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LAPIS

"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

VOLUME FORTY NUMBER ELEVEN AUGUST 2006

CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on Saturday 12 August 2006. The meeting will start at 2pm. Following the August General meeting we will be conducting the **Annual General Meeting**.

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

- Carole Orkin – Mosman
- Jeni Beahan – Meadowbank
- Norm Whitton – North Ryde

We wish them many long hours of enjoyment cutting gemstones.

EXHIBITION NOTES

SCONE MAKING WORKING BEE



When: 16 September starting at 9:00 am at the Club rooms.

Please bring your best recipe, mixing bowl and baking trays. We are trying to make lots of scones for the Exhibition so ladies and gents please come along and help.

Marian Bruce will supply all the ingredients for the scones.

Members if you can not make it to the working bee, donations of scones that you have made at home will still be greatly appreciated.

Major Exhibition Working Bee

Sunday 16th July, 2006

As part of the preparation for our Exhibition in October, a major working bee was held at the Club premises on Saturday 15th, July.

It was a very active day, with approximately 25 very willing sets of hands carrying out a variety of jobs. The cutting room and equipment was cleaned; stock-takes carried out on a range of materials and product for sale; other articles were priced and decorations made for the hall.

Everyone was busy – a little like ants on a nest - especially when it looked like rain, because outside, there were trestles of slabs laid out for sorting and packing. The "ant's nest" then became very stirred up, as a team of people collected and passed trays of rocks and slabs in a relay, and back under cover before the heavens opened up.

A special thank you goes to Bert, who was again our resident "chef" and cooked for the sausage sizzle for lunch.

After lunch, a final clean-up and we all headed for home at approximately 3.30pm.

Thank you to all who attended. It was a very productive day and your efforts are appreciated.

Barbara Try
President

Specific Working Bee

Saturday 22nd July, 2006

As our Exhibition draws near, the pace of work and preparations for it, increases.

Another working bee was held on Saturday, 22nd July, with two small teams aimed at completing jewellery Items. One team comprising of seven people industriously made earrings, while another with a similar number of people put finishing touches to enamelled pendants and brooches.

Work was also started on the clock faces, and more faceted stones were catalogued and prepared for sale.

In total, there were seventeen people that toiled away industriously until calling it quits just after 5pm. It was a long, but very productive day.

Once again, my thanks to those people that willingly gave of their time. It was very pleasing to also see some of the newer club members involved and learning new activities.

Barbara Try
President

Condolences

For those members who knew Jess Joyce a previous member of the NDLC, she passed away on 20th June 2006. Our condolences to Hugh Joyce and family

Cleaning Schedule

Our resident cleaner is going on leave and we would like the classes to assist with the cleaning especially after you have completed your class. To ensure the Clubrooms and the Cutting room are cleaned the committee would like the following classes to clean on the specified dates:

Thursday Evening Classes - on **10 August 2006**
Wednesday Casual & Evening Classes – on **23 August 2006**
Monday Night Classes – on **4 September 2006**
Thursday Evening Classes – **29 September 2006**

Your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

The Committee



ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



That time has come ! Once again, we have reached that time of the year when we do some soul searching about the previous twelve month's activities, and regroup and plan for the next year.

I am very pleased to say that our last twelve months has been extremely successful. This has been due to a hard working committee that has pulled together to instigate many of the club's activities and to teachers and club members that have assisted and given "beyond the call of duty". I am pleased to say that a number of those members are new to the Club, so it was not just the same old stalwarts that give "their all" year after year. It was a good team effort and bodes well for the Club's future – thank you.

A lot has been achieved in the last twelve months. I would therefore like to list just some of them :

- We entered the computer age with a website that is receiving many "hits" on a regular basis.
- Other Promotional material has been prepared and now accompanies any request for information on our activities.
- A teacher's meeting was held and agreed decisions concerning equipment and classes were reached for all relevant areas. [Believe it or not, this was a "first."]
- A concerted membership drive, over a one week period, was very successful resulting in increased participation in a number of classes including our Junior Class.
- Enamelling classes have been reintroduced to the Club's activities, and the use of Precious Metal Clay [PMC] has also been introduced as another form of silver work.
- While we reached a milestone in the Club's history with a very successful 40th Birthday party, there have also been a number of well attended social outings and functions.
- The access foyer has being upgraded with new carpet and display cases.

- Quite a number of working bees have been held to build shelving and “sort out” the storerooms as well as to prepare for our Exhibition in October.
- The duties of all Committee members have been documented for reference by potential committee persons.
- Club equipment has been upgraded, in both the cutting room and the social/meeting room.
- We won the Ray Powell Trophy - as National Champion Club – for the second year. This was due to a lot of work by a number of club members that contributed to the overall result. The introduction of Friday evening Competition Cutting is obviously bearing fruit. In this regard also, I am pleased to say that there were quite a few new names on the winner’s list.
- Plans and details for our Exhibition in October are well in hand.

Without an energetic and committed Committee, teachers and members, none of this would have been possible. My personal thanks to you all for supporting me during this extremely active period. You can all be proud of the fact that you have contributed to ensure that OUR CLUB is well and truly alive, and on a good footing to face the future.

Barbara Try

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SECRETARY’S REPORT



In January this year the Committee felt that we should work hard to maintain and increase our membership to keep the club strong, viable and enjoyable. It was a pleasure to see five new initiatives completed in developing our two way communications with our community.

The first initiative was the club’s January Open Week. The Open Week was publicised through our local press, local web sites and with flyers posted on notice boards in libraries, our local university and local shops. We have welcomed 20 new members to our club over the past 12 months

with 10 of those joining in February after the Open Week.

Our second initiative was the development of a website for our club, opening a window into the activities and of our club including photos of our member’s beautiful lapidary work, our field trips and information for new members. The website has had 1,346 visits in the past 3 months. This website now provides a 24 hour accessible window to our club, allowing us to communicate widely to our community and prospective new members, for many years ahead. We had a willing member design the site and agree to serve in the role of honorary webmaster so the site is updated after each LAPIS.

The third initiative was the establishment of an E-mail service. For those people who now use email, they can contact our club with any questions they have about membership or just seeking information. The e-mail address remains the same as office bearers change, removing the need to change personal email addresses as we used in the past.

A fourth initiative in communication has been placing active communication links to our club in a range of local regional and national sites that interested craftspeople visit across Australia. We sought and were granted inclusion of our club details, with live links to our email & website from the websites of the following organisations: *Craft Australia, Society of Arts & Crafts NSW, Education Network Australia, Australian Faceter’s Guild, Australian Mineral Collector, Craftworldonline, Northern District Times*, all *Local Council Community Directories* and the national community site *Ourcommunity.com.au*.

The fifth initiative was establishing two way communication links in preparation for our Biennial Exhibition. The new website, email and inclusion by national and state organisations has helped us list our October Exhibition in additional places. We hope this may allow us to reach people who would enjoy coming along. The following sites have already accepted and display information on our October Exhibition with live links to contact us; *Tourism NSW-Visit NSW, Sensis City Search, Hornsby Council What’s On, and Australian Mineral Collector*.

By the Club taking these initiatives this year, we have stepped up our ability to talk with our local community. In addition our mail communication has been very busy, having received several hundred incoming items of mail to our post office box and sent out many letters. My thanks go to such a supportive Committee and so many other members who have helped.

Alex Maitland

~

CUTTING ROOM SUPERVISOR



The only major projects undertaken in the past year have been the installation of shelves in the rock store and we are currently doing a complete rebuild of the 12-inch saw. However the maintenance of many machines is a continual ongoing job. Much of our equipment is, like us increasing in maturity and needs lots of regular TLC to keep running. My thanks to those Members who give up a lot of their time to assist in these tasks. They do it without being asked or making a fuss.

John Weatherburn

~

FIELD TRIPS OFFICER



There were only three official Field Trips during the last twelve months. Not as many as I would have liked to organise, largely because arrangements for other potential trips did not come to fruition. This means that different avenues will need to be explored in the future.

Those that were undertaken have been well documented, and discussed widely in lapidary circles, for a variety of reasons. While some of those "reasons" made interesting reading and extremely memorable events, their outcomes will be thought of very differently by those in attendance.

The first was the Club's annual pilgrimage to Nundle. This trip was beset by an extraordinary range of vehicle mishaps, one of which now has

the town of Willow Tree affectionately [?] known as "John's Place". The second trip was to Oberon. This trip will also be remembered for the fact that it was the first time in the Club's history that one of our party had an accident requiring hospital and lengthy physiotherapy [still ongoing!]. The final trip was a major one to the GEMBOREE in Tasmania. This was also memorable - [*but for much more pleasant reasons*] - because of the Club's successes in individual competitions as well as the overall Championship.

Who said being Field Trip Officer was boring ???!

My personal "thank you" to all those people that braved the elements and attended these events. All trips were well attended, and regardless of the events recorded for posterity in our Club Records, they were good social outings because of the camaraderie that obviously exists within our club.

Tony Try

~

LIBRARIAN REPORT



The Library continues to operate effectively. We have purchased a number of new books for the pleasure of members. Some people still have books outstanding but the majority of members return their books on time. The Club has a very good library and members are welcome and encouraged to use it.

Happy Reading

Karen Clarke

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SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT



Unfortunately there were not many social events during the last 12 months but what there were had good support. Early in the year we had a tour of Cockatoo Island to the relics of the convict era and the rain tried to spoil the day. In spite of this we all had a very interesting guided tour. Our 40th Birthday Dinner was held at Cheltenham Sports

Club and was a great success with many members and friends joining in to make it a fun night. Just recently we had a cruise on the Hawkesbury River with the river boat postmen, where rain could have spoiled the day. But this time the cruise started in lovely sunshine and finished the same way, with cloud cover the remainder of time: A good time was had by all. I would like to thank all those members who gave their support to make these events the success that they were.

Bert Deane

~

PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT



You must have noticed that during the past year emphasis has been on recruiting speakers from within the Club. This has been a deliberate attempt at making known the range of amazing knowledge and the variety of interests of our own members. I hope you have all enjoyed the different themes each one of the speakers has brought to us.

On behalf of the Club, I would like to thank the speakers for their very interesting contributions as well as their unselfishness and willingness to give of their time.

Special thanks should be recorded for Brian, Joe, Peter and especially Maureen who promised to make her presentation an annual event. Last but not least my thanks also go to Luis and his drinks.

The Games Night organised with the help of Bert and Peter was a very special event. It was enjoyed by all the members who were fortunate enough to be present and saw us all acting like children and laughing for hours.

Marian Bruce

~

GEM COUNCIL DELEGATE'S REPORT



As a G&L committee member participation in the monthly meetings over the last year has been a rewarding experience. Working in the

“background” clubs may not be aware of the many issues the Gem Council handles which relate to the running of the lapidary movement in NSW.

The next main event is the Gemkhana 2006 at the Mudgee showground on Saturday September 30 to Monday October 2. Entrees close August 25.

For the latest information on the activities of the Gem Council please read the monthly edition of the “Gem and Lapidary News”. Copies are readily available from the club rooms.

Norm Savage

~

EDITOR OF LAPIS REPORT



In the last twelve months our magazine has grown in size and content, and I have received many favourable comments from members. The fact that excerpts are often quoted in other clubs' magazines is also a complement.

A **very big thank you** to all those members that have given me contributions for Lapis, because it is those articles that have made it what it is today. You can all be proud of the fact that Lapis was awarded the Best Club Magazine Trophy for 2004/05, after being judged by the NSW Gem Council and awarded in October 2005.

With support like that, my job has been made so much easier.

Thank you.

Barbara Try

~

An interesting Note:

The Central Coast Lapidary Club has just had plans approved by the Wyong Shire Council for their Club's workshops expansion. A Work For The Dole team are doing the construction work.

THE AMATEUR GEOLOGIST

*Don't let the "expert" call your bluff,
Or he will make the going tough,
You must learn not to get a fright
If he should mention sodalite.
That's blue, to you.*

*It's very fine to talk of slabs
And turn them into gleaming cabs,
But make your conversation bright
When talk swings round to rhodonite.
That's pink, I think.*

*You're on your way to Agate Creek,
You think you'll plan to stay a week,
That's fine, but can you get recite
On malachite and azurite.
Such bores, these ores.*

*Just learn those scientific names,
Then you can play those fancy games,
This one will make him hold on tight,
"We've found some montmorillonite".
So near, how queer.*

*Don't let him get the best of you,
Show him you know a thing or two,
Quote diorite and zeolite
And chrysolite and haematite.
He'd done, you've won.*

Claire Schofield.

This poem was written a number of years ago and was published in Lapis by one of our Foundation Members.



Funnies

A shopkeeper was dismayed when a brand new business much like his own opened up next door and erected a huge sign which read 'BEST DEALS'. He was horrified when another competitor opened up on his right, and announced its arrival with an even larger sign, reading 'LOWEST PRICES'. The shopkeeper panicked, until he got an idea. He put the biggest sign of all over his own shop. It read 'MAIN ENTRANCE'

~

A retired gentleman went to the local Centrelink Office to apply for the Age Pension. The woman behind the counter asked him for a driver's license to verify his age.

He felt for his wallet, and was embarrassed to tell the girl that had left his wallet at home and would have to come back. The woman asked him to unbutton his shirt, and when she saw the silvery hair on his chest she said no need, and processed his application right then.

The man returned home and told his wife all about it, but she said he could have got a Disability Allowance as well if he had dropped his pants too.

~

Jim and Edna were both patients in a mental hospital. On day while they were walking past the hospital swimming pool, Jim suddenly jumped into the deep end.

He sank to the bottom of the pool and stayed there. Edna promptly jumped in to save him. She swam to the bottom and pulled Jim out.

When the Director of Nursing became aware of Edna's heroic act, she considered her to be mentally stable.

When she went to tell Edna the news, she said, "Edna, I have good news and bad news."

"The good news is you're being discharged; since were able to rationally respond to a crisis by jumping in and saving the life of another patient, I have concluded that your act displays a sound mind."

"The bad news is that Jim, the patient you saved, hanged himself in his bathroom with the belt to his robe right after you saved him. I am sorry, but he's dead."

Edna replied, "He didn't hang himself. I put him there to dry. How soon can I go home?"



TREASURER' REPORT



NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

COMBINED FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2005 / 2006

Reconciled Balance @ 01/07/2005

7,051.86

plus Deposits

Joining fees	365.00	
Annual subscriptions	2,470.00	
Class/Term fees	4,700.00	
Casual use of machinery	1,898.00	
Shop Sales	4,409.40	
Raffles @ meetings	941.55	
Phone bottle receipts	15.10	
Social functions / events / trips	645.00	
Club 40th Anniv Dinner	3,140.00	
Weekend workshops	265.00	
Club Exhibition 2006 presales	12.00	
Miscellaneous		
Donations received	10.00	
Sales of G&L News	19.00	
Sale of excess machinery	30.00	
Interest received - Westpac No.1 a/c	50.68	
Interest received - Westpac investment funds	1,495.54	
Matured - Westpac investment funds	30,000.00	50,466.27
		<hr/>
		57,518.13

less Accounts Paid

Rent	1,610.20
Electricity	1,074.96
Plant & Machinery	1,221.92
Cutting Room R & M	3,521.46
Cutting Room no.2 a/c - funds	102.85
Lapis printing, postage & stationery	1,373.56
Refreshments & cleaning	1,528.46
Prizes for Raffles	139.72
Phone	406.71
Good for Resale	2,697.11
Class / workshop supplies	1,048.01
Library / subscriptions / website	
Library books	34.65
G & L Council subscriptions	100.00
Lapidary Journal - subscription	57.77
Club Website	478.00
Photocopier	1,682.90
Club Exhibition 2006 costs	
Hall booking for Oct 2006	100.00
Faceting rough / silver wire / cut stones	1,013.34
Social functions / events / trips	999.50
Club 40th Anniv Dinner	3,436.90
Miscellaneous	
Lodgement Fees - Office of Fair Trading	41.00
Public Liability Insurance	250.00
Contents Business Pack insurance	532.36
Personal Accident Insurance - G&L Council	487.50
Trophy engraving	100.00
Floral tributes	123.50
Petty cash advance	50.00
Credit Card Merchant fees	275.76

Funds transfer to ING Direct at call a/c	25,000.00	49,488.14
Reconciled Balance @ 30/06/2006 NDLC No.1 account		8,029.99
Investment Account:		
At call ING deposit 11/11/05 Nov 05	5.5% variable	15,000.00
At call ING deposit 14/2/06 Feb 06	5.5% variable	10,000.00
At call ING Interest accrual to 30/6/2006		729.05
Total Balance in Investment Accounts		25,729.05
Reconciled Balance @ 30/06/2006 NDLC No.2 account		502.64
includes Interest received no.2 a/c		2.64
Cash on Hand:		30.00
Shop sales funds		
Petty cash funds		50.00

NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th June 2006

Plant, Machinery etc,	12,642.11	
less 10% depreciation	1,264.21	
less sale of excess machinery	30.00	
	11,347.90	
add purchases	1,221.92	\$12,569.82
Library	3,768.88	
less 5% depreciation	188.44	
less books culled	45.30	
	3,535.14	
add purchases	34.65	\$3,569.79
Current estimated resale value of stock in shop	13,660.52	\$13,660.52
Reconciled balance in no.1 cheque a/c	8,029.99	
Reconciled balance in no.2 cutting room cheque a/c	502.64	
Cash on Hand	80.00	\$8,612.63
Deposits in investment a/c - at call 5.5% variable	25,729.05	\$25,729.05
Total ASSETS		\$64,141.81

MEMBERS EQUITY

Members' Equity at 1 July 2005	\$66,565.50
Net Movement in Members' Equity	-\$2,423.69
Members' Equity at 30 June 2006	\$64,141.81

Gina Potter, Hon. Treasurer

We have examined the records of the Northern Districts Lapidary Club Inc. for the year ended 30th June 2006. In our opinion the attached Income and Expenditure account and Balance Sheet give a true and fair view of the Club's affairs as at 30 June 2006 and the results for the year.

Honorary Auditors:

Edwin Bentley
June Staley

DATES OF INTEREST

- Aug 12** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
August General Meeting and then the Annual General Meeting Saturday at 2 pm
- Aug 26-27** Jewellery, Beading, Gem & Mineral Show
Roselea Community Centre
- Sept 12** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Tuesday 8 pm, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- Sept 23** Nepean District Lapidary Club- Jewellery Gem & Craft Sale
12 North Street, Penrith
- Sept 30 Oct 1 & 2** GEMKHANA 2006, Presented by the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW inc.
Mudgee Showground
- Oct 14& 15** Central Coast Lapidary Club – Gem & Mineral Festival
Wyong Memorial Hall, Anzac Avenue Wyong
- Oct 26- 29** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB – Biennial Exhibition
- Nov 10 -12** Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club, Gemstone & Mineral Show
Clubrooms 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville
- Nov 18 – 19** Northern Districts Lapidary Club - Nundle Field Trip
- Dec 9** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
Christmas Party

2007 – GEMBOREE – Queensland, Gatton – April 6-9

2008 – GEMBOREE – SA – Mar 21 -24

2009 – GEMBOREE – Vic, Horsham – April 10-13

For information on Interstate and Overseas Gem Shows see back pages of the Gem & Lapidary News available in clubrooms on shelf near library.



Northern Districts Lapidary Club Shirts

Good quality polo shirts are available from the shop for field trips and future GEMBOREE'S.

They are royal blue with the Club's badge embroidered above the pocket on the left hand side of the shirt.
Cost is \$35.00. Sizes range from small to XXXL.

If your size is not available in the shop please complete the form below.

Please indicate the size and number you require. Name:.....

Size:..... Number:.....

Return to Secretary NDLC – PO Box 59, Beecroft NSW 2119

Lapis now available by  or  !!

Members if you would prefer to receive your LAPIS by email rather than by snail mail please send you email address to John Andersen. John's email is bonstyle@bigpond.net.au.