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A History of Oil, Petrol, Kero & Motor Spirits in Australia

Australian crude oil was sourced from shale. Many people confuse shale with coal. The differences are – coal is carbonised vegetable matter, while shale is bituminised clay.

Australian Kerosenes

Also known as paraffin, petrol engine oil, kerosene oil and lamp oil.

Kerosene was a safe, convenient, and cheap making it one of Australia's most popular fuels.

Pre-1900 Australian Kerosene oil companies include:

- 1852** Australian Kerosene & Oil Co., Hartley Vale (J Fell, M.D.) – *AJAX Power Kerosene*
Sun Kerosene State & Oil Co., Mount Kembla – *Star Kerosene*
Western Kerosene Oil Co. Ltd., Hartley Vale
Hartley Kerosene Oil & Paraffin Co. Ltd
- 1865** Comet Oil Kerosene
NSW Shale & Oil Petroleum Co.
Australian Kerosene Oil & Mineral Co., Mittagong
Australian Kerosene Oil & Mineral Co., West Katoomba
NSW Shale & Oil Co.
Commonwealth Oil Corporation Ltd
Pioneer Kerosene Works, American Creek – *Illumination Oil*
British Australian Oil Co., Mt Victoria
- 1890** Kerosene sold for sixpence per four gallon.

Brand Names of Benzine, Kerosene, Motor Spirit, and Petrol

Below is a list of brand names you may come across collecting old tins, signs, bottles, and other garagenalia sold in Australia over the years. They are listed alphabetically and not all are mainstream.

1850's	Ajax Power Kerosene Star Kerosene	1920's	Akbar Motor Spirit Alphet Oil
1860's	Pratt's Austral Oil Illumination Oil		All Cars Motor Spirit Ameline Kero
1870's	Tidewater Power Kerosene		Archer Motor Spirit Automobiline Motor Spirit
1890's	Evening Star Kerosene		BAP Motor Spirit Beauroil Motor Spirit
1890's	Excelsior Petroleum Kerosene		Bear American Kerosene Bear Motor Spirit
1910's	Universal Oil Company: - Tydol Motor Spirits - Tydol Benzine - Chester Petrol - Snow Flake Lamp Oil Bostwicks: - Royal Daylight Oil - Royal Auto Car Motor Spirit		Bear Gasoline BHP Benzol Big Tree Motor Spirit Boulevard Motor Spirit Cargo Motor Spirit Cargo Powersene

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1920's *Contd.* Carog Kerosene
Chariot Motor Spirit
Coronet Water While Oil
Crown Motor Spirit
Diamond Motor Spirit
DLC Motor Spirit
DPL (Dunlop Ltd) Motor Spirit
Empire Motor Spirit
Falcon Motor Spirit
Farmers Motor spirit
Fells Motor Oil
Fells Australian Motor Spirit
Gen Water Kero Oil
Giant Petrol
Gilmore Gasoline
Gold Bond Motor Spirit
Gold Crown Gasoline
Golden Roy Kero Oil
Gum Tree Benzine
Hercules Kerosene
Hills Motor Spirit
Home Light Kerosene
ILO Oils
Liberty Gasoline
Liberty Motor Spirit
Lustre Light Kerosene Oil
Major Motor Spirit
Moto Naphta Motor Spirit
National Benzine
National Benzol Mixture
National Motor Spirit
Niagara Petroleum
Opaline Oil
Patriot Brand Kerosene
Penrite Oil
Pethard Motor Spirit
Pine Tree Spirits of Turpentine
Purr Pull Motor Spirit
Red Butt Motor Spirit
Red Crown Motor Spirit

1920's *Contd.* Red Line Motor Spirit
Resis Oil Motor Spirit
Ritchfield Motor Spirit
Romtree Motor Spirit
Rond Motor Spirit
Salambar Motor Spirit
Sequoia Motor Spirit
Sphinx Motor Spirit
Sternol Oil
Sun Co. Motor Spirit
Sunburst Motor Spirit
Sunoco
Swan Motor Spirit
Trogon Oil
Vykarol Motor Spirit
Whiz Lubricants
XL Motor Spirit

1930's Alba Flight Super
AP Penn
Belm Oil
Day Lube Aviation Motor Spirit
Fire Zone
Glydol
Kangaroo
Kookaburra
Lion Motor Oil
Meteor
Oklahoma Motor Spirit
PAX
Pennzoil
Phillips Oil
Rising Sun Lamp Oil
Sinclair
Silver Light Kero
Torpedo Motor Spirit
Trident Oil
Tydol
Valvoline
Veedol
Waratah