



# LAPIS

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"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

VOLUME FORTY TWO NUMBER FIVE FEBRUARY 2008

## CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on Tuesday Evening 12 February 2008 at 8.00pm in the Clubrooms at Beecroft - all members welcome.

Following the General meeting we will have a speaker from the SES (State Emergency Services) to speak to us about the structure and function of the SES. This will be an appropriate talk given the storms and recent events that has affected many of us. The speaker will be Ms Lee Lowe who is the Deputy Local Controller for SES Hornsby.

## New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

- Jenny Codling – Beecroft
- Patricia Scardino – Concord
- Gyna Jaksetic – Killara
- Rebecca Jaksetic – Killara
- Yoh-Lin Tee – Beecroft (Junior)

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome back to everyone – I hope that your New Year break was enjoyable and that you are all fired up ready for 2008. It is shaping up to be a good year with some interesting workshops and of course the Exhibition in October. We are into Exhibition mode from now on, and over the coming months various Classes will occasionally be asked to assist with particular Exhibition

activities. You will hear more about this shortly and I ask everyone to help make it a great success.

Our safety record in the Club is excellent. However, we do use a lot of equipment in our classes and so we need to remain aware of any potential hazards. Two of our Committee members (Jerry and Colin) will be introducing a safety program to help keep us all safe. But remember – it is also YOUR responsibility to always do things safely.

Brian Burns

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## **From the Committee**

Committee has agreed that the **June, July and August General Meetings** will be held as **Saturday afternoon meetings at 2pm**, rather than on our normal Tuesday evenings. So please mark these changes on your calendar – **Sat 14<sup>th</sup> June, Sat 12<sup>th</sup> July, and Sat 16<sup>th</sup> August 2008.**

We have a new set-up for our Nova wheels on the back wall of the Cutting Room which will make it easier and faster to cut our cabs (and without having a free shower at the same time!) – thanks Bert!

## **Cutting Room Supervisor**

During the Christmas break a number of changes have occurred to our cutting room. The most obvious is the installment of the new Nova wheels. Before using please read the instructions listed below:

### ***Use and Maintenance of the NOVA Wheels:***

1. Nova wheels **MUST** be used with a water lubricant. This fact cannot be stressed too strongly,

for if the wheels are run dry for more than a few moments, rapid wear and damage can result. Make certain that the geyser is supplying sufficient water to the Nova Wheel before using it.

2. Spend from two to five minutes on each wheel with the first cab, working it over the entire surface of the wheel. The finer grit wheels, 3000 and up, will take longer to remove the excess resin, and will continue to improve in speed and finish as more stones are worked.

3. Use sufficient pressure to cause the surface of the wheel to depress slightly to conform to your stone. This eliminates the flat spots left by the grinding wheels and will cause fewer scratches than would be produced by pressure that is too light.

4. It is important to hold your stone so that you do not allow the upper or leading edge to act as a plow and dislodge diamonds from the surface of the wheel. The diamonds in Nova Wheels are firmly embedded in the resin and with proper use cannot be dislodged to cause contamination when proceeding from one wheel to the next. But they can be dislodged with the sharp edge of a stone.

5. To prolong the life of your Nova Wheels, be certain to prepare your stone properly on the sanding disc. Use the sanding disc to sand your stone to its final size and shape, and to remove all sharp edges and corners. This leaves only the final sanding and polishing to the Nova Wheels. Similarly, it is important to do a good job of sanding at each stage before going to the next as the finer grit wheels will take much longer to remove scratches than do the coarser wheels

6. If your stone still has scratches after the final polish, check the following procedures:

- Make certain all deep scratches left by the coarse (100 grit) grinding wheel are removed by the fine (200 grit) grinding wheel.
- Make certain you are using enough pressure on the Nova Wheels. Too light a pressure can cause scratches.
- Almost all problems with scratches are caused by improper procedure in the above areas.

Bert Deane – Cutting Room Supervisor

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## **SAFETY**

This is the first of a regular section on safety that will be appearing in Lapis.

It is directed at the safe enjoyment of our chosen interest in lapidary and the associated crafts of jewellery and the process of collecting because all these tasks carry some risk to our health and safety.

The purpose is to establish a consciousness of safety that will extend throughout the club and its activities.

No, this is not about big brother, or insurance. This is aimed at allowing us to maintain our interest, function and health to enjoy our hobby as long as possible, which you will not do if you are injured.

While we will include a few principles and reasons for safety (the boring bits), most of the articles will be task or skill directed and have practical application or considerations.

We will also endeavour to Keep It Simple.  
**Just a couple of points to ponder.**

Just because ‘you have always done it that way’ doesn’t mean it’s the safest or the best way, especially if someone else is injured copying you.

Many injuries occur through assumption of knowledge or skill base that people do not have. They have under-estimated or minimised the risks of the task they perform, or have just forgotten about Murphy’s law.

This brings us the first of our KISS principles

**The best time to think about *safety* is before you start the task**

Common sense? Sure.

Most safety is just that, but means making the effort to fully understand the task and equipment (the risks) before starting the job.

If we are all concerned about safety then reminders about safety by instructors or others in our class groups should never be offensive, but treated as a companionable concern for our welfare.

Colin Hazell, Committee Member

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## Christmas Results

The Christmas Hampers were won by Margaret Davey and Jean Barringham, and the Wow Award was won by Jean Macleay with a beautiful Bird of Paradise brooch.

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## Librarian

I was very thankful that Amy Bollinger responded to my request for the search of the missing early Lapis copies. Amy contributed several collected Lapis copies and other Lapidary books and publications that may be of value to the Library. Many thanks to Amy.

Frances Sun

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## Vale

It was sad to note the passing of Eddie Searle in January – Eddie was a former teacher who spent a lot of time helping our junior classes. He also spent several years as a member of the Committee and was involved in many ‘behind the scene’ activities like working bees and preparations for Exhibition. Our sincere condolences go out to Liisa and his family.

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## NDLC FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR



### URGENT

#### For Members who are going to the GEMBOREE 2008 at Murray Bridge SA

For those club members wishing to attend the GEMBOREE and camp on site –

1. Please complete the GEMBOREE 2008 ON SITE Registration Form and mail to GEMBOREE SA, PO Box 140, St Agnes SA 5097. Please note that “registration covers the period from noon Wed.19<sup>th</sup> March to noon Tues. 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008.
2. Please highlight the fact that you are from the Northern Districts Lapidary

Club in Sydney (NOT just NDLC as there are other clubs with the same initials!) to ensure that we are all sited together as a group.

3. Please add your name to the list on the Club notice Board so that we have an idea of numbers that will be attending the GEMBOREE, and who may be interested in joining any Club travel / activities before and after the GEMBOREE itself.

Tony Try  
Field Trips Officer  
Ph. [02] 43936168 or Mobile: 0417 676 435

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## Sick List

As all his friends at the club know, Ken Whitton is quite ill and we send him our very best wishes. Unfortunately Ken and Lorna’s phone number did not appear on the latest published list. They would love to hear from us as they are totally house bound and are missing the news and the camaraderie of our club. Lorna also wants all to know that she would most like people to drop in for a cuppa. Just give a tingle and be assured you will be most welcome.

Their phone number is 9639 9839.

Jean Macleay

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## ENAMELLING WORKSHOP

1 March 2008.

**Members who are interested and would like to participate please put your name on the list in the Clubroom.** There can only be a maximum of 10 members for the class. This class is only for members who have previous basic enamelling experience.

Cost will be \$10.00 each plus the price of the Copper blanks

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## CASTING WEEKENDS 2008

Should there be sufficient interest I would like to hold 4 or 5 casting weekend workshops in the coming year. One, at least, will need to be to

produce items for sale at our October exhibition. Perhaps we should devote one whole weekend to preparing the wax models and the following weekend invest and cast. Anyone to has had some experience and those who would like to learn are asked to come and help with this project, bearing in mind that the equipment we use is all bought with the proceeds of preceding exhibitions.

In the other workshops you will be encouraged to prepare items which will suit the competition schedule for our exhibition. This is an opportunity to make a decent competition of the casting sections and to find out if we come up to the mark according to the judges.

Sheets will be on the notice board at the club room to enter your name or you can ring me on 43530240 or 0414564174.

Jean Macleay.

### Wax Carving Workshops 2008

Mark Young has again agreed to run a series of wax carving lessons. These are to be run on Saturdays over 3 consecutive weeks. Those who attended the last series enjoyed the classes, and thanks to Mark's expert tuition came up with beautiful results. Lessons were learnt about casting larger items, a technique we had not tried before, and we will know how to go about this much better next time.

A sheet will be on the notice board for those who would be interested in attending to add their name. Actual dates for this series are to be decided as the schedule will have to fit in with Mark's obligations and the other activities associated with preparing for the exhibition.

Jean Macleay

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

#### **Coconut Slice**

125 grams Butter  
½ cup of Sugar  
¾ cup of Coconut  
1 cup Self Raising Flour  
½ cup of Walnuts or Pecans (Optional)

#### Method

Melt butter; pour over the dry ingredients mix well. Cook in a greased slab tin 30 minutes.



Cut into fingers while hot.

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### **EXHIBITION BULLETIN**

As Brian mentioned in his report we are now in Exhibition mode.

The Club is looking to set a number of Cabochons in Silver to be sold at the Exhibition. To do this we need members to cut a number of nice looking stones hopefully to some standard sizes.

We will then be asking members from the silver classes to assist in setting these well cut stones.

Working Bees will be organised during the year to help us achieve our aims and to put on a great Exhibition. So members please watch Lapis for the dates of the working bees and if you can start cutting, it would be appreciated.

Barbara Try  
Exhibition Coordinator

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### **Southern Hospitality – The Best Field Trip – Goulburn Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Jan – Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Jan, '08**

As the result of negotiations between our club and the Goulburn Gem Society, twenty-one members of the NDLC made the short and easy trip to Goulburn for the Australia Day weekend. After Happy Hour on the Friday evening we met Sue and Joe O'Neil and Bill Martin from the Goulburn Gem Society, which was to be our host for the weekend.

After a cool [*good sleeping*] night we left the caravan park in a convoy of 12 vehicles to make the long trip [*4 klms !*] to the site where we were to look for sapphires. Our hosts had gone to a lot of trouble by setting up the site with a tank of water on a trailer, which fed washing tubs via a 100 metres of hose, and a number of portable sorting benches. It was a fine warm day and a good opportunity to show new members of both clubs the art of fossicking for sapphires, and how easy it is to get a sore back. A picnic lunch was eaten in the shade of the trees before a few more sieves were sorted and we gave it away for the afternoon. While only a few small zircons were

found it was a good outing, and if nothing else, goes to show why sapphires are so expensive.

We then visited the Goulburn Historic Waterworks, which was established in its current position in the 1880s as one of the first regional centres to supply piped drinking water to its residents. The still workable steam, beam engine is fired up once a month, and with its huge cast flywheel and polished brass fittings is well worth a visit. As Lou Francis said, "It is a gem of a piece of equipment".

Later in the evening we were invited to Sue and Joe's home for a BBQ meal where we met other members of the Goulburn Gem Society. It was a great night. The two clubs mixed well and there were many and varied rock [fish ?] stories told. It was an extremely mild and pleasant night with the ultimate surprise being for David Broome who was presented with not one, but two cakes – a birthday cake and a "rock" cake. My sincere thanks go to whoever it was in the Goulburn Gem Society that went to the trouble to make David's day [also Australia Day] a memorable one.



Chert Fossicking near Windellama

Sunday saw all of us line up again and we made our way out to Windellama for Chert. This presented a real problem as the major decision concerned what to take and what to leave. This material was very plentiful and a number of vehicles left the area considerably heavier than when they arrived.

From there we travelled through some pretty country to O'Allen Ford. This was a very picturesque setting: Running water: Shade trees and flat areas for camping: Good swimming and to top it off, gold in nearly every pan.

The weather was perfect and the water so inviting that a number of our members couldn't resist going in for a swim, even though they did not have their costumes. No ---- they did NOT skinny-dip !! They went in clothes and all, which soon dried as they panned for more gold.



Gold Panning at the Shoalhaven River

This site also gave Hylton Robinson [*a visitor to our club for the weekend trip*] a chance to experiment with his new toy – a metal detector. By the end of the day he was very pleased with his "learnings" and "finds" of a number of coins, a bolt and a Dog-Tag. Hylton – I know a certain party that now expects bigger and better finds in the future, so keep at it !! Overall it was an ideal day – the site; weather; the camaraderie and the outcomes.

The only "casualties" for the day occurred as we were to leave, and on the way home. As we were leaving, Norm required assistance to get moving out of a patch of sand. I would like to say that he was deeply buried in the sand and that I was obliged to tow him out, but I can't !! A few rocks under the tyres and he was out and mobile again. On the other side of the river I believe that Bill Hartin [Goulburn Gem Society] briefly hung his ute up on a deep dip, but scraped his way out. [*Sorry Bill !!*] Last, but not least, while travelling back to Goulburn, Bert had a stone go through the tread on his tyre, resulting in the need for a new one.

Sue and Joe O'Neil joined us for our last Happy Hour and BBQ meal on Sunday evening, which turned into a very "happy" occasion as lost fluids were replaced.

On Monday morning we were invited to visit the Goulburn Gem Society club rooms where we met

Jill Watchirs, a Founding and Life Member of the Goulburn Gem Society. After a pleasant stay, several members decided to stay on in Goulburn for another night or two, while the remainder made their way back home.

I believe that all concerned enjoyed themselves, and a bond was formed between the two clubs, which could see further combined outings in the future.

I would like to thank the NDLC club members that made the trip to Goulburn – [particularly those that joined a Field Trip for the first time] – and made the effort to make this a successful weekend.

Finally, my thanks go to the Goulburn Gem Society for their excellent hospitality and overall assistance during the weekend. I know that it was greatly appreciated by all the NDLC club members that attended.

Tony Try  
Field Trips Officer



## Funnies

### **Brain Teasers**

#### **Doubling Lily**

A circular pool, twenty five feet in diameter, has a remarkable lily in its centre. This lily grows by doubling its area each day. At the end of thirty days, the lily exactly covers the pool. In how many days does this lily cover half the pool's area?



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#### **Creation**

On the first day, God created the dog and said:

"Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said: "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

So God agreed.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said

"Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said: "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God agreed.

On the third day, God created the cow and said:

"You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family for this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said: "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed again.

On the fourth day, God created man and said:

"Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But man said: "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you....

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#### **Answer to December's Edition - Brain Teaser Fox, Goose and Corn**

Oh, yes, if you haven't solved the fox, goose, and corn problem, there are two ways of getting them across:

He first takes the goose, returns and fetches the fox and takes back the goose. He leaves the goose at the starting point and takes over the corn, and then returns and fetches the goose. Or, for variety, he can take over the goose, return and fetch the corn, at which time he takes back the goose. Then he leaves the goose at the starting point and takes over the fox, after which he returns and fetches the goose.

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## DATES OF INTEREST

- Feb 12** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB  
General Meeting Tuesday 8 pm, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- Feb 24** Illawarra Lapidary Club Annual Rock Swap  
Stuart Park, North Wollongong Beach
- Mar 1** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB  
Enamelling Workshop - Doing Bowls
- Mar 2** Lapidary Club of NSW Open Day, Lapidary House, 136 Reservoir St, Sydney
- Mar 7 -9** Glen Innes Minerama [www.minerama.com.au](http://www.minerama.com.au)  
Glen Innes & District Services Club, Grey Street, Glen Innes
- Mar 11** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB  
General Meeting Tuesday 8 pm, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- Apr 5 & 6** **Canberra Rock Swap – Organised by Canberra Lapidary Club**  
Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC) - Corner of Federal H'way and Flemington Road, Lyneham.  
More details are on the Notice board in the Clubrooms
- Apr 8** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB  
General Meeting Tuesday 8 pm, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome

**2008 – GEMBOREE – SA, Murray Bridge – Mar 21 -24 -**  
**2009 – GEMBOREE – Vic, Horsham – April 10-13**  
**2010 – GEMBOREE – Tasmania - Devonport**  
**2011 – GEMBOREE – NSW - Bathurst**

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 Barbara Try. My email is [twotrys@bigpond.net.au](mailto:twotrys@bigpond.net.au)