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**June
Edition
2020**

"Rockzette" Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club News

President's Report	General Interest	Club Activities / Fees
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Hi All,
 I hope everyone has survived the current COVID restrictions and nobody has suffered a serious case of cabin fever or gone totally stir crazy.
 I'm thinking of asking Mel to make space for a new Newsletter section - members' contributions titled, "*Amazing Things I've Achieved Around My Home During Lockdown*". I think we will hear some interesting stories!
 The good news is the Committee will be meeting (for the first time in 3 months) in early June, to formulate a plan for re-opening classes at the Club. Obviously changes need to be made to comply with social distancing requirements, and this is what the Committee will be working through. I ask for your patience in this regard - I know we have members champing at the bit to get back to the Club, but we need to be able to accommodate everyone with safety considerations first and foremost, and we obviously can no longer accommodate 10 or 14 members in the workroom as we were previously able to do.
 When we have worked out how we are going to achieve the new protocols, the usual participating members will be advised by email or phone.
 Until then, stay safe and sane – hopefully, it will not be long now.
 Cheers,
 Ian.

Diary Dates / Notices

Happy Birthday
Members celebrating June birthdays:
 20th – Wendy Bailey. 25th – Wendy Purdie.
 28th – Augie Gray.

Faceting Machine for Sale
See details on the last page...

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 Augie's June 2020 Jasper Selections...



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 Augie's June 2020 Birthstone Selections...




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 Augie's June 2020 Mineral Selections...



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 Ian's June 2020 Collection Selections...



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 'Newcastle and Rail – The Never-ending Story' ...



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 General Interest, humour, etc...

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 Members' Noticeboard and Links...

 See President's Report

The Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club Inc. is not and cannot be held responsible or liable for any personal injuries, loss or damage to property at any club activity, including, but not limited to, meetings, field trips, all crafts and club shows. An indemnity is to be signed by all participants before each and every field trip activity they attend.

Augie's June 2020 Jasper Selections - Biggs Jasper

From Biggs Junction, Oregon.

Biggs Jasper was discovered about 1965 in Oregon when Hwy 97 was cut through Biggs Canyon and came across this beautiful material. There was a mad scramble to get what could be got before the highway was put in. This started a search of the surrounding areas to find more of this material. Several locations were found in the surrounding area but most of the mines are now depleted or closed.

Biggs is a mix of swirled light and dark brown tones. A sub-variety with added blue-grey tones is known as Blue Biggs.

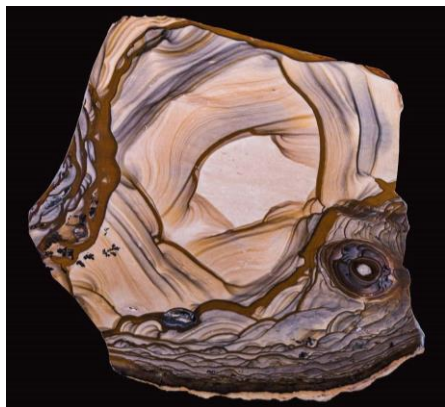
Biggs is highly collectable and much sought after by both cutters and collectors. It is one of the iconic American picture jaspers.



Biggs 01.



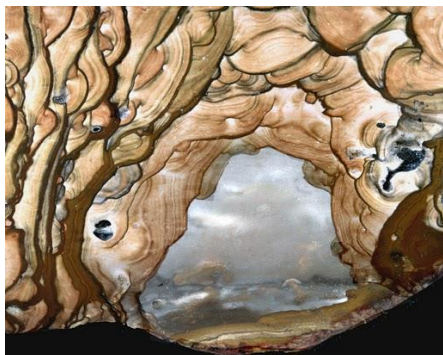
Biggs 02.



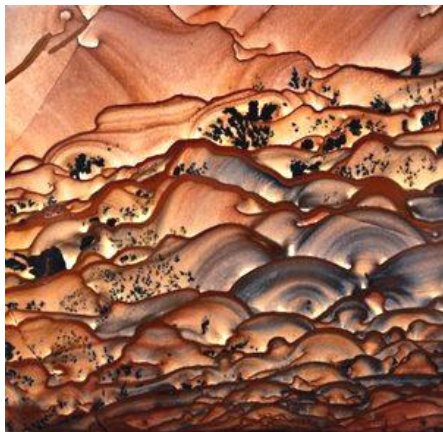
Biggs 03.



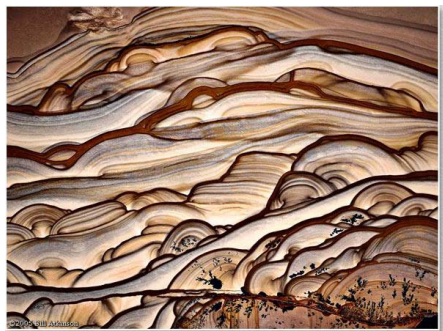
Biggs 04.



Biggs 05.



Biggs 06.



Biggs 07.



Biggs 08.



Biggs 09.



Biggs 10.



Biggs 11.



Blue Biggs 01.



Blue Biggs 02.



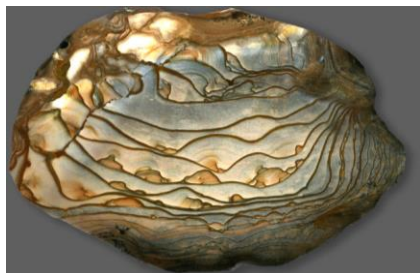
Blue Biggs 03.

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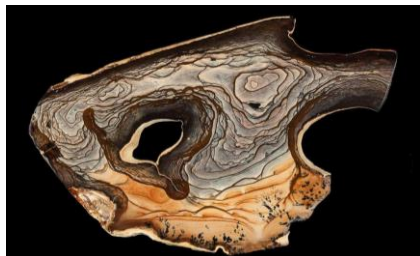
Augie's June 2020 Jasper Selections - Biggs Jasper – Continued...



Blue Biggs 04.



Blue Biggs 05.



Blue Biggs 06.



Blue Biggs 07.



Blue Biggs 08.



Blue Biggs 09.



Blue Biggs 10.



Blue Biggs 11.



Blue Biggs 12.



Blue Biggs 13.



Blue Biggs 14.

Augie's June 2020 Pearl Birthstone Selections



Akoya Pearl.

Pearl – Birthstone for June

Pearls come in two types – Saltwater and Freshwater, though many different species of mollusc can produce pearls, such as Oysters, Mussels, Conch, Clams, Abalone, Scallops and Volutes.

Saltwater Pearl varieties which are produced commercially are *Akoya*, *South Sea* and *Tahitian*.

Akoya

Akoya Pearls are your classic round, white pearl. They are cultured from the Akoya oyster (*Pinctada fucata martensii*) which has the longest history of any cultured pearl. Akoya pearls are white, cream or grey, often with silver, pink or green overtones. They range in size from 2 to 10 mm and are known for producing perfect, round shapes. These pearls are produced in Japan, China and to a lesser extent Vietnam, Thailand & Australia.

South Sea

South Sea pearls are grown from the South Sea oyster (*Pinctada maxima*). The main producers are Australia (white variety), the Philippines and Indonesia (golden variety), with the value of the golden variety being dependent on colour – the deeper the colour, the greater the value. South Sea is the largest variety of pearl, ranging in size from 8 to 20mm, and most are irregular in shape. Perfect round South Sea pearls command extremely high prices.

Tahitian

Tahitian pearls come from the Black-Lip pearl oyster (*Pinctada margaritifera*). They have a naturally dark body, though they do occur from light creamy white, through to grey, green, peacock and black. Black Tahitian pearls are the most exotic of all pearls and have become the most sought after and expensive of the three varieties. Though named “Tahitian”, these pearls do not come from Tahiti. The Black-Lip oyster is farmed in French Polynesia, the Cook and Micronesian Islands, and even to some extent in Japan, Thailand and the Philippines, but only those grown in French Polynesia may be called “Tahitian”. They range in size from 8 – 18mm with a high proportion of round and near round, though other shapes such as baroque, drops and buttons are available.



Tahitian Pearl.

Augie's June 2020 Pearl Birthstone Selections – Continued...

Freshwater Pearls are produced by species of Mussel shell, namely *Hyriopsis cumingi*, *Hyriopsis schlegeli* and *Cristaria plicata*. They are farmed primarily in lakes and rivers in China and Japan. Freshwater Pearl shells are capable of producing up to 32 pearls at a time, one on each valve. There are numerous shapes being produced in Freshwater pearls, from round and near round to potato, rice, button, coin and even exotic crosses and “chicken feet” shapes.

Biwa
Also popularly known as “Stick” pearls, Biwa were originally cultured in Japan’s Lake Biwa, though pollution has seen the demise of the industry in that location. These non-nucleated pearls come in various shapes, the ‘stick’ shape being what they are most recognized for.

Other types/styles of pearl which have recently evolved in the Freshwater Pearl industry are: Flameball/Fireball, which have a tail; Edison, which have a metallic lustre; Kasumi, Ripple, and Souffle

Keshi
Also known as “reborn” or “2nd generation” pearls, Keshi (or Keishi) are the product of shells which have been returned to the water for a second growing period after their main pearls have been harvested. They can occur in both salt and freshwater varieties and are primarily known for their ‘cornflake’ shapes.

Blister and **Mabe** are half pearls which are grown against the inside surface of the shell rather than within the tissue.



Edison Pearl.



Fireball Pearl.



Flameball Pearl.



Golden South Sea Pearl.



Kasumi Pearl.



Keshi Cornflake Pearl.



Mabe Pearl.



Ripple Pearl.



Souffle Pearl.



Abalone Pearl.



Biwa Pearl.

Augie's June 2020 Mineral Selections...



Amazonite & Smoky Quartz, Teller Co., Colorado, USA.



Azurite – Arizona, USA



Fluorite - Salzburg, AUSTRIA.



Amethyst - Vera Cruz, MEXICO.



Azurite – CONGO.



Halite hopper crystals – POLAND.



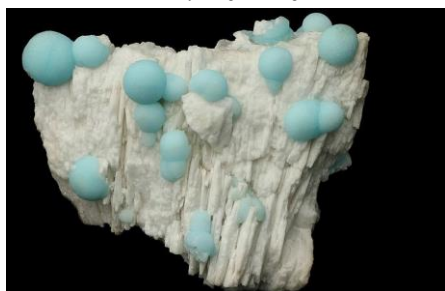
Amethyst Eagle carving.



Cerussite - Esfahan Province, IRAN.



Malachite – CONGO.



Aragonite on Baryte - Brixlegg, Tyrol, AUSTRIA.



Diopase – NAMIBIA.

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Augie's June 2020 Mineral Selections – Continued...



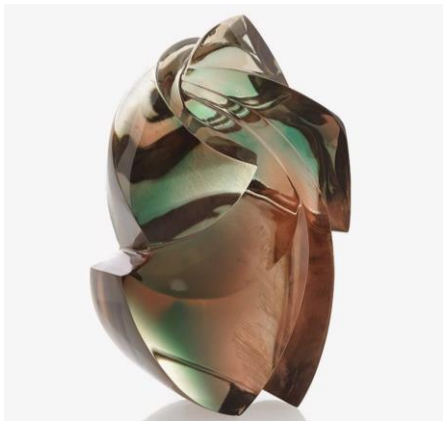
Mesolite - Wadagaon, Poona, INDIA.



Rhodochrosite - Capillitas Mine, ARGENTINA.



Spessartite Garnet on Smoky Quartz.



Oregon Sunstone.



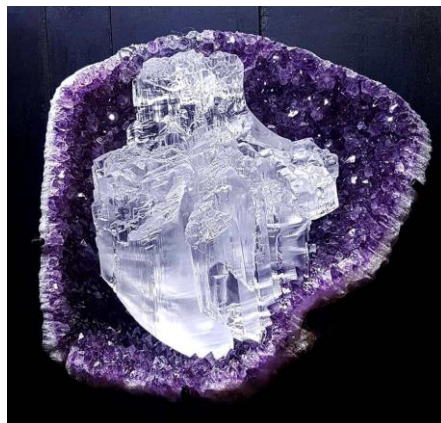
Scolecite in Heulandite.



Stalactitic Rhodochrosite.



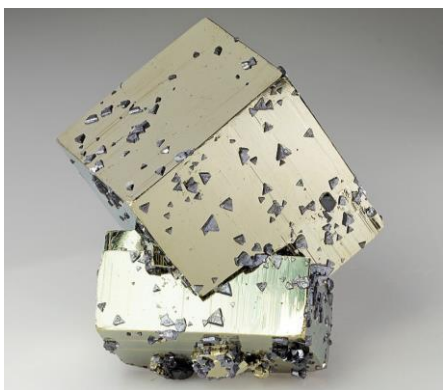
Petrified Wood, Arizona, USA.



Selenite in Amethyst geode.



Concentric Green Radial Wavellite from Garland County, Arkansas, USA.



Pyrite with Sphalerite - Huanzala, PERU.



Vanadinite on Barite - Mibladen, MOROCCO.



Barite on Calcite - Elk Creek, South Dakota, USA.

Ian's June 2020 Quartz Collection Selections...



1035 Sphalerite on Quartz, Cornwall, ENGLAND.



0101 Quartz var Amethyst, Canefield Station, NORTHERN TERRITORY.



1181 Amethyst and Apophyllite, Poona, INDIA.



0160 Quartz var Amethyst, URUGUAY.



1889 Quartz var Amethyst, Minas Gerais, BRAZIL.



0531 Quartz Geode, Dhofar Governorate, Oman.



0585 Quartz Scepters on Prehnite, Crush Creek, Collinsville, QUEENSLAND.

Ian's June 2020 Quartz Collection Selections - Continued...



0067 Quartz var Amethyst, Vera Cruz, MEXICO.



0440 Quartz and Fluorite, Cave in Rock, Illinois, USA.



0153 Calcite on Amethyst, Planalto, Minas Gerais, BRAZIL.



0443 Amethyst with calcite and Fluorite, Beaver Mine, Stanley, Ontario, CANADA.



0446 Quartz, Road Cut, Hwy 60, Bancroft, Ontario, CANADA.



0430 Green Quartz, Serifos Island, Cyclades Prefecture, GREECE.



0594 Quartz, Toms Mountain, Mt Isa, QUEENSLAND.

Ian's June 2020 Quartz Collection Selections - Continued...



0419 Quartz and Cassiterite, Millni Mine, La Paz Dept, BOLIVIA.



0470 Quartz, Dugway Range, Toole Co, Utah, USA.



0593 Quartz, Toms Mountian, Mt Isa, QUEENSLAND.



0597 Quartz, Gypsum and Chlorite, Krushev dol Mine, Maden, BULGARIA.



0599 Fluorite on Quartz, Oakleigh Creek Mine, TASMANIA.



0598 Quartz, Epidote and Galena, Krushev dol Mine, Maden, BULGARIA.



0680 Quartz with Cassiterite, Viloco, BOLIVIA.



0828 Quartz after Anhydrite, Cunningham Gulch, San Juan Co, Colorado, USA.



0831 Trilithionite on Quartz, Barra de Salinas, Minas Gerais, BRAZIL.



0851 Quartz with Pyrite and Chlorite, Kalgoorlie, W.AUST.



0933 Arsenopyrite and Quartz, Rockvale, NEW SOUTH WALES.



0925 Chlorite on Quartz, Dhading District, NEPAL.



0928 Arsenopyrite and Quartz, Rockvale, NEW SOUTH WALES.



0932 Arsenopyrite and Quartz, Rockvale, NEW SOUTH WALES.



0934 Arsenopyrite and Quartz, Rockvale, NEW SOUTH WALES.



1399 Stellarite and Quartz, Tambar Springs, NSW.

Contributed by Mel Jones...

‘Newcastle and Rail – The Never-ending Story’ by Garry Reynolds Part 20 of 24...



The Newcastle City waterfront today where Aborigines once fished from canoes, convicts hewed coal and a railway system developed and disappeared over a period of 160 years. Source: *Familypedia*.

The Flood Challenge to Hunter Railways.



An SMR coal train chuffs across a flooded landscape with steel coal wagons. Source: *Bing Images*.

Leaving aside all of the economic, industrial and political challenges facing the run-down railway systems entering the 1950s in the Hunter Region, the climate created some major threats. Massive floods caused devastation across the urban, rural and industrial landscapes and brought large parts of the South Maitland Railways (SMR) and the NSW Government Railways' networks to a standstill.

The year 1949, was not only remarkable for a major coal strike but also a big flood that halted traffic on the Main Northern Railway Line at Maitland for many days. Locomotives, carriages and the railway station went under the swift flowing muddy waters. There was so much damage done to the branch line to historic Morpeth, whose port outcompeted Newcastle in the early 19th century, that the line was closed in 1953.

An even greater deluge was to follow in 1955, when a record flood through Maitland closed the Main Northern Railway Line for a month!



An aerial photograph of a South Maitland Railways ROD locomotive edging its way gingerly pulling full wooden coal hoppers across the inundated Hexham Swamp in 1955. Source: *Brian Andrews*.

It was a human tragedy with fourteen lives lost, including those of three people who were sheltering in the Maitland North Signal Box when it was swept away. A Navy helicopter plunged into the swirling waters of mud and debris in vainly attempting to rescue them.



Maitland Signal Box about to be swept away in 1955 with the loss of 3 lives. Source: *SES*.



A flood boat being rowed under the Maitland Railway Station signal gantry in 1955. Source: *ARHS*.

To add to the devastation of thousands left homeless, the District was already experiencing a severe economic slump accentuated by the closure of mines on the South Maitland Coalfield. The passenger service from the Coalfield operated by the South Maitland Railways was then taken over and operated by the NSW Government Railways. But again, it was under a cloud with accumulating losses which led the SMR to order three railcars built by Tulloch to provide a service but it proved non-viable after only a few short years.



An SMR railcar on a gloomy day between Weston and Abermain in 1962. Source: *Wikipedia*.

The resurrection of the Northern coal industry.

After the Big Coal Strike of 1949, with Labor Prime Minister Ben Chifley bringing in the Army to break it and his Government being broken at the ballot box by the Liberal's Robert Menzies, the only way was up for the Hunter coal industry, its railway system and the Port of Newcastle.



Steam train streaking along the Hawkesbury from Newcastle. Source: *Bing Images*.

Ironically, the new Liberal Federal Government benefitted from the foundation work undertaken by the post-War Labor Governments in Sydney and Canberra. The way forward was created by the NSW and Commonwealth Governments establishing the Joint Coal Board (JCB) and a conciliation labour tribunal which dealt with worker unrest on the coalfields. This provided the platform for more investment certainty for Governments, the private sector in the Northern Coalfields, and expansion of rail and port facilities feeding into Newcastle Harbour.

In the 1950s, a vigorous exploration program was undertaken by the JCB and other research organisations into the spread, depth and quality of the Hunter's mineral deposits. The initial stimulus came with the opening of coking coal export opportunities in the 1950s to meet the rising demands of steel mills in Asia. Ironically, it started with Japan whose submarine had only recently been shelling Newcastle during WW2. Soon, South Korea and Taiwan entered the market for Newcastle coking coal.

The Asian link became essential to a winning strategy for growth and a pathway to profits for the Northern Coalfields and eventually the NSWGR. It supplied the funds to improve employment conditions and the efficiency of coal production with expanding mechanisation to feed the Japanese steel industry. It had become the predominant steel manufacturing base globally during the 1950s and '60s. However, the Port of Newcastle and the NSWGR initially struggled to keep pace with the rate of modernisation required to meet the demand and the fate of the SMR was sealed with eventual closure.

However, while there was progress on the industrial front in the 1950s, Newcastle wrestled with a severe social legacy from the War – a shortage of housing. While this affected the Region's population in general it was particularly hard on railway employees.

So bad that many had to shelter in tents, not just fettlers. The situation got so serious that the Newcastle City Council complained to the NSWGR about the number of tent towns that had sprung up on railway land. It reached the point, where the Railways had to allow its employees to build permanent residences on vacant land near the tracks!



SMR locomotives on 'Death Row'. Source: Frank Cross.

Meanwhile, in the bigger picture, long-term planning was needed to build efficient large competitive new port and rail infrastructure around Newcastle Harbour. As in the past, the win-win option of dredging new deeper channels to bring in larger ships and using the spoil for land reclamation was the prime strategy. So, in 1951, the Hunter River Islands Reclamation Scheme began (joining up Dempsey, Walsh and Moschetto Islands) to become Kooragang Island. In 1958, a local mining company built 'The Dyke' Coal Loader located at the present site of the Carrington Coal Terminal. While it is regarded as the first 'modern' conveyor-type loader, it relied on direct feed from rail wagons rather than being stockpiled or placed in bins.



In 1966, the powerful team of 3641 and 3803 hurtles the Newcastle Flyer down the track at over 120kph at Ourimbah adjacent to today's site of the new Sydney Trains Interurban Depot. Source: John Adamson.

New contracts from 1962 to dredge deeper channels and berths for larger ships accelerated the supply of seabed material. However, it wasn't until 15 years later that the first industries were established on Kooragang and the following year, 1967, that the first major new technology coal loader – the 'Basin Coal Loader' – began operations under the ownership of the NSW Government. It had a 7 million-tonne per annum capacity. The following year, Canwan Coal Ltd established 'private' stockpile operations in an area near where the Carrington Coal Loader stands. In 1970, this stockpile was linked to The Basin Coal Loader by a conveyor increasing the capacity of the loader to 11 million tonnes per annum. Pressure was mounting on the rail system to feed the stockpiles.

The coal export trade kept building to a level where in 1974 the well-established Newcastle rail company, Gollin & Co., commenced

construction of a new coal loader at Port Waratah by pulling up the old Port Waratah rail sidings established in 1908 in sailing ship and early steam days. But suddenly there was a massive hiccup in the expansion of the coal export facilities at Newcastle. Gollin & Co encountered financial difficulties. With strong mutual interests, a group of Hunter Valley coal shippers and Japanese investors formed a consortium to create Port Waratah Coal Services Limited in 1997. This was the beginnings of a highly successful development for the railway-focused coal supply chain right up to today.



Steam reigned in the Hunter longer than elsewhere on the NSW rail network. Here the Newcastle Flyer glides through Fassifern. Source: David Patterson.



Beyer Garratts used to haul coal to Hunter Valley and Lake Macquarie power stations, 1969.



A relatively short goods train hauled by a 1,950 hp 45-class locomotive on the Northern Line running along the Hawkesbury between the Hunter and Sydney in 1977. Source: David Patterson.

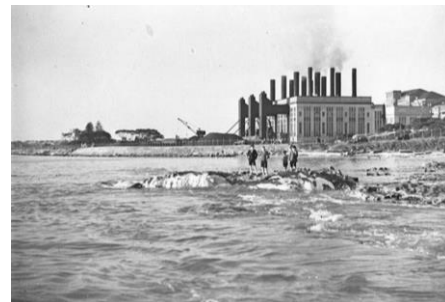


In 1981, the NSW Railways was still running relatively short trains such as this fuel consist entering Port Waratah pulled by a 45-class locomotive. Source: David Patterson.

Electric coal.

But a boost to Newcastle and its rail network didn't just come from the coal export market

and the expansion of the BHP Steelworks. In the late 1950s, the NSW Electricity Commission and the NSWGR pursued a new strategy of producing power on the Northern Coalfields in massive plants, while reducing carting coal to Sydney power stations. These were eventually scaled back and eliminated not only for economic but environmental pollution reasons. The urban electricity generators were in inner Sydney at Pyrmont and White Bay on the Harbour. They had shipping access to Newcastle coal and rail access to Bunnerong Power Station near Malabar on Botany Bay.



Boys fishing in front of Bunnerong Power Station. Source: Wikimedia.



Boiler ash train at Bunnerong Power Station in 1973 heading towards the sandy dune country. Source: Flickr.

At one stage, Bunnerong was the largest power station in the Southern Hemisphere. However, as industrial action escalated on the Northern Coalfields during and after WW2, supplementary oil burners were fitted to every boiler to mitigate the effects of coal shortages and variable coal quality. The Sydney City Council which ran the Power Station, operated its own private railway coal line connecting with Botany Goods Yard where the coal arrived by NSWGR trains from Newcastle.



The Bunnerong Power Station towers over diminutive locomotive No 6 hauling boiler ash. Source: Flickr.

Bunnerong was built in two parts. Section A required high quality hand-picked black coal but Section B could use coal won by mechanised methods leading into the 1950s.

However, Bunnerong's days were numbered, as was the raiing of coal to Sydney for power generation. In the late 1950s, Wangi Wangi Power Station was opened near Lake (Continued...)

Macquarie and fed by a short rail link from the nearby Government-owned Awaba Colliery. It was the last power station built under NSWGR jurisdiction and the largest for years in the State. Wang Wangi proved its worth immediately and into the early 1960s when there were major power shortages culminating in a total power shutdown of the whole of NSW on 10 June 1964.

By 1980, most of NSW electricity generation came from areas around Newcastle at Lake Macquarie and in the Hunter Valley. These big power stations were fed by either conveyor belts from coal fields or coal railed in initially by big steam locomotives, such as the Beyer Garratts, and then powerful diesel lash ups. This impacted on the Port of Newcastle with the elimination of the long-established 'Sixty Miler' coal shipping trade between Newcastle up the Hunter River to Hexham and Sydney.



'Sixty-Miler' passing under Hexham lifting bridge 1966. Source: Newcastle Herald.



36-class and 38-class locomotives were the main motive power on the Newcastle Flyer for many years after WW2. Here is 3609 on display at Enfield, years after being taken out of service. Source: David Patterson.



The 36-class steam locomotives held on as freight locomotives with the 60 class Beyer Garratts seen here following at Tuggerah for several decades after WW2 in the Hunter. Source: David Patterson.



The fast 38-class locomotive 3815 running light between Fassifern and Awaba on the Main Northern Line in 1966. Source: David Patterson.



A double headed goods train working through Morrisett on the Main Northern Line. Source: David Patterson.

The steady infrastructure investment in coal mines, rail networks and port facilities in Newcastle produced expansion all round in the coal supply chain in the early 1960s through to the mid-1980s. This growth was coupled with the expansion of the Asian economies dragging the Northern coal industry along with them. The demand for steaming coal was further accelerated by the Global Oil Crisis in 1973 when oil prices leapt by 400%. This was the catalyst for energy-intensive industries globally to turn from oil to coal. On the supply side too, when it was realised that there were large coal deposits in the Hunter Valley close to the surface, there was a big move towards more efficient large-scale open cut mining. This had a major impact not only on the coal industry but the rise in wages and the revitalisation of some mining communities although not without significant environmental impacts on the landscape.

Newcastle was on a roll. From the 1980s, the export of steaming coal to produce electricity in Asian power plants grew, complementing the earlier coking coal expansion. In Australia as well, the electricity-generating industry had become by far the largest consumer of coal. By 1980, it accounted for 67% of all coal used whereas the iron and steel industry accounted for only 22%.

However, a cloud was appearing on the horizon. The growth in the Hunter and the opening up of Queensland coalfields attracted the attention of overseas competitors, particularly from lower-cost Indonesian and Chinese-based producers, who jumped into the steaming coal market early in the new Millennium.



The traditional underground West Wallsend Colliery in 1982. Source: Brian Andrews.



The Hunter Valley's Saxonvale Open Cut Dragline in the 1990s. Source: University of Newcastle.



Saxonvale mine truck in the early 1990s. Source: University of Newcastle.

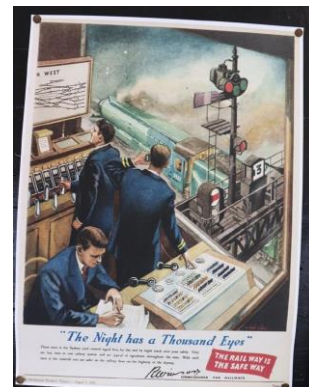


A Saxonvale open cut earth mover. Source: University of Newcastle.

Last days of steam on the Hunter



A busy Hamilton Railway Station in the latter days of steam under the watchful eyes in the signal box. Source: Australian Railway History.



An advertisement in the Australian Womens Weekly of August 5, 1958 is pinned to the Hamilton Signal Box noticeboard. Source: Nuatali Nelmes.



While no longer operational, the intact Hamilton Signal Box has now become a tourist attraction promoted by Newcastle City Council. Source: Nuatali Nelmes.



By 1983, diesels are well and truly embedded and taken over from steam at Scholey St Junction entering Port Waratah and export coal loading facilities at the Port of Newcastle. Source: David Patterson.



The last days of steam with tank locomotive 3138 pulling wooden Yankee suburban cars between Toronto and Fassifern. Source: David Patterson.



A multiple unit set at Maitland in 1976 taking over from suburban steam. Source: David Patterson.



Series 600 suburban rail cars at Newcastle Station heading for metropolitan Telarah. These cars were withdrawn in 2007 and replaced by Hunter and Endeavour rail cars. Source: David Patterson.



A Hunter railcar approaching Newcastle Station. Source: ATSB.

Northern Coal facing challenges.



Port Waratah Coal Loaders feeding coal from rail-fed dumps into ships. Source: Sierra Club.



Two diesel coal trains meet on the busy lines feeding the Port of Newcastle. Source: Andrew Roberts.



In 1997, two other diesel coal trains meet at Beresfield on the Main Northern Line with disastrous consequences – fortunately the crews jumped clear. Source: Maitland Mercury.

The future of Newcastle's coal market will be under increasing pressure as Asian nations accelerate moves to domestically-produce alternative energy and replace coal and nuclear, in say Japan, with LPG exported from Australia but not Newcastle. As well, while the coal industry is still thriving in the Hunter, as 80% of the Australian coal industry is foreign-owned according to the Reserve Bank, most of the profits flow to overseas shareholders. The Newcastle coal industry is essentially a branch office of multi-nationals.

Another challenge in the Hunter arises from the competition and impacts on other industries such as tourism, the equine industry and viticulture.

Increasingly, environmental considerations as the impacts on remnant natural vegetation and the health of farms and waterways is attracting attention. The effects of coal dust on rural and

urban dwellers from mining is a hot issue as noise from massive coal trains heading through suburbia to the Port of Newcastle.



A powerful consist of multi-national, Glencore's locomotives, roar across the Hunter. Source: Shaun Stutsell.



Carriages stored at the State Dockyard being taken to Newcastle Station 1985. Source: David Patterson.



New meets old with a quad-headed coal train passing heritage steam locomotive Garratt 6029 and heritage diesel locomotive 4201 trailing near Branxton during the 2018 Steamfest. Source: David Patterson.

See Part 21 of 24 of 'Newcastle and Rail – The Never-ending Story' in the July 2020 edition of the TTGGMC Newsletter.

Watch some videos that I have taken over the years in the Maitland – Newcastle Area (Hunter Valley Region, NSW) ...

2017 Hunter Valley Steamfest

[Train Enthusiast's Video Diary 2017-04-07](#)

[Train Enthusiast's Video Diary 2017-04-08](#)

[Train Enthusiast's Video Diary 2017-04-09](#)

[Train Enthusiast's Video Diary 2017-04-10](#)

1988 Australian Bi-Centennial Activity – Steam Locomotive 3801 visits Newcastle

[Train Enthusiast's Video Diary 1988-01-30](#)

1986 SMR Tank Steam Locomotives still hauling coal over the Hexham Swamp well after the end of commercial steam locomotive hauled trains in all states of Australia...

[Train Enthusiast's Video Diary 1986-08-29](#)

[Train Enthusiast's Video Diary 1986-09-01](#)

[Train Enthusiast's Video Diary 1986-09-02](#)

[Train Enthusiast's Video Diary 1986-09-03](#)

Contributed by Augie...



8 Words 2 Meanings

- 1) **Thingy** (thing-ee) n.
Female - Any part under a car's hood.
Male - The strap fastener on a woman's bra.
- 2) **Vulnerable** (vul-ne-ra-bel) adj.
Female - Fully opening-up one's self emotionally to another.
Male - Playing football without a protective cup.
- 3) **Communication** (ko-myoo-ni- kay-shon) n.
Female - The open sharing of thoughts and feelings with one's partner.
Male - Leaving a note before taking off on a fishing trip with the boys.
- 4) **Commitment** (ko- mit-ment) n.
Female - A desire to get married and raise a family.
Male - Trying not to hit on other women while out with this one.
- 5) **Entertainment** (en-ter- tayn-ment) n.
Female - A good movie, concert, play or book.
Male - Anything that can be done while drinking beer.
- 6) **Flatulence** (flach-u-lens) n.
Female - An embarrassing by-product of indigestion.
Male - A source of entertainment, self-expression, male bonding.
- 7) **Making Love** (may-king luv) n.
Female - The greatest expression of intimacy a couple can achieve.
Male - Call it whatever you want, just as long as we do it.
- 8) **Remote Control** (ri-moht kon-trohl) n.
Female - A device for changing from one TV channel to another.
Male - A device for scanning through all 375 channels every 5 minutes.



And!

He said, 'Shall we try swapping positions tonight?'
She said, 'That's a good idea - you stand by the ironing board while I sit on the sofa and fart!'

'And' continued...

He said, 'I don't know why you wear a bra; you've got nothing to put in it'.
She said, 'You wear pants, don't you?'
He said, 'What have you been doing with all the grocery money I gave you?'
She said, 'Turn sideways and look in the mirror!'
He said, 'Why are married women heavier than single women?'
She said, 'Single women come home, see what's in the fridge and go to bed. Married women come home, see what's in bed and go to the fridge'.



Contributed by Augie...

British Humour – Horse Burgers.

In the UK, some supermarkets have admitted that there is horse meat in their home-cooked burgers.
 Even places like Burger King have had to admit that there are "small amounts" of horse meat in their burgers. Tesco is a big supermarket chain in the UK.
 Within hours of the news that Tesco's 'all beef hamburgers' contained 30% horse meat, the following quips hit the Internet:
 'I'm so hungry, I could eat a horse. I guess Tesco just listened!'
 'Anyone want a burger from Tesco? Yay or neigh?'
 'Not entirely sure how Tesco is going to get over this hurdle.'
 'Had some burgers from Tesco for supper last night. I still have a bit between my teeth.'
 'A woman has been taken into hospital after eating horse meat burgers from Tesco. Her condition is listed as stable.'
 'Tesco are now testing all their vegetarian burgers for traces of unicorn.'
 'I've just checked the Tesco burgers in my freezer ... "AND THEY'RE OFF!"'
 'Tesco is now forced to deny the presence of zebra in burgers, as shoppers confuse barcodes for serving suggestions.'
 I said to my spouse, "These Tesco burgers give me the trots..."
 "To beef or not to beef, that is equestrian"
 A cow walks into a bar. Barman says, "Why the long face? Cow says, "Illegal ingredients are coming over here stealing our jobs!"

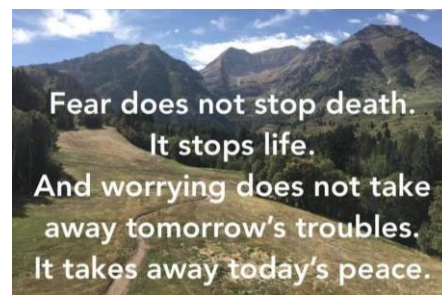
'I hear the smaller version of those Tesco burgers make great horse d'oeuvres.'
 'These Tesco burger jokes are going on a bit. Talk about flogging a dead horse.'
 Since they're selling the meat wrapped in plastic, is that technically a "Trojan Horse?"
 Instead of choosing "rare, medium or well done", it's now "Win, Place or Show".
 At first, I thought, "Oh great, I've been saddled with another email to forward, but something spurred me on."



Horse Refused Tesco Horse Burger!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ms6zzOm6v94>

Contributed by Wendy Purdie...





Have you ever felt like this?

Ill never forget the look on the cashiers face, when she scanned the packet of bird seed, And I asked her how long does it take for the birds to grow once I plant them.

Contributed by Doug Walker...
(Our parents. Food for thought, Doug.)



When you put it like this...

Just putting this crisis in perspective:

It's a mess out there now. Hard to discern between what's a real threat and what is just simple panic and hysteria.

For a small amount of perspective at this moment, imagine you were born in 1900. On your 14th birthday, World War I starts, and ends on your 18th birthday. 22 million people perish in that war. Later in the year, a Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until your 20th birthday. 50 million people die from it in those two years. Yes, 50 million.

On your 29th birthday, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, the World GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy.

When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet. And don't try to catch your breath.

On your 41st birthday, the United States is fully pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war.

At 50, the Korean War starts. 5 million perish. At 55 the Vietnam War begins and doesn't end for 20 years. 4 million people perish in that conflict.

On your 62nd birthday you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we know it, should have ended. Great leaders prevented that from happening.

When you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends. Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900.

How do you survive all of that when you were a kid in 1985 and didn't think your 85 year old grandparent understood how hard school was and how mean that kid in your class was, yet they survived through everything listed above?

Perspective is an amazing art, refined as time goes on and enlightening like you wouldn't believe.

Let's try and keep things in perspective. Let's be smart, help one another out.

**One moment
you're 20
in the 70s.
Now you're 70 in
the 20s**

😭😂🙏😍😂😂😎



**The awkward moment
when staying home
did not flatten any
of your curves.**

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Never Underestimate the Elderly!

The old lady handed her bank card to a bank teller and said, "I would like to withdraw \$500."

The female teller told her, "For withdrawals less than \$5,000, please use the ATM."

The old lady then asked, "Why?"

The teller irritably told her, "These are rules. Please leave if there is no other matter. There is a queue behind you."

She then returned the card to the old lady.

The old lady remained silent... but then she returned the card to the teller and said, "Please help me withdraw all the money I have."

The teller was astonished when she checked the account balance.

She nodded her head, leaned down and said to the old lady, "My apologies Granny, you have \$3.5 million in your account and our bank does not have so much cash currently.

Could you make an appointment and come again tomorrow?"

The old lady then asked, "How much am I able to withdraw now?"

The teller told her, "Any amount up to \$300,000"

The old lady then told the teller that she wanted to withdraw \$300,000 from her account.

The teller did so quickly and handed it to the old lady respectfully.

The old lady kept \$500 in her bag and asked the teller to deposit the balance of \$299,500 back into her account.



**Do not be difficult with old people...we can
outwit the young and dumb!**



Contributed by Doug Walker...



Mum's Driver's Licence

A mother was driving her little girl to her friend's house for a play day.

'Mummy', the little girl asked, 'how old are you?' The mother replied, 'Honey, you are not supposed to ask a lady her age. And, it's not polite.' 'OK', the little girl said.

The girl continued, 'What colour was your hair 2 years ago?' The mother, now a little frustrated, said, 'Now really, those are personal questions and are really none of your business.'

Undaunted, the little girl asked, 'Why did you and Daddy get a divorce?' Mother replied, 'That's enough questions, young lady! Honestly!'

The exasperated mother walked away as the two friends began to play.

'My Mum won't tell me anything about herself,' the little girl said to her friend. 'WELL', said the friend, 'all you need to do is look at her DRIVER'S LICENCE, it's like our report cards, it has everything on it.'

Later that night the little girl said to her mother, 'I know how old you are. You are 32.' The mother is surprised and queried her daughter, 'How did you find that out?'

Unperturbed, the girl continued by stating, 'I also know that you used to have brown hair.' The mother was past being surprised and was shocked now, and again queried her daughter, 'How in Heaven's name did you find that out?'

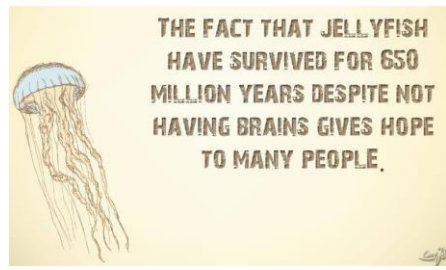
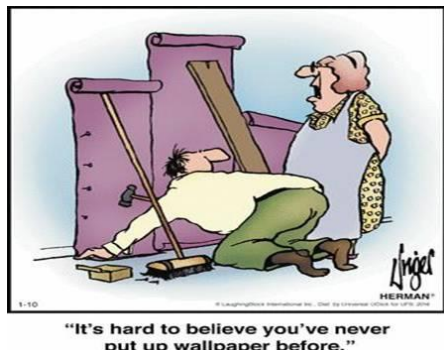
The little girl added, 'And, I also know why you and daddy got divorced. 'Oh really' said the mother, 'Why?'

Triumphantly, the girl replied, 'It's all on your driver's licence and you got an "F" in sex!'

**No, you haven't
gained that much
weight during
the quarantine.
Come on...chin
up.
No, the other
one.**

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Been Working Around the House Lately?



Contributed by Doug Walker...

Corona Facts???

Closed for tourists

AFTER having to cancel successive attempted holidays to various states, I decided to rename them:

- NT: No trespassing;
- SA: Stay away;
- QLD: Quietly locked down;
- VIC: Very inconveniently closed;
- WA: Withdrawn association;
- NSW: Not So Welcoming;
- TAS: Totally alone state;
- ACT: Authorised coronavirus tacticians.

IN CASE THINGS GET BAD



JUST SAYING



PEOPLE KEEP ASKING "IS COVID 19 REALLY THAT SERIOUS?"

LISTEN UP

CASINOS AND CHURCHES ARE CLOSED

WHEN HEAVEN AND HELL AGREE ON THE SAME THING

IT'S PROBABLY PRETTY SERIOUS

Notice from the Association of Psychiatrists

Dear citizens,
During the quarantine it is considered normal to talk to your plants and pets. Kindly contact us only if they reply.

Thank you

HOARDER COLLIE



Not much on the supermarket shelves yesterday so I decided to improvise.

Dinner last night was a risotto I made with some mushrooms I foraged for locally.

Not only was it delicious, but soon after a Welsh male voice choir of purple elephants showed up and sang the whole of Meatloaf's Bat Out of Hell album, accompanied by a light show 😊

It's been such a joy being home with my wife the past 3 weeks. We've caught up on all the things I've done wrong the past 30 years.



If you receive an email with the subject "Ding Dong", don't open it.

It's Jehovah's Witnesses working from home...

To all the grandparents who are missing their grandchildren. When this is over you can have them for a month. Promise.



www.familiesmagazine.com.au



Working from home but missing the train trips.

BREAKING NEWS

Wearing a mask 😊 inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to prevent Covid-19 but to stop eating.

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Some More Humour

I could swear he is doing it wrong, but since I dont own a boat, Im going to keep my opinion to myself!
😂😂😂



climate change hits New York



Marriage Tip #2
When your wife is mowing the lawn, that's not the best time to ask when dinner will be ready

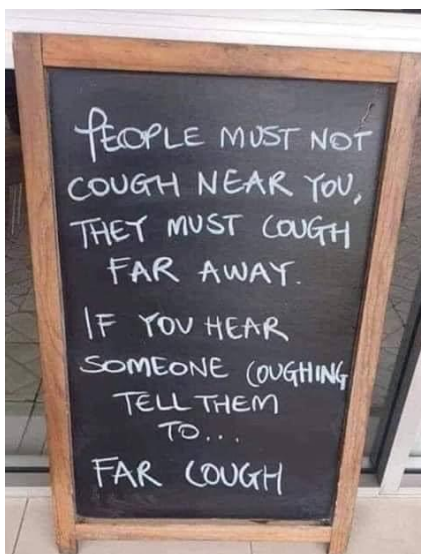
I just got pulled over by the cops. He said " I can smell alcohol "
I told him that's because your not respecting social distancing.

And another day in quarantine, somebody was feeling creative or maybe just losing their mind



A very nice phrase I heard this morning

"The world is closed for renovation, Grand reopening soon



ANYBODY HAVE AN OWNERS MANUAL FOR A HUSBAND? MINE'S MAKING A WHINING SOUND.

@GOAC

THINKING A MASK IS GOING TO STOP CORONA



IS LIKE THINKING YOUR UNDIES WILL STOP A FART.

BREAKING NEWS on the CORONAVIRUS

ALERT!!

The CoronaVirus Can Be Spread Through Money. So If U Have Money At Home, Put All The Money into a Plastic Bag N Put it Outside The Front Door. I'm Collecting All The Bags Tonight For Safety. The Virus Doesn't Spread Through Coins So Keep Those. Just Doing What I Can ¹⁰⁰

NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAMS DID I IMAGINE I'D GO UP TO A BANK TELLER WITH A MASK ON ASKING FOR MONEY.

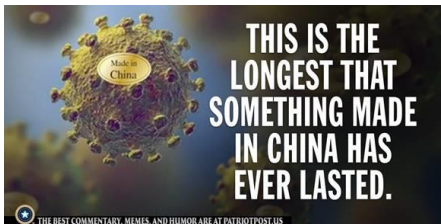
A mask is better than a ventilator , Home is better than ICU. Prevention is better than Cure. It's not CURFEW, it's CARE FOR U.

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Some More Humour

Washed a load of pajamas so I would have clean work clothes this week.

Apparently one of the symptoms of covid-19 is having no taste? Looking back on my exes i think i've been infected for years..



My wife and I have the cutest nicknames for each other. She's my buttercup and I'm her useless sack of shit.



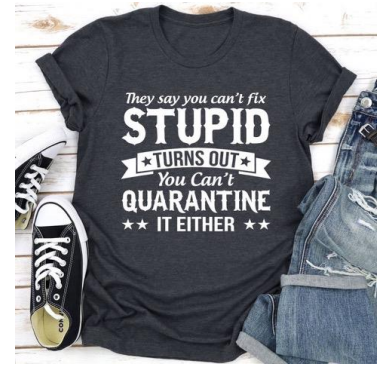
The Trikini 2020

Out grocery shopping, I tried so hard to suppress a sneeze so I wouldn't get glares from people I couldn't hold it so I tried to "internally" sneeze which caused me to fart, pee a little and cough violently

Peoples' faces went from glares to total concern for my life



Today's mood: Bitchy with a touch of sarcasm.



Costco has a great sense of humor



MY WIFE SAID THAT IF I DON'T GET OFF MY COMPUTER AND HELP WITH THE DISHES, SHE'LL SLAM MY HEAD ON THE KEYBOARD, BUT I THINK SHE'S JOKINDSG67SGHI3DHGJ RE7490DNDWHK3-2J4H37SHDUDKIJI SD877HR8SK020A3Y3H3J3UHU338JE SU83J8R

Contributed by Doug Hughes...



In 8 weeks 88% of blondes will disappear from the earth.



Quarantine has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We are told 'no' if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides.



What is happening?
Humans are all wearing muzzles.



I'm so over being part of a major historical event right about now.

Anyone else's car getting 3 weeks to the gallon at the moment ?

It's like being 16 again
Gas is cheap and I'm Grounded.

New 2020 Airport Codes
Popular Spring Break Destinations

- LVG - Living Room PAT - Patio
- KIT - Kitchen BAL - Balcony
- BTH - Bathroom OFC - Office
- MBR - Master Bath BKY - Backyard
- BDM - Bedroom BMT - Basement

Enjoy your trip!

2020



MY HUSBAND AND I DECIDED WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE CHILDREN. WE WILL BE TELLING THEM TONIGHT AT DINNER.

I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY DOGS GET SO EXCITED WHEN THEY SEE AN OPEN DOOR.



© AUNTY ACID 2020 aunty acid

You'll stay on the couch! You'll stay in your room!
You'll stay in a chair for a meeting on Zoom!
You'll stay in the bathroom—a brief getaway!
There are so many places at home you will stay!

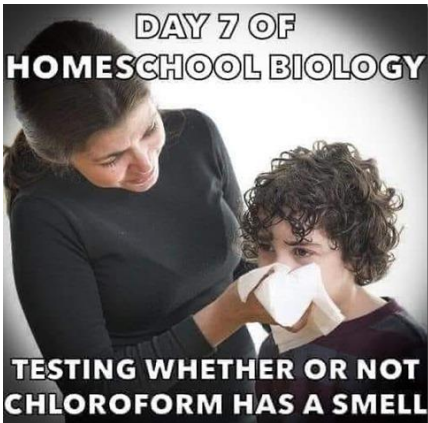


Patreon.com/ScottMetzgerCartoons METZGER

Contributed by Doug Hughes...



SUMMER 2020



Three weeks of home schooling my 7, 9 and 12 year olds went surprisingly well! They have all graduated High School and are now ready to move out and get jobs when quarantine is over!

All those grandparents who are missing their grand kids right now. Once this is over you can have them for a month. Sincerely, a tired mom.

glad i didn't waste my money buying a planner for 2020

ITALIANS ON LOCKDOWN



Contributed by Tony Holloway...

AND JUST LIKE THAT: HAVING A MASK, RUBBER GLOVES, DUCT TAPE, PLASTIC SHEETING AND ROPE IN YOUR TRUNK IS OKAY.

The drop in petrol price during the lockdown is like a bald man winning a hairbrush

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Some More Chuckles



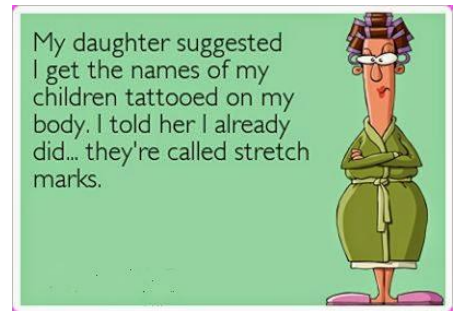
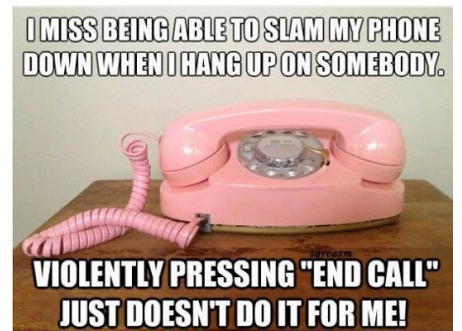
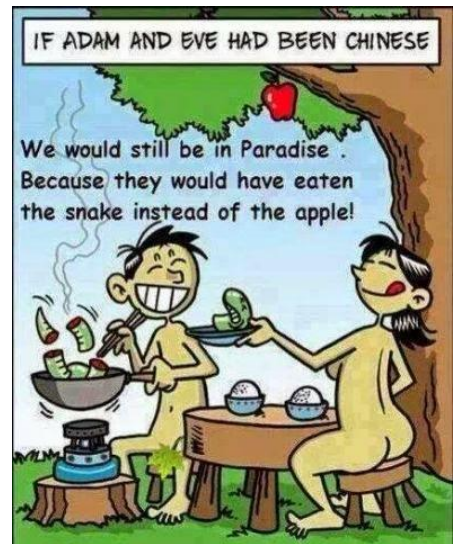
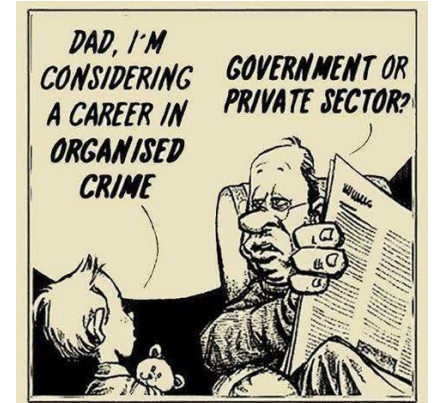
Bringing the wife out after months of lockdown.



And the winner is....



CINDERELLA NEVER ASKED FOR A PRINCE. SHE ASKED FOR A NIGHT OFF AND A DRESS.
KIERA CASS



Some More Chuckles – Continued...



GETTING OLDER IS JUST ONE BODY PART AFTER ANOTHER SAYING, 'HA HA, YOU THINK THAT'S BAD? WATCH THIS.'

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

I THOUGHT GETTING OLD WOULD TAKE LONGER

I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.

MOST PEOPLE DON'T THINK I'M AS OLD AS I AM UNTIL THEY HEAR ME STAND UP

**MY MIND IS LIKE MY INTERNET BROWSER
19 TABS OPEN
3 OF THEM ARE FROZEN &
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THE MUSIC IS COMING FROM**

As I watch this generation try to rewrite history, one thing I'm sure of.... it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.



I wanna be 14 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.



My new social distancing shoes have arrived



To make it stand, you wet it.
To make it wet, you suck it.
To make it stiff, you lick it.
To get it in, you push it!
Damn!
Threading a needle at any age is no joke!**

Contributed by Augie...

More Corona Virus Humour

First day at the beach after quarantine.



My wife yelled from upstairs and asked, "Do you ever get a shooting pain across your body, like someone's got a voodoo doll of you and they're stabbing it?"

Sounding concerned, I replied, "No..."

She responded, "How about now?"

AFTER ALL THE STUPID, STUPID THINGS I'VE DONE IN MY LIFE...IF I DIE BECAUSE I TOUCHED MY FACE, I AM GOING TO BE SERIOUSLY PISSED.



MAYBE I SHOULD



GET UP FOR A LITTLE BIT!

**If you see my kids locked outside today, mind your business. We are having a fire drill.
#HomeSchool**

**If somebody isn't social distancing behind you...
JUST FART!**



Contributed by Augie...

Book Titles

- "Know your Seabirds" by Al Batross
- "A Guide to Mixology" by Bart Ender
- "House Construction 101" by Bill Jerome Holme
- "The Roundup" by Brandon Ions
- "The Peeping Tom" by C.K. Undress
- "We're All Flakes" by Dan Druff
- "To Be Honest" by Frank Lee
- "In the Trenches" by Helmut Warer
- "Computer Memories" by Meg Abight
- "I Can Fix That" by Jerry Rig
- "Breaking the Law" by Kermit A. Crime
- "Nordic Groundkeepers" by Leif Rakers
- "Kingdom of the Flames" by M. Pyre
- "The Art of Bullfighting" by Matt Adore
- "Mexican Revenge" by Monty Zuma

If you can read this with ease, then you are incredibly talented at reading backwards which is an incredibly pointless talent to have!

If you can read this with ease, then you are incredibly talented at reading not only backwards, but with mixed up words and upside down too, which is an incredibly pointless talent to have!

If you can read this with ease, then you are incredibly talented at riding a unicycle, but with mixed up words and upside down too, which is still an incredibly pointless talent to have!



"Give it to me!" she yelled.

"I'm so f'n wet, give it to me now!"

Well, she can scream all she wants. I'm not giving her the f'n umbrella!

**"You'll understand when you're older."
I am older and I understand absolutely nothing**

**Faceting Machine for Sale
Gemmasta GF4**

Includes **lots** of **extra** accessories


- 24 laps
- 3 handpieces
- 3 index wheels
- 45 dopsticks
- diamond powders

For a full list of items and price,
please email expressions of interest
to

bluedog50@optusnet.com.au

Local Adelaide pickup only

**The Broken Hill Mineral Club
Inc. 2020 Gem and Mineral
Show. October Long weekend.**



The Broken Hill Mineral Club. Inc.
PO Box 747, Broken Hill, NSW, 2880

The Broken Hill Mineral Club invites you or any members of your club or general public to visit our wonderful city of Broken Hill and participate in the 2020 show by selling or buying minerals, gems, jewellery, lapidary equipment as well as arts and crafts. Please indicate below what you intend to trade in and your requirements if any.

I will be trading in:

There will be tea/coffee and food available to purchase on site

Accommodation: There are three caravan parks and numerous Hotels, Motels as well as private accommodation throughout the city.

Dining: There are numerous Hotels, Motels and restaurants throughout the city to dine in as well as multiple take away shops.

Fuel: There are a number of service stations scattered around the city to purchase fuel.

Things to see/do: Visit the information centre on the corner of Blende and Bromide streets to inquire about what to see and do in and around the City.

Emergency numbers:

Police: 000

Fire: 000

Ambulance: 000

Mineral boxes and flats for sale

Mineral box sizes

Sold in bundles of (10 for 100)

3.5 x 3.3cm.....	(\$1.50)	\$12.00
4 x 4cm.....	(\$1.50)	\$13.00
5 x 5.2cm.....	(\$2.00)	\$15.00
6.2 x 7.5cm.....	(\$2.50)	\$18.00
7 x 7cm.....	(\$2.50)	\$19.00
7 x 9.5cm.....	(\$2.50)	\$20.00
8.5 x 9.5cm.....	(\$3.00)	\$22.00
9.5 x 9.5cm.....	(\$3.50)	\$23.00
13 x 9.5cm.....	(\$4.00)	\$25.00
13 x 12.5cm.....	(\$4.50)	\$30-00

Flats sizes

395 x 265 x 50mm.....	\$2.50
400 x 270 x 75mm.....	\$3.50 NEW SIZE
398 x 290 x 98mm.....	\$4.00

Greg Vort-Ronald
0413796279 or luv2paint@iprimus.com.au
all boxes and flats are folded together, no staples required
(Prices subject to change)

- 2020 Australian Gem & Mineral Calendar: [Click here...](#)
- Adelaide Gem and Mineral Club: [Click here...](#)
- AFLACA-GMCASA: [Click here...](#)
- Australian Federation of Lapidary and Allied Crafts Association (AFLACA): [Click here...](#)
- Australian Lapidary Club Directory: [Click here...](#)
- Australian Lapidary Forum: [Click here...](#)
- Enfield Gem and Mineral Club Inc: [Click here...](#)
- Flinders Gem, Geology, and Mineral Club Inc: [Click here...](#)
- Gem and Mineral Clubs Association of South Australia: [Click here...](#)
- Gemcuts: [Click here...](#)
- Lapidary World: [Click here...](#)
- Metal Detectors - Garrett Australia: [Click here...](#)
- Metal Detectors - Miners Den Adelaide: [Click here...](#)
- Mineralogical Society of SA Inc: [Click here...](#)
- Murraylands Gem and Mineral Club Inc: [Click here...](#)
- NQ Explorers: [Click here...](#)
- Prospecting Australia: [Click here...](#)
- Southern Rockhounds: [Click here...](#)
- Tea Tree Gully Gem and Mineral Club: [Click here...](#)
- The Australian Mineral Collector: [Click here...](#)