



LAPIS

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"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

VOLUME FORTY ONE NUMBER FOUR DECEMBER 2006

Club News

The next General meeting will be held in conjunction with the Club's Christmas Party on Sat. 9th December 2006 (party starting at 4 pm).

Remember that there is no General Meeting in January. So we look forward to seeing you all for the beginning of our new year at our next General Meeting on Tuesday 8th February at 8pm in the Clubrooms.

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

- Jean Byrne of Eastwood
- Joshua Yeo of Epping (Junior)
- Chelsea Simpson of Pennant Hill (Junior)
- Sunny Pack of Beecroft (Junior)
- Daisy Pack of Beecroft (Junior)

We wish them many long hours of enjoyment cutting gemstones.

Vale

It was sad to learn that Margaret Hellyer (a former Member who moved to Cairns) – passed away on Thursday 30 Nov. Our sympathies go out to her husband George and family.

Web Site News

There have been 3,778 visitors to the website since the Club opened it in May 2006.

Of these visitors, there were 179 people whom went further than just a quick look and actually download a copy of the exhibition flyer from the website and 103 whom downloaded our information sheet.

President's Report

As the end of our 40th Year comes to a close we have the opportunity for one last celebration to be held in conjunction with our Christmas Party. In recognition of the fantastic contribution that all of our "old-timers" have made to the Club over the years we plan to use the Christmas Party to formally acknowledge all those Members who have achieved membership milestones of 10-, 20-, 30- and even 40-years with our Club and present them with a small memento. A list of all Members who have achieved these milestones is included in this Lapis. We hope that as many as possible will be able to attend in person on Saturday 9th December.

Looking at the list, the large number of people in each group is a wonderful testament to their loyalty and interest in the Club and to the tremendous contribution that they have made to its success. We owe them all a great vote of thanks. Please join us at the Christmas Party to show our appreciation and make it a wonderful Club celebration.

From all of the Committee - May you and your families have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Brian Burns

Christmas Party

Yes, Santa is coming to our Christmas Party. Members are reminded that they should keep the value of any presents they want Santa to give their children to below \$20.

It all starts at 4 pm Saturday December 9.

Exhibition Post Mortem

Final figures show that this Exhibition, despite some organizational concerns along the way, was nevertheless the best financial result in the last 12 years with the exception of 2002 which coincided with a separate community festival on the grounds of the Beecroft centre and which resulted in an unusual boost in attendance. Congratulations to everyone for a wonderful effort.

The small number of people who came along to the November General Meeting to discuss the outcome of the Exhibition was disappointing. However, those who came (and some who couldn't come but who sent along their written comments and suggestions) provided some very well considered and informative discussions. These ideas have been collated and for will be required reading next year before we begin our preparations for Exhibition 2008. Thanks for those who came along.

You know you're getting older when...

Everything that works hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.



You feel like the morning after, and you haven't been anywhere.

Your little black book only contains names starting with Dr.

Your children are beginning to look middle-aged.

Your mind makes contracts your body can't keep.

You look forward to a dull evening.

Your knees buckle and your belt won't.

Your back goes out more than you do.

You sink your teeth into a steak, and they stay there.

You know all the answers, but nobody asks the questions.

Adventures of the Happy Foursome (cont).

Update from Geraldton.

We returned Barbara's crutches to Broome Hospital before we left which meant the walking stick we borrowed from Christine (Barbara's niece) before we left home got a lot of use over the next week or so. However regular administration of ice packs and good supportive strapping means she is now moving along unaided.

In Broome temperatures were in the late 30°C's with humidity often at 100%, meaning condensation dripped off everything each night - definitely the lead up to the rainy season.

Barbara unfortunately spent her birthday with her leg up while the rest of us went back to Derby for the Horizontal Waterfalls experience on a very high and dropping tide. However, the bad ankle didn't stop the evening meals and champagne on Cable Beach, or experiencing the 'Stairway to the Moon' phenomena while at the markets at Town Beach.

From Broome we had some very hot and strong winds on the way to 80 Mile Beach, which was quite protected and pleasant. Barbara and Gina fished off the beach and supplied the fish fillets, which we had with chips from the local shop. Fish straight from the ocean to the pan - very nice!!!

While there we met a Dutch Traveller, who said that in Holland he travels 400 km and he is in another country: In Australia he travels 400 km and starts looking for a petrol station.

We then moved on to Port Hedland and Marble Bar where again we experienced high temperatures (43.5° C).

Karratha was our next stop and, with Dampier, were very obviously busy mining towns. As with many other centres that we visited, accommodation was in short supply and very expensive, with work of all sorts - unskilled labourers getting \$40 per hour - available. Even shops and service stations had positions vacant signs in their windows.

We visited the Iron Ore loading facilities and saw the salt piles etc as well as the Northwest Shelf LNG gas terminal at Woodside. It is a very busy and booming area.

We then moved to Exmouth where the evening temperatures were noticeably cooler. Swimming and snorkeling on Ningaloo Reef was very pleasant as were the other sites on this very pretty piece of coastline including Turquoise Bay.

A little further down the coast we stayed at Coral Bay and were fortunate enough to be able to be in the water with about a dozen harmless reef sharks close by.

It was also at Coral Bay on one of the 4X4 tracks that I misjudged the road conditions and buried our car in deep loose sand. However, with reduced air pressure in the tyres and a push from three pairs of willing hands we were on our way again - much to Barbara's relief!!!

From Coral Bay we moved onto Carnarvon where we bought beautiful fresh fruit and veggies direct from the growers - even bananas at only \$5 per kilo.

With nights getting noticeably cooler (even used a blanket) we moved on to Denham, making stops to see the Stromatolites and visit Shell Beach on the way.

Feral goats were now very prominent as we moved through this part of the world. A new Interpretive Centre at Denham was very good and occupied quite a few hours of our time. Naturally, we also visited Monkey Mia while we were there.

Kalbarri was our next port of call and we paid a visit to the Wild Flower Centre and the National Park with walks to 'Natures Window' and the 'Z Bend' on the Murchison River.

We leave for Geraldton in the morning and hope to be able to send this from there. We are all well and looking forward to seeing Perth and the next stage of the trip.

Barbara & Tony & John & Gina

VALE GORDON BOLLINGER

When one thinks about Gordon Bollinger one remembers a gentleman. He was always gracious and kind to all who came into contact with him.

He joined our club in November 1969 and he and Amy were very much a part of all our activities. He was our President for the two years 1977-1979.

Gordon was a wonderful photographer and his presentations of slide and sound shows depicting his travels were legend.

Stuck in our memory will be the trip he took to Ayers Rock where it rained! The grey rock with water tumbling down was amazing.

Gordon and Hugh Joyce organized a bus trip to Mt. Isa in 1984 for the Gemboree and afterwards across to the Red Centre. We all enjoyed this tour immensely.

Nobody who went on the bus/camp trip which Gordon and I organized in 1985 will ever forget it. Many members from our club and a few friends to make up the number travelled west across the Nullabor to Perth, north to Carnarvon then east. Trips are more memorable when things go wrong and they certainly did on this trip. We were stuck in Meekatharra for four days when the bus broke down and later it caught fire as we travelled south towards Lightning Ridge.

We did lots of fossicking on this trip and came home with many treasures, mostly wonderful memories of camaraderie.

Gordon and Amy retreated to Lightning Ridge during winter for many years to their opal mine, enjoying the unique life-style of that town.

Over recent years Gordon has battled with lymphoma but has not let that interfere with his joy of life. This illness however overtook him in his last few weeks.

We will not forget you Gordon and the good times we enjoyed together.

Jean Macleay.

NUNDLE “RECOVER FROM THE EXHIBITION” TRIP

NOVEMBER 16th to 20th, 2006

Thursday, when the first of our group travelled, was freezing. Bert and Jean Deane travelled up through Gloucester and over the range through snow! However, in keeping with our current climate trend the rest of our sojourn was dry and hot. Jenny and Rob Booker, who we see infrequently these days, arrived first followed closely by the Macleays and Deanes. Most of the troops arrived Friday and Saturday. The Andersens brought two grandchildren, Mary Lillis brought two grand-nephews, John Stanford brought his son and Michael Robertson (junior member) brought his dad. In total we numbered 25.

The camping ground at Nundle has been renovated by the now lessee, Lesley, and the toilet block, camp kitchen and barbecues are now 5 star and much appreciated by all of us. The Burns stayed in a brand new on site cabin, as did Nivea Adami, Bev Molloy and Marian Bruce.

On Friday and Monday Bert and I played golf. No under par scores but on a magic day who cares. Meanwhile the rest either relaxed or in the case of the children, went fossicking. They were very pleased with their pickings.

By Saturday night we filled the camp kitchen on happy hour and enjoyed a social hour before wandering up to the pub for dinner. Being made aware of our preferences in advance they prepared a delicious dinner featuring lamb shanks which proved a popular choice on our last visit. This proved a most pleasant evening spent on the vine enclosed patio in balmy weather.

On Sunday morning we formed up in convoy to proceed up the mountain to enjoy the invitation of Beth Moore to inspect and lunch at her outstanding garden on her 6000 acre property with breathtaking views south and east. On the way back to camp a slight detour took us to the trout farm to purchase freshly caught trout which were barbecued for dinner and washed down with some excellent wines.

Many of the group left on Monday with the rest of us heading out on Tuesday after a wonderful restful stay.

Fossicking you may ask? Well the children enjoyed a bit of a scratch but despite the fact that we had borrowed Jerry Taylor-Edwards gold sluice not a sod was turned! Shame.

Bruce Macleay.

The bad and the worse news



A man visits the doctor for a checkup, and after some tests, the doctor comes in with a grave look on his face.

Doctor: Well, I have some bad news and some really bad news.

Man: Well, give me the really bad news first.

Doctor: You have cancer, and only 6 months to live.

Man: And the bad news?

Doctor: You have Alzheimer's disease.

Man: That's great. I was afraid I had cancer!

Psychiatrist phone



Hello. Welcome to the Psychiatric Hotline

If you are obsessive-compulsive, please press 1 repeatedly.

If you are co-dependent, please ask someone to press 2.

If you have multiple personalities, please press 3, 4, 5, and 6.

If you are paranoid-delusional, we know who you are and what you want. Just stay on the line so we can trace the call.

If you are schizophrenic, listen carefully and a little voice will tell you which number to press.

If you are manic-depressive, it doesn't matter which number you press. No one will answer.

If you are anxious, just start pressing numbers at random.

If you are phobic, don't press anything.

If you are anal retentive, please hold.

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NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB INC. holds the majority of its monthly meetings in the Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Road, Beecroft at 8pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month except January. The Entrance to the clubrooms is on the railway side of the building. ~

Membership Fees: effective from 01/07/2001

	Entrance	Annual Subs
Full Member aged 18 or more yrs	\$20	\$15
Junior member aged 10 to 17 yrs incl.	\$5	\$2.50
Junior Associate member aged less than 10 yrs	No charge	
Family Concession	\$30	As Above

In case of a person being admitted to membership on or after January 1st in any Club financial year, the subscription fee that year shall be half the amount.

THE CLUB FINANCIAL YEAR IS FROM JULY 1ST – JUNE 30TH

CURRENT CLASSES & ACTIVITIES HELD IN CLUB ROOMS

Monday	7.30pm CABOCHON CUTTING Instructors Joy Sippel / Tony Rigg 9980 6963 7.30pm SILVER JEWELLERY Instructor Johan ten Hoedt 9484 6521 7.30pm FREEFORM Instructor Bill Ashman 9484 0356
Tuesday	9.00am SILVER JEWELLERY workshop Contact June Staley 9869 0054
Wednesday	10.00am ALL DAY WORKSHOP Contact George Hunter 9871 2126 7.30pm SILVER JEWELLERY Instructor Brian Burns 9878 4073
Thursday	7.30pm CABOCHON CUTTING Instructor John Weatherburn 9871 3302 7.30pm FACETING CLASS Instructor Norm Fitzpatrick
Friday	CASUAL COMPETITION CUTTING No teacher – self help - enquiries please contact John Weatherburn – 9871 3302
Saturday	1.00pm JUNIOR CLASS Instructor Kevin Davey 9869 1950 1.00-3.00pm FREEFORM Instructor Bill Ashman 9484 0356

CLASS, CASUAL & WORKSHOPS FEES – EFFECTIVE FROM 10/10/05

First Class – per term (School Term)	\$25
Any Additional Class – per term (School Term)	\$20
Casual Use of Machinery – per attendance	\$4

Occasional Workshop Weekends: Subject, Date, and Cost and requirements will be printed in this newsletter as they occur.

There are waiting lists for some classes.

DISCLAIMER: Opinions expressed in LAPIS are those of the original Authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, Committee or Members of the Northern Districts Lapidary Club Inc. Persons acting on any opinions, advice or facts published in the Issue do so at their own risk.

From the Editor's Desk

Members are invited to send me contributions for LAPIS. I am interested in articles that would be enjoyed by one and all.

Ph. 4393 6168 or Mobile 0417 676 435

Email editor@ndlapiary.org.au

DATES OF INTEREST

Dec 9 NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting and Christmas Party - 4 PM at the club rooms

2007

Feb 8 NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting - 8 PM at the club rooms

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.