




GEMBOREE 2017

INFORMATION E-NEWSLETTER

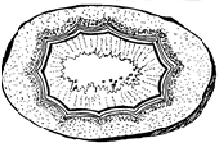
April 2017 – Edition 13

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







FROM THE E-NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Welcome to our FINAL e-newsletter before the GEMBOREE 2017 in a couple of weeks at Easter. Many people have put in a great deal of work and time into this forthcoming gem and lapidary event to be held in Lithgow, so it will be an outstanding success.

Already we know that people have left home on their way to the GEMBOREE 2017, the 53rd National Gem & Mineral Show, being held from Friday 14th to Monday 17th April, 2017, at Tony Luchetti Showground in Lithgow, New South Wales.

Once again I would like to thank the dedicated staff at the Local History Library at the Lithgow Library Learning Centre of the Lithgow City Council, for their continuing support with photos and answering questions about Lithgow and district.



The number of GEMBOREE 2017 Raffle Prizes seem to be increasing weekly with some of the major raffle prizes appearing here. Tickets will be on sale at the GEMBOREE 2017 in Lithgow over Easter this year.

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: (02) 4782 4422. This hotel

was built in 1903 and fully refurbished in 2014. It has stunning views over the Leura Gap and other magnificent mountain views.

4th Prize is an appealing Adamite specimen which has been subsidised by Crystal Habit. Adamite crystals are often surrounded in 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 as well.



I notice from their newsletter that the Northern District Lapidary Club are running a club bus to Lithgow for the Saturday of the GEMBOREE 2017. Now that's a good idea to see everything without the hassles of driving and extra expense.

Some twenty commercial dealers will be set up inside and a much larger number of tailgaters and hobbyists, possibly 60 or more, outside selling lapidary equipment, books, a surprising variety of mineral specimens from Australia and all over the world, crystals, fossils, rocks, meteorites, beads and lapidary books, jewellery, quality gem rough supplies, rough and cut precious and semi-precious gemstones, opals, beads, carvings, metaphysical and healing crystals, craft, gifts, and lots more are all on sale at the show. It is certainly a great day out for the whole family.

There will also be gemmologists, faceting experts, lapidists, and other experts in the hobby attending as the GEMBOREE 2017 is staged by the Gem & Lapidary Council of N.S.W. Inc. under the auspices of

Long Alley. During construction Lawson wrote in his diary that they found a three-foot seam of 'coal' and reported it to the Governor. The find proved to be kerosene shale. The site was mined from the 1860's where contractors with their horse and carts would carry it to the railway to be sent to Sydney to be refined.

Once the New South Wales Government Railway reached Bowenfels the shale company constructed a narrow-gauge rail line from there into the valley. It was later closed.

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THE ESKBANK STATION CONTROVERSY

The postcard (below) shows Eskbank Station in Lithgow. Numbered 1103, it was made in Saxony for Mr. G. Giovanardi of Sydney, ca 1909. It seems that the building attracted the attention of locals who would express their thoughts to the newspapers of the day.



One article under the headline "RAILWAY STATION FARCES" went on: - "Possibly there are many railway station farces in Australia, but we venture to think the primest farce is that which is to be found in the town of Lithgow. Here we have two stations only removed a few hundred yards from one another, one named Lithgow and the other Eskbank. The Commissioners seem to perpetuate them judging by every day happenings for their own amusement and the mystification and inconvenience of the travelling public, added to the temporary dislocation of many of the business firms of Lithgow. To say nothing of the loss of time and money to a great many inhabitants of this thriving centre."

"It is at least some consolation to know that the Commissioners themselves are beginning to realise that the time is approaching when alterations should be made. At the last meeting of the Lithgow Town Council a letter was read from the Commissioners wherein it was stated that extensive alterations were proposed to be effected to the railway stations here.

We understand this to mean that one large central station is to be substituted for the two at present in use. That is satisfactory, as far as it goes. But in the lengthy interval that must necessarily elapse between now and completion of the works proposed cannot something be done to remedy these inconveniences and disabilities which beset Lithgow residents in particular, and the travelling public generally?"

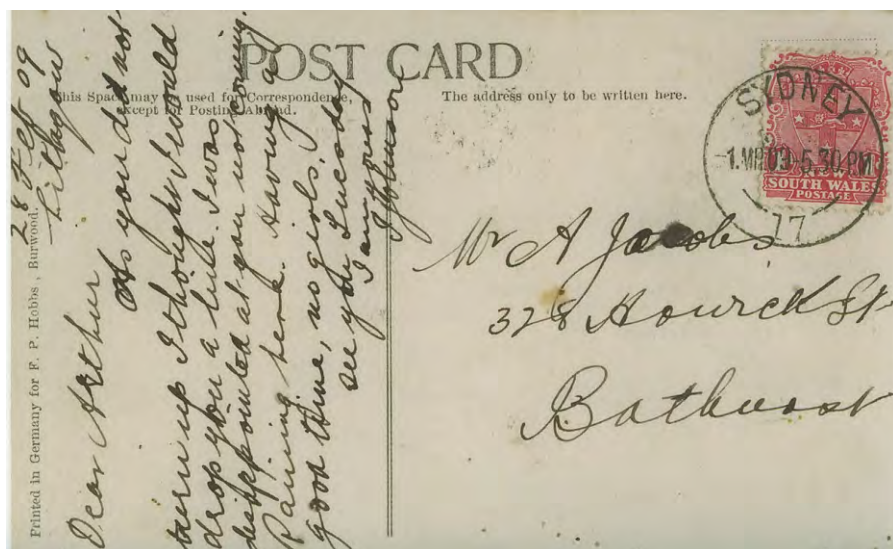
"Why the principal station here is called Eskbank when the town is known as Lithgow is a mystery to all but the Commissioners themselves. As a matter of common sense the names should be transposed. But who ever knew of a Government Department, least of all a Railway Department, with the same amount of common sense that an ordinary private business man exercises? It would be hardly human to expect it! Most of the principal trains stop at Eskbank station and many of them do not pull up at Lithgow. The confusion thus created, to say nothing of the disability to the public, is inconceivable."

"Just one illustration as mentioned at the last meeting of the Lithgow Progress Association, parcels addressed 'Lithgow' are frequently despatched from Sydney by trains that do not stop at the station, but at Eskbank. The result is that the parcels are carried on, and the consignee does not receive them until some other train has brought them back from where they were overcarried. Can anything more farcical be imagined? We venture to think not. Why cannot way-bills for Lithgow parcels and luggage be dealt with by the Eskbank officials, even though they be addressed to Lithgow, a couple of hundred yards further on!"



"Just another illustration of this gigantic farce that could only be conceived in the minds of the Railway Commissioners. If a passenger from Sydney to this town purchases a ticket to Lithgow, he will not be permitted to travel on a train bound for Eskbank, presumably for the reason not that the train is not going to Lithgow town, but because it stops at a station several yards on the Sydney side of the Lithgow

railway station. It is at least consoling to the Lithgow people to know that the Railway Commissioners have at last tired of the farce they themselves created and have permitted to remain all these years, and that they have decided to make extensive alterations. It is to be hoped that the 'alterations' will come within a reasonable time, and that they will not be delayed in the erection to the extent many of the railway improvements are."



The farce went on for many years. The postcard above is the back of the lower postcard on the previous page. It was printed in Germany for Mr. F.P. Hobbs, of Burwood. It was written in Lithgow on 28th February however it was posted in Sydney on 1st March, 1909, to Mr. A. (Arthur) Jacobs, 328 Howick Street, Bathurst. It says "Dear Arthur, As you did not turn up I thought I would drop you a line. I was disappointed at you not coming. Raining here. Having a good time, no girls. See you Tuesday, I am yours, I. Jobson.

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JOHN GRANT – THE IRISHMAN

Many of the early Lithgow district settlers were Irish or Scottish just like Governor Macquarie whose stimulus was keenly felt in the settlements in the many valleys west of the Blue Mountains.

The Hartley Valley, originally named The Vale of Clwydd by Governor Lachlan Macquarie during his first visit over the Blue Mountains after William Cox completed the road through to Bathurst.

An early Irish convict was John Grant, born in 1792 in Moyne, Tipperary, County Mayo, Ireland. John Grant was sentenced in August 1810 at Clonmel in County Tipperary in Ireland to be transported to the Southern Colony after attempting to shoot his



landlord's son. He arrived aboard the 'Providence' on 2nd July, 1811, and was just eighteen.

He worked for the emancipist surgeon William Redfern (who was Macquarie's personal surgeon) and was able to take up a land grant at Hartley in 1819, probably on Redfern's advice and description of the countryside as Redfern had accompanied Macquarie to Bathurst. A good and capable worker he became his overseer thus earning his freedom in 1820. In 1821 he built, with the help of assigned convicts, his new home on some fifty acres, which he called 'Moyne Farm'. John was the first of three grantees to be allocated an allotment in the Vale of Clwydd. Given several convicts to clear his grant (below) he was selling wheat to the Government stores by 1823. In the same year Surveyor Mitchell had a road surveyed from Hartley over to Mudgee.

He married his first wife Jane, nee O'Brien, on the 10th January, 1814, in St. Phillip's Church, an Anglican church, as there were no Catholic priests as yet. Some six years later they were

'remarried' in the Catholic faith. Jane had arrived on the ship "A.D. Charles". Unfortunately she became ill in 1826 and was transferred to Bathurst where she died, leaving John with three children. Jane Grant died on 19th May, 1826, aged 34, with her name entered at No. 10 in the Burial Register at the Holy Trinity Church at Kelso. The entry is signed by Reverend Thomas Hassall who had married Anne Marsden,

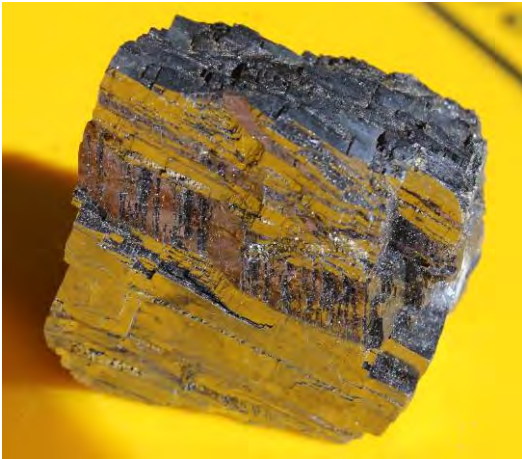
Samuel Marsden's eldest daughter. Samuel Marsden was the Chaplain for the Colony of New South Wales. Hassall, a colonial chaplain, was assigned to Bathurst. Whilst he lived on his farm at O'Connell Plains he frequently preached in a barn in Kelso which the settlers used as their church from 1825. John took Jane's body home for burial near the Cox's River.

He later remarried Elizabeth West, a 21 year old Irish lass, in 1833 and went on to have a further nine children. John Grant purchased more land and amassed quite a fortune. He had several years of illness

and was 74 years of age when he passed away on 13th December, 1866.

BROKEN HILL LOCKOUT 1909

If you had picked up a newspaper late in 1908 you would have read about the Broken Hill mine workers' wages being cut across all its enterprises to below the minimum wage. This was due to the deteriorating mineral market price. The response by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company was to lock out the Broken Hill mining unionists for rejecting pay cuts. The company gates were locked. The workers then took the case to the Federal Arbitration Court. As the case wouldn't be heard till February 1909 the BHP company started hiring what the unionists called 'scabs', many of these living within the mine for their safety.



Galena (above) was just one of the ores from the Broken Hill Proprietary mine and eventually produced lead. The mine workers set up their tent camps which were manned by pickets outside the mine. As the Union leaders increased pressure the miners engaged in a number of bloody riots which involved thousands of protesters, some of the men waving socialist flags. The men clashed with the police causing many injuries to both sides.



The miners set up numerous symbolic protests such as the one above. Just declared a city in 1907, Broken

Hill was about to be tested.

The miners and other unionists would make up songs which they would sing in the protest marches with the struggle reaching its peak in January 1909, but not before many more men joined the local Union. As it happened Justice Henry B. Higgins in the Arbitration Court was very sympathetic to the working class. He declared that BHP increase the workers' pay to above the minimum wage. The company wanted to cut the wages from 8s 7½p to 7s 6p per day. BHP then decided they would close the mine so they didn't have to pay their miners and workmen. It became known as 'The Great Lockout'.

A miner's band would play ceremoniously as the pickets outside were changed three times a day. Many unionists volunteered to be pickets. No money coming in to households would bring great hardship and poverty to the workers and miners and their families. Over 100 extra police were despatched to Broken Hill to boost some 200 already there. They were issued with revolvers and carbides. Miner's wives and other womenfolk joined the ranks of protesters, which estimates put at around 10,000 in some cases.

The mayhem went on for five months but it wasn't to be the last as there would be another in 1915 and then the "Great Strike" of 1919. The latter one lasted some 18 months, though it would later gain the miners a 35-hour week as well as enhanced health and safety conditions.

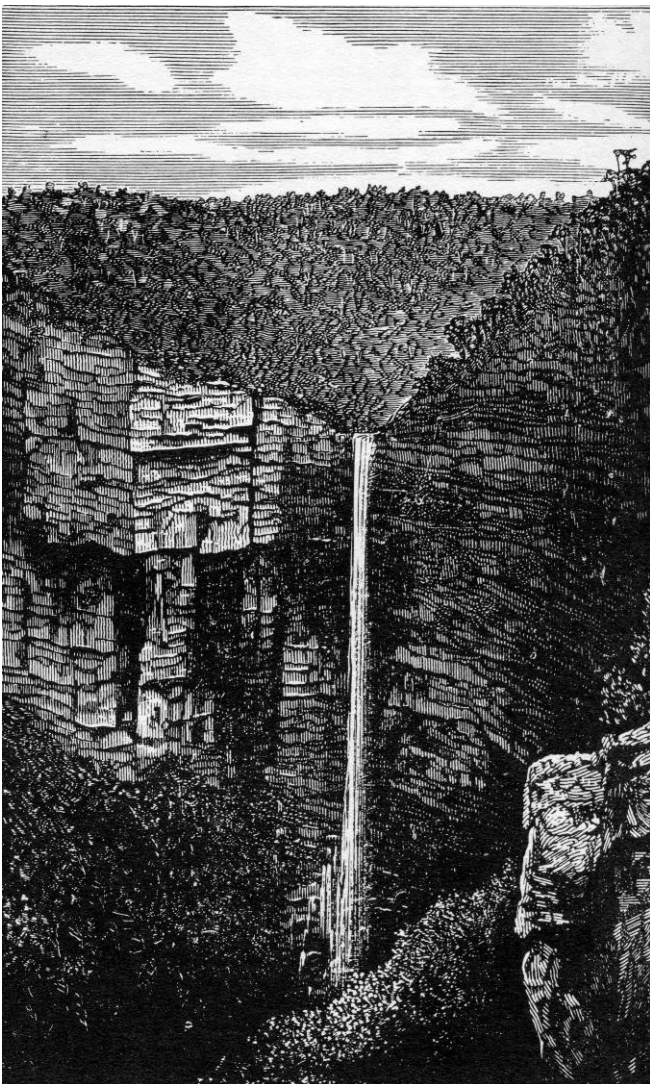


Another postcard (above), just one of many, which were produced during the tumultuous time and struggles in Broken Hill's mining history. Local women established a Relief Committee in order to help those grappling to feed and clothe their families.

A VISIT TO LITHGOW



A tourist in 1882 travelled by train to Lithgow after leaving Redfern Station (above). He kept a diary which is of interest noting some of the scenery and landmarks along the route. He considered many of the hotels had moderate charges and the Blue Mountains provided many magnificent views within less than a mile from many hotels. There were sufficient views to afford pleasure for a month. Many hotels could often provide a horse and buggy and accompanying guide.

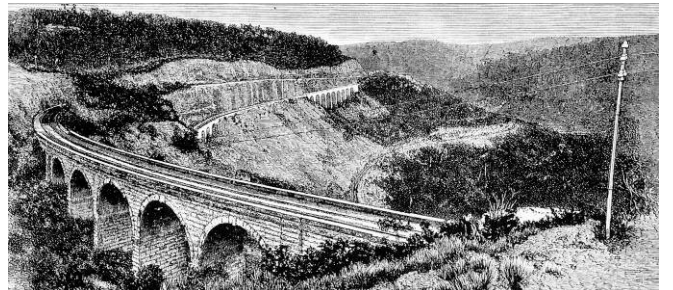


Govett's Leap (above) was worth a visit and was best approached from Blackheath Station where one could go to a hotel nearby. The path was easy to find where

the sublimity of the scene suddenly bursts forth holding him spell-bound.



Mitchell's Gap, Mount Victoria (above). Next day he travelled to Mount Victoria and leaving there eleven miles behind he was at Clarence Siding, the highest spot on his journey, 3,658 feet above sea level and a short distance further he was at the Clarence Tunnel, 539 yards long. After a smart two miles more he was commencing the descent of the great Zigzag. This part of the line is of similar character to the one by which the train had climbed the mountain, but of greater magnitude. The Zigzag is considered a marvel of engineering skill, the gradient nearly all the way being 1 in 42 and the line being in parts on the very brink of a precipice. This five miles of railroad cost the country over £100,000 per mile.



Arriving at the base of the mountains he was in the fast-rising town of Lithgow and all among the mines. There were four coal mines in the township – the Lithgow Valley Company, Bowenfels Company, Eskbank Company and Vale of Clwydd Company; two copper mines, the Vale of Clwydd and the Eskbank Company; an iron smelting company and foundry; a terra-cotta works; a steam sawmill; three brick factories; four hotels – the Royal, the Commercial, the Club House and the Miner's Rest. There are three churches, three schools and a population of 1800 souls. He commented that "It is needless to say, with all the mineral wealth this vale possesses, it is probably destined to become an important city."

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TANZANITE

The zoisite variety Tanzanite is from the western slopes of the Merelani Hills in the Arusha Region of Tanzania and are keenly sought after. Despite intensive

mining more deposits have been located nearby. Dealers will agree that the Merelani tanzanite open cut quarries and mines have released their treasure of many thousands of the transparent blue-violet-purple variety of the mineral zoisite (seen below). Some specimens, though rare, have weighed over 1 kg.

Many of these lustrous tanzanite crystals found are of gem quality and are often found singly since their discovery in the mid 1960s. These vanadium-rich specimens are being sought after by both local and overseas collectors with this specimen sold at the Gemkhana at Mudgee.

The area where these gemstones are found is very dry and Masai herders traditionally traversed the area looking for grass for their herds. Undoubtedly they would have seen these crystals just lying on the ground but there was little interest in them. As to whether they thought anything of them is unknown but the Masai men now comprise some of the miners today in these gem mines in the north of Masailand.



The mine’s area where these crystals are extracted by locally licensed native miners is very small – about 8 kilometres by 2 kilometres and is situated about 70 kilometres south of Mount Kilimanjaro. It has been put forward that some 60 thousand people are either miners, working at cleaning specimens, selling, supplying tools, supplies and mining equipment, guards and the like. Mining is more organised today than when several miners first found these beautiful crystals in alluvial river deposits. Some of the mining process is still carried out by hand, however companies have brought in mechanised mining equipment.

The first claim to mine the deposits was made in 1967 though it was felt that these gems were a type of garnet. Others sensed they looked a bit like enormous

sapphires but the hardness test wasn’t right. One man thought it was olivine and filed a mining claim as such. Soon more people sought claims but these early takers had their claims nationalised but not before claims were poached and specimens stolen to be sold locally for a few shillings. Mining continues today to supply specimens for collectors and the jewellery trade.

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MINERAL STAMPS



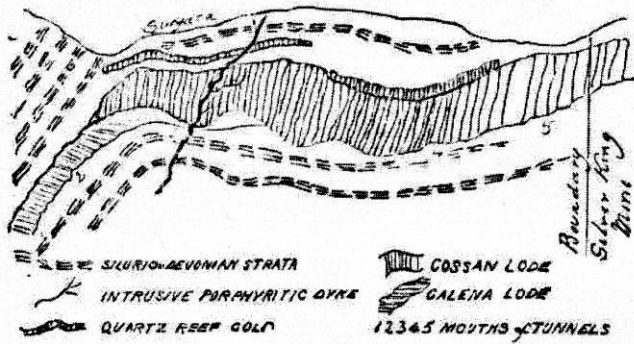
The collecting of minerals on stamps is on the increase it seems as prices inch a bit higher each year. This very attractive se-tenant minisheet of six minerals stamps was produced by the Kyrkyz Republic in 1994. In 1997 dealers were selling them for around \$6 but can be found for around \$25 today. Each stamp has a different value expressed in tyiyn.

Originally called Kyrgyzstan it is located between Russia and China and it gained full independence from the Soviet Union on 25th December, 1991. On 5th May, 1993, the official name changed from the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to the Kyrgyz Republic. Since then it has become a very corrupt nation with a good deal of civil unrest and crime.

	Buy a GEMBOREE 2017 Badge
	to remember your trip to Lithgow
	at Easter 2017 only \$6 each.

The Committee would like to thank The Alexandra Hotel, 62 Great Western Highway, Leura, NSW 2780 Phone: (02) 4782 4422 for their generous support in donating a night’s accommodation and dinner to the value of \$200 as one of the GEMBOREE 2017 raffle prizes. They still have accommodation available if anyone is looking for somewhere to stay near Lithgow.

1884, the lode proved to be of enormous size that was unexpected.



The sketch (above) of a cross-section looking north conveys an idea of the geological formation of the Sunny Corner Silver Mine. Mr. Nicholas was the initial mine manager with Mr. H. Hampton as the Captain. Mr. Janitzky became the assayer, with the smelting department placed in charge of Mr. J. Gafford.

The mine was developed and worked by means of five tunnels and rises being put up to work the intermediate ground. The tunnels were numbered from one to five. The No 1 tunnel was about 6 feet in breath by 8 feet in height, timbered with 9 inch legs and somewhat stouter caps.

The men working the No 1 tunnel mouths paid under contract 30 shillings per foot. At times the air was so bad that the candles would scarcely burn. The No 2 level was driven for a distance of 400 feet. The No 3 tunnel was initially driven a distance of about 550 feet. When digging the No 4 tunnel the old timbers of the gold workings could be seen. It was driven a total distance of 680 feet to the south. In this tunnel timbers 9 and 12 inches in thickness had to be used. In one section was 10,000 tons of silver-bearing matrix which yielded from 40 to 60 ounces per ton. There were also old gold workings above the No 5 tunnel.

Miners here often could hear a gentle grating, crackling sound overhead, which warned them that the ground was still slowly settling down. Several track ways were put in to transport the ore bins. The surrounding county had all been timbered to keep the walls up.

From the tunnels the ‘dirt’ was trucked out to the seven smelters, which had been erected at a distance of 600 to 700 yards away, thereby involving a loss of time in trucking, and consequently a loss of money. Smelters were made in San Francisco and reached temperatures of 1350° C. Furnaces were loaded with 230lb of (gosson) ore, 45lb of quartz, 15lb of limestone, 60lb of litharge, 40lb of coke, 3 bricks made of flue-dust and a shovelful of slag. Each charge was wheeled from the scales to the tops of the furnaces and shovelled in. Hard work! The whole neighbourhood reeked with that peculiar garlic-like odour which proclaimed the presence of arsenical fumes. The bars

of silver were sent to England, and a very fair percentage of gold was won from them, sufficient to increase the value of the silver by about one shilling per ounce.

The flume for carrying away the noxious fumes generated in the furnaces progressed up the hill. It ran horizontally for a distance of about 400 feet towards the hill, after which it rose to the summit where it was capped by two smoke stacks. Men had to continually clean out the flume where they were breathing air contaminated with lead and arsenic. Large sores broke out on their bodies. They become incapacitated for work until they found a purer atmosphere. A number of hot and cold baths were erected by the manager who said, “if the men take advantage of them they will no doubt escape as much of the evil as is caused by outward contamination.” Inhaling of the noxious fumes did most damage, bringing an early death.



(Above) An early letter to Michells Creek. The celebrated Sunny Corner mine was the largest silver producer in NSW at one time. From 1881 the silver ore had grades high enough to be carted by a horse or bullock team to Rydal, then by train to Sydney and shipped direct to London.

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AUSTRALIA'S DINOSAUR ERA



Most Australians would be unaware of the enormous number of dinosaur fossils being found around our nation, especially in Queensland and Victoria. Dinosaurs dominated the earth for more than 160 million years and due in many cases to the vastness of Australia such fossils are just being located in the last fifty years or so, though many are not complete skeletons.

On the 1st October, 1993, Australia Post brought out a series of postage stamps in a mini-sheet and released it on a special First Day Cover (at bottom of previous page). The cover and stamps illustrations were done by Peter Trusler of Melbourne with the typography done by Sue Passmore of Australia Post Graphic Services.

The stamps in the mini-sheet show a scene from the early Cretaceous period in Australia, more than 100 million years ago. The fierce predator, Allosaurus, is on the rampage. Allosaurus is only known in Australia by an anklebone found in the Strzelecki Ranges to the southeast of Melbourne. Other dinosaurs are fleeing for their lives. The large iguanodont, *Muttaborrasaurus*, is the most complete dinosaur known in Australia. *Muttaborrasaurus* was an impressive beast, reaching up to eight metres in total length. A small slender 'gazelle' of the dinosaur world, *Leaellynasaura*, is known from a partial skeleton found in 1989 in the Otway ranges of southern Victoria. The armoured dinosaur, *Minmi*, probably no more than four metres long, was first found near Minmi Crossing in Queensland. Several *Altascopcosaurus*, very close relatives of *Leaellynasaura*, are shown in the background. *Timimus*, Australia's only ornithomimosaur (ostrich-mimic), was identified in 1992. It had a toothless beak and was probably fleet of foot. *Omithocheirus* is a pterosaur, a flying reptile. Pterosaurs skeletons were first found in Australia in 1979, near Boulia in south-western Queensland.

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FINE GREEN CRYSTALS

Gypsum is generally colourless to white however with impurities it can be yellowish, tan, blue, pinkish, reddish brown, brown and even a greyish colour, however this specimen is pale green. This variety exhibits rounded crystal blooms of green gypsum from Pernatty Lagoon, Mount Gunson in South Australia. The green colouring has been caused by the presence of copper ions. I might add that the crystals are very easy to damage though that is understandable as it's the second softest mineral on Moh's Hardness Scale.



Gypsum was known to the ancient Egyptians who could not understand that something that was hard, supposedly a rock, which would disappear after some time in water. Ironically these people used a lot of

alabaster that is a form of gypsum also. Derived from the Greek word 'gypos' meaning chalk or plaster, as gypsum was burnt to make Plaster of Paris. Early gypsum crystals found in Britain were called 'spear stones' and thought to have been formed by lightning strikes.

However the greatest use of gypsum was as a fertilizer. What few Australians would know was that in the early 1800s in America, the American farmers learnt about the use of this "miraculous fertilizer" and the only place then known to have good supplies of gypsum. Traders were soon smuggling it into America causing the so-called "Plaster War" of 1812. These days gypsum is still used as a fertiliser as well as making wall and ceiling boards, mouldings and blocks for construction use, as well as sculpturing plasters, medical and dental uses, and pottery. It's used also in making cement. Specimens such as this will be on sale at GEMBOREE 2017 from the dealers in Lithgow.

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THE LEISURE HOUR FAMILY JOURNAL FROM THE 1850s

The Leisure Hour magazine was classed as "A Family Journal of Instruction and Recreation." They were

designed for the lower to middle-classes in England but they invariably found their way to the Southern Colony and onto the goldfields where diggers enjoyed its visual pleasure. They were considered recommended reading for Sunday School pupils. The two illustrations are (left) - Thursday 8th June, 1854, No. 123. (Next page) Thursday 22nd June, 1854, No. 130 Both contained a



chapter from "An Australian Story" by Frank Layton.

Priced at one penny or two pence if posted in 1854 the journals were printed in London by Mr. W. Stevens, a quality printer who determined the journals' physical dimensions. It attracted extra income by the inclusion of advertisements. Issues can sometimes be found in the library of a bibliophile. Are you a bibliophile?

The Leisure Hour had a number of editors over the years including - W. H. Miller - 1852-58; James Macaulay - 1858-95; William Stevens 1895-1900 who introduced from November 1896 to December 1899 which was called the "New Series." The magazine seems to have finished around 1906. It was a weekly

magazine before 1881 after which it became a monthly magazine.

The front cover had the magazine’s name at the top with a large illustration taking up much of the cover. The 16 page issues in the 1860’s were much sought after at the time as religion continued to grow. Banks would buy a subscription for their tellers. These journals aimed at treating all topics of human interest in the light of Christian truth. They maintained the devotion to the preservation of Sunday as a day of religious observance and rest rather than the increasing practice of becoming pub-goers from the 1880s. They encouraged fathers to stay at home on Sundays and thus spend time with their families.

Regularly the journal featured serials, one being “A True Tale of Slavery” in seven chapters and it was featured such as this which added to its popular appeal. John Jacobs was born in Edenton, North Carolina to slave parents who died when he was a child. He belonged to four different masters who lived in and around Edenton. John and Harriet Jacobs both suffered under slavery, and they were determined to free themselves. Harriet hid in their free grandmother's Edenton home for almost seven years, waiting for a time when she could escape with her children to the North. John escaped in New York during his master’s honeymoon tour. They were reunited and moved to Boston together.

Over the years there were many moral issues covered in one form or another. The journal was illustrated throughout and embellished by the artists of the day who managed to beguile the reader. The fine engravings in black and white were carried out in great detail. One subscribed to the magazine generally and by the 1860s they boasted some 100,000 readers in London itself. They were considered appropriate reading for all ages.

Some other serials that were included The Exile’s Trust, Squire Lisle’s Bequest, The Indian Uncle, Captain Jack, The Nugents of Carriconna, A Poor Gentleman, Wait a Year, The Alabaster Box, A Life’s Secret, The Halletts and A Young Wife’s Story.

Whilst it was an English magazine it makes mention on occasions of events in the Southern Colony and in particular the goldfields on the Turon. One can just imagine the diggers on Sunday after their weekly bath sitting on a log in the sun reading the serialised narratives.

Whilst most issues of this magazine are not all that scarce, some earlier and special issue are. People collect old books and magazines are on the lookout for such publications such as these and their history, to add to the collection of the classic bibliophiles. A bibliophile is one who enjoys reading, admiring and collecting older books.

Each page in each issue were numbered in continuous numbers from page one, issue one. This was so to allow any keen readers to have them bound. A companion for one’s leisure hours these books would have found their way to Lithgow during the early days.

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MR. AND MRS. HAYLEY’S SILVER WEDDING CELEBRATION

In June 1900 after twenty years residence in Lithgow, the popular manager of the local branch of The Commercial Bank and his wife decided to celebrate their silver wedding by entertaining their friends at a tennis party at the Lithgow tennis courts.

The weather was beautifully warm and fine, quite exceptional for the usually cold and dreary season in Lithgow, and nature seemed to have donned her host for the occasion. A large number of guests began to arrive shortly after three p.m., when the scene presented was an animated and attractive one, the effect of which was considerably heightened by the beautiful and varied colours of the ladies’ costumes. The host and hostess were kept busy receiving congratulations, which were literally showered on them. Tennis was started immediately and kept up almost incessantly during the afternoon. Some very interesting games were played. Shortly after four p.m., afternoon tea, with some choice refreshments, was served, the hostess being ably assisted

by Miss Rotton and Miss Hayley. The afternoon was a very enjoyable one, the hostess being most assiduous in her efforts for the comfort of her guests, who began to leave about five p.m.

In the evening a few of the older friends of the family came to tea and a social evening was spent at the bank residence. Some very handsome presents were received from those more intimate friends and Mr. and Mrs. Hayley were also recipients of numbers of letters of a congratulatory character and containing good wishes for the future.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayley were married on 2nd June, 1875, at All Saints Cathedral, Bathurst, by the late Canon Smith. Mrs. Hayley belonged to one of the best known families in the City of the Plains. She was the third



daughter of the late Mr. Henry Rotton, of "Blackdown" at Bathurst, who represented Hartley and West Macquarie for many years in the Legislative Assembly and was generally regarded among old residents as the 'father' of Bathurst. Mr. Hayley was the son of the late Dr. Hayley, of Goulburn, who practised in Goulburn and Queanbeyan for upwards of 40 years and was one of the oldest practitioners in the southern districts and a very much respected resident, in fact, no man in the Goulburn district was more widely known or better liked.

At the time of his marriage, Mr. Hayley was manager of the bank at Milton. This was in 1875 and he came to Lithgow in 1880. In those days the streets were unformed and the number of fairly decent buildings in the town did not exceed half-a-dozen. There was not a single church in the town, the erection of the Roman Catholic Church had just been commenced and all the other denominations worshipped in the Masonic Hall. The Commercial bank was not then built and business was carried on in the building then used as a post office. The present bank premises (below) were erected in 1888.

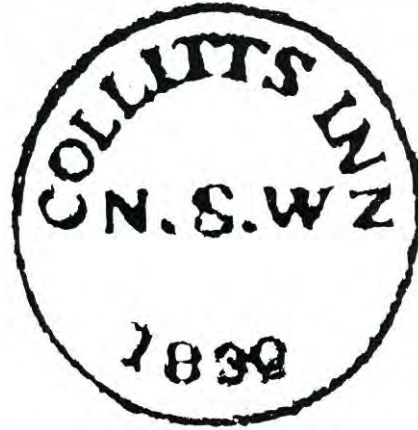


During her residence in Lithgow, Mrs. Hayley had been largely identified with church and charitable work and was one of the founders of the Benevolent and Poor Relief Society, with which she had, for many years been prominently connected. Mr. Hayley had been a member of the committee of the A.H. & P. Society since its inception, and had also given generous support to the various cricket and other athletics and sporting clubs of the town. He filled the position of churchwarden at St. Paul's for the long period of 19 years. As manager of the Commercial Bank he had been brought into direct contact with nearly every section of the community and it is not exaggeration to say that he had gained the hearty esteem of all. Mr. Hayley's service with the bank had extended over 32 years. He joined the service in 1868, as junior in the head office. Subsequently, he served as accountant at Singleton and Narrabri and was appointed manager at Tambaroora during the gold rush in 1872. Later he went to Milton and thence to Lithgow. His work had always been well done and he

possesses the full confidence of the general manager and directors of the bank.

The Commercial Bank was located in Main Street Lithgow, opposite Mr. H. Scopes' Plumbing, Gasfitting and Galvanised Iron Works in 1900. It later became the National Australia Bank at Lithgow, (photo Lithgow City Council Library). Their competitor was the E.S. & A. Bank also located in Main Street in August 1900.

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COLLITTS INN POSTAL CANCEL

Pierce Collitts was an emancipist so was free to own land and was no longer subject to penal servitude. He arrived in Sydney on the 14th December, 1801, after being transported to New South Wales for receiving stolen goods belonging to John,

Robert and James Read. He was accused of taking 12 yards Muslin, 12 yards Mode, 18 yards of lace and 2 pieces of handkerchief, each containing seven handkerchiefs. His wife Mary, née Hardwick, showed great courage in accompanying her husband along with their two daughters. He had been tried at the Old Bailey (below) and received fourteen years.



Fortuitously Mary, who he had married on 15th November, 1795, was granted 70 acres by Governor King after their arrival in the colony with her husband assigned to her as a 'convict servant'.

Pierce Collitts was conditionally pardoned on 11th May, 1811, becoming free some three years later and went on to procure much of his capital by holding a number of government positions in the Nepean District and supplying fresh meat to the government stores. He also establish various inns.

He later investigated inspected the upper reaches of the Fish River looking for suitable land for livestock

before receiving a land grant on which he proposed to construct an inn on the Great Western Road. Initially he built his inn at the bottom of Cox's Pass in 1823, naming it the Golden Fleece and later calling it the Royal Garter. When the road was diverted through Victoria Pass he constructed another on the new road near Hartley. He had been granted extra blocks of land so he put up other inns which included The Rising Sun in 1835, The Bridge Inn in 1836 and 1837, as well as Billesdene Grange.

As Collits Inn was on the main road and received passengers on the coaches from Emu Plains to Bathurst his inn became an early Post Office in January 1831 with Pierce classed as a deputy postmaster, a job he resigned from in 1833 as the road was diverted. The cancel on the previous page is what he stamped on the letters indicating the payment had been made and the location where it had been cancelled.

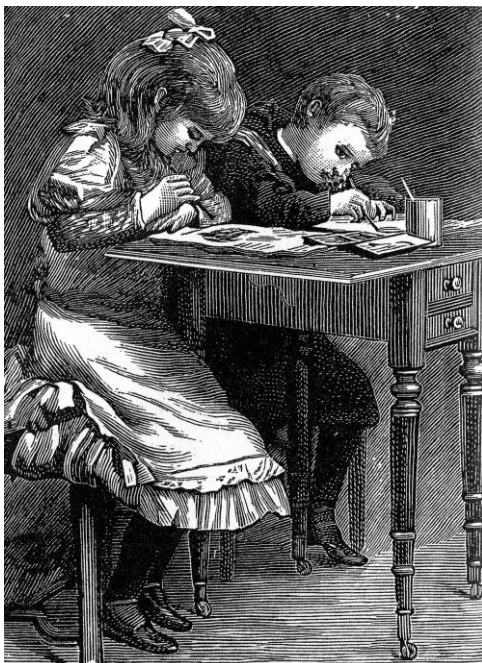
The couple had twelve children in total before Pierce died on 19th September, 1848, at Hartley and was buried the following day at Mount York.



Collits' Inn today (above), a delightful B&B and not far out of Lithgow.

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SCHOOLS



A report on the 17th January, 1880, stated that, "The State school and teacher's residence in Lithgow was a

credit to the Government, who have in New South Wales the entire responsibility of providing accommodation of this kind for the rising generation of the colony."

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HANDY HOUSEHOLD HINTS - 1870

No receptacle for soiled clothing, even if handsomely decorated, should be kept in a sleeping apartment.

Nickel silver ornaments may be brightened by rubbing them with a piece of flannel damped with spirits of ammonia.

Dirty marks on wall-paper may be removed by rubbing them with stale bread. Use a thick slice of bread and rub the paper downwards as evenly as possible.

To clean white straw hats and bonnets brush them thoroughly to remove the dust, and then scrub them with soap and water, afterwards painting them over with a solution of oxalic acid.

Kerosene is most useful in many ways. It may not be generally known that a small quantity added to starch, while hot, will prevent the iron from sticking to the starched article.

Never throw away pieces of candle, they can be used for lighting fires, put in the middle of the paper and wood, quite a small piece of candle will make the fire burn up very quickly.

Ink marks or stains on furniture can be removed by washing with vinegar or sour beer, and then rubbing on them a little spirits of salt. Polish in the usual way with beeswax and turpentine, to which, if liked, a little resin or varnish may be added.

Never burn gas at night in a bedroom, for it makes the air hot and unhealthy. A good way to make a room cool is to wring out cloths in cold water, open the window and hang the cloths in front of it. The air will be cooled as it passes through the wet cloths, and will pleasantly moisten the atmosphere of the room.

Sour milk is an excellent substitute for soda when washing cups and saucers, &c. There is often a little sour milk, which would in the ordinary course of events be thrown away. Instead of doing so, add it to the washing-up water, and it will answer the purpose of soda, with this advantage, that it does not spoil the hands and make them hard and rough as soda often does.

Paint on a dress is very troublesome to remove, especially if it be allowed to dry on. As a rule, if the mark be fresh, it can be removed by rubbing with a rag dipped in spirits of wine or turpentine, and if applied at once, either will take it out. If, however, it has been left to get hard and dry, the only thing likely to remove it is spirits of turpentine, and probably it will be necessary to repeat the application several times.

STOP PRESS FOR ATTENDEES



These pages contains messages, advice and information for those registered to attend the GEMBOREE 2017.

LITHGOW MAYOR TO OPEN GEMBOREE

Lithgow City Mayor, Stephen Lesslie, will be on hand at 10am on Friday 14th April to open the GEMBOREE 2017 53rd Gem & Mineral Show.

HELPFUL HINTS

- There is a 10km speed limit on the Showgrounds.
- Be sure to bring adequate extension cords even though there are ample switchboards.
- Fill your water tanks up in tour caravans and motor homes before arriving at the Tony Luchetti Showground in Lithgow. There are limited taps around the grounds. Don't connect permanently to water taps.
- Driving to the showers is not encouraged, however if you genuinely need to drive please do it after 6pm or before 8am.
- Bring your camera, umbrella and coat, etc.

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"BAGS" OF FUN AND INFORMATION

All those people who have registered for the 2017 GEMBOREE at Lithgow will receive a carry "BAG" which was kindly donated by the Lithgow Council. The Council has also agreed to include as many brochures on local attractions as they can. A special "thank you" goes to the management of the Lithgow Council for this contribution

The purpose of this "BAG" is to give as much information as possible on local attractions and places of interest. To this end the GEMBOREE Committee has also approached a number of establishments in the local and surrounding areas seeking their input.

A major contributor has been the Ferrero Roche factory, which is located in Lithgow. I would suggest that most people would tend to associate Lithgow with coal, the Small Arms Factory or the now defunct Zig-Zag Railway, rather than edibles like chocolate, Nutella and Tic-Tacs. The Lithgow Ferrero management have been very amenable and generous and I would like to publicly thank them for their largesse. Some of their product will be found in every

bag.

For a variety of reasons wines and cheeses to be used on the Presentation Night were unfortunately, not available from local suppliers. However, these products have now been sourced from other kind donors. On the other hand Ferrero once again assisted with the donation of some chocolates to be placed on the tables to sweeten proceedings during the trophy presentation ceremony.

Another very welcome addition to the "BAG" are some special little jars of PawPaw Gold lip-balm, which also contains Manuka honey and was donated by Gary Wiseman. Thank you, Gary.

The Lithgow Workman's Club has also agreed to make available a Bistro Voucher for inclusion in the "BAG." I would hope that as many people as possible take advantage of this offering by the club.

Lithgow Plaza management has also approached the shops in that complex and asked them to provide relevant vouchers for products from the various stores. These will also be placed in the "BAGS".

You may recall that when the GEMBOREE booklet was being compiled a general call went out to enthusiasts to supply a suitable photo of a mineral for the front cover. There was quite a large response to this request, so I believe that the small sample of the mineral included in the "BAG" [obtained at great expense and effort] will be appreciated by all who receive it. I say this because I would suggest that while most Rockhounds and Minerologists are aware of this mineral, they do NOT have it in their collection.

oo

DEMONSTRATIONS

Kathy Selwood will be demonstrating carving and snake chain making. Kathy hopes to show the public how to make the snake chain and give them the opportunity to complete the bracelet for themselves.



Kathy has won a number of national and state titles for her work in carving and scrimshaw. Kathy is a dedicated member of the Orange Lapidary Club.

Nelson Robertson will also be demonstrating the art of cameo and intaglio during the long weekend.

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One very interesting display not to be missed is from the 'Age of Fishes Museum' which is one of only two fish fossil museums in the world. The fossil fish in the museum date from the Devonian Period so are from 360-370 million years old.

EXCURSIONS

Excursions are free, however you are asked to drop a coin donation into the bucket at the front of the bus in support of the Children's Breakfast program in the Blue Mountains area.



Good Friday: A half day bus trip to Newnes Junction and the glow-worm tunnel (above) as mentioned in earlier e-newsletters. Newnes Junction was a railway station on the Main Western Line.



Easter Saturday: full day bus trip to Hill End with a tour of the walk-in mine. Experience a unique opportunity to step into an original 1870s mine shaft and experience the subterranean world of a colonial goldminer. See the tools and witness the tough world as an underground miner in those days. Remember to take your water, camera and good closed in shoes.

Hill End, once known as Bald Hills, saw gold first found in 1851 not long after payable gold was encountered at Ophir. Before long there were several hundred prospectors, two local stores and a hotel. The Government surveyor arrived to measure out the village before it was gazetted in 1860, erroneously calling it 'Forbes'. The mistake was corrected in 1862 when it was retitled 'Hill End'.

Hawkins Hill was soon yielding surface gold from 1855 however it was not until the early 1870s that rich gold deposits were found. Miners had put down deep tunnels, some more than 800 feet deep.

The Star of Hope Gold Mining Company in October 1872 found a massive specimen of reef gold the largest in the world at that time. It quickly became known as Holtermann's Nugget', though Holtermann didn't own the mine at the time.



By Christmas it was estimated that Hill End had a population of some 8,000. With almost two miles of shops, the township was well catered for and by which time five banks had opened their doors. Miners were thirsty men and it boasted twenty seven pubs and its own brewery.



Easter Sunday: full day bus trip to Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens, a 28-hectare public botanic cool-climate garden located in the Blue Mountains. See the famous dinosaur tree, the 'other' name for the Wollemi pine, once thought extinct. The tree was discovered in 1994, deep in a gorge in the Wollemi National Park. The traditional Aboriginal owners, the Darug people, also travelled through to Lithgow as well. Entry is free, and if time permits on to Mount Wilson Cathedral of ferns.





Easter Monday: bus trip to Abercrombie House (entry charge applies) at Bathurst and return to Lithgow via Sofala, Ilford and Capertee.

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FIELD TRIPS



Book in soon after your arrival. Field trips will leave from Gate 3 at 9am. Car-pooling is recommended as several interstate visitors will not have a vehicle.

Saturday - will see participants doing gold panning on the famous Turon River at Sofala.

Sunday - will be back to the water looking for sapphires at Porters Retreat near Oberon

Some loan of pans and sieves will be available but if you have your own bring them.

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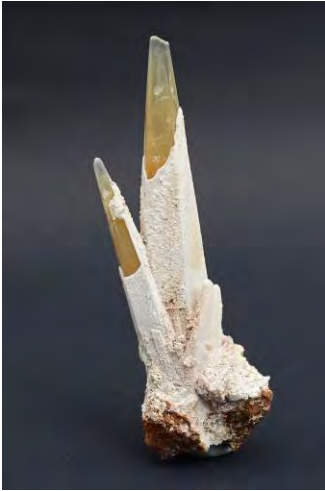
JACK TAYLOR MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Jack Taylor Memorial Lecture will be by Gary Sutherland and will take place on Saturday at 11am in the Meeting Room. Gary's topic is "Why I collect Minerals - A 45 year Journey".

He became interested in minerals in the early 1970's and was involved with the Mineralogical Society of New South Wales at the time of its creation in 1975.

This provided an opportunity to see a number of great private collections including that of Albert Chapman

and Rev. Bert Gardiner and these just reinforced with him the beauty of mineral specimens. Over the years he has had varying interests in mineralogy, during the early 1980's and focussed mainly on Calcite as it was relatively affordable compared to a lot of other mineral specimens available at the time. (Calcite specimen below)



More recently he has combined minerals with his other great love, photography and this provides a medium for preserving a record of his collection even for specimens that have been moved on. Gary's talk will be illustrated with photos of specimens from his collection.

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OPALS



Opals nearly always attract the eye of many people with their beauty and colour. They are formed after a mixture of silicon dioxide and water forms and seeps down through cracks in the terrain. The solution gathers silica from sandstone carrying the silica-rich liquid into fractures and cavities. Over time the fluid evaporates leaving a thin silica deposit.

Over an extended time, often millions of years, the process repeats itself if the conditions are right an opal will be formed. As people soon find out much of the opal deposits is not of precious opal and the miners call it "potch". The opals above were found on the mullock heaps at Lightning Ridge on a club trip and later polished.

DID YOU KNOW!

Edwin Barton, engineer in charge of the Zig Zag railway project married the daughter of early Lithgow settler James Walker. She had been christened Georgina Lyon Wolgan Walker.

that ammonites were carried around in the medicine bags of the Navajo and Indians of the North American Plains to ensure good health as well as bountiful hunting expeditions. These ammonites were referred to as 'buffalo stones' as they thought they resembled the North American bison.

that the early Egyptians used increased concentrations of manganese to produce amethyst (purple) coloured glass, in fact manganese is one of the oldest glass additives.

that the New South Wales Government was so impressed with the Zig Zag Railway project at Lithgow they decided to gazette the site as a Reserve in 1881.

that in March 1900 at the Lithgow Council meeting applications were opened in committee for the position of sanitary inspector and collector, and lamplighter. For the former position there were 12 applicants, and Mr. R. Vought was appointed. For the latter 10 applications were received with Mr. James Vought being selected. James was expected to provide his own horse and would ride it around Lithgow to light the gas lamps of an evening. In the early hours he would ride around and turn them out. If the night was windy he was expected to check the street lamps regularly.

that the 1823 Bells Line of Road, so named after Archibald Bell who was the first white man to cross these mountains with the help of local aboriginals. It was not fully functional until after World War Two.

Mr. Jas. Charlesworth announced in mid-December 1900 that he had completed arrangements with the Leading Winegrowers of the Colony for regular supplies of 'PURE GRAPE WINES of Every Description'. It had so-called special qualities recommended for invalids and weakly people. They were certified by the Medical Profession to be 'Pure and Unadulterated'. These nutritious and strengthening wines could be obtainable in any quantity from the modest glass, upwards from Charlesworth's Cooked Meats and Wine Shop, Main-Street, Lithgow.

it was reckoned in March 1900 that there were about 600 houses under the new sanitary pan system in Lithgow, and the number was likely to be increased.

that carved quartz stones were popular in Greece and Rome. Some feature the upper half of the body of a man with a hand upraised, pronouncing judgment, sometimes just the head and shoulders of the man are shown, but always with the hand raised. These pieces are said to have been especially good to have around at

the time, during a lawsuit. In the 14th century, it was common for quartz crystal to be engraved with the image of a man in armour holding a bow and arrow. The stone supposedly guarded the wearer and the place where it was situated.

on Saturday 1st December, 1883, a ceremony to declare the Great Western Zigzag Company colliery open and to raise the first skip of coal was performed. A number of invitations had been issued and much interest was felt in Lithgow on the occasion. Some 400 people dined on beer, bread and roast beef whilst the Lithgow Imperial Band played a number of selections excellently well during the day.

that during the mid-1800s a three-foot "coal" seam was uncovered at Hartley Vale, which was later proven to be shale. Mining commenced with the ore being carried across the mountains by horse and cart to Sydney and by train once the railway went through. The now ghost town was named Hartley Vale and the Comet Inn is the only remaining hotel. The Inn was named after the brand of Kerosene produced from the valley's shale.

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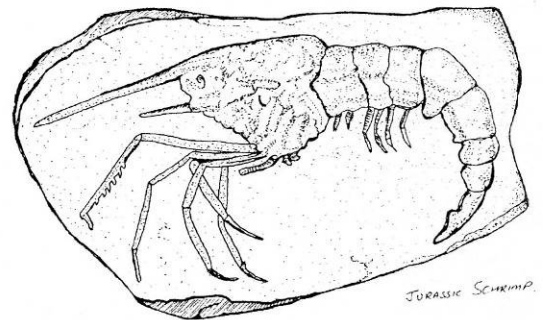
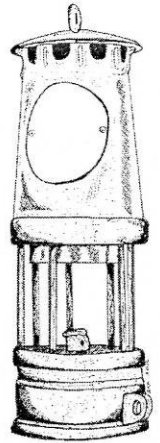
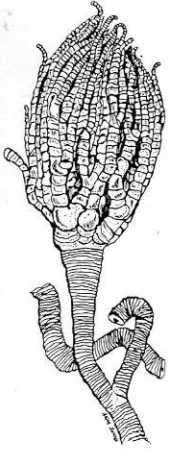
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GEMBOREE 2017

incorporating the
**53rd NATIONAL GEM &
 MINERAL SHOW**

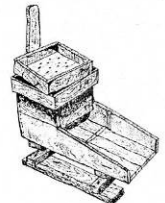
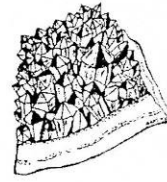
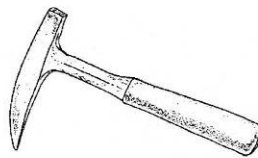
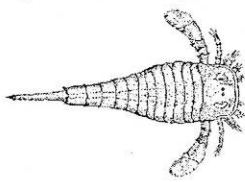
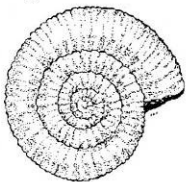
*at the Tony Luchetti Showground in Lithgow,
 New South Wales*



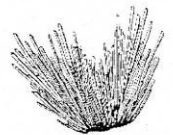
Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday

14th – 17th April, 2017 (over the Easter Long Weekend)

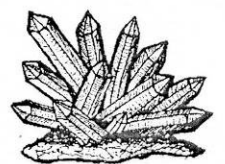
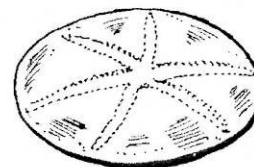
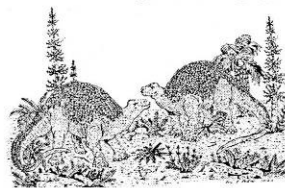
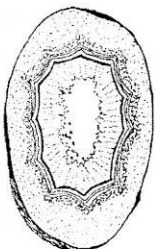
Open 10am – 5pm Friday, 9am – 5pm Saturday & Sunday, 9am – 1pm Monday



***20 Dealers buying and selling
 plus large numbers of tailgaters***



Open to the general public every day – see Age of Fishes display, 100's of displays of all types of lapidary, crystals, minerals, gemstones, fossils, metalcraft, enamelling, scrimshaw, gem trees, jewellery, carvings, tumbled stones, cameos, gold nuggets, metaphysical crystals, faceted gems, jewellery supplies, polished rocks, lapidary equipment and supplies and many interesting and unusual and pleasing gift lines. Food available.



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