

KEN SUTTER'S MEMORIES OF NORTH GLENELG

It is not important unless you want to dig a hole in the North Glenelg area. In the early 1970s I was a ganger fitter in the South Australian Gas Company and laid services to many houses in the North Glenelg area. When digging the trenches we came across a sheet of very hard white rock a few inches under the ground and it extended down for about 600mm. It was very much like Mount Gambier stone but about 10 times as dense and solid. It took much longer to lay the services, as we had no jackhammers in those days and had to nibble away at this solid rock with picks.

Years later when the West Torrens Council dug the Airport Drain, I realized what this rock was. It is called swamp rock, and was formed millions of years ago by fossilized marine life at the base of marine lakes and swamps. When the West Torrens Council dug the drain they used jackhammers, explosives, drop hammers and even the ripper on the back of a DB Caterpillar dozer, all without success. Swamp Rock can only be taken out a small section at a time.

It extends from the Kooyonga Golf Course through the Adelaide Airport and well into North Glenelg. This area in historical times must have been a lake or swamp.

Written by Ken Sutter 28-6-2010, WTHS

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