



MURRAYLANDS GEM & MINERAL CLUB INC. (MGMC) Incorporation No: A24186
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Spring
Edition
2014

Murraylands Gem & Mineral Club News

President's Report

Editorial

In this edition...

- President's Report.
- Editorial.
- Stop Press
- Faceting Workshops, Competition Results, and Other Bits.
- Saturday Workshops.
- Club Members Out and About.
- Club Committee and Sub-Committee.
- Meeting schedules, both committee and general.
- Mineral Matters - Iron Ore.
- Extracts from Jeff's Fossil Journal.
- 'The Palmerainians' - A Lost Civilisation.
- General Interest.

Diary Dates

2014

- September 14th 2014 Fieldtrip to Mannum Waterfalls.
- October 3rd, 4th & 5th 2014 The Broken Hill Mineral Club "Rock-on Gem and Mineral Show", Penrose Park, Silvertown, NSW.
- October 6th to 13th 2014 Woolcunda Station - Bush camping and fossicking fieldtrip.
- October 11th & 12th 2014 Adelaide Gem and Mineral Club Exhibition.
- October 17th to 20th, 2014 Riverland Club Palmer Stopover and Don McColl presentation.
- November 1st & 2nd 2014 Southern Rockhounds Gem and Craft Fair, at the "Log Cabin" 17 Gerald Ct., Christie Down, SA.

2015

- April 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th, 2015 National Gemshow, Horsham, VIC.
- May 1st to 3rd, 2015 Murraylands Gem and Mineral Club Rockarama 'Crystal and Craft Fair' incorporating SA Metal Detecting Championships.
- June 20th to 21st, 2015 Tea Tree Gully Gem and Mineral Club Exhibition (Biennial).

Hello once again and welcome to the Spring edition of the Murraylands Gem and Mineral Club newsletter.

On a sad note Rex's wife, Grarda, recently passed away. Grarda was a lovely lady and will be sadly missed. So, on behalf of the club, I would like extend to Rex our condolences and if there is anything the club can do to help please do not hesitate to ask.

Things have been progressing along well within the club with the purchase of two faceting machines and a grant application being lodged with the view to purchasing another. If you think faceting is something you may be interested in learning come along to the club on 'Cutting Day' when the workshop is open and Doug will be more than happy to assist you.

Kym has gained access to some more fossicking areas for us; some old and some new. Unfortunately, the wet conditions have made them inaccessible at the moment, so we will visit them at a later date when things dry out a bit more. The good rains in the hills will have washed more gold out so another panning trip could be in order soon.

We have a trip to the planetarium coming up this month and the Riverland Gem and Mineral Club will be visiting us in October for a joint club field trip and other activities. They will be camping at Palmer for the weekend.

The new format for the club newsletter seems to be working well and I think Mel has once again put together a very interesting and informative issue. Thank you to those members who contributed articles for this issue as it helps to make Mel's job a bit easier.

Look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting

Kind regards
Ian Thorley(President).

Stop Press

Fieldtrip: Sunday 14th September 2014 to Mannum Falls (Rocky River). Meet Kym Loechel at the club-rooms at 10.00am. Bring a picnic lunch and a camera.

Subs due in October.

It's quite amazing how much information is available on the internet and the topics list appears to be endless. I'm quite sure my current interest in caretaking the club newsletter has been given a boost by its sheer abundance.

The scope for discovering, collecting, and sharing related material and its accessibility to use even in a newsletter format is quite broad. This is made more so for those who have access to the internet who can, therefore, make use of imbedded hyperlinks.

In this newsletter, and where possible in future editions, the use of hyperlinks will enable readers to find, not only the source of much of the material used, but additional information either by direction to relevant websites or in some instances direction to a relevant video on *YouTube*.

"*Mineral Matters - Iron Ore (South Australian Focus)*" in this edition, has a number of useful hyperlinks and I recommend in particular that readers view: "[Arrium Mining's promotion video](#)."

When driving back from our recent short holiday at Venus Bay, we drove past Iron Knob where (from the road) we could see plenty of action occurring at the mine. I thought it would be most interesting if we could tour the works and see a lot more of the action. Well we have, albeit via this well presented video on YouTube.

As good as the internet is as a resource, we must not forget the social function of our club; as Ian indicated in his inaugural report, "I want to see the club flourish not only as an active gem and mineral club, but also as a social centre for members..." To this end, we need to keep a balance in our newsletters' content. It's an excellent medium for members to share experiences and ideas, both personal and club; all part of socialisation. Please consider contributing, from time to time, some of your photos and stories for all to enjoy. These do not have to be mineral related. I believe, "*Members Out and About*" needs to have an abundant, ongoing stream of stories and photos.

Also, of interest in this edition are the activities of the new youth group - see their four page power point presentation (skit) of the "Palmerainians" and their craft activities pictured in the faceting/lapidary sections. The photos include members learning faceting/lapidary skills under Doug's/Rex's tuition - sharing knowledge about the practical skills involved as well as upholding appropriate safety practices.

Hopefully, down the track, the youth group might elect to have a section of their own in the newsletter that covers their particular interests, ideas and experiences.
Mel Jones.

The Murraylands Gem & Mineral Club Inc. is not and cannot be held responsible or liable for any personal injuries, loss or damage to property at any meeting, fieldtrip or activity organised by or on behalf of the club.

Faceting Workshops, Competition Results and Other Bits

Faceting Workshop 21st June 2014

Faceting at the last workshop didn't start until later in the afternoon as members were assessing the damage and loss caused by the recent break-in before getting to work.

The Club has two Gemmasta faceting machines each with two quills (hand pieces) that will enable several members to use the machines without the necessity of removing their unfinished stones from the quill to allow other members time on the machine.



Maurice Burt was the first member to take the opportunity to start learning faceting on one of the Clubs two newly acquired faceting machines.



We now have all the equipment required to facet all we need is the members who want to learn faceting to come to the workshops.

Doug Hughes.



Maurice, Doug, and June assessing stones.



Competition Judges - Jeff and Rubein.

Faceting Workshop 19th July 2014



Brandon learning on one of the new machines.



Tahlea receiving tuition from Doug.

Competition Gallery



Novelty.



Brag.

Autumn Competition Results

June 11th 2014

No competition as meeting was cancelled due to break-in.

July 9th 2014

Minerals:

Juniors - no entries.

Novice

1st Angie Regnier.

2nd Courtney Tombs.

Open - no entries.

Micromounts - no entries.

Fossils:

1st Courtney Tombs.

Field trip:

No entries.

Metal detecting:

No entries.

Novelty:

1st Courtney Tombs.

2nd Angie Regnier.

3rd Angie Regnier.

Brag Corner:

1st Maurice Burt.

2nd Angie Regnier.

August 13th 2014

Minerals:

Junior - no entries

Novice:

1st Courtney Tombs.

2nd Angie Regnier.

Open - no entries

Micromounts - no entries

Fossils:

1st Angie Regnier.

2nd Courtney Tombs.

Field trip:

No entries

Metal detecting:

1st John McTier.

Novelty:

1st David Rochow.

2nd Angie Regnier.

3rd Courtney Tombs.

Brag:

1st Courtney Tombs.

2nd Maurice Burt.

3rd Angie Regnier.



Metal Detecting

Saturday Workshops

21-06-2014



Rex teaching youth group lapidary skills.



Chelsea and Tahlea; pleased with their craft work.



Kane showing his cabochon.



All busy in the workshop!



To the bloke who invented zero, thanks for nothing pal!

21-06-2014



Tahlea receiving guidance from Rex.



Brandon fully engaged in his lapidary.



Look at me!



Terry and Rex re-aligning the toilet roof. Why?

21-06-2014



Maurice enjoying himself in the workshop.



Kim, Kym and Terry refurbishing cabinet one.



"1, 2, 3...50 specimens will fit in here!"



"...49..."



Great display - cabinets 2 and 3 to go!



I went on cruise and the Captain informed me that I could drink as much alcohol as I liked - just don't go overboard!

I bought shoes from a drug dealer!
I don't know what he laced them with, because I have been tripping all day!

Saturday Workshops

19-07-2014



Full on!



Alan and Bronte.



Alan



Don and Bronte



A chunk of Halite walks into a Police Station , and reported that he was assaulted.

19-07-2014



Bronte 'Skin Polishing' a sapphire.



'Skin Polishing' starts by cleaning and smoothing the outer surface of the stone (eg. sapphire) with the aid of a diamond burr in a Dremmel or similar tool.

This is then followed by a progressive polishing process with the use of various diamond grades until 50,000 is reached. Felt bullets and wheels are used for carrying grit instead of laps. Different sizes and shapes are used for different contours in the stone of choice.

Stones referred to as bombs, or are too thin to facet, are often discarded despite having good colour. These can be made presentable and given some aesthetic value by skin polishing.



Skin polished star sapphire.



A mineral collector walks into a bar with a bucket of crushed limestone, and says "I'll have a beer, please, and one for the road".

If mineral oil comes from minerals, where does baby oil come from?

19-07-2014



John and Don.



Janet, Kym, and John.



Refurbishing mineral cabinet 3. Cabinet 2 is next.



Rex stays busy even between jobs.



Paddy and Mick are walking down the road and Paddy's got a bag of doughnuts.

Paddy says to Mick, "If you can guess how many doughnuts are in my bag, you can have them both".

Saturday Workshops

16-08-2014



Alan's progressive lapidary work.



John concentrating!



John checking his progress!



Men at work! Rex and Bronte.

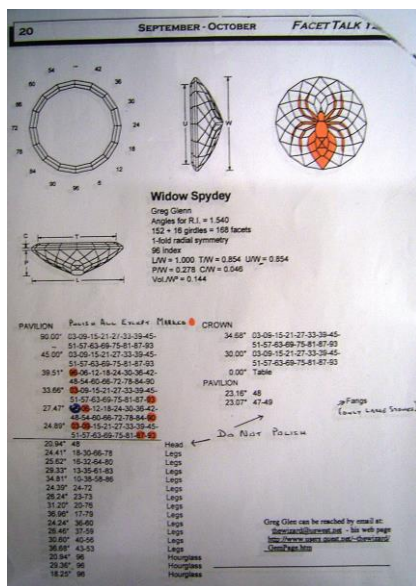


Janet and Mel continue with cabinet 3 Spring clean.

16-08-2014



Doug's faceted 'Widow Spydey' cut 15-08-2014 from a pale smoky quartz found in the Kangarilla District, South Australia.



Widow Spydey Specifications.



Jeff - Fossil One - Developing a fossil display case.



ARCHAEOCYATHIS ajax.

16-08-2014



ARCHAEOCYATHIS ajax.



Sea Urchin - MONOSTYCHIA AUSTRALIS.



Milky Raw Opal, Coober Pedy, South Australia.



Rex exploring Milky Raw Opal specimen for colour.



Milky Raw Opal being slabbed.

Club Members Out and About

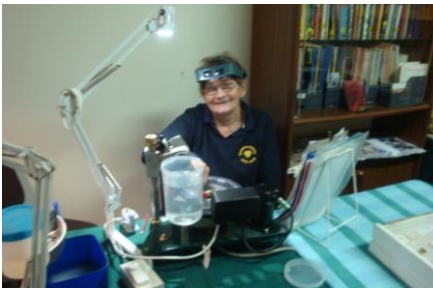
Horsham Gem and Mineral Club 2014 Open-days and Exhibition

Over the last weekend in May 2014, Murraylands club members, Doug and Leonie Hughes and Allan and Gerry Cook, went to the Horsham Gem and Mineral Clubs annual open-days and exhibition held at their clubrooms and workshop at the old Horsham Police Station, Roberts Street, Horsham, Victoria.

The Horsham Club has a membership and catchment area similar in size to the Murraylands Club. Members come from as far away as Warrnambool, Rainbow, Naracoorte and Beaufort. They meet at the Old Police Station in Horsham, where the four cells have been converted into very serviceable workshops. They are used for silver-smithing (including lost wax casting), a cutting room, and a fully equipped cabochon room.

The Club has a Gemmasta faceting machine that is available for members to learn how to facet.

The Horsham Club has weekly workshops with the Rainbow and Naracoorte members regularly attending as well as a monthly field trip.



Horsham member and Warrnambool Gem Club's President, Kathleen Brockett, faceting.

Doug and Leonie assisted the Horsham Members over the weekend with Doug providing faceting instruction and demonstrations and Leonie assisting with the kids' sandpit.

The sand-pit (a 7 x 4 box trailer) was salted with gemstones and minerals. The kids could purchase a bucket of sand for a dollar and then sieve it to find little treasures.

The Horsham Club also ran very popular junior workshops which were fully booked. The junior workshops provided a bag of items that enabled the kids to produce items such as necklaces, gemstone ants and bugs, bookmarks and pot-plant spikes.

It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm and interest that the sandpit and junior workshop generated in the young rock collectors.

Demonstrations were held on gem-tree making, bone carving, Viking inspired silver-smithing, opal cutting, silver chain creation and faceting.

All these craft options are available at the club's workshops.



Trevor Munn and Keith "Chips" Whitbread demonstrating bone carving and silver-smithing.



Toby Decker at work in the casting room.

The club provided a fantastic showcase display with some ten or twelve showcases put together by their members. Two examples are shown below...



Cut stones with gold and silver cast findings were available from Bacchus Marsh trader, Gordon James, who was very busy with members of the public who were choosing cut stones and having them set in lovely findings.

The weekend generated significant local interest and attracted gem club visitors from South Australia (Mt Gambier and Murraylands), Victoria (Mildura, Warrnambool, Ballarat and Essendon); all in awe of what the Horsham Club has to offer.

A number of people joined up as new members over the weekend, which is a pretty good sign of a successful weekend for the club.



Visiting shows such as the Horsham Club's are another way in which we can learn and support our hobby, and renew friendships. And, not to forget, the opportunity for yummy morning and afternoon teas.

NOTE: There are a few South Australian club open days coming up soon, so why not make the time and pay them a visit?

Doug Hughes

News report and photographs contributed by Maurice Burt...

"News from Yorke Peninsula Gem and Mineral Club (YPG&MC)"

When [Incitec Pivot Limited](#) ceased operation in this area and their site was prepared for sale in 2013, they donated to the YPG&MC Inc. an 18m x 9m shed; closed on three sides.

The District Council of the Copper Coast (DCCC) granted us a lease on land at Moonta, for us to erect the shed and convert it into Clubrooms.

We are very happy with the location as Moonta is a very good area for tourism, with its antique shops, great coffee shops, and its Moonta Mines heritage listed mining history. In addition, nearby Moonta Bay and Port Hughes attract visitors from around the state, interstate and overseas.

We started fundraising in earnest with a lovely dinner at club members, John and Coral McCormack's home, and stalls at MGMC's Palmer Rockerama in 2013 and 2014. Garage sales in January and April at Moonta Bay (home of our Treasurer, Charlie Mines, and Kay, his wife) were very successful; as were stalls at the monthly Rotary Markets in Kadina. Club raffles, a Mother's Day raffle, and the People's Choice Lottery were also good fundraisers. Being awarded a grant from the DCCC was a big help and we are very grateful.



Report Continued next page....

Club Members Out and About

YPG&MC Report Continued from previous page...

Building started early February, 2014, and our aim was to have it to lock up stage by April. With help from local businesses (with discounts on products and hire equipment) loans, donations, and a lot of hard work by the members we achieved our goal; which included the front being filled in and painted, and a septic tank installed. Since, we have installed a 22500 litre rain water tank which is already full.

Next, will be the construction of a verandah and installation of internal fittings and a "disabled" toilet. All this will take time.

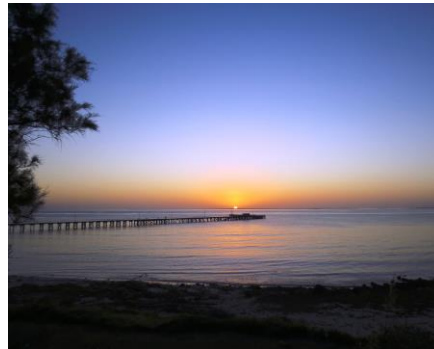
When the Wallaroo Bowls Club combined with the Golf and Croquet Clubs, to build the new Community Sports Centre, the Council allowed us to remove all fixtures and fittings from their old clubrooms, as they will be demolished. These items have been stored until our clubrooms are finished.

Janet Petherick
Secretary, YPG&MC"



Continued next column...

Continued from column 1...



Fieldtrip photographic report contributed by Maurice Burt...

**The Broken Hill Mineral Club
July 2014 Fieldtrip**

Yancowinna Station - Sisters Area
Sunday 20th -8:30 am. (120km round trip)
Bring Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags, etc.
Meet – Sydney Road Info Bay

Attended by Maurice Burt and Rubein Geister.



Club Members Out and About

Wire Wrapping Workshop

Bev Smith and partner, Bob Brice, spent the weekend of Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd August, 2014, with the Riverland Gem and Mineral Club where Bev provided seven members each day (10am - 4 pm) with tuition in the craft of making wire wrapped jewelry. Riverland's club member, Trevor, assisted Bev and fellow members by sharing his techniques and skills as well.

Bev indicated that members at the workshop represented a wide age range, both genders, and all in common were keen to learn and develop their skills.

Both Bev and Bob had a wonderful time at the workshop and appreciated the hospitality and accommodation provided by the club members.

The remainder of this article is a photo gallery picturing some workshop outcomes and activities at the club rooms. Thanks to Bob for the photos.



Club Committee, Sub-Committee and Meeting Schedules

Committee.		Sub-Committee Leaders		2014 Meeting Schedule	
President: Ian Thorley:	Mobile: 0488 489 014	Building: Terry Mabbitt	Phone: 08 8531 3848	Committee At 7:00 pm on:	General At 7:30 pm on:
Vice President Terry Mabbitt	Phone: 08 8531 3848	Competitions: Rubein Geister		July 28 th	Aug 13 th
Secretary: Leonie Hughes	Phone: 08 82782112	Field Officers: Kym Loechel		Aug 25 th	Sep 10 th
Minute Secretary: Angie Regnier		First Aid Lead: Kym Loechel		Sep 22 nd	Oct 8 th
Treasurer: David Laubsch		Fund Raising: June Mabbitt		Oct 27 th	Nov 12 th
Committee: Rubein Geister		Minerals: Mel Jones	Phone: 08 8395 1792	Nov 24 th	Dec 10 th
Public Officer: Jeff Tonkin	Phone: 08 8531 1308	Newsletter Mel Jones	Phone: 08 8395 1792 Email: mel.jones@bigpond.com	2015 Meeting Schedule	
		Publicity Assistant: Jeff Tonkin	Phone: 08 8531 1308	Committee At 7:00 pm on:	General At 7:30 pm on:
		Website Mel Jones	Phone: 08 8395 1792 Email: mel.jones@bigpond.com	Jan 26 th	Jan 14 th
		Work Shop Rex Shillabeer		Feb 23 rd	Feb 11 th
				Mar 23 rd	Mar 11 th
				Apr 27 th	Apr 8 th
				May 25 th	May 13 th

Mineral Matters - Iron Ore (South Australian focus)

Iron ore and its uses

Elemental Iron (Fe) is ranked fourth in abundance in the earth's crust and is the major constituent of the Earth's core. It rarely occurs in nature as the native metal.

The pure metal is silvery white, very ductile, strongly magnetic and melts at 1528° C.

Iron accounts for approximately 95% of all metals used by modern industrial society.

Metallic iron is most commonly produced from the smelting of iron ore to produce pig iron.

Steel is a processed form of pig iron with impurities such as silicon, phosphorus and sulphur removed and with a reduction in the carbon content. Globally, steel's versatility is unsurpassed. Wrought iron (low carbon) and cast iron (pig iron) also have important markets. One of the most ubiquitous products in Australia is corrugated iron, a structural sheet steel shaped into parallel furrows and ridges. It was invented by Henry Robinson Palmer in 1828 in London and quickly became popular for roofing and farm buildings.

Iron metal may be produced from the smelting of certain iron compounds. Their concentration in economic proportions is referred to as 'iron ore'.

Other well known uses of iron compounds are:

- iron sulphate used as fungicide, the oxalate of iron in photographic development, limonite, goethite, hematite as pigments and abrasives, magnetite in the production of industrial electrodes and also for washing coal
- iron chloride and nitrate used as mordents and industrial reagents in the production of several types of inks
- iron carbonyl as a catalyst for many chemical reactions
- micaceous hematite as a protective paint on steel superstructures.

Mineral Name - Formula - % Iron when pure

Chamosite - (Mg,Fe,Al)₆(Si,Al)₄(OH)₈ - 29.61%

Goethite/Limonite - HFeO₂ - 63%

Hematite - Fe₂O₃ - 69.9%

Magnetite - Fe₃O₄ - 74.2%

Pyrite - FeS - 46.6%

Siderite - FeCO₃ - 48.2%

Information extracted from *Government of South Australia - DMITRE Minerals - Geological Survey - Mineral Commodities - Iron Ore*:

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/minerals/geological_survey_of_sa/commodities/iron_ore

Resources and Energy Group

[Click here to access, 'South Australian geoscientific and mining information for the minerals industry, teachers and students, community groups and the general public'.](#)

[Click here to access, 'Geological Survey of SA - Iron Ore'.](#)

South Australian Iron Ore

Iron (Fe) is a metallic element which constitutes about 5% of the Earth's crust and is the fourth most abundant element in the crust. Iron ores are rocks from which metallic iron can be economically extracted. the principal iron ores are hematite (Fe₂O₃) and magnetite (Fe₃O₄). Hematite ores dominate the world production of iron ores and are sourced mainly in Australia and Brazil. However, magnetite is continuing to increase its presence in world production.

During 2011, China was the world's largest producer of iron ore with 43%, or 1200 million tonnes (Mt) followed by Australia with 17% or 488 Mt and Brazil with around 14% or 390 Mt of world production (Geoscience Australia (GA), 2013).

Almost all iron ore mined (~98%) is used in the production of steel. Steel is regarded as the economic mainstay of industrialised nations. Steel's versatility is unsurpassed; it is the cheapest metal to produce and has a ready supply of raw materials.

South Australia is arguably the birthplace of the Australian iron ore and steel industry, and continues to play an important role as an iron ore and steel producer. The state is emerging as Australia's second largest producer of iron ore, accounting for more than 5% of the nation's total Economically Demonstrated Resources (EDR), (GA, 2013).

Currently the state has two iron ore producers - Arrium Ltd, producing hematite and magnetite ore from several iron ore deposits in the Middleback Ranges and northern Gawler Craton; and IMX Production has been overwhelmingly from the high-grade residual deposits in the Middleback Ranges of northern Eyre Peninsula.

Extracted from *South Australia Earth Resources Information Sheet - M20 March 2013*: [Click here to access 'Iron ore deposits in South Australia'.](#)



Further information including video presentations etc...

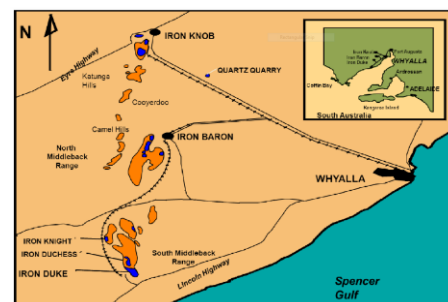
An interesting history of iron ore processing in South Australia can be found at the **Flinders Ranges Research** website: [Click here to access, 'Flinders Ranges Research website.'](#)

Arrium Limited - "Transformation – scale and diversity" - Andrew Roberts

Managing Director & CEO - Macquarie Australia Conference 8 May 2014.

[Arrium Limited Presentation - "Transformation – scale and diversity" - Andrew Roberts](#)

Watch these videos [Click here to access, 'Arrium Mining's promotion video.'](#) and [Arrium Mining - Iron Princess 1st blast published on YouTube August 3rd 2014](#)



Arrium Map of Operations - Middleback Ranges



Arrium Map of Operations - Southern Iron



Arrium Ltd. Photo - Blasting at Iron Baron.



Arrium Ltd. Aerial Photo - Iron Baron.

[Click here to access, 'VHS Video of an ore train I took in 1987 - travels from Whyalla to Iron Monarch and return.'](#)

[Click here to access, 'Video I took more recently of a train, carrying ore mined at Peculiar Knob - travels from Port Augusta to Whyalla.'](#)

Mel Jones

Mineral Matters - Iron Ore (South Australian focus)

Iron Monarch, A Look At Its Mineral Past.

By Glyn Francis, May 1987
(Mineralogical News. Vol 7 No.4)

The Iron Knob mining area (Iron Knob and Iron Monarch) has been well known for its iron ore since the late 1880's, the high grade Hematite first being used as a flux in the Pt.Pirie lead smelters and from 1915 in the production of steel. The Iron Knob quarry, the smaller of the two, although of very high grade has been a poor producer of mineral specimens. Iron Monarch, on the other hand has been fairly well known for its capacity to produce both cabinet and micro specimens, even though in later years the cabinet specimens have become rare.

The capping on the eastern top of the Monarch, originally RL346 metres (above sea level), was of high manganese ore, probably running 30 to 40% Mn, and this extended down the eastern slope to what is now known as the Eastern Ore body. No doubt that the early miners of the Monarch saw some magnificent mineral specimens from this area. One of the old shovel drivers tells the story of when mining this area on 100-foot faces, of opening up a cavern large enough to walk in. The driver and his mate admired the long glistening straws that hung down from the ceiling, thought how beautiful, and then got back into the shovel and continued mining. No specimens were saved, so whether they were crystals or stalactites we will never know. A lower level of this manganese mined in the mid 60's produced some of the largest crystals I have seen from this mine. (Yes, I missed out!). In the mid 60's to late 70's Pyrolusite after Manganite and possibly Manganite were common from a number of areas in the mine, one temporary dump that was mined from the Western slope of the hill at about the RL200 metre level produced a very vughy hematite/manganese rock with the cavities lined with Pyrolusite crystals. Some 20 to 30 thousand tonnes of this material remained for several months before it was crushed and shipped out. Another area was on the floor of the RL170 level, plates of good size Pyrolusite after Manganite crystals formed a coating on a fault several metres long. We collected until dark and intended to come back the next day. However a shift boss saw what we had and decided to get some for himself, he used a ripper dozer to open up the floor. Needless to say, that was the end of them.

In the late 60's the development of the North Wall was in full swing. The Jaspilite (banded iron formation) was producing a lot of Quartz and Quartz with Hematite cabinet specimens; almost all of the benches and dumps had specimen material available.

The most spectacular find of these minerals was on the western end of the RL250 level. A large breccia zone was encountered where the quartz had coated the Jaspilite fragments and over these had formed masses of large bladed Hematite crystals. Mining took several shifts to dig through this area and it all went over one dump. I became aware of this on the last shift and managed to get some specimens from the dump while the crew was having lunch. By the end of the shift, it was all gone and the dump covered with jaspilite. (The dump has expanded some 100 metres over this area now)

These were the days when we only bothered to collect cabinet specimens, after all, what use were specimens that you needed a hand lens to see the crystals on. The day of the micromounter was a long way off.

In the early 70's, phosphorous had become a major problem in the ore. A study was undertaken to identify the distribution, the minerals and their origin. This expanded the horizon for collectors, for minerals like Wardite, Strengite, Variscite and Woodhouseite were identified, and the Apatite as Fluorapatite and Dahllite. Of these the red Variscite was the most interesting, even though it took some convincing of its validity (red variscite? variscite is green!). This mineral was found in two areas, one just south of the younger dyke, the other north east of it. The largest find consisted of a fault a metre or two wide running the full 10-metre face height, which was filled with a very vughy manganese. All the vughs were lined with Variscite ranging from a pale pink to a blood red. Most of the Variscite that is in collections today came from this find. The bench below this had the same material but the Variscite was covered in a white mineral that spoiled it, very little was collected.

Extract taken from SA Mineral Society's Website in compliance with their copyright statement: "Articles in this publication may be reproduced wholly or in part, provided the source of information and author are acknowledged. Except where copyright is stated."



Variscite - Iron Monarch

Compiled by Mel Jones



Hematite and Quartz - Iron Monarch.



Hematite and Quartz - Iron Baron.



Hematite and Quartz - Iron Baron.



Hematite - Iron Monarch.



Hematite - Iron Monarch

Mineral Matters - Iron - Associated Minerals (South Australian focus)



Hematite and Quartz, Iron Monarch, SA.



Pyrolusite, Iron Knob, SA.



Goethite, Arkaroola, SA.



Limonite after Pyrite, Dome Rock, SA.



Turquoise, Iron Monarch, SA



Hematite and Quartz, Iron Monarch, SA.



Pyrite and Quartz, Moonta.



Wardite, Iron Knob, SA.



Limonite after Pyrite, Worlds End Creek, SA.



Cyrllovite and Strengite, Iron Monarch, SA.

☺☺☺

If the Silver Surfer and Iron Man team up, they'd be alloys.



Limonite after Pyrite, Chambers Gorge, SA.

☺☺☺

Silver walks up to Gold in a bar and says, "AU, get outta here!"



Hematite and Quartz, Iron Monarch, SA.

☺☺☺

Q: What do chemists call a benzene ring with iron atoms replacing the carbon atoms?
A: A ferrous wheel.

Extracts from Jeff's Fossil Journal

Lion Lizard Combination Found

Professor Peter Ward, a paleontologist at the Washington University, has unearthed some strange and dramatic fossils in his time, but nothing compares with the one found in 1999 in the South Africa Karoo region. Ward's discovery was the first complete skeleton of a 250million years old beast called a *Gorgon* (gorgonopsid).

The Gorgon resembled a cross between a fierce lion and the fierce giant monitor lizard of Indonesia. The 7 ft long fossil offers a detailed look at a predator that lived long before dinosaurs.

Until this find, researchers had only found skulls and scattered bone remnants of the *Gorgons*; providing scant evidence as to what the creature looked like.

The skull of this find was 2.5 ft long with 4 inch long canines, and eye sockets on the side of its skull. The fossil hints at the fierce brutality of life in the late *Permian era*.

Knowing how efficient they were as a hunter, the *Gorgon* would not have evolved without tough prey to feed on.

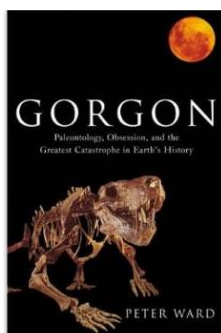
The *Gorgons'* world ended 250 million years ago when a mysterious mass extinction event wiped them and their prey out, and 90% of life on earth. This was 185 million years before the dinosaurs!

Summary of an article in Discovery Magazine extracted by Fossil One.



This sketch depicts a gorgon attacking a dicynodon. Neither creature survived the world's most severe mass extinction 250 million years ago. Illustration by Cedric Hunter, the South African Museum.

Sketch and supporting text extracted from the website of W College of Arts & Sciences - University of Washington, USA.



[Gorgon: Paleontology, Obsession, and the Greatest Catastrophe in Earth's History.](#)



[Click here to view, 'Recorded Interview with Professor Peter Ward 2007'.](#)

Living Fossils - The Coelacanths

Over the last 100 years many strange sightings have been reported to authorities around the world.

In the fifties, fishermen fishing out from Nairobi in Lake Kenya found a living fossil rising to the surface. Just before the sighting, a moderate earthquake occurred, disturbing the surface as if the lake bed had collapsed freeing trapped air into the lake. The large fish appeared on the surface to the amazement of the fishermen.

The fish was a very strange type which had never been seen before. After landing it, the fishermen took it back to shore to have it identified by the local fisheries officer. To their amazement it was identified as a living *Coelacanth* which had died 50 million years ago.

Several years later another *Coelacanth* was caught in a trawler's net in the ocean around Madagascar. How could it exist to now? What else will we find alive that should be extinct.

Extract provided by Fossil One.



[Click here to view video, 'Finding the Coelacanth'.](#)

The Frilled Shark

Just a few years later, in 1996 a previously thought extinct shark was netted in the Sea of Japan. The shark of extreme, pre-historic appearance in shape has large glassy eyes. It has been identified to be a deep level fish (1 Km). What else will we find that inhabits our deep oceans in the future?

Extract provided by Fossil One.



Flaring the gills that give the species its name, a frilled shark swims at Japan's Awashima Marine Park on Sunday, January 21, 2007. Sightings of living frilled sharks are rare, because the fish generally remain thousands of feet beneath the water's surface.

Pictures and text extract taken from the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC NEWS website

by Mel Jones

Frilled Shark Videos from the Internet...
[Click here to view video 1 of 2, 'A Frilled Shark'.](#)
[Click here to view video 2 of 2, 'A Frilled Shark'.](#)



!!!

'The Palmerainians' - A Lost Civilisation

A LOST CIVILISATION THE PALMERAINIANS DISCOVERED 4115

By Professor NYD4711 & Her Team of
Archaeologists from the Royal Society of
Ancient Researchers

1

The First Discovery

- ▣ In the year 4100 a small group of researchers on field work discovered a series of Rock Art specimens near the ancient settlement believed to be known as Palmer..
- ▣ This discovery led to the team carrying out extensive Field work to determine how these ancient people lived..
- ▣ The Time..... 1995 to 2014..

2



Reconstructed Rock art
Found at Palmer in 4100

3



The giant Bear
Thought to be an Ancient God to the Palmerianians
(Thought enhanced Image..)

4

Why were these Paintings Done ??

- ▣ We believe this was a place where strange rituals took place at New Year and other special times.
- ▣ Some have thousands of layers of paint telling us they were visited by generations of Palmerainians..
- ▣ Perhaps even by visiting Tribes who passed this way on route to the great River nearby..

5

Why did the Painting Stop.???

- ▣ We believe that the paints they used were full of Toxic lead which probably killed of the artists over many years..
- ▣ Or perhaps tribal elders forbid further painting and only the very bravest warriors were able to paint these special rocks.
- ▣ Or maybe they just ran out of paint.????

6

So what else did we find.?????

7

Artefacts found nearby

- ▣ There have been some remarkable finds in this area and we are still trying to work out what many of these items were used for.
- ▣ Some were used for fun, others for survival and special ceremonies.
- ▣ In time we hope to be able to work out what these items were used for and by who?

8

'The Palmerainians' - A Lost Civilisation



A primitive entertainment device

Found at a depth of 2m .. Wording deciphered to say "Slim Dusty Lights on the Hill". Believed to be another God worshipped by the Palmerainians.



An excellent example from the Nokia Tribe

We believe these ancient people had only tiny fingers as the buttons were small. Or perhaps, they were used mainly by the female of the species as they would have had smaller fingers and communicated more!

Strange weapons ??

- ❑ The following slides are of strange and primitive weapons we believe the Palmerainians used to defend themselves from ancient predators such as the feared "Drop Bears". See next slide...
- ❑ These weapons were very primitive and used by most Palmerainians.



Strange blocks found sometimes connected



One of the primitive weapons found

This weapon was used to transmit a beam possibly a laser to deter *Drop Bears* and similar predators from the past.

Specimen number 321

- ❑ This silica receptacle was found in great numbers around the Palmer area.
- ❑ It was believed to hold life giving fluids needed for survival by the Palmerainians.
- ❑ Several types were found but the Amber coloured specimens were the most prolific.
- ❑ Special caps held the contents inside and these are also common finds.. Millions in fact!

Specimen 542

- ❑ This excellent specimen is believed to be an ancient communication device used before thought transferring became common practice.
- ❑ Many such specimens were found and most were owned by the Nokia Tribe whose name they carry.
- ❑ Other tribes were the Samsungs, HTC and a few Telstra were found. These rarely worked.



Another Primitive defence weapon

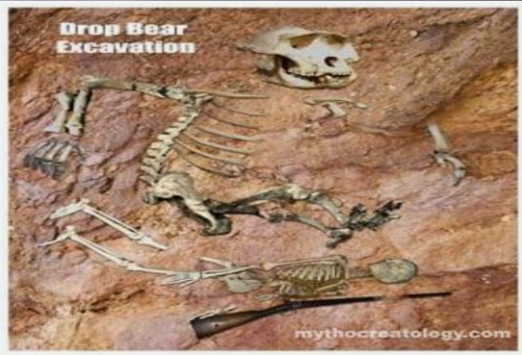
From the Nintendo Tribe this weapon seemed to have many functions and was probably carried by the young Palmerainians when hunting.

'The Palmerainians' - A Lost Civilisation



Ancient Sign found North of Palmer
Note the size of the attacking animal.

17

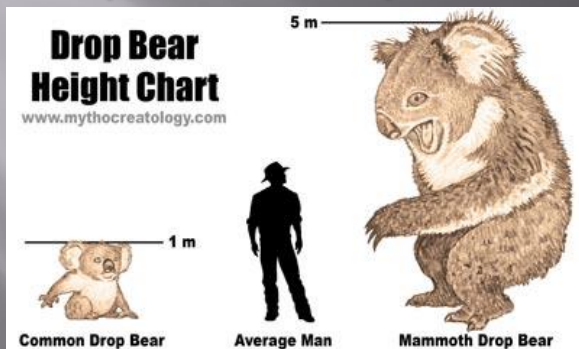


Drop bear attack frozen in time

This remarkable fossil was found recently and proves beyond all doubt that drop bears were a real danger to the Ancient Palmerainians.

18

Drop Bears.. A deadly Predator



19

Did Drop Bears Wipe out these People ??

- ❑ We think not. Drop Bear attacks were probably quite rare, but so horrific that they were recorded as major events.
- ❑ We also believe that many of the Palmerainians were nomads who travelled far and wide but returned to Palmer about once a year to trade and reform their bonds with others from the group. A large circular "oval" surrounded by Trees was the most likely place they met.

20



This is where we think they met..

This slide is a dramatization of what we think the yearly gathering at Palmer looked like. Notice the very primitive transport and their movable homes.

21



Ancient Records contain these pictures of the Nomadic Traders

These images were found in a "Time Capsule" excavated near the ancient meeting place. We believe that it was mainly the females of the tribes that did the trading. Note the strange receptacle being used by one Palmerainian. Note also, the bags of trade goods they had bought with them. What was inside them ?

22



A Gathering of Hunters about to take part in a Hunting party..

But, what did they hunt? Was it drop bears or some other creature?

23



Hunters at work

From the pictures we found we believe they hunted small mammals such as burrowing mice and moles. They seemed to have quite advanced instruments to find their prey.

24

'The Palmerainians' - A Lost Civilisation

A Hunter at work

This Palmerainian has grabbed his prey and we believe he is squeezing it to death. Note the primitive communication device on his head.



25

Another Hunting Group



26



A Gathering of Hunters

It is also obvious that they hunted in packs with chieftains who directed the hunts. Possibly many were very old hunters who were nearly deaf. Note the chieftain with the amplifying device.

27



After The hunt they gathered in Great halls to feast

Here we see the ancient Palmerainians dividing up the prey they gathered and about to feast on it. Note the many containers of life giving beverages they consumed.

28

Strange Rituals ???



29

A Palmerainian GOD ??

Obviously a superior member of the Palmerainian Tribe. Or, perhaps even one of their Gods.



30

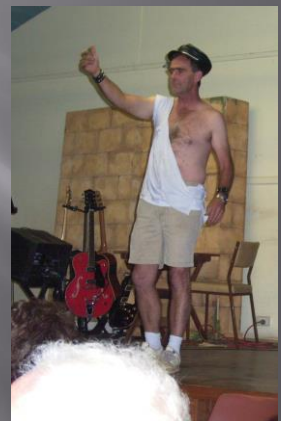
So where did they Go.???

We think the Palmerainians became extinct simply because they became so ugly they could no longer breed.

One last slide that was found in the Time Capsule which, we believe, proves this beyond all doubt.

31

We
Rest
our
Case.
!!!!!!!



32

General Interest

"Health Overhaul"

A presentation by Peter J. Allen.



At the club meeting on Wednesday 9th April 2014 we listened to a presentation by Peter J. Allen that, from my observations, left many if not all a little stunned about personal health issues and the environment in which we live.

Peter walked us through issues that affect our daily lives; health in particular.

He demonstrated how much we take our lives and our fate for granted, without seriously checking for ourselves what is happening and what we could be doing about it.



He covered issues as listed:

Pioneer Health

The Seven Imperatives

Modern Western Medicine

First Imperative - Have all amalgam removed from your teeth by a dentist fully familiar with the necessary safety procedures.

Second Imperative - Repair interruptions to body current by attending to scars and root canal fillings.

Third Imperative - Consume larger amount of good oils.

Fourth Imperative - Keep the body properly mineralised.

Fifth Imperative - Avoid poisoned food and eat organic produce.

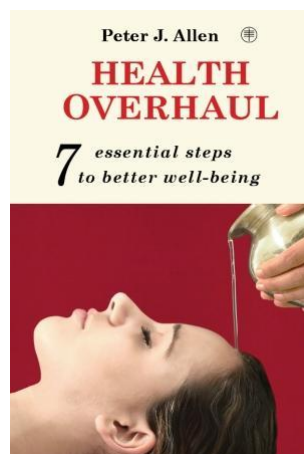
Sixth Imperative - Live according to your own constitutional type.

Seventh Imperative - Process emotional and psychological baggage.



Following the presentation, Peter answered many individual concerns of a general nature, but deferred those that required a more individual and personal interpretation, and invited personal contact by phone or email from those with questions.

His book, *Health Overhaul*, is available from him for \$45.00



Telephone: 08 8568 5242

Email: Peter.allen@health-overhaul.com

Web Address: <http://www.health-overhaul.com/>



Australian bar joke

An Englishman, an Irishman and an Australian walk into a bar. The barman says, "Is this some kind of bloody joke?"

Joke about an Australian yobbo

A man and his wife were sitting in the living room and he said to her, "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug." His wife got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all of his beer.



A little bit of Aussie Culcha which has evolved from 'Putta Culcha

LOGON: Adding wood to make the barbie hotter

LOG OFF: Not adding any more wood to the barbie.

MONITOR: Keeping an eye on the barbie.

DOWNLOAD: Getting the firewood off the ute.

HARD DRIVE: Making the trip back home without any cold tinnies.

KEYBOARD: Where you hang the ute keys.

WINDOW: What you shut when the weather's cold.

SCREEN: What you shut in the mozzie season.

BYTE: What mozzies do.

MEGABYTE: What Townsville mozzies do.

CHIP: A pub snack.

MICROCHIP: What's left in the bag after you've eaten the chips.

MODEM: What you did to the lawns.

LAPTOP: Where the cat sleeps.

SOFTWARE: Plastic knives and forks you get at Red Rooster.

HARDWARE: Stainless steel knives and forks - from K-Mart.

MOUSE: The small rodent that eats the grain in the shed.

MAINFRAME: What holds the shed up.

WEB: What spiders make.

WEBSITE: Usually in the shed or under the verandah.

SEARCH ENGINE: What you do when the ute won't go.

CURSOR: What you say when the ute won't go.

YAHOO: What you say when the ute does go.

UPGRADE: A steep hill.

SERVER: The person at the pub who brings out the counter lunch.

MAIL SERVER: The bloke at the pub who brings out the counter lunch.

USER: The neighbour who keeps borrowing things.

NETWORK: What you do when you need to repair the fishing net.

INTERNET: Where you want the fish to go.

NETSCAPE: What the fish do when they discover a hole in the net.

ONLINE: Where you hang the washing.

OFFLINE: Where the washing ends up when the pegs aren't strong enough.

Extracted via Google Search - Author Unknown.