



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 6 – January 2015

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Welcome to Issue 6, the first e-newsletter for 2015 and I trust everyone has had a most pleasant Christmas and New Year with family, relations and friends.

If you have only just received your first copy of this newsletter you can request earlier issues. There are now so many activities going on that they will come thick and fast, but what a year it will be.

The search is on for Bathurst's **Living Legends** and you will need to get cracking if you would like to enter yourself or somebody. This is your chance to recognise one of those many individuals in the Bathurst Regional Council area which for many years they will have contributed to making Bathurst a great place to live and visit.

The title, **Living Legend**, recognises the achievements of individuals and the way they have contributed positively to the local community. They could be proven leaders amongst their peers or may possess a drive to promote the positive qualities of council, the community and local businesses.

An individual will be considered for the **Living Legend** list if they currently live within the Bathurst Regional Council area. Council would expect that they possess a drive to promote the positive qualities of our City, its people and experiences. Successful applicants will be published to honour our 200 years since being proclaimed as a town. They will also be acknowledged during a community ceremony.

Nominate your Living Legends and thank them for their contribution to the City in which we live! You will need a nomination form at <http://bathurst200.com.au/images/documents/LivingLegendsNomination3Oct.pdf> Then email your entry to rick.foster@bathurst.nsw.gov.au



Opening of Bathurst Public School Infants Department

The Bathurst Public School P&C are organising a "Back to Bathurst Public School Weekend" on 23rd and 24th May this year as part of the 2015 celebrations. The event will include a gala dinner on the Saturday night and an Open Day Fair on Sunday. Whilst the Fair will have all the fun of a fete it will also include school tours and a photographic exhibition called "Inkpots to ipads". The photo exhibition will tell the story of schooling over the years at Bathurst Public School in upper George Street. Currently organisers are collecting memories and photographs from past students, staff and the general public. Your assistance with any photographs, memorabilia or history of the school would be invaluable. It would be greatly appreciated if you could boost the school archives (which are very poor) with some additional photographs from your own collection.



Bathurst Public School – Class 4V – 1939

Contact Deborah for more information or if you have photos or school memorabilia on 63376746 or 0499977788 or email backtobps@outlook.com

One Bathurst 200 Anniversary feature event this year will be the six month long **Illumination** project which will see the stories of Bathurst projected onto a number of central buildings. It will encompass the use of equipment never before experienced in Bathurst.

Bicentenary Celebrations Committee Chairman and Mayor, Gary Rush said the **Illumination** would be an exciting community activity that will also bring new visitors to our region in 2015.



The **premiere of Illumination** will take place on Proclamation Day Thursday 7th May and a street celebration will be held on the Saturday evening 9th May from 5pm for people to gather in the CBD, which includes the Town Square, and experience the Bicentenary story telling with great food, entertainment and activities. Be sure to add the **Illumination** event to your Bathurst 200 calendar as this will definitely be one of the highlights.

The content will be refreshed during the year with two changes in the calendar bringing fresh vision to enjoy and encourage people to return to Bathurst. The change of content is scheduled for mid-winter and the October race period and themed outdoor festivals will also be held to celebrate the new stories. There will also be an App that will guide people through the **Illumination** and tell the story of Bathurst. Guided walking tours will also feature.



Balmain Bowlers visiting Bathurst in March 1908

A week long photographic display to be known as **“Snapshots in Time”** incorporating the **“Wall of Valour”** (the latter honouring 100 servicemen of Bathurst) will take place from 11th to 17th May this year in the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre (BMEC). It will tell some of the many stories in pictures of the evolution of Bathurst including those of our city’s servicemen and women.

The Bathurst District Historical Society **Snapshots In Time** exhibition committee and organisers have launched a Facebook page to communicate updates and additions to this exciting Bathurst Bicentenary project. The comprehensive display of images will be the largest of its type ever held in Bathurst.

The photographs will be a combination of Bathurst District Historical Society archival photo and contributions from the local community. There will also be moving pictures with local videographer Bruce Ryan developing a show reel of Bathurst and its

celebrations through the ages so be sure to visit the **Snapshots In Time Facebook page and like the page** – it’s a simple way to keep in touch with this event as it happens.

Another feature of the **Snapshots in Time** photo exhibition will be a display of artefacts along with their associated photograph, some of which go back to the 1860s.

Local artist, Dean Mobbs has contributed one of his original paintings of Bathurst’s historical locations that will be raffled and drawn at the exhibition so be sure to purchase a ticket. Tickets are already available at the Bathurst District Historical Society Museum in Russel Street each day except Monday between 11am at 3pm.



School of Arts and The City Theatre in the 1950s.

This year marks the 200th anniversary since Governor Macquarie proclaimed the town of Bathurst. Be sure to visit www.bathursthistory.org.au for more information as well as visit www.bathurst200.com.au for other Bathurst 200 celebrations and events.



The Redcoats will be coming on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th March with the **“Rebellion on the Turon”** being held at Sofala where gold was discovered in 1851. Why not join with the residents of the Turon Gold Fields and the New South Wales Corp of Marines in a weekend of colonial re-enactments, activities, colonial displays, market

stalls, duals, old trades and the fashions of the 1800s. There is also a junior gold hunt.

Saturday goes from 9.30 am when the cannon is rolled into position for its firing at 10am until the closing shots are fired at 4 pm and on Sunday 10am to 3pm. Note - both days start and finish with firing of the 1820s canon (cannonade). The re-enactment of the **“Rebellion on the Turon”** with the Turon Diggers uprising against the gold licensing fee and march on the Police Barracks will occur on Sunday at 1pm and

you could be part of that. Cost: free if you can avoid the lady bush ranger who is after your gold (coin donation) and the Redcoats who will pester you to take out a gold license. Be sure to add this event to your 2015 Calendar. For more information contact Carlo on 63377587 or email carlo_j_2000@yahoo.com.au

Whilst you are visiting the impressive **Reflections – 200 Years of Women's Fashion** exhibition (2nd to 9th May) and the fascinating **Snapshots in Time photo exhibition** (11th to 17th May) both of which will be located in the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre (BMEC) be sure to visit upstairs to see the Dean Mobbs visual art exhibition **A Place In Time - Buildings of Bathurst In Colour**. This event offers the commemoration celebrations of Bathurst in this 200th year and an opportunity to engage with a visual art exhibition detailing the unique heritage, architecture, individuality and colourful perspective of the buildings and places that have been, and still are, frequented within the region.

The architecture of the region is and has always been very dynamic and vibrant. Through colourisation in a photographic form, the exhibition allows for development of understanding by engaging in a dialogue of time and change in relation to the 'home' we call Bathurst.

This **A Place In Time - Buildings of Bathurst In Colour** exhibition will increase the knowledge of the viewer in relation to the many and varied monuments associated with the area, more particularly the buildings of Bathurst that offer a unique emotional response by the artist and the viewer.

The Bead and Wirecraft Guild Inc. are paying their respects to women of the past, with **Reflections - 200 Years of Women's Fashion**. With the support of the Bathurst District Historical Society, vintage garments and accessories will be a feature of the display at Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre for the Bicentenary celebrations from 2nd to 9th May.



Garments dating back to 1815 are complete with undergarments, bustles and the history of the women who wore them. Hand sewn fashions from France, England and Europe. Visitors will follow through the years of changes in women's fashion of fabric, style, weight and techniques, a visual fair for all ages.

Work is still in progress documenting and photographing garments offered by our community. Organisers are grateful to our seniors for preserving

garments and family history, also to our younger generation of skilled designers and collectors for their involvement and generosity.



For further information about Reflections – 200 Years of Women's Fashion exhibition contact Judith Attard (02) 63371705 or 0403730651 E: leoatt@skymesh.com.au or Elaine Holland P: (02) 63373661 or 0407070743 E: deholland43@gmail.com

Bathurst's Best Beards competition is already attracting entries. Why not shoot an email through to bathurstbeards@rsajss.com.au with a photo of your beard-ly visage in all its glory, plus your name, to enter the competition. All entries will appear on the Bathurst Best Beard's Facebook page. The beard with the MOST LIKES by the 29th of March 2015 wins an amazing prize, out of the seven highest LIKES that go through to final judging. The Beard of the Week will appear in the Western Advocate until judging.

Check out the incredible categories, judged by an all-girl panel in the various **Bathurst's Best Beards** categories – Best Ginger, Best Grey, Longest, Grooviest, Best Designer Beard, Funniest, Bushiest and Best Short Beard.

The 8 beards judged best overall go through as finalists, along with the 7 highest Facebook likes. All **Bathurst's Best Beards** 15 finalists will then find as many beard sponsors as they can to raise much dollars for the 2015 2BS Bathurst Lions Club Christmas Miracle Appeal.

All 15 finalists will be judged at the **Illumination & Street Festival** in King's Parade on Saturday 9th May, this year, including Bathurst's Best Beard, People's Choice and Most money raised.

Remember to pass this e-newsletter to someone else who may be interested.

Alan McRae, FAIHA, Secretary Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables & Lapidary Club Inc. & President, Bathurst District Historical Society.



Various animals represent a number of Wiradjuri clans with the local one around the Bathurst region being the tree goanna.



It was the early Europeans that called the goannas Australian ‘monitor lizards’ whilst the Wiradjuri called theirs Girrawaa (pronounced girr a wa). These monitor lizards or goannas can be found throughout many parts of Australia especially in outback areas where they have adapted to their differing habitats.

Over twenty species have been identified though to the untrained eye many look similar. Some species are the lace monitor or goanna (*Varanus varius*) and Gould's goanna (*Varanus gouldii*). The biggest difference is how large each grows, with some fully grown ones as small as 18 cm, this short-tailed monitor being the smallest whilst the largest monitor lizard is called the 'Perentie' and is longer than the height of a tall man. They enjoy basking in the sun.

When cornered the goanna resorts to using the loose skin on its neck to make it look larger than its normal size head. When threatened the goanna puffs up its neck flaps to give their foe the appearance that they look extra dangerous. Goannas can rear up on their hind legs to listen or run, being able to run very fast over short distances. The goanna seen in my drawing

When breeding they often will dig a burrow to lay their five or so eggs. When born, the bigger goanna varieties young, are about 25cm long. Goannas were a favourite food of the original indigenous inhabitants of Australia which were cooked by burying it under hot ashes. Once it is cooked the koories will eat the goanna lizard.

Strangers identified each other by their totem allowing one to know who was a friendly person and who may not be. Men would not knowingly kill or hurt a person of his totem. Traditionally kooris of the same totem could not marry each other however since families were put into missions they now follow family names as to who they can marry.

00

This green one shilling postage stamp was issued in 1936 to mark one hundred years since South Australia was proclaimed by the Governor, John Hindmarsh, on 28th December, 1836, by the Old Gum (proclamation)

Tree at Glenelg. Colonel William Light chose the site on which Adelaide would be laid out beside the River Torrens. He then set about completing the survey for this town with its one acre allotments.

In 1872 Adelaide's General Post Office was opened and in the same year Adelaide became the first Australian capital linked to London with completion of the Overland Telegraph. In 1901 Adelaide became a state capital upon the establishment of the Commonwealth of Australia on 1st January. The 1936 Centenary of South Australia stamps were issued during the final year of King George V's reign (1913-1936). This last commemorative of his reign consisted of a set of three stamps – the 2d carmine, 3d blue and 1/- green, seen here. Ironically the 2d carmine has three varieties that are worth some money.

The Australian Post Office commonly issues commemorative stamps which commemorate a place, person or event. Definitive stamps on the other hand are characterised by the fact they are issued for an indefinite period and for specific usage.

WILLIAM COX – THE ROADBUILDER

The life of William Cox is certainly enjoying more attention as Bathurst celebrates its 200th Anniversary this year. He is remembered for the construction of the road from Emu Ford to Bathurst constructed in 1814 and early 1815. Considered by a majority as an enormous feat the construction of the 101½ mile long road was achieved in just six months.



William Cox was an Englishman born in Wimborne in Dorset. His father, Robert Cox, was a master mariner and his mother Jenny would have been very proud when he was born on 19th December, 1764. William received a local education before being

apprenticed to his older brother to learn the clock making trade.

With France descending into turmoil after King Louis XVI was executed by guillotine in the Place de la Revolution in Paris on 21st January, 1793, by the French National Convention, the British mobilised militia units after France declared war. William Cox joined the militia and later joined the regular army in mid 1795. Some six months later he transferred to the 68th Regiment and was later promoted to Lieutenant.

On 30th September, 1797, his life was about to change – he transferred to the N.S.W. Corps. Some months later he was promoted to paymaster. Cox's family boarded the ship 'Minerva' for their voyage south. On board the 'Minerva' were convicted Irishmen who took part in the unsuccessful 1798 rebellion. The Cox family arrived in Sydney on 11th January, 1800. Within weeks Cox bought a farm and installed one of the Irish convicts to manage it. Soon after he bought merino sheep and some more land.

William continued his job as paymaster until he declared himself bankrupt and was duly dismissed from the N.S.W. Corps after he had returned to England. He returned to N.S.W. in 1810 to re-join his family becoming a Magistrate at the Hawkesbury, being appointed by Governor Macquarie soon after. Again he began obtaining more land and livestock. Cox also took on paid 'jobs' for the Government, both building and road-making projects.

It may be of interest to note that Bathurst's Major-General Stewart who later received a substantial land grant just out of Bathurst and retired here, had once been part of the 68th Regiment though he didn't join the N.S.W. Corps.

Thus it probably wasn't that unusual that Governor Macquarie decided on William Cox to build the road over the Blue Mountains. This story began in 1813 after Gregory Blaxland, Lieut William Lawson and

William C. Wentworth luckily found a route to traverse this hitherto impenetrable barrier. After receiving a promising report Macquarie despatched the deputy surveyor-general, George William Evans to go back over the route and then go further and survey it.

Macquarie had already sought permission from England to name the new land 'Westmoreland' and added his intention to have a road built.

Cox was known as a good organiser and had actually made it known to the Governor that he was willing to take on the assignment. What would become quite amazing was that the road was constructed by a small party of 30 convicts who were not intimidated or bullied and they selected to join. They did have an aim that they would receive a pardon after the road was completed. Eight soldiers accompanied the venture.

Records and diaries which are still available give an interesting insight into who was in the working party and what the men were given and ate. The Government would provide tools, slops (clothing consisting of canvas or calico trousers, shirts made of striped cotton and grey coloured woollen jacket), shoes or boots, rations and other provisions but as the records show William Cox would supplement the rations and more.



Macquarie instructed that the road be 12 feet wide to allow for two carts to pass with the vegetation to be cleared for 20 feet. All stumps were to be grubbed and holes filled in as they went and any bridges were to be 12 feet wide also. The Governor also

asked for progress reports. Cox began planning almost immediately and wrote up details in his diary.

The road party, whose real number may never be known, had various jobs such as sawyers, carpenters, blacksmith, quarryman, labourers, bootmaker, but more of a repairer and others supplied horse and carts.



Research by the late Theo Barker and others have listed many names and include: - Thomas Hobby – Assistant to Cox, Richard Lewin – Chief Superintendent, John Tighe, James Watson – leader of the roadmakers, James Dwyer – leader of the fire-making gang, Thomas Gorman – in charge of stores,

The labourers included Thomas Adams, John Allen, William Appledore, Samuel Crook, Samuel Davis, John Finch, Patrick Hanraghan, Stephen Hockey, James Kelly, Thomas Kendal, William Lawrence, John Manning, James McCarthy, Patrick Merrian (this man's name is Kernan in Cox's journal), Henry Morton, Stephen Parker, Thomas Roddocks, John Ross, Smith, Harry Sullivan, John Tindall and Thomas Watkins. There was a Samuel Ayres who was Cox's servant and there were others in Cox's journal and other documents.

There were also the military soldiers – Sgt Bounds, Sgt Minehan, Cpl Harris and Privates Ashford, Carrol, Clarke and more. Two Aboriginal helpers from the Sydney area are also mentioned, they were Joe and Coley.



Others were involved in supplying the road building party carrying such things as picks, pickaxes, shovels, pit saws, grub hoes, crowbars, levers, sledge hammers, augers, blocks and tackle, broad axes, other tools, gunpowder, bars of iron and steel, coils wire, casks of salted pork, fresh meat, salt meat, oatmeal, casks of flour, bread, hard biscuits, split peas, barley, potatoes, corn, cabbages, bags of salt, tea, cocoa, sugar, casks vinegar, kegs of rum, tobacco, maize, letters, despatches to and from Macquarie, ammunition, shoemaker's thread and awls, candles, harness and more which we will never know about.

ooooooooooooOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOoooooooooooooooo

BATHURST DRESSMAKER'S SHOPS AROUND THE GOLD RUSH

Sewing for many was, in many ways, the ultimate sign of femininity. It was sedentary and passive, and it was traditionally done by women only for the care and maintenance of the family and the family home. In the literature and newspapers of the time the needle itself frequently stood for women's status in the household. One could even say that it could be considered a dominant reminder of caring commitment and domestic bliss. Sewing was just taken for granted during Queen Victoria's era so it was natural for some women who were good with the needle to take up millinery and dressmaking as a business.

The discovery of payable gold at Bathurst was brought to light on the 8th May, 1851, when Edward Hargraves held a public meeting in Bathurst to announce his discovery of gold (actually found by John Lister and William Tom.) On Thursday, 8th May, Hargraves invited some gentlemen to meet him at Mr Arthur's Carrier's Arms Hotel in William Street in Bathurst where he announced his amazing find.

Another burst to the gold fever came two months later when Dr. W.J. Kerr rode in to Bathurst to deposit gold weighing 102 pounds 9 ounces 5 pennyweights in the Union Bank in William Street. Here, it was weighed by the manager, David Kennedy, in the presence of W.H. Suttor and T.J. Hawkins. The news sent the town wild with many heading out to seek their fortune.

Whilst it was sometimes difficult to get a shop built for a time or readily find employees, shops slowly increased in numbers with more people and money around. Every town and city had milliners and dressmaking businesses which were usually established by middle-class women and Bathurst was no exception. Often they opened the businesses to support themselves though there is no golden rule here.

Others came from families who had the money to finance the young lady who would undertake an apprenticeship to learn all about the trade. There were others who had already done an apprenticeship in Britain before immigrating to the colony of New South Wales. Becoming a 'professional' milliner and dressmaker by apprenticeship was part of a long established apprenticeship system in Britain. Ironically in those days it would have been just one of a limited few occupations to learn skills under such a system available for women. Dressmaking, or being a needlewoman, was considered one of few respectable occupations for young women.



One of the early women to establish themselves was Miss J. Treenerry. She had sailed from Great Britain and had recently arrived in Bathurst early in 1854 to establish her millinery and dressmaking business in a rented room of an inn in Piper Street. The Bathurst Free press announced that she had opened her new dressmaking shop on 24th March, 1854. The premises was owned by John De Clouet who had leased the rest

of the inn to James Caulfield and was trading under the sign "Sportsman's Arms Inn" – previous page.

Another lady, Miss McDonald, also decided to commence her dressmaking business in Durham Street, opposite Evans' buildings. Obviously she had had some training prior to arriving in Bathurst as she included millinery and cleaning straw bonnets services at her establishment which she opened for business on 19th April, 1855.

Another well respected dressmaker and mantle maker was Mrs Grimwood who opened her store originally in Bentinck Street in 1857. She employed at least two women to assist. Within a couple of years her premises became too small and she moved to more commodious premises in Piper Street, next to John De Clouet's Sportsman's Arms Inn in early 1860. Her business was even more successful and she began to sell drapery items as well to the general public. By March 1879 Mrs Grimwood's dress making business known as Diamond House which was by this time in an even larger building in upper George Street.



Mrs Grimwood (left – in later life) also advertised that she was a mantlemaker. Mantles were popular during the Victorian age and was a cape-like jacket which the ladies wore when they went out, especially in winter in Bathurst. The makers of mantles were considered very skilled and a specialist as the maker was often judged to be a bit like being a tailor. Many younger ladies often

preferred their mantles to be fitted at the waist and fall over their crinoline. Generally the garments were marginally longer at the back than the front. These mantles kept the lady's upper body warm as it was normally lighter clad than the lower portion with its many petticoats and the dress. Mrs. Grimwood had a reputation for making beautiful mantles made of satin material.

In May 1859 Miss Rivett opened her dress and milliner shop near to the Victoria Hotel in Russell Street. Around the same time Mrs Penson, having come from Edinburgh, Scotland, and now residing in Bathurst, was planning to open her own business. In June 1859 the Bathurst Free Press advised the ladies of Bathurst that Mrs. Penson had commenced business as a milliner and dressmaker. She had rented premises opposite Mr. Rae's timber yard which was situated in Bentinck Street. By December 1859 Mrs. Penson had decided to remove her business to Mr. Hoolahan's new house in Russell Street, near to Rankin Street.

Obviously there was money to be made as Mrs. Walker and Miss Davis commenced their business on 27th July, 1860, to offer millinery and dressmaking services in their premises in Howick Street. Their making of hats and bonnets quickly gained them a favourable reputation about Bathurst. They would accept gold as payment as did many other businesses in Bathurst at that time. In November 1862 Mrs. A.M. Dillon opened her dress and mantle making business in commodious premises in Bentinck Street, opposite Mr. McKenley's, having previously carried out dressmaking from her own home. As a dressmaker

Mrs. Dillon made women's clothing which was made to order.



Whilst the majority of us just take the fashions of these times as interesting clothing to be looked at and admired, it did come without their problems as the local Bathurst newspapers attest. The wide steel-hooped petticoats could obviously be quite dangerous if worn when preparing meals over open fireplaces. Their design did not

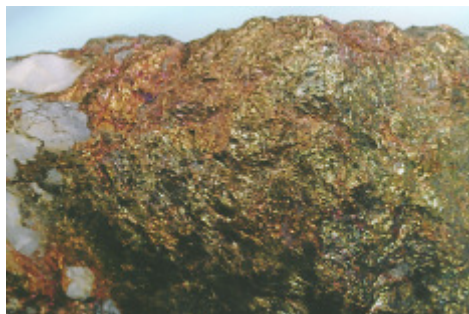
help as it allowed air to get to the flames if they caught fire. In 1861 a victim was rolled in a blanket in an attempt to smother the flames but to no avail and the woman had to just stand and scream as water was thrown over her.

This setback for women wearing crinoline or other wide dresses when preparing family meals over naked flames soon became known. The issue of women being more liable to accidents by fire distressed Queen Victoria so much that she abandoned "that truly absurd, indelicate and dangerous fashion" for that reason in the early 1860s.

On 2nd July, 1869, another young lady, Mary Dawson, who was residing with her parents at Kelso suffered the same fate when her dress caught on fire. Mary was severely burnt and died as a result of her injuries. In early January 1874 the Sydney Morning Herald reported that a young woman named Tutton, who resided in Seymour Street, was severely burned when her dress caught on fire.

There is another horrific story of a woman's dress catching on fire on Christmas Eve when a group who had sung carols and were handing out Christmas gifts to the young ladies in attendance, caught alight from the candles on the Christmas tree.

Chalcopyrite is a mineral known as iron copper sulphide or copper pyrite and as it turns out is extremely common in the crust of our Earth. It has many a time been confused with gold, thus it is also known as ‘fool’s gold’ depending on how much colour it is showing. Ironically enough it is often associated with gold deposits. Some even refer to it as ‘yellow pyrite’ whilst most of us just call it ‘peacock ore’.



Its name comes from the Greek word “chalkos” for copper and “pyr” or “pyrites” which meant “strike fire”. Early man could use this mineral to light their fires in their caves. It was also used in early firearms devices as part of the firing system.

In the 1700s, one assumes due to its high content of copper as well as its yellowish and sometimes brassy looking colour, it was known as “yellow copper”, even more so if it was found near native copper, though this is rarely the case. Unfortunately, as we soon find out that when we break up iridescent specimens of chalcopyrite and expose them to the air, chalcopyrites will tarnish and oxidise fairly quickly giving it sometimes a greenish to purplish look about it and later not much colour at all depending on how and with what it is stored. These specimens can form a number of oxides, hydroxides as well as sulphates.

Deposits of chalcopyrite are generally very large though they may also be found within veins as it is in Broken Hill. Nice specimens have also been occasionally found by coal miners where specimens are associated with pyrite nodules. As one of the copper ores its yield is rather low however as it is usually located commonly in massive quantities it can be mined as such. Depending on the price of copper it now is an important source of the world's copper.

Chalcopyrite forms crystals with a tetragonal form. Miners associate chalcopyrite with other minerals such as pyrite, calcite, quartz, fluorite etc. where it is found in countries such as Canada, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Australia, South Africa as well as in America. It is also found at Kambalda in Western Australia with nice specimens of chalcopyrite which came from the Poona Mine (part of the Moonta Mines group) and can often contain gold. Nice iridescent crystalline specimens on dolomite and quartz have been extracted from Tasmania's Mount Lyell mines near Queenstown. This extremely common mineral is quite brittle and

Interesting mineral specimens such as this will be both on display and for sale at the **BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History** which will be taking place on 26th and 27th September, this year, at the Bathurst Showground.

ABORIGINAL BREAST PLATES OR GORGETS OF THE BATHURST DISTRICT

One item from our nation's Colonial history, as well as Aboriginal history, is an item known as an Aboriginal breast plate. They are also known as gorgets, king plates, or brassplates. Breast plates that were given to "a king" are known as "King plates" which were usually treasured by their owners and were often handed around to show visitors to the tribe. Many of the plates date back to the pre-1860s, though there are examples that are known to have been presented as late as 1930 in Queensland.

The breast plates, as the name suggests, were worn on the chest by means of a chain or leather thong and there has even been one found with the sinew from a kangaroo's tail tied to it. They were issued by early pioneers, landowners, politicians and the Government of the day.

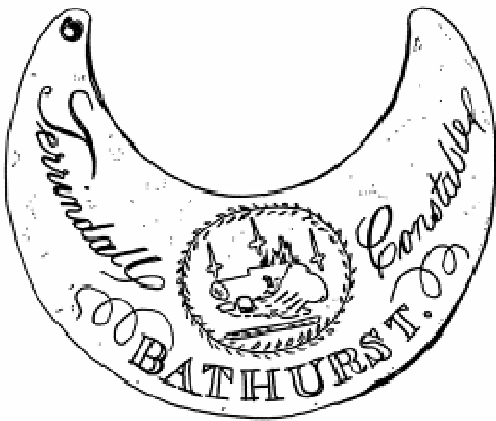
Aborigines were presented with the breast plates for various reasons and could include recognition that a man was acknowledged as the chief of the tribe, elders of the tribe, was a friendly aboriginal, as a reward for services rendered such as a black tracker when prisoners or criminals escaped or looking for a lost person. The Aboriginal skill of tracking was an early acknowledged fact.



These Aboriginal breast plates were made from various metals, the most common ones being made of brass, though some are made from copper or bronze. One fine example that exists has been made from silver. The blank shapes were produced either by sand casting or sawn plates. The sawn plates were then passed through a rolling mill to flatten them out

properly with circular, oval, rectangular and even shield shapes known. The shape was not uniform although it appears that the crescent shape was the preferred shape.

The recipient's name was usually engraved onto the plate as well as their 'title' and sometimes a location such as the Wiradjuri "JACOB - KING OF BATHURST" plate on the previous page. Few plates are dated, so it is difficult to determine an exact date. Invariably some other picture or design is also featured on them, or at least some scroll work. Added pictures may include emus (the emu was introduced to the English public by crude engravings in Arthur Phillips journal of 1789 and were a novelty to many an Englishmen, though the emus on some breastplates look more like flamingos), kangaroos, scenes of native bush, aborigines using spears, clubs and flintlocks or the family crest of those who issued the breast plate, such as the Wiradjuri "Terrindall Constable - Bathurst" plate with family crest consisting of a boars head and three daggers - below. Small leafy branches or foliage were commonly used as decoration on many plates.



Early plates are crudely manufactured which were usually engraved by local tradesmen. The wording was generally simple, with block, roman or copperplate lettering being employed. As more and more gorgets were being presented and the market grew and blank plates began to be mass-produced with several companies in England and Australia selling them. Eventually there were over twenty breastplate manufacturers. Some of the manufacturers include: - F. Lassetter and Company; John Sly - jewellers, Sydney; H.C. Jervis - Sydney; Flavelle and Roberts (later to become Fairfax and Roberts) and F. Robinson, both of George Street in Sydney; W. Tocknell - Melbourne; Ferguson and Company of Brisbane and Hughes and Kimber of London. Many remaining Aboriginal breast plates show great signs of wear so it is obvious that they were worn often and were a treasured possession by most of those who received them.

The idea of the breast plates was probably based on the military gorgets used in the British Army so the idea of using the gorgets by the world powers was not new.

They had been given to the Indian leaders and warriors in America by both the British and the French.



The oldest known Aboriginal gorget or breast plate presented in Australia was dated 1815. They were made for Governor Macquarie and presented to King Bungaree (or Boongaree) and Bungaree's wife Queen Goosebury also received one. Macquarie made more presentations of these crescent shaped metal pieces at the first aboriginal feast at Parramatta. From the first gathering, when 179 attended, many other Aboriginal leaders and their people attended the annual gatherings. Food, liquor, clothing, blankets and other items were given out and many natives travelled long distances to attend, including Windradyne.

Following Macquarie's example the colonists soon began to use the gorgets as "gifts" for the Aborigines. Macquarie gave away breastplates to thirty-eight "chiefs" in his time. Macquarie's successor Governor Thomas Brisbane, and his successor Governor Darling continued the practice only to see it abolished by Governor Bourke in 1835.

With the passage over the Blue Mountains and the opening up of the land around Bathurst from 1813 it was inevitable that some gorgets would be given out to the Wiradjuri and other tribes in the region. By the 1850s hundreds of the brass plates had been presented throughout the various colonies around Australia. However the Government persevered with the practice of distinguishing Aboriginal policemen or constables as well as "black trackers".

Many of the recipients wore their brass symbols with pride whilst others saw them as a symbol of the people who were taking the land that they had originally hunted and lived on. It does seem a little ironic that these gorgets were given out to "Aboriginal chiefs and kings" when traditionally the Aboriginal people did not have chiefs or kings in the sense we understand that a person holds the position. Elderly initiated men were usually held in high esteem within a tribe and were looked to for advice and leadership.

Prior to coming to Bathurst Dr. Palmer, J.P., resided at Megalong in the Vale of Clwyd (better known today as the district of Hartley) before being despatched to the Wellington district as Commissioner of Crown Lands by January 1852. Before long he was appointed the new Police Magistrate for Bathurst after the aging and unwell Major D'Arcy Wentworth resigned as Police Magistrate in late 1854. It meant that he became the Government's principal agent in the district indicating the importance of Bathurst at this time.



He was responsible for a reasonable area with the overseeing of stores for Government use in the district. He was also responsible for adjudicating issues concerning licences, roads, impounding matters, slaughtering and crown land matters. Roads and maintenance was also his responsibility as well as presiding over the magistrate's bench. Dr. Palmer not only took the initial steps with misdemeanours and felonies but also submitted details of sentences to the N.S.W. Governor. He also had general control over the local constables. Initially paid a small wage he was later paid £450 per annum as well as a house allowance of £65 and £55 for forage for his horses (maybe the early equivalent of a car allowance).



Magistrate Palmer was in Bathurst during much of the bushranger problems experienced in New South Wales around the 1860s. Bathurst in 2013 marked the raid on Bathurst on the evening of Saturday 3rd October, 1863, with a Ben Hall Raid Weekend Festival, which was an outstanding success.

Major Thomas Mitchell's famous expedition through the interior was assisted by an Aboriginal guide from Bathurst named "Piper". He was rewarded with a brass gorget and part of Piper's officers uniform in 1831 as well as a cocked hat and feather. Mitchell also gave him an old flintlock and some blankets.

It was during his time as Police Magistrate in Bathurst that Dr.

Palmer was to meet the bushranger John Vane and have Vane surrender to him. Vane had been born in 1842, the son of William and Ann Vane. John received little in the way of education however he grew up in the bush, lived off the bush and knew all the bush ways. In his teenage years he and a mate, Michael Bourke, thoughtlessly stole a number of cattle and after drinking too much, Vane took the licensee's revolver which, when reported, saw a warrant issued for the two men. Whilst moving through the area they encountered bushrangers Johnny Gilbert and John O'Meally. Foolishly they decided to join the gang in 1863. Vane was on the robbery 'Coombing Park' near Carcoar and then for the attack of the District's

After Governor Macquarie proclaimed the township of Bathurst 200 years ago on 7th May Bathurst became the centre for justice for many years. The Bathurst

Some time later, a Catholic Priest by chance met him in the bush in late October. Father Timothy McCarthy managed to talk Vane into the idea of surrendering, returning to him for further meetings to sort out what would take place. Father McCarthy had also contacted Vane's mother who also begged her son to give himself up.



Father McCarthy had organised with a Justice of the Peace, Mr. N. Connolly, to complete a letter before taking John Vane to Bathurst where the latter was left at a local hotel in George Street, situated between Keppel and Piper Streets (near the first Catholic Church). Mary Walsh was the licensee having taken over the hostellery in 1861. The Father then visited Superintendent Morisset to inform him Vane was in town and what was about to happen.

After this meeting with the Superintendent Father McCarthy had breakfast with Vane before the pair, along with Rev. Dean Grant arrived at the Court House in Russell Street to surrender to the Police Magistrate, Dr. William Palmer. It was 19th November, 1863. Vane was then remanded and imprisoned in the old Bathurst Gaol opposite the Webb's emporium. Afterwards Father McCarthy refused the Government reward of £1000 along with a £100 reward from the bank.



Bathurst Gaol where John Vane was held until his trial took place.

On the same day that John Vane appeared in Bathurst and surrendered, Ben Hall, along with the two Johns, Gilbert and O'Meally, attacked the Campbell's homestead near Eugowra. It was here O'Meally's life was to end, taken by David Campbell.

On completing his trial and sentencing at Bathurst, Vane was taken under heavy guard and transported to Darlinghurst Gaol to serve his fifteen year sentence. He didn't stay here long as the system moved Vane around so he also served part of his sentence at Cockatoo Island. Still, at quite a young age, Vane was released early in 1870 due to his good behaviour and letters from the Police Magistrate Dr. Palmer. After release, John Vane decided to remain in Sydney for a number of years, however it seems he had a yearning for the bush life.

John Vane made his way back to Carcoar but again fell foul of the police for stealing, receiving a five year gaol term for his efforts. Then, not long after being freed, Vane was convicted of sheep stealing in 1880 and was sent to Bathurst Gaol again for a five year term. The problem of stealing livestock, especially cattle and horses, was still rife when one reads the court reports in the Bathurst Daily Times. John Vane died in 1906.

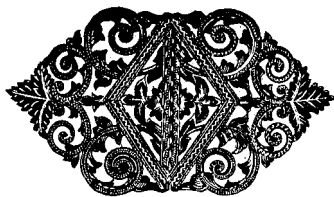


A unique envelope addressed to Dr. Palmer, ‘The Police Magistrate’, with “Bathurst” added underneath. It features an 1856-1860 2d blue Queen Victoria New South Wales stamp. The envelope had been sealed with wax. It is dated 14th April, 1857, and was sent from the Colonial Secretary’s Office in Sydney and took just 2 days to get here.

In November 1869 Mr. John Milbourne Marsh took over from Dr. Palmer as Bathurst's Police Magistrate. Marsh remained as Police Magistrate at Bathurst until he took up another job in Sydney in 1874. By 1874 Dr. Palmer had established himself on the Parramatta River at Hunter's Hill.

With the **Reflections – 200 Years of Women's Fashions** exhibition creating a great deal of interest already in Bathurst one expects that a large number of visitors will drop in to take a look. The Bead and

Wirecraft Guild Inc. are paying their respects to women of the past, with 200 years of women's fashion. With the support of the Bathurst & District Historical Society, vintage garments and accessories will be a feature in the display at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre from 2nd to 9th May this year. Already a great deal of work has been completed by the committee and volunteers.

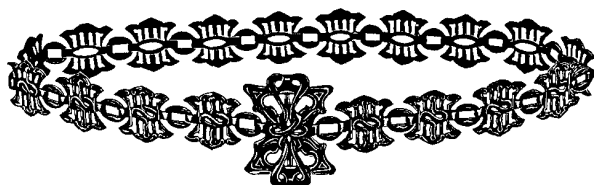


Garments dating back to 1815 are complete with undergarments, bustles and the history of the women who wore them. There are hand sewn fashions from France, England and Europe. Visitors will follow through the years changes in women's fashion of fabric, style, weight and techniques, a visual fair for all ages.

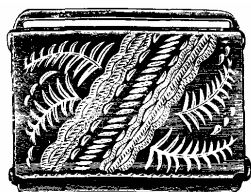


Women wearing belts were very fashionable in the late 1800s and the industrial revolution soon became geared up to mass produce unique and fancy belt buckles and clasps.

Many were made of metal which were decorated by adding paste cut stones in all sorts of colours. They were considered glamorous by ladies of the day and are collectables today. For further information or to make bus bookings contact - Judith Attard P: (02) 63371705 M: 0403730651 or email leoatt@skymesh.com.au You can also contact Elaine Holland P: (02) 63373661 M: 0407070743 or email deholland43@gmail.com



Metal belt clasps which joined in the centre were sold in numerous designs and were a popular fashion items for women from the 1880s

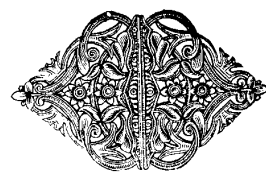


into the 1920s. Many were see through which allowed the colour of the belt behind it to come through. Ladies of the day often had a selection of types in their wardrobes. was sold in several types of

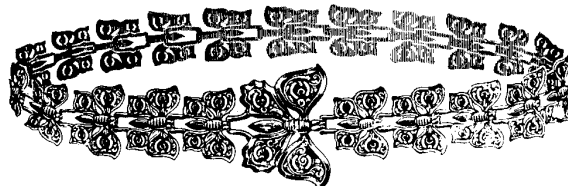
Invariably each design metal such as gilt metal and both electroplated silver as well as hallmarked silver. Designs were very elaborate with buckles and clasps regularly cast so they



could be made in large quantities. Paste stone makers were kept busy and would also be employed as to how best to incorporate their 'gemstones' into the design.

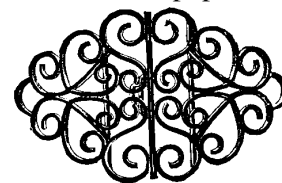


Some electroplated silver metal clasps were known as "Princess" belt clasps and could readily be attached to various belts by unclipping them and then re-attaching to another belt, the latter usually of a different colour. These were popular till well into the Great War. Designs were quite elaborate with the reflective background adding to their appeal.



The electroplated silver belt above, and featuring a butterfly design, was another popular item with the ladies and comes from E. Webb & Co's Emporium Christmas catalogue in 1906. Whilst they showed six examples in fact there was an endless variety available from the wholesalers

Blackened horn belt buckles were more popular in some fashion circles however they were a cheaper buckle. Again various patterns were available for customers to select from. The type, right, was known in the catalogue as a C846.



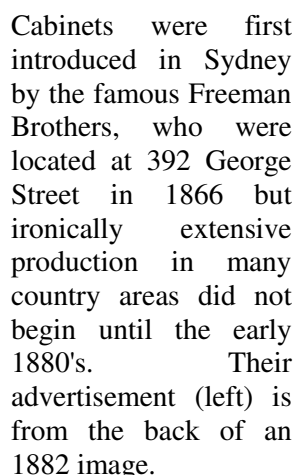
LOOKING BACK!

With Bathurst celebrating its 200th Birthday there has been keen interest in photographs, especially early ones. Much of the interest has been created by the 'Snapshots in Time' photographic exhibition that will be taking place in the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre next year. This mammoth exhibition will be open to the public each day from Monday 11th to Monday 18th May, 2015, as part of the Bathurst 2015 bicentenary celebrations.

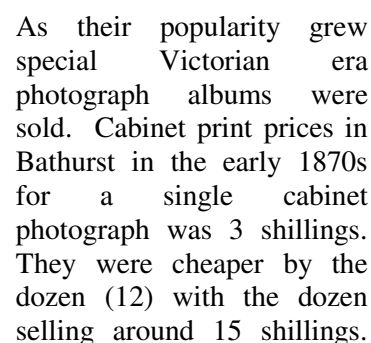
Many families have old photos which were possibly taken back in the 1870s, 1880s and 1890s. In this time period one of the most popular type of photo that was ever introduced was the 'cabinet print'. The Victorian era cabinet prints are also known as 'Cabinet Cards', and usually feature portraits of families or family members. Many of these cabinet prints could be seen in the late 19th century photo studio, Victorian era parlour, the Australian colonial home or outside.

They were larger photos than the carte de visite, which started to come into fashion from around 1867 which consisted of a 4" x 5½" photo mounted on a piece of

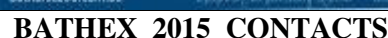
The cabinet became very popular with Bathurst photographers around the 1870s and 1880s. Both the carte-de-viste and the cabinet prints basically were the same developing process as generally they were the sepia looking albumen prints, though as time moved on the photos were printed on a thicker paper giving a



As already mentioned the cabinet portrait generally had the photographer's name and address on both the front and the back. This photo (in next column) is of Emily Jane Blackman who had been born at Locksley near Bathurst in 1852 and died at Wattle Flat in 1917. She married William Pittendrigh in 1873 at her father's

[illegible]

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



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

BATHEX 2015 Co-Ordinator

Ernst Holland P (02) 63373661 or
ernst.holland@bigpond.com

Secretary Alan McRae P (02) 63315404
amcrae@lisp.com.au

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.

© Alan McRae, FAIHA, Secretary, Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables & Lapidary Club and President, Bathurst District Historical Society, e-newsletter Editor

© Illustrations Alan McRae