



HISTORICAL FEATURE - TAKEN FROM MAY 1999 ISSUE

DISTILLING EUCALYPTUS OIL

By the late Bessie Williams.

Eucalyptus oil is a very valuable product and has a great many uses, in the homes, outbuildings as well as for medical purposes. Especially in the days gone by, it was used for the relief of colds, sore throats, insect bites, healing scars: cleaning, disinfecting and a great many more uses.

Although it was not extensively produced in this area there were quite a few distilling plants in operation during the depression and WWII years, as it was not very expensive to produce the oil, only very hard work.

The most suitable eucalyptus leaves are grown on trees around the land not too far from creeks or rivers, especially the upper reaches of the Shoalhaven River. The narrow leaf is more valuable but it takes more time to produce enough for a tank full. The broad leaf is more common.

One distilling plant in this area was operated by Lawrence English and Sons, near Budjong Creek about a kilometre upstream of the Nerrimunga Bridge on Spa Road.

Firstly the plant was set up, mostly by a creek or where plenty of water was available. The tanks, one or two, were square or oblong ship tanks of very heavy flat steel riveted together, with open tops. A lid was fitted over or was held down securely with heavy weights to prevent the steam from escaping during the oil making process. If there were two tanks in operation they had to be connected together by about a 4 inch pipe so that the steam from both tanks would go into the distilling pipes.

The tank or tanks were set up on a mound of stone or steel or anything that doesn't burn, leaving a channel under the bottom so that fairly big logs could be pushed underneath to keep a fire going for at least 24 hours during the processing of the leaves.

A pipe lead from the tanks and passed through a channel of water, with a plug at one end that could be released when the oil is ready to dribble out.

Large branches of either of the peppermints were lopped in the bush, it usually taking 2 or 3 days to collect the required amount. At the tank site each branch was stripped with a leaf knife (which was a

dangerous instrument; many a leaf-cutter had very nasty cuts to the left arm or hand).

The leaves were packed into the tanks and trampled tightly until it was full. Water was added and the lid was put on and sealed as well as possible.

The next process was the firing underneath the tanks. This was usually done early in the morning to ensure that the water in the tanks had begun to boil and the steam begin to flow through the pipes before midday, as the tanks had to boil for at least 20 to 24 hours, the narrow leaf taking longer than the broad leaf.

The steam evaporated the oil from the leaves and carried it into the pipes under the water where it cooled and the oil settled in the pipe. At last when the plug was pulled the precious oil would dribble or be poured into a square tin bucket and then into a 44 gallon drum. I think a full drum could be produced by one man in a fortnight.



Filling a 44 gallon drum with oil

Now the joy of the developer, selling his 44 gallons of Eucalyptus oil. As I remember it was mostly sold to Norm Chongs or Backhouse of Braidwood who trucked it to Nelligan where it was loaded onto boats and sent on its way to Sydney or Melbourne for refining and sale in smaller quantities.

In the 1920-30's a 44 gallon drum of eucalyptus oil which weighed 400lbs sold for only a shilling or even only 9 pence, a pound. This would mean about 15 to 20 pounds sterling a drum for the raw oil.



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Santa Claus could really fly !

Most of us would have seen this type of mushroom before, one of it's common names is the **Fly Agaric Mushroom** and it's botanical name is **Amanita muscaria**. They are mycorrhizal fungi which means they have a mutualistic relationship with nearby plants.

In Australia the companion plants for this species are mostly, but not always, Radiata Pine. Amanita mushrooms rise just before the Winter solstice and so are not affected by cold temperatures. The cap is bright red with white highlights.

Amanita are an introduced species being common in many parts of the world and are one of the oldest known hallucinogens. They are not related to the Gold Tops of Hippy fame but are a mushroom with deep spiritual and ritualistic significance in early civilisations from Siberia right through to India.

Pagan Laplanders used a drink made from Amanita mushrooms called "Soma" for hallucinogenic enlightenment, and some say this gave rise to the legend of a man flying with his reindeer, the red cap with white garnishing very closely resembling our modern day Santa suit.

One source claimed that Christian religion borrowed some traditions from their Pagan ancestors and so in the northern hemisphere they have Amanita mushrooms, the winter solstice and Christmas all in a one week period.



For us in the southern hemisphere we have **Amanita** mushrooms, the winter solstice and Christmas in July.



WARNING:

The active ingredients in Amanita muscaria may be poisonous or toxic.

Ingesting any amount of this plant may be extremely dangerous or result in fatality.

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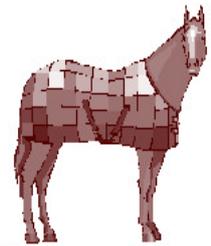
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At Your Goulburn Library



Forget about the cold of winter and join the Goulburn Library for a fascinating selection of events that will warm the soul and enthuse the mind during August and September.



The Goulburn Library is honoured to be hosting a talk: **On the Origin of Species by means of natural selection, or, The preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life** by Charles Darwin. The book has a particular resonance with Australia because it was on the voyage of HMS *Beagle* in the first half of the 1830s that Darwin first began to develop his theory of natural selection through observations of fauna and flora made during the course of his travels. The *Beagle* spent over a fortnight in Sydney in 1836, with Darwin spending time in Australia.

Paul Brunton, Senior Curator from the Mitchell Library will be talking about Charles Darwin, his time in Australia and the book. Mr Brunton will be bringing with him a first edition copy of the book that was published in 1859. No other first edition copy of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* is held in any public collection in New South Wales.

There will be two opportunities to hear Mr Brunton's talk, Tuesday 7 August at 6pm and Wednesday 8 August at 11am.

READiscover the traditions of storytelling in Children's Book Week by joining our workshop with acclaimed ACT storyteller Mary French. This 2-hour workshop will introduce you to the skills and

The STRL Photographic Competition

is held every two years. The aim is to foster historical interest in the people, the landscapes, and the uniquely identifiable features of our Southern Tablelands region.

With History in Focus: Pubs With A Past, STRL hopes to acquire past and present images of pubs, inns, hotels, also their contents, activities and even their patrons!

All images acquired from this competition will enhance the existing regional photographic collection.

This competition is specifically focused toward pubs, inns and hotels within the local government areas administered by Goulburn Mulwaree, Upper Lachlan and Yass Valley councils.

Competition closes Monday 20th August 2007.

techniques needed to tell stories to young children. It will be invaluable to anyone who works or is involved with young children, from grandparents to childcare workers. The workshop will take place on Wednesday 22 August commencing at 9:30am for morning tea and finished by 12noon. It is supported by CASP: the Country Arts Support Program of Regional New South Wales, which is funded by the NSW Government through the NSW Ministry for the Arts.

Dianne Dahlitz, Senior Librarian, Oral History and Folklore section, National library of Australia, will be presenting: **"From Gum-Nut Babies to Gum Leaf Playing"** on Thursday 30 August at 11am. Hear extracts from some of the oral history "treasures" collected by the National Library Oral History and Folklore section.

Join us for The Great Poetry Escape on Wednesday 5 September, during National Poetry Week 2007. Harry Laing is a published poet, comic performer and creative writing teacher who visited Goulburn last year for Poetry on Wheels. He is making a return visit to conduct two poetry workshops for students and adults. More information will be available closer to the date.

While these upcoming events are free, bookings are essential and can be made at the library loans desk or by telephone on 4823 4435.

If you are an interested in photography there is still time to put an entry into the Southern Tablelands Regional Library's Photographic Competition. This year's theme is Pubs with a Past. Entries close August 20. All entries must be accompanied by an entry form which is available in the library or can be printed from the New and Events section of the Southern Tablelands Regional Library website (www.strl.nsw.gov.au).

The Goulburn Library is open
Monday to Friday 10:00am – 6:00pm,
Saturday 10:00am – 1:00pm and
Sunday 2:00pm – 5:00pm.

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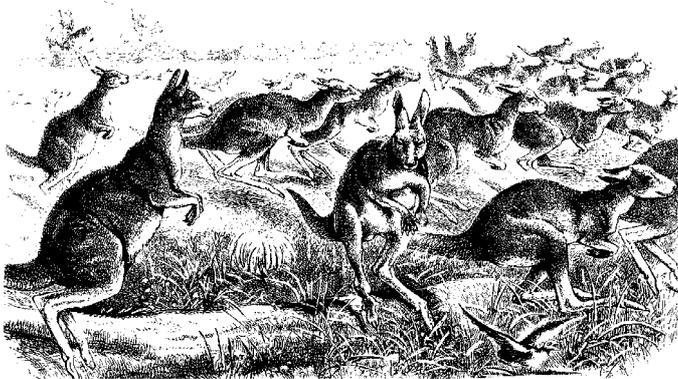
and we will add it to our list.

The Hare Drive at Little Budjong, Windellama



(To the Editor of the Evening Penny Post)
Sir,
Will you give me space in your valuable journal for a few remarks on the above?
A drive was got up here on Saturday, 13th instant, by Messrs. T. Hockey and W. Bill, two farmers whose properties are close together. As I am always glad to give what assistance I can to put down those terrible enemies to the farmers and graziers, I made my way there; but knowing that shooters without bringing a driver ought not to be welcomed, and not being able to procure a driver, and not being good enough bushman to make one myself, I lent my horse to one of the boys to drive on, and contented myself with looking on.

I was greatly pleased at night when the tallies were gin in to find that no less than 184 had been destroyed, the honour of top scorer being equally divided between Mr. J. Bond and Mr. Fred Styles with 20 each. I believe Mr. Bond should have been credited with 21, as he fired the last shot at a wallaby going past him, but his nearest neighbour in the stand of shooters, who fired the first shot, claimed the skin.



I want now to pass a few remarks to show our respected MP Mr. Rose, that the farmers cannot do very much by themselves to get rid of the hares, or even keep them down, for out of that 184 there were not 20 hares shot, the victims nearly all being wallabies. There were 4 kangaroos. The fact proves pretty plainly I think, that either the hares will not drive or that most of the shooters, keeping the eleventh commandment in view, let the hares go past them, preferring to save their cartridges for a skin worth a shilling instead of a threepenny scalp; indeed, one well known firm of four shooters who brought only one driver must have bagged over 40 skins.

Windellama News - August 2007

It would be useless to put in the plea that the hares are not here in hundreds, for the crops sown early in April can scarcely be seen above ground, and on one of the farms where about two acres of barley was sown early in March the hares have not left a single blade of it to be seen. The manure of the hares is as thick on the ground as if a flock of sheep had camped there for a couple of nights.

I think any right-minded person will agree with me that it is very unjust to the farmers who get up these drives and provide good meals for people whom they expect will be good enough to come and help keep down as much as possible this terribly destructive pest that persons should come only for the sake of the skins that they can get a good price for. In most cases too, these skin-hunters are the very ones that do not bring drivers. To show how anxious the farmers are to have good drives and get the hares destroyed, I may mention that as an inducement for a good many young folks to come driving Mrs. T. Hockey invited several very pretty and very nice young ladies to a social in the evening. After ample justice had been done to the excellent supper provided by the kind hostess to the shooters, drivers and skippers, the large dining room was cleared of furniture, and dancing was kept up with much spirit until 12 o'clock; and it then being bright moonlight and not very cold the young folks made for their various homes, greatly pleased with the day's sport and the evening's amusement – so much so indeed that they were very anxious to know when the next drive would be held; so Mr. Hockey told them they must have some consideration for those who were good enough to come, and he must wait until the horses got stronger before giving out another drive, when he hopes to see every shooter or skinner bring a driver or not come at all.

I remain, yours,
Looker-on.





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LUNAR ECLIPSE

The Total Lunar Eclipse on August 28th 2007 will be visible in its entirety for all of Eastern Australia and New Zealand, and will be in progress at Moonrise for the remainder of Australia and most of Asia. It will be visible at Moonset for the Americas, and will not be visible at all for Africa, Europe and Western Asia.

The map shows visually where the eclipse can be seen from. Read on below for more information, local timings, hints and tips for viewing and photographing the eclipse.

What is a Lunar Eclipse?

A Lunar Eclipse occurs when part or all of the Moon passes into Earth's shadow. This doesn't happen every Full Moon though, because the Moon's orbit is actually tipped about 5° with respect to Earth's orbit around the Sun. This means that during most Full Moon's, the Moon is actually above or below the Earth's plane and therefore not in the shadow of the Earth.

However two to four times per year, the Moon passes through some or all of Earth's penumbral and umbral shadow, causing one of the three types of Lunar Eclipse: A **Penumbral Lunar Eclipse** is when the Moon passes into the Earth's penumbral shadow. This type of eclipse accounts for 35% of all Lunar Eclipses. The difference in visibility on the moon during this phase is very subtle and difficult to observe.

A **Partial Lunar Eclipse** is when only a part of the Moon passes into the Earth's umbral shadow. This type of eclipse accounts for 30% of all Lunar Eclipses. During this phase, a "chunk" or portion of the moon goes into shadow.

A **Total Lunar Eclipse** is when the Moon passes completely into the Earth's umbral shadow, described as "Totality". Total Lunar Eclipses account for the other 35% of all lunar eclipse. These are the most spectacular type of Lunar Eclipse, as during totality the moon can take on a range of striking colours. Scattered sunlight passes deep through the Earth's atmosphere which filters out most of the blue light. The remaining light renders the Moon in shades of red, orange, yellow and brown - depending on the amount of dust and volcanic ash in the Earth's atmosphere.

All Total Lunar Eclipses start with a Penumbral, followed by a Partial and then the Total Lunar Eclipse. Finally, a Partial followed by a Penumbral completes the event.

All types of Lunar Eclipse are completely safe to observe with the unfiltered and unaided eye.

When and Where Can I See it?

For Australians, the table below shows the timings for the various phases of the Eclipse. The times are given in local time for that city. The figure in brackets is the altitude of the Moon at that time. N/V means Not Visible, as the time is before Moonrise for that city.

City	Penumbral Eclipse Begins	Partial Eclipse Begins	Total Eclipse Begins	Greatest Eclipse	Total Eclipse Ends	Partial Eclipse Ends	Penumbral Eclipse Ends
Sydney (EST)	17:54 (5°)	18:51 (17°)	19:52 (29°)	20:37 (38°)	21:22 (46°)	22:24 (57°)	23:21 (64°)
Canberra (EST)	17:54 (4°)	18:51 (15°)	19:52 (27°)	20:37 (35°)	21:22 (44°)	22:24 (54°)	23:21 (61°)

Viewing Guide

Lunar Eclipses (unlike Solar Eclipses) are completely safe to observe with the unfiltered and unaided eye - no special equipment is needed.

Telescope observations can be done, however at full moon the lack of contrast due to absence of shadow regions means that visible features are limited.

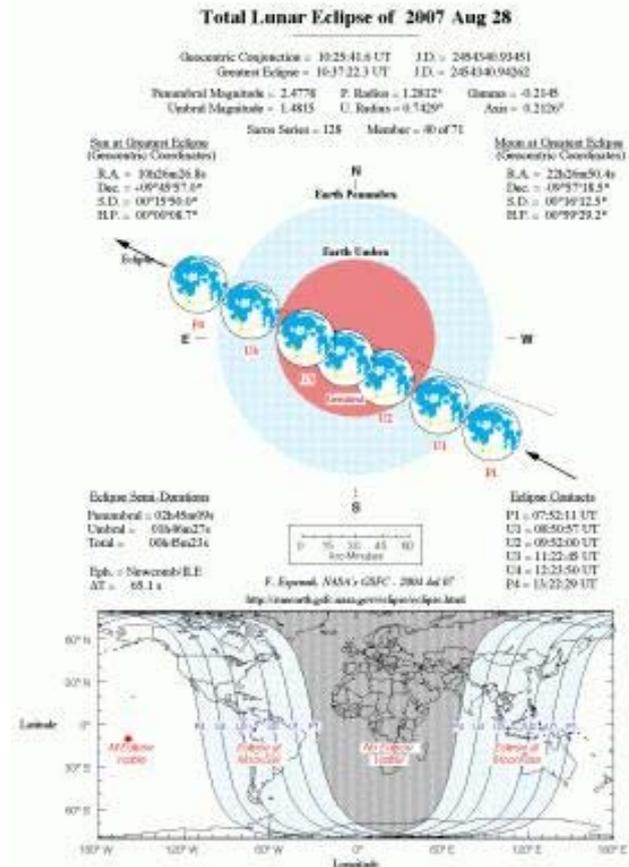
Binoculars can help improve the view, giving you more magnification and intensifying the colouration. A pair of 7x50 or 10x50's are best - any larger than that and you'll need a steady tripod to mount them on.

Sometimes a Total Lunar Eclipse is best viewed without any optical aid, and just lying under the stars watching the change as the Moon first gets slightly darker (penumbral phase), then starts to get eaten away (partial phase), finally turning deep red as it enters totality.

Photography / Imaging Guide

Photographing a Lunar Eclipse is quite easy, and doesn't need any special equipment or filters. The whole event can last quite a while as well, so you've got time on your hands. From the start of the partial phase, you have approximately an hour as the shadow gradually creeps across the Moon until it covers the whole Moon. Totality lasts approx 1.5 hours, followed by another hour of partial as the shadow moves off the Moon.

If you're using digital, this gives you time to preview your images and make sure your composition and exposure is correct, and to re-shoot if needed.



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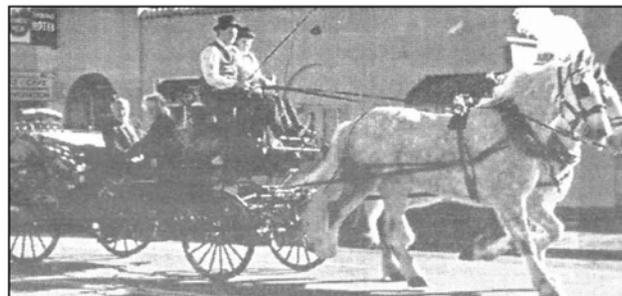
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