



# PBATHURST STAMP, COIN, COLLECTABLES & LAPIDARY CLUB INC

# NEWSLETTER

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST MONDAY EACH MONTH - EXCEPT JANUARY.

**AT THE CLUBHOUSE (OLD EGLINTON FIRE SHED), PARK STREET, EGLINTON.**

Meetings commence at 7.30pm. Enquires 63315404 AH or write P.O. Box 9156, Bathurst 2795

Editor [amcrae@lisp.com.au](mailto:amcrae@lisp.com.au)

[www.philas.org.au/bathurst](http://www.philas.org.au/bathurst)

**NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2017 Issue**

## UPCOMING PROGRAM

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 11th October       | <b>Wednesday - evening workshops</b> for lapidary recommence again from 7pm to 9pm each week for those members wanting to use the lapidary equipment.   |
| 4th November       | <b>Saturday – Club Open Day, Displays and Demonstrations &amp; Garage Sale</b> at the Clubhouse 8am to 2pm. This is a combined project by the Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club and the Bead & Wirecraft Guild and will include stamps, coins, bottles, collectables and lapidary displays, demonstrations of lapidary and jewellery making, indoors. Outside will have items for sale with members and others selling their unwanted collectables and goods. <b>Please come and help on the day.</b>  |
| 6th November       | <b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING &amp; Monthly Meeting</b> – at the special time of 7pm – Don't forget your exhibit for the Club Competition – 'A display to show the colours of your collecting'. Also remember your 'Latest Acquisition'.  |
| 11th-12th November | <b>Saturday and Sunday</b> - Orange Coin & Stamp Club 2-Day SPRING FAIR 2017. Open Saturday 9am to 4pm and on Sunday 9am to 3pm in the KENNA HALL, 90 Hill Street, Orange, just off Byng Street and around the corner behind St Joseph's Catholic Church and part of Catherine McAuley School. Interstate & NSW dealers offering a range of Australian & World stamps, coins and accessories to Coin and Stamp activities to interest kids and young adults. Stamp and Coin displays. Admission \$2 and accompanied children free. For further information contact Howard on (02) 6362 2368 |
| 12th November      | <b>Sunday</b> – extra club workshop day for lapidary 9am to 3pm. Open to all members.   |
| 18th-19th November | <b>Saturday and Sunday</b> - Bathurst Biggest Expo and Christmas Markets at Bathurst Showground. Gate opens at 8am both days. This event will incorporate the Woodies Craft and Arts on Show in one of the pavilions. Their show consists of judged classes for woodwork and other craft activities and hosts a range of stalls which have goods for sale. The Craft and Arts on Show showcases the many talents of the Bathurst community.   |
| 4th December       | <b>MEMBER'S FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY</b> – 6pm in the club house. Bring the family and your own meat to BBQ. Also bring salad and dessert to share. Also pack some drinks for yourselves and bring your festive spirit.   |
| 10th December      | <b>Sunday</b> – extra club workshop day for lapidary 9am to 3pm. Open to all members.   |
| 17th December      | <b>Sunday Field Trip.</b> Please ring Ernst 02 63373661 for information.  |
| 20th December      | <b>Christmas Lapidary Workshop Luncheon</b> to finish up for the year - 12 noon at the club house – bring salad and cold meat or salad and dessert. This day is the last lapidary workshop day until mid-January 2018.  |
| January 2018       | <b>NOTE - No member's meeting this month</b>  |

10th January 2018      **Wednesday Member's lapidary workshop** reopens from 9am to 12 noon.

15th-16th January 2018 **School Children workshop.** From 9am to 3.30pm.

20th-21st January 2018 **Adult Lapidary Workshop** - with lapidary on first day and jewellery settings on the second day. 9am to 3.30pm.

11th February 2018    **Sunday Field Trip** - information to follow.

10th-11th March 2018 – **Bathurst Arms & Collectables Fair** – Bathurst Showground.

7th & 8th April 2018 **Orange Coin & Stamp Expo** at the Kenna Hall, 90 Hill Street in Orange – Plenty of dealers, buying and selling, numerous interesting displays and kid's activities table.

**NOTE - For a trial for the next six months the club will be open one Sunday a month to allow those members who are unable to attend the Wednesday sessions, an opportunity to work on their projects. This will be the second Sunday for the remainder of 2017 and then the fourth Sunday in 2018 (none in January). Of course the usual Wednesday participants are welcome to come as well.**

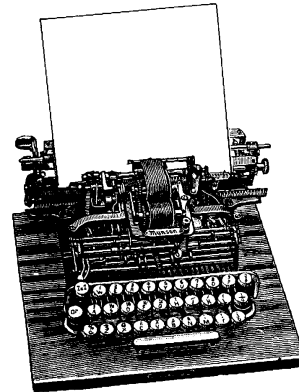
[illegible]

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



This is our Christmas issue so to one and all a very Merry Christmas and a cheerful, healthy, prosperous and happy collecting New Year.

It seems quite amazing how fast the year has flown but in the same token what the club has achieved over the past twelve months is quite amazing. The 2017



GEMBOREE was an outstanding success with a pleasing number of our club's members taking part in one form or another. There have been plenty of activities undertaken including various enameling, gem tree school and copper work classes in the clubrooms; organising and running of the lapidary section at the 2017 Reliance Bank Royal Bathurst Show; various displays by club members such as the Sofala Show and at other locations; several members mounted displays over the two days of the goldminers "Rebellion on the Turon" in Sofala and we had displays at the Collectables & Antique Firearms Show at Bathurst Showground pavilions in the form of various memorabilia such as historic and colonial firearms, goldfield displays, medals and medallions, microscopes, Chinese display and early settlers and colonialist display. There was a visit to the Orange Lapidary & Mineral Club to see what they have achieved and lots of magnificent lapidary achievements have taken place in our workshop of a Wednesday, to name a few things.



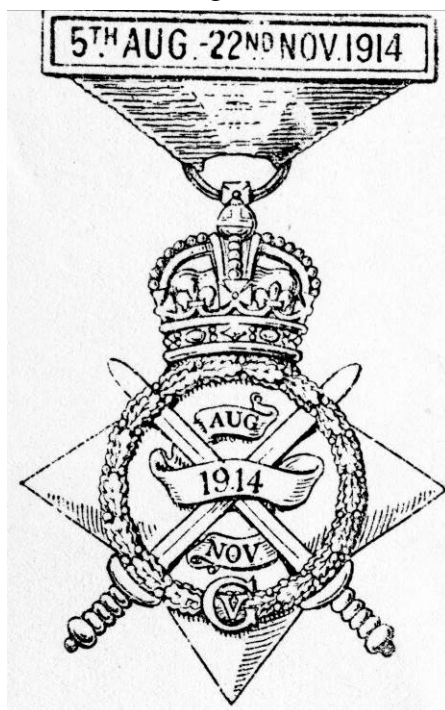
I must thank all those who give their time of a Wednesday - opening up, giving advice and showing others how it is done, those who do the on-going maintenance and upgrades to keep the machinery in order, making sure lapidary and morning and supper tea supplies are there ready, those who bring a plate of goodies, doing classes to attract new lapidaries, the gas bottles filled as well as other things involved with making this area a success.

The club's Open Day, Displays and Demonstrations & Garage Sale will be held at the Clubhouse on Saturday 4th November from 8am to 2pm. Ernst Holland will be there from 2pm to 4pm on Friday to drop anything for sale off. Both the Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club and the Bead & Wirecraft Guild are organized. It

is anticipated that it will include stamps, coins, collectables and lapidary displays and jewellery making, indoors. Outside will have items for sale with members and others selling their unwanted bric-a-brac, collectables and goods. Please come and bring a display, or items to sell or just to assist on the day. **Chris Oliver – President**

**A reminder that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & Monthly Meeting will be held on Monday 6th November, 2017, at an earlier time of 7pm. It will be held at the Clubhouse (Old Eglinton Fire Shed) in Park Street in Eglinton.**

The 1914 Star was a campaign medal of the British Empire, for service during the Great War. It is sometimes erroneously known as the Mon's Star. This Star was authorised in April of 1917 and was to be awarded to those who served in France or Belgium on the strength of a unit, or who served in either of those two countries between 5th August 1914 and midnight on 22nd/23rd November, 1914.



The reverse has no design however it will have the recipient's number, rank and name and the regiment stamped in block capitals in three lines.

Some 365,622 were awarded with most going to those men in the British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.) and who were usually referred to as the ‘Old Contemptibles.’ These men had disembarked in France not long after the outbreak of World War One. Many of these soldiers took part in the Retreat from Mons and were regular soldiers and reservists of the British Army (photo below).

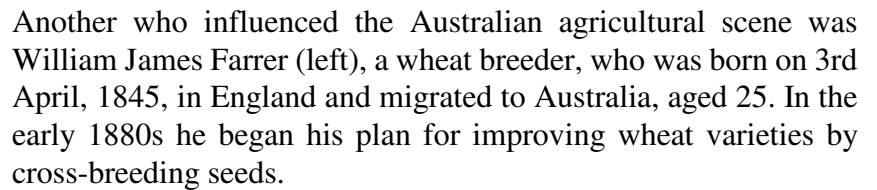
A black and white photograph showing a military truck, possibly a Soviet T-34, loaded with soldiers. Three soldiers are standing in the foreground in front of the truck. The truck's bed is filled with many more soldiers, some sitting and some standing. The background shows a city street with buildings, suggesting an urban environment during a military operation.

The 32mm wide ribbon on the 1914-15 medal is red, white and blue colours of the British Empire, in shaded and



Most Bathurstians, nor others for that matter, would be aware that an early Bathurst business supplied material for a Melbourne man, Hugh McKay in the 1880s and 1890s. The sales were in the form of metal and was purchased from George Fish who opened his foundry in Bathurst in 1860. Mr. William J. Golsby, who had been born in a house next to Fish's foundry initially worked at the foundry before moving onto farming at Dunn's Plains. George Fish died in 1901 with his son Joseph taking over the business.

He was born on 21st August, 1865, at Raywood, Victoria, the 5th child of Nathaniel and Mary McKay. His parents had arrived in Victoria in 1852. His father tried his hand on the goldfields around Ballarat, Stawell and Bendigo, before the family settled down in Raywood. They then bought a block of land at Drummartin in the early 1870s. Four of their eight sons worked with the farming equipment enterprises. George Fish became an agent and sold the McKay Sunshine harvesters in Bathurst.



Of the crossbreds and selections of wheats recommended for growing in the various districts of New South Wales in 1914, twenty-two were Farrer wheat varieties. Farrer continued his

A red 2½d postage stamp from Australia. The top of the stamp features the word "AUSTRALIA" in a bold, sans-serif font. The central image is a portrait of William J. Farrer, a man with a full beard and glasses, wearing a suit and tie. To the left of the portrait is a stylized wheat sheaf. The denomination "2½d" is printed in a large, stylized font in the bottom left corner. At the bottom of the stamp, the text "WILLIAM J. FARRER. 1845-1906" is printed in a smaller, sans-serif font. The stamp has perforated edges and a wavy cancellation mark across the center.

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY LAPIDARY WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS

One only has to see the look on the faces of the young participants who took part in the initial 2-day Workshop in Lapidary which was held by the Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables & Lapidary Club, to see how much pleasure and pride they got out of the course.

The 2-day Workshop in Lapidary was held on Monday and Tuesday of the first week of the September school holidays. This was the first workshop run by the club in this area. It was attended by 5 students from Eglinton and Bathurst Public Schools.



Lapidary is the forming of stone, minerals, or gemstones into decorative items such as cabochons or engraved gems, including cameos, and faceted designs. The primary techniques employed are cutting, grinding, and polishing.

During the workshop, the students were guided through the steps needed to produce a cabochon by members of the club. Cabochon cutting is probably the most common form of gem cutting. Cabochons or “cabs” are gems that are cut with a flat bottom and a curved or domed top which is then polished – see Charlotte right.

The attendees were shown how to attach one's piece of stone onto a special stick – the process being known as ‘dopping’. This procedure allows one to hold their stone whilst cabling. A special wax, known as dop wax, along with a timber dowel, are utilised to hold the special stone whilst lapidrists are completing shaping and polishing it.

The young lapidaries were told how ‘dop pots’ worked and how one needs to get them to the correct temperature. A hot stone is also needed in order to get the dop wax to adhere adequately and this takes quite a few minutes. A satisfactory quantity of wax for the stone shape is needed and along with a knife one can proceed to shape the wax. I recall using my fingers but the hot dop wax stuck to my fingers.







The first day commenced at 9.30am with the second day commencing at 10.00am, with both classes finishing around 3.30pm. Morning tea was provided each day with participants bringing their own lunch.

Oli (left) is using one of the fine grinding wheels.

On the first day there was the 'Introduction and Safety Rules' before 'What is Lapidary?' the latter being described in some detail. The students then heard how to cut the stone to a general shape before grinding it on a coarse wheel to get shape. It was explained how to select a base/back and top of the stone and marking the stone depth before going

on with an account of the first steps in grinding the stone.



Day 2 included grinding to get the general dome shape, when to move onto finer wheels before the production of final polished stone (cabochon). The cabochon was then removed from the dop stick before doing a polish of the back of the cabochon.

At the end of the 2-day workshop the students got to take their finished project home along with a certificate. There were many pleasing compliments.

The club is also looking at plans on running extension workshops during the weekends for students to further develop their skills and to continue to make other items. Setting the cabochons to make jewellery is an extension of the work that could be taught in future workshops.

**Thanks to Paul Martensz and all the tutors.**





## GERMAN 1908 SE-TENANT CHARITY TRIANGULAR STAMPS

From time to time stamp collectors come across an unusual looking stamp. In fact they are what is known as a charity label. Whilst it does resemble a postage stamp it is in fact just a label that charities sell in order to create funds in an economical way as the labels are cheap to print. These are referred to as 'Cinderellas' by philatelists. Normally these labels are used on envelopes but they do not pay postage, which is extra. Most charity labels don't generally have a denomination, nor identify the country. A series of earthquake charity se-tenant (different labels are printed from the same plate and sheet and adjoin one another, unsevered in a strip or block) triangular stamps are seen below, in this case issued by Germany hence they are denominated in German pfennig. The Tete-Beche label sheets (below) are printed upside down or sideways relative to another.



One rarely sees these richly coloured se-tenants, still joined as most were separated to sell. The triangular stamps which measure 1½ inches on each side of the triangle and are 1¼ inches high were actually organised by a committee of charitable

volunteers in Berlin. Professor Emil Dopler, the Italian ambassador to Berlin, agreed to be president. The images were produced by Gustav Tischer, with nine different currencies to suit the various countries. There were 11 in the set which were printed in batches of 50 to a sheet and later perforated. The series were printed by the International Office for Offizielli of the Italian aid committees in Berlin.

The labels show various ancient landmarks and ruins of the devastated area, with 'Sicilia' and 'Calabria' in circles in the lower corners and the date of the disaster '1908' is split across the bottom. They were offered to the Italian workers who at the time were employed in Berlin. Some workers posted them back to Italy which were cancelled with postmarks of Reggio Calabria or other townships. Other than Germany they were sold in Italy,



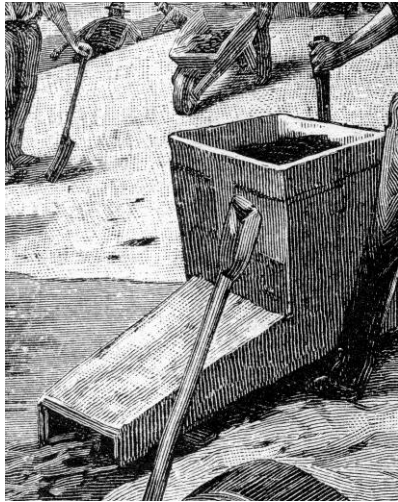
Russia, Hungary, France, Austria, Great Britain and Denmark. One branch of the American Red Cross in Massachusetts organised for a single three-sided stamp to be printed early in 1909 in aid of the same earthquake victims.

They were used to raise funds for the Messina earthquake and subsequent tsunami that devastated southern Italy on 28th December, 1908. The mammoth dual calamity all but obliterated the towns of Messina, Reggio di Calabria, a port on the Strait of Messina, opposite the city of Messina in Sicily, as well as dozens of adjoining coastal townships. It struck around 5:20 am in the morning, local time, and panicked residents for longer than 20 seconds.

It rated 7.5 on the Richter scale with scientists revealing later that the epicentre was beneath the Strait of Messina, which divides the island of Sicily from the province of Calabria, which we know as the "toe" of Italy. Not only was there the main shock, but a wall of seawater caused by the tsunami that followed. It was caused by an underwater landslide which was not related to the earthquake. Waves were up to 40 feet high causing further destruction. The devastation was experienced within a 185 mile radius. In some towns there was over 90% devastation. Even to this day it is unsure as to how many were killed with some estimating 80,000 people while others thought up to 200,000. Many of the survivors were relocated to other Italian cities; others immigrated to the United States.

## GOLDRUSH IN SCOTLAND AND THE AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION

Gold has been mined in the United Kingdom since Roman times when Roman legionnaires occupied Britain. The greatest concentrations have been found in northern and southern Scotland. With the chance of finding gold, one of the world's most precious metals, any whisper of a find usually attracted attention. It seems the first recorded substantiation of a gold discovery was in the reign of Scottish King James IV in the early 1500s. The first of the Scottish gold was an individual isolated nugget of gold that someone stumbled upon in 1818 on the River Helmsdale that weighed around ten pennyweights. Local legend has it that the resident Sutherland family, who owned the land, had it crafted into a ring.



With the Californian gold rush commencing in 1848 and the first payable gold found near Bathurst in the Southern Colonies in New South Wales in 1851, the goldrush in Scotland began under two decades later. In 1868 it was reported that a Robert Nelson Gilchrist had discovered gold in the Strath of Kildonan, though the news was to be kept quiet. His initial efforts were assisted by two Sutherland brothers. Ironically Gilchrist already had experience with digging for gold as he had prospected in the Australian goldfields during the preceding seventeen years. The Duke of Sutherland must have been pleased as he personally visited the goldfield to individually present Robert Gilchrist with an expensive gold watch.

Thinking that the land around his native Kildonan was similar to Australian goldfields Gilchrist sought permission of the landowner, the Duke of Sutherland, to pan for gold near his native town, Kildonan. With approval granted he was soon successful and found gold in a number of locations throughout the Strath of Kildonan, though the richest finds were located in the Kildonan and Suisgill burns in Scotland. Some 180 inhabitants signed a petition asking for the Duke's permission to do some prospecting by the locals. The Duke allocated an area of land that didn't interfere with his tenants. Ironically many of the Scottish prospectors had little clue as to how the gold was extracted, nor what gold in its natural state actually looked like. At first they were proud to show their bags of 'gold' glinting in the sunlight only to find out they had found pyrite – 'fool's gold'.

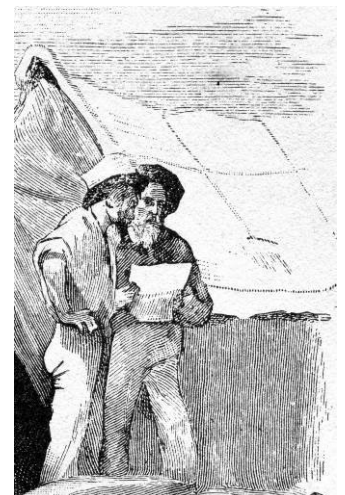


It wasn't long before a prospector's hut camp was established amongst rugged heather strewn moors, surrounded by gentle rolling hills and near the Kildonan Burn, a small tributary of the Helmsdale River, in the county of Sutherland. As it turned out Kildonan Burn was the setting of Scotland's only "Gold Rush", as short-lived as it was in the mid 1800s. Today it is marked by a signpost 'Baile-An-Or' with the Gaelic translation of Town of Gold.

After the Illustrated London News and other newspapers ran the story of the find over 600 diggers (some being women) had reached what was being called by some as the 'Sutherlandshire Gold Diggings'. Many had arrived by train to

Golspie where the rail terminated before walking cross-country to the location. Seeing an opportunity, the Duke of Sutherland soon commenced collecting £1 per month for a gold licence. This permitted licensees to work a claim which measured 40 feet square. Along with that the men had to pay him a royalty on any finds which was 10% of any gold recovered.

Gold buyers at first paid as high as £4 10s per ounce but that later dropped to around £3 10s. One newspaper described the process as men "washing for gold with tin basins". Even some experienced Australians and Americans arrived to try their luck



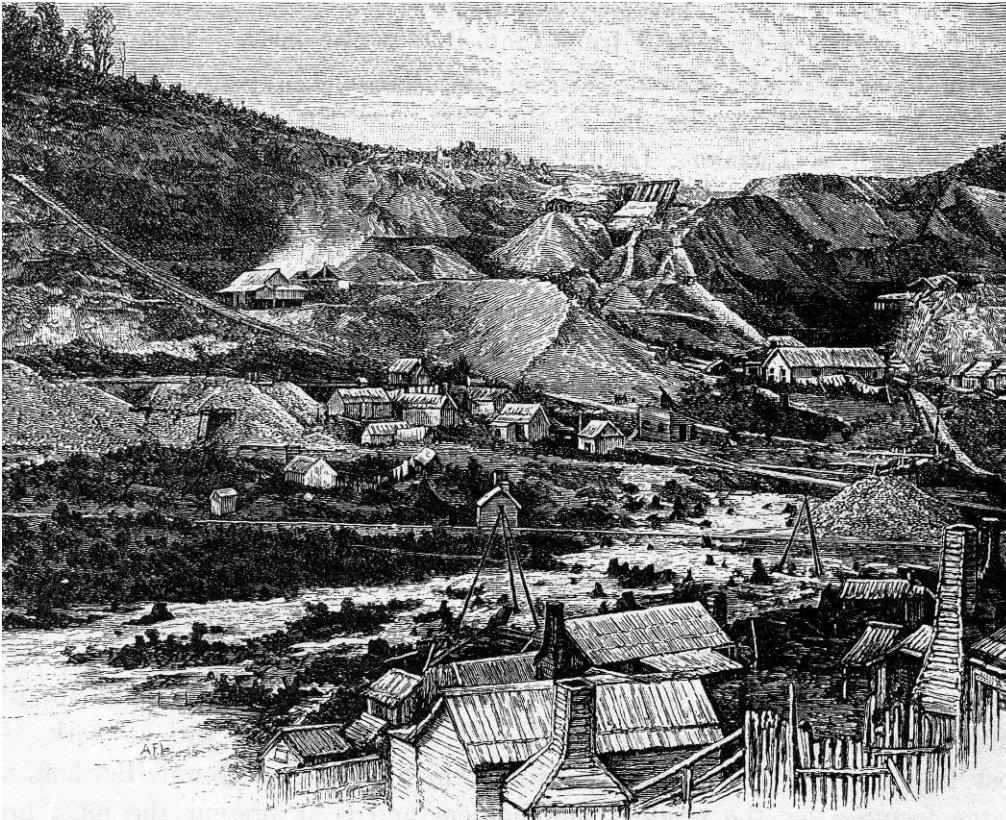


and probably showed what they did at home to extract the gold from the gravels.

A second short-term community of tent dwellers was also established beside the Suisgill Burn this was known as Carn na Buth, Gaelic for the “Hill of Tents”. As with all goldfields usually came the hotel, blacksmith, butchery, general stores, bakery and a boot maker and repairer. Both the prospector’s villages were established at the base of the Kildonan and Carn nam Buth at the foot of the Suisgiull. After the gold digger’s accommodation ran out miners would walk the nine miles there and back each day from the nearest town.

It would have been a pleasant spot with the blue dragonflies skimming and hovering over the burn and the many wild flowers sprouting in the heather. But by June and July of 1869 this goldfield was being abandoned as licences of only around two hundred per month were being written out. With the colder weather setting in, the price of gold reducing, the herring season coming up on 9th August. The season usually lasted a month and paid good money. Then less gold was being found so numbers dropped further. Several months later the Duke of Sutherland declared he would no longer issue any more gold licences and he also asked existing prospectors to leave his land once their current licence had expired. Thus basically by December 1869 the short-lived Sutherlandshire Gold Diggings gold rush had ended.

# MOUNT BISHOFF TIN MINING COMPANY



Tasmania was blessed with many mineral deposits and after European settlement many were being discovered by accident. The tin-bearing cassiterite at Mount Bischoff was found by James Smith in 1872. The previous year he had found tin at Tinstone Creek. Mount Bischoff was operated and mined from 1873 and into the second year of the Great War.

Smith applied for, and was granted, a lease on his find and extracting ore from the alluvial surface deposits of tin-bearing detritus which was loaded by shovel onto bullock wagons and sent to Emu Bay.

James Smith soon realised that he needed a boost of capital and more suitable machinery. He also needed much more vigor under very difficult circumstances in opening up a new industry in a remote part of the colony. He paired up with William Ritchie, a Launceston solicitor, and they were able to float the Mount Bischoff Tin Mining Company in 1873. Mr. Henry Richie was employed as the manager with Captain Crosby as the Mining Manager. Some of the early shareholders included Messrs. James Smith, E.D. Harrop, W. Hart, Webster, W. Ittchie, H. Ritchie, Just, Lette, Webb, Edgell, Colin Crawford and Rev. J.A. Fawns.

By January 1874 some 62 tons 2 cwt. 3 lbs. of tin concentrate had been shipped to England via four different sailing ships. It was made up of fine and coarser stream tin. More tin ore was awaiting a time when it could be crushed and concentrated ready for smelting. Their assaying was being done in Sydney, Melbourne and Launceston. It was described as the richest tin mine in the world.

By early 1874 several comfortable huts had been erected along with a large dam. At right angles with the dam, a

Also in 1874 a smelter was constructed at Launceston with clay from near the mine being used for firebricks. In the early part of the year the itchie, one of the Directors, in company with other larger shareholders, ernment had bridges erected across the rivers Hellyer and Wye.

As the company progressed, the directors and mine manager had to develop large quarries until mining had to go underground. As mining progressed a tramway was constructed over to the coast in 1879 in conjunction with Messrs. Walker and Beecraft and Slessrs Cummings, Henry, and Co., thus making it more viable but the tracks were not suitable for heavy wagons of tin ore. Four years afterwards a more suitable railway was installed. In order to work longer hours, light up the works and to illuminate the miner's huts it was decided to install a hydroelectric generation plant in 1893, which turned out to be a first for Tasmania. Later the power plant operated some of the mining drilling equipment and powered the stampers.

It has been estimated that more than 56,000 tons of tin metal was extracted over its initial forty years of operation though low scale operations continued until the depression in the 1930s when the mineral price was so low the mine was not economically viable. During World War Two the Commonwealth Government purchased the mine as tin was required for the war effort. By 1947 the mine basically closed.

ooooooooooooooooooooOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOoooooooooooooooooooooooo

Many banks were mainly commercial privately run enterprises in the early days though many would go into liquidation in the 1790s and early 1800s. Dartmouth at the mouth of the river Dart and in the English county of Devon, saw one of the English Provincial banks established there in 1808.

Dartmouth began after the Celts and Saxons constructed small river communities to protect themselves from plundering Viking raids at the ‘mouth of Dart’. King Edward III in 1341 granted the village Official Borough status and in 1488 the building of Dartmouth Castle commenced, though it was 1494 before it was completed.



Over centuries the mudflats and shallow river sections were subject to land fill. By the 16th and 17th centuries Dartmouth became a substantial trading port, hence the need for banks. Wharves were maintained for visiting trading ships. For those WWII historians 480 Allied ships left their harbor to join the D-Day invasion in 1944.



Left - is a Dartmouth General Bank one pound note, serial number B5887, which was issued on 7th February, 1822, on behalf of John Hine and Henry Joseph Holdsworth, proprietors, from two local well-to-do families. It is hand signed by John Hine himself as it was issued. The bank's notes were printed in black ink on cream coloured paper that was produced locally by Mr. Arthur Howe's Warfleet paper mill. Trading hours saw the bank opening at 10am until closing at 4pm.

Mr. Charles Bulteel founded the Dartmouth General Bank in 1808 which was after an uneasy period for banks. Mr. Bulteel was a local merchant and he set up his bank above the local Kings Arms tavern. He was fortunate to persuade the Holdsworth family to open an account in the name of their Dartmouth Corporation. This added credibility as the Dartmouth Corporation handled the business-related council operations. Soon the bank ended up having monetary problems by July 1810. In order to keep operating, the bank's management had a partnership drawn up between John Hine and Arthur Holdsworth and other family members.

Henry Joseph Holdsworth, Arthur's brother, actually worked in the bank until he died in June 1823, along with John Hine Senior until he died in March a year later. After Henry had died an in-house enquiry into the



enterprise's undertakings began which consequently exposed that the establishment could possibly have been insolvent for quite some time. Though they tried to keep their financial secret the truth came out five days before the death of Mr. Hines. Between 1804 and 1824 four of Dartmouth's banks failed, including the Dartmouth General Bank.

The reverse has some red and green colour and the word 'ONE'. It also has an intricate pattern called a guilloche which is a security

and decorative pattern to help prevent forgeries.

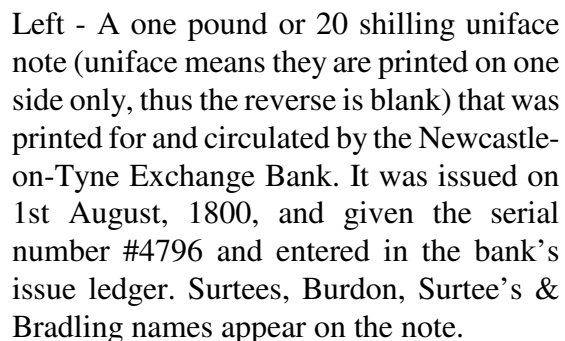
One problem that had become rampant in both Scotland and England was the disappearance of drafts and banknotes in the mail as well as villains robbing mail and passenger coaches, along with any passengers of everything of valuable from cash, jewellery and clothing. The General Post Office issued instructions to help and instruct those who had money to remit that the monetary items if sent by post should be cut in half. The serial numbers should appear on both halves, as with the date.

In 1793 problems had arisen in the banking system in Great Britain. It is thought that the four operating banks in Newcastle-upon-Tyne had around £230,000 of issued notes between them. The Bank of England in London had already experienced unrest and this was followed by general panic, especially in London so it wasn't long before every bearer of a banknote



and this was followed by general panic, especially in London so it wasn't long before every bearer of a banknote





In mid-1803, the people of Newcastle saw a number small of hand-bills informing them of the suspension of Surtees, Burdon, & Co's Newcastle-on-Tyne Bank. This produced a good deal of panic through the town and outer districts and a run on gold

In an attempt to save the bank's business in June 1803 they recommended those with notes not to sell them off cheaply and the bank would also pay interest on them. It ended up out of the hands of the owners as the dealings of Surtees, Burdon, & Co., were taken over by a team which wanted all things wound up. However, it was 1816 before Aubone Surtees, Rowland Burdon, John Brandling, and John Embleton, were all declared bankrupt. An ultimate dividend was finally paid in 1832, nearly 30 years after the bank failed.



Engraver Conrad Heinrich Kuchler's 'Britannia' was used for the overstriking of the foreign dollar-sized coins that were imported to mint the Bank of England emergency crowns i.e. five shillings pieces in 1804, and has had a long history.

Centrally featured on the overstruck coins is a seated Britannia holding an olive branch, a shield and a spear with a maritime scene in the background. A cornucopia (from Latin cornu copiae or horn of plenty) is a large horn-shaped container and can be seen under the shield. She was a well-known symbol of abundance and nourishment and as, on the coin, is shown overflowing with produce. Britannia has been the female representation of the British Isles and has been an accepted figure from the 1st century A.D.

Conrad Heinrich Kuchler was a medallist designer and engraved numerous coin dies in the late 1700s and the early part of the 1800s. Conrad was born in Flanders. He later travelled to Germany to work before finding work in France, until he finally sailed to England about 1790. Here he was engaged by Matthew Boulton at his Soho Mint in Birmingham, up until he died in 1810. Britannia has a regular image on coinage since then and has turned up on British monarch's pennies since 1797.



## DID DINOSAURS AND PREHISTORIC ANIMALS LEAVE FOSSIL FOOTPRINTS?



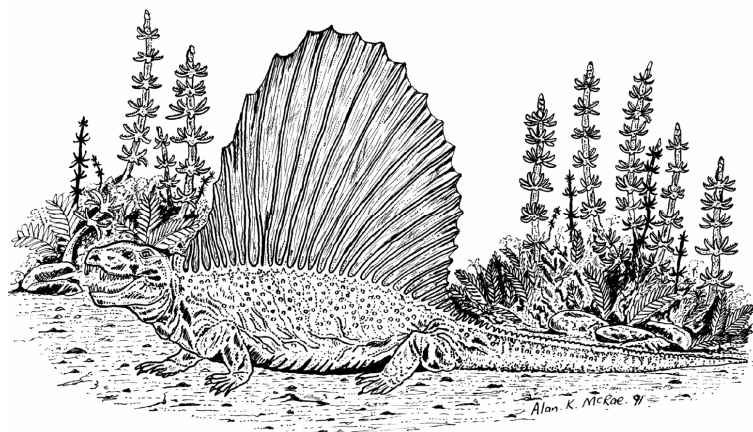
Yes, it certainly seems so with the finds being uncovered around the world and especially at some locations in an America sandstone quarry. These are certainly not as spectacular as a dinosaur bone or tooth but a footprint set in sandstone gives another dimension to fossil collecting.

These footprints are from an area in northern Arizona that extends from the Grand Canon to New Mexico to the reddish-tan coloured sandstone plateau near Ashfork and confounded early geologists. (Left) you can see a partial five-toed footprint which has come from the Coconino Sandstone quarries. Footprints are abundant from the Permian

period and date to some 250 million years ago. Commercial mining of the Coconino Sandstone in Arizona has uncovered many tracks of these ancient creatures.

Even though no fossils of the actual animals that made the tracks are known the way the tracks are preserved and their gait and stance give a good idea to identifying the trackmakers. Tracks are characteristically formed when a creature moves over the surface of soft sediment and leaves an imprint of its foot or movement behind. Often this happens when dinosaurs or other animals search for food or a mate where they would be walking over mud flats of lakes, rivers or seas. These impressions are then covered with sediment before they get washed away and thus become preserved as fossils if conditions are right.

Tracks, nests, burrows, eggshells, gastroliths (gizzard stones), tooth marks and coprolites (fossil faeces) are examples of trace fossils or ichnofossils which assist paleontologists to interpret how a dinosaur or some creature lives. The same trace fossils may also provide clues to their diet and how they behaved.



Some of the prints are believed to be juveniles of Laoporus though there is no evidence of a dragging tail. The Laoporus paleontologists believe it is following a pelycosaur resembling a Dimetrodon, my drawing left shows its enormous 'sail' on its back to help regulate their body temperature. Other types of tracks belong to edopoids, a large flat-headed amphibian that look like a giant salamander.

There are additional tracks and marks made by tetrapods, four legged animals, currently unknown as whole fossils. Some of the tracks are very

large. In addition there are insect, scorpion and spider tracks that are so large that the spiders that made them must have been much larger than the modern tarantula. The Coconino Sandstone of northern Arizona has been generally understood as an eolian deposit of desert sand which contain an abundance of fossil footprints, some having been made whilst the creature is swimming or at least walking in water.

With the various tracks being laid bare across portions of northern Arizona they have attracted a good deal of research by paleontologists for over a decade now, especially in the Permian Coconino Sandstones. The most abundant and noteworthy footprints that have been uncovered belong to the reptiles of the Triassic period, the time of the dinosaurs. Examining the footprints left behind by dinosaurs give us a hint as to the size of the dinosaur. They would have trekked over the wind-driven sand dunes, probably originating along a shallow sea located far to the north. Water would be found in ponds that would be topped up by tropical rain with much

[illegible]

These unusual balls or geodes are marked by an intersected system of small ridges which resembles the facade of the protective shell of a turtle. They have been called lots of things such as ‘mud balls’, ‘dragon eggs’ and ‘dragon stones’. These creations will vary considerably in shape and size, as well as colour. Unlike most geodes septarians which are developed in volcanic rock these septarian nodules are formed in sedimentary conditions.

70 million years ago, whilst others are from the Jurassic period making them around 150 million years old. This was a time when sea levels were much higher with these geodes created in the sedimentary rock with marine deposits. Then as the sea diminished, these balls dried out. Some impressive fossils have, on occasions, been discovered conserved inside the nodules.

One description in 1866 states – “The septarian nodules are a concretion which exhibits small the recognizable angular cavities surrounded by small ‘walls’ known as ‘septaria’.” The word was stemmed from the Latin word septum; “partion”, referring to the ‘dividing wall’.

The interiors can become, either partly or wholly, filled with other minerals and sometimes calcite crystals are formed inside whilst others are uncovered with pyrite, barite, limonite, silica or aragonite crystals inside.

Septarians are unique stones found in only a few places on earth. Some places where septarians have been unearthed are in Southern Utah and a small number of counties in America, at Mahajanga in Madagascar and in Morocco.

[illegible]

During the construction of the Panama Canal the local postal agency of the Panama Canal Zone in 1904 hit upon overprinting existing postage stamps of Panama and the United States with the words 'CANAL ZONE', although the overprinting was stopped in 1939.

Then in 1928, the Canal Zone authorised for a definitive series whose design depicted views of the canal's construction. The inscription in the design has the words – "CANALZONE POSTAGE". Later in 1939 it

was decided to issue a new series of sixteen stamps to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the canal's achievement and completion. The issues showed the "prior" and "completed" sections over the canal's length. By the 1970s, around 20 to 30 ships were still using the canal daily until finally in October 1978 the Panama Government took over the administration of the postal services and soon all the Canal Zone postage stamps became invalid.