

Western Australian State Show 2009

By Rex Barber

The Colonial Bottle Club of Western Australia has been organizing yearly, two-day state shows since the early 1970s and even held its first Australian National show way back in 1975. Unlike the large number of active bottle clubs in both England and America, West Australia only boasts two active clubs in a state



Small section of the selling area

nearly as big as Texas.

This year we had 87 exhibitor displays competing in a total of 47 different categories, coupled with 216 feet of swap and sell, and wheelers and dealers' trestles. Judging has remained with little change for over 30 years with five criteria. 1. Quality and rarity. 2. Interest and age. 3. Variety. 4. Condition. 5. Display and



**G & P Van Waardenberg
pot lids**



**Voted Best Display
Greg Thompson's "Antiques of
the Batavia Coast"**

information. (20 points each)

Outright exhibitors for the weekend were Joanna and Rex Barber entering ten displays. Each year, the most popular categories always seem to be the Codd's, ginger beers, black glass and pot lids, as can be seen in the attached photographs taken on the weekend of July 18th-19th.

The former colonial State of Western Australia was established initially as a convict-free settlement and consequently during that period and the following gold rushes of the 1880s and the main rush of



**Winner of Beers category
Rex and Jo Barber**

1890-1910, the majority of bottles, stoneware and pot lids came out from England.

Of course, we had pottery and glass works in Australia at that time, but these bottles represent only a small proportion of our dug bottles. Very few Pratt lids are dug because of

their perishable contents such as fish or meat paste, so we assume those that are dug came out as keepsakes in frames to remind people of home.

Many variations of Codd bottles are dug here. Some were manufactured by the Melbourne Glass Works and some were imported from England.



S. Panton - Warners

Quite a few American bottles are found here, but mainly purchased from collectors over east who dug the gold field dumps left from the 1850 rush in Victoria.

NOTE :

Jo Barber provided the photographs of the displays, showing the huge diversity of categories that are always present at Australian shows.



**Greg Thompson's
Warners**



**B & S Thompson
Dutch Gins**