



LAPIS

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VOLUME FORTY FOUR NUMBER FOUR DECEMBER 2008

A SAFE & MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS 2009



CLUB NEWS



The next General meeting will be on 13th December 2008 at 2 pm approximately at the Christmas Party - all members welcome.

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

- June Kwek – Eastwood
- Anne Allen – Westleigh
- Tim Morgan – Beecroft (Junior)
- Joan Barlow – Dundas Valley
- Emmelyn Wong – Mosman
- Robert Junor – West Pennant Hills

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Seasons Greetings to All!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Christmas Party next Saturday 13th December (see details below). Once again, on your behalf, I would like to extend our thanks to Bert and Jean Deane for making their home available for the Party, and for all the others who have helped in organising the food etc.

It is my pleasure to be able to convey the Committee's best wishes to everyone for a **happy,**

safe and wonderful Christmas (with an extra helping of Christmas cheer where applicable!) and a Happy New Year.

Brian Burns

FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Reminder - New Class & Workshop Fees from 1.1.09

First Class – per term (School Term)	\$30
Any Additional Class – per term (School Term)	\$25
Casual Use of Machinery – per attendance	\$5
Workshops – 2 day weekend	\$25
1 day (plus materials)	\$15

Cutting Room

Please members, if you use a machine including a saw, it would be greatly appreciated if you would clean up the equipment that you have used. Please do not leave it to others.

Library: Loan Period Change

- Lately the Library has acquired a number of lapidary DVD's for the Reference Section and the General Section. The DVD's in the General Section are available for loan by members. In order to lessen the waiting time for prospective borrowers, **the loan period for DVD's will be for one week. The loan period for books will remain to be for one month.**

Late Returns

- There are still a few late return books/DVD's listed in the Library Loan Book. Please have a check in your book/DVD collections if any late return

items for the Club library exist, If so, prompt return will be most appreciated by other prospective borrowers.

From the Librarian

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CHRISTMAS PARTY

When: 13 December 2008
Time: 12 Noon
Where: Jean & Bert Deane's Place
Address: 43 Edwards Road, Wahroonga.
What to Bring: Please bring your own table, chairs, drinks (glasses) and nibbles.
The Club: will provide lunch of roast chicken pieces, cold cuts, salad, rolls, cakes tea and coffee.
Lunch: will be served at approx. 1pm
Tombola: Yes - so bring along all your treasures.
Weather: Has been ordered !!



XMAS HAMPERS

The two Christmas hampers in the Clubrooms could still benefit from some additional donations. Please show your usual generosity in bringing along suitable items to fill the two baskets. The Club will provide a large ham for each basket and both hampers will be raffled at the Christmas party.

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Gem & Lapidary Council Snippets

Cabochon Judging Course will be held on Saturday & Sunday 21st & 22nd February 2009 (venue to be advised). Members who are interested in being a Judge please contact me so that I can provide all the necessary Information.

Barbara Try, Editor

Also a **Faceting Judging Course** will be held in May 2009. This course will be run by Nelson Robertson.

GEMBOREE 2009 Horsham Victoria

Members if you wish to compete in this event you will need to start now. The competition schedule is in the cutting room. It is essential that you read this before you commence working on your pieces.

Also do not forget to read and study the Judging & Rules Manual to ensure your entry is in the correct section.

Membership Awards

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

40 Years Membership

- Brian Bokenham

30 Years Membership

- Joan Kremer
- Fred and Phyllis Sims

10 Years Membership

- Chris and Monireh Barnard



Thank you all for your loyalty and continuing support of the Club. Their awards will be presented at our Christmas Party on Saturday 13th December for those who can attend.

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Due to popular demand the Pre Exhibition Book Sale will continue all year round.

The bookcase will be put back into the Clubrooms so that members can purchase their books and when they have finished reading them return them to the club so that others may do the same. The same costs/conditions will apply. It is requested however, that "books" be limited to novels etc NOT magazines.

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FIELD TRIP - NUNDLE Tuesday 11th to Wednesday 19th November, 2006

Tuesday the 11th November was Remembrance Day. It was also a General Meeting night at the Club. As we also intended leaving for Nundle that night, the car and van were packed and moved out on to Monday Street for a quiet and quick getaway later that evening.

After attending the meeting we listened to one of our club members give a talk on *optimism* and *problem solving*. This proved to be very thought provoking, and as a result engendered quite a bit of audience participation. So, with a week of R & R at Nundle in mind we left the meeting and made our way home buoyed with a *happy enthusiasm*.

Once home, we changed vehicles and left again at 11pm. - without waking the neighbours [I think !!]

There was very little traffic and we had an uneventful drive to Branxton. Shortly after that Barbara, who was on kangaroo duty with her eyes like organ stops and glued to the windscreen, spotted a big grey kangaroo on the side of the road. From then on she *catastrophised* about the dire consequences, which could result if we did hit a kangaroo. Following countless *ruminations*, which turned the *optimism* into *pessimism* we performed a quick *risk analysis*, and [as I was also outvoted], decided to call it a night and stop in the Rest Area at Singleton.

It was a cool night and we slept well. The next morning we awoke to a heavy pea-soup fog and the noises of a garbage truck nearby, which sounded as though it was lifting a great number of garbage bins in quick succession. As we were parked beside two bins we *ruminated* some more and decided that we should probably move to allow him access to these two bins. We quickly dressed and I exited the van to tell the driver of the garbage truck that we would move for him. The driver grinned and advised me not to bother as he was “broken down” and the only thing he could get to work was the bin lifting/emptying mechanism, which he continued to operate in case it freed up other parts of the truck. As he was only about three metres from our van, and it was very, very early in the morning, our feelings of *optimism* and goodwill changed quickly to *pessimistic ruminations* involving a range of *catastrophising* events, which *shoulda*, and *oughta* befall the driver of that garbage truck.

We moved on and after a nutritious “Maccas” breakfast at Muswellbrook, we finally regained our *happy optimism*.

We travelled through some very lush and green countryside with many paddocks hosting very fat cattle and calves. The orange coloured flowers of the silky oak trees interspersed with the deep purple of the jacarandas – particularly around Scone were very striking.

We ultimately arrived at Nundle in warm and pleasant weather. We set up camp under a shady and very prolific fruiting plum tree; wandered up town and then settled down to await the arrival of other club members. Norm and Dorothy arrived

later in the afternoon and we enjoyed Happy Hour, sitting outside in balmy weather until nearly 7pm.

Thursday was a designated Rest Day so we could gather strength for our planned fossicking trips – later on. We again walked the “village” and discovered that Nundle no longer has an operating service station. The nearest petrol being at Wallabadah or Woolomin, The Macleays and the Schocks arrived later in the afternoon and after Happy Hour we were invited to attend a BBQ put on by the caravan park management, which required a gold coin donation, as a fund raiser for the local SES. It was a very nice evening.

However, by this time both Barbara and Dorothy were sneezing badly from an attack of Hay Fever, so cupboards were quickly searched for suitable medication and eye drops.

Friday morning we decided to look for gold in the nearby river. It was a bright sunny day and we all finished up with plenty of sunburn even if not much gold. At different times a gold pan and a sluice-box were rescued as they floated downstream – testament to the fact that they were NOT weighted down by our finds of gold. However, it was a very enjoyable morning, “playing” in the cool, clear running water. Later that day, the Deanes, Clarks, Barringhams, Burns, Weatherburns and George Hunter arrived, so the “gang” had all safely arrived. Again it was a beautiful evening so Happy Hour rolled into a very pleasant BBQ, outside under a clear sky.

Saturday is Market Day in Nundle and it starts at the very sensible time of 10am. This allows for a very leisurely breakfast before purchasing home made cakes, scones and lemon meringue pies – just in time for morning tea. Then, by the time tea/coffee is brewed and recently purchased delicacies are slowly eaten and savoured, while discussing a detailed fossicking plan, to be implemented at a later time, it was nearly lunch time. [I really don't know where the time gets to !!]

Brian and Barabara Burns were staying in one of the cabins, which boasted a new BBQ on the verandah, overlooking the river. A breakfast of bacon and eggs was planned and very much looked forward to, until it was let slip that the bacon and eggs were somehow left back at home.

As we were sympathising with Brian over his missed bacon and eggs breakfast [*he made up for it by having half a large lemon meringue pie for lunch*] Ted and Helga arrived to say that they had already been down to the river fossicking for gold. But, being good friends they had left most of it for the rest of us to find, later on. Now feeling just a little guilty at our lack of industriousness, we decided that we should at least go and survey the situation in the river.

The day was warm; the water cool and the majority of the gold is still in the river – somewhere. A few small flakes were found. However, one could say that the “finds” were in direct proportion to the effort expended. It was a very pleasant few hours.

By this time a cool drink [or two] and an early Happy Hour seemed like a good option. We again congregated under one of the plum trees conveniently situated in the midst of our vans and relaxed after a very “strenuous” day.

We traditionally have a group evening meal at the Pub on one night while in Nundle, and this was organised for Saturday evening. However, I did not realise that the word “Lapidary” could be so misconstrued. Our booking was apparently misheard and made for a “Lavender” club [*infinitely better than “Lavatory” club*] and while dining we were asked whether we were a “rabbit” club [*probably because “lapin” is French for rabbit*] After sorting that out, we enjoyed a nice meal in the cool of the outside garden area.

I think it was here that Norm advised us of a problem he was having with his caravan. Apparently, when he leaves clothes in the cupboards after a trip away they shrink considerably by the next trip. He is now considering changing his “pop-top” for a full sized van.

Sunday morning saw the Macleays and the Schocks leave us to make the homeward trip, as they had other commitments. The remainder of us wandered down the road to see a local mineral collection before returning for morning tea. [*We had made an early start to the day !!*] We then made our way up the hill to collect some quartz crystals before having a late lunch. The Barringhams then left for home and we used the afternoon for a well deserved rest.



Gina Weatherburn and Jean Barringham looking for quartz crystals.

On the other hand, Brian, armed with suitable maps and other equipment, made another foray into the hills behind Nundle looking for that elusive deposit of obsidian. As potential areas are gradually being marked off his maps, the local sample he was shown is starting to look more like something else.

It was a cooler evening and it was great to see Ted and Helga back on the tennis court, having a social game. The rest of us sipped our drinks and offered pertinent advice from behind the fence. However, the temptation was too much for Barbara who somehow finished up with Helga’s racquet, and had a few tentative hits with Ted. She assures me that the few minutes of pleasure were worth the resultant pain of the next few days.

Monday saw several more of our group leave as the Clarks, Burns and George Hunter also headed for home. The few that remained made the trip up the mountain to visit Beth Moore and enjoy her hospitality and her extensive gardens. We ultimately arrived at her place to find it shrouded in mist. Because of the weather, we lunched inside as Beth gave us an insight into farm life and its associated problems. While this included damage caused by wild pigs there were now also packs of wild dogs and herds of both Red and Fallow deer with which to contend.

On our return to the caravan park we were treated to a preview of the rock and mineral collection on display in the new Tourist Information Centre, situated in the caravan park, and officially opened on Wednesday 19th November. The large collection of both local and overseas specimens were professionally displayed and are well worth a look by visitors to the area.

The Deanes left for home on Tuesday morning and the threatening clouds turned to rain, which continued all day, making it an enforced Rest Day – but we had earned it !! Befitting the “rest” that we needed we decided to let the Pub cook for us once again, and we enjoyed our last evening meal together, there.

Thank you to those members that made the effort to come to Nundle and enjoy the “Post Exhibition R & R” of the few days that we had together.

Tony Try

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Chef's Corner

A Quick Scone Recipe

This recipe was heard on the radio by Maureen Andersen and other members of the Club

- 1 cup of thickened cream
- 1 cup of Lemonade
- 3 cups of Self Raising Flour

Mix to a soft dough, knead slightly and cut into required shape.

Bake in a hot oven (450°F or 230°C) for 15 minutes or until lightly browned.

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EXHIBITION BULLETIN

Dear Members, for those of you who did not make the November General Meeting you will be pleased to know that this year's exhibition was the most successful we have had in the last ten years.

CONGRATULATIONS to all concern - a great effort !!!!

Barbara Try, Exhibition Coordinator

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20" Diamond Saw for Sale

Bert Deane has a diamond saw for sale. The saw also comes with an 18" spare blade.

Please contact Bert on 9489 6480 if you are interested.

The New “Information” Centre at Nundle

Tamworth Regional Council has established a new Tourist Information Centre in Nundle. This centre now replaces the old tennis Club house in the caravan park at Nundle.

The new centre also houses part of a very large gemstone collection. The collection makes a very impressive show with one whole showcase displaying gems and minerals from the local area. Some of the best coprolites I have ever seen are on show.

This exhibit is certainly well worth a visit and has been presented well.

Editor



Funnies

Out of the mouth of babes.

What, you ask, is 'Butt dust?' Read on and you'll discover the joy in it! These have to be original and genuine. No adult is this creative!!

JACK (age 3) was watching his Mum breast-feeding his new baby sister. After a while he asked: 'Mum why have you got two? Is one for hot and one for cold milk?'

MELANIE (age 5) asked her Granny how old she was. Granny replied she was so old she didn't remember any more. Melanie said, 'If you don't remember you must look in the back of your panties. Mine say five to six.'

STEVEN (age 3) hugged and kissed his Mum good night. 'I love you so much that when you die I'm going to bury you outside my bedroom window.'

BRITTANY (age 4) had an ear ache and wanted a pain killer. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mum explained it was a child-proof cap and she'd have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, the little girl asked: 'How does it know it's me?'

SUSAN (age 4) was drinking juice when she got the hiccups. 'Please don't give me this juice again,' she said, 'It makes my teeth cough.'

DJ (age 4) stepped onto the bathroom scale and asked: 'How much do I cost?'

MARC (age 4) was engrossed in a young couple that were hugging and kissing in a restaurant. Without taking his eyes off them, he asked his dad: 'Why is he whispering in her mouth?'

CLINTON (age 5) was in his bedroom looking worried. When his Mum asked what was troubling him, he replied, 'I don't know what'll happen with this bed when I get married. How will my wife fit in it?'

JAMES (age 4) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read: 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.' Concerned, James asked: 'What happened to the flea?'

TAMMY (age 4) was with her mother when they met an elderly, rather wrinkled woman her Mum knew. Tammy looked at her for a while and then asked, 'Why doesn't your skin fit your face?'

This Mum will never forget this particular Sunday sermon... 'Dear Lord,' the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. 'Without you, we are but dust...' He would have continued but at that moment my very obedient daughter who was listening leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill little four year old girl voice, 'Mum, what is butt dust?'

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PUN INTENDED

1. Two antennae met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.
2. A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, 'I'll serve you, but don't start anything.'
3. Two peanuts walk into a bar, and one was a salted.
4. A dyslexic man walks into a bra.

5. A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says:
'A beer please, and one for the road.'

6. Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: 'Does this taste funny to you?'

7. 'Doc, I can't stop singing 'The Green, Green Grass of Home. "That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome. 'Is it common? Well, 'It's Not Unusual.'

8. Two cows are standing next to each other in a field. Daisy says to Dolly, 'I was artificially inseminated this morning.' 'I don't believe you,' says Dolly. 'It's true, no bull!' exclaims Daisy.

9. An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.

10. DeJaMoo: The feeling that you've heard this bull before.

11. I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.

12. A man woke up in a hospital after a serious accident. He shouted, 'Doctor, doctor, I can't feel my legs! The doctor replied, 'I know you can't - I've cut off your arms!'

13. I went to a seafood disco last week...and pulled a mussel.

14. What do you call a fish with no eyes? A fsh.

15. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. The one turns to the other and says 'Dam!'

16. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

17. A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. 'But why,' they asked, as they moved off. 'Because', he said, 'I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer.'

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DATES OF INTEREST

- Dec 13** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting will take place at the
Christmas Party – At Jean & Bert Deane’s Residence
- Jan 27** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
Committee Meeting starting at 7.30pm
- Feb 10** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Tuesday 8 pm at the Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- Feb 22** Illawarra Club – Annual Rock Swap & Fair
Stuart Park, North Wollongong Beach

- 2009 – GEMBOREE – Vic, Horsham – April 10-13**
2010 – GEMBOREE – Tasmania – Devonport – April 2-5
2011 – GEMBOREE – NSW – Bathurst - April 22-25

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 \$38.00. 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 Barbara Try. My email is twotrys@bigpond.net.au