



LAPIS

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"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

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CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on **Saturday 10 March at 2.00pm**. The meeting will be followed by a brainstorming session on tools, equipment, safety and clothing when fossicking.

Daytime meetings have proved quite successful, providing an opportunity for people who can't make it to our normal Tuesday evening Meetings. There will be other daytime meetings later in the year.

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

- Jack Thorby – Kenthurst (Junior)
- William Thorby – Kenthurst (Junior)
- Rory Webster – Warrawee (Junior)
- Katrina Webster – Warrawee
- James Baek – Killara
- Ok Jin Baek – Killara
- Christopher Koong – Epping
- Sandra Kalnins-Cole - Westleigh

We wish them many long hours of enjoyment cutting gemstones.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Don't forget that the coming General Meeting will be a DAYTIME MEETING next SATURDAY at 2pm.

The new display cabinets in the Club foyer were looking rather empty and a couple of members kindly spent some time adding some of the Club specimens. Another member has also offered to provide some more material. The Committee

thought it might be a good opportunity over the next few months to ask the various Classes to take it in turns to provide a selection of their work for the display. I will be contacting two of the classes shortly to start off the process. The items for display don't have to be items made in the Classes, it can include other items that have been made or collected by the members.

The various discussions that we have had with a number of teachers on ways to recognize the enormous contribution that our class teachers have made (and of course continue to make) to the success and life of the Club have been very interesting. There is a strong feeling that teachers are not in it for any particular wish for recognition. Their motivation has been to help others, and for what they themselves learn from their classes – very much in the spirit of the Club Motto "*Share the Knowledge*". What they would appreciate the most is some avenue to discuss issues arising from their classes, and ways to improve them.

In this respect, the most important thing we could do would be to fill the vacant Committee Position of Education Officer - whose principal role is to maintain a regular contact with the teachers and provide a direct link and 'voice' back to Committee. In an effort to bridge this gap, and at the same time show at least some low key appreciation of our teachers, we will hold two special meetings each year just for teachers, one of which will include a nice 'thank you' dinner at a place to be decided.

Brian Burns

A little bird told me that someone has just had an 80th birthday – Congratulations Kevin Davey Ed.

Club's History



The update of the Club's 50 history is now complete and Jean Macleay has done a magnificent job in producing a booklet that is both informative and interesting to read. A copy has been forwarded to AFLACA as previously requested for inclusion in their reference library of all lapidary clubs.

Copies are being prepared and will be available shortly from the Clubroom Shop. Printing costs of booklets with coloured photos are quite expensive and the Committee has agreed to subsidise the cost of the booklets to make them more accessible to our Club members.

We will also offer some cheaper options for those who wish to obtain their copies in a digital format and look at it on their computer or print off their own copies (or selected portions of particular interest). Electronic copies will be available either as a CD or by downloading a copy from the Club's website.

Costs are as follows:

- Hardcopy with coloured photos - \$20 each
- CD - \$5 per copy
- Download from the website – Free (see details below.)

Whatever way you choose to read it I am sure you will find it a most interesting journey.

[The website version will be available to current members only. To use this facility members may email secretary@ndlapi.org.au who will send them a link to the History site and the password to access it.]

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CONGRATULATIONS

To the following Members who have achieved their 10-, 20-, and 30-year's membership milestones this Quarter.

30 Years – Jenny King

20 Years – Gerhard Pirwitz

- George Hunter

10 Years – Neil Perkins

- Marisa Pongan

- Beverley Williams

Mementos will be presented at the March General Meeting for those who can attend. For those who can't, other arrangements will be made.

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From the Committee

One of the main slabbing saws is now out of action due to improper use. Members are reminded to check with an experienced user of the saws prior to their use. Members are also reminded that there is a nominal slabbing fee applicable when using this equipment.

Items for Sale



- Faceting machine – GemMaster Dial indicator, laps and heaps of accessories
- Opal cutting machine, Lapcraft saw and 2 diamond wheels

If interested in the above items please ring Keith Job on 9457 9113 for more details.

The Club also has a number of other items for sale.

1. Faceting Machine (manufactured), variable speed, in good condition. Includes laps, dops and books. – Price \$850.00
2. Tumbler with two barrels. It is an enclosed unit with motor but needs some attention. – Price \$85.00
3. 12" Saw fully enclosed with clear Perspex top and weight feed. ¾ hp motor. – Price \$120.00

- 12" Saw with good blade ½ hp motor weight feed. Price \$85.00

For further information please contact George Hunter on 9871 2126 or John Andersen on 9871 4162

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Gold Plating Now Available

Thanks to the efforts of John Andersen, Ron Crockett and Lewis Calwell over the last few months, we are now in a position to offer Club Members (only), a gold plating facility, within the following conditions.

This is 24 k Gold plate
Approx. 2.0 microns thick

- The article to be plated must have been made by a Club member.
- It must be suitable for plating (chains cannot be accepted).
- Any leadless soldered joints will not accept plating properly.
- Articles must be very clean and highly polished.
- The plated finish is only as good as the initial polish.
- Plating will not cover faults or scratches.
- Rubbish in - Rubbish out.
- Cost :- \$3.00 to \$5.00 per article, depending on size/surface.
(a plain ring, \$ 3.00, a largish pendant, \$5.00).
- Articles will be accepted at the Club rooms on Wednesday mornings, price agreed, receipt given. This receipt will need to be produced to collect the article after plating.
- Right of refusal is reserved by the person doing plating.
- Plating will be done about once a month.
- All care NO RESPONSIBILITY, for any damage should the article be unexpectedly not suited to plating.

Initially Lewis Calwell has volunteered to implement this plating offer, and it is anticipated most articles will be ready in 4 weeks.

Remember, not everything looks better Gold Plated.

Consider carefully, - it cannot be easily reversed.

Any question please ring Lewis on 9477 2182

Help with Mineral Specimens

This is a general appeal to all you old (and young) fossickers who travel the back-roads to all the good fossicking areas around Australia. We would like to find some contacts who can supply nice rock/mineral/fossil specimens for the Club that we can display or sell at our Exhibition. So if you have come across locals who might be willing to supply some specimens to the Club then please contact Brian Burns (9878 4073).

WOW! – This is not a trick photo



These are huge crystals of Selenite (gypsum) found in the Cave of Crystals at Naica in Mexico. They are up to 8m long and 2m in diameter!! The temperature inside the cave is 60 C and humidity 100%. There is another cave in the complex – The Cave of Crystals – which is lined with similar fantastic crystals.

They look even better in colour so go to the web site //www.crystalinks.com/crystalsmexico or just Google “huge crystals cave mexico” and check out the links for a variety of photos.

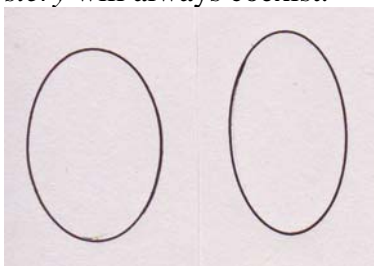
Right! Now – where would I put it..... !?

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The Golden Ratio – phi – 1.618

"Throughout history, thinkers from mathematicians to theologians have pondered the mysterious relationship between numbers and the nature of reality. Mario Livio tells the tale of a number at the heart of that mystery: phi, or

1.6180339887. This curious mathematical relationship, widely known as the "Golden Ratio," was defined by Euclid more than two thousand years ago because of its crucial role in the construction of the pentagram, to which magical properties had been attributed. Since then it has shown a propensity to appear in the most astonishing variety of places - from mollusk shells, sunflower florets, and the crystals of some materials, to the shapes of galaxies containing billions of stars. Psychological studies have investigated whether the Golden Ratio is the most aesthetically pleasing proportion extant, and it has been asserted that the creators of the Pyramids and the Parthenon employed it. It is believed to feature in works of art from Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa to Salvador Dalí's The Sacrament of the Last Supper, and poets and composers have used it in their works. It has even been suggested that it is connected to the behavior of the stock market!" The Golden Ratio is a journey through art and architecture, botany and biology, physics and mathematics. It tells the human story of numerous phi-fixated individuals, including the followers of Pythagoras, who believed that this proportion revealed the hand of God; astronomer Johannes Kepler, who saw phi as one of the greatest treasures of geometry; such medieval thinkers as mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci of Pisa; and such masters of the modern world as Debussy, Le Corbusier, Bartok, and physicist Roger Penrose. Wherever his quest for the meaning of phi takes him, Mario Livio reveals the world as a place where order, beauty, and eternal *mystery* will always coexist.



A

B

Of the two diagrams above which one is more aesthetically appealing?

If you selected B you have chosen the one closest to the Golden Ratio. So this can apply to our craft as well.

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This year – being free from Exhibition efforts – means that we will display and judge entries for the WOW Award at the end of year Christmas Party.

What is it? – Well, it's a plan to see how good your imagination is when it comes to novel ways to produce unique lapidary items. We are asking entrants to think beyond the conventional – 'outside the box' in modern parlance – to produce something that has a real **"Wow, doesn't that look great !!"** factor.

Judging Criteria? – There are only a few. Just think of these adjectives - *imaginative, interesting, novel, unique, amazing, fantastic*. The more you can apply the better.

Because of the wide range of possible materials and skills, these items will not be judged on craftsmanship, but simply on Aesthetic Appeal (or should that be Imaginative Appeal?)

Just about any natural or synthetic materials are acceptable (except plastic!!) and all lapidary crafts (cabs, carvings, faceting, silver jewellery, or enamelling) are eligible – so set your imagination free and get working on that favourite 'something' that you have always wanted to create.

Experimental Enameling: Going Beyond the Limits of Familiar and Expected

11-14 July 2007

At Lindfield

Emphasis in this workshop will be on exploration and experimentation with traditional and non-traditional enameling techniques. The primary goal will be to develop results that intentionally extend beyond expected results. Students will be introduced to a wide variety of techniques and how to vary the results through experimentation and exploration.

Techniques to be covered include

- enamel shard mosaic
- inlaying copper or silver screen, mesh or crocheted wire into enamel
- firing copper oxide and atomized metals onto enamel
- enameling over fine silver foil that has been bonded to copper
- enameling over PMC slip that has been bonded to copper
- use of liquid enamel with and vs. powdered enamel
- torch firing
- making enamel threads
- screen printing dry enamel powder with Stencil Pro
- using embossed fine silver foil with transparent enamels
- enameling on copper etched with PnP paper resist and ferric chloride
- enameling on PMC – this relies on student knowing how to work with PMC
- glass bead inlay
- drawing with Prismacolor pencils over enamel
- hot glue stencils
- drawing on matt enamel with metal wire to create color
- creating surface using enamel scrap
- using fire scale and burnt edges
- enamel inlay
- drawing on matt enamel with ceramic chalk or pencils
- using powdered pigments with a painting medium for enamels

The basics, while not the focus of this workshop, will not be overlooked. Questions about – enamel types and properties; enamel and metal preparation; enamel application options; kilns and kiln furniture; firing temperatures for specific results; the importance and creation of test tiles – will be addressed as needed. Other related topics will be addressed based on the requests and needs of the students

Students may work on a series of trial pieces that will serve as future technical reference. Assistance will be given so students can accomplish their individual goals.

Students enrolling in this workshop should have beginning knowledge and skills with basic metal

and enameling materials, tools, methods and techniques.

This course will be run by Barbara Minor from the USA.

Please see the full article that is on the notice board in the Club Room.

For further information please ring Annette Clarke on 02 4341 5277

Message from the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW– they are looking for a GEMKHANA CO-ORDINATOR.

It would be a shame if the GEMKHANA didn't happen this year. It's been touch and go a few times, already in previous years.

If you are interested 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.



Funnies

AND THEY ASK WHY I LIKE RETIREMENT

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 7 - 6 Saturdays and 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch

Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% percent discount.

Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?

Answer: Tied shoes

Question: Why do retirees count pennies?

Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?

Answer: NUTS!

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?

Answer: Normal.

Question: What is the best way to describe retirement?

Answer: The never ending Coffee Break.

Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

Share this one with all the retirees that you know

I'm sure they can relate to some of them!

AND, If you have not yet retired, look what you have to look forward to

'Good exercise for seniors' . . .

I just came across this exercise suggested for seniors, to build muscle strength in the arms and shoulders.

It seems so easy, I thought I'd pass it on to some of my friends and family.
The article suggested doing it three days a week.

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can.

Try to reach a full minute, then relax. Each day, you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato sacks.

Then 50-lb potato sacks and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a minute. (I'm at this level) !!

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each of the sacks.

Anagrams Galore

Whoever came up with the following anagrams clearly had way too much time on their hands....

Dormitory: "Dirty Room"

Presbyterian: "Best in Prayer"

Astronomer: "Moon starrer"

The eyes: "They see"

The morse code: "Here come dots"

Slot Machines: "Cash lost in me"

Animosity: "Is no amity"

Election results: "Lies – lets recount"

Snooze alarms: "Alas! No more z's"

Eleven plus two: "Twelve plus one"

The wisdom of a Child

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge, to find the most caring child.

The winner was a four-year-old boy, whose next door neighbour, an elderly gentleman, had recently lost his wife.

Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old man's yard, climbed onto his lap and just sat there.

When his mother asked what he had said to the neighbour, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

Piscatorial Curses

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says "Dam!"



DATES OF INTEREST

- Mar 10** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Saturday 2 pm, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- Mar17-18** Blue Mountains Club – Annual Exhibition
Clubrooms, Progress Assn Hall, Cnr Western H’way & Noble St Bullaburra
- Mar 18** Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club -Sausage Sizzle
Clubroom – Lot 1, Bensley Road, Macquarie Fields – 9.00am to 2 pm
Tailgaters welcome, more Info Ring Bob on 02 9605 4474 or Clarice 02 4626 6938
- Mar 24-25** Canberra Rockswap – Canberra Lapidary Club
Held at “EPIC” (outdoors)
- Mar 31** Gatton Gang – depart for the GEMBOREE
- April 10** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Tuesday 8 pm, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
Brian Burns will be showing his photos of Sth Africa
- Jun 8-11** Gosford Show, Gosford Showground, Gosford
- July 11 – 14** Enamelling Workshop – By Barbara Minor from the USA. This 4 day workshop will be held at Lindfield with a cost of \$300.

- 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.