



LAPIS

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"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

VOLUME FORTY ONE NUMBER TEN JULY 2007

CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be a **daytime meeting** on **Saturday 14th July at 2 pm**, in the Clubrooms at Beecroft - all members welcome.

Following the general meeting we will have an extra nice afternoon tea with some of our long standing members and a chance to catch up with some interesting tales of the Club life in the earlier years.

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 –

- Paul & Satomi Kalinin - Carlingford

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to congratulate Barbara Try on her recent successful foray to the Apple Isle to run a 2-day Cabochon Judging Course and a 1-day Cab Cutting Course for representatives from several Tasmanian clubs. It is good to extend our contacts and to assist and encourage the growth of lapidary craftsmanship in that State.

It is time to remember that our August AGM is coming up and a number of vacancies on your

Committee will need to be filled. The Committee's role is not difficult, but it is critical if the Club is to continue to function as you want it to. I ask everyone to seriously consider if maybe this year is the year that you too can assist in this aspect of the Club's operation. Just add your name to the Nomination Sheet on the club notice board. In particular we will need a new Treasurer as Gina Potter is not able to continue next year. I would like to publicly acknowledge Gina's great contribution to Committee in this role and for all of the other compilation of membership lists and related statistical information for the Club.

Brian Burns

From the Committee

Cutting Room:

The drum sander is again operational but in a new position. The 6 inch nova wheels have had the water connected as are running well.

A SUCCESSFUL WORKING BEE

The Working Bee held at Clubrooms on Sunday 17th June was very successful with a lot of general cleaning and repairs completed. The major task of sorting and cataloging the material in the storeroom was completed.

Well done and thank you to the twenty four members who gave of their time for the betterment of our Club and its members.

It was also pleasing to see a number of the newer members assisting with the various tasks – particularly as these newer members had 'younger' muscles, which was very much

appreciated when it came to moving and sorting drums of rocks.

The “Chef” duties were performed by Gina Weatherburn who with others ladies kept the kitchen producing energy food – thank you.

A thank you should also go to Harry Lovell for the damper and Bert for obtaining the sausages.

While labels for the various trays of rocks have still to be produced this is in hand and will be completed shortly.

Once again, thank you to all concerned.

The Committee

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GET WELL - Our best wishes too for a speedy recovery go out to Tony Rigg and Ulrich Schock after their recent operations – hope to see them back on deck in the near future.

CAB MATERIAL - In order to provide additional rock slabs to members the Committee has agreed that at the first General Meeting for each Term we will bring up 3 or 4 trays of slabs from the store for sale after the meeting. By selecting different material each term we will be able to offer easier access to a wider variety of interesting materials over the year.

Congratulations



Special Congratulations go out to **Taffy and Agnes Evans** who have just celebrated their 59th Wedding Anniversary – what fantastic achievement for you both. Hang in there for the big “Six-Oh” next year. And by the way Taffy – you can forget the idea of trying to tell Agnes that the Anniversary Stone for 60 is a bit of Agate – she won’t buy it!

Membership Awards

Congratulations to the following Club Members who have reached membership milestones over the last three months:-

40 Years Membership

- Deirdre Macdougall

30 Years Membership

- Norm Fitzpatrick



20 Years Membership

- Joyce Beavan

10 Years Membership

- Mark Young
- Lewis Calwell
- Chris Simpson

Thank you for your loyalty and demonstrated support of the Club.

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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 TRIP



EMMAVILLE AND HOGARTH RANGE

31st August to 8th September, 07

REMINDER

This is a reminder for those members interested in braving the cold and participating in the Field Trip to Emmaville and Hogarth Range. The detailed itinerary is on the Notice Board in the Club rooms.

Tentative bookings have already been made for nine powered sites at Emmaville, and I notice that to date there are eight names on the list which is very pleasing.

It would be nice to also see some of the newer members join us for this trip so as to experience the pleasures of finding your own material for later cutting, and the camaraderie which develops on outings such as these.

This is also a reminder for those contemplating going to Hogarth's Range that there are no facilities at all and we will be bush camping. You will therefore need to be completely self sufficient for those few days.

I will be contacting everyone on the list a little closer to the departure date in order to confirm bookings for the powered sites at Emmaville. In the meantime if you have any questions regarding this Field Trip please contact me on either of the numbers listed below.

Tony Try
F.T.O.
Ph. [02] 43936168
Mobile: 0417 676 435

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SILVER CASTING WEEKEND **AUGUST 25TH AND 26TH 2007**

This is to be a **“wax working workshop weekend”**. We will prepare items which have a textured finish and will achieve this effect either by trailing or dropping wax into water and developing from there.

Please bring an item to set. This could be a baroque pearl, small mineral specimen such as druzy quartz, a fancy cabochon or a free form which may be suitable for a pendant, brooch or ring.

As before you need to be able to come both days and be bright and early on Saturday in order to complete your wax project in time to invest by the end of the day. The list of items you need to bring may be downloaded from our website, (but note there is an extra item of eucalyptus oil) and you need to put your name on the list on the club notice board. There is a limit of 10 persons in the class.

Jean Macleay

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JUDGING COURSE – TASMANIA

As the result of a request by the Tasmanian Lapidary and Mineral Association to the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW for assistance with the training of potential cabochon judges, I was asked to conduct a course in Launceston.

The course was held over two very full days on 23rd and 24th June at the premises of the Northern Tasmania Lapidary Club, who kindly made their facilities available.

Participants were enthusiastic and showed a real willingness to learn. I believe they did appreciate the general information and practical hands on examples of judging techniques etc. The course ultimately included five potential judges and one other person who participated simply in order to increase his knowledge and gain valuable information which could be used in the organising of future competitions in Tasmania.

Early indications are that Tasmania will have a number of new AFLACA approved Cabochon Judges, which bodes well for the future of the Lapidary movement in that State.

As I had some spare time I also offered a few hours to advise on various cutting techniques which resulted in a day being spent at the Devonport Lapidary Club. It was a very good day with a lot of ideas and practical suggestions being discussed with a group of very keen cutters.

I personally found the experience very rewarding and believe that in addition to helping with the creation of new AFLACA judges, it also helped to foster good relations within the Lapidary movement, and particularly between our own Club and the Tasmanian clubs that took part in the various activities.

Barbara Try.

~

THE “GATTON GANG”

Part 3

Sapphires Beckon.

The Willows Gemfields was our next destination, so we stopped in at Emerald for some basic supplies. George bought himself a “you-beaut” reclining camp chair, and unbeknown to me a birthday cake was purchased, which was then presented to me after our first evening meal in the camp kitchen. Thank you John and Gina for doing the appropriate shopping.

Jean and Bert Deane had made a side trip after Chinchilla to chase some petrified fern and to visit “rellies”, and they rejoined the group to look for sapphires at the Willows. The days on the sapphire fields were uncharacteristically hot for this time of the year, with very little breeze. For this reason, our efforts at the Willows and Glenalva were confined to the cooler part of the day [morning] and we nursed aching muscles and replenished lost fluids after “nanny-naps” in the afternoons.

Charlie – one of the Macleay’s dogs – escaped twice, and had a great time rounding up the local cattle, kangaroos and rabbits, which caused some considerable anxiety to all concerned, before he was finally, effectively, “grounded”. We took the day off from using the pick and shovel to visit the markets at Sapphire before going on to Rubyvale where we saw some very well finished jewellery and an interesting array of designs, which utilised the natural shape of the stones.

Norm had finally managed to keep his new boots together long enough to “road test” them for a short distance. For the last few weeks he had been diligently using pegs, clamps and weights [a 4lb hammer] to glue the soles to the uppers. Persistence – if not confidence - had at last paid off because he did say he would carry another pair of shoes in his rucksack, the first time he really tried them out.

Six nights at the Willows was our longest stay in any one place [other than at the GEMBOREE] and the local birds – of which there were many – soon got to know our routine, which seemed to be afternoon tea followed by Happy Hour followed by a BBQ evening meal. [It IS important to rest and replace fluids!!] If one is to believe the old saying that it is good luck to be pooped on from a great height by a bird, then a lot of our group are destined to be very lucky. The fact that Barbara kept feeding them pieces of apple did not help, as their numbers seemed to increase each day.

Although we made forays to different areas of the gemfields and moved a considerable quantity of rock and dirt [as a group] we were forced to leave the sapphires in the ground so they could grow during the next wet season. We did however see some very nice pieces of sapphire [cut and rough], which shows that they are there for the finding.

One very nice piece of clean rough yellow [145cts] came from an area where we were digging. The person that showed us this, and other stones, said she had been coming to the fields for the last 25 years and stayed for 5 months at a time.

In desperation we even resorted to buying bags of “wash”, which were said to have been relatively untouched by human hands. I think you can guess the results !! Me thinks they had definitely been touched - just a little, maybe ? Anyway, it was good fun.

Unfortunately Bruce and Jean Macleay had to leave us on Anzac Day, and started their journey home. The rest of us prepared to leave for Emerald and then Dululu, where we had an overnight stay. We all sat outside under the trees for Happy Hour before returning to our respective vans and an early night’s rest.

Once again, Dululu was the site for Bert and Jean’s fridge to misbehave while running on gas. On a previous stay in this Rest Area – [on the way to the GEMBOREE at Rockhampton] – the Deane’s fridge did the same thing and refused to function. Maybe we need to stay somewhere else next time !!

From Dululu to Biloela we passed through some very rich looking areas, which were being irrigated and looked in complete contrast to the surrounding very dry country. From Biloela we moved on to Cania Gorge, where the countryside was still very dry. After setting up camp, several of our group went for some short walks, while Barbara did battle with the problems associated with trying to put the finishing touches and sending the May edition of Lapis, from a remote location.

Happy hours and the evening meals were in a vacant spot between the vans, with lights we strung up to give a subdued lighting effect, as the sun set with a pretty pink and blue sky. A very pleasant way to end each day.

During our second night at Cania, we heard a strange noise on the roof of the van. It took us a little while to realise that it was rain. The first and only time that it rained during the six weeks that we were away

From Cania we moved, via Kingaroy, onto the little township of Bell, which is famous for its jam-drops, which we all naturally had to sample. As well as visiting historic Jimbour House we made the short trip to the Bunya Mountains and did an easy walk through the rainforest. Although parts of the forest were relatively dry, it was pleasant to walk in the quietness of the hoop and bunya pines, which were bedecked with great quantities of orchids, ferns and other varieties of greenery.

We also celebrated Lyn Bridson's birthday while at Bell. Barbara fired up the oven and baked a cake, which was given to Lyn after our BBQ evening meal in the camp kitchen. [She's as old as I am now !!]

While our last official night together was in Bell, we celebrated with an evening meal and night out in Dalby. It was a very pleasant evening.

From Bell we split up to make our various ways home; some to go direct and others to detour and use the opportunity to see relatives etc in other parts of the country.

Finally – “thank you” to all the club members that made the effort and went to the GEMBOREE at Gatton and made up the “Gatton Gang”. But a special “thank you” goes to those members that “went the extra mile” after Gatton, and contributed in various ways to what I believe was a very enjoyable Field Trip.

Tony Try

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AN ENAMELLING WORKSHOP Saturday 28 July 2007 at 9am

A single day enameling workshop will be held on Saturday 28th July for any members who would like to attend. There is a limit of 10 persons in the class with the aim of the class being to learn or have a refresher on the basics of enamelling.

Requirements:

- Note book
- Towel
- Rubber gloves
- Old stocking and elastic bands
- Cash for the blanks

Please put your name on the list in the cutting room if you are interested in attending.

Any questions contact Barbara Try on 4393 6168.

LABRADORITE

A transparent, yellow gem variety of labradorite feldspar occurs in Australia, in the *Hogarth Range*, New South Wales, and near *Springsure*, Queensland. Large, clear stones can be cut from this material, but care is needed because of two directions of perfect cleavage. Hardness is 6 - 6.5.

It is found in Magmatic deposits in some basaltic rocks along with the more common gemstones such as diamonds and Sapphires.

While labradorite does have perfect cleavage in two directions I know a number of facetors who have not had any problem in cutting this stone.



Faceted labradorite, 33 ct, Hogarth Range, NSW.
Photo: © RG Weber.

Springsure is sixty-six kilometres south on the Gregory Highway from Emerald. The pioneer town of Springsure is the oldest settlement on Queensland's central highlands.

The town grew from a nest of shearing huts in the 1850s as more and more teamsters hauling wool to the coast began using the tiny settlement as a staging post.

Springsure is set among craggy volcanic peaks and the lookout on nearby Mt Zamia affords sweeping views over the tablelands. The town boasts a koala colony, stands of ancient macrozamia palms which grow on the slopes of Mt Zamia, and a museum whose displays include an engine from a World War II aircraft which crashed in Carnarvon Gorge in 1942, killing all on board.

In 1861 on Cullin-la-Ringo station to the north, a massacre of 19 white people by Kairi Aborigines in reprisal for atrocities meted out by the settlers sent such a wave of fear through the area that homesteaders built fortifications on their land. The

remains of Rainworth Fort built of mud and basalt blocks can still be seen on Old Rainsworth Station just outside Springsure.

Hogarth Range is approximately 32 kilometres from Casino in Northern New South Wales. It is a beautiful fertile plateau one and a half hours inland from Byron Bay.

Hogarth Range is at 1200 foot altitude and is renowned for its prime rural land which is ideal for horticulture such as macadamias, coffee, mangoes or cropping the likes of soy beans The balance is excellent grazing land used for beef cattle production



Funnies

KIDS IN CHURCH

3-year-old Reese:
"Our Father,
Who does art in heaven,
Harold is His name.
Amen."

~~~~~  
A little boy was overheard praying:  
"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't  
worry about it.  
I'm having a real good time like I am."

~~~~~  
After the christening of his baby brother in
church,
Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of
the car.
His father asked him three times what was wrong.
Finally, the boy replied,
"That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a
Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you
guys."

~~~~~  
One particular four-year-old prayed,  
"And forgive us our trash baskets  
as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

~~~~~  
A Sunday school teacher asked her children as
they were on the way to church service,
"And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"
One bright little girl replied,
"Because people are sleeping."

~~~~~  
A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons,  
Kevin 5, and Ryan 3.

The boys began to argue over who would get the  
first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral  
lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say,  
'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said,  
"Ryan, you be Jesus!"

~~~~~  
A father was at the beach with his children
when the four-year-old son ran up to him,
grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore
where a seagull lay dead in the sand.

"Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked.

"He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied.

The boy thought a moment and then said,
"Did God throw him back down?"

~~~~~  
A wife invited some people to dinner.

At the table, she turned to their six-year-old  
daughter and said,

"Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife  
answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said,  
"Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to  
dinner?"

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### **How old do you look?**

I was sitting in the waiting room for my first  
appointment with a new dentist. I noticed his DDS  
diploma, which bore his full name. Suddenly, I  
remembered a tall, handsome, dark-haired boy  
with the same name had been in my high school  
class nearly 40 years ago. Could he be the same  
guy that I had a secret crush on, way back then?  
Upon seeing him, however, I quickly discarded  
any such thought. This balding, gray-haired man  
with the deeply lined face was way too old to have  
been my classmate.

After he examined my teeth, I asked him if he had  
attended Morgan Park High School - "Yes. Yes, I  
did. I'm a mustang," he gleamed with pride.  
"When did you graduate?" I asked. He answered,  
"in 1968. Why do you ask?" "You were in my  
class!" I exclaimed. He looked at me closely.  
Then that, old, wrinkled, bald, fat, son-of-a-b  
asked, "What did you teach?"

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## DATES OF INTEREST

- July 14** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB  
General Meeting **Saturday 2 pm**, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome  
*With a Special Afternoon Tea for our longstanding Members*
- July 21 & 22** Campbelltown Lapidary Club – Annual Gem Show  
Campbelltown Civic Centre – 9am to 4pm
- 28 July** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB  
Enameling Workshop,
- July 28** Rock Auction  
Hunter Valley Gemology Club
- Aug 14** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB  
General Meeting Tuesday 8 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)

**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](mailto:bonstyle@bigpond.net.au).