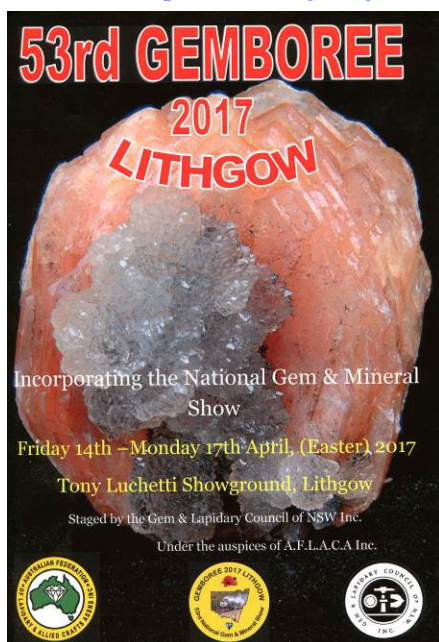


FROM THE E-NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Welcome to Edition 2 of the GEMBOREE 2017 e-newsletter. The first edition was well received with over one hundred extra requests to receive these issues. If you have not received the first newsletter you can request any earlier issues to be emailed to you or you can find them at <http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/>



The 53rd GEMBOREE 2017 booklet and schedule was printed and distributed at the GEMBOREE 2016 event at Ulverstone in Tasmania last month. It also contains the various forms for Registration, Tailgating – both commercial and non-commercial, Competition, Non-Competitive displays and Voluntary Assistance.

The booklet has a welcome from the Mayor of Lithgow, Cr. Maree Statham, a short history of Lithgow giving an insight into this city's past, an account of the development of the coal miner's lamp, a story on Lloyd's Copper Mine at Burruga that sent copper to Lithgow and its association with Lithgow and other articles.

GEMBOREE 2017, the 53rd National Gem & Mineral Show, will be held from Friday 14th to Monday 17th

April, 2017, at Tony Luchetti Showground in Lithgow, New South Wales. It is staged by the Gem & Lapidary Council of N.S.W. Inc. under the auspices of the Australian Federation of Lapidary & Allied Crafts Association Inc. Various gem and lapidary clubs from around New South Wales assist in organising and co-ordinating the various aspects of this mammoth event which will draw a large crowd of lapidaries, hobbyists and collectors, as well as the general public.

Lithgow is situated on the western side of the Great Dividing Range in the foothills of the Blue Mountains and will be welcoming visitors to the GEMBOREE 2017 next year. There are plenty of attractions for those lapidarists and collectors who are staying for the event and wish to stay longer.



Above is our GEMBOREE 2017 Co-Ordinator, Colin Wright from Loftus, a suburb in southern Sydney. He has been putting in a great deal of time, along with the committee, to get everything booked in, measured up, planned out, allocated and numerous other details to ensure things operate smoothly next year.

Even though it is just under a year away be sure you contemplate where you plan to stay for the GEMBOREE 2017 – either on-site at the showgrounds where you can park your caravan or pitch your tent in

It will be great to meet people in person and I hope you all make the effort in a year's time to visit Lithgow in the Central Tablelands of New South Wales and its

*Alan McRae, FAIHA – GEMBOREE 2017
e-newsletter Editor and Publicity Officer*

LITHGOW SCHOOL OF ARTS

The aim of many towns and villages in the late 1800s was to build their own School of Arts and Lithgow was no exception, becoming a significant contributor to the township's society culture, industry and politics. It was an idea brought from Scotland and was to provide a library and to assist the working classes.

On Tuesday 27th January, 1880, in a slight drizzle of rain a gathering of several hundred local Lithgow citizens witnessed the ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone of the School of Arts. It was performed by Mr. Thomas Brown, J.P., with much elation.

A procession of Friendly Societies with banners and regalia, headed by two bands of music, traversed the principle streets. A handsome silver trowel and crocus wood mallet was presented to Mr. Brown by Mr. Targett, on behalf of the School of Arts Committee. Addresses were delivered and a collection was taken at the stone.

The Grand United Order of Oddfellows celebrated their anniversary the day after with a picnic and sports. About one thousand persons were present. A ball was held in the evening with proceeds going towards their new School of Arts building.

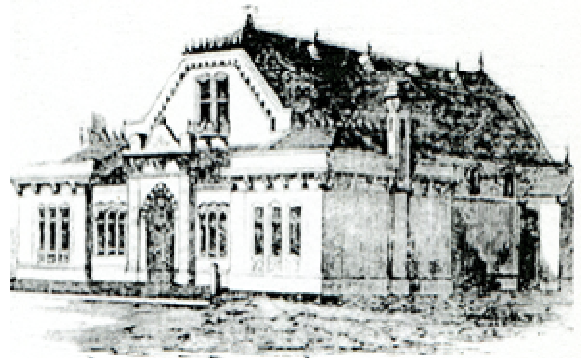
The same evening Mr. Wilkinson, geological surveyor, and Mr. Teece, gave an entertainment in aid of the School of Arts building fund, and a fair sum was realised.

Lithgow was much in need of such a facility as the town, the result of railway communication, the seat of a variety of industries and enterprise, the headquarters of the monetary, literary, and Judiciary institutions of



With The Lithgow Mercury being published the townsfolk felt great pride that a start had been made on its literary institution - the School of Arts. It was described as “a very commodious edifice, with large hall for lectures, dramatic entertainments, concerts, and other public purposes, together with all the usual accessories of a library, reading-rooms, committee rooms, &c.” The edifice would become the venue of many local meetings, debates and lectures in Lithgow.

On Tuesday 9th August, 1887, a Protectionist demonstration was held in the Lithgow School of Arts. The hall was well filled. The speakers got a patient and attentive hearing after Mr. J.F.T. Caulfield was voted to the chair.



At a meeting of the committee of the A.H. and P. Society held in the School of Arts on Thursday evening 24th February, 1898, at 8 o'clock, a number of members were present. In the chair was Rev. P.J. McGlone along with Messrs. Hayley, Lee, Gripper, Cohen, G. Cook, Brownrigg, Beveridge, Everitt, Watson, Broughall, Wiseman, Clapin and Dr. Asher (secretary).

The secretary stated that he had received two protests, one from Mr. Everitt against the award of a prize in the amateur class to Mr. Bottington, on the ground that he (Mr. Bottington) had employed skilled labour in the

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A black and white photograph of a large, ornate brick building, likely a warehouse or industrial structure. The building features a prominent central entrance with a decorative archway and a smaller arched window above it. To the right of the entrance, there are several tall, narrow arched windows. The building is constructed of brick and has a flat roof with decorative elements. In the foreground, a group of people are standing near a horse-drawn carriage on the left, and another person is walking towards the building on the right. The ground appears to be dirt or gravel.

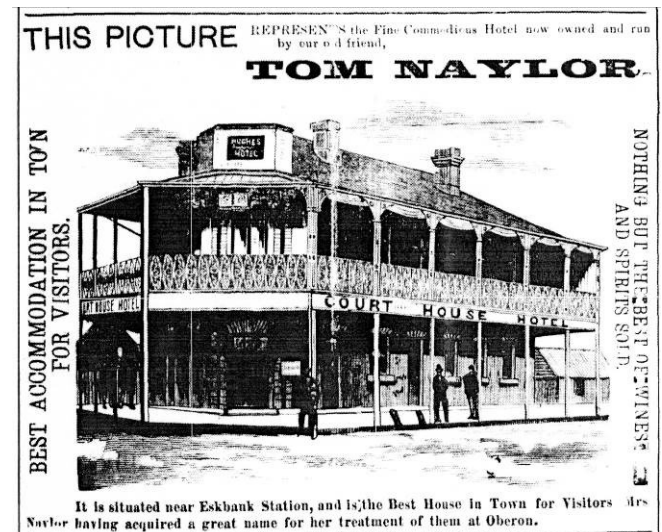
One of the products in stock at J. & J. Lonergan's Lithgow store were pottery water filter units and coolers. At a time when safe drinking water was less readily available and 'pure' water was essential for good health, small purification units were in demand, though unfortunately only the well-off could usually afford them. Water supplies were either obtained from creeks or local wells so although water could be obtained it was often polluted due to poor sanitation.



At the Sydney International Exhibition in 1879 Slack & Brownlow's design was awarded the "First Degree of Merit" by the judges. The unit was a light tan in colour (sometimes referred to as Yellowware) with applied white banners, emblem and fern frond motifs. The Exhibition Catalogue of the time gave some of the unit's performance details – "Speed of filtration per gallon, 12 minutes ; degree of purity, very bright and clear. The filters were capable of discharging salt from

Fluorite is known for its colour variety and can be found in a multiplicity of hues – from greens, purples, blues, yellows, reds, pinks, browns, white and black, as well as colourless. Often collectors will put specimens of pieces of fluorite under an ultraviolet light to allow it to fluoresce. Generally it seems the colour blue is the most predominant colour to show up in the fluorescence, whilst other specimens will give purples, reds and varieties of green. The different colourations are due to distinctive impurities.

Fluorite can be found in various locations around the world such as Canada, Africa, Switzerland, Greece, Britain, United States of America, Germany, Mexico and where else but China. Fluorite is often found associated with metallic ores such as silver, lead, zinc and galena. As collectors would know fluorite can crystallise in massive forms as well as statuesque isometric cubes, clusters and nodules. The mineral has a transparent to translucent look with a vitreous lustre and make great display items.



A black and white photograph of a two-story building, identified by a large sign as the 'J.M. HUGHES COURT HOUSE HOTEL'. The building features a prominent balcony on the second floor with a decorative railing. The sign is mounted on the front facade, spanning across the balcony area. The building has a gabled roof and a small square structure on top. Several people are visible standing on the sidewalk in front of the hotel. The image is framed by a thick black border.

By February 1898 Mr. Tom Naylor and his wife had taken over the Court House Hotel situated near Eskbank Station and they considered their hotel as the “best house in town.” The couple had run a hotel in Oberon before taking over the Court House Hotel.

Mr. Naylor would be purchasing his aerated cordials from the Lithgow Steam Aerated and Cordial Factory in William Street, off Main Street. The manufactory was owned and operated by Mr. Thomas Young who specialised in hop beer, 'clear and piquant' and considered 'just the drink for summer.' T. Young & Company were always cautioning any person known to wilfully destroy their aerated water bottles. Such perpetrators would be prosecuted as the law directs, without respect to persons.

Mr. Naylor paid his hotel cook £1-5-0 a week and his general servant in the hotel £1 a week. He stocked a wide selection of drinks in his bar. He would have purchased some beer locally from the Lithgow

Brewery and the colony such as Albury Port Wine and McWilliams Quinine Wine as well as other stock which had been imported from Great Britain. Some of the stock would include - Wilkinson's celebrated Coolalta Wines, Risk & Sons Scotch whisky, Jeffries English Ales, Moses Port, Sherry, Muscat of various brands as well as Guinness.



Many hotels sold all sorts of drinks including this universal compound cordial containing sarsaparilla. It was ideal for tee-totalers and one could have it with lemonade or soda water, or something stronger. The label claimed that it will be *"found very effective in Cutaneous and Eruptive Complaints, Glandular Swellings, Scurvy, Ulcers, Sores, Pimples, Boils, Tumours, Blotches, Scrofula, Rheumatism, Neuralgia and all other complaints and diseases arising from impurity of the blood."*

Mr. William Smith operated the Tattersalls Hotel in Main Street, Lithgow, which since being taken over by the then proprietor had gained a reputation second to none for beers, spirits etc. the quality of these being kept at the very highest standard.

Mr. R.J. Inch of the Eskbank Brewery supplied many of the hotels in Lithgow. The Eskbank Brewery was on the side of the creek at the foot of Brewery Lane. Established about 1875, as far back as 1882 they were turning out 28 hogsheads of beer per week during the winter months and nearly double that quantity in summer. The beer was also shipped to Vale of Clwydd, Wallerawang, Bathurst, Mudgee and various "pubs" along the line. Mr Inch later sold out to a company headed by Thomas Bennett, of Bennet and Gibbs, local storekeepers, at which time the name was changed to the Burton Brewery Company.



Mr. John West considered his Cosmopolitan Hotel in Main Street, Lithgow, as the leading commercial hotel

in the town. Having purchased the freehold of the well-known and centrally situated hostellery he expended some hundreds of pounds in thoroughly renovating it from floor to ceiling. With the object of making this the leading commercial house he erected a spacious Sample Room, 36 feet x 23 feet, fitted with folding doors and incandescent light. It was with confidence he could solicit the patronage of commercial travellers.

The Cosmopolitan Hotel had suites of rooms for families. There were baths and other conveniences for the benefit of patrons. Visitors could hire horses and vehicles if required at moderate prices and the proprietor could arrange for parties to be driven to Jenolan Caves. Visitors to Lithgow were advised that they should not fail to call at the Cosmopolitan Hotel where they would find no effort spared to assure them of their comfort and where the quiet and privacy of a home may be enjoyed.

The proprietor of The Imperial Hotel was Mr. H. Mortlock. He was by no means a stranger to Lithgow having previously been engaged in business as an auctioneer in the good old days. He was taking the opportunity of intimating to his friends – both old and new – that he had acquired the lease of the well-known Imperial Hotel, immediately opposite the Railway Station Eskbank and would spare no effort to make it one of the most popular houses in town. The premises had undergone considerable renovation and alteration so the public would find every essential that goes into making the accommodation of a first class hotel.



Rowlands sent their aerated flavoured waters from their Sydney factory to some hotels in Lithgow on the train. One of their customers was Charles Clout who had been operating the Royal Hotel for the previous three years. In early 1898 he thanked the inhabitants in Lithgow and pointed out that he was still dispensing the choicest wines and spirits. He claimed his hotel had become famous for excellence of the table and superiority of the accommodation. Commercial travellers and visitors to Lithgow would find every convenience and comfort

with the hotel ranking amongst the first in the Western District. Mr. Clout had also purchased the lease of the Tattersalls Hotel in Hartley for 12 months.

Charles Briggs had the lease of The Vale Hotel at Hartley Vale. He had recently taken over the hostellery and was desirous to obtain the locals patronage. He

Many of the old shark fossils are found in quite large numbers in both America and Germany and this is where much of the research is carried out in this area. The Jurassic period heralded what I call the more modern shark, those that look more like what we see today. The Grey Nurse sharks have been around a long time, some 60,000,000 years at least. The giant Carcharodon Megelodon is much younger than the Grey Nurse shark, being around from 20 to 5 million years ago before it became extinct. New fossil discoveries will allow palaeontologists to learn more about these creatures from the ocean. With dredging being carried out at greater depths some of the large teeth such as the one on the previous page have been brought up in the Palaeocene mud from the ocean floor.



Buy a GEMBOREE 2017 Badge

**to remember your trip
to Lithgow**

**at Easter 2017 only \$6
each.**

DID YOU KNOW!

The beautifully blue lapis lazuli has been traded for thousands of years. Mines located in Afghanistan have been worked for well over 6,500 years and later traded widely, especially to Egypt where it was popular for jewellery, ornaments and amulets. These are often found during archaeological digs. It was popular also with the Assyrians and Babylonians to carve their seals.

That the men employed at the Eskbank Ironworks arranged for an ironworker's picnic to Katoomba on Saturday 5th March, 1898. The movement had been initiated the previous week when Messrs. Miller, Bleadon and Wade, representing the men, saw Mr. Sandford and requested him to arrange for a special train. This was promptly done and Mr. Sandford also generously donated £14 10s towards the expenses, a sum equal to half the cost of the train. The train left Eskbank station at 8.20 a.m. and returned later in the day leaving Katoomba at 5.40 p.m. The men employed in the adit as well as those in Eskbank pit participated in the day. Their wives and families went along ensuring a big gathering. Sports for the children were also held at Katoomba with a number of prizes being presented to the winners.

Prior to breaking up on Friday, 24th June, 1898, the Lithgow Superior School gave out various prizes, the gift of Mr. Cook. They were presented to the most

deserving boys, in each class in the boys' school. The following is a list of the prize-winners - Fifth Class: R. Muir, S. Cook, L. Atkinson, and J.W. Jones. Fourth Class: W. McNiven, W. Stewart, T. Jones, G. Jackson, W. Mylecharane. Third (A) Class: F. Goss, J. Jenkins, D; Leslie, J. Crowle, H. Anderson. Third (B) Class: G. Sassall, S. Champion, F. Jones, L. Duncan. Third (C) Class: R. McNiven, J. Wintle, J. Cook, R. Maddell. Upper Second: W. Barnes, P. Flack, G. Thomas. Lower Second: W. Pillans, A. Bolt and B. Wade.

In ancient Rome and Greece, kings and queens were convinced that blue sapphires protected their owners from envy and harm. It has been found that gem quality sapphires are rarer than diamond. The name 'sapphire' comes from the Greek word 'sappheiros'. Whilst blue is the traditional colour of sapphires they are found in a wide-ranging colours such as yellow, purple, gold, green and even clear.

That smoky quartz is a smoky-grey, brown, yellow-brown, red-brown to black variety of quartz.

Rhodonite is opaque with rich colouring from light to very deep pink. It is found in veins of manganese. The mineral is a manganese silicate which can be found in crystallised or in a massive, fine-grained form. The massive material is a popular ornamental stone, used for carved objects and beads.

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