

## CROCKERY & PLATE STIRLING PARK, YARRALUMLA

There is one large dump in the park. It is in the old quarry (Attunga Point). In this dump is the rubbish from Howie's Settlement and the Hotel Canberra and it dates between 1922 and 1925 when work on the Hotel by Howie was completed. There are numerous smaller dumps throughout the park. The majority of crockery found on the hillside opposite Lotus Bay in the area of Tradesmen's and No 1 Labourers Camp is white of the type one would expect to be found in the camp kitchen – solid and functional. However at times one comes across quite delicate patterned tea cups that may have been used by men in the camps. A wide range of broken crockery from the married quarters at Howie's includes quite delicate vases, ornaments, plate, children's toys etc. In the area of the camps a Commonwealth tea spoon was found and near the cottages a large silver tablespoon that through years of lying amongst the leaf litter had turned the colour of the bed where it sat.

In the quarry dump and on the site of one of Howie's cottages in the clean up dump pieces of white cups and saucers with a simple gold pattern have been found. Below is a photograph that shows a detail of this motif. A gold line was drawn close to the rim of each of the cups and near the edge of the saucers.



Near Howie's cottages white crockery dominates in the dumps. Included however are objects such as a small crockery shoe and a fragment of a child's plate with a motif showing the three bears. Note in the background of the above photograph is a small tea-cup and saucer. The glaze and gold pattern is similar in material to that used in the cups and saucers of the type shown in the same photograph. This small set may be part of a child's tea set. Another explanation given to me is that it may have been part of a set sent to the colonies by firms that manufactured full sized crockery. These small sets were designed to give potential buyers an indication of the newest styles available. Another explanation for the small cups and saucers is that they were made for doll's houses. I found a set of three of these small cups and saucers. I did find small jug of a different pattern style was found on the hillside.

One of the small cups mentioned above is shown in the next photograph. Closer inspection of the three sets showed that there are two patterns used.



### **EXAMPLES OF CROCKERY FOUND IN STIRLING PARK**

The majority of examples following were found in the main dump at Attunga Point (old Quarry). Most crockery found was a basic white. However there are many patterned examples – some follow. The Hotel Canberra monogram (black) is shown on some of the pieces found in the Quarry Dump (Attunga Point).





A detail of the pattern on the cup above bottom right is shown below.



In the photograph on the next page is an example of the crockery with the Hotel Canberra motif. This motif appeared on crockery (including egg cups) and forks, spoons and knives. Two small salt spoons were found in the quarry dump at Attunga Point. The one that I found along with a tea-spoon was given to the Hotel Canberra and is displayed in their show case. Later crockery used by the 1930s has a maroon pattern (lines). A full unbroken bread and butter plate was found near the Westlake Hall. It too is displayed by the Hotel.





Above examples of the black motif on white. In the Quarry Dump the hotel's crockery found there varied in quality with the majority of pieces being fine crockery. Some utilitarian style heavier crockery of the type probably used in the camps was also found. The next photograph shows an example of the hotel's maroon decoration type of crockery. The cups include three sizes of cups and saucers - the small demi-tasse coffee cups and saucers, tea cups and very large tea-cups.





Above is an example of one of the oyster shells (filled with yellow coloured material) found in the quarry dump. Other similar shells are found on the hillside opposite Lotus Bay.



The Toni home perm is from the 1950s. All the other crockery shown in the above photograph came from the quarry dump.





The home made dust pan and Toni home perm is from the 1950s.





The broken pieces of a number of tea-pots were found. Above is one example partly mended.



Below is a vase. Showing behind it is a photograph of a Howie's cottage.



Numerous pieces of broken jugs and bowls were also found.





The unbroken plate shown above left is an example of the type of plate found in the dumps. The other pieces including the blue bottles are from the dumps.











Above is an unbroken cup saucer and plate. This was bought in a second hand shop and is an example of one of the styles of crockery found in the dumps. This particular piece is of the type made in Japan.



Following are a number of photographs of pottery pieces found in small dumps on the hillside opposite Lotus Bay.







The oyster shell is one of a number found in the dumps.





The crock on the bottom right is one of Sharpe's Bros containers. Several broken ones have been found in the park.







The glass stopper is one of many found in the dumps. It was used on bottles that contained condiments such as vinegar.



Above is an unbroken plate of the style found in the dumps. On it are artefacts found in the dumps.





Above is the tablespoon found near Howie's Cottages. It is silver but has turned the colour of the leaves in which it sat until found in the 1990s.

