



LAPIS

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"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

VOLUME FORTY TWO NUMBER ONE SEPTEMBER 2007

CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be a **daytime meeting on Saturday 15 September at 2 pm**. Following the general meeting we will have a talk on Environmental Re-cycling by Michelle Norman from the Hornsby Shire Council, in the Clubrooms at Becroft - all members welcome.

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest member –

- John Hopkins – Webbs Creek

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

LIFE MEMBER

We have a new Life Member. Norman Savage has been awarded the highest recognition the Club has. Congratulations Norm



Norm Savage and Brian Burns

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to welcome and congratulate the members – both new and old – who volunteered to

form our new Committee for 2007-08. We have an interesting year ahead with some challenges to meet, some fun to share, and lots of beautiful things to make. However, we still have two positions to fill – Social Secretary and G&L Representative – and so please come forward and let me know if you are able to fill one of these roles.

We are pleased to report that our application to the Volunteer Small Equipment Grants scheme (Commonwealth Government) has been successful and the Club will be able to purchase a new projector and computer system to help with our education program, slide presentations, etc.

Don't forget to prepare your 'most interesting' entries for the **WOW Award** competition to be held and judged at the Christmas Party. If you don't know about this competition then see the Notices in the Clubrooms or ask your teacher.

Brian Burns

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From the Committee

The New Committee



Left to right: Lou Sun, Brian Burns Francis Sun, Jean Macleay, Nivea Adami, Bert Deane, Barbara Try, Tony Try and John Weatherburn.

Our thanks to a number of our teachers who have volunteered to help fill the gap with the teaching of the Monday night cabochon class for the remainder of this term. The Committee is considering some alternative longer-term arrangements which may involve a change in the way we teach new members and operate our cab classes. We will keep you informed as we develop the most suitable solution.

The Competition Schedule for our 2008 Exhibition is included in with this LAPIS. Some of the categories are consistent with the requirements for the 2008 GEMBOREE and so it may be possible to enter items in both competitions.

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Attendance Book

It has come to the committee's attention that members are not signing the attendance book upon arrival at the Club. It is important that you do so to enable you to be covered by the Club's insurance.

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Lost & Found

If you by chance have lost or misplaced a stone etc please check in the "Lost & Found" box located in the cutting room. Also if you find anything and can not locate the owner, please place it in this box.

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Electroplating

There will be no plating done during the month of October; Lewis Caldwell will not be available at this time.

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Annual Subscriptions are now over due. If you have not yet paid them, please do so as soon as possible.

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Safety Hint

For safety reasons, when refilling the micro torches used in the making of silver jewellery, please do so outside of the clubrooms.

**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



- **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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August Casting Weekend

Eight members arrived on Saturday eager to prepare their wax “tree” with a variety of items.

Several members had projects that they had started with Mark Young and were very happy to see Mark arrive during the morning to give them assistance to get their projects ready for casting. Jean Macleay assisted with helping us all in various ways and freely giving of her expertise. We all finished our preparations on Saturday at approximately 2.30pm with all our flasks filled and ready for the following morning.

It was unfortunate that Jean had a prior engagement and could not be with us on Sunday but she entrusted the nurturing and watching of the kilns to John Corby and Eric Stevenson. These gentlemen dutifully watched and timed the kilns until the casting moment arrived.

Bert was again on duty and manned the oxy torch. All flasks were cast and 100% success rate was achieved to the delight of everyone.



Left to Right: Helga Clark, Bill Knight Bert Deane, Gina Potter, Alistair Gilmour, John Corby, Beverley Molloy and Eric Stevenson

My thanks to all concerned - it was a great outcome.

Barbara Try

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Vale Joy Sippel

Joy Norma Sippel died peacefully in her home on Sunday evening 5th August. After an enjoyable

day of shopping and searching for treasures, of planning and preparing for the coming week, Joy cooked the evening meal and sat down to rest in her favourite chair. As the light began to disappear to make way for the darkness, in that time of stillness between sunset and night, Joy slipped away to join those of her family who had gone before her.

Part of Joy’s life was her love for history and all things heritage. Her love for history extended to local community. Nothing fired her quite like the protection of heritage places around Hornsby Shire, a passion which she extended all over NSW where she and Brian must have visited every museum and every heritage or historical site still standing: from Gulgong where the Sippel name stands proud thanks to its inclusion in the art work of the original \$10 note, to Boggabri and Carroll, to Mudgee and Inverell, to Parkes, Tingha, Goulburn and Bathurst, anywhere that had a hint of history to explore.

Perhaps Joy’s greatest passion was for the beauty of Australian gem stones for which she searched and fossicked, cleaned and cut and polished constantly through her life. Her family laughs now about the holidays she planned for them – driving for hours to some dried-up river bed, or in Christopher’s words: some God-forsaken hole at the back of beyond, digging in sand that hundreds had dug before and collecting stones which to the unlearned eye looked just like any other pile of rocks. What she produced though, in her washing, cleaning, cutting and polishing eventually silenced their incredulity. No one remembers finding Joy at home on Monday night – she was always at the Lapidary Club teaching the cabochon class, referred to by Brian and the family as “Pebbles”. She was a member since 1982 and was awarded for twenty years service to the Northern District Lapidary Club, during which she also held several office-bearer positions. Her search for opal and sapphires especially, often took her to the New England area where she searched the sands and basalt rocks for the gems she loved, and which she later set into beautiful jewellery and gifts. She truly believed that “a thing of beauty is a joy forever.

Extract taken from Eulogy written by Judy Sippel

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WAX WORKING WORKSHOPS

We had a most interesting and informative day on 4th August at our wax carving workshop with Mark Young as tutor. Mark has had a lifetime of experience in this field and is a most able tutor. We are most fortunate that he has agreed to run further workshops. **These will be held on the following Saturdays: 8th September, 6th October and 3rd November. Times are 9am to 3.30pm.** There is a limit of 12 persons for each day. Lists will be on the notice board, so get in early.

Mark has indicated that the first Saturday will have a focus on sculpturing.

You will need to bring any tool you have that will carve into wax, a bastard file, a set of wax needle files if you have them, a square, dividers, ring mandrel, reamers, wax burrs that will fit into our dental tools.

The club has available wax files, bastard files, rasps and burrs for your use and we have for sale the necessary green carving wax. If you have a dremel tool or similar it will be useful.

We have one more casting weekend scheduled for this year which is on **24/25th November**. This will give you the opportunity to cast your carved items. These are limited to 10 persons so put your name on the list as soon as possible.

Items necessary for casting weekends are available on our web site.

Ring me if you have any queries on 43530240 or 0414564174.

Jean Macleay.

Chef's Corner

“Rock” Cakes

1 ½ cups SR flour
¼ level tspn salt
1 level tspn mixed spice
90 g butter
1/3 cup sugar
1 cup sultanas or mixed fruit



¼ cup chopped peel (or chopped glace cherries)
1 x 50g egg, beaten
Few drops almond essence or vanilla
¼ cup milk

1. Sift flour, salt and spice, rub in butter. Add sugar, sultanas and peel, mix well
2. Stir in egg and almond essence or vanilla – If mixture is too dry add sufficient milk to make a dropping consistency. Drop in level tablespoonfuls onto greased trays.
3. Bake in moderate hot oven 220°C (425°F) 10-15 minutes.

Makes about 24

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Obsidian's glassy beauty

Imagine a river of molten lava erupting and flowing down a mountain in what is now NE California. Some pours into a depression of about 2 cubic metres, fills it and spills over to continue on down the mountain. The flow cools quite quickly into the beautiful obsidian that we enjoy today. Over centuries the mass of obsidian is covered by about a metre of earth and lies protected from erosion.

With pressure from earth movement the outside of the obsidian mass begins to fracture into glass needles, 10 to 30 cm long and up to 2 cm thick in the middle. Over time the fracturing continues towards the middle until finally stopping, leaving a cluster of 10 to 20 cm boulders in the centre.

Now a market for those needles and boulders entices licensed obsidian harvesters to search for these masses of natural glass. They peel back the soil and excavate the needles for wind chimes. The remaining boulders appeal to lapidary enthusiasts for cabochons and carving.

Obsidian is a natural glass comprising about 70 - 75% silicon dioxide. Impurities such as iron and magnesium can cause beautiful colours including blue, green, purple, mahogany and white. Very fine veils of air bubbles also can cause gold and silver sheens. Together the impurities and bubbles create a wide range of beautiful and desirable effects in obsidian.

Also, as the molten glass flowed down the mountain it was slowed and stirred by the bumps and depressions it encountered. The result was

stirring and mixing of impurities in the mass. Today we enjoy double flow (black and mahogany) and triple flow (black, mahogany and clear) ‘Christmas pudding’ effects from this mixing.

NE California and central Oregon have large deposits of obsidian. Most famous are Glass Butte in Oregon and Davis Creek in California. The obsidian recently acquired by the club is from near Davis Creek (see Jeff Schiller at www.frontiernet.net/~jeff_mv/obsidianstone).

Some of the most spectacular obsidian is ‘Mexican Royal Velvet’ and also ‘Aurora Borealis’ from Glass Butte. (See www.orerockon.com/ore_rock)

Obsidian is a rewarding lapidary rough, offering beauty with ease of working for a brilliant outcome at a great price.

Ian McLean

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HISTORY OF THE METRIC SYSTEM

By J. Patterson

BACKGROUND

In the years before the French Revolution (1789), European countries had numerous specialised units of measurement, often with the same name, but with inconsistent values. In France alone, there were over one hundred units of length, each defined by some material artifact such as the length of a burgher’s foot or the space between two protuberances on the side of a major building. As you would also remember from your school days, the English system was almost as bad, but was at least based on “convenient” amounts of materials used in trade, such as bushels for grain, tons for coal etc, but there was no simple numerical system between each unit of measurement.

As long ago as 1585, a Simon Steven had proposed a decimal system for defining weights and measures using standards of length, mass, and time but nothing became of it.

French scientists, about one hundred years later, became keen on establishing these standards using permanent units, based on “natural” materials found on the earth.

Later on, two scientists Jean Picard (1671) and Christian Huygens (1673) proposed that the unit of length be based on the length of a pendulum beating in seconds. (The unit of time had already been established as a fraction of a mean solar day by astronomers and clockmakers).

In 1769, Gabriel Mouton, an astronomer from Lyon, put forward this same proposal with the period of the pendulum to be two seconds. (This would make the length of the pendulum nearly equal to the present day metre).

He also put forward a second proposal that the unit of length be equal to a fixed fraction (one ten millionth) of the distance from the equator of the earth to the North Pole along a known meridian. It took several more years for the French scientists to accept the arc of the earth proposal. The pendulum proposal was rejected because the period of a pendulum varies at different locations as the value of gravity changes.

Basically there are seven Standards of Measurement that are required for use over the world throughout industry, namely Length, Mass, Time, Temperature, Electric Current, Amount of Substance (mole), and Luminous Intensity.

A description of the establishment of the first three of these follows, as well as a summary of the progress that has occurred up to the present time in their definitions and accuracy.

It is to be noted that these three units can be used in various combinations to provide further standards that are used in everyday measurements of area, volume, speed, acceleration, force and pressure.

(Details on Length next edition)

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GEMBOREE 2011: Logo Design Competition

As advertised in the Gem & Lapidary News, 2011 is NSW’s turn to host the GEMBOREE, which will be held at Bathurst. An important part of the preparations is the GEMBOREE logo which will be used on the booklet and all the medallions presented to winners in the competition.

The competition closes on 12 December, and a prize of \$100 will be awarded to the winner.

For further information please contact the Secretary (Arthur Roffey) Gem & Lapidary Council on (02) 4572 5812.



Funnies

FOR LEXOPHILES -- Those who love playing with words

Continued from previous edition:

4. A backward poet writes inverse.
5. In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.
6. A chicken crossing the road - poultry in motion.
7. If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.
8. With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
9. Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.
10. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
11. The guy who fell into an upholstery machine was fully recovered.
12. A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France and resulted in Linoleum Blownapart.
13. You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
14. Local Area Network in Australia : The LAN down under.
15. He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
16. A calendar's days are numbered.
17. A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.
18. A boiled egg is hard to beat.
19. He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
20. A plateau is a high form of flattery.
21. A dwarf fortuneteller who escaped from prison: a small medium at large.
22. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
23. When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.
24. If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.
25. When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

26. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
27. Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
28. Acupuncture is a jab well done.



Prayers Answered (Blonde)

A blonde finds herself in serious trouble. Her business has gone bust and she's in dire financial straits. She's so desperate that she decides to ask God for help.

She begins to pray... "God, please help me. I've lost my business and if I don't get some money, I'm going to lose my house as well. Please let me win the lottery."

Lottery night comes, and somebody else wins.

She again prays... "God, please let me win the lottery! I've lost my business, my house and I'm going to lose my car as well."

Lottery night comes and she still has no luck.

Once again, she prays... "My God, why have you forsaken me? I've lost my business, my house, and my car. My children are starving. I don't often ask You for help, and I've always been a good servant to You. PLEASE let me win the lottery just this one time so I can get my life back in order."

Suddenly there is a blinding flash of light as the heavens open. The blonde is overwhelmed by the Voice of God, Himself....

"Sweetheart, work with Me on this.... Buy a ticket."



Joke of the Month

Seems an elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%. The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased you can hear again."

To which the gentleman said. "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will five times!"



DATES OF INTEREST

- Sept 8** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
Wax Working Workshop
- Sept 15** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting **Saturday 2 pm**, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- Sept 29 to Oct 1** **MUDGEES – GEMKHANA** – Join the Northern Districts Lapidary Club there
Mudgee Showground
- Oct 6** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
Wax Working Workshop
- Oct 9** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting **Tuesday 8 pm**, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- Oct 12 -14** Bead & Gem Show (NSW) Olympic Park, Homebush Bay
- Oct 13-14** Central Coast Lapidary Club – Festival, Wyong RSL Hall
- Oct 13-14** Orange Club Exhibition Cultural Centre, Orange
- 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
- 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@optusnet.com.au.