



Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables & Lapidary Club Inc

BATHEX 2015 EXHIBITION & BATHURST BICENTENARY



Information e-newsletter

BATHEX 2015 Exhibition 26th and 27th September, 2015. Bathurst Bicentenary activities – all year.
Issue 12 – July 2015

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR



Welcome to issue number 12, I hope you enjoy reading it.

The number of collectors who plan to bring their collections and displays to BATHEX 2015 is increasing by the month and time is certainly flying as we move towards **BATHEX 2015**

Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History being held at the Bathurst Showgrounds on Saturday and Sunday 27th and 28th September, 2015.

Already we have listed items which will be on display including – railway memorabilia, coins, campaign medals and swords, Cobb & Co coach and memorabilia, shearing and farm items, documents, old banknotes, shipwreck artefacts, radios, model cars, gemstones, rocks and minerals, glassware, Roman coins, ceramic ware, goldfield items, seashells, Chinese artefacts, photographic equipment, movie memorabilia and estate jewellery to name a few.



One part of BATHEX in 2004

Collectors from five states of Australia have indicated that they are coming having secured display space that will see three jammed-packed pavilions as well as the surrounding showground space on Sydney Road at Bathurst.

There will be an antiques expert on hand who, will for a donation, identify your treasures and give you an

idea if they are worth money. Several hobbyists will be at BATHEX 2015 demonstrating their various skills. One is a rock carver who will wow you with her ability of magnificent animals and other carvings.



Another very capable hobbyist is John Duncombe (above) who will be at BATHEX 2015 to demonstrate his model making techniques and display a range of his models. He has been a scale modeller for over 45 years. He started with basic aircraft kits in the 1960's and now has an interest in 1/35 scale armoured fighting vehicles from all nations and all wars (tanks, armoured fighting vehicles, artillery, soft skins). John also enjoys building other types of models such as Sci-Fi, ships, movie vehicles, 1/48 scale aircraft or anything unusual or out of the ordinary.

John says that besides the enjoyment, what has scale modelling given him?

- Patience – anything worth doing is going to take time!
- Discipline – follow the instructions and in most cases you can't go wrong.
- Learn from your mistakes – do it a better way next time.
- Practice makes perfect – the more you do something, the better you'll get: your assembly, painting and detailing skills will improve over time and there's a wealth of information on the Internet now to tap into other peoples modelling skills and techniques.
- Managing your time and priorities – if it isn't urgent, no need to finish it in one long big hit. You can pick it up, leave it for a while if priorities change, then pick it back up later.
- Accept challenges – try something new, take your

YETHOLME HISTORY DAY



The photo above shows Vera Blomfield ploughing at Yetholme in the 1920s. On Saturday 17th October, 2015, the village of Yetholme will be celebrating the Bathurst Bicentennial by holding a history day with lots of activities and displays being organised. So come along and find out about Mitchell's high road and secrets of The Frying Pan.

The village grew up at the intersection of Major Mitchell's line of road to Bathurst, and Frying Pan Creek, about 25 kilometres east of Bathurst.

Originally known as Frying Pan, by 1837 coach and wagon traffic was regularly plying the road, generating a need for accommodation and hospitality and supplies for early colonists and travellers to the inland. The earliest building would have been an inn; this would have been closely followed by a blacksmith, then a general store. By the 1860's there were three inns, a blacksmith, a boot maker, and a butcher. 250 people called the village home, their income supported by the traffic to the goldfields, and timber getting. Forests nearby supplied the large hardwoods needed for construction in both Bathurst and Sydney.



Charlie Weal with his horse-drawn plough.

A school was built by public subscription in 1858, and by the 1860's about 50 children were attending. Two of three churches constructed remain – St Paul's Church of England, built in 1868 with funds raised by local residents, and St. Mary's Catholic Church at Kirkconnell.

The village and parish names locally reflect both the colonial surveyors and early Governors background and their desire to transplant a little bit of home. Both Governor Lachlan Macquarie and Governor Brisbane had Scottish connections, as did Sir Thomas Mitchell; hence the names Kelso, Yetholme, Jedburgh and Roxburgh.

Late in the 19th Century the village became well known as a holiday destination for city dwellers where they could enjoy the “pure air”. More recently Yetholme was known for its apples, stone fruit, potatoes, brussell sprouts, and peas, all of which thrive in the rich soils and cool climate

All those with family connections or an interest in local history are welcome to attend the event which will be held at the Community Hall in Porters Lane on the Saturday 17th October at 10am. There will be displays, historic photographs, a variety of stalls and re-enactments; and lunch and morning teas will be available. For further information contact Sue Porter on 0408375204 or Carrol Rogers on 6359 5245



The result of the annual harvest typically seen in the early days.

If you are one of the families known to have been associated with the area you should go along. Some families connected to the area include: Alexander, Atherton, Baker, Barnett, Berry, Boji, Boyd, Bromfield, Brown, Burrages, Bywater, Caddy, Caldwell, Campbell, Cameron, Dando, Davis, Dawson, Donaldson, Dowler, Dowton, Drew, Dwyer, Egan, Fardell, Gant, Halse, Head, Irving, Joyce, Kerwick, Kinna, Knight, Lane, Leary, Maccabee, MacCullagh, McKinnon, McManus, Mara, Margorm, Miller, Minchin, Moran, Mowbray, Oaten, Oglethorpe, Parker, Parsons, Porter, Phillips, Prosser, Roberts, Ryan, Scott, Shirlaw, Shirtly, Sinnett, Slingsby, Smith, Spargo, Sykes, Thornton, Turner, Turney, Upjohn, Walshaw, Waters, Williams, Williamson, Woodgate and Wright.

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THE SECOND EGYPTIAN MEDAL 1882 – 1889


At BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History being held at the Bathurst Showgrounds on Saturday and Sunday 27th and 28th September, 2015, there will be numerous Militaria

For the various campaigns medals have been issued and many of the campaign medals will also be part of the biggest exhibition in the Central West. One medal concerns the Suez Canal which was opened in 1869 and made the strategic position of Egypt even more important from the British point of view. Due to the general financial chaos that prevailed in Egypt, the Egyptian Army was not paid and, as a result, mutinied. The Arabs then attacked the Europeans.

Early in 1882, a combined French and British squadron of ships arrived off Alexandria, and after sending ignored ultimatums ashore, attacked and destroyed the forts at Alexandria. The channel was seized by a combined British force consisting of Naval and Army units, the French actually withdrawing before the conflict. The second phase of this conflict opened in 1884, further south in the Sudan, where a new local leader, who was proclaimed “The Madi”, raised a force which annihilated the British and Egyptian troops. This caused the need for another Army operation.

General Gordon was in command with a besieged garrison at Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, but unfortunately the British forces failed to relieve Gordon – his garrison was overwhelmed and Gordon lost his life. Further action took place until 1889.

There were two versions of the medal, the first were the ones issued during 1882 and had “1882” engraved below the sphinx. This 36mm circular silver medal has a fixed claw and bar for ribbon suspension. The obverse has the crowned, veiled head of Queen Victoria facing left, circumscribed ‘VICTORIA REGINA ET IMPERATRIX’ (Victoria Queen and Empress) The reverse seen above features the sphinx facing left lying on a decorated plinth, and circumscribed ‘EGYPT’ at the top. It has two clasps on it “TOFREK” and “SUAKIN 1885”. The blue and white ribbon represents the Blue and White Nile.



Other clasps included - Alexandria 11th July, Tel-El-Kebir (11th September 1882), Suakin 1884 (19th February – 26th March 1884), El-Teb (29th February 1884), Tamaai (13th March 1884), El-Teb-Tamaai (29th February & 13th March 1884), The Nile 1884-85 (this was awarded to the men who served south of Assouan on or before 7th March 1885 as part of the expedition to relieve

General Gordon, (then under siege at Khartoum.), Abu Klea (17th January 1885), Kirbekan (10th February 1885) and was awarded to the men of the expedition to relieve Gordon who was killed in Khartoum. He was only awarded the Nile bar.

The 'Suakin 1885' clasp on this medal was awarded to those who defended the port of that name in eastern Sudan against the Mahdists from 1st March to 14th May 1885 in extreme heat and with very limited supplies. The Battle of Tofrek was on 22nd March, 1885, between the British forces against the Mahdist forces in the deserts of eastern Sudan with some 3000 attacking Arabs killed or dying of wounds. The British lost 21 killed with 33 wounded.



The medal was instituted in October 1882 to be awarded to Army and Navy personnel active in the campaign in Egypt earlier that year to suppress the nationalist uprising against increasing British and French control of Egyptian affairs. The recipient's number, rank, name and regiment are engraved on the edge.

**JAPANESE ONE YEN
WITH CHINESE CHOPMARKS**

This is the type of coin that gives one a yen to collect and organise one's coin collection! A number of numismatists (coin collectors) will be putting on displays at BATHEX 2015.



DRAVITE

If you are into rocks, minerals, gemstones or fossils then don't miss the lapidary and mineral displays at BATHEX 2015. Every specimen has a story behind it and all displays will be labelled. Dravite, for example, is a dark brown variety of tourmaline with some specimens looking almost black though sometimes it can be yellowish. Dravite is sometimes referred to as "Brown Tourmaline". It has a hardness of 7.5 and a specific gravity of 3.06 with its chemical makeup being $\text{NaMg}_3\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}(\text{BO}_3)_3(\text{OH})_4$.



This 7cm specimen was collected on May Downs Cattle Station, near Mount Isa in Queensland. Sometimes collectors find superb specimens over 18 cm in length in this area. These specimens are found in a small area of talc rock that was one worked, however it has been worked-out for some time.

Dravite was named by Gustav Tschermak, a mineralogist from Austria, in 1883 after the Drau River (in Latin it was known as

Drave). The river flows through a number of countries before flowing into the Danube. Tourmaline first came to the attention of the English and in Europe when the Dutch East India Company despatched barrels of gem quality tourmalines from traders in their trading posts in their Ceylonese colonies.

Besides Australia, dravite is found in Nepal, Brazil, Tanzania, Austria, France, Slovenia, Mozambique, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Namibia, Madagascar, Pakistan, China, Afghanistan, Mexico, Kenya, Russia, Nigeria, Malawi and the United States of America. The principal dravite mines in Australia include Yinnietharra Dravite mine in the Pilbara region in Western Australia and the May Downs mine.

The two Yinnietharra Dravite mines on Yinnietharra Station in the Gascoyne Shire in Western Australia has yielded some nice specimens. These two open cut mines produced well formed, large, dark brown crystals. The South open cut was the larger deposit producing single and twinned crystals though some were found grouped. Crystal forms found included hexagonal prism, trigonal prism and rhombohedral terminations.

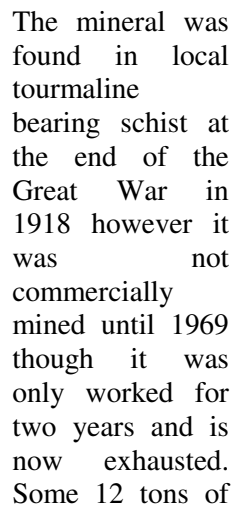
It was not long after the Meiji Restoration back to Tokyo that the Imperial Japanese Government began minting large silver yen coins that were intended for use, within Japan but also for foreign use from 1870. The Japanese yen then became the official currency of Japan replacing the old ryo currency of the Tokugawa Shogunate. The Emperor Meiji took a keen interest in the process of the new coinage which was mainly struck in silver. The following year, 1871, the Imperial Government moved to change the standard to gold as smaller coins could be stuck causing a number of issues so they decided on a duo metal standard in 1878. Production of the yen trade dollars, which had been widely used in China and other foreign countries, stopped at the commencement of World War One.

The silver Yen certainly replaced many of the silver Spanish dollar coins which were in common use throughout Southeast Asia, the Chinese coast, Japan and much of the trading world. Much of the Spanish silver had been minted in the new world, mainly at the Mexico City mint. Like the Spanish silver, marks were applied by Chinese bankers, money-changers and merchants to authenticate the silver content and it was genuine of any of these coins to ensure they had not been counterfeited. Some marks on the Yen were actually applied by the Tokyo and Osaka mints to indicate the coins were for foreign use. To indicate which mint applied the circled mark the Tokyo placed theirs to the right, Osaka to the left. They stamped on a small chop (mark) which was the Japanese character 'gin' meaning silver.



The reverse or back of these Yen coins (above) depict the famous large ‘sunburst’ (Imperial Seal of Japan) at the top of the coin which has a wreath design around most of the coin. The value also appears here. Whilst the reverse design changed from the first issues the design seen here was used for the longest period.

Whilst chopmarks can be a contentious issue with some collectors I consider them as part of the coin's history. These days there are collectors who actively



These notes were printed by the American Bank Note Company. The notes were issued for the province of Kwangtung by the 'Kwangtung Provincial Bank' which was established in Guangzhou in 1924 by Mr. T.V. Soong who was the brother-in-law of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen died in Peking on 12th March, 1925.

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Whilst it is unlikely that this particular plate will be on display at BATHEX 2015 other pieces will be including some that have the famous British 'Registration Diamond' on them.

Porcelain fish platters are collectable these days. These large porcelain platters, some over 24 inches long and as small as eleven inches, are either round, oval or rectangular in shape. Many were produced in matching sets which could include eight or more accompanying plates of the same design. They were particularly popular in England and Europe. A gravy boat or two could also be included in the set as were sauce plates, some also having an underplate.

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壹佰元

Y617891

中央銀行

沈載和

Y617891

壹佰元

A ceramic plate with a detailed illustration of a rainbow trout. The trout is shown in profile, facing right, with its body covered in characteristic spots and a vibrant rainbow-colored stripe along its side. It is positioned in a river with a rocky bed and green banks. The plate has a decorative border of green, leafy plants. The entire plate is set against a solid blue background.

They were produced and used mainly from the late 1700s until the early 1900s to the end of the Great War. These porcelain pieces certainly adorned the wealthier palaces, estates and homes. Occasional specimens are found into the late 1930s and later in the 1960s unbreakable melamine platters reappeared but they lack the real beauty of the hand-painted porcelain. The later platters tend to go for montages rather than individual fish like the above.

the coach. After both halves were received, someone would use glue and paper tape to repair each one. This idea had been common practice for more than a decade as the following article in The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser newspaper of Wednesday 28th October, 1846, contained information concerning 'The Bathurst Mail Robbery'. *"Over two years previously in May 1844, the mail, on its way from Bathurst to Sydney, was stopped by two men near Solitary Creek.*

The marauders not only dismounted and searched the driver and his only passenger, but turned out the mail bags, from the contents of which they selected whatever they thought of value. Decamping with it left Matthew Wall and his passenger to do what they

could with the mail bags and their contents. There was among the contents of the mail bags a parcel containing sundry half-notes belonging to different banks, which the thieves carried off.

Till lately none of the missing half notes could be traced. A few weeks ago a Mrs. Badkin, whose husband keeps a public-house in Penrith, came to Sydney on business and presented a half-note to a party who took it to the bank, where it was recognised as No. 1418, for £10, being one of the half-notes stolen from the Bathurst mailbag, in May 1844. Mrs Badkin being called on to account for her possession of the half-note in question stated it was part of a note which had been partially destroyed while in her possession and produced some tattered bits of paper to support her statements. As she had, however, stated elsewhere that the half-note in question had been taken by her husband with some others in play, the matter was lodged in the hands of the police. The matter was heard before Mr. Windeyer, who closed the investigation yesterday by committing her for trial on 24th October."

Another idea was to issue notes from each branch of the bank and circulate them locally. Each locally issued note would have the town or city name printed on them. If one wanted to leave the area they visited the bank who did a book transfer and the bank customer

could travel to say Newcastle and collect their bank notes there. This meant that the name of the branch would need to appear on each actual bank note. Bank Boards then ordered new proofs each featuring the name of the branch for such places such as Bathurst, Orange, Maitland and Armidale to name a few.

However, after legal advice the banks realised that they would need to keep enough gold at each branch to

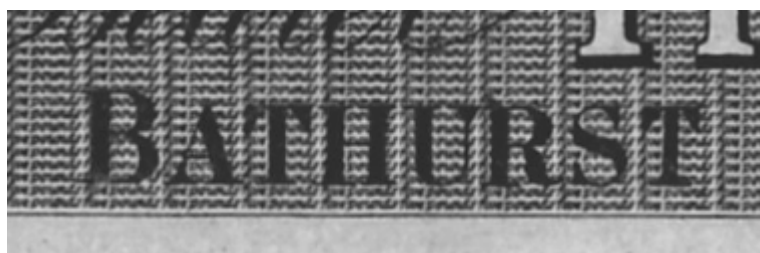
back up their local note issue and this was not financially feasible or practical. It also presented additional security problems which was not wise. Instead it was decided not to proceed with the local domiciled notes (named notes). Instead domiciled notes would be



produced for each capital city and they issue the bank notes. As each new bank note was issued they were each signed and their details recorded in a ledger. The gold to back up the issue was then held in the larger and more secure 'city banks.' Later the 'city' names were deleted on many notes though they included the colony's name such as "New South Wales."

The note image above is a Bank of New South Wales printer's proof – Bathurst, £5 - 18--, and is part of the 'Second Issue' which were printed between 1858 and 1862. The bank's title 'BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES' is in an arch over a central vignette of an allegorical figure, representing 'Commerce.' The woman is seated on bales of wool and holding a caduceus as she looks over her shoulder out to sea. A cornucopia and two sheep are to her left with two sailing ships in the distance. The value of the note is given in two ovals to the left and right. Across a horizontal ornate panel under the vignette are the words "On demand I promise to pay to the Bearer FIVE POUNDS Sterling BATHURST __ day of __ 18__." This note has the date "to this June 27th, 1860",

in pencil in the low right margin. The Bank of New South Wales decided to open a branch on the Turon goldfield in 1853 but the idea was not followed up. It was 1856 before the bank



finally opened in Bathurst in rented premises in George Street after signing an agreement with their

Not long after making the initial decision to open and having already signed an agreement the Board instructed that land be found in George Street to build their own new building. Dr. W.G. Hall Palmer, the Police Magistrate, was among the foremost to open accounts on the first day of business in the temporary premises which had opened for “transactions of general Banking Business”.

Mr. D. Murdoch was appointed manager on a salary of £350 plus a full-time servant allowance of £52. Often it took some four days to get records and documents to Sydney and another four to get things back. The Bathurst branch was the fifth to open in country New South Wales.

Mr. Murdoch was soon venturing out onto local goldfields and after arming himself with a percussion pistol, would ride out around the diggings on horseback buying gold directly from the miners. Later the banks offered commissions to the local storekeepers to buy gold on their behalf. So pleased was the board that Mr. Murdock's salary was increased to £500.



When the new bank building, which was located beside Webb and Co. Emporium in George Street, was

The note (left) shows the design of a Bank of New South Wales bank note that was in circulation during the raid on Bathurst on 3rd October, 1863, or soon after. The note seen here is a scarce Bank of New South Wales one pound printer's proof that had been approved on 20th February, 1863. It has the name "Sydney" on it so

that it needed to be issued in Sydney then despatched around the colony to the Bank of New South Wales's branches.

Anyone who sees these large notes are always amazed by their size as they measure around 220mm x 340mm and one will be on display at BATHEX 2015.



These notes were printed with woodblocks onto mulberry paper which is a purplish colour obviously from some of the fruit that made their way into the process. Some say that the paper had been recycled by

Each note has the same design which at the top reads ‘Great Ming Payable Precious Note’ as read in the six Chinese characters – “Ta Ming T’ung Hsing Pao Ch’ao”. The “Great Ming Treasure Note” was payable in the round copper cash with the square hole. The large decorated framework around the border incorporates a series of dragon patterns. The note’s value, 1 Kuan, is noted in the upper half along with the drawing of ten strings of ten cash each. Either side are vertical panels with four Chinese characters in each (“Ta Ming Pao Ch’ao, T’ien Hsia T’ung Hsing”) informing the population that the “Great Ming Precious Note, Payable Everywhere”. The large inner panel at the bottom informs the holder in Chinese characters that the note has been issued by the Ministry of Interior and Finance and has been printed with the approval of the Great Emperor - Reign of Hongwu (1368-1399).

The note also has a warning to those who might be tempted to counterfeit these mammoth notes. Also anyone caught using a counterfeit note was also in trouble – both counterfeiter and user would be beheaded. The Emperor also ordered that a reward would be paid to any informer whose information led to a counterfeiter being found. The informer would be paid 250 taels of silver as well as any confiscated property of the counterfeiter. These notes also may exhibit one or more square red chops.

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ANY REVOLVER WILL DO!

Revolvers were an everyday necessity at one time in the colonial days but if it was not for bushrangers like Ben Hall who always wanted the best revolver, as well as more than



one. The general public, the police and the bushrangers had a selection of firearms which included rifles, pistols, revolvers - some with double triggers, revolving rifles, single and double shotguns, all from various makers and regularly imported into the Southern Colonies. Firearms were nearly always carried, especially when travelling away from one's home or in mining hotspots. The bushrangers often stole firearms in their robberies. Ben Hall preferred the double trigger revolver and the revolving rifle, preferably Tranter's.

One type of sidearm was the percussion revolver (seen below) which is a Savage .36 calibre double-action model with a 6-shot rounded cylinder and a 7-1/8" long octagonal barrel. It features a hinged type loading lever assembly with a brass cone-type front sight on the barrel. The revolver frame is flat-sided and fitted with a heart-shaped trigger guard and trigger with a ring lever.

Manufactured in America by the Savage Revolving Fire-Arms Company of Middletown, Connecticut, this cap and ball percussion sidearm with its two-piece walnut grip is an original, double-action Navy Model revolver. Numbers found their way to Australia, especially with miners and immigrants.

They were turned out from 1861 and throughout the American Civil War to 1865. The Manufacturer's marks appear on the flat of the top strap and reads "SAVAGE R.F.A. CO. / H.S. NORTH PATENTED JUNE 17, 1856 / JAN 18, 1859 / MAY 15, 1860".

It is a unique revolver with its heart-shaped trigger guard and trigger with the ring lever. When the user pulled the bottom ring lever the revolver cocked the hammer, rotating the cylinder making it draw back from the barrel. When the ring lever was released the cylinder moved forward up against the barrel. Once done the user then had to pull the top trigger to fire the weapon.

Records show that around 20,000 were manufactured and some 11,000 were purchased by the Union Forces. The American Navy was issued with around 1,100 of these sidearms. This percussion revolver would have been a 'dinosaur' as they say today, however whilst Hall wasn't as brutal as some other bushrangers, he

was the first bushranger in Australia to be outlawed.

At an enquiry held by the Police Magistrate after Ben Hall was shot, it was reported that:-
"Seventy-four

pounds, in money (£74), a gold watch, three gold watch chains, and three loaded revolvers, the miniature of a young female, and other sundries, were found on his person." Ben had his revolvers to the end.

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ROYAL SYDNEY MINT

Whilst Ben Hall would have probably raided the mint if it had been located in 'his' area of the country, he, along with his gang, were always on the lookout for any gold sovereigns and half sovereigns. Most of these

gold coins could have been struck at the new Sydney Mint which has a fascinating story of its own.



It was the discovery of gold which led to our nation's first official mint, not really because there was an abundance of gold to make coins, but a lack of coins caused by the influx of prospectors from overseas.

James Martin was the first man to move in the New South Wales Legislative Council for a special committee to consider the necessity for an assay office and mint in Sydney as early as November 1851. By late December, after some considerable discussion, the Council had decided "that assay could be left to private skill and competition, but had prepared a petition seeking establishment of a branch of the Royal Mint in Sydney, reasoning principally on disabilities to existing staple production and export caused by the depreciation of the exchanges through heavy shipments of gold."

Many of the Government officials and parliamentarians did not expect the 'gold boom' to really last and although the size of the gold finds had overwhelmed many, the problems were certainly immediate. Earl Grey at the Colonial Office was doubtful whether a mint and a local gold coinage would be needed "when the extraordinary conditions settled down." Despite this the Executive Council again reported strongly in favour and Grey's successor, the Duke of Newcastle, agreed to recommend a branch of the Royal Mint, though he, too, considered existing conditions only temporary.

Early in 1853 the Bank of New South Wales, after much discussion decided to set up its own furnace to melt down gold dust into more convenient ingots and briefly employed its own assayer until the question of a mint's establishment in Sydney was settled.

Finally an Order of Council proclaimed the creation of a branch of the London Royal Mint in Sydney (at its own expense) on 19th August, 1853. It would be our first official mint with the Sydney Mint opening in the old General or 'Rum Hospital' on 4th May, 1855. The first coinage was struck the following month on 23rd

June.

The Chief Officer of the Sydney Mint was Captain Edward Wolstenholme Ward. He was despatched from England along with a Sergeant, three Corporals and twelve Privates of the Corps of Sappers and Miners who were to help in the mint. The coin press, dies and patterns were provided by the Royal Mint in London.

With the mint in operation there were 502,000 sovereigns and 21,000 half sovereigns struck over the following months. James Wyon in London engraved the sovereign and half sovereign dies.

The obverse (front) featured a young head of Queen Victoria. The reverse (back) was unique to the Sydney mint and shows "AUSTRALIA" beneath the small Imperial Crown and between semi-circular foliage, joined with a bow. "SYDNEY MINT" is curved above the foliage and the denomination (SOVEREIGN or HALF SOVEREIGN) curved below.



The Bank of New South Wales was always a large supplier of gold to the mint in Sydney and one of the first to sell gold to the mint when it opened. Gold was brought to Sydney by the Government's Gold Escorts such as this early newspaper illustration of an escort from Bathurst arriving at Sydney Mint (below).



The new gold coins were made legal tender in N.S.W. by an Act of the Legislative Council though for some time the Sydney coinage was not proclaimed legal tender elsewhere. The Sydney Mint established a fixed price of £3-17-10½ per fine ounce at major centres, including Bathurst.

To maintain quality an official in Sydney selected one gold coin in every 500 minted and shipped it to London. Here it was tested for quality and fineness and found to be "more than satisfactory" as they exceeded its British counterpart. In 1856 981,000 sovereigns and 478,000 half sovereigns were struck in Sydney. In the third year of the Sydney Mint's operation, Leonard Wyon in London designed a new effigy of Queen Victoria and

GREAT SUPPORTERS OF BATHEXES!



The couple above, Ray and Loretta, seen here with their 1913 Model T Ford named 'Christina'. They will have their Cobb & Company display and collection at BATHEX 2015.

PLACES & ATTRACTIONS TO VISIT DURING BATHEX 2015

For those visitors coming to Bathurst for BATHEX 2015 Rockley is an interesting and historic place to visit. It is a pleasant drive to the village with a wonderful vista towards Bathurst and outlying areas on your drive home.



Rockley was discovered in 1813 by surveyor George Evans with the first land grants made to William Lawson during 1818. Prior to the establishment of Rockley village on Peppers Creek the site was part of the Government stock reserve. With the granting in 1829 of 1920 acres to Captain Augustus Steel, by Governor Darling, he named it 'Rockley' after where

he had been born in England. Steel was of the 34th Regiment. The village of Rockley was gazetted on 22nd July, 1851, and remained small until a rush of prospectors and then settlers were drawn by the discovery of gold in that area.

Copper was found in the late 1840s with the Summer Hill Copper Mine Company being set up in 1848 and shares sold to the community.

Within a relatively short time the village boasted a flour mill, bank, police station, churches, Post Office, several hotels and stores, many of which still remain today. Mr. Budden's store and later bank branch along with the Rockley Flour Mill can be seen in the early photo in the previous column. The mill is now a museum containing interesting artefacts from the area and opens most Sundays. The Rockley Hotel is open for meals.

Feel free to pass this e-newsletter along to any family, friends, work colleagues and acquaintances. If you wish to receive this e-newsletter direct just email amcrae@lisp.com.au



BATHEX 2015 CONTACTS

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Selling Space Applications, Dealers and Tailgating Enquiries or Bookings

Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club Applications, PO Box 1351, Bathurst NSW 2795 or phone or email any email in this box.

Publicity & e-newsletter

Alan McRae email amcrae@lisp.com.au or phone
63315404 - evening is best.

For other information go to the following website at www.bathursthistory.org.au for the weekend programme and more information.

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