained a reputation second to none for beers, spirits etc. the quality of these being kept at the very highest standard.

Mr. R.J. Inch of the Eskbank Brewery supplied many of the hotels in Lithgow. The Eskbank Brewery was on the side of the creek at the foot of Brewery Lane. Established about 1875, as far back as 1882 they were turning out 28 hogsheads of beer per week during the winter months and nearly double that quantity in summer. The beer was also shipped to Vale of Clwydd, Wallerawang, Bathurst, Mudgee and various "pubs" along the line. Mr Inch later sold out to a company headed by Thomas Bennett, of Bennet and Gibbs, local storekeepers, at which time the name was changed to the Burton Brewery Company.

GOSMOPOLITAN HOTEL, MAIN-STREET, LITHGOW, THE LEADING COMMERCIAL HOTEL.

JOHN WEST Having purchased the freehold of this well known and centrally situated hostelry has expended some hundreds of pounds in thoroughly renovating it from floor to ceiling. With the object of making this the leading Commercial House he has erected a spacious SAMPLE ROOM, 36ft x 23ft, fitted with folding doors, Incandescent Light, etc., and it is with confidence he solicits the patronage of Commercial Travellers.

Visitors to Lithgow should not fail to call on JOHN WEST, where they will find that comfort and where the quiet and privacy of a home may be enjoyed.

Suites of Rooms for Families.
Horses and Vehicles for Hire.
BATHS AND OTHER CONVENIENCES.
Parties invited to the Casino and Billiard Room.

Mr. John West considered his Cosmopolitan Hotel in Main Street, Lithgow, as the leading commercial hotel

in the town. Having purchased the freehold of the well-known and centrally situated hostelry he expended some hundreds of pounds in thoroughly renovating it from floor to ceiling. With the object of making this the leading commercial house he erected a spacious Sample Room, 36 feet x 23 feet, fitted with folding doors and incandescent light. It was with confidence he could solicit the patronage of commercial travellers.

The Cosmopolitan Hotel had suites of rooms for families. There were baths and other conveniences for the benefit of patrons. Visitors could hire horses and vehicles if required at moderate prices and the proprietor could arrange for parties to be driven to Jenolan Caves. Visitors to Lithgow were advised that they should not fail to call at the Cosmopolitan Hotel where they would find no effort spared to assure them of their comfort and where the quiet and privacy of a home may be enjoyed.

The proprietor of The Imperial Hotel was Mr. H. Mortlock. He was by no means a stranger to Lithgow having previously been engaged in business as an auctioneer in the good old days. He was taking the opportunity of intimating to his friends – both old and new – that he had acquired the lease of the well-known Imperial Hotel, immediately opposite the Railway Station Eskbank and would spare no effort to make it one of the most popular houses in town. The premises had undergone considerable renovation and alteration so the public would find every essential that goes into making the accommodation of a first class hotel.



Rowlands sent their aerated flavoured waters from their Sydney factory to some hotels in Lithgow on the train. One of their customers was Charles Clout who had been operating the Royal Hotel for the previous three years. In early 1898 he thanked the inhabitants in Lithgow and pointed out that he was still dispensing the choicest wines and spirits. He claimed his hotel had become famous for excellence of the table and superiority of the accommodation. Commercial travellers and visitors to Lithgow would find every convenience and comfort

with the hotel ranking amongst the first in the Western District. Mr. Clout had also purchased the lease of the Tattersalls Hotel in Hartley for 12 months.

Charles Briggs had the lease of The Vale Hotel at Hartley Vale. He had recently taken over the hostelry and was desirous to obtain the locals patronage. He

planned to conduct the business on the best lines, thus none but the best brands of Wines, Spirits, Ales and Stout would be sold over his bar. There was also a well-appointed billiard room and lovers of the game could depend upon being well treated.

At this time a mug of beer cost 3d (right) or 2 cents in today's money. A meal in a hotel cost around a shilling or 10 cents. Customers could bring their own bottle and have it filled by the various hotels.



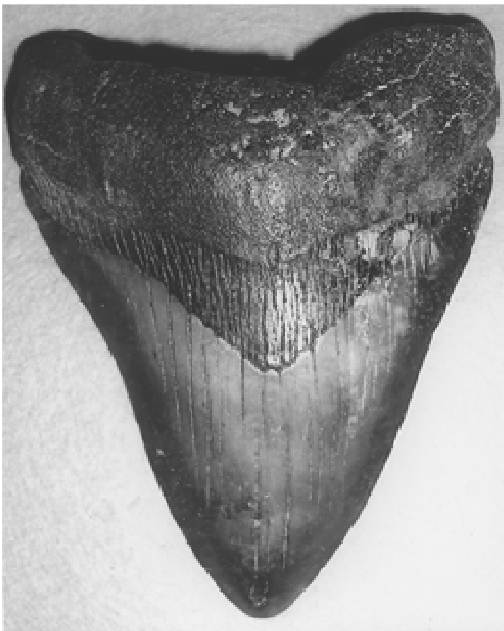
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SIX INCH - 152mm SHARK'S TOOTH

One of the most prolific fossils are the teeth from ancient sharks, however ones as large as this example are becoming rarer. This huge fossilised tooth is from a giant extinct shark known as a *Carcharodon Megelodon*. The tooth size indicates that the shark that it came from was probably around 42 feet long, though some grew to over 60 feet. They were the largest shark of any shark, either extinct or living.

The oldest sharks date from some 450 million years ago in the times of the Late Ordovician period.

The massive *Carcharodon Megelodon* sharks, a tooth from which is seen below, could weigh some 18 to 20 tonnes with their teeth measuring up to 8 inches long. They are surprisingly sharp and there were rows upon rows of these teeth. These very large teeth are commanding some high prices these days with collectors.



Sharks are thought to have been around for some 400 million years at least. In my late teens I obtained a number of fossil shark's teeth embedded in limestones from the Miocene period (17 million years ago) when I travelled to Victoria, however they were much, much

smaller than this one. As shark skeletons are made up mainly of cartilage complete fossils of sharks are quite rare to find. Fossil hunters in America commonly find the hard parts like this tooth, spines from the fins and sometimes the scales. Some early sharks actually ate shellfish rather than other fish.

As sharks continually shed teeth they are the most commonly found object. Some sharks shed over 30,000 teeth during their lifetime. The teeth of the shark is made of calcium phosphate and resistant to fresh or salt water. Fossilised teeth on sale these days are usually preserved in sedimentary rocks and date from around 27 to 1.5 million years ago.

With more educated palaeontologists, the research of ancient sharks is becoming clearer, however Pliny the Elder, the Roman author, Army and Naval Commander, naturalist and philosopher. He wrote that the shark's teeth dropped to earth during lunar eclipses.

In the 1500s people often misunderstood fossils. For example early fossilised sharks' teeth were thought to be 'tongue stones' from either a snake or bird, even dragons. In Britain in the old days, fossil sharks' teeth were kept in a leather bag or worn around their neck to guard the owner against being poisoned. Others used them to keep evil spirits away from them whilst others were ground up and mixed with blood to help stomach complaints.

It took Fabio Colonna, an Italian naturalist in the early 1600s to see them for what they were indeed fossilised shark's teeth. Half a century later a Dutchman and naturalist, Nicolaus Steno, drew a picture of the teeth within a shark's head as well as a *Carcharodon Megelodon* tooth.




There are several types of fossilised shark's teeth and they vary according to their function some of which are needed for gripping, cutting, crushing or ones of little purpose. Some sharks have different teeth on the top and bottom. As some sharks eat crustations and seashells they have a flatter type of tooth, whilst others are serrated to allow the shark to tear and cut. Longer, thinner and needle-like teeth are ideal for gripping

their prey. Some sharks that feed on plankton have small insignificant teeth that aren't really used at all.

Many of the old shark fossils are found in quite large numbers in both America and Germany and this is where much of the research is carried out in this area. The Jurassic period heralded what I call the more modern shark, those that look more like what we see today. The Grey Nurse sharks have been around a long time, some 60,000,000 years at least. The giant Carcharodon Megelodon is much younger than the Grey Nurse shark, being around from 20 to 5 million years ago before it became extinct. New fossil discoveries will allow palaeontologists to learn more about these creatures from the ocean. With dredging being carried out at greater depths some of the large teeth such as the one on the previous page have been brought up in the Palaeocene mud from the ocean floor.

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**Buy a GEMBOREE
2017 Badge**

**to remember your trip
to Lithgow**

**at Easter 2017 only \$6
each.**

DID YOU KNOW!

The beautifully blue lapis lazuli has been traded for thousands of years. Mines located in Afghanistan have been worked for well over 6,500 years and later traded widely, especially to Egypt where it was popular for jewellery, ornaments and amulets. These are often found during archaeological digs. It was popular also with the Assyrians and Babylonians to carve their seals.

That the men employed at the Eskbank Ironworks arranged for an ironworker's picnic to Katoomba on Saturday 5th March, 1898. The movement had been initiated the previous week when Messrs. Miller, Bleadon and Wade, representing the men, saw Mr. Sandford and requested him to arrange for a special train. This was promptly done and Mr. Sandford also generously donated £14 10s towards the expenses, a sum equal to half the cost of the train. The train left Eskbank station at 8.20 a.m. and returned later in the day leaving Katoomba at 5.40 p.m. The men employed in the adit as well as those in Eskbank pit participated in the day. Their wives and families went along ensuring a big gathering. Sports for the children were also held at Katoomba with a number of prizes being presented to the winners.

Prior to breaking up on Friday, 24th June, 1898, the Lithgow Superior School gave out various prizes, the gift of Mr. Cook. They were presented to the most

deserving boys, in each class in the boys' school. The following is a list of the prize-winners - Fifth Class: R. Muir, S. Cook, L. Atkinson, and J.W. Jones. Fourth Class: W. McNiven, W. Stewart, T. Jones, G. Jackson, W. Mylecharane. Third (A) Class: F. Goss, J. Jenkins, D; Leslie, J. Crowle, H. Anderson. Third (B) Class: G. Sassall, S. Champion, F. Jones, L. Duncan. Third (C) Class: R. McNiven, J. Wintle, J. Cook, R. Maddell. Upper Second: W. Barnes, P. Flack, G. Thomas. Lower Second: W. Pillans, A. Bolt and B. Wade.

In ancient Rome and Greece, kings and queens were convinced that blue sapphires protected their owners from envy and harm. It has been found that gem quality sapphires are rarer than diamond. The name 'sapphire' comes from the Greek word 'sappheiros'. Whilst blue is the traditional colour of sapphires they are found in a wide-ranging colours such as yellow, purple, gold, green and even clear.

That smoky quartz is a smoky-grey, brown, yellow-brown, red-brown to black variety of quartz.

Rhodonite is opaque with rich colouring from light to very deep pink. It is found in veins of manganese. The mineral is a manganese silicate which can be found in crystallised or in a massive, fine-grained form. The massive material is a popular ornamental stone, used for carved objects and beads.

GEMBOREE 2017 CONTACTS

**TONY LUCHETTI SHOWGROUND,
LITHGOW N.S.W.**

GEMBOREE 2017 Co-Ordinator
Colin Wright

13 Geoffrey Crescent, Loftus N.S.W. 2232
Ph 02 95212688 M. 0418286003

coldell@hotmail.com

Competition Chairmen

Barbara Try & Anette Clarke

P.O. Box 60, Ourimbah N.S.W. 2258

Ph. 02 43415277 or 02 43936168 & 0417676435

aeamclarke@gmail.com or twotrys@bigpond.net.au

Dealer Chairman

Marilyn Behrens

PO Box 163, Wentworthville NSW 2145

Ph. 02 9635 8218

mbehrens@optusnet.com.au

Tailgating Chairman,

Ernst Holland

P.O. Box 1351, Bathurst N.S.W. 2795

Ph. 02 63373661 M. 0427373661

ernst.holland@bigpond.com

**Alan McRae, FAIHA, – GEMBOREE 2017 Publicity
Officer and Newsletter Editor**