

**From:** "Australian Opal Mines (Murray)" <murray@australianopalmines.com>  
**Date:** April 12, 2011 1:15:28 AM EDT  
**To:** Murray WILLIS <Murray@australianopalmines.com>  
**Subject:** Specimen OFFER 12 Apr 2011

Hi Folks

Today we have some quite unique Mintubi on Sandstone specimens. I have told you before about the history of Mintubi and how the miners 20 years ago were pulling out huge parcels of opal anywhere between \$400,000 and \$2m. When miners are finding big parcels they don't really enjoy cleaning them what they really want to do is get back on the bulldozers and continue to mine to get the thrill of finding another big parcel thus when they come to thin opal that is sitting on sandstone as hard as concrete they quickly classify it as specimen material not worth slabbing, not worth tumbling, not worth classing and as a result not worth much. Of course the excitement and the amount of money they are getting has nothing to do with the true value of the opal. Understanding that Mintubi was relatively new and that in time the fields would be worked out as they really are now I bought a couple of wheat bags full of what they call "specimen material". I have had these specimens faced off and polished, Many of them could be used for cutting solid opal, for instance the 3.2oz for \$435 has one stone in there at least 1/8" thick and nearly 1" long that's worth more than the \$435 that we ask for the whole piece, that is a terrific value stone. Another that I really like is the 3.09oz brilliant blues and green jelly. There are many many solid opals to be cut out of this piece if one didn't want to keep it as a specimen. That piece is only \$375 it would cut some beautiful rectangular stones to make men's rings or ladies earrings, or even cufflinks and is another bargain.

'Casper the Friendly Ghost', the 3.25oz stone for only \$125 looks exactly what I imagine Casper the Friendly Ghost to look like. It is usually white but this ghost has a very bright head and a much brighter tail, some 1.25" by 1" wide.

Another favourite is the \$535 specimen IMG\_0958. I saw this parcel before it was sold and when you look at this piece you can see why the men got nearly \$2m for their opal. I doubt that one of them today would have much more than his own house to show for it. The miners hit it rich and lived well believing they can go back and find more but by the time they repaired their bulldozers, spent their money on most expensive fuel, fed their families and educated their children there was not much left before they found another parcel if indeed they ever did.

If you only have \$145 to spend buy the 3.5oz \$145 piece, there is a little black, beautiful green orange and some reds in it. It is 3.25" x 1.75" you could spend the rest of your life in Mintubi looking to buy a stone like this and if you found one you wouldn't buy it for less than \$400 in my estimation.

Don't ignore the brilliant \$265 stone. If you are a cutter and you want some brilliant opal for little money and still have some left over as a specimen this stone is for you.

I hope you enjoy looking at opal that was mined over 20 years ago and stored away by Murray Willis ready to be offered to you as faced and polished specimens.

Regards

Murray

1. \$35 IMG\_7660 Mintubi on Sandstone specimen 3.5" x 2" 4.25oz
2. \$46 IMG\_7632 Mintubi on Sandstone Jelly Blue & Green 1.5" x 1" .69oz
3. \$60 IMG\_3984 Mintubi Specimen approximately 6cm x 3cm
4. \$98 IMG\_7598 Mintubi on Sandstone 38mm x 24mm .26oz
5. \$125 IMG\_3289 Mintubi on Sandstone specimen "Casper the friendly ghost" faced some gem colours 3.25oz
6. \$145 IMG\_7629 Mintubi on Sandstone specimen 3.25" x 1.75" 3.5oz wonderful and could be cut into stones with sandstone backs
7. \$150 or \$50 each IMG\_7648 Mintubi on Sandstone specimens (3) or could be wire wrapped 1.08oz
8. \$175 or \$35 each IMG\_7663 Mintubi on Sandstone (5 stones) .769oz
9. \$195 IMG\_3278 Mintubi Gem Bar Specimen 2.2oz
10. \$235 IMG\_8786 Mintubi on Sandstone 7.65oz
11. \$235 IMG\_8701 Mintubi on Sandstone 3.75" x 1.5" 2.55oz
12. \$240 IMG\_8793 Mintubi on Sandstone Specimen 4" x 1.5" 2.85oz
13. \$265 IMG\_3286 Mintubi Gem Bar Specimen 7.75oz
14. \$265 IMG\_8697 Mintubi on Sandstone 3" x 1" 1.4oz
- 15-16. \$285 IMG\_8686 Mintubi on Sandstone some gems double sided 4" x 2" 3.15oz
- 17-18. \$325 IMG\_7578 Mintubi Specimen double bar approx 14cm x 5cm x 2cm thick
19. \$335 IMG\_7637 Mintubi on Sandstone Gem Reds & Greens 2" x 1.1" cut great stones
20. \$350 IMG\_8791 Mintubi on Sandstone purples 5.5" x 1.75" 4.75oz
21. \$375 IMG\_7595 Mintubi on Sandstone brilliant blue & green jelly 4.3" x 1.5" 3.09oz
22. \$435 IMG\_8795 Mintubi on Sandstone brilliant 3" x 3" 3.2oz
- 23-24. \$435 IMG\_7608 Mintubi on Sandstone jelly pinfire cut solids almost beautiful specimen 4." x 1.5" 3.1oz
25. \$535 IMG\_0958 Mintubi Gem Specimen approximately 5.5" x 1.25"
26. \$560 IMG\_3170 Mintubi Faced on Sandstone \$400/oz 1.4oz
- 27-28. \$625 IMG\_7588 Mintubi on Sandstone specimen multi colour 5" x 6" 16.2oz
- 29-31. \$650 IMG\_7652 Mintubi Black & White specimen approx 19cm x 8cm x 1cm thick



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15. \$285 IMG\_8686 Mintubi on Sandstone some gems double sided 4" x 2" 3.15oz (side 1)



16. \$285 IMG\_8687 Mintubi on Sandstone some gems double sided 4" x 2" 3.15oz



17. \$325 IMG\_7578 Mintubi Specimen double bar approx 14cm x 5cm x 2cm thick



18. \$325 IMG\_7583 Mintubi Specimen double bar approx 14cm x 5cm x 2cm thick



19. \$335 IMG\_7637 Mintubi on Sandstone Gem Reds & Greens 2" x 1.1" cut great stones



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24. \$435 IMG\_7619 Mintubi on Sandstone jelly pinfire cut solids almost beautiful specimen 4." x 1.5" 3.1oz

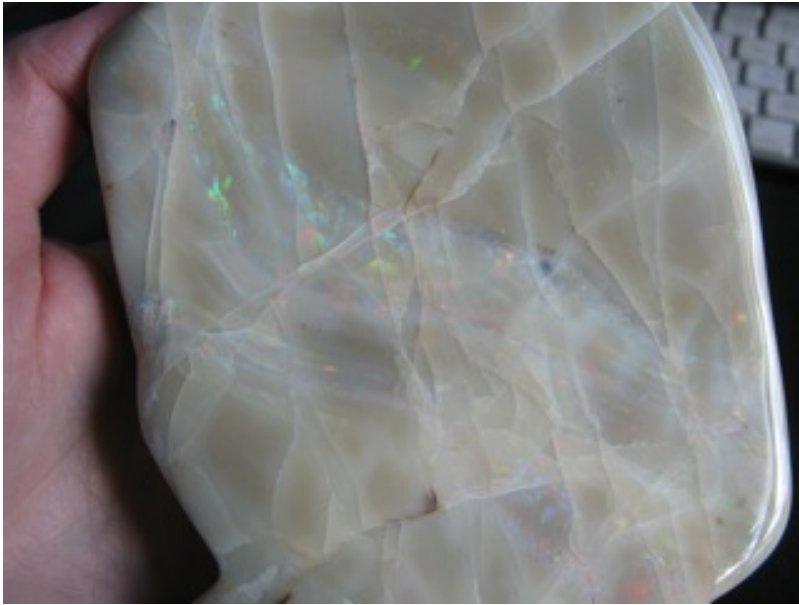


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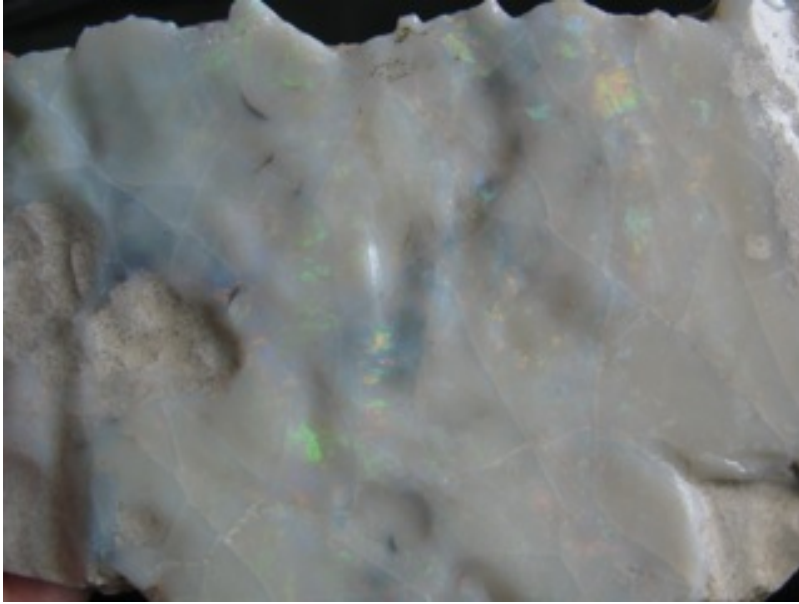
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Kind regards

Murray Willis

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