FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

This is the first of a series of e-newsletters to be produced in a series that will promote Bathurst’s upcoming 200th Anniversary, the BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History and other various functions and exciting activities which will take place throughout next year.

BATHEX stands for ‘Bathurst Exhibition’ which has been going in Bathurst every two or three years since 1988. It follows somewhat along the lines of the historic Bathurst Juvenile Industrial Exhibition which ran from 2nd to the 9th November, 1881, some 134 years ago next year.

This e-newsletter is to assist in promoting BATHEX 200 and other events taking place during the year-long celebrations next year as Bathurst marks its 200th birthday.

Over the next fifteen months these e-newsletters will incorporate assorted articles, snippets, photos and illustrations that has seen Bathurst develop from a Government settlement to the heritage city that Bathurst is today. These will give readers an interesting insight into Bathurst’s rich and diverse history.

There will be articles about families, people, places and everyday life. It will highlight certain dates that have been important to Bathurst along with information on the social history of this first inland settlement.

There is now less than six months before the start of 2015 when Bathurst’s 200th anniversary will take the form of a year-long celebration with its numerous activities. Obviously a great deal of planning and organisation is currently going on to see that each event will come to fruition.

As more details, locations and information concerning the various events are confirmed the information will be included.

Bathurst is expecting that a considerable number of visitors will travel back to Bathurst so if you intend to visit Bathurst and need to stay one, or several nights, it would be advisable to book accommodation before you arrive.

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

BATHURST 200 ACCREDITATION

The Bathurst Regional Council and other organisations have been working on plans for 2015 for over three years. Early on Council put in place a system of accreditation where local clubs, schools, organisations and individuals could register their project or event. This enables those accredited to use the Bathurst 200 logo and be featured in the official programme.

Already numerous organisations have had their events accredited by the Bathurst Regional Council with the Bathurst District Historical Society being the first to apply to have an event approved.

BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History, has its accreditation and plans are in full swing.

BOOK LOCAL ACCOMMODATION EARLY!

Don't forget to book your accommodation early for any Bathurst 200 functions. In the Bathurst Region we have the full assortment of accommodation from motels to caravan parks, and quaint bed and breakfasts, serviced apartments and self-catering properties.

Why not consider visiting for several days, even a week to take in the many sights and visit the various museums such as the Australian Fossil & Mineral Museum, Bathurst District Historical Museum, National Motor Racing Museum, Abercrombie House, Ben Chifley’s Home, Bathurst Goldfields and numerous others or visit the numerous villages from a bygone era, many dating from the
For a list of accommodation or information during the 2015 celebrations and activities contact the Bathurst Visitor Information Centre Freecall 1800 68 1000 or email visitors@bathurst.nsw.gov.au

**BATHEX 2015 EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN HISTORIC BATHURST SHOWGROUND**

The BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition – “Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History” will be the largest exhibition of its type to be held in New South Wales during 2015. It will be held in the three jammed packed pavilions and the surrounding showground on Sydney Road over the weekend of 27th and 28th September, 2015. The event first commenced in 1988.

The event is being organised by the Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables & Lapidary Club with the aim being to promote collecting as a leisure-time activity and to display historical, educational and interesting items and artefacts, which are rarely seen outside museums as well as celebrating Bathurst’s Bicentenary. It could be compared to a Collectables Roadshow with the great variety and quality of the items on show.

There will be numerous collectors on hand to pass on their knowledge and information to those attending and the general public. Over 1,000 feet of various displays are expected with special themes including the centenary of Gallipoli, World War One, 200 years since Battle of Waterloo and other appropriate themes.

A large number of displays are being organised with collectors and organisations mounting educational displays – these will be like a museum. All displays must have labels so the public can read about items that take their interest. Collectors are expected to travel from Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, A.C.T. and Queensland. All displays will be in place by 9am Saturday - the first day of the exhibition.

Already a large display of radios and gramophones from the late 1800s up to the 1950s and 60s have been promised with members of the Historical Radio Society of Australia - Central West Branch on hand to answer people’s questions or to look at something they may wish to bring along.

Two large model train layouts to delight young and old along with railway memorabilia and train model making will be on display. Added to the long list of displays are Australian Airforce memorabilia, war campaign medals, American Civil War, antique and vintage purses, colonial women’s artefacts, banknotes through the years, Australian Agricultural medals, old machinery and steam engines, vintage cars, Cobb and Co Coach and memorabilia, old wares, bottles, fumigators, traps, rural implements, farm memorabilia, coins of Alexander the Great, Celtic artefacts and relics, the famous Penny Black stamp, historical banknotes and shipwreck coins and memorabilia. The list simply goes on and on.

The public, if they wish, will be asked to select the best display of their choice which will be announced and awarded at 2pm on Sunday afternoon.

Up to 15 professional and full time dealers will be attending and includes stamp, coin, banknote, books, militaria, rock and mineral, antiques and collectables etc. with some dealers supporting the event since 1988. Dealers and collectors will be buying, swapping and selling an extremely wide range of goods. A large number of tailgaters selling outdoors are also expected.

We are attempting to provide valuations of the public’s collectables over the weekend for a gold coin donation.

The BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition will be open to the public on Saturday - 9am to 5pm and on Sunday - 9am to 3.30pm and there will be refreshments available over the two days. The Official Opening will take place at 11.45am on Saturday.

Anyone with a collection which they would like to display or tailgaters wishing to sell their excess collections can set up from 8am on Friday 26th September, 2015, but be sure you book in early.

**For further information contact:**

Postal Address: Secretary, BATHEX 2015 Collectables Exhibition, PO Box 9156, Bathurst NSW 2795

General Enquiries: Secretary – Alan McRae, Phone 02 63315404 e-mail amcrae@lisp.com.au

Co-ordinator: Ernst Holland, PO Box 1351, Bathurst NSW 2795 Ph. 02 63373661 e-mail ernst.holland@bigpond.com
BATHURST CHEMIST TRIED TO QUENCH THE LOCALS’ THIRST

The photo (right) from the Bathurst District Historical Society’s photo collection shows Mr. J.L. Alexander’s business - “The Bathurst Pharmacy”. Outside can be seen Mr. Alexander and several of his staff. Mr. Alexander lived above the business. The building features the typical ornate gold leaf signage of such businesses during the Victorian era. One of the Staffordshire potteries would have supplied his display of ornate ceramic containers typical of chemist shops of the time.

James Lyon Alexander, M.P.S., was born in Scotland and before emigrating to the Colony of New South Wales he practiced as a pharmacist there. At first this Scotsman became an assistant in Dr. Richard Machattie’s surgery.

In 1845 he set up his pharmaceutical and druggist business along with his surgical and mechanical dental surgery in William Street, next to the Royal Hotel. His dental business was registered in London and he was a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and New South Wales. He was to form a partnership with Mr. Henry Butterworth.

In 1856 the partnership decided to branch out and they commenced to manufacture soda water, though this was really Mr. Alexander’s project. Late in 1857 the business advertised that their new aerated water machine from Edinburgh had been recently installed in their William Street store and they were able to produce from 100 to 200 dozen bottles each day. Due to increased business it was decided to move the machinery out of the chemist shop into a new factory in Morrisett Street.

The business was advertised as a “Wholesale Druggist and Importer of genuine drugs, chemicals, perfumery, toilet requisites and sundries.” At one time Mr. Alexander advertised that every drug used in dispensing was tested before use and guaranteed in strict conformity with British Pharmacopoeia and had one of the largest and best stocks in the colony.

Mr Alexander and his partner Butterworth established their soda water manufactory in 1856. In 1861 Mr. Alexander purchased Daniel Mayne and Henry Windred’s Cordial Works on Durham Street as Mr. Mayne wanted to head off to the newly discovered Forbes goldfields.

Bathurst’s pioneering families would have similar problems to today such as - dandruff, aches and pains, dropsy, gout, jaundice, lumbago, measles, abscesses, eczema, bee stings, boils, piles, ringworm, scarlet fever, toothache, warts, blood disorders and the list would go on. Firstly many people would treat disorders with home remedies along with items such as Goanna oil, hops, glycerine, Boar’s (pig) grease, opium, laudanum, ointment of tobacco, cod liver oil, oil of almonds, Condi’s crystals, carbonate of soda, sulphur or cream of tartar, olive oil, nutmeg, copper sulphate, camphor, oil of aniseed, eucalyptus, kerosene and more, some of which would be purchased from Alexander’s Chemist.

Chemist shops in the 1860s were very different from today. Almost all prescriptions had to be made from various ingredients which were commonly crushed up in a brass or bronze mortar and pestle. Ingredients for the recipe would be painstakingly measured out on a set of balance scales, often hand-held in the early days. Several ceramic tiles would be used for rolling out pill masses before making it into tablets or pills. Mr. Alexander would have invariably measured out his liquids in conical or cylindrical measures made from glass which were graduated in minims, ounces or in tablespoons.

Alexander’s Chemist obtained their water from a well at the rear of their store. For a time they also bought in water from a spring located out near Tarana for ‘medicinal purposes.’

All sorts of coloured bottles - cobalt blue, clear, aqua, amber, light brown, dark brown, all with ordinary or fancy labels along with their contents would have lined their shelves. Some compounds had to be stored and kept in glass and products such as chloral hydrate, acetanilide, paraldehyde and amylnitrite were some of them. Poison bottles were generally dark brown or cobalt blue and would have ‘POISON’ embossed on the glass by the bottle manufacturers. These bottles also had to be distinguished by touch as well and usually had lines embossed onto the bottle.

The shelves would have displays of small ceramic pots with all sorts of contents such as cold creams, ointments, bear’s grease, pomades, toothpaste, salves as well as creams for shaving. Each would have its own decorative lid to tempt the customers.

In October 1862 Mr. Alexander received his new “Queen Bee” silver lined soda water machine by ship from England which he claimed was one of the best double action machines available. The lemonade consumed by the outlaws may have been produced by Mr. Alexander’s new machine.
Left - A rare Alexander’s lemonade green blob top bottle.

A pharmacist had to make up creams and ointments mixing the ingredients on an ointment slab and stirring with a spatula. Like other chemists in Bathurst, Mr. Alexander purchased small, white glazed earthenware ointment and dispensing pots and lids as well as small ceramic jars for dentifrices and cosmetics. Powders were another medicinal form that was made on Mr. Alexander’s premises. The powder mixture would be made up, then divided between the numbers requested by the doctor. Each paper wrapper would then need to be folded up.

He placed regular advertisements such as “Mr. J.L. Alexander has pleasure in gratefully thanking his friends and the public of Bathurst and district for their very liberal support and in view of retaining and deserving their patronage, has made large and carefully selected additions to his stock of genuine drugs and chemicals unsurpassed in regards quality as well as a fine assortment of Patent and Proprietary Medicines, Homeopathic Remedies along with perfumery and English and foreign toilet and nursery requisites and all articles and appliances usually found in first-class Drug Establishments. The dispensing of prescriptions have my special care with the formula of the British Pharmacopeia 1885 used unless otherwise ordered. Consultations are free and country orders are punctually attended to. The Surgical and Mechanical Dentistry department can supply artificial teeth set in gold, celluloid and vulcanite in English or American designs at moderate prices.”

Mr. Alexander was keen to have the best equipment for his aerated cordial works. In the early 1860s he bought and had installed two steam engines, one situated near his well to pump out water and the other to run his factory. He advertised that he was manufacturing his lemonade and soda water by steam to supply his ‘SUPERIOR CORDIALS’. In 1865 he employed Mr. A.B. James who become his leading hand.

Late in 1886 Mr. Alexander sold his business to Mr. John McDonald and at this time moved his dentistry business to the St. Stephen’s building in George Street. He died in August 1891.

MACQUARIE RIVER WAS A BARRIER

Like the Blue Mountains was to Sydney, the Macquarie River was often a barrier at Bathurst. With the proclamation of Bathurst in May 1815 the river named after Governor Lachlan Macquarie became the divider of the settlement – the convict and Government settlement on the west side and the other settlers on the eastern side. Thus Kelso became the first settlement for the free settlers.

After blocks of land were sold in the town of Bathurst in 1833 and shops and houses constructed there was even more of a push for a bridge over the river. Public meetings were held from time to time which were reported in the Bathurst and Sydney newspapers.

One such report appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald in March 1852 – “BRIDGE ACROSS THE MACQUARIE”. The report went on – “A requisition, numerously and respectively signed, was yesterday presented to Lieutenant-Colonel Morrisett, Police Magistrate, requesting him to convene a public meeting, as early as convenient, to consider the necessity of petitioning the Legislature to place a sum of money on the estimates of the ensuing year, for the construction of a bridge across the Macquarie River, convenient to the vicinity of Bathurst. The Colonel has, in compliance therewith, convened a meeting, to be held at Mrs. Black’s Hotel, on Tuesday, the 6th proximo, at noon, and it is to be hoped that the apathy which seems to pervade the most influential part of the community on all matters of public interest and utility will not be allowed to deter them from adding weight to the proposed application, by attending on the occasion, which is one of vital importance to the community.”

PLACES & ATTRACTIONS TO VISIT AT BATHURST

BATHURST DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

There are plenty of places to see in and around Bathurst, either before, during or after the various activities and functions during 2015. The district has a rich history, especially from the convict, goldfields and mining points of view.

The Bathurst District Historical Society Museum is
well worth a visit and is located in the old Bathurst Post Office which is in the East wing of the Bathurst Court House in Russell Street, opposite King’s Parade. The museum is open six days a week (closed Mondays.)

The Bathurst District Historical Society museum was the Bathurst Post Office in 1928 when this image was taken.

In 2013 the Society completed its proposed Bushranger’s Room – incorporating the Edgar and Megan Penzig Collection. The Society was fortunate enough to receive a large amount of research material from Edgar’s many books and publications which he produced before his death in Tasmania on Friday, 19th November, 2010.

On the evening of Friday 27th September, 2013, Mrs. Megan Penzig opened this new display in conjunction with a Mayoral reception. Bathurst’s Mayor, Councillor Gary Rush, was on hand for the official opening.

Robert Crossie and Alan Cochrane (Penzig Collection Curator) setting up the Penzig Collection.

For those who may not know, Edgar Penzig was a very keen collector of bushranger memorabilia, published more than 20 books on colonial and bushranging history, performed in many television and stage roles, was influential in establishing several re-enactment societies, and he and Megan ran a museum in Katoomba for some years. When the Penzigs left the district, Edgar donated a mass of material to the Bathurst Regional Council who, in turn, made the Historical Society the custodians of it. The Penzig Room houses just a small part of the collection.

This new display will be on show throughout 2015 so be sure to see the fascinating bushranger items as well as the rest of the museum. This new room features clothing and other social history, photos, documents, information and special items of bushranging memorabilia.

THOUGHT OF ADDING A FAMILY PLAQUE TO BATHURST'S PIONEER WALL IN 2015?

We hope that some families will use 2015 to incorporate a family reunion, maybe even bring all your relations over a weekend. Some families may wish to put a special brass plaque on Bathurst’s Pioneer Wall at the bottom of William Street near the Macquarie River. This can be organised through the Bathurst District Historical Society. For further information, pricing and application form write to the Bathurst District Historical Society, PO Box 237, Bathurst, N.S.W. 2795 or you can email info@bathursthistory.org.au
**DID YOU KNOW?**

# The nominations for the initial elections for the first Bathurst Municipal Council totalled 23 candidates with nominations taking place on 3rd February, 1863. Our first Bathurst Municipal Council consisted of just nine elected Aldermen and included mostly well-known businessmen and a local doctor. They included Dr. Richard Machattie (respected Bathurst doctor), Mr. Henry Dale (owned a tanning works in Bentinck Street), Mr. Edmund Webb (owner of Webb’s General Store), Mr. Joseph C. Stanger (shop owner), Mr. Richard Y. Cousins (landowner, property manager and entrepreneur of Kelso), John De Clouet (innkeeper), Mr. John W. Ashworth (saddler), Mr. Alexander Crilly (a flour miller and owner of the Hibernian Flour Mill) and Mr. John McKay (landowner).

# The gold that was found along the Turon River and other nearby Bathurst goldfields was turned into gold sovereigns and half sovereigns at the Royal Mint in Sydney which commenced minting the coins on 23rd June, 1855. The reverse was unique as it featured the word “Australia”, the only time it would ever appear on an Australian sovereign and the obverse featured a new and young Queen Victoria with an Aussie touch - a sprig of banksia in her hair. The British Government certainly had not expected the Sydney Mint to use its own design, which was later changed.

# There were floating dredges mining for gold on the Turon River at Sofala from 1899 and up to 1914. The two steam driven dredges belonged to the Turon River Gold Dredging Company and worked the deeper areas of the river. The No. 1 dredge worked near Sofala whilst No. 2 dredge worked downstream at Wallaby Rocks, both with some outstanding results despite the associated problems. In 1906 some 1,836 ounces of gold was sold, in 1911 the company sent 1,239 ounces to Sydney and for 1912 the output was 1,760 ounces. In 1913 some 1,600 ounces of this precious metal was sold to the Royal Sydney Mint.

# As World War Two progressed, Bathurst residents were being more and more affected by rationing and new security regulations. In early January, 1942, under regulations of the National Security Act, owners of various types of firearms, including those in Bathurst, had to hand them over to police authorities in case they were needed when and if the Japanese Imperial Army invaded Australia. The types included .303 service rifles and parts, .22 calibre repeater rifles suitable for .22 long range ammunition, .310 Martini rifles, .45 revolvers, .380 revolvers and any automatic pistols, as well as cartridges for these firearms were required. Locals were asked to hand them in to Bathurst Police Station in lower William Street. Owners would be recompensed for their firearms and any not required would be returned. Sergeant G.E. Carter was in charge of the hand-in at the time.

# Samuel Serjeant was a Bathurst solicitor in the early 1850s. Grapes had been grown around Bathurst since the 1820s and wine had been produced initially for ‘home consumption’. Prior to 1856 Mr. Serjeant had had grape vines planted at “Walmer” and was operating a ‘vinery’. During the year he had made twelve hogsheads of red wine and was supplying a Bathurst wine and spirits shop in Howick Street.

I hope you enjoy these monthly e-newsletters and that they will be interesting and beneficial. It will be great to meet people in person during next year.

Please enjoy yourself whilst in Bathurst and be sure to visit some of the many other attractions which historic Bathurst and district have to offer, there is certainly plenty to do.

Remember, feel free to pass this e-newsletter along to family, friends, work colleagues, acquaintances, businesses, clubs, schools, tourist offices or anyone you may think of.

If you wish to receive this e-newsletter direct just email amcrae@lisp.com.au

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**BATHEX 2015 CONTACTS**

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**Publicity & e-newsletter**

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For other information go to the following website at [www.bathursthistory.org.au](http://www.bathursthistory.org.au) for the weekend programme and more information.

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