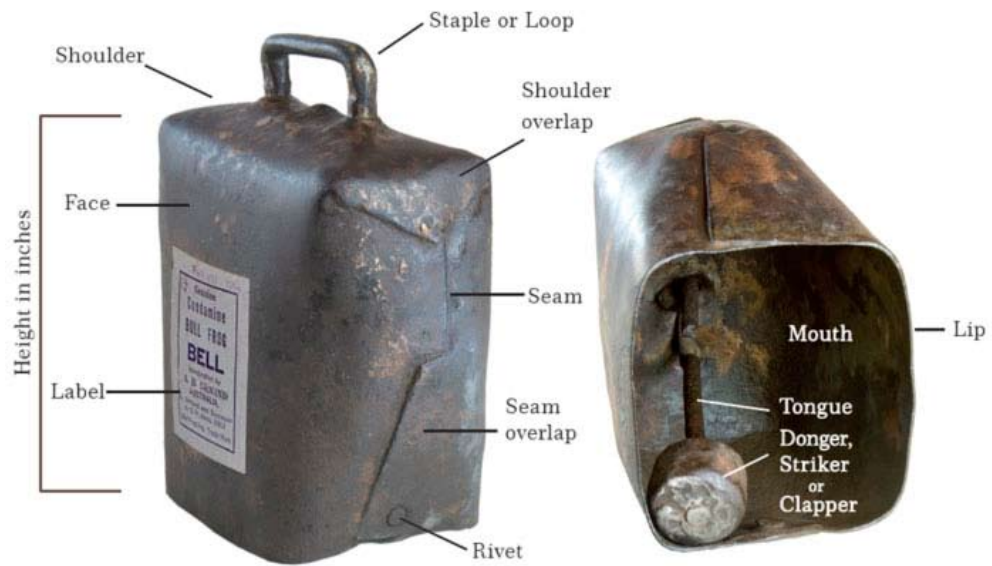




Essentially the main types of animal bell used in Australia were the Condamine (from left 1) the Pot shape (2), the Kentucky (3), and the brass bells (4). Others, the clucket and canister bells were used here but commonly made in England. The largest of all bells were the Condamines and these reached up to 10 or even 11 inches tall. But they are rare with the normal size being around 6 or 7 inches. Bells are generally measured from the bottom lip to the shoulder, not including the belt staple. Many different shapes of brass bell were made with most coming from England. For ease, we measure these the same as the iron bells, however, technically they should be measured across the widest part of the mouth. Sometimes these bells have a size cast into their body and this is usually their mouth measurement in inches.



Sometimes the maker stamped his name into the metal and this sure makes it easier to identify the bell's origins. The most collectable of bells are the ones in good condition, with with clear markings and an early vintage. Those made by Samuel Jones often fall into this category as he is accredited as being the first Condamine maker.

For the novice, it is advisable to obtain advice from a knowledgeable collector before spending money on their first bell purchase. Sometimes bells aren't what they appear or are touted to be. It is common to find a bell with a substitute tongue or reworked staple. This does not make the bell valueless, but certainly not a valuable as an original.

