

Crowdfunding Regional Projects

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*"What we are looking for is your story –
what you are doing, how you came to be doing it
and how you got it off the ground..."*

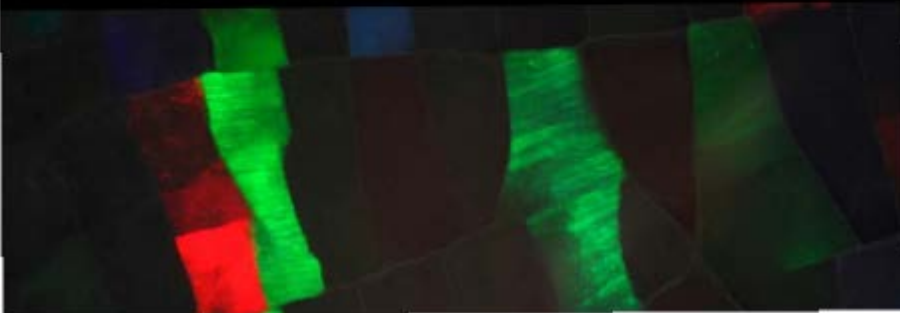
What we are doing

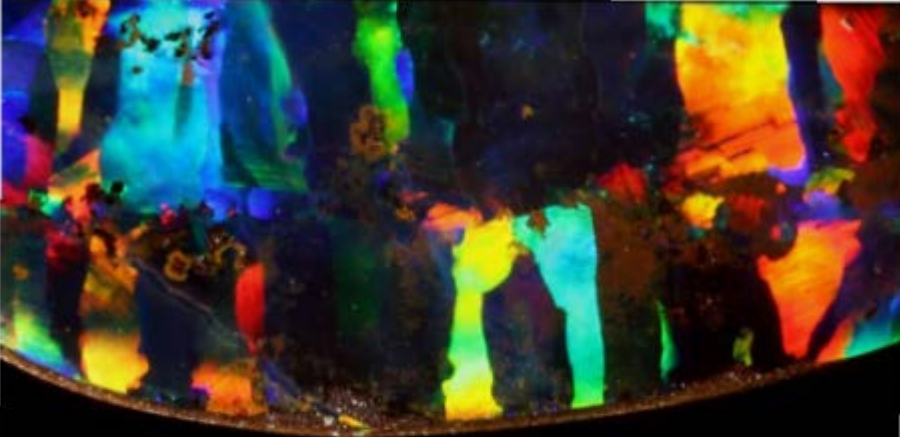
AUSTRALIAN OPAL CENTRE

Lightning Ridge • NSW



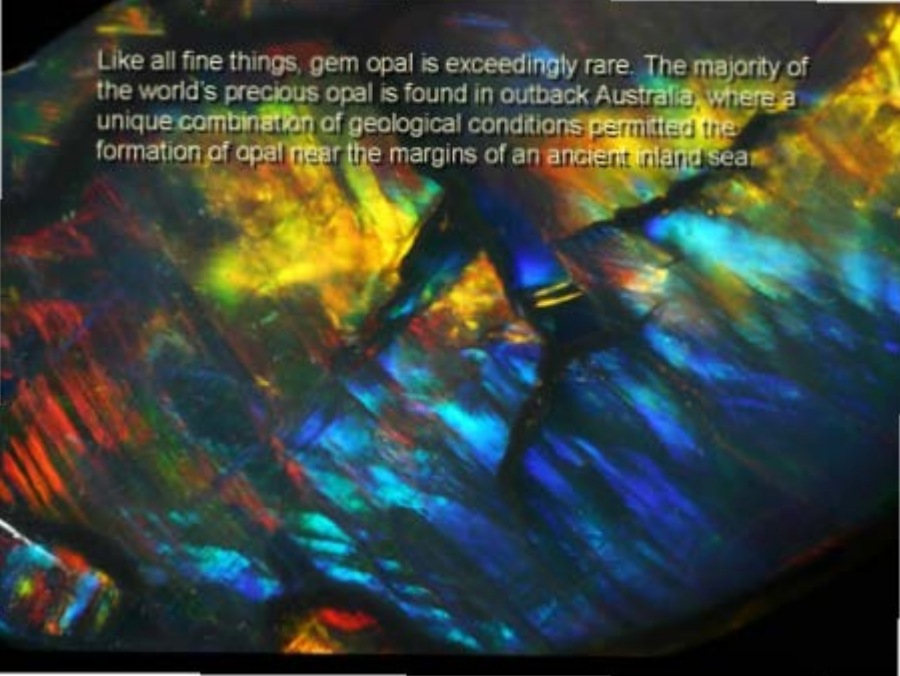
Opal is the most magnificent of precious gemstones. It boasts every colour of the visible spectrum, from deepest and clearest blues and greens to rippling golden orange; through delicate pink and violet to rich turquoise, shocking vermillion, carmine and fuschia - every colour imaginable.



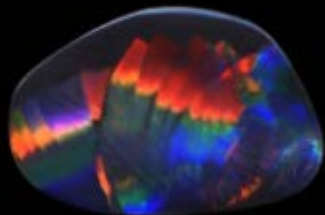


An opal may contain any or all of these colours, arrayed in wondrous patterns with names like harlequin, pinfire, Chinese writing, flower garden, flagstone and rolling flash.

Like all fine things, gem opal is exceedingly rare. The majority of the world's precious opal is found in outback Australia, where a unique combination of geological conditions permitted the formation of opal near the margins of an ancient inland sea.



In 1994 opal was declared Australia's National Gemstone; yet few Australians have seen high quality opal, because the country has no major public collection of this astonishing national treasure. Incredibly, there are better public displays of opal overseas than in Australia.





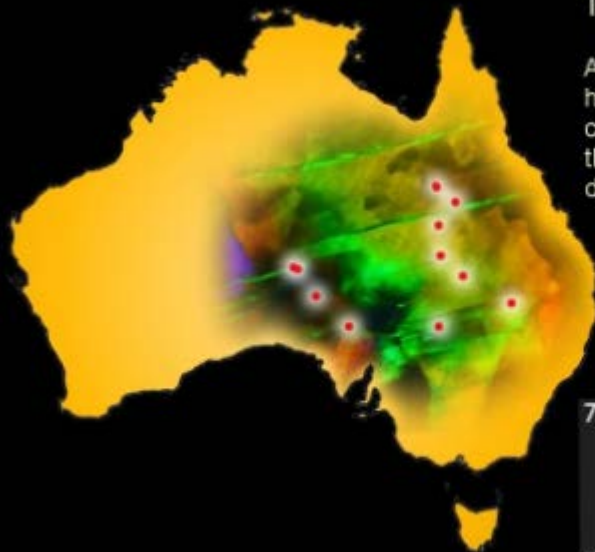
At the Australian Opal Centre, we will at last have a fitting treasury for our spectacular National Gemstone.

This priceless collection belonging to the people will be without rival anywhere - it will be our nation's 'Crown Jewels.'



THE REASON:

A national industry that has sustained outback communities for more than a century and could do so for a century more



7th NATIONAL OPAL SYMPOSIUM



Lightning Ridge
25 - 27 July 2011

The National Gemstone
Sustaining Regional Communities

THE BENEFITS

- Education (school, vocational, lifelong)
- Scientific research
- Community cultural development
- Economic development and buffering
- Protection of valuable and vulnerable items of Australia's movable cultural heritage
- Regional tourism development (esp. high yield niche tourism)
- High-quality, distinctively Australian tourism product for international marketing
- Collaboration within and across regions to achieve critical mass
- Employment generation
- Increased local value adding and enterprise
- Sustainable opal industry development and promotion
- Global focus for marketing and promotion of Australia as a destination and its National Gemstone as a product
- Model energy-efficient public building in semi-arid regional Australia
- Outstanding model of sustainable community development

Bored? Skip to the end! Go to

www.australianopalcentre.com

Click on this button



and learn about Crowdfunding by doing it!

THE STORY SO FAR....

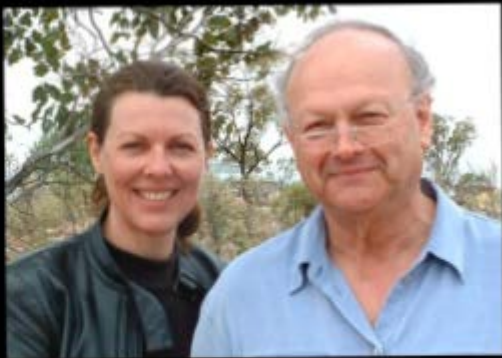
....A beautiful and historic site



A remarkable team

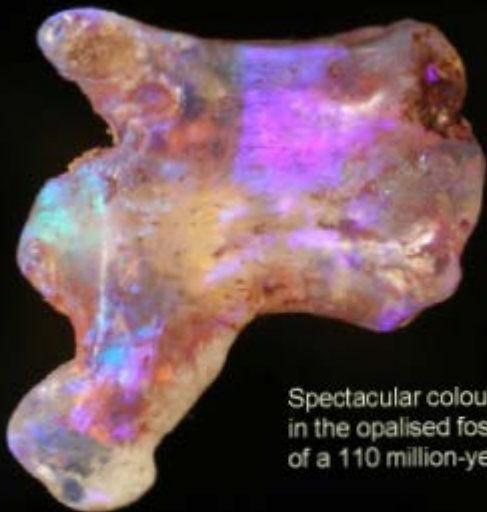
"Glenn Murcutt is... one of the
world's most influential
architects."

*(Jury of the Pritzker Prize – International
Nobel Prize for Architecture)*



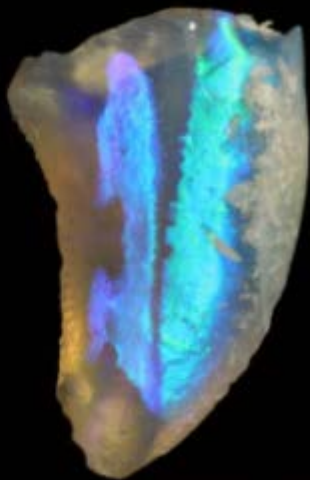


An astounding collection



Spectacular colour and detail
in the opalised fossil tail bone
of a 110 million-year-old turtle

Tooth of a carnivorous theropod dinosaur, preserved in semi-transparent common opal with brilliant turquoise colour





Harold Hodges' opal teeth



A National Treasury of Opals

of Crown Jewels of England
The Smithsonian
The Hermitage







Programs

Scientific research

- ARC Linkage Grant research project
- The Opal Project
- Individual palaeo research projects





Palaeontological fieldwork



Public film nights and lectures

★ ★ ★ FREE PUBLIC LECTURE & SLIDE SHOW ★ ★ ★



Dr JEFFREY STILWELL (Monash University)
"Mass extinction in Antarctica: did the dinosaurs end with a whimper or a BANG in the south?"

Jeffrey Stilwell is a palaeontologist who has worked for most of the world's major museums including T. rex in Antarctica. He's on Lightning Ridge to study reptilian tracks to see whether climate change on climate and environment. Don't miss Jeffrey's talk!



WHEN: 7.00pm 14th July, Thursday 19 June
WHERE: Lightning Ridge District Bowling Club
FREE...EVERYONE WELCOME!

Brought to you by the Australian Opal Centre (0829 1867)

★ ★ ★ FREE FILM NIGHT - TAKE HOME ★ ★ ★

More historic footage of the Ridge missed out last time, don't miss this!



A presentation by the Opal & Fossil Centre including a special screening of...
- Rare opals black & white footage
- opals Dutch Queen and first parade

WHEN: 7.00pm, Thursday 30th May
WHERE: Lightning Ridge & District Bowling Club
EVERYONE WELCOME - SUPPER PROVIDED

Brought to you by Lightning Ridge Opal & Fossil Centre (0829 1867) with the support of Lightning Ridge Historical Society and Lightning Ridge District Bowling Club

★ ★ ★ FREE LIGHTNING RIDGE ★ ★ ★



Opal mining, Lightning Ridge

A fascinating 30 minute video clip of opal mining with an introduction and special commentary by the presenters of the Lightning Ridge Opal & Fossil Centre.

WHEN: 7.00pm, Thursday 30 July
WHERE: Lightning Ridge District Bowling Club
FREE...EVERYONE WELCOME!

Brought to you by the Australian Opal Centre (0829 1867) and Lightning Ridge Historical Society

★ ★ ★ FREE PUBLIC LECTURE & SLIDE SHOW ★ ★ ★

HENK GODTHELP (University of NSW)
"All Creatures Great and Small: Fossils, Rocks & Big Game at Lightning Ridge"

Why Henk keeps coming back to the Ridge opal fields and what it all says about opal geology

WHEN: 7.00pm, Thursday 18 May
WHERE: Lightning Ridge District Bowling Club
FREE...EVERYONE WELCOME!

Brought to you by Lightning Ridge Opal & Fossil Centre (0829 1867)



Exhibitions



On the Wallaby Track - watercolours by Bob Pelchen.



Fragile Black Heart - photographs and short film by Lucy Di Paolo.



Training and workshops



Membership program





Welcome to the Australian Opal Centre showroo...

See rare fossils made of opal, discover precious opal and unique outback communities; see film of opal mining and cutting, the beginnings of a remarkable museum, an intriguing gift shop and a dinosaur from long-ago Lightning Ridge!

Public exhibition space



Left to Right: Mr. Eastman, Mrs. Eastman, Mr. Eastman, Mrs. Eastman, Mrs. Eastman







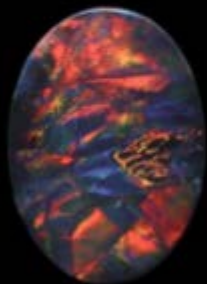
Education programs

- Local schools
- Visiting schools
- Tertiary and vocational



Source of high quality
information and images

Opal



The Phenomenal Gemstone

Bolts from the blue

COSMOS
physics

No stone
unturned

The
Dinosaurs
of
Lightning
Ridge

50 OF DINOSAURS



Partner in community projects

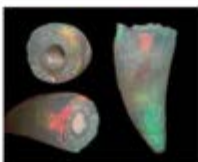


Product development and merchandising



MAY

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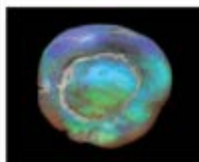
JUNE

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JULY

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
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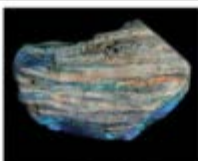
AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
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10		20		30	
11		21		31	



OCTOBER

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
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NOVEMBER

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
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DECEMBER

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
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The Australian Opal Centre
addresses real needs and
opportunities. It has grown from a
dream to a substantial reality.

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The bridge to realising the full potential of the Australian Opal Centre....

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from a dream to a substantial reality.

The bridge to realising the full potential
of the Australian Opal Centre....

...is \$28 million.

Everything
is in place.

- ✓ Deductible Gift Recipient
- ✓ Outstanding project team
- ✓ Business plan
- ✓ Sustainability
- ✓ Ownership of site
- ✓ Building design
- ✓ Quantity surveyor's report
- ✓ Development approval
- ✓ Strong community support
- ✓ Diverse partners and relationships
- ✓ Nationally significant collection
- ✓ Public programs and services
- ✓ Track record of achievement
- ✓ Investment ready

The Australian Opal Centre is an exceptional project of local, regional and national importance, distinguished by an unprecedented combination of attributes:

- High calibre collaborators
- Iconic location; endurance and visibility
- Distinct and nationally significant subject matter (gem opal, opalised fossils and the cultural heritage of Australia's outback opal fields)
- Protection of valuable, vulnerable items of Australia's movable cultural heritage
- Strong community foundations and participation
- Sustainable integration of industry, tourism, scientific, heritage and cultural values
- Contributions to cultural and economic development, employment generation and vocational training, education and research
- Value as a global focus for marketing and promotion of Australia as a destination and its National Gemstone as a product
- A model energy-efficient public building in semi-arid regional Australia
- An outstanding model of sustainable community development

CROWDFUNDING

Also referred to as:

Peer to peer funding

Peer funding

Social fundraising

CROWDFUNDING

...is collective cooperation by people who network and pool funds, usually online, to support projects initiated by others - especially projects traditionally reliant on business finance or grant funding.

Allows widespread involvement

(philanthropy is often the domain of the wealthy)

CROWDFUNDING

...is collective cooperation by people who network and pool funds, usually online, to support projects initiated by others - especially projects traditionally reliant on business finance or grant funding.

Allows maximum money to go directly to the cause

Our crowdfunding portal:

www.australianopalcentre.com

An architectural masterpiece
filled with priceless treasures,
yours for as little as \$20!

DONATE
TODAY by
clicking **HERE**





Want to make more about the Australian Opal Caravan? Visit <http://www.australiansupportcentre.com>

Recent Donations

Debbie L. Wilson

another small 1

\$10.00

12/04/2012

Karen Blackburn

Thankyou Matthew for looking after the books for us

\$50.00

02/04/2012

@Hillybush

An excellent project to showcase such housing & health care & into the future!

\$100.00

02/04/2012

Top Donations

Joel Braxwell

Putting my money where my mouth is - the first of many donations to the wonderful Australian Opal Caravan

\$1000.00

Barbara Beach

\$100.00

Deag Bredt

The work is shining! In Australia and the world support this great project! Truly the world and wonderful! Supporters will be in a state of awe! You do Care!

\$200.00

Donor Name	Amount	Message
Richard Pearce	\$10.00	I am right behind this worthwhile project.
Marlene Wood	\$100.00	Good luck, this is a fabulous idea we can all help to build and a dream we can all achieve
Stephen Torkley	\$200.00	A worthy project that has been on the cards for some time. I wish you all well, as as we open more my hope is with you. Good wishes, The Minister.
Anonymous	\$200.00	Go for it Maam
Oliver Wheeler	\$100.00	It should be a community project, and help provide leverage for government support.
Dr. Elizabeth Smith	\$200.00	THIS IS ABSOLUTELY THE BEST, BRIGHTEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL PROJECT FOR OURS AND THE WORLD - GO FOR IT!
Marie Payne	\$100.00	Everyone can do it! The community of supporting people aren't missing anyone... amazing about!
Deag Bredt	\$20.00	Hope all goes well Joell, you and others have done many hours in The building will be fantastic it necessary project for our National Communities. Cheers Deag Bredt
Heather Wilson	\$50.00	
Anonymous	\$100.00	Good project, hope I give lots of support. What you wish!
Phil Corcoran & Grant	\$250.00	
Dr Margaret the Pig Dog	\$50.00	Wool Woolwool (Translation) wish for trailer was on road, as I could give more. I Reggae the prancing pig dog.
Rob & Helen Braxwell	\$100.00	What a stupendous project! It will enhance, enhance and provide access to a unique portion of Australia's geological palaeontological and topographical heritage for everyone.

all Times - closed today!

CROWDFUNDING

...is collective cooperation by people who network and pool funds, usually online, to support projects initiated by others - especially projects traditionally reliant on business finance or grant funding.

Is not a panacea

Does not guarantee success

Is an exciting alternative for funding regional projects

Try it now!

www.australianopalcentre.com

An architectural masterpiece
filled with priceless treasures,
yours for as little as \$20!

DONATE
TODAY by
clicking **HERE**



OPAL

THE AUSTRALIAN OPAL CENTRE

Opal is a gemstone that is highly valued for its iridescent colors. It is a form of silica, and is found in a variety of colors, including red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Opal is a relatively soft gemstone, and is often used in jewelry. It is also a popular choice for collectors and investors. The Australian Opal Centre is a leading authority on opal, and provides information on the gemstone's history, properties, and where to buy it. The centre also offers a range of services, including opal identification, grading, and certification. If you are interested in opal, the Australian Opal Centre is the place to go for all your information needs.

THANK YOU

to the Sponsors of the Australian Opal Centre

and to the people of the opal fields, past, present and future, who enrich the world with their tenacity, skill and humour, and with the wonder and beauty they bring to us out of the darkness -

THANK YOU



AUSTRALIAN
OPAL
CENTRE
LIGHTNING RIDGE • NSW