



# LAPIS

[www.ndlapidary.org.au](http://www.ndlapidary.org.au)

"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

VOLUME FORTY THREE NUMBER ELEVEN AUGUST 2008

## CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August at 2:00pm** in the Clubrooms at Beecroft - all members welcome.

Following the general meeting we will have the Annual General Meeting. So members, please come along and join us for this very important event. At the completion of both meetings there will be an auction. The items for auction are an 8" combination grinder & polishing machine, and an 8" trim saw. Both these items have a reserve on them.

## New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

- Daniel Hawkins – Northwood (Jnr)
- Daniel Rec – North Rocks (Jnr)
- Jay Rec – Hunters Hill (Jnr)

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A last reminder that our August meeting will include our AGM and I would ask you **all** to give serious consideration to joining us on Committee, especially those who have joined our Club over the last few years. All Committee positions are up for grabs, and being on Committee is not an onerous job, but it is interesting to help keep the Club 'ticking' and it can even be fun (at least most of the time!).

Our Exhibition is coming up fast and we will need your continued support at working bees and other activities to ensure its success.

We will have one more member - **Joan Kremer** - who will achieve her 30-year membership this month. Congratulations Joan.

Brian Burns

## FROM THE COMMITTEE:

### **Annual Subscriptions Are Now Due**

Annual subscription will be \$20.00 for full members and \$10.00 for junior members. Our fees are due on 1 July 2008. Only financial members can attend the AGM.

## **Safety Issues**

### Signs of the times

I remember reading about 15 years ago a study by psychologists on signs and their impact. It stated that more than 5 signs in any one position overloaded our senses and we 'switched off' our attention, hence the impact of the signage was lost regardless of the message.

Trouble is, the message didn't get out there to 'all those people' who write the signs with the best of intentions, namely our safety. Or the people who further confound us with the bigger and better advertising signage that overwhelms legitimate safety concerns who have spent their money on the best ways to best ways to grab our attention.

To illustrate the point of information overload, I recently travelled on a public bus to the city that contained 38 separate signs internally, all safety, restriction of activity or passenger comfort related, plus 17 pieces of information externally relating to destination, access, usage and advertising (on 1 side and back only).

On prompted observation, my office at work, in which I have purposely minimised signage,

contains 22 signs plus 4 lever arch files full of safety information.

*And then there is the procedural manuals, check lists, audits, reference materials, reports etc comprising over 5 metres of shelf space, without even thinking about electronic resources of thousands of policy and procedural documents and reporting mechanisms.*

### **Is it any wonder we don't read signs.**

Perhaps we just need to listen occasionally to our mentors and peers regarding the safety messages. Maybe that will focus our attention on our own safety.

Colin Hazell

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### **Gem & Lapidary Council Snippets**

The Gem Council has a new web site. Our own web master Thomas Maitland has been involved in getting this site up and running for the Council. The web-site address is [www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au](http://www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au)

The organization for the Gemkhana is very much on the way. It will be held at Goulburn this year. Details are listed on the Council web site.

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### **NDLC FIELD TRIPS**



NUNDLE FIELD TRIP  
14, 15 AND 16<sup>TH</sup> November, 08

In response to a number of requests for information regarding the proposed Field Trip to Nundle in November, 08, please note the following details:-

Ten [10] powered sites have tentatively been booked in the Club's name. These bookings have been made for Friday 14<sup>th</sup>; Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 08.

If you wish to participate in this Field Trip please put your name on the List on the Notice Board in the Clubrooms and indicate whether you will be arriving prior to the 14<sup>th</sup> and/or leaving after the 16<sup>th</sup> so I can make confirmed bookings in your name[s].

Details of the various Cabins and On-site Vans available for hire, are also on the Notice Board in the Clubrooms.

If you wish to reserve CABIN or ON-SITE VAN, please place your name on the List [so we know who is going] BUT MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS, as there are a range of options and deposits are required.

As this Park has become very popular, I would suggest that interested members make their decisions early, so that bookings can be confirmed, and we do not miss out.

For further information please contact Tony Try on [02] 4393 6168 or Mobile: 0417 676 435 and see the complete Tariff Sheet for the Fossickers' Tourist Park [Ph. 02 6769 3355 or 1 300 366 676] attached to the List on the Notice Board.

Tony Try

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### **CASTING & CARVING WORKSHOPS**

The next Casting weekends will be on 9 & 10 August, and 20 & 21 September. You may download the list of items you need to bring to these workshops from our website.

The next Carving workshop with Mark Young will be held on 13 September. This will then enable you to cast your pieces the following weekend.

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### ***Chef's Corner***



#### **Scones**

- 2 cups S.R. Flour
- 1 teaspoon icing sugar
- 1 cup milk or a little more
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 small egg
- 1 pinch of salt

Sift flour, icing sugar and salt. Beat egg, add milk and melted butter. Mix well, knead a little, cut into shape and place on greased tray. Bake 15-20 minutes at 500°F or 260°C. Scones may be glazed with milk before baking for a shiny surface.

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## A Birthday Wish

Agnes Evans turned 90 on 29 July 2008 – *Happy Birthday Agnes*

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### The China Trip for “ Two Toms ”

Thomas Maitland and Tom Brown both left Sydney on Wednesday for a two week tour of China as part of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Orchestra. Both Toms have been training every month for the past year for the tour in which 2,008 young musicians from 40 countries have been selected (157 from NSW)

The orchestra will perform in Tiananmen Square as part of the China/International Olympic Committee (IOC) Cultural Celebration at the Olympics and at many other venues. They arrive back home on the 13th of August.

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### EXHIBITION BULLETIN

We have had three working bees since the last Lapis. Two of the working bees were cleaning and painting the cutting room which now looks great. Another working bee was held to produce enameling pieces for sale at the exhibition.

There will be another enameling day – date to be set. Bert Deane will also be calling for volunteers to help paint the Clubroom in the near future.

### Next Exhibition Working Bee

When: 6 September 2008  
Time: Starting at 9:00 am

There will be a sausage sizzle for lunch. Please come along as there will be a number of jobs that require many hands. We will need assistance in preparing the decorations for the hall, making cardboard mineral boxes, some cleaning and other exhibition related work.

Other working bees will be called as we have specific needs.

Barbara Try  
Exhibition Coordinator

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## Funnies

### WOMEN'S REVENGE

'Cash, check or charge?' I asked, after folding items the woman wished to purchase. As she fumbled for her wallet, I noticed a remote control for a television set in her purse. 'So, do you always carry your TV remote?' I asked. 'No,' she replied, 'but my husband refused to come shopping with me, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally.'

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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 since it gives us an overall picture of how the Club is functioning and where it may be heading.

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.

- Club membership has continued at about the same level as previous years – around 240 members on the latest count. We have a small but steady influx of new Club members to balance those who leave. However, the level of involvement by new members in the running and administration of the Club has, with a few noticeable and welcome exceptions, been a little disappointing. We all seem to understand and follow our Club Motto of '*Share your Knowledge*' – perhaps we should amend it to include '*Share your Time*'!
- We use weekend workshops to enhance and expand our skills in other areas of lapidary beyond our normal classes. We have had good support for our casting, wax carving, and enameling weekends and will run our first beading workshop later this month. We have also acquired a number of DVDs on a variety of lapidary skills and will use these to

supplement our teaching and learning methods.

- 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 fourth successive year. This was ‘first’ for any Club and a fantastic demonstration of the dedication of all the individuals who competed and of the teachers who provide the guidance and encouragement.
- Our conversion to using diamond Nova wheels has been essentially completed with the installation of a new stainless steel cutting area and motors along the back wall of the cutting room. Favourable comments from our cutters indicate that cab-cutting is notably easier and faster than previously.
- We also note the sad passing of a number of Club members over the last year, and especially two of our teachers - Joy Sippel and Tony Rigg. They will all be missed.
- Preparation for our Club Exhibition has been progressing well due to some good support at our working bees to date, and of course the regular contribution of our Wednesday group

Overall, I believe that it has been a good year and 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. Also a special thanks to our Treasurer and two Auditors for all their work in preparing the end-of-year Accounts and Balance Sheet – never a fun time. I look forward to another equally successful, interesting and challenging year ahead, particularly for our up-coming Exhibition in October.

Brian Burns

### **VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

The Club has run reasonably well during the year, but we do have the opposite problem to the public service. We have too many Indians and not enough Chiefs! More Instructors, Committee Members and workers are needed or ??.

It was pleasing to attend the Saturday Junior class recently. A happy, keen and noisy young group were busy doing jewellery, gem trees, faceting and cabs. They are our long-term investment.

John Weatherburn.

### **SECRETARY’S REPORT**



I filled the position of club secretary somewhat reluctantly, but have found that carrying on with my predecessor Alex’s meticulously kept files was not difficult but rather proved both interesting and enjoyable. However, I do hope that a member younger and living closer to the club will carry on from here.

During the year 25 new members joined the club, many of them juniors. Our total membership remains, as it has been for some years, about 220. But where are they?

There has been at least one general meeting this last financial where we were unable to attract our quorum of 20! Our classes appear to be the only occasion where members get together. It saddens me as a long standing member that we no longer have social interaction among the majority of our members. I have made many firm friendships dating back many years but without a Social Secretary on committee, few fossicking trips and with such small attendance at meetings, the newer members are missing out on one of the most rewarding aspects of our club.

If you look at the current committee you will find that it is mostly made up of very long standing club members, now in their senior years. I encourage younger and newer members to consider taking a much more active role in the running of the club and to make a greater effort to attend functions at the club and field trips. You will find many new friends amongst folk with our common interest.

Our web site is obviously attracting many visits by peopling ‘googling’ lapidary or similar related words. We have a most attractive site with easy links to find information. It would appear that we are the only club which has this facility as I have had many emails requesting the whereabouts of clubs in their region, the farthest away being

Gladstone. With our webmaster currently setting up a similar site for the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW, I would expect that many of these queries will soon be directed to them.

Jean Macleay

### ~ **MINUTE SECRETARY'S REPORT**



Minutes of Committee Meetings, General Meetings and the Annual General Meeting for 2007/08 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: 9 (two positions vacant)
- Informal meeting: 27 Nov 2007 (attendance: 6 – below quorum)
- Positions Vacant: Social Secretary & Delegate to G & L Council

2. No. of General Meetings:

- No. of daytime meetings: 3 (Aug 2007 – June & July 2008)
- No. of evening meetings: 8
- No. of informal meetings: 2 (Oct 07 and Apr 08 – below quorum)

3. Highlights:

- HISTORY MAKING - - At the Murray Bridge Gemboree (2008) our Club won the Powell Champion Club Trophy for the FOURTH year in a row (something no other club has yet achieved). At the individual level our members had also demonstrated great success.
- Successful application of the Volunteer Small Equipment Grants scheme from the Commonwealth Government enabling the Club to purchase a new projector and computer system to help with our education program, slide presentations, etc.
- The Committee approved the increase in Annual Subscriptions and Joining fees (first increase since July 2001). The new annual subscription will be \$20.00 for full members and \$10.00 for junior members (effective from 01 July 2008 - full list of the fees in June 08 edition of Lapis).

- Good success with the installation of diamond Nova wheels which has enhanced the quality and speed for cabochon cutting.

Lou Sun

### ~ **EDITOR OF LAPIS REPORT**



This year has seen a couple of changes to the production of Lapis which has saved a number of members' considerable problems.

The publication has been printed by printworks online and a huge thanks to George Hunter who has collected the printed work each month.

Again, my thanks to the Wednesday Group for folding and enveloping the magazine and Ron Crockett for the role of postman. Also, without the articles from members the Lapis would not be the magazine it is so thank you to all concerned.

Barbara Try

### ~ **CUTTING ROOM SUPERVISOR**



Having taken over as cutting room supervisor, one cannot but stop and observe the changes and improvements of the last 25 years. These changes are an indication of the dedication and effort of many previous supervisors over those years. Our last supervisor, George Hunter, started the ball rolling in our most recent improvements, the nova wheels and the diamond grinders. I must admit I, along with some others, was very skeptical about their use in a club environment, but having observed their performance over the time before I became supervisor, I did find out how much they were appreciated and how beneficial they were. "I had to change my mind!" With such overwhelming evidence I had no option but to continue on with what George had started. Hence we have increased the number of both the diamond and the nova wheels much to the delight of our cabochon cutters both senior and junior. They can now cut a cabochon in a much lesser time which helps keep their interest ever so much longer, particularly for those members who have just joined the club and can achieve a result so much more quickly.

As any previous cutting room supervisor can tell you, it is the support of the members that help make the job so much easier, particularly the Wednesday group. Within this group are those who notice something, which needs to be done, or fixed, and in their own way it is done without fuss or complaint. In this respect it helps considerably with the smooth running of not only the cutting room but with the club in general. Without the support of these members the cutting room supervisors job would be much more difficult and I should like to express my appreciation and thanks to one and all, no names mentioned, for you all know to whom I am referring. "Thank you!"

I cannot finish this report without mentioning one big negative, which is the support we do not get from the main body of our members at our working bees. For when you consider that only 4 members out of approximately 200 turn up, it is not very encouraging. This club is run by a committee elected by the members, for the benefit of all members, on a voluntary basis and as such, when a working bee is called, it is expected that we should get support from all our members, so that this club can be kept in good order and condition for all members. It is your club and it is expected that we get help and that it is not left to the same few people.

Bert Deane

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**EDUCATION OFFICER**



This year we conducted two Teacher discussion days where we discussed issues relating to the support and assistance of our Teachers.

There is a pending need for those in classes whom are quite proficient at their craft, to take the next step and become Teachers. It is not as onerous a task as one might imagine, this must be considered by *all* members. The rewards are well worth it. You will have the mentorship of those whom previously have taught I'm sure.

Some improvements have been made in the cutting room to enable classes to take advantage of lessons on offer, such as getting carving machines back online and the introduction of small laps. Thank you John Weatherburn and Bert Deane.

I would like to thank the Teachers for their support and hope we have set the wheels in motion for more fluid, consistent communication.

Safety is an ongoing issue and we must never be lacking in our awareness, for this reason we started safety week which will be held the first week of terms one and three heading into the future Thank you to Colin Hazell for his support in his contribution through Lapis, we still have to finalise the safety booklet revision.

Jerry Taylor-Edwards

~  
**FIELD TRIPS OFFICER**



This last twelve months was my final year as Field Trip Officer. As with all activities of this nature there were a number of "highs" and "lows". However, we had four Field Trips during the last year and feedback from members indicates that they were enjoyable, even if not overly successful from the point of view of finding great quantities of gemstones.

The trip to Emmaville last September was a first to that event, and one I would recommend for next year. Our non-attendance this year [2008] is purely due to work commitments for our Exhibition.

The traditional R & R type Field Trip to Nundle last November, was as enjoyable as always, and gives members a great opportunity to get to know one another better.

In January we held a Field Trip to Goulburn, which was hosted by the Goulburn Gem Society. This was another "first" and very successful. Quite a number of new members attended and enjoyed the excellent hospitality of the Goulburn Club.

The last, and longest of the Field Trips for the year was to the GEMBOREE at Murray Bridge in South Australia.

All the trips comprised of twenty or more members and friends and gave the opportunity to enjoy the "outside" aspect of our club's activities.

In general, I would like to thank all those members that took the time and made the effort to participate in these Field trips. In particular I would like to thank the individuals [*they will know who I mean*] who assisted me on these trips with

various specific details and arrangements, which ensured the ultimate success of these outings.

Tony Try

~  
**LIBRARIAN REPORT**



**1. Book Acquisition:**

The number of books/DVD's acquired and registered since Aug 2007 have been twenty (20):

- Purchased books: 4
- Purchased DVD's: 7
- Donated books: 9

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

**2. Book Stocktaking:**

An audit of the library books has been conducted in June 2008.

a) Number of titles registered in the Library Master Register:

- 652 (total for the General Library Section and the Reference Library Section)

b) Number of books found in the General Library Section:

- 535

c) Number of books found in the Reference Library Section (not for loan):

- 78

d) Number of missing books (not including on loan books registered in the Library Loan Book):

- 39

e) In the General Library Section 50 books have been earmarked for culling because there are multi-copies of the same title or because some of these books are obsolescent. Final numbers to be culled will be subject to a vetting process.

**3. Library Housekeeping:**

a) A DVD & VCR cassette loan section has been set up with a good selection of instructional subjects.

b) Fitting of locks on the Reference Library cupboard.

c) Tidying up of the magazine section.

d) Tidying up of the lapidary club journal section.

e) Organizing a trade catalogue section.

f) Preparing an electronic version of the Library Catalogue:

- The Master Library Register (red quarto book) is being digitised into Excel form and will be able to be stored in the Club's PC (facilitating the searching and tracking of the Library books).

- Manual entries into Master Library Register (red quarto book) will continue.

- A hardcopy binder of the electronic Library Catalogue will be produced and kept in the General Library cupboards.

- A separate hardcopy binder of the Reference Books Catalogue will be kept in the Reference Books cupboards.

Frances Sun

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**SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT**



While this position has been vacant all year, the kitchen has continued to be well stocked with all the essentials thanks to Gina Weatherburn

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**PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT**



During the past year we have managed to arrange a reasonably wide range of guest speakers from Michele Norman of Hornsby Shire Council who spoke on recycling and worm farms to local historian and educator Tony Cuneen who spoke on the history of Beecroft in World War 1.

We now have our Club meetings advertised in Social Pages of the Hornsby Advocate and the Hornsby Bush Telegraph and in the future in the North Shore Times and the Northern Districts Times.

I have arranged for the Club to have a display in Hornsby Mall on 18 October 2008 (the weekend before the exhibition) so we will require as many members as possible to man the stall and hand out flyers. Finally it has been a pleasure working with other members of our Committee during the year and thank them for their guidance.

Phil Williams

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**NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB INC.**  
**YEARLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY JULY 2007 TO JUNE 2008**

<b>Income</b>		<b>3,185.57</b>
Reconciled Balance @ 01/07/2007		
Joining fees	468.00	
Annual fees	3,150.00	
Class/Term fees	4,800.00	
Casual use of machinery	2,614.60	
Shop Sales	3,362.45	
Starter Kits	105.00	
Club History books/CD	10.00	
Raffles @ meetings	378.30	
Raffle - tombola	103.00	
Raffle - hampers	392.70	
Phone bottle receipts	8.10	
Bus trips / functions / events	446.40	
Weekend workshops	662.70	
Club Exhibition 2008	38.25	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	30.00	
Pre-sale books / plants	20.00	
Donations received	30.00	
Club History Book	30.00	
Gold Playing	30.00	
Grant/Equipment 2200.00	2,387.00	
Sales of G&L News	21.10	
Sale of excess machine	655.00	
Sale of Food	40.00	
Interest received from No. 1 account	37.55	
** Transfer from ING investment a/c	16,000.00	
	<b>35660.15</b>	
	<b>38,845.72</b>	

<b>Expenditure</b>		
Rent	2012.75	
Electricity	1284.96	
Cutting Room R & M	1677.06	
Cutting Room P & M	2061.45	
New Trays & Guards	180.35	
Diamond wheels for carving	211.30	
Fixtures & Filings	4201.48	
Nova wheel + guards	2038.94	
Cutting Room - Funds	862.35	
Lapis printing & postage & stationery	70.00	
Australia Post - mailbox (1Yr)	1497.69	
Refreshments & cleaning	126.69	
Raffle - books / prizes	577.00	
Phone	1663.85	
Good for Resale	1286.12	
Class / workshop supplies	288.39	
Library / subscriptions / website	110.58	
Library Books	161.65	
Photocopier - rental & toner	180.44	
Postage & Stationery other	2565.00	
Exhibition 2008 Supplies/Equip.	44.00	
Lodgement Fees - Office of Fair Trading	250.00	
Public Liability Insurance - Webster Hyde Heath	651.25	
Contents Business Pack insurance	420.00	
Personal Accident Insurance - G&L Council	4.00	
Gifts Bags	108.30	
Badges for Committee members	38.30	
Engraving Trophies	375.00	
Donation	72.00	
Flowers / tributes	50.00	
Float-Peity cash-increase	30.00	
Float-Shop sale-increase	2647.91	
Grant items	20.00	
Library Basket	165.00	
Xmas party - Porto-100	73.55	
Xmas PARTY Food	62.45	
Waste disposal	550.00	
Mt Tomah trip	264.00	
Credit Card Merchant fees		
<b>Reconciled balance @ 30/6/2008</b>	<b>28,813.81</b>	
	<b>10,031.91</b>	

**NORTHERN DISTRICT LAPIDARY CLUB INC**

**Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2008**

<b>Plant Machinery etc.</b>	16559.7	
less 10% depreciation	-1655.97	
less Sale of machinery	-555	
	14348.73	
add purchases	5494.66	
	<b>19843.39</b>	
<b>Library</b>	3489.63	
less 5% depreciation	-174.48	
less books culled	0	
add purchases	3315.15	
	110.98	
	<b>3425.73</b>	
Current estimated realisable value of Stock in Shop	12759.8	
Current estimated of <b>Rock materials on hand</b>	7480.00	
	<b>12759.8</b>	
	<b>7480.00</b>	

Reconciled balance in No 1 cheque a/c	10031.91
Reconciled balance in No 2 cheque a/c	920.84
Cash in Hand	
Petty Cash \$30.00	160.00
Shop Sales \$50.00	
Treasurer \$80.00	
Deposits in ING investment a/c	22613.11
	<b>10712.85</b>
	<b>22613.11</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS**

	<b>76634.88</b>
<b>MEMBERS EQUITY</b>	
Members Equity at 1st July 2007	72608.15
<b>New Movement in Members' Equity</b>	<b>4226.73</b>
	<b>76634.88</b>

Nivea Adamsi Hon. Treasurer

We have examined the records of the Northern Districts Lapidary Club inc. for the year ended 30th June 2008. In our opinion the attached Income & Expenditure account and Balance Sheet give a true and fair view of the Club's affairs as at the 30th June 2008 and the result for the year

Honorary Auditors

Sharon Waters

Bruce Macleay

*S.R. Macleay*



