



# BATHURST 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

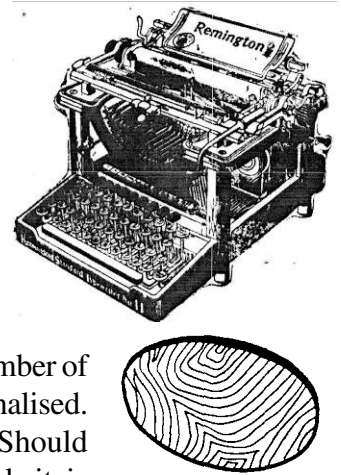
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**SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2017 Issue**

## UPCOMING PROGRAM

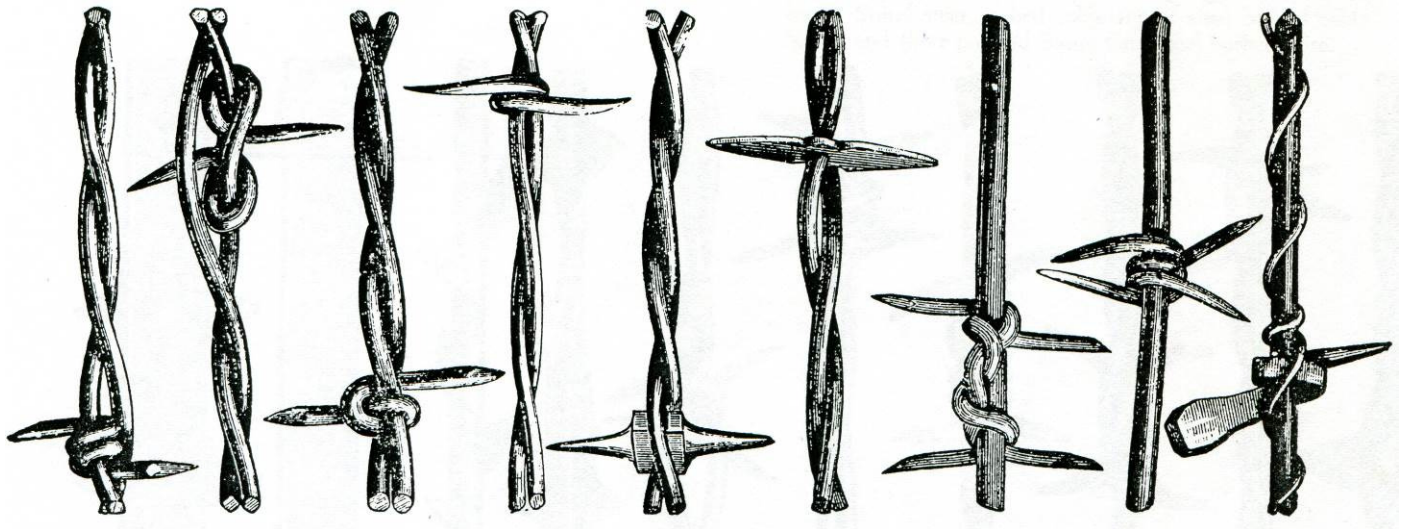
- 4th September      **Monthly Meeting** - 7.30pm – Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’.
- 15th-20th September      **Tuesday to Saturday - Combined Clubs exhibition.** Location to be confirmed but possibly United Church Hall.
- 30th September – 1st & 2nd October – **Saturday, Sunday and Monday - GEMKHANA 2017** - The Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Competition for lapidaries from all over New South Wales, presented by the Lapidary Council of New South Wales Inc. It will take place at Hawkesbury Showground, Racecourse Road, Clarendon NSW 2756, over the Labour Day Long Weekend. Open - 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday and from 9am to midday on the Monday. There will be educational demonstrations by experienced hobbyists. Lots to see and do throughout the weekend.
- 9th October      **Monthly Meeting** - 7.30pm – Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’. Remember that the next meeting, being held on 6th November, is the AGM as well as our Competition night. Details are in the information for that meeting.
- 4th November      **Saturday – Club Open Day, Displays and Demonstrations & Garage Sale** 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, 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. **Please come and help on the day.**
- 6th November      **AGM Meeting** - 7.30pm – Guest Speakers – Club Competition – ‘A display to show the colours of your collecting’. Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’.
- 18th-19th November      **Saturday and Sunday** – Bathurst’s 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      **MEMBER’S FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY** – 6pm for 6.30pm 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.
- 13th December      **Christmas Luncheon** - 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      No **member’s meeting** this month however the workshop will reopen on 17th January.
- 10th - 11th March 2018 – **Bathurst Arms & Collectables Fair** – Bathurst Showground.



the nearest people normally come to it is when trying to avoid catching their clothes on it when they visit the country. The collecting of obsolete barbed wire is on the increase. There are many different types and gauges of barbed wire, each with differing characteristics to suit specific applications.

The French used wire for fencing in the early 1800s however it was limited and the idea didn't catch on. It was 1853 when Texan, Mr. W.H. Meriwether, decided to legally claim the idea for his 'snake wire of black iron with a Foster curl'. The idea to add sharp pieces of metal didn't come along until 1873 when Mr. Henry Rose came up with the idea. The barbs were wound into the two or three strands of wire. Over the next decade the idea brought on a profusion of patents, as many thought 'their' barbs would make a difference. The following year some five tons of barbed wire was produced with about 40,000 tons in 1880 however by the turn of the century it had escalated to over 200,000 tons, with wire fences appearing everywhere.

Over the next twenty five or so years, barbed wire development continued not only in the United States but around the world, including Australia. Barbed wire was not only imported into Australia but some Australian businesses were established, each one with its distinctive brands with their differing gauges, quantity of strands and the makeup and size of the sometimes savage barbs.



**BARBED WIRE Photo - L to R - Glidden Patent steel barbed fencing, Bronson barbed wire, Sterling barbed wire, Two barbed fence wire, Chicago barbed wire, Kelly steel barbed wire, an unknown brand, Cleveland barbed wire and a wire of unknown origin made by bending a horseshoe nail around the main wire and holding it in by winding a small wire around it.**

In the United States however, it was eventually to be one man who was to take over the monopoly of barbed wire in this nation of cattle ranches. Mr. Joseph F. Glidden of DeKalb in Illinois came up with a twin wire design that he decided to call the "Glidden Two-Point".

All sorts of names were concocted to try to gain a market edge with names and brands such as Hart-McGlin Star, Illinois Three-Point, Mexican Barb, Meriwether's Snake, Kittleson's Half-Hitch, Dodge Rowel, Iowa Three Point and Merrill's Twirl, to name a few.

Many of the early barbed wires had no protection, unlike today's barbed wire that is heavily galvanised. Many early types of barb wire quickly rusted away, depending on the area. In many cases there can be several qualities of galvanising. Obviously in coastal regions with its higher rainfall and salt-laden atmosphere, the thicker galvanising would be required.

For those not familiar with barbed wire the barbs are the sharp pieces that do all the damage when one gets near barbed wire. Barbs have been made from numerous types of material from small pieces of sharp tin to the more common idea today, sharpened pieces of wire. The spacing and diameter of barbs will vary with the age of the wire and what purpose it was to serve. Generally however, barbs are smaller on thinner wires. Barb spacings generally range from 75mm to 100mm. The gauge of barbed wire is determined by the thickness of the wire.





These days with wire fencing such as ‘hingelock’ and high voltage electric fencing the days of barbed wire are in decline. Many old fences containing old types of barbed wire have been dismantled and roiled up to be tumbled into erosion areas to get rid of it.

A circular silver coin, likely a Spanish dollar, featuring a profile of a man facing right. The man is wearing a laurel wreath and a ruffled collar. The inscription "CAROLUS III. DEI. GRATIA." is visible around the top, and "1796" is at the bottom. The coin has a serrated edge.

Throughout the eighteenth century in Britain the supplies of various metals varied greatly at times producing shortages of official coins. From 1758 hardly any silver coins were issued for the next thirty years, few copper coins were minted and, during the Napoleonic Wars, gold coins were temporarily replaced by paper money issued by the Bank of England. The paper money was in the form of £1 and £2 notes, the two denominations being lower than any previous denomination issued by the Bank of England.

The situation greatly hampered commerce and caused many economic problems. Copper coins especially were becoming so worn that one could hardly determine the writing on them. This led to a revival in the issue of private tokens which helped to ease the situation. The tokens were issued by local businesses, attractions and in some cases private individuals. The

tokens from the Parys Mining Company at Anglesey were one of the most prolific issuers. It was not only the shortage of metal that was the problem – minting methods were very slow and designers at the Royal Mint were either retiring or dying. Richard Yeo became the engraver at the Royal Mint in 1768 during the reign of King George III. It is reported that Yeo put forward the idea of counter-stamping Spanish coins as well as overstriking coins but it was to be Nathaniel Marchant who was to do the engraving. The idea was to be adopted by the Bank of England although the idea did not have full Parliamentary support.



In 1797 the British Treasury decided to act to alleviate the shortage of silver coinage by buying barrels or bags full of Spanish silver dollars (8 Reales), countermarking them with the stamp of King George IV's head used by the Goldsmith Company for marking their silver plate. The small right-facing bust of the monarch was in an oval or octagonal border and applied to the obverse side or 'front' of the Spanish coins by the employees at the Royal Mint located on Tower Hill.

The octagonal bust design was the same as the Mint used to strike their King George IV (left) silver pennies. As was procedure the British Treasury would have issued a warrant directing the Royal Mint Master and Officers to countermark the Spanish Dollars. Tight control would have been practiced to ensure no coins went missing and each barrel or bag of coins would have been weighed in and out.



Each new 'dollar' was to circulate at four shillings and ninepence which gave the gibe "two King's heads are not worth a crown". (A crown was a British silver coin of the same size as the Spanish dollar but was worth five shillings.) It appears that some other stray silver coins were also overstruck such as American silver dollars, Austrian Maria Theresia thalers and French ecus (right). Some Spanish half-dollars (four Reales) and quarter-dollars (two Reales) were also countermarked and valued accordingly.

At the time these Spanish silver 8 reales coins were generally used as 'trade dollars', their weight and purity a recognised characteristic of the Spanish coinage in those days. They were Spanish-American dollars as they were minted from silver mined in South America. The principal mint at that time was Mexico City. They circulated freely in Great Britain as well as throughout much of the world. Basically these coins sold at bullion value so that their value could fluctuate with supply and demand, at the price of silver.

Many of the Spanish eight Reales (also called Spanish dollars) of Charles III of Spain, and dated in the 1790s were issued as official currency for use in Great Britain and its dependencies however few would have arrived in the dependencies at that time.

There are some estimates that around three million dollar-size coins were procured by the Bank of England to be countermarked. Often these types of coins are referred to as 'emergency money'.

Most of these countermarked coins were later melted down but a few survived with some even circulating here in Australia in the early days of the Colony of New South Wales. Whist forgeries do exist any genuine coins of this type today are generally quite valuable. Most forgeries of the countermark exist on genuine coins which as it turned out at the time became a worrying problem for authorities as it was such a small counterstamp that Bank clerks couldn't tell the difference, let alone the general public.

In 1804 Spanish dollars were overstruck, i.e. a new coin design was struck completely over the original design, though often part of the original design can still be seen under the new design despite some filing down of the original coin face. So concerned was the Bank of England about the forgeries they contracted out the minting of a new coin to Mathew Boulton of the Soho Mint the striking of a full sized silver crown with the monarch's bust and the words "Georgius III. Dei Gratia Rex" on the obverse or front of the coin and an image of Britannia, with the wording "Five Shillings Dollar Bank of England, 1804" on the reverse or back. Boulton used Spanish dollars and over stamped them with the new coin design. The Bank of England immediately recalled the early



A close-up photograph of the obverse of a gold coin. The coin features a profile portrait of a man facing right, wearing a laurel wreath. The inscription "GEORGIVS III D G REX" is visible around the perimeter of the coin. The coin is heavily worn and discolored, with a mottled brown and gold surface.

A characteristic that one probably wouldn't expect is that some specimens are fluorescent. This property was

When perusing the mineral dealer's tables it soon becomes evident that this mineral comes from many parts of the world. places such as the Huayllapon Mine, Pasto Bueno District, Pallasca Province, Ancash Department, in Peru; Alzo, Pella, Novara Province, Piedmont, in Italy; from the Berbes Mine, Ribadesella, Asturias, in Spain; Mahodari, Nasik District, Maharashtra, in India; from Riemvasmaak in South Africa; from the Heights Mine, Weardale, Country Durham in the United Kingdom; from the La Fluorita Dulcita Cu prospect, Cochise Co., Arizona, in the USA; the De'an fluorite mine, Wushan, Jiangxi Province in China and many other locations world-wide.

Mining companies look for three qualities of fluorite for industrial use – optical grade for equipment lenses for telescopes, microscopes and even early cameras. Fluorite is also used in hydrofluoric acid and fluorinated water as well as steel manufacture as it helped eliminate unwanted impurities, making enamels, in refrigeration, glassmaking, non-stick kitchen cooking products, the chemical manufacturing and metallurgical industries, toothpaste production and medical commodities.

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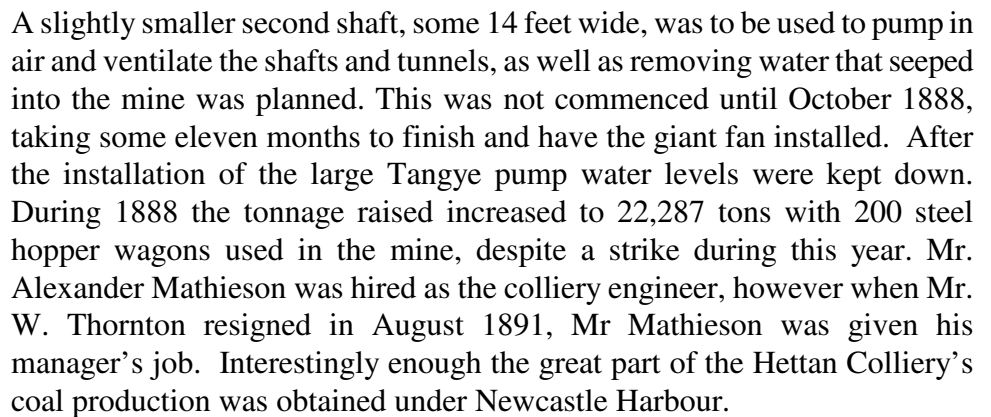
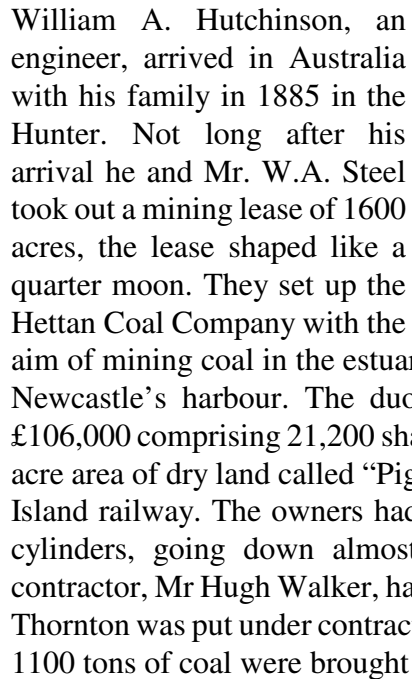
The reverse (left) shows a British Infantryman, with a rifle in his right hand, and an Indian cavalryman, with his left hand resting upon the hilt of his sheathed sword. Both soldiers are standing together and supporting a military standard which holds the Royal Standard. It has an inscription “India 1895” around the edge in high relief. The front or obverse reveals the crowned and veiled head of Queen Victoria’s profile, with the initials ‘TB’ underneath, though those who received the Waziristan 1901-02 clasp would have had the profile of King Edward VII. The



and other fossilised finds. Being found in some quantity paleontologists believe they swan in schools.



## FROM COAL MINING TO AERATED WATERS



Mr. Hutchinson set up his aerated cordial works in Wickham in 1896 before decided to relocate to busier Beaumont Street near The Exchange Hotel in Hamilton and was operating here ready for Federation. He later built a factory, this time on his own land near the Broadmeadow Race Course where he still delivered his crates of flavoured cordials, ginger beer, ginger ale and lemonade to local mines to fulfil his contracts. Hamilton's horse and carts also delivered their bottles of flavoured waters to Speers Point Wharf to be loaded on the small steam boats for delivery to the different mines located around Lake Macquarie.

William A. Hutchinson died in Newcastle Hospital in March 1908 after which his son, James Hutcheson took over the business until it was sold to Moore's Cordials just before World War Two.

## AUSTRALIAN BIRDS - FIRST DAY COVER



In 1978, Australia Post released three new postage stamps which featured three different Australian birds. The cover was number 115 with the stamps and cover design carried out by Kay Breeden-Williams a well-known bird artist. The cover featured three baby Spur Wing Plover chicks on the left hand side.

The stamps were the 5 cent Hooded Dotterel, the 25 cent Masked Plover or Spur Wing Plover sitting on her eggs and one chick beside her. The highest value 30 cent is of the Pied Oystercatcher.

The cover was released on 17th July, 1978, and was cancelled in Freemantle in Western Australia. Two other stamps in the set had already been released on 3rd July, 1978, with a 20 cent showing an Australian Dabchick ("Little Grebe") and 55 cent Comb-crested Jacana ("Lotus-bird") on the cover. A drawing of the wetland's Lotus Bird was featured on the earlier cover. The perforations were mostly 13½ though some were 15 x 14. Another series of bird stamps were released the following year with the stamp and cover design again done also by Kay Breeden-Williams. The stamps were printed in colour at the Note Issue Department in Melbourne by the photogravure process.

The Hooded Dotterel is a native of the southern coastal regions of Australia and tends to continually bob its head when standing still. This bird tends to nest on sandy beaches and used stones and/or seaweed to line its nest. The Pied Oystercatcher can be seen on ocean beaches and more often in Tasmania. If disturbed it will trail its wing to feign injury to protect its young. To enable it to walk on water lilies the Lotus Bird has a very long hind toe. These birds can stay underwater for up to half an hour with only its beak and nose above the water. It likes to sunbake which it does by lying on its side and stretching out its legs. This particular bird is found along coastal regions of eastern and northern Australia. The Little Grebe carried out the unusual practice of eating its own feathers, a practice thought to protect the bird's intestines from the fish bones it eats. The Little Grebes are seen in areas of open water around much of Australia.



The plover or Masked Lapwings (left) are quite large birds with their long reddish legs for running and large yellow facial wattles. These birds are protected by law. They can be found practically Australia wide and will be seen along the foreshores of lakes, swamps and waterways. They also populate low grassy open pasture land as well as sizeable suburban parks, especially if it is watered. Basically they also like to be able to see danger coming in the form of dogs, children, adults or other predators. If disturbed they will

swoop and screech over predators or feign a broken wing to lead the threat away from their nest of eggs.

The plover generally lay up to four eggs, though I have found five in one nest in Uralla. The female lays her eggs in a small depression on the ground in open areas, sometimes it can have some bits of dry grass to line it. Later, over the years, I have seen nests on the top of large factories or other suitable buildings. Both parents take turns sitting on the eggs and protecting them. The yellowish to light brownish coloured eggs will hatch in about 4 weeks. Plovers have boney spurs on their wings which are hard if they get at you however despite common belief these spurs are not poisonous, but they do hurt!

