

# CANNONBALL CONCRETIONS

By Ian Menzies

Throughout Victoria's Otway Ranges almost perfect spheres of rock known as 'cannonball concretions' can be found along most of its shorelines. They are formed when groundwater rich in calcite concentrates around an object such as a shell or twig buried within sandstone. The calcite fills tiny gaps in the sandstone and gradually grows outwards, so forming a pearl-like ball of harder rock. Weathering of the softer sandstone then exposes these 'cannonballs'.

The process doesn't necessarily take eons: similar concretions have been found in the UK formed around shrapnel from both World Wars. Faith is often like this. From a small kernel or seed, a possibly insignificant beginning, it gradually grows and strengthens. Take a look around your congregation. Although many may be 'weathered', how many strong 'cannonballs of faith' can you see and appreciate? How many of them can name the 'seed' around which each has grown?

## Reflection:

*[Jesus] said to them, "... For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."*

Matthew 17: 20 (ESV)

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