

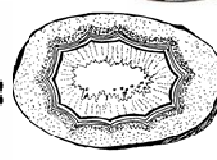
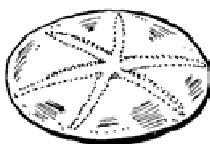
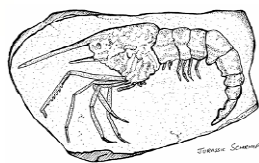


# GEMBOREE 2017

## INFORMATION E-NEWSLETTER

*March 2017 – Edition 12*

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

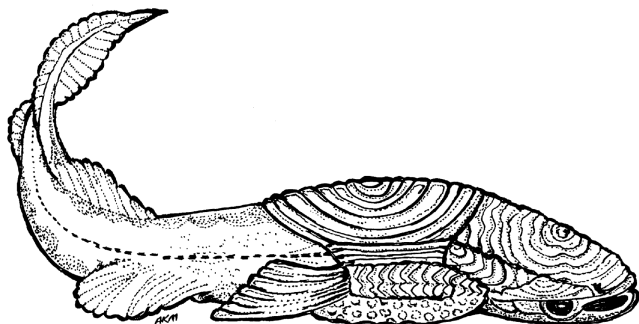


### FROM THE E-NEWSLETTER EDITOR

We are now up to the twelfth edition of the GEMBOREE 2017 newsletter. Things are happening very quickly now in March with the 53rd National Gem & Mineral Show to be held next month, I realise that some of you have already started out as you have some other appointments on the way.

The GEMBOREE 2017 is being held next month from Friday 14th to Monday 17th April, at Tony Luchetti Showground in Lithgow in New South Wales. Staged a usual by the Gem & Lapidary Council of N.S.W. Inc. under the auspices of the Australian Federation of Lapidary & Allied Crafts Association Inc., the event is expected to attract a large crowd over the four days.

One of the displays at the GEMBOREE 2017 will be the Age of Fishes Museum exhibit from Canowindra. Many tens of thousands of years prior to the dinosaurs roaming the Earth, the expansive freshwater rivers and creeks of Central West N.S.W. abounded with weird looking ancient fish during the Devonian Period. These armoured fish, some quite large, later became fossilised during a dry period and remained buried until 1955 when they were discovered during roadworks near Canowindra.



(Above) An armoured fish fossil from the Devonian Period.

These now famous fish fossil beds date from some 360 - 370 million years ago and are quite extensive. These fossil deposits contain the remains of thousands of freshwater fish. I helped out in 1993 when the beds were uncovered again. In 1998 Canowindra opened

their Age of Fishes Museum so be sure to visit their display at the GEMBOREE 2017.



The Lithgow Living History Group will also be attending the GEMBOREE 2017 to impart their knowledge of history. The group is very accomplished and have appeared in towns and cities throughout the Central West.



Many of the group live in and around Lithgow so know a good deal of local history as well. Many of the costumes are authentic whilst others have been made by members of the group. The group can cover the various eras of Australia's history from Colonial times to the 1950s.

In case you still haven't finalised your accommodation needs you can still get information from the celebrated staff at the Lithgow Visitor Information Centre, 1137 Great Western Hwy, Lithgow. NSW 2790 or telephone 1300760276 or email [tourism@lithgow.com](mailto:tourism@lithgow.com) or [www.tourism.lithgow.com](http://www.tourism.lithgow.com)

For those who have registered be sure to collect your 'Welcome Newsletter' on your arrival at the Tony Luchetti Showground in Lithgow. It will contain some general information on the GEMBOREE 2017, handy Lithgow phone numbers, Easter church service information, supermarket locations etc. Remember to bring your camera to the event at Lithgow.

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





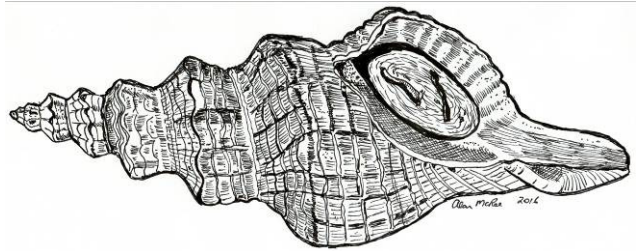
It seems that his talk in 1992 to this Canowindra Rotary Club group would lead to further discoveries and the formation of a local Museum in the town which we now know as the Age of Fishes Museum.



The Central West Canowindra Shire Council was to be involved twice in the story of these 360 million year old fish fossils from the late Devonian times. The story goes back to after World War Two, to 1956, when Council workmen were dispatched to improve a particular bend on the dirt road from Canowindra to Gooloogong. A bulldozer had been trucked to the site and Council workers proceeded to carry out the necessary work on the site. It seems no-one really noticed a particular slab of stone that contained a large number of fossil fish casts. A local identity and beekeeper (Mr. Bill Simpson I was told) spotted it sometime later and people from the Australian Museum were called in. On examination locally by museum experts and the Department of Mines the slab's importance was soon realised and it was quickly packed off to their museum in Sydney. Seems they tried to find the spot where it was from originally on the road but by this time the road works were completed.

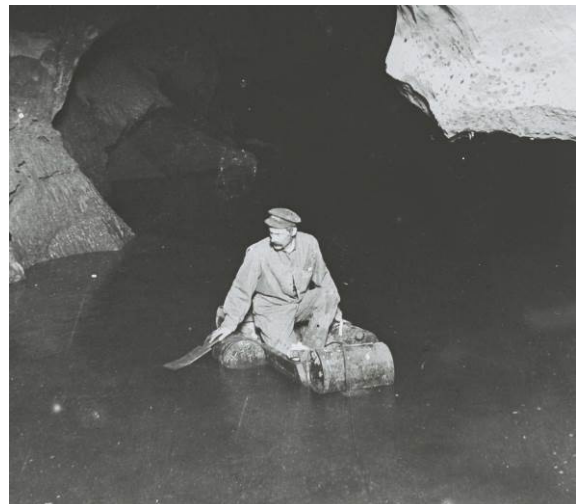
Dr. Alex Ritchie returned in January 1993 to try and locate the fossil site. Later by chance and good luck, he found it along with numerous, well thousands upon thousands it turned out, complete and ancient fish specimens, some very rare. They were exciting days in July 1993 when I was asked over to assist, unfortunately I could only spare two days off work. It was now called Cabonne Council and we had an excavator on site to help, the driver was called Fred. With fossil fishes everywhere I particularly liked the (oval) armoured fish and the long, I mean 3 and 4 feet long magnificently preserved fish, and I can't recall their particular name. I organised for a local Rural Fire Brigade man (he had been assisting on site) to bring down his fire hose and pump to clean some of the area and we found more fish as we hosed the mud away. Many of these larger specimens were later in the day covered in plastic and covered up for later times so they couldn't be stolen or damaged. The site, right

Mining has always been a hazardous occupation whether in the search of minerals or coal. The depth at which miners worked, the hot airless conditions, the total darkness, all created an environment of great danger, though things have improved over the last century and a half. Roman miners would take seashell lamps underground so they could see.



The lamps burnt animal fat, grease, oil or rendered fat, called tallow. Then a natural fibre wick was placed in the tallow and lit. Burning animal fat would have meant that they would give off an offensive unpleasant odour. Using a naked flame, especially in a coal mine, was very dangerous however up to the 1600s anyway, mines blowing up were blamed on the devil.

As early as 1886 these caves, some six miles from the Fish River, a tributary of the Macquarie River, was being written up in Tourist Guides. Situated some 36 miles from Bathurst the tourists usually accessed the caves from Tarana Railway Station where a horse-drawn wagon would meet you for the journey down to the caves. On the way tourists would pass Mr. Charles Whalan's residence where there was a picturesque view looking down the valley of Fish River Creek. The descent in was some 1200 feet.



Tourists could also come via Harley and Bowenfels, which was accessible in 1863. The guide, Mr. Charles Whalan, (on the raft, previous page) would tell visitors that the caves were discovered in 1841, when his father, the late James Whalan, and two mounted police, were in search of the notorious bushranger, McEwan, whom they captured in a small hut not far from the caves.

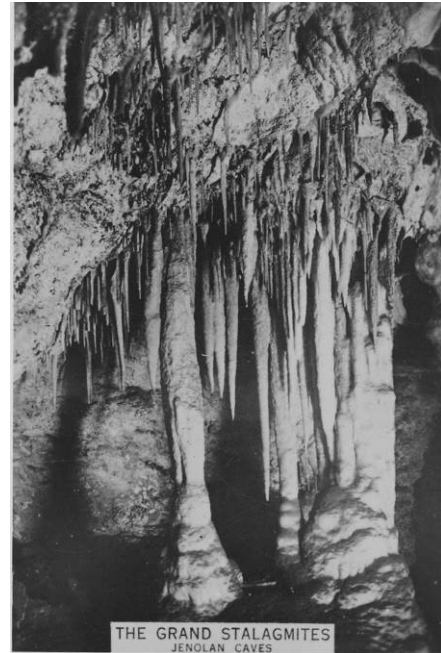
Camp Creek flows under the Grand Arch, some 450 feet long, from 35 to 180 feet wide and from 40 to 60 feet high. The caves were not easy to access however over time steel ladders were installed to replace the earlier rope structures.

The Lucas Cave features some very large chambers and people carried their own candle as they scrambled along. The prettiest spots in the Lucas Cave were considered at the time as being the Bone and Lurline Caves. In the cave known as the Bone Cave, (see photo below) fragments of bone had been found, sightseers were told, the reporter wrote. A special bone to which the guide, Wilson, generally called attention, was so covered with a stalagmitic growth that it was impossible to say whether it was bone or not. The Bone Cave, as before remarked, and the caves in its immediate neighbourhood, have a distinctive character, that is, they are splendidly draped and pillared by massive stalactites and sheets of stalactitic growth.



It did not take long to realise that some formations were perfect. In places where large white mantels that looked spectacular when lit from behind. Before lighting was available several tourists would take turns in holding their candles to light some of the features and thus show their semi-transparency. Some of the enormous stalagmites were worthy of notice and would be pointed out. At the end of the passage that leads from the Bone Cave were some very pretty pillars.

Charles Whalan not only guided groups through the cave system, he did a good deal of exploration under the most trying and primitive conditions, crawling through narrow holes and dropping into unseen chambers.



On 18th May, 1900, the Lithgow Mercury carried a story from their own correspondent on Jenolan Caves with Cook cavern naming. It went on: - "Jenolan Caves, Tuesday. - The number of visitors to the caves lately has been small. Especially noticeable is the falling off in intercolonial and international tourists, which must be greatly attributed to the bubonic plague in the metropolis. Work of improving is being steadily pushed on. At present the men are employed in making concrete steps to descend to the underground river in the Right Imperial Cave. Hitherto, the descent was made by a swinging rope ladder, 45 feet in length, which deterred a great many from venturing down to view the running stream, and the beautiful formations on the roof, which by the clearness of the water is also reflected. Names were apportioned to a number of chambers in Jubilee Cave during the last Ministerial visit. The names, printed on tin, have now been placed in a conspicuous position in their respective caves. The following are the names given - - Cook's Cavern, in honour of Mr. Joseph Cook, Ethel's Grotto, in honour of Miss McLachlan, Matilda's Retreat, in honour of Mrs. McLachlan, Edie's Bower, in honour of Mrs. J. L. Fegan, Lyne Cave, in honour of the Premier, Sydney Smith Cave, in honour of Mr. Sydney Smith. A discovery was made recently by Mr. Jeremiah Wilson of some new chambers in close proximity to the Sydney Smith. The first chamber is about 50 foot long, from 10 to 20 feet wide. The formation is principally of a coral character. The second chamber is 10 feet by about 12 feet, and one to two feet high, of similar formation to the first. The third chamber is 15 feet by 20 feet, from four to 10 feet high. This is one of the most beautiful chambers yet discovered. The





Mr. Hunter had been desirous of availing himself of the introduction of labour from Great Britain and communicated accordingly with his attorneys in London, but the British Government declined. Thus Mr. Hunter decided to decline bothering with Government assistance in the introduction of his labour.

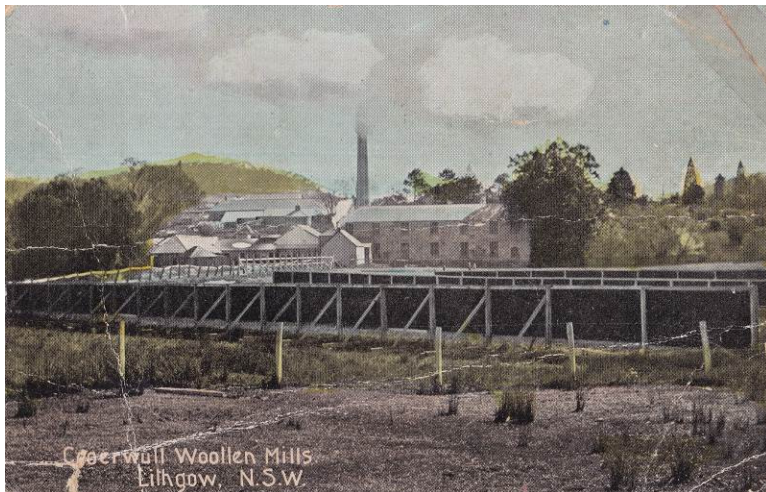
Mr. Hunter had commended the N.S.W., Railways for lowering the tariff in the traffic of colonial products such as terra cotta, bricks, iron, shale, coals, and other production, but tweeds had been overlooked. He had mentioned the matter to the Hon. John Sutherland, who had promised to inquire into the grievance. Mr. Hunter believed in free trade all round, and therefore the raw material which was used in his trade, such as olive oil and crystals, should pass duty free. They were necessities which he could produce in Lithgow, as with the teazles used in blanket making, all of which are raised on the property.

By 30th March, 1900, work at the Coorwull Tweed Mills had recommenced under a new proprietor at the beginning of the month. About ten days previously weaving had begun, and already some of the tweeds had been finished and sold. Mr. Gale, the new manager, informed the Lithgow Mercury that he had about 25 hands on and a good few of these were old employees. Others had come from Camden, where they were formerly employed at the woollen mills. Mr. Gale expected to have about 30 hands in all when everything is in full swing. A good few orders had been received and generally the trade showed fair prospects. Though prices were cut very fine, Mr. Gale hoped to have as much as they can do. The high freights between Lithgow and Sydney were a drawback and a reduction would be of great benefit to the business.

“One just needs to hold these stones up to a bright light to see the ‘tear’ inside” I was told. Even today Indian women believe in these stones as a means of good luck as well as encouraging relaxation.

Though these glassy nuggets of obsidian can be found in numbers of locations worldwide, only the ones found in Arizona at the fatal cliffs of Apache Leap Mountain on the San Carlos Apache Reservation are the true ‘Apache Tears’. These small lumps have been smoothed and rounded by nature, the water and wind taking centuries to complete their process.

## THE COOERWULL WOOLLEN MILL



This Coorwull Woollen Mills factory (above – image Lithgow City Council Library) was built by Mr. A. Brown, an enterprising Lithgow colonist, and was first used by him as a flour mill. Coorwull is a local aboriginal name signifying seed or plant. The locality was picturesquely situated at Bowenfels railway station. It was watered by Brown's River (a tributary of the Nepean), which give water even in seasons of severe drought - all the year round, and supplied power for driving the machinery in conjunction with an engine of 80 h.p. In 1875, Mr. Hunter was the occupier, operating the equipment at about time-and-a-half since. During this time the most modern appliances had been imported from England and consisted of three sets of carding engines (Paris mules) with 1000 spindles to each set, 14 power looms of Schofield's patent, teasing and burring machines and complete plant for finishing. They were awaiting 12 new hand-looms. During 1877 about 85,000 yards of plain and fancy tweeds, besides 100 pairs of blankets and 150 shawls were produced. By 1878 the output was averaging 2600 yards of tweed weekly, and the work was well worth inspecting, particularly to those who dealt in tweeds. (The Australian and Country Journal stated.)

The buildings consisted of a mill, two stories of 100 feet square, with dye-houses, engineer's shop, wareroom, and workmen's cottages of substantial stone with galvanized iron roofing. The ground floor

kept in glass fronted mahogany cabinets.

His current special on at the time was Manila and Hansa cigars where customers could purchase five of these cigars for just one shilling.

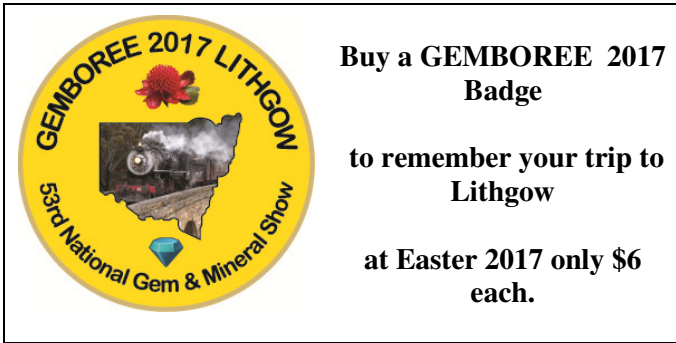


Clay pipes were also popular with the working class (above) and were basically used once and discarded. They were cheap to make hence cheap buy and could be bought in bulk, a gross which was 144.

Mr. Pugh was always proud of his range of confectionery and claimed his prices for confectionary was cheaper than any other place. He had Mixed Lollies and Barley Sugar for 5d per lb; Bull's Eyes were 4 for a penny; Lolly Sticks ½d each; Almond, Malty and Peanut Rock was 4 oz for 3d; Coconut Ice, Coconut Jacks and Eucalyptus Lozenges 4 oz for 3d; Scotch Mixtures and Conversations 8d per lb; London Mixtures and Cadbury's Chocolate 4 oz for 6d; Jelly Beans, Caramels and Fruitines 4 oz for 6d; Chocolate Creams and Jellies 5 oz for 6d; Chocolate Balls, Bars, Mice and 100 Selections for ½d each.

By 15th June, 1900, the finishing touches had been added to Mr. Pugh's hairdressing and tobacconist shop in Main Street, and the place was promoted as being "now replete with all the most modern and up-to-date requirements which money can procure. To demonstrate that cash has not been spared, the extra fittings, etc., cost Mr. Pugh something over £50 and it is with a degree of pride that he asserts that he has the best saloon in the country, in or out of Sydney".

The saloon was roomy, well-ventilated and spotlessly clean with plenty of sitting accommodation, the chairs being white enamel, lined with green plush and these alone form a very pretty group. Other etceteras, such as giant pier glasses, paintings and marble slabs lend additional charm to the room.



### LITHGOW BUSINESSES

**FRANK PUGH,**  
**Elite Hairdresser & Tobacconist.**

Silver M. Pipes, 4s to 5s (in cases); Briars, 100 dozen to select from, 6d to 1s 9d; Great Reduction in G.B.D's.—first quality, not second—from 2s; Cigar and Cigarette Holders (silver) to 10s; silver plated Match-boxes, 2s 6d.  
 MANILA & HANSA CIGARS, 5 FOR 1s.

**PUGH'S PRICES for CONFECTIONERY**  
 CHEAPER THAN ANY OTHER PLACE.

Mixed Lollies and Barley Sugar, 5d lb; Bull's Eyes, 4 for 1d; Lolly Sticks, ½d each; Almond, Malt, and Peanut Rock, 4oz. for 3d; Coconut Ice, Coconut Jacks, and Eucalyptus Lozenges, 4oz. for 3d; Scotch Mixtures and Conversations, 8d lb; London Mixtures and Cadbury's Chocolate, 4oz. for 6d; Jelly Beans, Caramels, and Fruitines, 4oz. 6d; Chocolate Creams and Jellies, 5oz. 6d; Chocolate Balls, Bars, Mice, and 100 Selections, ½d each.

Frank Pugh in May 1900 was a popular business in Lithgow attracting both adults and children. He operated the Elite Hairdresser & Tobacconist establishment as well as selling confectionery. He had recently relocated and outside he had his barber's pole to indicate he did haircuts. He had twelve chairs in his store with four or more workers so he guaranteed little waiting.




**A British crown and half-crown used in Lithgow and Australia at the time, 1900.**

He kept a good range of 'Silver M Pipes' which he sold in cases for between 4 and 5 shillings; Briars, with 100 dozen to select from at a cost of between sixpence and 1s 9d. There were also great reductions in GBDs, first quality not seconds, from 2 shillings. The GBDs (Ganneval, Bondier & Donninger) were a brand of quality pipes, which included a line of Meerscham pipes featuring figural carvings. Mr. Pugh stocked silver cigar and cigarette holders up to half a sovereign (10 shillings). There was a range of silver-plated Match-boxes at 2s 6d to look at. Much of his stock was



With the membership of the Lithgow Cycle Club increasing all the time and regular cycling events taking place in both Lithgow and other towns such as Bathurst, Orange and Katoomba it was fortunate that Lithgow had Mr. G.H. Yates Cycles in Main Street.

**CYCLES!**



**G. H. YATES,**  
BICYCLE ENGINEER and General Mechanic.  
Agent for Bennett and Wood's famous Imperial Rover, Raleigh, and Speedwell. Bicycles for hire at 9d per hour, 2s 6d half day, 4s 6d per day, and 10s per week. A big stock to select from. Learners taught. Sundries at Sydney prices.

Having worked for several years in the leading English cycle firms, I am well qualified to execute all kinds of work.

**MAIN STREET, LITHGOW.**  
Agent for Beale Co. Sewing Machines and Pianos.

Mr. Yates was a Bicycle Engineer and General Mechanic. He was an agent for Bennett & Wood's famous Imperial Rover, Raleigh and Speedwell cycles. Mr. Yates was also an agent for Beale & Company pianos and Sewing Machines – below.



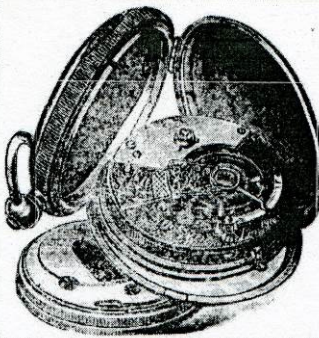
The cycle establishment had been established by Mr.

Charles W. Bennett and Mr. Charles R. Wood in 1882 in Sydney. Charles Bennett was an accomplished penny-farthing bike racer. Initially they imported penny-farthings and in 1897 started to make their own cycles.

Mr. Yates's store kept a big stock of cycles to choose from along with a selection of cycle sundries and spare parts at Sydney prices. At the time he also had 40 cycles that were available for hire, especially for people who came up on the train to Lithgow to go sightseeing. Rental charges were 9d per hour, 2s 6d for half a day, 4s 6d for a whole day or 10s for the whole week. He also offered to teach the young and old to ride. Before coming to New South Wales he had worked for several years with leading English cycle firms so he was well qualified to execute all kinds of bicycle work.

**H. H. GODWIN**  
Begs to inform the PUBLIC that he has been appointed Agent for LITHGOW for the Celebrated

**WILSON & WILSON**  
*English Lever Watches!*

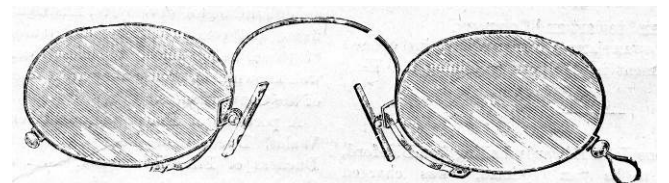


These WATCHES are made Specially Strong for Riding and knocking about the Country. They are made in Gentlemen's Sizes, Open Face and Double Sterling Silver Cases. Every Watch is Guaranteed.

**H. H. GODWIN,**  
Watchmaker, Jeweller, and Optician,  
MAIN STREET, LITHGOW.

Mr. H.H. Godwin had his well-stocked Watchmaker and Jeweller's shop in Main Street in Lithgow as well. In May 1900 he had recently been appointed the agent in Lithgow for the celebrated Wilson & Wilson English Lever Watches and had a fine selection to choose from. The watches were especially strong for riding and working about the countryside. They were made in gentlemen's sizes, open face in double Sterling Silver cases. Every watch they sold was with a guarantee.

As with a number of jewellers in the late 1800s and early 1900s they had gone away to be trained as an optician. It was Mr. Godwin's job to test the eyes with the customer selecting the clearest image. He then had to fit and dispense the corrective lenses for the correction of a person's vision.



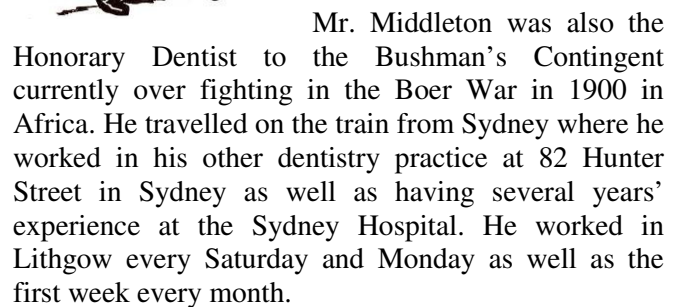
All spectacles and lenses were imported from England or Europe, though some companies had opened offices in Sydney or Melbourne. Customers who wanted bifocals and trifocals had to wait whilst they were made in Sydney. The oval rimless style which would be fitted on a fine silver or gold chain was popular with the ladies.





gold, amalgam or cement. Both were offering teeth that fit, teeth without plates, artificial teeth on gold or vulcanite, with children's teeth carefully regulated.

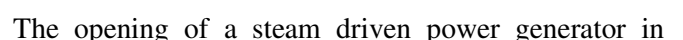
Teeth could be cleaned, scaled or filled and both could repair artificial teeth, remodel as well as adding to existing false teeth. However, one might query the claim of teeth fitted by 'Atmospheric Suction'.



## BRIEF HISTORY BEHIND THE SCENIC RAILWAY

In the last e-newsletter issue we had a story on Scenic World which over many years developed into the tourist attraction it is today. It seems by sheer determination, perseverance and some luck the business moved from humble beginnings.

Initially the discovery of coal in the Jamison Valley led it to be worked commercially. By 1884 the Katoomba Colliery, with over fifty employees, extracted some 20,000 tonnes of coal. Shale was also mined and by the mid 1890s over 150 men were employed in a number of mines. More tramways were built to get the oil shale out and tunnels traversed the area. This was a bad economic time for all businesses and with imported kerosene so cheap the mines closed. Basically the mine site sat abandoned for the next three decades, often with much of the equipment sold off.





1911 at the Carrington Hotel saw the Katoomba coal mine reopen. The area had attracted sightseers and bushwalkers after the Great War. Most were not suitably dressed, the men often in suits and ties, the women in long dresses. Those keen enough to walk to the lowermost rainforest area of the Furber Steps where coal was being mined under the cliffs would ask for a ride up in the coal skip of the Katoomba Colliery.



Seeing an opportunity to make a quid from these 'new tourists' they constructed a 12-seat wheeled trolley to lower down or bring up people for a charge. As most things in the early days had to have a name the builders called it 'Jessie', after the boss's wife. As numbers increased a conductor was employed, he often hanging on at the side. The short trip cost sixpence.



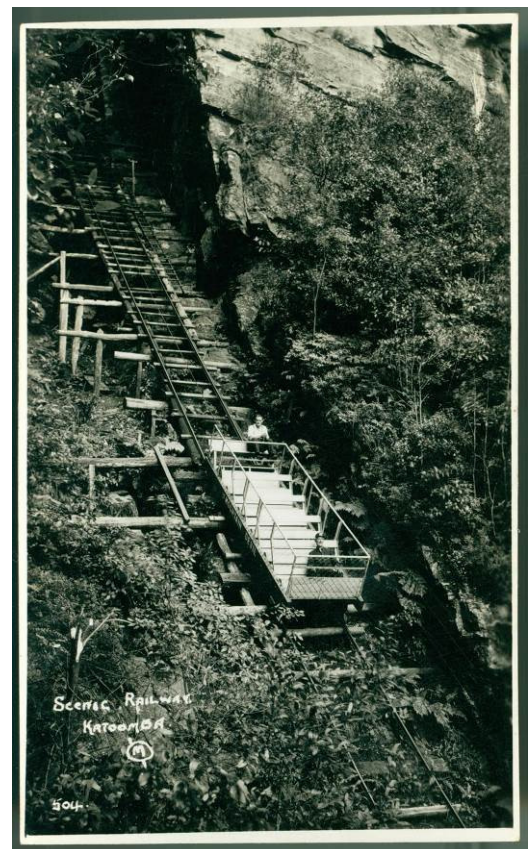
Despite obviously being told few would have realised the angle they descended was  $52^\circ$ . A single wire cable was used to haul the trolley up and down the steep hillside. Mining again waxed and waned as contracts were gained or lost. The 'Jessie' model trolley was redesigned with an elongated chassis to hold 15 passengers, its name changed to 'The Mountain Devil'.

With the introduction of electricity a 24 seat trolley came into use.

Finally the Katoomba Colliery lost a major contract for the Katoomba Municipal Powerhouse, thus forcing its closure. Before this happened it was nearing the end of World War Two. Harry Hammon, a local carrier, who also delivered coal to Katoomba customers and the powerhouse was loading up coal. One day a jeep drove up which contained some American Servicemen who had driven from Sydney to have a ride down on the Mountain Devil. As it only ran on weekends it was closed. Harry had an idea – and the seed was now set.

When it came time to sell the lease for the railway line and mine in 1945 it was bought by Harry Hammon (1911-2000) and his sister, Isobel Fahey. Ironically since then the railway has carried about 25 million passengers up to the latest major developments in 2012.

Harry Hammon built his original Scenic Skyway in 1958. The original cabin was made of plywood. This aerial ropeway wasn't the first in the area as earlier mine owners used the idea. For example, another had been installed by the Gladstone Colliery in 1884 and 1885 to bring out their coal at the N.S.W. Government Railway at Wentworth Falls. Many of these early ropeway, onto which buckets were attached, were fraught with problems.



Harry, and others, set about solving all the problems such as the continuing blackouts as the system was run on electricity. The story of testing various ideas goes on and on and is a fascinating history of this family tourist business that continues today.



**1st Prize** is a Russian Topaz which was donated by Arthur Roffey and set in Sterling Silver by Ainslie Flynn from Western Suburbs Lapidary Club

**2nd Prize** is a Chrysoprase Bracelet which was subsidised by Preyas Jewellery.

**3rd Prize** is a voucher for a night's accommodation and dinner to the value of \$200 at the Alexandra Hotel, 62 Great Western Hwy, Leura NSW 2780 Phone: 2) 4782 4422. This hotel built in 1903 and was fully refurbished in 2014. It has stunning views over the Leura Gap and other magnificent mountain views.

**4th Prize** is a nice Adamite specimen which was subsidised by Crystal Habit. Adamite crystals are often surrounded in crumbling brown Limonite matrix as seen on the specimen. This specimen has copper present in the Adamite, thus giving it the brilliant green colour.

**5th Prize** is an Enamelled Bowl made and donated by Annette Clarke from Central Coast Lapidary Club. There will be lots more prizes to win.

## A black and white photograph showing a large crowd of people gathered in a town square. In the background, there are several buildings, including a prominent one with a gabled roof. A stage or platform is visible in the middle ground, and a crowd of people is gathered around it. The scene appears to be a public event or a performance.

The Boer War effected every village, town and city in Australia and Lithgow was no exception. The Lithgow Mercury mentioned it in almost every issue and especially in January 1901.

Lithgow was busy organising a 'Social for our Soldiers' and medals were to be presented. Prior to the public demonstration (above) a meeting was held in the Council Chambers to decide on the best method of

recognising the services of Lithgow's soldiers in South Africa. The Mayor presided, and there were also present Mr. Cook, M.P., Capt. Bracey, Dr. Kirkland, Ald. Ireland, Messrs. A. Everitt, West, Evans, Dawson, Southall, Winter and Ryan. After a short discussion it was proposed by Mr. Cook and seconded by Capt. Bracey that a social be held, and that a suitable medal be presented to each man at the same time. Ald. Ireland supported the motion, "which was carried unanimously."

“Ald. Ireland moved that a shilling subscription list be opened for procuring the medals. Mr. Ryan seconded. Carried. Mr. Everitt moved that those present form themselves into a committee to carry out the latter resolution. Mr. West seconded. Carried. The Mayor was appointed treasurer and the Council Clerk secretary. The following were appointed the social committee : - Colour-Sgt. Ronnie, Sgt. McGann, Lance-Sgt. Dougherty, Messrs. Ellis, Northey, Southall, Thomas, Dawson, and Hegarty, with power to add to their number, with Lance-Sgt. Dougherty to be convener. It was agreed that the price of social tickets be 3s 6d double and 2s 6d single. Also that the social be held on Tuesday, the 22nd, if-possible. Several subscriptions were then handed in, and the meeting was adjourned.”

“Another meeting of the committee was held last night - Mr. Rennie presided, and about a dozen were present. The secretary reported that he had collected a sum of £5 18s, besides which it was stated that the members of E Company would give about a shilling each, making another £3. Arrangements were made for sending the printed shilling subscription lists to the different industries and to Wallerawang, with a request for an early collection. It was agreed to empower the Mayor and Council Clerk (treasurer and secretary respectively) to order the medals locally and arrange for a suitable inscription. The price of tickets was definitely fixed at 3s 6d for double and 2s 6d for single tickets. Messrs. Ronnie, Ellis, and McGann were appointed a sub-committee to arrange for the catering and the music. Messrs. Ellis and McGann were appointed Ms.C. It was decided to have 150 double and 50 single tickets.”

Glass making during the 1800s saw all sorts of minerals added to glass mixtures to change the colours of bottles. Some coloured glass indicated medicines, others poisons whilst other colours were simply to hide the ‘floaties’ in the contents, this glass being black or it was simply to enhance its aesthetic appeal.

To your or my naked eye ordinary soda-lime glass looks colourless. Add manganese in the right amount and one has amethyst (purple) coloured glass. Pure metallic copper in the mix and one gets dark red, opaque glass. Cadmium could be added to sulphur

A clear glass bottle of Schlitz beer. The label is partially visible, showing the word 'Schlitz' in a stylized font. The bottle is empty and has a long neck.

A dark, heavily worn, and scratched glass bottle, likely a vintage perfume or medicine bottle. The bottle has a rounded body and a narrow neck. A small, circular label is visible near the neck, featuring a logo or emblem. The surface of the bottle is covered in numerous scratches and signs of age.

By adding large amounts of chromium it too produced black glass. Add tin oxide and arsenic together into the glass mix to produce emerald green glass. Traces of copper oxide produces a turquoise coloured glass.



One will probably be surprised to hear that gold, in very small amounts, was added to the glass mixture to obtain a rich ruby-coloured glass. 'Ruby glass' is produced by adding tin to the mixture before the gold. Later even uranium was added and found to give the glass a fluorescent yellow or green colour.

Glass makers added tin oxide with antimony and arsenic oxides to come up with what collectors call 'milk glass' or opaque white glass.

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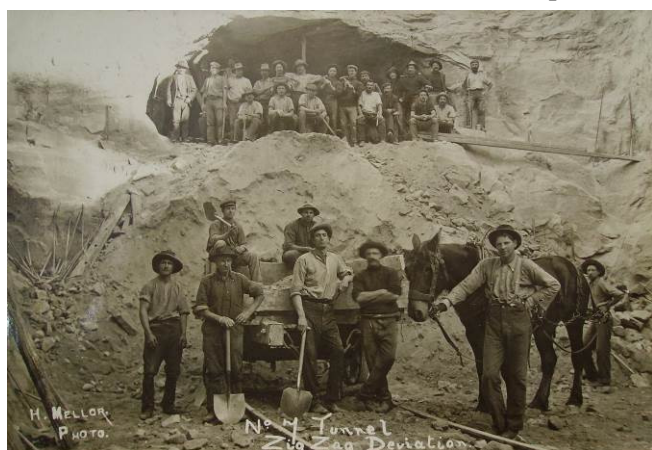
Near View, showing position of Engine in Accident on 'Zig-Zag', April, 1901.

[The Lithgow Studios.]

“The spot where the accident occurred is one of the most dangerous on the zigzag. It is at the dead end of the top road, and just before descending on to the second road. The top road leads over a precipice hundreds of feet deep, and to show how close a thing it was it might be mentioned that at the dead-end of the road there was a high solid rock with dead-end buffers in front. The engine broke the buffers, mounted the rock and got right over, the bogie and leading driving wheels hanging over the precipice, about 6ft of the engine being suspended in the air. The first truck was jammed on end against the tender and broken almost to matchwood. A most remarkable feature of the accident



The day after the accident the train was pulled back on the track. The following morning the driver and fireman were back at work. It was decided to build a concrete block after the accident, to avoid a repetition.



In less than a decade the Zig Zag deviation was opened at Lithgow on 16th October, 1910. Above – men working on No 7 Tunnel for the deviation - H. Melor, photographer.

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When you travel to Lithgow for the GEMBOREE 2017 being held next month from Friday 14th to Monday 17th April, at Tony Luchetti Showground in Lithgow why not visit the famous Glow Worm Tunnel (below).



The now abandoned tunnel that the glow worms are found in today was once part of the railway that went to Newnes. Glow-worms are not unusual in the Blue Mountains as they appear in several other locations. What makes this tunnel different is that the tunnel is

There are at least two ways to access the tunnel, one involves a 2.5k total walk and another a 9k total walk. Remember that you will need a working torch. Once in the tunnel turn off torches and remain silent. The glow worms will start to glow after a short time. **REMEMBER – DO NOT DISTURB THE GLOW WORMS IN ANY WAY.**



The easiest way to get there is to collect a brochure with a full description of how to access the tunnel from the informed staff at the Lithgow Visitor Information Centre (above), 1137 Great Western Hwy, Lithgow. NSW 2790 or telephone 1300760276 or email [tourism@lithgow.com](mailto:tourism@lithgow.com) or [www.tourism.lithgow.com](http://www.tourism.lithgow.com)

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## SULPHUR CRYSTALS

Sulphur is a yellow crystalline solid in its native form. It has been used for many things such as fertilizers, dyes, insecticides, detergents, fungicides, as well as for hundreds of years for making matches and gunpowder. Certain medicines contain sulphur such as acne preparations. If you have ever taken the once commonly popular 'Epson Salts' then you would have taken some sulphur. It was even used in making 'fixer' to process black and white photos.

I recall seeing sulphur for the first time in New Zealand and the smell of it – well it was like rotten eggs. It was in Rotorua and we stayed in a motel in town and our room reeked of it too. One may also recall the smell when we burn a match, especially old matches, and what we can smell is the sulphur dioxide. I normally spell it ‘sulphur’ though others now spell it as “sulfur”.

From early times it was never that easy to concentrate sulphur. Over two to three thousand years ago labourers would collect bits of sulphur in volcanic areas and deposit it into kilns made from bricks that had been constructed on a sloping surface such as the side of a hill. After the sulphur had been ignited it turned into a liquid that ran out the bottom for



The Chinese have been using sulphur since before the 5th century BC. The Chinese used it first in their medicines and several centuries later began using it in gunpowder. At one time the Chinese believed that when someone died part of the body was turned into sulphur because when sulphur was burnt it turned into a red liquid just like blood.

Initially the English scientists thought sulphur was a compound though this was later disproved by Antoine Lavoisier a couple of decades before the First Fleet arrived in New South Wales. Sulphur was needed in the American Civil War but underground deposits of sulphur were found in Texas and Louisiana just after.



Generally sulphur is found in hot springs and other volcanic areas. Chile, New Zealand, Indonesia, Mexico and Japan are common areas where this mineral is found. Sulphur mines are also found in Sicily and all produce some interesting specimens. Sulphur has also been found in meteorites from outer space.

If you are coming to the GEMBOREE 2017 at Lithgow and have some spare time over the Easter weekend we are in need of people to help. There are plenty of jobs here and there to be done. CAN YOU HELP with as little as an hour of your time. If so, please email Marcia, the Volunteer Co-ordinator, on [snoopy29@optusnet.com.au](mailto:snoopy29@optusnet.com.au) or see her at the show.

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# that a joke doing the rounds of Lithgow in December 1900 was (Q.) “Why does a coal miner resemble a canary? (A.) “Because he gets his living by picking and is brought up in a cage.”

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The Committee would like to acknowledge the generosity of The Alexandra Hotel at Leura for their donation of a night's accommodation and dinner as one of the GEMBOREE 2017 raffle prizes. They still have accommodation available if anyone is looking for somewhere to stay near Lithgow.

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