Lions Club of Coober Pedy Inc.

LIONS INTERNATIONAL

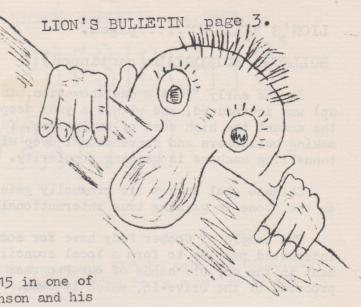






BULLETIN EDITORIAL

VOLUME 1 FIRST EDITION Saturday 4th March 1978.



In the extreme heat of January 1915 in one of Australia's worst droughts J.R. Hutchinson and his companions found opal in the area of the Stuart Ranges whilst prospecting for gold. They remained in the area for some 2 weeks before being driven away through lack of water.

Miners began arriving the following year, by camel, or by pushing bicycles or wheelbarrows laden with gear, coming over one hundred miles from the railway siding at William Creek or from the Tarcoola goldfield.

Living was a constant struggle in harsh conditions, mining was primitive, only pick, shovel and hand windlass being used in shallow workings. Water and stores were carted to the field through the surrounding desert by camel.

As early as 1922 the miners formed a Progress Association and at their first meeting they chose the present name of the field, Coober Pedy.

The next 40 years saw a constantly shifting population with boom times and decreases in population, especially during the hot dry summers and the field was once actually abandoned.

In post war years the number of European migrants increased until they formed the majority of the miners. In the late 1950's many miners came down from The Harts Range as the mica fields became uneconomical.

The early sixties still saw fairly primitive mining methods in operation with gelignite and motorized york hoists and a few pneumatic tools being the only signs of mechanization. The town facilities were slowly improving.

Towards the close of the '60's the Andamooka Opal Fields rapidly declined after previously booming. The miners there were more mechanized and most came on up to Coober Pedy with their machinery and improved mining methods. In a few years the town grew from a few hundred miners to several thousand, and at one time there were up to 150 bulldozers.

The town began to change from being a population of predominantly single male itinerants and as more families arrived and began to settle semi permanently, more stable businesses became established.

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BULLETIN EDITORIAL (continued)

In the early '70's a new inovation, the blower (a giant vacuum cleaner setup) was introduced, and within a year deep mining was being revolutionized. At the moment the high cost of explosives, fuel and mechanical repairs are rapidly making bulldozers and conventional deep mining methods uncompetative and the tunnelling machine is gaining popularity.

Chinese opal buyers are gradually gaining dominance of the opal market just as the stone is gaining true international recognition.

The people of Coober Pedy have for some time been resisting the moves of interested parties to form a local council preferring to leave any local government in the capable hands of our Progress Association which is funded from the proceeds of the Drive-In, which it owns.

Community projects such as raising money for an ambulance, fire truck, hospital, school and mine rescue equipment have had a solid backing, and the Progress Association has subsidized much. Examples being the town hall, reticulated salt water, town grader and hospital.

Several essential but voluntary organizations such as the Ambulance, Mine Rescue Squad and Emergency Fire Service have recently been formed.

Sporting clubs such as the Basketball, Soccer, Golf, Go-cart and Rifle clubs now abound as well as social and ethnic clubs such as Italian, Greek and Croatian Clubs.

It is in this period of fomenting change that the Lions Club of Coober Pedy has been formed. It is needed to organize those activities which otherwise would be left to an organization less suited to the task; such as cleanup of dangerous iron strewn about the town after the storm and for looking after the interests of minorities not capable of gaining adequate satisfaction by other means.

In the short existance of the Club, there have already been several worthwhile projects, such as several unpublicized grants of aid to families caught unprepared by personal tragedy.

This is a town different to anywhere else and this club represents a people in an undeniably unique situation and crosses all barriers of race, creed and colour. Let us look forward to a future of growth and service unparallelled in the history of Lions International.

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PRESIDENTS'
PATTER

I came to Cocber Pedy on the 11th September 1971 to join the Community of this town, and more important to me, personally, to be a member of the Coro Organization.

Some of you may not realize that my contract, at that time, was for a period of six months, however, with the friendliness and confidence shown to me by the Family Coro and all Members of the Coober Pedy Community it has been my pleasure and privilege to remain here for more than seven years.

During this short period of time this town has grown to become a hardworking, tranquil and progressive area, of which I am proud to be a Member.

Nearly six years ago I, with others, felt that there was a need for the formation of a Service Club. A feasibility study was carried out with the co-operation of another Service Organization but we were told the time was not ripe for the sponsorship of such an ambitious project.

Nevertheless, after years had passed the thought of this Community having a Service Club, who could and would give strenth and guidance to Coober Pedy, was always in my mind; especially as we had so many Ethnic Groups, with different cultures and ways of life, reeling that a Service Club would possibly unite us all in a particular non-partisan political or non secular religious manner.

Approximately two years ago I attended a function at the Italo-Australian Miners' Club and spoke with Mick Georgeff, whom I knew as a stalwart in Lionism, explaining the difficulties, previously encountered in respect of sponsorship in forming a Club. He was optimistic and said he would approach his Club (Virginia - Two Wells and District) for advice.

We heard nothing further until August 1977 when we received permission through Two Wells - Virginia, together with the blessing of District Govenor Jack Davis, to carry out a survey. This proved to be an overwhelming success.

So after preliminary meetings, and collections of the initial subscriptions the Community was honoured to have the District Governor and many distinguished Lions to attend the Formation Night on 18th October 1977. Thus the Lions Club of Coober Pedy was formed.

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PRESIDENT'S PATTER (continued)

We have had, through distance and other problems, a difficult path to tread in Lionism, but with a 'Do it yourself Kit' and manuals loaned by our Sponsor Club President, Norm Batten there is now the foundation for a strong and active Club.

It is fact that some of you are not aware of your responsibility in Attendance, financial and Service Obligations to your Club. I emphatically stress that only if you are prepared for this small sacrifice then and only then will this Lions Club function as a successful and strong organization. Take pride in being a Lion and give service.

In closing may I mention that we should all give a vote of thanks to our long-suffering Lions Ladies (NOT GUESTS) who have become a valued, efficient part of the Lions Club of Coober Pedy. Also, thanks should be given to District Governor Jack and his Lady Alice, President Norm Batten, Ern Sconce and Lady Marj Jack Tank and Lady Fay, Extension Officer Lance Gliddon and Lady Von. together with all other Lions, distinguished or otherwise who have assisted and helped us.

Yours in Lionism,

Laurie Collyer



SECRETARIES

Since our humble beginnings in October, 1977 the Lions Club of Coober Pedy has progressed remarkably.

From our first rumblings we have progressed to a membership of about 96. A Ladies Auxiliary, made up of members wives, has just recently been formed. With their assistance I am sure we will progress further.



Before going on, credit must be given to the people who formulated the idea of a Service Club in this township, this being our immediate President, Lawrie COLLIER and members of our Sponsoring Club, Virginia - Two Wells.

Since our formation a number of projects have been taken on by the Club. Assistance has been extended to some of the town's citizens whose needs were housing or financial. A storm clean-up was also conducted by members which proved a great success and emphasised the need of a Service Club in the area. The Miss Personality Quest is one of the major items on the Club's list at the moment. Miss Dawn BIDDELL, our representative, has already completed one Quest Tour to Adelaide.

We have had a number of guest speakers since our commencement. The Majority of these being from the Lions Organization. Another was Det. John RAMSDEN who gave an enlightning talk on the use, safety and peculiarities of firearms.

Being such a young Club, difficulties have occurred, but it is hoped that with the members support the Lions Club of Coober Fedy will have a successful year in 1978.

Steve Rodda, Secretary LION'S BULLETIN page 8

BIGSTOBILITS

By Lion Greg O'Neill

TEMPEST THURSDAY: 1ST DECEMBER 1977

1st December, 1977; The sun rose to show the results of heavy overnight rains that had fallen in Coober Pedy. Roads in the area were impassable, and motorists on outback roads were still stranded and awaiting help in the form of a tow from a quagmire, or a food parcel.

The William Creek - Coober Pedy Road had been made impassable from rains earlier in the week, and local police had organised a food drop from a light earlraft, to several families who had been stranded through floodwaters cutting the road in several places.

It appeared that the sun's entrance into the world on the morning of the 1st December, was a signal that a weather change was imminent, and that relief would soon be available in the form of warm weather.

During the morning, Coober Pedy Police were kept busy answering telephone calls from tourists, anxious relatives and transport companies, all enquiring on road conditions.



Shortly before 11 a.m. dark clouds were noticed over the western skies, and flashes of lightening were seen to illuminate the otherwise dark background. The air became very still, and an eery silence decended over the town.

At 11-15 a.m. Sergeant O'Neill left the Police Station in a land-rover, to travel a short distance to a nearby residence to deliver a message. As he departed, he noticed that dark swirling clouds were very low, and were blotting out the top of the Station's Radio Mast.

With a sudden blast, heavy rain commenced to lash the town, accompanied by hailstones and winds of hurricane force. Sergeant O'Neill had by this time arrived on the 'Flats' area of town.

this mor



The 'Flats' is an area noted for its numerous disused mines and open cuts, and inhabited by some aboriginals and miners who live above the ground in shack type homes.

Visibility was cut to nil, and the blinding rains and strong winds lashed the landrover unrelentlessly. Large sheets of galvanised iroh, pieces of roofing timber and
2,000 gallon water tanks literally flew past
the landrover, and the vehicle was blown
sideways as it attempted to travel back onto
the bitumen road leading past the Station,
even though four wheel drive was engaged.

Water, running four feet deep, formed rivers down the main street of Coober Pedy and gouged away unsealed roads and vacant lands within Coober Pedy's township. Power and telephone lines were brought down, completely cutting off all form of communication within the town and to the outside world.

At 12-15 p.m. the storm abruptly stopped, and again, the eerie silence decended upon the town.

People hesitantly left their places of refuge to see for themselves what was left of their town, their homes and their livelihoods. Police and volunteers made patrols of the town to ensure that no person was injured or killed and to inspect property damage. E.T.S.A. personnel who were in the town at the time to assist in the takeover of the town's power supply, were quickly into action, cutting off power to danger areas, and restoring it wherever possible.

The scene was one of disbelief and dismay. Power lines were lying accross roads and buildings, several stobie poles were lying twisted and broken; their cement centres broken into fragments. Large sheets of roofing iron entwined around poles like festive decorations. The roof of the Italo-Australian Miners Club was scattered over an area of several hectacres, leaving broken beams and supports reaching skywards. Water a foot deep covered the inside of the Italian Club.

School children looked through their windows at the twisted metal that lay in their playgrounds or hung limply from the roof of the various school buildings. Anxious parents were quickly on the scene to ascertain the well being of their young. School was closed at lunchtime and all children were taken to their homes.

A slab of roofing had blown from a nearby home and struck a side wall of the hospital, damaging the wall and airconditioning unit in that ward. Portion of the hospital roof was dislodged.

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STORM....(continued)

The 50 foot pole holding the two area lights for the police station cell complex was blown over, coming to rest at an angle of 45 degrees. Several houses in the town were completely demolished and many were unroofed or suffered water damage, in particular dugouts built below ground level were inundated with water to a depth of several feet.

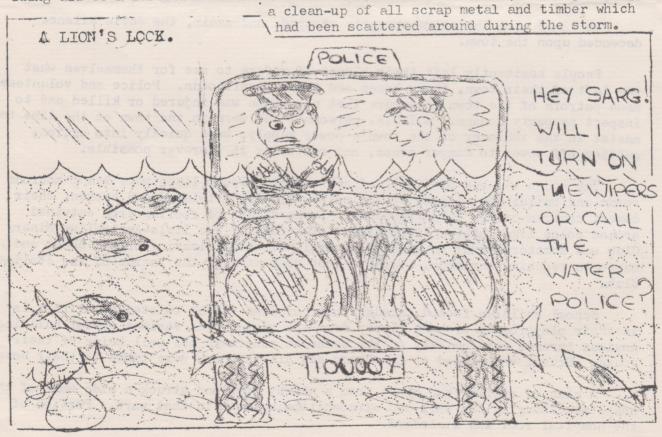
The Royal Flying Doctor plane which was en route to Coober Pedy at the time of the storm, was forced to return to Port Augusta without landing at Coober Pedy as a result of water damage to the airstrip, which is unsealed.

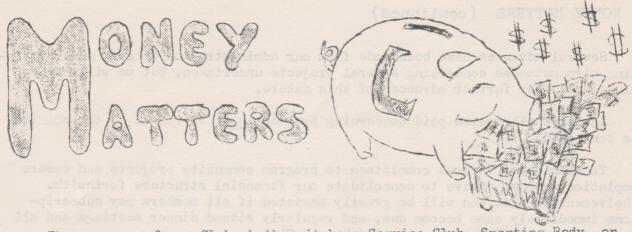
Police were kept busy with calls from wives of miners who were out on the various opal fields at the time of the storm, enquiring as to the well being of their husbands. Later, calls were received from all parts of Australia from relatives enquiring about the well being of their loved ones.

Despite the shocking wide spread damage to the town, the only report of injury received by police was that of a young girl who was struck on the head by an upright in a local supermarket, when it moved during the storm. The injury was minor, and did not require hospital treatment.

Damage was extensive and repairs are still being undertaken three months after the storm. Estimates as to damage vary and the writer will therefore not attempt a figure.

As a result of the storm the Coober Pedy Lions Club swung into action, providing aid to a destitute woman with two children left homeless, and organizing





The success of any Club whether it be a Service Club, Sporting Body, or Social Club, depends to a large degree on adequate financial management by the governing directors and / or committee combined with loyalty and support from members.

Membership of the Lions Club is both an honour and a priviledge and I am sure that all of the members of our Club desire the prestige of building the Lions Club of Coober Pedy into one of the most reputable, financial, and efficient Clubs in Australia.

Why stop at Australia, why not look for universal recognition. Our Club has tremendous advantage over the majority of our fellow Clubs throughout Australia owing to definite community requirements and the general community support for the improvement of facilities, the under-priviledged and needy.

In addition we are commencing with ninety six Charter Members which is a very large membership by comparison with the average Club and certainly reduces the work load for all concerned. Therefore we may ensure through our efforts that Coober Pedy facilities and lifestyle continues to improve.

Many members may not be aware that our accounting structure consists of two records of account -

A: Administration

B. Projects
It is absolutely imperative that adequate funds are available at all times in our administration account to pay all costs on presentation of documentation.

Monies paid concerning projects should not under any circumstances be paid from our administration account. Currently we require Administration funds and should be pleased if members would submit ideas to our Finance Director for possible implementation.

Our Projects Account is merely a complete financial record and control of each and every project and this account must be in a sufficient financial situation to pay for all expenditure pertaining to all projects undertaken. Project committees must not expect project costs to be advanced from our administration account.

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MONEY MATTERS (continued)

Several advances have been made from our Administration account under mitigating circumstances concerning several projects undertaken, but we will not be able to consider further advances of this nature.

In short all monies paid concerning projects must be raised by the committees concerned.

To enable our various committees to program community projects and ensure completion we must strive to consolidate our financial structure forthwith. Acheivement to this end will be greatly assisted if all members pay subscriptions immediately same become due, and regularly attend dinner meetings and all functions organised for or supported by our Club.

Projects undertaken to date have been extremely successful due to support of Club Members and unity in sharing the work load and all members are commended for their efforts.

by Lion treasurer

Wal Turner.

LION GARY PRARSON'S

THE FRUSTRATIONS OF A FIRST VICE PRESIDENT.

Life's journey is full of frustrations both big and small, which break or make the man.

I broke.

E frustrating time in the beautiful Pacific island of Tonga. It was one of those mornings when everything went wrong....the toothpaste squirted over my pants....my fly zipper jammed... buttons flew off my shirt....and my shoelaces broke.

Temporary repairs & cleaning were accomplished and the rest of the day was spent endeavouring to purchase new shoelaces which are not sought-after commodities in barefoot Tonga.

Store after store was visited, but no luck... "Sorry, we don't stock shoelages." Finally, and by this time desperately, I tried the last store... a colourful native bazaar-type establishment. My enquiry brought a bright & happy, "Yes, boss, what colour laces you want... black or brown?" "Black", I replied, relieved that my search was over. "Sorry... no black". "Brown, then", I said, not caring at this stage... "Sorry... no brown." (Ed.note.. Wait till you hear about the fly zipper???)

By Lion Dave Genat

GLAUCOMA SCREENING

short notice.

The Glaucoma screening held in conjunction with the Hellenic Lions Club was evidence of the willingness of Lion Members to assist in such worthwhile projects.

Approximately 400 persons were tested and as a result 7 suspected cases of Glaucoma were detected. Thanks to all Lions who participated in the proparations and running of the clinic and A LION'S LOOK. a particular thanks to John Radeka for accomodating the medical staff at such

TOWN CLEAN - UP : CYCLONE

Following the cyclone on 1st December a working-bee was held to clear the resulting debris from the town and surrounding areas. There was a good roll-up of Lion members and a variety of vehicles were used. Where else could you see a Canadian, a Czechoslovakian, a Chinese and a Croatian all in a Japanese vehicle picking up bent iron (Recycled Aust. battleships)

Thanks to those Lions who gave their time and equipment to make the day a success.

on 21st February, the International Kidney Foundation require assistance to OR JAPANESE gain future donors and Lions will hear more about this at our next working meeting.

HEY DAVE, IS HE SPEAKIN As announced at the Dinner Meeting CHINESE CROATIAN GREEK.

Dave Genat

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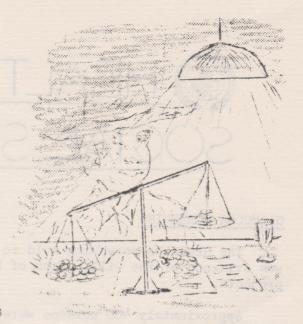
OPAL BUYERS

by C. Keith Hamilton

If your opal's red as rubies And lit with rainbow hues They'll treat it like a monkey Treat's a peanut at the zoo?

If its as solid as the rocks
That made Gibraltar's fame
They'll say that stuff looks cracky
But we know that's in the game,

They'll look that hard for colour You'd think their eyesight queer Yet they'd see a blow-flies whiskers If it floated in theer beer.



NORTH OF THE FLINDERS

by C.Keith Hamilton.

If you're ever north of the Flinders When the wet comes down on you You had better fill your tucker bag With a keg of rum or two.

There the snakes uncurl in millions Yellow, red and black ones too Enough to fill a snake pit Or stock the Sydney zoo.

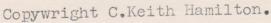
Seldom saw them in the daylight But would see them after dark Like beetles round a street light Or flappers in a park.

Where the dingoes howl in millions And make the squatters weep They wear them out with sleeploss-;ness

And them devour the sheep.

I've seen the flamin' eagle hawks
At practice lifting logs
Cos they also want their share of
lamb

The same as ruddy dogs.







On the 21st February, a number of the ladies in Coober Pedy met to form the first Lions Ladies Auxiliary. Mrs. Marg. Sconce, a visitor from the Lions Ladies Auxiliary branch in Porspect, Adelaide, initiated us in the work done by the Lions Ladies Auxiliary.

Officers were elected as follows:

President - Mrs. Judy Genat
Vice President - Mrs. Christine Ledgarde
Secretary - Mrs. Margaret Fleming
Treasurer - Mrs. Vonnie Wirth

We agreed to hold meetings on the third Wednesday of the month, the next one being 15th March at 8.00 p.m. in the Hospital Board Room.

Our main topic on the last meeting was flower arrangements for table decorations for the Lions Charter Night to be held in the Opal Motel on 4th March. We ladies hope to be able to assist the Lions of Coober Pedy in any way possible and also to give Dawn Waddell, our Miss Lions Personality, every assistance in her money raising quest.

We trust that many more ladies will be able to attend the next meeting as we are sure you will agree that this is a very worthwhile organization.

Marg. Fleming

Lion Laurie and his Lady Helen have recently returned from holidays in Adelaide. Whilst there, Laurie attended several Lions meetings and I, his lady had the opportunity of visiting with Ladies of those Club members. I was welcomed everywhere with great warmth and had a thoroughly entertaining time. We also had the pleasure of attending a Ladies night.

"Lions" opens up avenues of friendship, for the exchange of ideas and encouragement to make our Club a major influence for good in, and for, service to our town, Coober Pedy.

Helen Collyer

LION OFFICIALS

President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
3rd Vice President
1st Director
2nd Director
3rd Director

Laurie Collier
Garry Pearson
Don Mazzone
Jim Kyle
Sid Smart
Doug Atkinson
Dave Genat

4th Director 5th Director 6th Director Lion Tamer Tail Twister Treasurer Secretary Brian Stutley
Ivan Radeka
John Mitchell
Greg O'Neill
Frank Wirth
Wal Turner
Steve Rodda

LADY LION MEMBERS

Dee Atkinson
Helen Collier
Margaret Fleming
Sandra Mazzone
Dawn Waddell
Gaby Wirries
Christine Ledgard
Connie Rowe
Eileen Lampard
Judy Genat
Vonnie Wirth
Helen Mc Cormack
Zeta Boland
Barbara Turner
Joanne Poblocki

Karen Stutley
Lynn O'Neill
Karen Lingnau
Sonya Sigler
Vicki Mc Cormack
Marlene Edwards
Evelyn Mazzone
Joyce Seric
Anne Thomas
Helen Wentriro
Hanika Coro
June Radika

INDUCTED MEMBERS OF COOBER PEDY LIONS CLUB

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		McCormack	M.	Fry
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	P	. Chrisakis		. Novasel
		. Springdukes		. Evans
		. Brandi		
	J	. Weaver Snr.		
	R	oy Mazzone	F	. McGhie

Transfer of the superior Z. Michalenko

K. Edwards

J. Boland

L. Burge To Amount Manage

Ron Gough

B. Quiriho

Kerry Medway

Phil DeSanctis

LION'S BULLETIN ... page 18.

COBER PEDY

.Coober Pedy Hospital Inc., was officially opened in February, 1965, and the extension in November 1976, has 15 beds and further expansion is being planned. It has modern resuscitation, Xray and cardio-phone equipment etc., The resident doctor consults at the hospital, and evacuations are handled by the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The Community Health Centre located at the Hospital gives increasing service to the community.

The Mine Rescue Squad (Coober Pedy Inc.) started in October 1972, and is run by volunteers who train regularly at using the equipment and handling the injured. The Mine Rescue Squad would like to draw the attention of all visitors to the danger of shafts in and around Coober Pedy. In the case of any accident, notify the hospital (755009).

The St. John's Ambulance, delivered to Coober Pedy in 1972, (thanks to the hard work of the Ladies Auxiliary in the generosity of the citizens of Coober Pedy is run by a team of twelve qualified volunteers. First aid courses and ambulance courses are also run.

The Community hall was purchased from Maralinga by the Progress and Miners Association and the generosity of the town's people together with financial support from the Government of South Australia and is used for most of our local functions.

Water for the town is supplied by the Engineering & Water Supply from salt bore water desalinized by a reverse osmosis plant located at the Northern end of the bitumen road.

The Town is run by the Progress & Miners' Association Inc., which gets most of its funds from the "Drive-In".

Sporting activities include basketball, soccer, swimming, golf, rifle and horse racing clubs.

Activities for children include Boy Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Physical Culture and Ballet.

The well equipped modern Coober Pedy Area School and Pre-school, staffed 32 teachers etc., is expected to have an enrolment of from 450 to 500 pupils this year.

The Coober Pedy Lions will have an opal bar in the reception foyer of the Hotel from 10.00a.m. to 5.00p.m. on Saturday. All opal will be sold at wholesale prices.

FRIDAY, 3rd March 8.00p.m. - Barbeque at Community Hall.

SATURDAY, 4th March 7.00p.m. - Charter evening at Opal Hotel/Motel. Guests to be seated by 6.45p.m.

SUNDAY, 5th March 11.00a.m. - Barbeque at Longs Creek SUNDAY, 5th March - Train leaves Manguri at 5.00p.m.

PLACES OF INTEREST: -

(1) Two Dugout Churches namely the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul (R.C.) and the Catacomb Church (undenominational) run by Bush Church Aid Society. The Catholic Church is open for inspection at all times. The key to inspect the Catacomb Church may be obtained from Star Opal & Gem Traders on the Main Street, or from the Rectory on Hospital . Service at 9.50 A.M. Sunday

<u>Italo-Australian Miners' Club</u> - is run by the Italian Community.

FOSSICKING AND FOSSILS - Visitors are free to fossick in the cld dumps. The Breakaway area is well worth the visit. There are interesting fossil fields North and East of the Breakaway area.

CPAL BUSINESS HOUSES.

The Lions Club will have an opal and information centre in the foyer of the Opal Hotel/Motel.

Umocna Opal Mine - open Friday and Saturday from 9.00A.M. - 5.00 P.M. (Sunday by arrangement). Conducted tour of Opal Mine 11.00A.M., 2.00 P.M., and 4.00 P.M. daily. Groups by arrangement any time.

Radeka Dugout, - open Saturday evening and Sunday. Mine and Dugout inspection free of charge to Lions. Opal cutting demonstration by arrangement.

Star Cpal & Gem Traders - open all week-end. Opal Jewellery and Lapidary Supplies.

Miners' Store - Opal display.

<u>Sergic's</u> - Opals, Mineral and Rock collection <u>Jeannies Opal Centre</u> - Opals, Opal Jewellery

and

many other opal houses available for your perusal. Visitors are advised to visit all establishments. Those establishments not on the main road have easily read signs to direct the visitor.

Fay Naylor's...Opal Cave...open 8am to 8pm daily.
Guided tour ot town and dugout home and view of private
opal collection...cutting demonstrations.
Organised bus tours....charge 50cents per person.