



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 14 – September 2015

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR



We have finally arrived at September 2015. This is the second last issue, I will be doing a follow-up e-newsletter in October or November with a good range of photos to show what happened at the Exhibition.

A great deal of planning has gone into BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History which will take place at the Bathurst Showgrounds on Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th September.

Remember if you are coming for a look you will need more than half an hour. In the past some people come for two days to get through and read all the detail. The opening hours are - Saturday 9am – 5pm and Sunday 9am to 3.30pm. Food and refreshments will be available over the two days.

BATHEX 2015 is not just a lot of historic displays but also hosts a selection of dealers selling items such as coins, old and rare books, antiques, Militaria, banknotes, stamps, bottles, china, medals, documents, fossils, knitwear, farm and railway memorabilia, vintage items, carnival glass, earthenware, collectables, accessories, radios, postcards, bric-a-brac, tools, Miller and other lamps, ceramics, glassware, models and dioramas, Australiana, items of yesteryear, colonial artefacts and much, much, more.



There will also be several mineral, gemstone and fossil

dealers selling jewellery, gemstones, beads, opals, gem rough, fossils, carvings, Metaphysical and Healing Crystals and mineral specimens from all over the world.

One dealer will be selling Roman silver and bronze, Roman Provincial bronze, Greek bronze, Byzantine bronze, Biblical bronze, and modern Australia and United Kingdom coins. He will also have a range of 'scratch boxes' with items from 10 cents to \$10 each.



BATHEX 2015 BUFFET DINNER EVENING AND GUEST SPEAKER

Earlier this year Bathurst celebrated 200 years since Governor and Mrs Macquarie travelled over the Blue Mountains to proclaim the town of Bathurst.

Patrick Dodd, Founder and President of The Macquarie Society and in 2012 was NSW Volunteer of the Year for Cultural Heritage Interpretation, awarded by the heritage Council of NSW and the Minister for Heritage and the Environment. He will speak at the dinner on "The Governor's Travels - touring the colony with Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie."

The Governor was constantly on the move - to the Cowpastures, the Illawarra, Lake George, Bathurst, Port Macquarie and Tasmania, as well as innumerable trips between the two Government Houses in Sydney and Parramatta. Come with the Governor on his travels and meet some of the fascinating people who went with him. Patrick Dodd, who still wonders when the Governor had time to sleep, has followed his tours all around N.S.W. and Tasmania.

This year we celebrated the Governor's tour to Bathurst and the Newly Discovered Lands in 1815. Join Patrick as he walks in the Governor's footsteps down the original Cox's Road from the top of Mount York and across country to the Cox's River.

On Saturday 26th September, at 6.30pm for 7pm, there will be a Buffet Dinner, with presentations and Guest Speaker Patrick Dodd, being held in the historic Bathurst City Community Club, 29 William Street, Bathurst, **seen below in the 1890s.**



Cost is \$40 per person and special dietary requirements can be arranged. Please book early to save disappointment – Bookings and Payment must be made by 23rd September, 2015. For further information contact Alan McRae, Secretary, Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club, P.O. Box 9156, Bathurst 2795. Phone 63315404 - evening is best, or email amcrae@lisp.com.au or the BATHEX 2015 Co-Ordinator - Ernst Holland P (02) 63373661 or email ernst.holland@bigpond.com

So what can you expect to see at BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History which is being held in the three pavilions at the Bathurst Showgrounds.

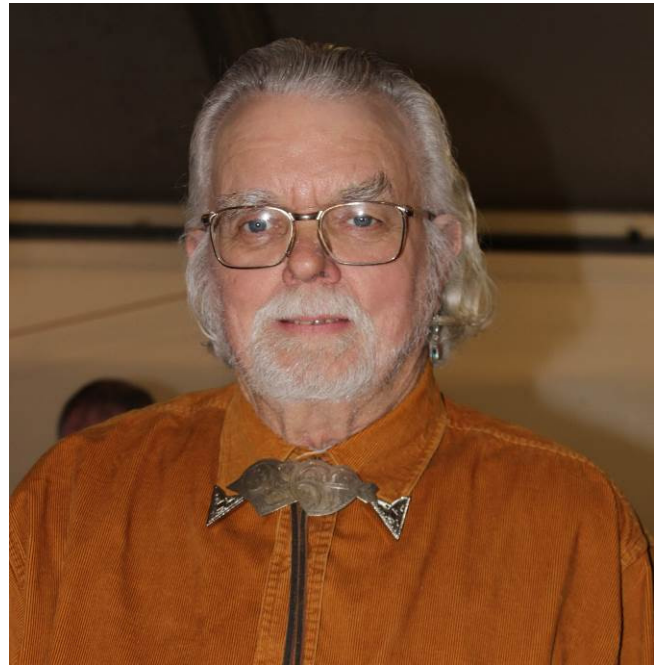


Marion and Dennis have been to a number of

BATHEX Exhibitions (photo bottom of previous column.) Dennis collects Royal Australian Air Force memorabilia and specialises in RAAF Sweetheart badges that encompasses almost anything concerned with this section of Australia's Defence Forces.

The Australian Flying Corps distinguished itself during World War One in Britain, France and the Middle East. The Australian Air Force was created on 31st March, 1921. The word 'Royal' was added not too long after, dating Dennis's collection from then.

Renowned collector Peter Jervis will be bringing his American Civil War display to Bathurst's 200th Anniversary Exhibition. Put 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, in your diary. The Exhibition will be open from 9am to 5pm on Saturday and 9am to 3pm on Sunday.



Peter (above) has been collecting for many years and will have on display a field canon from the American Civil War. The long dispute between the North and the South was over the issue of slavery and came to a head after the Mexican War ended in 1848. Slavery was a cruel and barbaric practice which had made numbers of Americans rich. On 12th April, 1861, the Civil War broke out between the North and the South. It was a war that would take more American lives than any conflict since. The North won the war in 1865 and slavery was abolished.

Many people collect relics and articles from this period which gives a fascinating insight into how the soldiers lived and fought. Fortunately there are still objects that exist from this historic war such as photos, orders and documents, uniforms, wartime banknotes, hard-time tokens and coins, rations, mess gear, horse equipment,

engravings, newspapers and magazines and a great deal more.

Numbers of the Civil War soldiers sailed for Australia after the war in search of gold at Sofala and other goldfields, and they stayed in Australia.



It is surprising how many people are starting to collect old tools that end up their pride and joy. Tool collectors, like most collectors, gather a great knowledge about their hobby.

Antique hand tools can comprise of many types from hand planes, hand drills, plumb bobs, hammers, clamps, handsaws, tape measures, line levels, rules, wrenches, chisels, axes, and, all these categories have numerous types. Many of the antique tools were often made from timber with essential sections made of metal.



Scrimshaw is a pastime admired by young and old and was once practiced by sailors working on early whaling ships to while away the hours when they were not on duty. The sailors would use a knife to scratch images and pictures into a whale's tooth.

Seaman could be at sea for a few months to a few years so they needed something to keep them sane in their confined quarters, meagre food and damp and

modest living conditions aboard these ships.

The ivory teeth of the sperm whale appear to be the most popular but other sea mammal's teeth and bones were also used. Once the image was scratched in a 'black' mixture would be made up from whale oil mixed with gun powder or soot from the ship's stove to accentuate the highlights. They were then polished.

Be sure you see the various activities that you could take up as a pastime.


At BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History, the Historical Radio Society of Australia - Central West Branch will be displaying a number of radios from yesteryear along with gramophones and associated equipment.



The first radio station to broadcast regularly in Australia was 2SB in Sydney it was quite natural that Bathurst would eventually have someone start up a radio station and radio manufacturing business right here in town. Thus Mr. J.G. Onus built his own radios called Onaphones around about 1928 in the building later occupied by Max Ingersole Retravision in George Street. The early radios built by Onus had a low voltage wet cell battery to run the filaments in the valves and two 45 volt dry cells to run the high tension side of the equipment.

The first radio station in Bathurst was 2MK and was run out of Mockler Bros store. Mr. Trevor Evans was associated with this radio station. This was before 2BS started in Keppel Street on 1st January, 1937, almost 80 years ago. 2BS had their first studio on a back verandah and the cables ran out to a very tall wooden pole out the back.

With Australia remembering World War One, Gallipoli, Lone Pine and other military campaigns and operations a number of collectors have put together appropriate displays to mark the Great War. With individual exhibits covering the Light Horse in both the Boer War and World War One to groups of medals with details of who they have been awarded to. One such set was awarded to Major Blair Anderson Wark, Victoria Cross winner. Blair was born on 27th July,



At the age of 24 Wark was given temporary command of the 32nd Battalion in operations against the Hindenburg line. On 1st October he 'dashed forward and silenced machine-guns which were causing heavy casualties'. For his bravery he was awarded the Victoria Cross.



A special U-Boat display featuring a World War Two Kriegsmarine U-Boat Captain Visor Cap, with its gold bullion oak leaf and wreath and gold plate eagle insignia along with photos and information at the last BATHEX. A model of his submarine completes the display. Germany had the largest submarine fleet during the Battle of the Atlantic throughout World War Two.

Be sure you leave adequate time to see all the exhibits such as the “Souvenir Movie Program and Fan Magazine exhibition” at BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History.

HISTORY DAY AT FRYING PAN

On Saturday 17th October, 2015, the village of Yetholme, originally known as Frying Pan, will be celebrating the Bathurst Bicentennial by holding a history day with lots of activities and displays being



Being on The Great Western Road coach and wagon operators were regularly plying the road by 1837. This allowed the locals to establish inns for early colonists and travellers on their way to and from Bathurst and further west.

Those with family connections or an interest in local history are welcome to attend the event which will be held at the Yetholme 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. Lunch and morning tea will be available. For further information contact Sue Porter on 0408375204 or Carrol Rogers on 6359 5245

HISTORIC TREMAIN'S MILL OPENS ITS DOORS



On Sunday 20th September Bathurst's historic Tremain's Mill is opening its doors to the public with a free Community Open Day from 10am to 4pm. The new owner, Steve Birrell, is inviting the Bathurst community to see the site and to help them record the history of this important Bathurst icon.

Local memories of Tremain's are an important part of its history and the new owners are keen to hear from people who worked at the mill or who have recollections about the flour mill. Visitors are

The Open Day will include historic displays and copies of historic and current plans, a free guided tours of parts of site and the launch of “A Walk in Bathurst’s Heritage Railway Precinct” brochure. There will be food, refreshments and entertainment available.

For further information phone 0407 415 167 or email stephen@tremainsmill.com

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FUNNY MONEY



Whilst most people think of money as being small, usually round, pieces of metal or pieces of printed paper as money or currency, it is not the case. In the past there have been a wide array of objects that have been used as currency. From pigs, cowrie shells, tobacco, carved animals, pieces of rock, copper rods and much more. The items that were used for currency are many and varied.

The item above is known as a Katanga Cross and few people would have heard of this type of money, however they were an important part of the history of the British Empire. Early missionaries and field ethnologists were certainly aware of the unusual forms of local currencies or ‘money’ in Africa. These odd forms of currency were used by the natives for trading amongst themselves. They were often locally produced and are now mainly obsolete, though in some

cases they existed till well after the Second World War in remote areas. Collectors these days refer to this material as primitive, odd or unusual currency or money.

These huge crude bronze crosses weigh around 750 grams and measure some 20 centimetres across. They were used for barter and were required for the purchase of brides between tribes as part of the bride price. In some areas five of these were required to purchase the bride along with a number of cattle, salt and beads. The copper was worked in a number of selected villages by the “local village blacksmith” to make the crosses. The crosses were cast in moulds hollowed in the sand. Often the process of working the native copper and making the crosses would be handed down from father to son. In earlier times conquering tribes in the area would often extort copper contributions from conquered chiefs and his tribe.

Be sure you see the display of 'Primitive Money' at BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History which will take place at the Bathurst Showgrounds on Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th September.

Metal was used almost universally for barter throughout Africa and could be in the form of bells, spears, throwing knives, anklets, armlets, knives and many other shapes. Sometimes a variety of trading items would be needed from one region to the other so early expeditions such as Stanley's or Livingstone's set out with tons of wire, beads and cloth, requiring 100s of native porters to carry it. Unfortunately for these explorers the value of items could change. For example just two cowrie shells would purchase a woman in Uganda at the time when they were first introduced, however a decade later it could take over 2,000.

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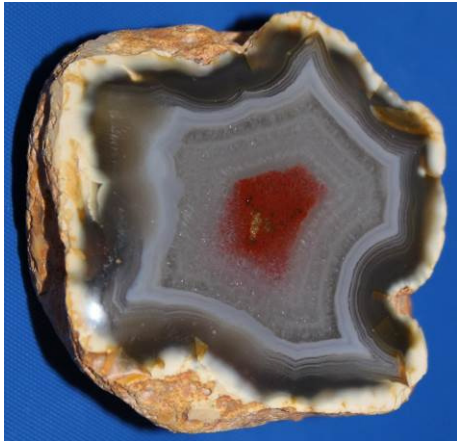
AGATES

Probably one of the stones that are recognised by many people are agates and there are literally hundreds of sorts of agates in the world. Agate is a form of chalcedony and a variety of quartz with a specific gravity of 2.6 and hardness (Mohs) of 7.

Many rockhounds and collectors seek them because of their natural beauty. These translucent pieces would be representative in every general rock collection around the world. Strangely agates can turn up in many locations – they are found along cliffs and



rocky shores, in the gravelly beds of certain rivers, in the bed of streams and creeks, on a sandy beach or dug out of the ground but they have come from nearby volcanic rocks.



Known from ancient times for some of their magnificent natural colours (not the artificially dyed stuff) and banding, they have been sought after by many an Emperor, Pharaoh, Empress and Queen. Neolithic people used agates for ornamentation and have been found amongst artefacts dug up by archaeologists. Around 400 B.C. a Greek named Theophrastus named a river 'Achates' in Sicily after which agates are named and where they were first found in the region. During the Babylonian days agates were made into jewellery and healing amulets. The Egyptians also found uses for agates in their jewellery as well as for medicinal purposes. It was not unheard of to find early seafarers carrying an agate which they believed would ward off storms and sea monsters.

For some four hundred years from the mid 1550s men were sent out to mine agates in Idar-Oberstein in Germany to be cut and polished and the practice continues these days. In the old days Scottish midwives believed that if they carried a piece of moss agate in their bag it would assist with the birthing process. Tribal medicine men used moss agates as healing stones. The moss agate was also buried in the fields when the farmers were sowing crops in the belief it would insure a good crop and harvest.



Queen Victoria also liked agates and some of her jewellery contained agate. Agates are found worldwide and Australia can boast some of the nicest in the world. They come in a great variety and shades of colours with the most interesting being found in quartz-lined cavities. These semi-precious agates are usually found in igneous rock. Later water erosion

can wash them free. Usually transparent, these quartz stones can have a number of minerals in it which will

give them their colour.

As water, which has to contain silica dissolved in it, makes it way through the volcanic rock it can deposit itself in small air bubbles or cavities. As the water dries out and the right conditions exist crystals can form. The sizes of the crystals is governed by how fast or slow the process is – the slower the crystallisation the larger the crystals as is the case with say large amethyst crystals. Agate usually comes from the faster crystallisation process and the agate is formed in layers that generally conform to the cavity's shape. Being a hard stone agates are ideal to polish in a tumbler and will come out if tumbled properly very highly polished. I polished some of my finds in my tumbler at school, the tumbler being made by my father. I recall it would take three or four weeks to finish them by the time I worked through the various grits.

Some agates exhibit branched or fern-like patterns called dendrites and this is known as Dendritic Agate. The branch-like markings are due to manganese oxide or iron that have crystallised in the agate.

There are two specific locations to find agates in Australia and are the most famous areas - around Agate Creek in Queensland and the vicinity around Wave Hill in the Northern Territory as well as other spots. Besides Australia agates can be found in Scotland, United States, Uruguay, China, Tibet, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Italy, India, Egypt and Madagascar of the African coast.



Dendritic agate was appreciated for hundreds of years especially for those who died in the 1700s and early 1800s as they had pieces put in their graves. The famous Russian jeweller Carl Faberge made use of this stone in combination with diamonds and other precious gems.

There are many kinds of agate owing to slight changes in mineral content which effected the colour and the patterns within the rock. Some types of agate are - Moss agate; Carnelian agate, whilst these don't have banding they are yellows, reds, oranges and browns; iris agates have rainbow patterns; Botswana agate; Ribbon agate; Blue lace agate, Picture agates, so called because the pattern resembles something.

SPIRIT IRONS MADE THE JOB EASIER

The spirit iron below is actually part of the Bathurst District Historical Society's collection. On the weekend of BATHEX 2015 Old Government Cottage at 16 Stanley Street is open on Sunday from 12 noon to 4pm, as it is on every Sunday throughout the year. The Bathurst District Historical Society's Museum in Russell Street is open both Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 2pm with a large display pertaining to Bathurst and district's long history. The museum is open from Tuesday to Sunday every week.

The iron was devised for removing creases from fabric with the first 'ironing tools' being smooth heated stones. Later came metal irons that one would put hot coals inside the metal container or the solid metal-cast irons that one put onto the cast iron stove or put near the open fire. The latter were mass produced by many companies in Britain, Europe and America. At one time several would be in every colonial home though in some cases they could have been used up to the 1950s and 1960s if no electricity was available.



Just prior to the spirit irons introduction the gas iron made its appearance. It was very unsafe and accidents were common with women and girls received shocking burns. There were also frequent fires caused by this type. Town gas was concentrated in a cylinder within the iron which then heated up the ironing base plate.

The sprit iron, a typical model is seen above, first appeared in the late 1800s and continued into the 20th century. They were safer than the gas models as well as being of a lighter weight than previous types.

All models featured a heavy base with a polished base plate, a high timber hand grip so that user wouldn't burn their fingers, this being attached by a pair of screws. Then the tank in which the spirit was stored was towards or at the back. All irons had the necessary air cavities between the top and the heavy base of the iron.

Most of the metal fuel tanks featured a hole in the top to fill it up. A metal tube from the bottom of the fuel tank connected it to the iron's base. Usually at the back of the iron was the adjustment screw to control the amount of heat. These models were quick to heat up.

White spirit, turpentine or mineral spirits was used in the spirit irons. One still needed to be careful and not over fill the spirit tank. They were not totally safe as some models could flare up and burn the user.

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NEW GAOL SOON SCENE OF HANGING

Bathurst's Gaol on the Orange Road had not been completed very long when their first hanging at this new penal establishment took place. After a spell of 21 years, the hangman again found gruesome work at the Bathurst Gaol, when, on Wednesday, 29th November, 1893, the execution of Edwin Hubert Glasson took place.



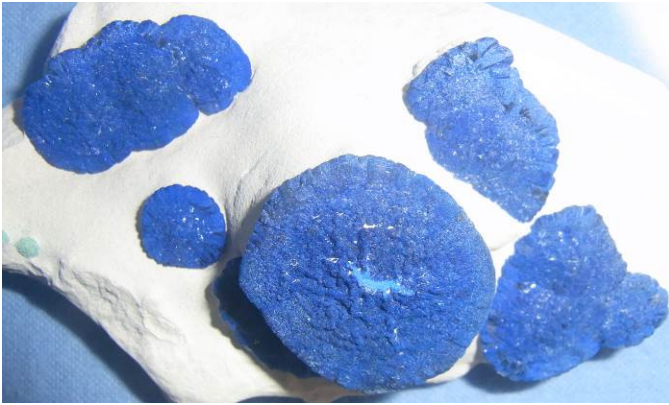
Glasson was known by his acquaintances as 'Handsome Bertie' and was in the heyday of his manhood. At just 27 years of age he was sentenced to death in connection with an incident at Carcoar in which two persons were murdered and the life of a third seriously endangered.

One victim was Mr. John William Phillips, manager of the City Bank, Carcoar, and the other was Miss L. Cavanagh, of Sydney, who was on a visit to the bank manager's wife. Mrs. Phillips was seriously injured, whilst her daughter Gladys, received a severe gash on her forehead and had two of her fingers severed.

The circumstances of the tragedy, at the time, created a deep impression of horror in Bathurst and district, in fact throughout New South Wales. The Bathurst Free Press and Mining Journal along with many other newspapers around the country carried extensive and ongoing stories of the trial as the Bathurst Court proceedings progressed.

Glasson was finally arrested at Cowra, and was subsequently identified by two witnesses who saw him standing over Mrs. Phillips with a tomahawk in his hand. When on scaffold Glasson was pale and calm, and declared his innocence to the last.

BEHIND THE AZURITE SUNS



These magnificent blue azurite suns in the kaolinite matrix are from the underground Malbunka Copper Mine, Areyonga, some 260km west of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. It's run by Dehne McLaughlin, a mineral collector with a wide ranging professional background.

The Malbunka Copper Mine, which contain these crystalline lustrous blue azurite nodules, is worked by Dehne after making an agreement under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 and a Mineral Lease was granted by the Northern Territory Government (ML 29494). A land rental and royalty is paid to the land owners and an annual administration fee to the Central Land Council. Mining commenced in 2009.

The mine was previously named “Namajtira prospect” however, this name was changed by the Western Aranda Malbunka clan and their relevant djungaiyi/kurtungkula (i.e. “managers”) in 2005. The Malbunka land owning clan was never consulted by the initial miners or the government when the name was first assigned to the site.

Under Aboriginal law, no person has the right to impose a clan name from a separate clan area over other clan areas, hence respect for Aboriginal law via the name change was fundamental to commencing the mineral specimen exploration and mining project.

In addition to azurite suns and malachite found in the near pure kaolinite lens, minor azurite, malachite and atacamite is found in brown arkosic sandstone. A siliceous and atacamite rich alteration rim surrounds the kaolin lens containing the azurite. Sulfides and copper oxides were found in a cut 200m behind hill. *Thanks to Dehne McLaughlin for this information.*

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**THE BATHURST LITERARY
& MUSICAL SOCIETY**

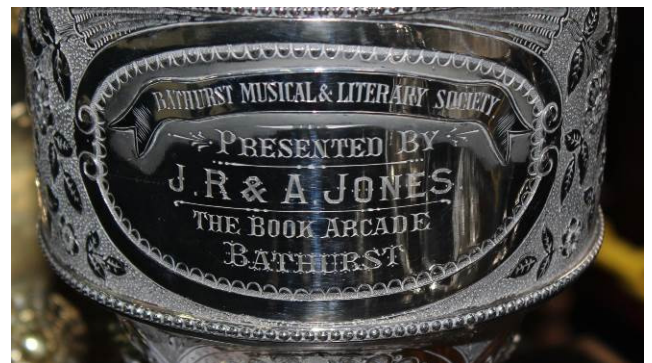
At BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History there will be a number of single items with written history. Whilst this particular item will not be there it gives an idea into the history behind many

collectable items. This silver trophy which was presented by J.R. & A. Jones of "The Book Arcade" in Bathurst. In the 1890s and into the 1900s the Bathurst Musical & Literary Society held a number of competitions on an annual basis. They also organised numerous concerts throughout the year.

By 1899 the competitions in connection with the Musical and Literary Society (also known as an Association) were “*fairly commenced*”. The reputation Bathurst has always held as one of the musical centres of the State was being fully maintained. Bathurst had been accused of being a ‘Sleepy Hollow’ but when the Bathurst people undertook any important venture they did it in earnest and there were no half measures. This had been particularly the case where music was concerned as proved by the successful large band contests and musical competitions which have been held in past years.

In the early days the public always assisted liberally in anything, which had, for its object, the advancement of the city. The gentlemen and ladies who undertook the management of these functions worked harmoniously, thus gaining the confidence and support of the citizens.

The Musical and Literary Association had an almost instant success. They got the idea from similar movements in Newcastle, Sydney, Ballarat and elsewhere. After a successful 1899 competition a few gentlemen met and decided to enter upon an undertaking of much greater magnitude. They offered prizes amounting to between £400 and £500 with one of the trophies donated by the Jones' business.



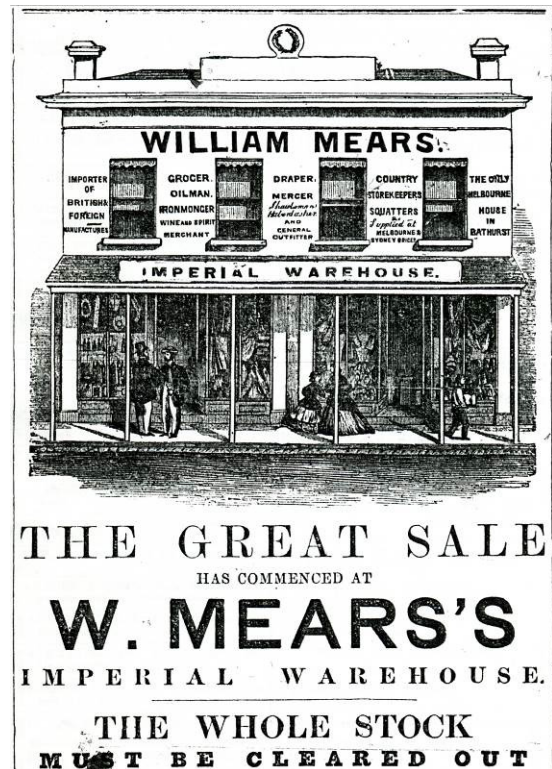
Competitors from all parts of the State took part with events happening at the Show Ground and at the School of Arts in William Street.

There was great interest in musical affairs in Bathurst and a successful Bathurst Eisteddfod took place in September 1899. A report in the Sydney Daily Telegraph stated: - *“For many years this important centre (Bathurst) has enjoyed the reputation of an intelligent interest in music. The disposition for musical recreation has induced many thoroughly capable musicians to take up their residence here, and their presence has been an admirable incentive to the young people, who are learning and adopting the latest and most progressive ideas in music.”*

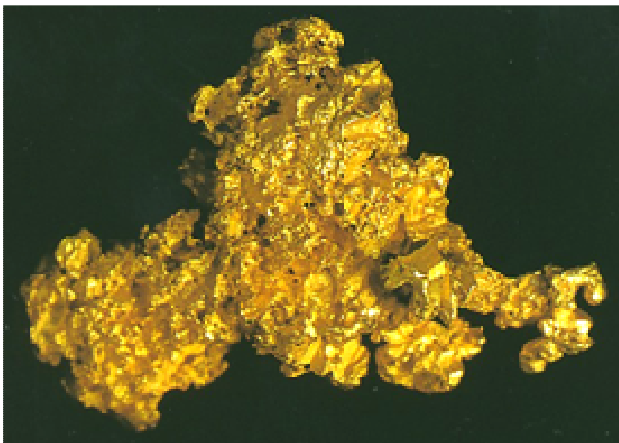
Within a decade, as more gold was found throughout the district, the quantity and quality of shops had dramatically improved and the line of wagons bringing goods from Penrith or going towards Emu Ford and Sydney increased greatly.

The paper stated at the time that the Anglican Cathedral, All Saints', possessed what is acknowledged as one of the finest church organs in the colony. The instrument was built by Foster and Andrews. Mr. T. H. Massey was the cathedral organist and gave concerts monthly. The Catholic Cathedral, S.S. Michael and John, possessed a fine two manual organ. The 25 voice choir under Mr. Dryden, the conductor, also gave choral performances.

The most flourishing musical bodies at the time were Bathurst's two brass bands. The Bathurst District Band, numbering between 25 and 30 members, had been in existence about 12 years. It was built up or reorganised from the late Military Band, which had been considered the 'crack' regimental band. Mr. Sam Lewins was the conductor and under his inspiring baton the band had won first prizes in Sydney, Wollongong, Orange and elsewhere. The City Band, conducted by Mr. A. Gartrell, had also a good record. Both were supported by public subscription and a small subsidy was probably given by the Borough Council.



The discovery of gold in March 1851 would change not only Bathurst but the Southern Colony. Edward Hargraves wrote to the Sydney Morning Herald to announce that 'he' had found payable gold near Bathurst in the Colony of New South Wales. By mid-May some 300 prospectors had arrived to try their luck.

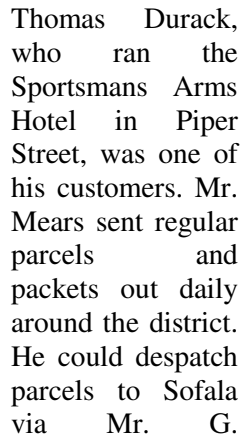


William Mears owned the two storey brick Imperial Warehouse in lower William Street - above. By the 1870s he had a steady clientele and had twenty four staff on his books. He sold groceries, hardware, drapery, mercery, haberdashery and general outfitting, footwear, wines and spirits. William regularly imported goods from foreign manufacturers for his store. He had placed an advertisement in the 1872 Postal Directory. With the discovery of new goldfields at Hill End in the early 1870s, Mr. Mears decided to open a store in that village.

On 2nd August, 1872, William Mears placed an advertisement in the local newspaper under ‘NOTICE’ – “All persons indebted to W. Mears’s Imperial Warehouse, Bathurst, are requested to pay their account without delay. All old outstanding accounts must be settled by the end of the month to save further trouble.”

William Mears had decided to sell up and vacate his premises in both Bathurst and Hill End. He intended to offer the buildings vacant for rent by 1st January,

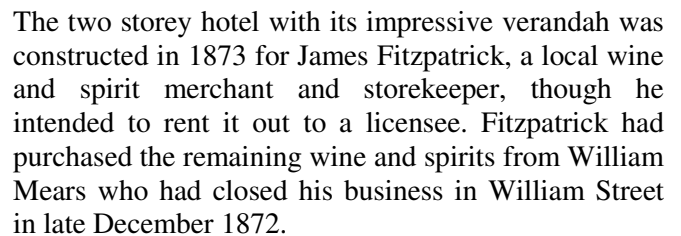
Despite his reluctance, the Governor officially declared the gold discovery on the 22nd May, 1851, and within weeks there were thousands flocking to the



A sepia-toned photograph of a large, two-story commercial building, identified by a sign above its entrance as the "J.W. MEARS IMPERIAL WAREHOUSE". The building features a balcony on the upper floor and a large, open ground-floor entrance. To the left of the main entrance, a smaller sign reads "OLIVER & SONS HARNESS MAKER". In the foreground, several horse-drawn wagons are parked on a dirt street. One wagon in the immediate foreground is heavily loaded with sacks or burlap bags. Other wagons, some with horses attached, are visible further back near the warehouse entrance. The overall scene depicts a busy commercial hub from the late 19th or early 20th century.

By the end of November in the Bathurst Free Press he was still advertising "The Great Sale" - The whole of his stock, including the large consignments, lately arrived per the "Duke of Sutherland", "Dorothy" and "Ben Lomond" are now offered at "English cost", the proprietors have determined to relinquish business at the end of the year. Mr. Mears invited the attention of squatters, hotelkeepers, miners and families should not miss the opportunity of making a purchase which is seldom offered.

The well-known Oxford Hotel and its surroundings on the corner of William and Piper Street has changed somewhat since this photo was taken some 70 or so years ago.



This was a bad time in Australia as a moderate recession had begun to hit every aspect of business in Australia. Then between 1890 and 1893 a severe economic depression caused the closure and collapse of many of the Colonial banks in Australia. The Commercial Bank of Australia, which was one of our nation's larger banks at the time, suspended operations in April 1893.

As times got harder the culmination came in 1893 to sell up. An advertisement (next page) appeared in the Bathurst Times on 22nd October, 1893, for Mrs Read's Oxford Hotel "*under the distress for rent.*" Thomas Durack, a popular Bathurst Auctioneer had been instructed to sell the "*License, Goodwill, Stock-in-Trade, Furniture and Effects*" on 31st October at 11am with everything to be sold 'without reserve'.

Beside the Saltram Creek was a millrace on the Kellosiel side and in flood time this made a second stream quite as strong and deep as the river itself. Between these two streams the old folks were hemmed in, and as the waters continued to rise, it was evident that in a short time there would be but one stream, which would sweep before it the frail cottage and its occupants.

Mr. George Ranken, accompanied by his son, Mr. James (then a lad of 17), planned a rescue. On the further bank of the millrace stream stood a huge and solitary swamp oak, between it and the cottage there lay a hundred yards or so of water, but without much current. Mr. Ranken saw that if a rope could be fixed to this tree, the work of rescue would be comparatively easy.

A man in his employment of the name of Hollandsworth volunteered to swim the current, and, with a rope tied round his waist, plunged into the seething waters. Strong man as he was, the stream was too much for him, and shortly he gave up and went under. Willing hands quickly dragged him ashore more dead than alive, and he died three days later.

Left - 1855 painting of Ranken's Bridge by John Ryan.

After young
Hollandsworth's
attempt no one
seemed anxious to
volunteer, so Mr.
Ranken tied the rope
round his own body
and essayed the
raging current. After
a hard struggle, he

reached the tree, fixed the rope to it, and, partly wading, partly swimming, in the quieter waters, reached the cottage. He found his old nurse sitting on a bed, with a candle in one hand (busy with her prayers) and a quart-pot in the other, bailing the water out of the window. Both were landed safely, the only mishap being that the old man, in his transit, went under once or twice and swallowed more water than he cared for.

[illegible]

Mrs. Read, like thousands of small and large investors, was not able to pay her overdraft and interest. Eliza Read was ruined. Mr. Martin Lawler picked himself up a bargain and took over the licence, running the Oxford Hotel until 1898.

Despite the Fitzgerald family owning the Oxford Hotel it was James Fitzpatrick, the first in the family to operate the business from 1901 to 1910. It was sold sometime after this and is still operating today.

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MISHAPS NEAR RANKEN'S FIRST BRIDGE

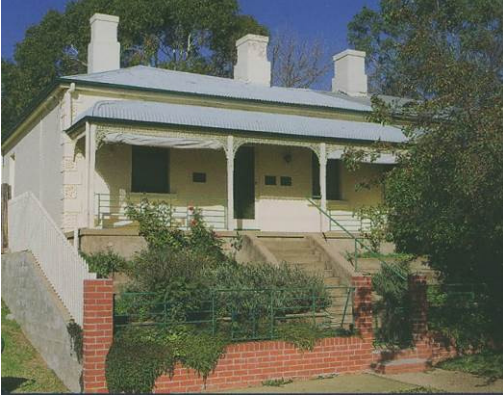
The most ardent admirers of the City of the Plains can hardly claim to-day that the river, in the vicinity of the town, is a thing of beauty. In the 1830S however, and for long after, fringes of the fine swamp oaks on both banks gave it a charm. The trees disappeared in time through the encroachments of the river, but not before they had been sadly disfigured by the ravages of soldiers and citizens, who tore down the branches to provide themselves with cheap and effective brooms.

Long after most of them had disappeared a huge one stood almost in the middle of the river all by itself. During a flood a young clerk attempted to cross the stream on horseback. The horse was swept off his feet and drowned, and the youth with difficulty reached the tree, where he put in the greater part of a night and day before he was discovered and rescued. In great floods, the Vale Creek and river, between them, shut the



Left - 1855 painting of Ranken's Bridge by John Ryan.

PLACES & ATTRACTIONS TO VISIT - BEN CHIFLEY HOME



The Chifley home is a monument to Ben Chifley who was known as ‘the man of the people’. Located in Bathurst, at 10 Busby Street, the house reveals the domestic life of a person who rose from humble beginnings as an engine driver on the N.S.W. Government Railways to the nation’s most important political office during the critical period of post-World War II reconstruction. He represents the ‘Aussie Battler’ and the will to succeed.

Chifley became Prime Minister in 1945 and embarked on an ambitious program which shaped post-war Australia with increased immigration, improved social welfare and promoted industrial and scientific development. Accomplishments included the Snowy Mountains Scheme and the Holden motor car.

The house remained Ben's quiet retreat during his years in parliament. Today, the five roomed house contains the original furnishings and many personal effects of Ben and Elizabeth Chifley as well as significant memorabilia of the Chifley era.

A path has been constructed next to the house enabling disabled access and to offer a self-guided, sign posted tour of the house outside of opening hours. **Themed tours** operate on Saturday, Sunday and Monday at 10am and 12 noon. For further information contact Bathurst Visitor Information Centre on 1800 681 000.

[illegible]

DID YOU KNOW?

There were over 80 hotels and inns in Bathurst when Ben Hall and his mates rode into Bathurst in October 1863.

In 1863 there were around 700 houses already built in Bathurst though there were a number that were unoccupied.

John Bayliss, who took possession of his land grant near Bathurst on Gormans Hill Road in 1831, waited till 1840 before it was finalised by Governor Gipps. The 108 acres became known as ‘John’s Farm’ and in 1842 the farm was mortgaged to secure a loan with William Lawson for £100 to build the first part of his brick home. Some time before John Vane took up with

Ben Hall he reputedly carted the foundation stones for this house (which still exists).

Henry Keightley, Gold Commissioner, and held up by the Hall Gang, bred pigs as a hobby at Dunn's Plains near Rockley.

When Bathurst needed a bank, residents met on Wednesday 10th September, 1834, at Mrs. Dillon's Golden Fleece Inn at Kelso. From this meeting plans were devised and the Bathurst Bank ran from 1835 to 1840 until it had to close due to lack of enough coins.

Richard Young Cousins was elected the first Mayor of Bathurst by other Councillors in 1863. He had settled in Kelso in 1840 after sailing out from Wiltshire in England.

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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 or earlier issues just email amcrae@lisp.com.au



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

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