

Natural History

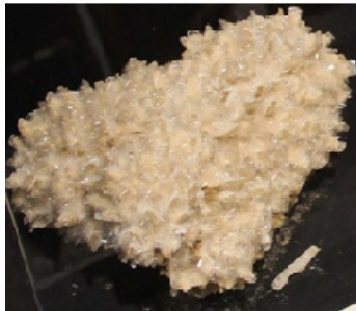
Wingham Museum is fortunate to have an interesting and curious group of natural history items that reflect the eclectic interests of early settlers and collectors in the natural environment, and the wide-ranging interests of historical societies in the early years of their formation. Of note is a significant collection of around 570 birds' eggs collected by Frederick Murray from about 1924 onwards, with the earliest specimens representing eggs collected at Harrington.



Other curiosities include the fossilised bone of a *Diprotodon optatum* (a mega-fauna marsupial that disappeared around 25,000 years ago), the lower jawbone of a whale, bezoars or hairballs from the stomach of cows, various birds' nests and a framed diorama of birds and mammals made by William Garlick (circa 1889), a self-taught naturalist and taxidermist. This arrangement includes a rare golden brush-tailed possum.



The latest addition to the Museum's significant collections has been the Sutherland rock and mineral collection. This impressive assortment includes hundreds of specimens collected by Dr Iain Sutherland (a former local GP) and his family over their lifetime. There are perfect crystalline structures, geoids, thunder-eggs, petrified wood, fossils and semi-precious minerals from all over Australia. The collection is a testament to doctor's life-long love affair with Australia and its unique geology.



The exhibition is stylishly presented – lit to show off its fine features, breathtaking colours and unique characteristics.



Natural Light



Ultraviolet Light



Infrared Light