



LAPIS

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"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

VOLUME FORTY ONE NUMBER EIGHT MAY 2007

THIRD TIME PROVES IT !!!!!

"WE ARE THE CHAMPION CLUB !!"



Barbara Try & Helga Clark accepting the Ray Powell Champion Club Trophy for NDLC from Gresh Grantham at the Gatton Gemboree 2007

For the third consecutive year the **Ray Powell Champion Club Trophy** has been awarded to our Club. Congratulations to all those members who won places in the various sections and especially to our individual trophy winners:

- Helga Clark - Harold Evans
INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION
LAPIDARY
- Anthony Rigg - Brian Bown for OPEN
STD CABOCHON - CRAFTSMANSHIP
- John Weatherburn - Boris Novic for
DOUBLE STANDARD CABOCHON

However, I would also like to say congratulations to the members who competed and did not win a place; Special Award or Highly Commended certificate, even though they scored highly. While there were very few certificates awarded all members who gained points, which put them in

the top four of the highest points allocated in any section contributed to the overall Club points score. It was a great Club effort, particularly given that 2006 was also our own Club's Exhibition year, which took a lot of time and effort by many of our club members.

Provisional lists of our results are recorded later in this edition.

Editor

CLUB NEWS

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

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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Once again, congratulations are due to all of our members who spent time in preparing entries for the Competition section of the 2007 Gemboree at Gatton. Due to their efforts, NDLC has become the Champion club for the third year running – a really fantastic achievement (see article below for all the details from the Gatton Gang).

On a more somber note, we would like to send our sympathies to Alice Oxley and her family on the recent death of her sister Edith.

For those who are interested, the Competition Schedules for the 2007 Gemkhana (at Mudgee in September) and the 2008 Gemboree (at Murray

Bridge S.A. in March) have been released and copies will be available in the Clubrooms.

Brian Burns

Club's History



Club History – free for the ‘geeks’

You might be interested to know that so far 6 Members have down-loaded their free copy of the Club's History book from our website. A further 10 people have selectively downloaded either just Part 1 or Part 2 of the History.

Remember, if you wish to get your copy of the History this way just send an email to secretary@ndlapidary.org.au who will send a link to the History site and the password to access it.

Hardcopies with coloured photos are available from the Club Shop for \$20 each, while the CD's are \$5 each.

Over the last 3 months our Club website has recorded quite a lot of visits from people who downloaded information on the Club and our activities. The website has a number of interesting items about the Club and is well worth a visit. Overall we have had over 200 'hits' to our website – a great start.

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From the Committee

We would like to see if we can assist those Club members who find it difficult to get out at night but who would still like to attend the evening General Meetings. We propose to start by asking anyone who would like a lift to the evening meetings etc to contact David Broome (Phone 9484 7259). We will then see if we can find someone who lives in your area who is willing to pick you up and bring you along to the meetings where you can still enjoy the friendship and interaction with other Club members. No guarantees, but we will do our best – so give David a call if this service would be of interest to you (and remember that our July GM will be in

the daytime on Saturday 14th at 2pm in the afternoon).

Teachers please Note

All of our Club Teachers (including those running weekend workshops) are invited to attend a special meeting in the Clubrooms 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 the Cheltenham Recreation Club, The Crescent, Cheltenham.

Publicity Officer

June General Meeting – Tuesday 12th June, 8pm: Guest speaker for our June General Meeting will be Mrs Judy Harris from the Sydney Adventist Hospital speaking on the History of the SAN and its current and future operation.

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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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Juniors find Gold

Congratulations to Thomas Maitland (clarinet) & Thomas Brown (Trombone) two of our junior members who, with other members of Epping Boys High School wind ensemble, made history when they won gold at the Pacific Basin music festival at Hawaii becoming the first Australian school to win the competition in its 22 years history.

The group shared gold with a Californian high school group and were invited to perform at the historic Hawaii Theatre.

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PROVISIONAL Competition Results of the Gatton, GEMBOREE 2007.

O.1A.1	Standard Cabochon – Chalcedony	
	1 st Anthony Rigg	99.9
I.1A.2	Standard Cabochon – Chalcedony	

	1 st	Helga Clark	99.57		1 st	Jean Macleay	95.99
					3 rd	Barbara Try	94.65
N.1A.7		Standard Cabochon – Petrified		O.12B.1	Tumbled Stones – Natural Shape		
Wood	1 st	Tony Try	96.25	1 st	Gina Weatherburn	92.94	
	3 rd	Maureen Andersen	88.25	O.13.1	Polished Face – Flat surface		
O.1B.1	Fancy Cabochon – Rhodonite			2 nd	Barbara Try	96.9	
	1 st	Anthony Rigg	94.15	O.18A.1	Hand Fabricated Jewellery – without Lapidary Item		
O.1B.5	Fancy Cabochon – Obsidian			2 nd	Jean Macleay	93.49	
	1 st	Anthony Rigg	97.95	O.18B.1	Hand Fabricated Jewellery – with Lapidary Item		
	3 rd	John Weatherburn	95.9	2 nd	Jean Macleay	86	
I.1B.6	Fancy Cabochon – Ribbonstone			N.18E.2	Wire Wrapped Pendant or Ring - with Lapidary Item		
	1 st	Helga Clark	95.3	3 rd	Lyn Bridson	84.25	
N.1B.7	Fancy Cabochon – Chalcedony			O.19A.1	Cast Jewellery using Patterns made by entrant - without Lapidary Item		
	2 nd	Tony Try	93	2 nd	Helga Clark	89	
O.2A.1	Double Std Cabochon – Ribbonstone			O.20A.1	Cast Jewellery using Natural Items – without Lapidary Item		
	1 st	John Weatherburn	99.4	H.C.	Jean Macleay	87.75	
	2 nd	Anthony Rigg	98.5	O.25.1	Commercial Mount Jewellery with Lapidary items cut by Entrant		
N.2A.3	Double Std Cabochon – Any Material			1 st	Gina Weatherburn	95.25	
	2 nd	Tony Try	96.9	I.25.2	Commercial Mount Jewellery with Lapidary items cut by Entrant		
O.2B.1	Double Fancy Cabochon – Petrified Wood			1 st	Helga Clark	89	
	3 rd	Anthony Rigg	92	N.25.3	Commercial Mount Jewellery with Lapidary items cut by Entrant		
O.3.7	Opal Freeform			1 st	Lyn Bridson	94.75	
	3 rd	Brian Burns	90.25	N.26B.2	Enamelling Jewellery without Mount		
O.4.A	Opal Doublet – Flat Top			H.C.	Barbara Try	89.75	
	2 nd	Anthony Rigg	96.3	O.32B.1	Fossil, Non display group of three, any Locality		
	3 rd	Barbara Try	94.55	2 nd	Brian Burns		
O.5A.1	Carving – Fully 3-dimensional - Hardness 4 & over			3 rd	Barbara Try		
	2 nd	Jim Patterson	86.5	O.34A.1	Mineral, non display Single Australian specimen		
N.9A.3	Faceted Stone – Oblong Step Cut – Coloured Qtz			1 st	Barbara Try	92.	
	1 st	Brian Burns	83.79				
N.10.3	Faceted Stone – Mod Std, Cushion Cut Syn. Sapphire						
	1 st	Brian Burns	89.56				
O.12A.1	Tumbled Stones – Preformed – Petrified Wood						

TROPHIES

Ray Powell CHAMPION CLUB

Winner: Northern Districts Lapidary Club

Harold Evans INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION LAPIDARY

Winner: Helga Clark

Brian Bown for OPEN STANDARD CABOCHON - CRAFTSMANSHIP

Winner: Anthony Rigg

Boris Novic for DOUBLE STANDARD CABOCHON

Winner: John Weatherburn

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Chinchilla and its Wood.

The town of Chinchilla, centrally located in a shire of the same name, is situated on the northern edge of the Darling Downs, 309 km north-west of Brisbane. The Warrego Highway passes through town, which is to be said to have been named 'Jinchilla' by the explorer Ludwig Leichhardt after the aboriginal name for Cypress Pine, a tree growing abundantly in some areas of the shire. The name was subsequently changed to Chinchilla.

Chinchilla is recognised as one of the largest petrified wood areas in the world.

The wood from the district is well known for its colour and quality, both in Australia and overseas. It is quoted as some as being ranked second only to wood from Arizona region of USA. It is eagerly sought by lapidary enthusiasts throughout the world.

The district is near the north-west margin of an area of Tertiary volcanics consisting largely of basalt, possibly 15-35 million years old. The age of the Chinchilla wood is Jurassic, *ie* 140 – 180 million years old.

Because of this, no flowering plants (*Angiospermes*) will be found as they did not evolve until some time later. The dominant

elements in the Chinchilla flora are conifers and other Gymnosperm groups, *e.g.* Pentoxylales. The conifers include such modern groups as the Bunya and Hoop Pines and Cypress, etc.

(The word PETRIFY comes from the Greek word "PETRA" for Rock, and means "Convert or turn into stone". Petrified wood is formed when the cell structure of the trees is infiltrated by mineral laden solutions. For a tree to become petrified it must be buried in an oxygen free environment. Most petrified wood reveals a relationship with volcanic action. It is thought to be formed by means of trees being covered by massive amounts of volcanic ash and buried in a lava flow or its associated mud flows. The silica in the volcanic ash gradually replaces the wood cells and different minerals and oxides present are responsible for the various colours.)

Excerpts taken from a local publication called Chinchilla and what makes it T.I.C.

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THE "GATTON GANG" GATHERS

Part 1 GEMBOREE 2007

At first there was ONE. Being retired certainly has its benefits!! As there was no mad rush to get away we made a leisurely start and left home about 2 pm on Thursday 29th March and made our way to "John's Place" (Willow Tree). We camped in amongst the trucks for the night and all was going well until an extremely large cattle truck parked about 3 feet from the rear of our van. Quite a few of the cattle practiced their tap-dancing rather enthusiastically, but completely out of tune with one another for a couple of hours before being driven away, which allowed us to get some sleep. The next morning we made our way to Tenterfield (the home of Peter Allen - the Boy from Oz). The countryside had had recent rains and was looking quite lush with water in most of the dams. On the way, just north of Glen Innes and soon after seeing a wild animal crossing sign, 10 wild deer ran across the road in front of us causing us to hit the brakes - a most unexpected sight. After a look around Tenterfield and fish and chips for tea we settled down for a cold night (7° C).

And then there was TWO. George Hunter let us know that although he had left home later than

anticipated he intended coming all the way, and eventually arrived at Tenterfield at 8.30 pm.

On Saturday morning we toured the local rail museum and visited Mt Mackenzie lookout and then 'two' became THREE. Ted and Helga Clark arrived about 4 pm. As it became cold as soon as the sun went down, "Happy Hour" was held in the warmth of our van.

On Sunday we made our way to Girraween National Park and found a spot that would take us all comfortably. On the way in we noticed a lady sitting in a chair with a book and a glass of red wine besides a mountain of camping gear strewn over the ground. About 4 hours later she was still there. Curiosity and concern got the better of us, so we asked if she was OK or needed assistance. She said that she was alright and did not need anything. At 6 pm – 7 hours after we first saw her - her partner arrived with the tent poles which had been left at home necessitating a quick return trip to Brisbane to get them. I have no doubt that after 6 -7 hours of red wine and solitude that hubby would have been told all about the virtue of being better organised and packing of tent poles with the tent in future!!!

There are some pretty walks in Girraween NP ranging from easy (Granite Arch and Dr Roberts waterhole) to very steep (Pyramid Rock). Ted and Helga put us all to shame by also walking to Castle Rock and points beyond.

And then there was FOUR. John and Gina Weatherburn arrived on Monday and conquered Pyramid Rock that same afternoon.

From Girraween we moved on to Queen Mary Falls National Park (part of Main National Park) where we became FIVE as Tom and Lyn Bridson arrived in the afternoon. A pretty park with relatively easy walks to a number of waterfalls and lookouts. The local King Parrots and Crimson Rosellas were very tame and took seed from our hands. As we were not sure what the water situation would be like at Gatton we all filled our tanks with the beautiful available spring water.

We arrived at the Showground at Gatton at about 10.00 am to find Bert and Jean Deane and Ken and Lorna Whitton already there so we were now SIX and SEVEN which soon became EIGHT as

Norm and Dorothy Savage arrived. Jean and Bruce Macleay were the last to arrive to take up their site making us NINE. Our sites were on the hill which gave us a breeze most of the day and not too far from the main hall, amenities and tailgating.

We finished up with a total of 24 Club members at the GEMBOREE plus 2 visitors (friends of ours) from Brisbane. A pretty good representation. However, it was not all good news – Tom and Lyn arrived with a badly cracked chassis on their van and it appeared as though Brian Burns faceted stone entry – First Prize in the Novice - Cushion Cut – had been misplaced. Fortunately it was 'found' as we were packing up to leave the GEMBOREE. Tom and Lyn found a welder who had them back on the road only a few hours after the rest of us left the showground for Chinchilla on Tuesday morning. (EIGHT vans only as Ken and Lorna Whitton headed for home)

The GEMBOREE facilities were in the main, good. The main hall was the best I have seen with plenty of room for everyone, and there were a lot of tailgaters on the oval with a large number selling boulder opal as would be expected.

The end result was that we won the Club Championship trophy for the 3rd time in a row, which was great. Other trophy winners have been mentioned elsewhere in this edition of LAPIS.

GEMBOREES always have behind the scenes stories and this one was definitely no exception, causing quite a few grey hairs and exasperation for those involved in the Competition side of things. The final straw was when one of our members' pieces of opal went "missing".

Several of the "Gang" visited Clare and Ron Schofield (foundation Club Members) who now live near Warwick. Brian and Barbara Bokenham were also there to talk over "old" times.

On the last night at the GEMBOREE there were many get-togethers as Clubs and friends celebrated successful results or said their goodbyes until next year at Murray Bridge in South Australia. Because of space restrictions on the showground campsites were close together. One of our Club members – camped next to us was a very successful competitor and took out one of the trophies. Late that night, there was

considerable giggling emanating from their camper and the next day's explanation, while possible was most unlikely!!

From the GEMBOREE we moved on to Chinchilla where we stayed for a few days in a beautiful little caravan park, while we dug - ever so strenuously for petrified wood. The country between Gatton and Chinchilla was very dry, with very little crops in evidence other than some fields of sorghum. Our first Happy Hour at Chinchilla was great as we all packed into the camp kitchen on a balmy afternoon and eventually cooked a BBQ evening meal before retiring to our respective vans etc.

To be continued.

WORLD'S 15th LARGEST ROUGH DIAMOND DISCOVERED

On the 4th October 2006, the largest diamond discovered for more than a decade, the 603 carat *Lesotho Promise*, was sold by closed tender to South African sightholder Safdico (South African Diamond Corporation) for US\$12.36 million. Safdico is the manufacturing arm of London based international diamond merchant-jeweller Laurence Graff. The *Lesotho Promise*, which was discovered on the 22nd August at Lesotho's Letseng Mine is the largest diamond mined since 1993. The D-colour *Lesotho Promise* which is the 15th largest diamond ever discovered, has almost the same size as the largest previous find at the Letseng Mine, the 601 carat *Lesotho Brown*.

The Letseng Mine is owned by the government of Lesotho (30%) and South Africa's Gem Diamond Mining Company of Africa (70%). Originally, De Beers owned and operated this high altitude mine, but closed it in 1982. Since the mine reopened in 2004 a significant number of large sized diamonds have been recovered.

Source: Antwerp Facets online of 10th October, 2006 – and taken from The Australian Gemmologist (2007) 23

Cancellation Notice:

Experimental Enameling:
Going Beyond the Limits of Familiar and Expected on 11-14 July 2007 at Lindfield has been **cancelled**.



Funnies

Joke from **Jack Weatherburn** (John Weatherburn's grandson)

How do you turn soup into gold? Add 24 carrots!!

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Question: Why are apostle birds disliked?
Answer: Because they are the wrong religion.

•••••

Three mates are down the pub. Bill and Joe are arguing about the amount of control they have over their wives, while the third bloke, Fred, says nothing.

After a while, Bill turns to Fred and says, "Well, what about you? What sort of control have you got?"

"I'll tell you," Fred replies. "Just the other night my missus came crawling to me on her hands and knees."

The other two were absolutely amazed. "What happened then?" Joe asked.

"She said, Get out from under the bed and fight like a man!!!"

•••••

An accountant is having a hard time sleeping and so he decides to go to see his doctor. "Doctor, I just can't get to sleep at night," he complains.

"Have you tried counting sheep?" inquired the doctor.

The accountant relied, "That's the problem, doc I make a mistake and then spend three hours trying to find it!"

•••••

The safari guide was asked how to avoid being attacked by wild animals at night. "Just carry a lighted torch," was the reply.

"Does it really work?" the tourist replied.

"Depends," says the guide "on how fast you carry it."

•••••

How do mothers know about all the things they tell their daughters not to do?

•••••

DATES OF INTEREST

- May 8** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Tuesday 8 pm, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
Guest speaker is Mr Gavin Chapple talking about changes in Superannuation Laws and how these will benefit you.
- 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
Guest Speaker is Mrs Judy Harris from the Sydney Adventist Hospital speaking on the History of the SAN
- 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

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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.