



LAPIS

www.ndlapidary.org.au

"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

VOLUME FORTY ONE NUMBER SEVEN APRIL 2007

CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on Tuesday 10th April at 8 pm, in the Clubrooms at Beecroft - all members welcome.

Brian Burns will be showing photos of his trip to South Africa

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

- Yuan Xin Zhang – Dee Why
- Matthew Brown – Kenthurst (Junior)
- Scott Brown – Kenthurst (Junior)
- Nicolas Fletcher – Epping (Junior)

We wish them many long hours of enjoyment cutting gemstones.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Last month's day-time General Meeting was again quite well attended. Thanks for all those who came along. Our next daytime meeting will be for the July General Meeting on Saturday 14th July at 2pm - put a note in your diary now.

Our Gatton Gang have headed off in their caravans to attend the Gemboree over Easter and to continue on for a bit of fossicking in the area. Good luck to all those who have entered items in the various Competition categories.

The Committee would like to remind all class members that the Club's general equipment – such as tools, machinery, saws, grinders, etc - is there to be used equally by all members. It is unfair to others, for example, for someone to spend a long period of time on a single machine cutting a 'batch' of many stones. This can inconvenience

many other members of the class who also need to access that equipment to progress their stones through the cutting/polishing process. The Committee has strongly recommended that members cut a maximum of two stones at a time as they work through the process. Your co-operation in this matter will ensure a smoother and fairer running of the various classes.

Brian Burns

Club's History



Remember that printed and digital copies of the Club's history covering the last 40 years are now available from the Club shop.

Costs are as follows:

- Hardcopy with coloured photos - \$20 each
- CD - \$5 per copy
- Download from the website – Free [To use this facility members may email secretary@ndlapidary.org.au who will send them a link to the History site and the password to access it.]

It's a great read!

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From the Committee

Library

"There is a copy of the magnificent Club's History (1966 -2006) in the Club's library for loan to members. To enable as wide a circulation as

possible, the Club is putting a limit on the loan period of 3 weeks for this book”.

Librarian

Correction

Congratulations to Phil Williams whose name should have been added along side that of his wife Beverley in last month's LAPIS - for those who recently achieved 10 years membership.

Election of New Committee Member

We are pleased that Jerry Taylor-Edwards has agreed to stand for Committee to fill one of the vacant positions. We will hold the formal vote for Jerry at our next General Meeting.

Teachers please Note

All of our Club Teachers are invited to attend a special meeting at 6pm on Saturday 12 May to discuss any issues relevant to the better running of our classes and workshops. This will be followed by dinner at a venue to be confirmed

Publicity Officer

For the May General Meeting (Tuesday 8th at 8.00pm) our guest speaker will be Mr Gavin Chapple from Strategic Wealth Solutions, at Parramatta. Gavin will be talking about the changes to the Superannuation Laws and how these will benefit you.

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Gold Plating Now Available

Please do not forget that Gold Plating is available to members.

Remember there are conditions and the pieces must be made by a Club Member.

If you are interested or have any questions please contact Lewis Calwell on 9477 2182.

Remember, not everything looks better Gold Plated.

Consider carefully, - it cannot be easily reversed.

~

Members on the Sick List

Margaret Harris has been in the “San” after suffering a mild stroke. Margaret is being transferred to Lady Davidson Rehab Centre. We wish Margaret a speedy recovery.

Maureen Andersen has recently undergone surgery in the “San” and is now back home. We wish her well and a speedy recovery.

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Silver Casting Weekend

The next Silver Casting Weekend will be held on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th May 2007.

If you are interested please put your name on the list in the Clubrooms.

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Message from the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW

Bob Wright has offered his services and will be the Gemkhana Co-ordinator at Mudgee.

The Gem Council is still looking for an Editor for the Gem & Lapidary News.

If you are interested in the Editor position, and would like details, please just ask Marilyn Behrens on 9635 8218; Arthur on 4572 5912; Joan Ball on 9773 5092 or come to a Council meeting and ask your questions.

The **Gemkhana Competition Schedule** for October 2007 is now out in the April Edition of the Gem & Lapidary News

Rusconi's Marble Masterpiece

A Marble Cathedral in miniature

The Rusconi Marble Masterpiece is housed in the Tourist Information Centre and is a unique tourist attraction - a cathedral in miniature containing 20, 948 pieces of NSW marble, every piece cut, turned and polished by hand. It took 28 years to

build (spare time work) and is not a replica of any particular cathedral. The masterpiece was completed in 1938 and has been on display in Gundagai ever since. Another masterpiece on display is a replica of the Altar of St. Marie's Cathedral in Paris. Mr Rusconi and three other men constructed the original and on returning to Australia he constructed the replica from marble collected from different parts of the State. The work took him an average of four hours a day for seven years. Mr Rusconi, who lived most of his life in Gundagai, also sculptured the model for The Dog On The Tuckerbox.

If you wish to see this masterpiece, the contact details are as follows:

Contact details

Tourist Travel centre
 02 69440250 (ph)
 02 69441409 (fax)
 travel@gundagai.nsw.gov.au



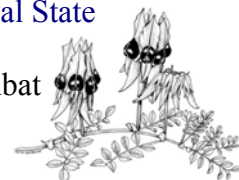
NEW SOUTH WALES – The First State

Floral – Waratah
 Animal – Platypus
 Bird – Kookaburra



SOUTH AUSTRALIA – The Festival State

Floral - Sturt's Desert Pea
 Animal – Hairy Nosed Wombat
 Bird – Piping Shrike



WESTERN AUSTRALIA – The State of Excitement

Floral – Red & Green Kangaroo Paw
 Animal - Numbat
 Bird – Black Swan



TASMANIA – The Holiday Isle

Floral – Tasmanian Blue Gum
 Animal – Tasmanian Devil (unofficial)



A.C.T. – The Nation's Capital

Floral – Royal Bluebell
 Bird – Gang-Gang Cockatoo



NORTHERN TERRITORY – Outback Australia

Floral – Sturt's Desert Rose
 Animal – Red Kangaroo
 Bird – Wedge-Tailed Eagle



Did You Know?

State Emblems

VICTORIA – The Garden State

Floral – Pink Heath
 Animal – Leadbeaters Possum
 Bird – Helmeted Honeyeater



QUEENSLAND – The Sunshine State

Floral – Cooktown Orchid
 Animal – Koala
 Bird – Brolga



Tasmania and Antarctica: A Long Association

Tasmania and Antarctica were united in Gondwana from at least 600 million years ago until Australia and Antarctica finally separated about 55 million years ago. Initially they were in equatorial regions, but moved to the south polar area some 350 million years ago. Antarctica has been there ever since.

For much of the time in the south polar regions, both areas were subject to the same rock forming environments including the Permian with its Gondwana wide glacial episodes interspersed with

intervals of coal formation. Tasmania has marine and non-marine components, whereas Antarctica was totally non-marine at the time. The following Triassic sediments in both Antarctica and Tasmania, which are wholly non-marine, consist of lake and riverine sandstone, coal and shale. Permian and Triassic sediments were intruded at 170 million years (mid Jurassic) by massive dolerite, 350 metres thick, in one of the world's unique events which may have been caused by the first stress related to eventual dispersal of the continental units that constituted Gondwana. This event did not extend to mainland Australia.

At 55 million years, Australia began to move north from Antarctica at about 7 cm per year. At the same time, Tasmania underwent fracturing into horst and graben structures that still control Tasmania's landscape. Also at this time, the Antarctic Circumpolar Current began to circulate around the Antarctic, leading to the eventual isolation of that continent, development of an icesheet, and extinction of the fauna which, until that time, had been common to both Antarctica and Australia. The modern cold temperate rainforests of Tasmania are a relic of the flora that was once common to the two landmasses.

Tasmania's rock, landforms, soils and vegetation are all the results of a common history with Antarctica, which Tasmania carried with it as it moved north from its long term partner.

Taken from Australian Gemmologist (1996) Vol. 19, Number 9

*Written by Patrick G. Quilty
ANARE Chief Scientist, Australian Antarctic Division, Tasmania*



Funnies

A lion woke up one morning feeling really rowdy and mean. He went out and cornered a small monkey and roared, "Who is the mightiest of all jungle animals?"

The trembling monkey says, "You are, mighty lion!"

Later, the lion confronts an ox and fiercely bellows, "Who is the mightiest of all jungle animals?"

The terrified ox stammers, "Oh great lion, you are the mightiest animal in the jungle!"

On a roll now, the lion swaggers up to an elephant and roars, "Who is the mightiest of all jungle animals?"

Fast as lightning, the elephant snatches up the lion with his trunk, slams him against a tree half a dozen times leaving the lion feeling like it had been run over by a safari wagon, and then ambles away.

The lion lets out a moan of pain, lifts his head weakly and hollers after the elephant, "Just because you don't know the answer, you don't have to get so upset about it!"

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Automation means sitting around and watching your work being done for you. If you are over 90, it's called senility. If you are under 21 it's called having a mother.

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The Broken Lawnmower

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed.

But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first, the truck, the car, and fishing, always something more important to me.

Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point.

When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors.

I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house.

I was gone only a few minutes. When I came out again I handed her a toothbrush.

"When you finish cutting the grass." I said, "you might as well sweep the driveway."

The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

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Made-up words

BEELEZEBUG (n): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

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DATES OF INTEREST

- April 10** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Tuesday 8 pm, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
Brian Burns will be showing his photos of South Africa
- May 5** Nepean District Lapidary Club are having their **Jewellery Gem & Craft Sale**
At 12 North Street (Opposite Railway Line near Lemongrove Bridge) 9am to 4pm
- May 8** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Tuesday 8 pm, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- May 19-20** Lismore Club Gemfest, Lismore Showground
- June 2-3** Canberra Club: Show, EPIC (Indoors)
- Jun 8-11** Gosford Show, Gosford Showground, Gosford
- Jun 12** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Tuesday 8 pm, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- Jun 16-17** Windsor Show, Windsor Function Centre, Macquarie St, Windsor
- July 14** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting **Saturday 2 pm**, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome

- 2007 – GEMBOREE – Queensland, Gatton – April 6-9**
2008 – GEMBOREE – SA, Murray Bridge – Mar 21 -24 -
2009 – GEMBOREE – Vic, Horsham – April 10-13
2010 – GEMBOREE – Tasmania
2011 – GEMBOREE - NSW

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.