



LAPIS

www.ndlapidary.org.au

"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

VOLUME FORTY ONE NUMBER ELEVEN AUGUST 2007

CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be a **daytime meeting on Saturday 18 August at 2 pm**, (not the 14th August as was advertised in the last *Lapis*) following the general meeting we will have the **Annual General Meeting** in the Clubrooms at Beecroft - all members welcome.

Also, a selection of slabs will be on sale in the cutting room for those members who are looking for something different to cut.

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

- Marci Lakin – St Ives
- Sue Kennedy – Wollstonecraft
- Dennis Codling – Beecroft
- Max – Vozoff – Epping (Junior)

We wish them many long hours of enjoyment cutting gemstones or enjoying the other aspects of our Club.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Challenge Ahead

The last year has been quite successful for the Club and I would like to thank all of the Committee Members who have helped to make it run so smoothly – especially Gina, Alex, David and Norm who are standing down this year. Our various achievements are noted in the attached individual Committee reports but in addition to looking at our success I believe that it is also necessary to look forward and to try and anticipate some of the challenges facing us in the future.

We will need some new people with enthusiasm and ideas to join our Committee. No experience is required and you will enjoy the experience and company of good friends while doing your bit to help with the running of your Club

Membership of the Club confers many benefits and rewards - but these also come with certain obligations to help keep it running. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM as we prepare for the year ahead.

Share your Knowledge!

Brian Burns

~

From the Committee

When the "Present" and the "Past" meet.

The July General Meeting was a special occasion. It was held on the afternoon of Saturday 14th July, 2007 in our Clubrooms at Beecroft.

The Committee decided not to have a Guest Speaker for that occasion and instead to have an informal social get-together after the meeting. The Club's long standing members, who under normal circumstances cannot attend meetings, were asked to attend. Transport arrangements were made in order to assist them, where it was required.

Over 50 members and friends attended the meeting and enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea comprising of a range of hot and cold foods, featuring many home cooked specialties. This included two very large sponge cakes that were filled with lashings of jam and cream and topped with some very nice "special" strawberries.

The general conversations following the meeting were interspersed with a lot of laughter as memories were jogged and “tales” were told.. It was an extremely pleasant afternoon as we had the opportunity to again socialise with members who can no longer attend normal meetings, but who have fond memories of the Club and its activities, and still have a keen interest in its future. A continuous slide show featuring the Gatton Gang’s travels to and from the 2007 GEMBOREE, and a cross section of Western Australia’s wildflowers taken during a recent trip to Western Australia, were also shown.

There are a number of current, active members that have been on the “sick” list, and it was very pleasing indeed to see some of them back in the Club rooms.

In the absence of an official Social Secretary, a “thank you” should be publicly made to acknowledge the work done by the team of people that ensured the afternoon was the success that it undoubtedly was. Well done to all concerned.

The Committee

Librarian

The first eight issues of Lapis have been found However, there are still some missing issues of early Lapis and I would like any members who might have Lapis issues of early years (i.e. from 1966 onwards) to contact me on 9449 4434.

Francis Sun

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Editor

A request was made at the July General Meeting and subsequent afternoon tea for the following recipe:

Iced Date Slice

- 1 cup chopped dates
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of sugar
- 4ozs melted butter or margarine
- 1 beaten egg
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups S.R. flour
- Pinch of salt.

Put dates and sugar into a large bowl, add melted butter or margarine, mix. When cool add egg,

flour and pinch of salt. Press out onto a greased slice tin and cook 10-20 minutes in moderate oven. Ice with lemon icing when cold. Any dried fruit may be used but if using packet mixed fruit, not so much sugar.

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Members who need a lift to attend the Evening Meetings

Please contact David Broome who will endeavour to assist you.

Tel: 9484 7259

NDLC FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR



- **REMINDER - EMMAVILLE AND HOGARTH RANGE - from 31st August to 8th September 2007**
Powered sites are at a premium, so for any members, who have not put their name on the list in the Clubrooms and would like to join us, please contact me urgently to see what arrangements can be made.
- **MUDGEES - GEMKHANA - Sat 29th, Sun 30th September and Mon 1st October 2007.** Club members who wish to attend the Gemkhana and be part of the Field Trip to that event should make their own arrangements for accommodation. It is anticipated that members would stay in the Mudgee Valley Tourist Park, on the corner of Bell and Margaret’s Streets, Mudgee (Phone 02 6372 1236). This is a good opportunity to socialise with members of other Clubs, participate in organised field trips and to purchase materials from traders and tailgaters.
- **NUNDLE - RELAX - 9th, 10th and 11th November 2007.** 10 powered sites have tentively been booked for this weekend. A list will be placed on the notice board in early October, for persons to place their

names, if interested in taking part in this traditional social Field Trip.

- **GOULBURN - SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS - Sat 26th, Sun 27th and Mon 28th January 2008.** Details for this Field Trip with the Goulburn Gem Society will be announced at a later date.

Please put these dates on your calendar.

Tony Try
Field Trips Officer
Ph. [02] 43936168 or Mobile: 0417 676 435

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ENAMELLING WORKSHOP SUCCESSFUL

A basic enameling workshop was held in the Clubrooms on Saturday 28th July 2007.

Six members and one visitor spent a full day experimenting with colours and shapes. From all reports it was a great day with “first timers” quickly grasping the processes required while those who had been before reinforced techniques in preparation for future workshops where more complicated methods and different pieces will be attempted. While we do not have an enameling “teacher” at this stage, I will endeavour to stay one step ahead of the workshop requirements so that interest can be maintained and skill improved. I would also anticipate requesting “outside” assistance from time to time to ensure the best possible knowledge is imparted, and that we do finish up with some accomplished enamellers in the Club once again. In the meantime thank you to all participants for your patience.

Barbara Try



Funnies

Amusing Sign - Spotted on a septic pick-up tanker: - Caution. Vehicle May be Transporting Political Promises.

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FOR LEXOPHILES -- Those who love playing with words

1. A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
2. A will is a dead giveaway

3. Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.

More next issue

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ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Reflecting on the activities and performance of the Club and its members over the last year is always an interesting exercise. It is also an important one because an objective assessment of what worked and what didn't helps us to plan better for the future.

Some of the key items are noted below (not in any particular order) and some are discussed in more detail in the reports of the other Committee Members.

- The Exhibition was very successful (thanks to a lot of hard work from many members) - both as a display of the excellent quality of our Members' work, and also in terms of the contribution to the Club's finances which helps us to provide the range of equipment, classes and activities that we offer.
- We continue to attract a small but steady stream of new Club members across all age groups to our various classes. However, with some noticeable and welcome exceptions, this has not been matched by a similar increase in attendance at General Meetings or in general involvement in the administration of the Club. Our challenge is to find ways to demonstrate to more of these new members the advantages of taking a more active role than just attending classes. One of the disappointing aspects of the year has been the inability to fill all of the Committee positions, and for most of the year the Committee had to operate with some positions vacant.
- Jean Macleay completed the update of the Club's history and we now have a wonderful and interesting story, complete with many photos, of the contribution that our Club has made to foster both the lapidary skills and the social life of its Members.
- The number of diamond Nova wheels in the cutting room continues to increase and they have been widely accepted as providing faster

and better shaping of our cabs. The Silver classes have also benefited from the acquisition of a number of new tools.

- Our members have continued to enjoy great individual and collective success in external competitions such as the Gemkhana and GEMBOREE, and the Club won the Ray Powell Trophy - ie National Champion Club – for the third successive year. This is a fantastic demonstration of the dedication of the individuals and of the teachers who provide the guidance and encouragement.
- The introduction of a plan to recognize members who have achieved 10-, 20-, 30- and even 40 year's membership milestones has been well received, as was the opportunity of a good number of our older members to get-together and reminisce after our June General meeting.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of the Committee Members for their tremendous support and participation in administering the successful running of the Club. I look forward to another equally successful, interesting and challenging year ahead.

Brian Burns

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SECRETARY'S REPORT



As this year closes it is my third as Secretary so I will be retiring from the role. I would like to express my thanks to the committee and other club members for their help. The job of Secretary is made fairly easy by the way the club operates, the use of the local post office box at Beecroft and the use of email and website for fast easy contact by members and the public interested in our activities.

Here are some interesting numbers that summarise the correspondence for the year:

Information Forms distributed

- from clubrooms several hundred (includes those at exhibition)
- downloaded from our website 434

New Members Joined 38 (24 adults, 14 juniors)

Letters

- received by mail 431
- sent by mail 86

Exhibition Flyers distributed

- by hand 4,000
- downloaded from our website 161

Club History distributed

- from clubrooms about 30-35
- downloaded from our website
 - 17 full copies
 - 16 pt 1
 - 20 pt 2

Other Club Publications

About a dozen of each of our other club documents like the constitution, safety booklet, steps to cut a cab, Lapis etc were also download from the “membersonly” web page.

Website visitors

- There were 11,231 visits to our club website this year. People came to the club's website after finding us with a search engine(1,125) or by reading our listings on other websites including the Mineral Society website (174), Facetors Guild website (70), Lapidary Journal website (20), Craft Australia website (23), Northern District Times website (13) and the Arts & Crafts NSW website (9). The others typed in our address or found us in other places.
- What were people looking for? People using a search engine typed in 555 diferent words they were looking for information about, that sent them to our club's website. Some of the main words included lapidary, gemboree, gem or lapidary club, cabochon, silver jewellery and many other lapidary related words.

We also receive several emails each month from people whom have found out about lapidary from our website, some end up visiting us and joining, others we help with directions to their local club.

Alex Maitland

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MINUTE SECRETARY'S REPORT



The function of the Minute Secretary is a recorder. Minutes of Committee Meetings, General Meetings and Annual General Meetings were recorded and copies of the minutes were kept. Notable items are as follows:

1. No. of Committee Meetings: 11 (no December meeting)

- Attendance: Average attendance: 7
- Positions Vacant: Social Secretary
Education Officer
(position filled in May 2007)

2. Changes to the Committee during the year:

- Resignation of the Publicity Officer (Marian Bruce – moved to Adelaide) in Dec 2006.
- Phil Williams took over as Publicity Officer in Jan 2007.
- Jerry Taylor-Edwards took up as Education Officer in May 2007 (vacant till then).

3. No. of General Meetings:

- No. of daytime meetings: 4 (Aug 2006 – Aug 2007)
- No. of evening meetings: 5
- No. of informal meetings: 2 (due to quorum below 20)
- No General Meeting in Jan 2007.

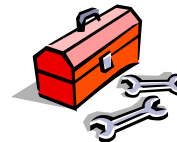
4. Special events:

- Club Exhibition in Oct 2006
- Presentation of long membership awards at the 2006 Christmas Party
- Publication of the Club's history (1966-2006) in Feb 2006
- Special teachers' meeting and dinner in May 2006

Lou Sun

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CUTTING ROOM SUPERVISOR



The last twelve months has seen a number of improvements and upgrading of equipment in our Cutting Room. Major works and expense include:

1. The installation of 6" nova wheels to complement the 8" nova's that we already have. Both sets of wheels have proven to be very popular with members.
2. The drum sander has been reinstalled and gets good use.
3. Additional lights have been installed over much of the machinery (sanders and grinders etc) to assist with producing well cut stones.

I would like to comment that the majority of members that use our equipment do look after it. However, it should be remembered that the nova wheels should not be used for grinding or replacing the use of the flat disc sanders in the normal process of producing a cabochon.

Comment has been made by a well traveled member of our Club that we have one of the best cutting rooms that she has seen. With continued care we will keep it that way.

Finally, I would like to thank the people who have always been willing to lend a hand and assist me to keep the cutting room running smoothly.

I can also say that at the time of this report everything is running well and there is no outstanding major work required.

George Hunter

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FIELD TRIPS OFFICER



The last financial year seems to have passed very quickly – probably because in my first year of

retirement I spent a lot of it travelling in various parts of this great country of ours. For this reason there were only two official Club Field Trips during the period under review.

The first was to Nundle in November 2006. Field Trips to Nundle have become a traditional fixture on our Club's program of activities. As I was in Western Australia at the time, I have to thank Bert Deane and Bruce Macleay for stepping into the breach and organising this particular outing. As usual it was well attended and a good time was had by all. While little fossicking was done, this outing is an ideal opportunity to relax and enjoy the camaraderie that exists within the Club membership.

The second Field Trip was to the 2007 GEMBOREE at Gatton in Queensland. It was very pleasing to see a good number of Club members make the effort to be part of the action at the GEMBOREE site and become part of the "Gatton Gang". My special thanks have to go to the members that joined the Gatton Gang for the touring friendship and fossicking in the weeks both before and after GEMBOREE. This was a total of six weeks and I believe it was one of the most pleasant and relaxing Field Trips we have had for a long time.

Tony Try

~

LIBRARIAN REPORT



1. Book Acquisition:

The number of books acquired and registered since Aug 2006 are seventeen (17):

- New books: 4.
- Donated books: 13.

On behalf of the Club I want to thank the book donors for their generosity.

2. Loaning of Books:

The entries in the (Library) Loan Book showed twenty-four (24) books have been borrowed by

thirteen (13) different borrowers since Aug 2006. Seven (7) books are still awaiting return.

3. Book Stocktaking:

- A stocktaking of the books in the Reference Library section has been conducted.
- No stocktaking of the General Section of the Library has yet been conducted.

4. Library Housekeeping:

- a) Sorting and organizing of past LAPIS copies for archival purpose has been in progress. It is to be noted that some of the early issues of LAPIS have been found among which the first issue of LAPIS of August 1966. However, there are still other missing copies to be located.
- b) Organizing of the Reference Library section in progress.
- c) Other items planned:
 - Stocktaking of the General Section of the Library.
 - Culling of redundant books and tidying up of shelves.
 - Tidying up of the magazine section,
 - Tidying up of the lapidary club journal section,
 - Organizing a trade catalogue section,

Frances Sun

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SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT



Marian Bruce was elected our Social Secretary and did manage to organise our Christmas party before her family whisked her away to South Australia to help them in their newsagency business. Marian still keeps in contact with the Club and is working hard to come back as soon as she can. The kitchen has continued to be well stocked with all the essentials thanks to Gina Weatherburn

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PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT



I only commenced my duties in January 2007, so have not completed a full term of office.

However, I have been able to arrange a wide variety of guest speakers with topics ranging from financial options for retirement to practical fossicking requirements and equipment.

I have researched a number of new avenues to publicise our Club's activities and promote a general awareness of our role in the community.

I would also like to find a way in which to encourage our new members to attend the general meetings and become more involved with the Club.

Phil Williams

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EDUCATION OFFICER



Having only taken up the post late in the year, we are in a good position going forwards post a Teachers meeting held May 12 2007.

This meeting identified key areas/ issues to be addressed within the club, relating to Teaching staff, Safety, new equipment, Workshops, communication and students.

These will be worked through in coming months. The communication book between Teachers and me is now up and running.

I would like to thank the Teaching staff of the club for their past and ongoing efforts, the realisation of which is evidenced through the success at all levels in competition.

We do however look within the club for the next generation of teachers to come through and further enrich our club. If members are interested, please approach your teacher or any member of the Committee for information.

Jerry Taylor-Edwards

GEM COUNCIL DELEGATE'S REPORT



Working with the Council over the past 12 months has been very rewarding. Many aspects of the Council's activities are unknown to some clubs although they receive copies of the minutes and the G&L News on a monthly basis. Over the past year judges have been trained and tutors have been provided for training at country and local clubs. The judging manual has been updated and official judges provided for various competitions.

Planning for the Gemkhana at the Mudgee showground at the end of September is nearing completion. The next major event for the NSW Council is the organisation and planning for the 2011 GEMBOREE at Bathurst. This is well underway but a lot has yet to be done for an event of this size.

I urge all members to read the minutes of the Council meetings which are posted on our notice board. The G&L News is also readily available in the club rooms and always has interesting and informative articles on lapidary and allied crafts.

Norm Savage

~

EDITOR OF LAPIS REPORT



Another year is at its end and we still do not know where all the time goes. Having said that I do know that the Lapis has gone out to the members on time each month. This was due in part to Peter Merry assisting me in the earlier part of the year and with the help of the Wednesday Group who print, collate and mail the Lapis to the members who receive it by snail mail. To the members who receive it by email I trust they appreciate the fact that they get it a few days earlier than the others and in colour. Again the magazine would not happen without the contribution from the member so a big "Thank you" to all concerned.

NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

COMBINED INCOME and EXPENDITURE REPORT for the YEAR 2006 / 2007

Reconciled Balance @ 01/07/2006	8,532.63
INCOME	
Joining fees	542.50
Annual subscriptions	1,660.00
Class/Term fees	5,456.25
Casual use of machinery	2,203.00
Shop Sales	3,467.65
Raffles @ meetings	332.65
Raffles @ xmas	426.80
Phone bottle receipts	14.20
Social functions / events / trips	665.00
Riverboat postman cruise	101.00
Weekend workshops	14,955.30
Club Exhibition 2006 sales	50.00
Miscellaneous	15.00
Donations received	490.00
Sales of G&L News	26.71
Sale of excess machinery	9,000.00
Interest received - Westpac a/c's	39,406.06
Funds transfer from ING Direct at call a/c	47,938.69
EXPENDITURE	
Rent	1,610.20
Electricity	1,412.74
Plant & Machinery	5,736.86
Repairs & Maintenance	952.53
Lapis printing, postage & stationery	971.86
Refresments & cleaning	1,261.54
Prizes for Raffles	254.91
Phone	486.59
Good for Resale	3,842.03
Class / workshop supplies	273.72
Library / subscriptions / website	98.33
Library books	100.00
G & L Council subscriptions	59.30
Club Licence QLD Fossicking	1,727.58
Photocopier	880.00
Club Exhibition 2006 costs	493.54
Hall hire Oct 2006	1,337.35
Advertising & publicity	812.93
Decorations & goods for resale	329.49
Kitchen & food supplies	450.00
Competition judging	529.00
Social functions / events / trips	500.00
Riverboat postman cruise	43.00
Xmas food & hampers	250.00
Refund Bush Dance	532.95
Miscellaneous	382.50
Lodgement Fees - Office of Fair Trading	49.50
Public Liability Insurance	788.08
Contents Business Pack insurance	145.00
Personal Accident Insurance - G&L Council	264.00
Honour board	18,000.00
Membership recognition awards	44,595.53
Floral tributes	3,343.16
Credit Card Merchant fees	36,617.00
Funds transfer to ING Direct at call a/c	80.00
Reconciled Balance @ 30/06/2007	3,343.16
Balance @ 30/06/2007 ING Direct investment account	36,617.00
Cash on Hand	80.00

NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th June 2007

Plant, Machinery etc.	12,569.82
less 10% depreciation	1,256.98
less sale of excess machinery	490.00
	10,822.84
add purchases	5,736.86
	\$16,559.70
Library	3,569.79
less 5% depreciation	178.49
less books culled	3,391.30
add purchases	98.33
	\$3,489.63
Current estimated resale value of stock in shop	12,518.66
	\$12,518.66
Reconciled balance in no.1 cheque a/c	3,185.57
Reconciled balance in no.2 cutting room cheque a/c	157.59
Cash on Hand	80.00
	\$3,423.16
Deposits in investment a/c - at call	36,617.00
	\$36,617.00
Total ASSETS	\$72,608.15
MEMBERS EQUITY	
Members' Equity at 1 July 2006	\$64,141.81
Net Movement in Members' Equity	\$8,466.34
Members' Equity at 30 June 2007	\$72,608.15

Gina Potter, Hon. Treasurer

We have examined the records of the Northern Districts Lapidary Club Inc. for the year ended 30th June 2007. 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 2007 and the results for the year.

Honorary Auditors:

Sharon Waters
Jean Macleay



DATES OF INTEREST

- Aug 18** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
**General Meeting Saturday at 2 pm, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
Followed by the Annual General Meeting**
- Aug 25-26** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
Casting Weekend,
- Aug 25-26** Cumberland Show
Roselea Community Centre, Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford
- Aug 31 to Sept 8** Field Trip
Emmaville & Hogarth Range (Details on the Notice Board at the Club)
- Sept 15** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Saturday at 2 pm, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- Sept 29 to Oct 1** **MUDGEES – GEMKHANA** – Join the Northern Districts Lapidary Club there
Mudgee Showground
- Oct 12 -14** Bead & Gem Show (NSW) Olympic Park, Homebush Bay
- Oct 13-14** Central Coast Lapidary Club – Festival, Wyong RSL Hall
- Oct 26 – 28** Murray Farm Public School Art Craft & Pottery Exhibition
Tracey Avenue, Carlingford. Fri Opening Night 7.30pm to 10.00am - \$10 per person
Saturday 27 9am to 5pm, Sunday 10am to 3pm – Adults \$3 Seniors + High School
student \$1 / kids Free

- 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, - Bathurst

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.