

# GEMBOREE 2017

## INFORMATION E-NEWSLETTER

*June 2016 – Edition 3*

Tony Luchetti Showground, Lithgow – Easter – 14th – 17th April, 2017

### FROM THE E-NEWSLETTER EDITOR

With less than a year remaining before the GEMBOREE 2017, the 53rd National Gem & Mineral Show, is to be held in Lithgow, New South Wales, I'd like to welcome those newcomers to the 3rd edition of the GEMBOREE 2017 e-newsletter.

People have already made bookings for their accommodation for the GEMBOREE 2017 which is being conducted over the Easter long weekend from Friday 14th to Monday 17th April, 2017, at the Tony Luchetti Showground in Lithgow. As has taken place in the past the mammoth event 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.

Already numerous gem and lapidary clubs from around New South Wales are assisting in organising and co-ordinating the various aspects of this national annual event.



It is important that those attending give some consideration to their accommodation needs. Whilst many will be staying on-site at the showgrounds, (be

sure to book ASAP) others will stay off-site at motels, hotels, bed and breakfasts, friends and caravan parks, it's important that you book early as accommodation will invariably be at a premium. Should you need accommodation or other local Lithgow information you can contact the great staff at the Lithgow Visitor Information Centre, 1137 Great Western Hwy, Lithgow. N.S.W. 2790 or telephone 1300760276 or email [tourism@lithgow.com](mailto:tourism@lithgow.com) or [www.tourism.lithgow.com](http://www.tourism.lithgow.com)

A popular eating place, the Lithgow & District Workmen's Club, has been providing excellence in entertainment and leisure for over a century. Fondly known locally as the "Workies", it is quite historic as it is the oldest registered club in New South Wales. It was founded in 1887, growing to over 11,000 members today. The club also caters for the many visitors who come from across the state and around the country to enjoy their excellent facilities. They are the leaders in quality entertainment, dining and function facilities in Lithgow.

The club offers many facilities - ESK Restaurant, Bistro, Cino's Cafe, Bars, Bottle Shop, Wizards Kids Area, Sports & TAB Lounge and Bowling greens. There are no stairs within the main floor of the Club and if you do need to go to the Lower Ground Floor there are elevators for your convenience. The club and motel is centrally located in Lithgow within walking distance to major shopping facilities.

They provide secure monitored car-parking and use closed circuit security cameras to ensure security and safety. It's handy to remember that they also provide EFTPOS and ATM facilities.

The club has an assortment of motel accommodation packages available with on-site car parking. The venue has lifts and elevators, vending machines, is wheelchair accessible and has disabled facilities.

Each of the 36 motel rooms has flat screen TVs, Foxtel - 12 Channels as well as wireless/WI-FI free of charge. Rooms are non-smoking with air-conditioning, tea and coffee facilities, refrigerator, separate bathroom and

toilet with bathroom night light, toiletries, hairdryer, alarm clock, phone, dining table and chairs, office desk and chair, iron and ironing board. Patrons can also use charge back facilities from Club to Room.

Five room types are available up to the largest 'Club King Apartment'. Motel room prices start from \$150. Numbers in some room accommodation packages can be increased. Julie Rushworth is the Motel Manager and can be contacted on (02) 63507745 or emailed at [julier@workies.com.au](mailto:julier@workies.com.au). You can also visit their webpage at [www.workies.com.au](http://www.workies.com.au) for more information on room types, facilities and to view photos.

**Feel free to pass on these newsletters amongst family, friends, colleagues and associates.**

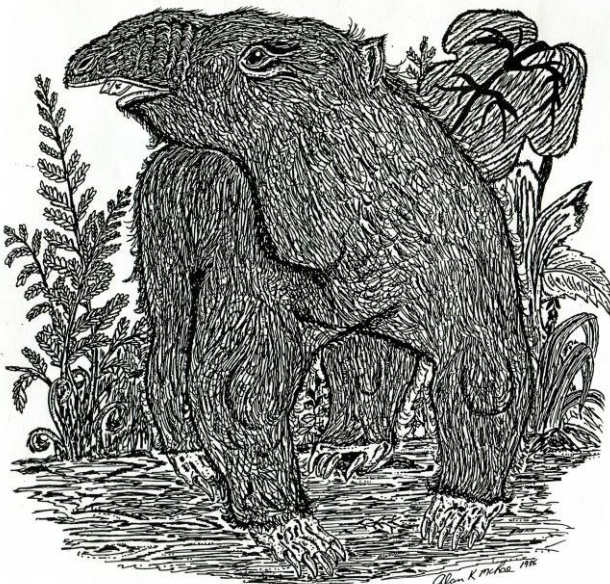
We are already getting feedback from these e-newsletters and it will be wonderful to meet people in person. I am hoping that you can make the effort in eleven months' time to visit Lithgow in the Central Tablelands of New South Wales and its picturesque environment.

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

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### FOSSILS ARE FASCINATING

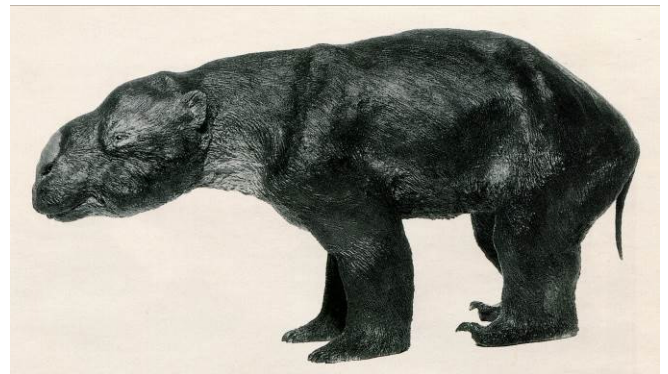
One aspect of the GEMBOREE 2017, which is the 53rd National Gem & Mineral Show and being held in Lithgow next Easter will be the attraction for children who invariably have a fascination with fossils.



Above is a *Diprotodon optatum* with its turned inward feet giving it a pigeon-toed look. These front feet had strong claws, undoubtedly for digging up tubers and roots. Wombats also have interned feet and this is why these hefty marsupials look a bit similar though much larger. Its trunk-like nose and large head did not enhance its looks.

The 'diprotodon' was the first Australian fossil mammal to be classified and was named by Sir Richard Owen, the English palaeontologist, zoologist, anatomist and biologist. A superior naturalist Owen had the notable capacity for deciphering fossils. The diprotodon is one of the most recognised of our nation's megafauna, being named by him in 1838. Professor Richard Owen was the first authority to attempt to describe the hefty diprotodon from some bone fragments. He made a remarkably accurate picture of this huge animal though he had not seen a complete skeleton.

It would be 1892 before a number of complete skeletons were found in South Australia enabling scientists to confirm the information made by the late Professor's hypothesis. Later an almost complete specimen of an adult was located at Tambar Springs in New South Wales.



The long extinct diprotodon was the largest marsupial known to have lived in Australia and is from the Pleistocene period. Carbon dating of fossil bone remains indicate that they only became extinct as recently as 20,000 years ago or more which means early aboriginals would have seen and hunted these huge marsupials, probably hastening their demise.

The *Diprotodon optatum* was a four footed animal whose large head boasted two long lower chisel-like forward-projecting front teeth (incisors) with four upper incisors which were supplemented with a number of premolars and molars. In fact its Latin name 'diprotodon' means 'two forward teeth'. It also had a short hanging tail.

More than twenty different species are known with the largest, when fully grown, being more than three metres in length and often weighing between one and two tonnes. In many respects, its size and appearance was similar to a rhinoceros. The males were larger in size, mating with several females during their breeding season. Fossil remains indicate that they may have fought other males for the females.

Diprotodons were herbivorous finding ample grazing in the rich grasses, scrubland and woodlands surrounding the swamps which dotted ancient Australia. It also appears that some of the more arid areas, as well as the continent got drier, was home to

some species. It is believed that the diprotodon migrated across Bass Strait while the land was still above water.

Remains of diprotodons have now been found at many locations around the states of Australia except for in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. These mega-fauna mammals appeared some 1.6 million years ago. In my school days I found the fossil remains of a diprotodon north of Armidale in northern New South Wales.

This massive diprotodon was the last of the herbivorous diprotodontids to become extinct at a similar time that many other Australian megafauna were lost.

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### SPHALERITE CRYSTALS ON POSTAGE STAMP



One of the nations around the world that have released postage stamps featuring either miners, gemstones, minerals, fossils or mining operations is Hungary.

One stamp, left, was issued by Magyar Posta as one of a further set of seven to mark the Centenary of the Hungarian

Geological Institute – each stamp featuring individual minerals and fossils from the Institute’s collection. The first stamp in the set was issued by Hungary on 1st September, 1969, with the last distributed on 21st September, the same year.

The 60 filler multicoloured stamp features greenockite, calcite and sphalerite crystals with their resinous lustre. The postage stamp was designed by Hungarian artist Pal Varga, who also produced the final artwork.

The stamps were printed in sheets by the photogravure process which is an intaglio printmaking process in which photographic images are printed using forms of mechanised etching plates. The earliest form of this process had been fostered in the 1830s. The ‘diagram’ is etched onto the cylinder using a photographic process which screens the stamp’s image. The process has a broad diversity of tones and produces rows of cells which make up the image on the photogravure stamp plate.

The stamp series featured fossilised Zelkova leaves from Fuzerradvány, a fossilised fish *Clupea hungarica* from Rakos, quartz crystals from Gyongyosoroszi, an ammonite from Villany, a copper specimen from Rudabánya, a fossilised turtle, *Placochelys placodonta*,

from Veszprem and cuprite crystals from Rudabánya.

It was the Habsburgs under the Austro-Hungarian Empire that initially set up deliveries of mail around the country. Their first public mailboxes, to allow residents to post letters, were initiated in 1817. In 1855 all mail was to be delivered to the home address where possible. By 1859 express delivery rates were announced. On 1st May, 1871, Hungary introduced their own postage stamps (right) after formerly separating with Austria in 1867. These were of poor quality even though they were printed by the lithography method by the State Press of Buda.



In 1874 the nation became a founding member of the Universal Postal Union. By 1886 Hungary had introduced their own newspaper stamp. In 1896 letter deliverer’s bicycles were initiated. By 1908 they were fully independent but the forthcoming World Wars saw much of their infrastructure destroyed. During World War Two Hungary operated a military post department. In 1990 their Post Office became a separate company, Magyar Posta, as witnessed on their current stamps.

As a zinc sulfide mineral, sphalerite is sought after by collectors world-wide. They are quite abundant as sphalerite is the most significant zinc ore to be found in the earth’s crust. Greenockite is also a mineral, considered quite rare, and formed mostly of the element cadmium, a fine coating of which is on the calcite. It is virtually found all the time in company with sphalerite.

Sphalerite’s name originated from a Greek word “sphaleros” which means deceiving, misleading or treacherous. The name stemmed from the difficulty in identifying the various sphalerite samples and its manifestations. Some miner’s called it ‘Black Jack’, ‘Zinc Blende’, ‘Rosin Jack’, as well as other names. Some mines where it was mined had a noticeable smell of sulphur. Miners would usually locate the sphalerite in fractures, cavities or veins where zinc-bearing liquids had oozed up through carbonate rocks. It is found in igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks where the sphalerite can boast some impressive crystal colloidal masses.

Crystals can be translucent to transparent, giving a streak which may be white to a yellowish brown. Whilst many of the highly lustrous, black crystals are the most common, colours can range from brown, green, red, white, grey, yellow, to even colourless. Sphalerite crystals look a yellow-orangeish colour when held under either type of ultra violet light.

Mined here in Australia it is also found in numerous countries around the world and includes the United States, Germany, Ireland, India, Czech Republic, Bolivia, Alaska, Mexico, Kazakhstan, Sweden, China, Canada and Peru. Many of these deposits of sphalerite are commonly accompanied with calcite, pyrrhotite, chalcopyrite, galena, marcasite, dolomite or pyrite. In some mines valuable rare trace elements have also been associated with the sphalerite and can include germanium, cadmium, gallium and indium.

With a hardness on Mohs Scale of Hardness of 3.5 to 4, sphalerite is rarely used in jewellery as it is considered not suitable though this does not stop some lapidarists from faceting sphalerite crystals. As sphalerite crystals are relatively widespread some nice mineral specimens are currently on the market. Sphalerite is mainly used for the extraction of zinc.

The Geological Institute of Hungary founding charter was signed by the Emperor Francis Joseph II, and is the oldest still operating a scientific research institute which was founded in 1869, as the Hungarian Royal Geological Institute. It is located in an impressive monument building with a turquoise and blue ceramic tile roof in Budapest. Built in 1898 – 99 it also features fossils as part of its exterior decoration. Odon Lechner was the designer in 1896 with the building supervisor being Sandor Hauszmann.

The Budapest Geological Museum is at home in the building boasting the largest geological collection in Hungary. It has 23 thematic collections with over 180,000 inventoried fossils, minerals, rocks and photos. The institute's primary task today is affording impartial, authentic geological advice for legislation, to State administration and Municipal authorities. It continues to compile maps and geological models as well as the evaluation of mineral resources.

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### C.A. SIBERT VISITS LITHGOW

## PHOTOGRAPHY.

C. A. SIBERT, formerly of Melbourne, Mudgee, Moss Vale, is now in Main-street, Lithgow, for a brief period. Cabinets, 6s per half dozen, beautifully enamelled. Wallerawang, Rydal, Port land, Cullen, and other centres will be visited soon.

Travelling photographers were visitors to many country towns in the later 1800s and early 1900s, though local photographers who owned permanent photographic stores didn't appreciate them.

C.A. Sibert was based in Melbourne and travelled throughout the Central West of New South Wales in a wagonette equipped for the photographic portrait trade. Generally he traded under the name 'Sibert Portrait Gallery' or 'Sibert's Melbourne Portrait Gallery'.

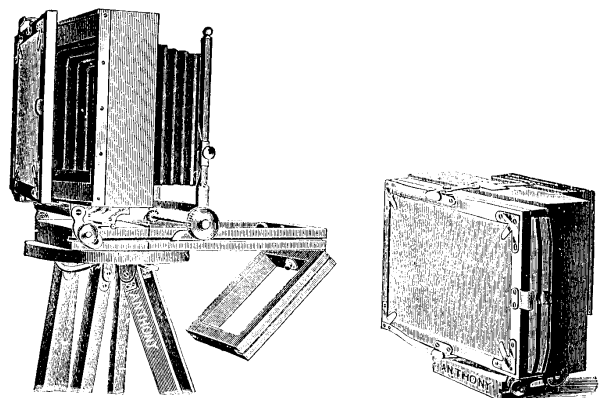
Prior to coming from Melbourne to New South Wales he had teamed up with a man named Bursle and was trading as Sibert & Bursle.

Later Sibert's Melbourne Portrait Gallery was in Wellington, by special request, during July and August 1880 before moving on to Bathurst and district where they advertised in Bathurst's National Advocate in late August and September 1880.



For a time he was also a travelling photographer in the Mudgee district from 1888 to 1891 though he did make appearances for a month or so in Lithgow as well as Bathurst.

William H. Bursle moved from Melbourne where after a time working with Mr. Sibert as a travelling photographer he set up permanent studios in Orange where he had the distinction of being the best photographer on the Western Line. Having been born on the goldfields near Mudgee thus Mr. Bursle had an affinity with the region.



The travelling photographers owned at least one Anthony camera (above) in 1890 and this would have been used in their Lithgow visits.

Mr. Bursle later separated from Sibert and removed himself to Sydney where he operated the "Tasma Studio" at Newtown Sydney. With his Orange reputation (thought to be from 1894 to about 1900) where Bursle was known far and wide for the wonderfully artistic photographs he produced the Newtown studios flourished.



An example of Sibert's photographic work is seen above. It is marked "SIBERT" in capital letters to the left – it has the Royal Arms roughly centrally placed and on the right there is 'Under Vice-Royal Patronage' and under that 'TRAVELLING PHOTOGRAPHER'. The backs of his mounting card is usually blank, whereas many photographers used it for advertising.

**The Mawson  
Photo Studios  
AND  
Picture Frame Works,  
Clarice-street,  
LITHGOW.  
(Just Round Trades Hall Corner.)**  
N INDIAN INK, in OILS or WATER COLOR S.  
**Enlargements from Old Photos  
a Specialty.**  
**No matter how faded a Photo we guar-  
antee to produce a living likeness.**

A later photographer in Lithgow was Henry T. Mellor, whose studios were located in Main Street, near Eskbank Railway Station. He advertised in March 1911 that his photographs were natural, artistic and admirable. He had several photographic packages that he was currently offering – 1 dozen (12) photo post cards for 3 shillings, 1 dozen cabinets and one beautiful enlargement for 12 shillings and sixpence or 1 dozen panels with one artistic enlargement for 15 shilling and sixpence. He also pointed out that dull, wet or cloudy weather made no difference to his instantaneous process. He also made mention that he remained open on Saturday afternoons and all holidays. Mr. Mellor also took wedding photos in his natural light studios, though he did use electric lamps on overcast days.

A full range of photographic goods of every

description were being sold at Isley & Crowne in Lithgow.

On 12th June, 1915, 'The Mawson Photo Studios and Picture Frame Works' in Clarence Street, just round Trades Hall corner, was about to close. They sold oil and watercolour paintings as well as Indian ink sketchings. He had long advertised that enlargements from old photos were their speciality no matter how faded a photo was they could guarantee to produce a living likeness. The business kept a range of folding cameras for amateur photographers as well as photographic chemistry allowing Lithgonians to do their own photo processing.

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### **MINING REPORTS IMPORTANT**

In the Bathurst Free Press of 22nd July, 1899, the Lithgow Mercury correspondent sent a report on Wattle Flat - The result from mining operations here continues to be small, owing largely to the absence of heavy rains for sluicing. The Old Solitary Mine is still closed down and little or nothing is being done at the Caledonia Mine. The latter is owned by a party of working men, who, unfortunately, have no battery to treat the large quantities of low grade ore that abound in the mine.

The Great Oakey Co. washed up an 800-ton lot from the deep levels for a yield, so it is reported, of 156 ounces retorted gold. This company has another lot of 80 tons to put through, from another part of the mine, after which 40 tons of Bird and party's stone will be treated at the company's battery. F. Williams and party had 80 tons from Casey's Hill crushed at McCuddon's mill for 4 dwts to the ton. This did not pay the expense of raising and treating.

A small lot of gold bearing ore from Whalan's Hill, by A. Holmes and party, crushed at Webb's battery, yielded 1 oz. 18 dwts per ton. Several small lots from Surface Hill, treated at the same mill, gave returns varying from 12dwts to over 1oz to the ton. Some small patches have been won from the pyrites veins on the latter hill during the last few weeks. A few parties have secured aid from the prospecting vote to prospect their respective claims.

With the exception of a few of the puddling machine workers, very few of the alluvial miners are doing any good at all, and those exceptionally lucky ones (they are few) are only making about wages. During dry seasons, such as the last three or four, the average earnings for all the miners on the field would not, I think, be more than 15 shillings or 18 shillings per man a week, whereas in very wet seasons the earnings would probably be double that amount.

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## HILLGROVE – ANTIMONY

I, Alan McRae, first really discovered the Hillgrove and Metz area during a number of expeditions and camping weekends to the area, especially those whilst doing my silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award at The Armidale School from 1964 to 1969. I also went out on excursions with the Armidale Rock and Mineral Club led by Professor Ellis from the University of New England. As 'rock collecting' was part of this programme I was able to collect some fine stibnite specimens, many of which are still in my collection. One could still tell at that time by all the abandoned machinery that the mining once had great impetus.

Professor Ellis pointed out to me that gold and antimony was found in conjunction with each mineral requiring a separate process to extract - both being somewhat difficult and expensive.

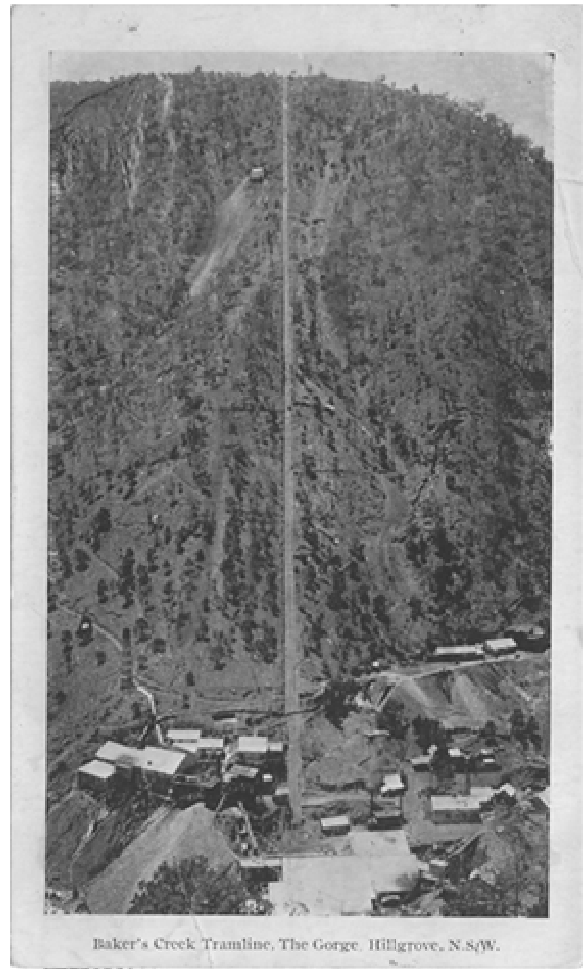
All specimens collected as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme had to be researched so that I learnt that antimony had been known for thousands of years and that the Egyptians had used substances containing antimony for cosmetics and medicines. Additionally I found that the Bible, as well as ancient writings from China, Mexico and India refers to medicinal uses of antimony preparations.

Judge Sir Adrian Curlewis had to inspect and adjudicate on my display on which he noted – "This display shows superb preparation, display ability and thought and is a credit to the spirit and enthusiasm of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. Well done, Alan." Jim Graham was The Armidale School teacher responsible for introducing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and was very encouraging of students who took on the project.

I had also been out to the area with my father, Ken McRae, for tours and to look around as we sold explosives, and delivered on occasions, to Hillgrove from our store, McRae's Pty Ltd in Uralla. There was an elderly gentleman, whose name I can't remember, who would show us around and explain 'times gone past'. I do recall him saying that as the various mines got deeper the expense of working them became greater to the point that the owners had no profit and were forced to close them. He felt also that the real decline came when the Eleanora Mine closed down in 1903, two years after Federation and the same year his grandfather had died.

Definitely the most prolific ore in the Hillgrove area is silvery-grey looking stibnite (Antimony trisulphide) which was once needed mainly for use in car batteries to harden and strengthen the lead plates. It is also used in other industries and products such as electric cables, printer's metals, flame-proofing agents, anti-friction alloys for bearings, in refrigerators, paints, aerosol sprays, glass, air-conditioners, ceramics, plastics and medicines to name a few. The stibnite ore bodies are

mostly found within a sedimentary deposit of slates, schists and quartzites. The profit and operation of the many mines at Hillgrove were closely related to the price of antimony, which could fluctuate dramatically from month to month. For example, early in 1907 the price of antimony peaked at £25 a ton, but by May the same year had dramatically plummeted to a mere £5 a ton. At this time the concentrates were sent to Europe, another problem was with the time delay. Often when mine companies were forced to close tributors were allowed to work the property to try to eke out a living.



**Above – postcard of the tramline down to the pithead at Baker's Creek Mine at Hillgrove near Armidale.**

During its heyday Hillgrove was a thriving township and was one of the richest goldfields in the colony of New South Wales.

Like all mining operations the work could be dangerous. For example at the Baker's Creek mine in which the men eventually worked some 1,700 feet underground with declining returns saw conditions even worsen for the miners. In the final depths as tunnels went deeper the pressure on the rock strata saw ferocious rock bursts that saw over the time the death of some eight miners. Despite improvements in mining technology the Baker's Creek Mine struggled as the other mines closed. Despite there still being gold in the rock the cost of extracting the ore as well as maintaining the mine was too costly in the last year of

the Great War was a mere 744 ounces of gold. Within three years the operators had closed the mine after which it was dismantled.



Antimony, which by itself has little value, but which, as an alloy with other metals is useful for hardening, then becomes quite valuable. It has the chemical symbol Sb, from stibium, the old name for the element. Its atomic number is 51 and its atomic weight is 121.75. Its density is 6.691 grams per cubic centimetre at 20° C. It conducts electricity better in its liquid form than as a solid.

Scheelite, one of the chief ores of tungsten, has been another important mineral with Hillgrove being a leading producer in New South Wales with an output of over 1,956.5 tons. The Hillgrove scheelite is mainly white in colour, with small variations in tints. The metal became important in 1898, when it was realised



that high speed turning of steels was possible with this very hard material. Its main uses are in electrical contacts, chemical compounds, tungsten carbide and alloy steels. The metamorphosed sediments have been intruded by diorite and granite, the scheelite lodes being found in the granite. In some lodes found at Hillgrove the gold and scheelite are combined.

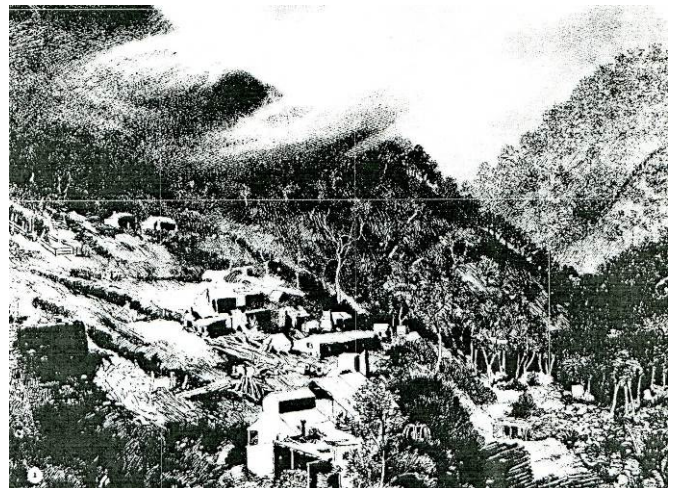
Gold has always been an attraction for miners and Hillgrove

soon attracted prospectors in the late 1850s. Later, at the various Hillgrove mines gold was found combined either with the antimony or scheelite, or in quartz reefs such as Baker's Creek mine. This combination with antimony proved the bane of early metallurgists with satisfactory gold returns not forthcoming until the advent of the flotation process. The continual echoing of the stampers must have resounded throughout the gorge at Hillgrove. In 1893 an escort accompanied the gold concentrates which were at that time sent to the Wallaroo smelters in South Australia.

The miners made themselves into a community where they conducted not only their work as miners, businesses, etc. but held regular sports events for which prizes were given. See the hip flask for the 1902 Hillgrove Miner's Sports, below, and previous column.



A new company known as Eleanora Mines Ltd was formed in 1912 with a working capital of £60,000. The engineer-in-charge in 1913 was ironically a Mr. A.F. Miner who had the South shaft deepened to 247 feet along with the re-erection at the shaft of the first motion winding engine from the Cooney tunnel. Three items from the New Hillgrove Proprietary were also installed, namely two boilers and the single stage air compressor however it was soon found that gold was to be as elusive for the new owners despite the ten head of stamps crushing almost continuously.




The Australian Mining and Engineering Review in 1912 describes a Mr. W.H.C. Lovely, as "an Australian metallurgist with South African experience"

who had erected a tailings cyanidation plant at Hillgrove, to again retreat the large dump of battery sand to extract any residue gold and was making a profit. There were 18 vats on the site with a capacity of 30 tons each with a treatment time of around a week at a production cost of 4s 1d per ton. The large vats were arranged in pairs with a tramway running the full length along the top of them. The skips were pushed by hand to the desired point before tipping sideways.

By August 1914, the Eleanora Mine was forced to close, though later after a brief re-opening, operations again ceased in January 1915, and throwing 100 men out of work. After this numerous enlisted in the Army after the outbreak of World War One of which a number of whom never came back. Again a number of tributors were allowed to work the property.

The debenture holders sold their interests in the Eleanora, Garibaldi and Golden Gate mines to Messrs Cameron and Sutherland in 1916. This Melbourne firm overhauled the plant and carried on experimentally until August 1917, when the mine was finally closed. All equipment was auctioned off on 21st to 23rd November, 1917. The mine's owners had had to contend with a railway strike which prevented shipment of the gold concentrates, the unrealistic costs of mining, problems processing the ore's complex structure and as always the low price of the metal. Later the mine came to life again when mined by New England Antimony Mines.



**Buy a GEMBOREE  
2017 Badge**

**to remember your trip  
to Lithgow**

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

### DID YOU KNOW!

# That a mine adit is an entrance to an underground mine which is horizontal or nearly horizontal, by which the mine can be entered, drained of water, ventilated, and minerals extracted at the lowest convenient level. Adits are also used to explore for mineral veins.

# At the November 30th, 1897, meeting of the Bathurst Philatelic Society, Mrs J.L. Brown of Bowenfells was elected as a member. Her great granddaughter told me "the old lady would go up on the train the day of the meetings then go to stay at her sisters in Bathurst overnight, then go back on the train next day. She made nice chocolate cakes (I would say this would have pleased the male members) and collected Russian stamps amongst other countries."

# The earliest known use of coal in the Americas was by the Aztecs who collected soft coal lying around or in riverbank walls to use in their fires. They also used a type of coal called lignite to carve ornaments to adorn their bodies.

# That sometimes the bones of the Chinese dead who died here during the gold rushes were hollowed out and filled with gold, either because they believed the gold would be useful in the afterlife or because the bodies were exhumed and returned to China.

# The mines and graves of the old Chinese gold prospectors in the 1850s and 1860s were rounded so that evil spirits could not hide in the corners.

# The Lithgow Workmen's Club was established in 1887 with an initial membership of just nineteen local citizens. The formation of the club was first discussed by a small group, mostly railway men, in a room at the Court House Hotel, but when the proprietor, Mr. J.M. Hughes learned what the group proposed doing he ordered the men to leave the premises.

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