



LAPIS

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"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

VOLUME FORTY THREE NUMBER TEN JULY 2008

CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on **Saturday 12th July at 2:00pm** in the Clubrooms at Beecroft - all members welcome.

Following the General meeting we will have DVD - Visiting the Top End and West Coast of Tasmania with Marian & Ed Bentley, Feb - March 2008. So members please come along and join us for this interesting film.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our thanks to all those members who have helped with the various working bees and related activities in preparation for our upcoming Exhibition. There are more to come (see below) but our Exhibition Coordinator Barbara Try has things well on track.

Again, a reminder that our August AGM is only a month away and I would ask you all to consider joining us on Committee, especially those who have joined our Club over the last few years. 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 sometimes!)

It is particularly pleasing to congratulate another of our long-standing members - Margaret Turner - on reaching her 40 years membership milestone (see below). Thanks for everything Margaret - a really great achievement!

Brian Burns

Reminder - our July General Meeting is also a DAYTIME MEETING ON SATURDAY July 12th!!

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.

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Safety Issues

Hearing

It may seem unlikely that hearing damage may result from your hobby, but there are a few scenarios where the possibility exists. The extremes are of course being around heavy earth moving or mining equipment or too close to an explosive shot when either collecting or just observing mining operations, situations that are unlikely for most of us.

More commonly, the cause would be the sudden impact sound of hammer blows on rock or equipment being repaired, or the sometimes very loud sound of a lapidary saw or grinder which can resonate most uncomfortably, or long term use of smaller high speed grinding/polishing equipment. The damage to hearing may not be sudden but incremental, occurring over many years.

The outcome is the same. Not hearing your partners' dulcet tones or failing to detect other environmental dangers. Not hearing conversation or miss-hearing things. Missing that important bit of information on the media. Some degree of social isolation, or lessening of the enjoyment of sound. Complaints about the volume of the TV. The need to have a hearing assessment, with the possibility of having to wear and maintain some sort of hearing device.

Perhaps these are not important issues, but are contributory to a quality of life.

Don't forget that the sounds you make also affects those close by, so hearing protection for them should also be considered.

Ear muffs as provided at the club are inexpensive and effective. Even cheaper are the insert type earplugs available at chemists and hardware stores. None are effective if they remain purely ornamental, sitting beside the machinery.

A note of warning. It is extremely dangerous to leave the hearing protection equipment in place around an excitable spouse, though may be desirable.

Colin Hazell

~

Cutting Room

Notice to all Cutters

All users on the Diamond grinding wheels must use ample water when grinding your stones. Members it is VERY IMPORTANT that sufficient water is used otherwise damage to the wheels will occur.

Librarian

There are six new DVD's in the Library for borrowing. These DVD's have been produced by Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club Inc and while they are home videos they have a wealth of information. They are:

- Bead Making with Dawn Pearce
- Tumbling Stones with John Behrens
- Lost Wax Casting with Pat O'Keefe
- Viking Chain with Billy Peterson
- Carving with Joe Stellino
- Gem Trees with Ruth Payne.

~

Gem & Lapidary Council Snippets

- The Cumberland State Forest Fair will be held between 10am and 3pm on Sunday 12th October, 2008 at Castle Hill Rd., West Pennant Hills. It would be a good opportunity to hand out Club information [new members ?] and promote our

Exhibition.. Contact Arthur Roffey on Ph. (02) 4512 5812 for further details.

- Joan Ball is still seeking assistance with typing for the GEMKHANA, both at Bankstown on the 20th September for the judging of entries and also at Goulburn during the event itself. Interested parties to contact Joan direct on Ph. (02) 9773 5092.

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NDLC FIELD TRIPS



Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club is having a one day Field Trip to Canberra to visit the GEO Science Centre, on the 24th August, 2008. It is proposed to "car-pool" and share petrol expenses for the one day return trip. Everyone is welcome. For further details contact John Behrens from the Parramatta-Holroyd Club on Ph. (02) 9635 8218

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Vale for Tony Rigg



Tony was born Anthony Ian Rigg in Oct 1939. In his professional career he was a Clerk of Works for a major construction company and with his work moved to various NSW country centres before settling back in Sydney.

It was while living in country NSW that he and his family spent time in Moree and discovered the joy of fossicking and the art of cutting rocks.

He fossicked for agate and opals, but when they moved to Newcastle the hobby was put on hold. It was not until Tony retired in 1999 and he joined the Northern District Lapidary Club in 2002 that all his equipment came out of moth balls and was put back into use. Tony's garage was converted and he had his workshop again. Tony was a

perfectionist and this showed in his meticulous attention to detail, which was evident in his Wood-working and Cabochon cutting.

Tony also had a passion for fishing and spent many hours sitting quietly by the harbour catching black fish. He also spent his holidays doing the same thing on the NSW coast.

Tony won many awards for his skill in cutting gemstones. He was also a valuable asset to our Club as he was an excellent teacher with the uncanny ability to pass on his knowledge and get the best out of his students – both young and old..

“Tony, you are sorely missed”

Editor

TRIBUTE TO TONY

“Morning Tony, how’s it going”

“Good Bruce, and you?”

“Fine”

“How’s your stone.”

“I reckon I got the scratches out.”

“Give me a look.....Bruce, that’s bloody awful. Look at all those scratches along the girdle line. Can’t you see them?”

“It looked all right to me.”

“Hold the stone like this, and the loop like this. Now can you see them?”

“Oh! Yes. Now I look at it like that”

“Well back to the 600 and then show me.”

Many people in our club were helped by Tony to cut. We never quite reached his standard, but we surely learned and improved a great deal. I even won a prize at the Bathurst GEMBOREE under his tutorage.

We have all missed him on a Wednesday in the year since he became ill. Today we laid him to rest and hope he has found peace.

Bruce Macleay

~

Membership Awards

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

40 Years Membership

- Margaret Turner



30 Years Membership

- Bill Ashman

20 Years Membership

- Brian Burns

10 Years Membership

- Ted and Helga Clark
- Kit Ferry

Thank you all for your loyalty and continuing support of the Club. Awards will be presented at our August General Meeting for those who can attend.

~

June General Meeting - Fakes, Touch-ups and Synthetics

It was fascinating to learn that some of our favourite fossil and mineral specimens may not be all that we think they are! Our guest speaker was our President, Brian Burns, and among his examples were

- expensive Trilobites made from fake moulds and set in a matrix of crushed rock and glue;
- other Trilobites, which were mostly original but with missing parts that had been ‘added’, enhanced or repaired;
- Ammonites filled with pyrite that had been enhanced with a bit of gold spray paint or glued into matrix to make a fancier setting;
- Chrysanthemum Stones with ‘petals’ that have been painted to enhance the overall outline or effect;
- Several crystal specimens that have been synthetically grown, artificially coloured, or had additional crystal faces cut and polished to replace lost or damaged terminations.

It was interesting to learn about some of the little ‘tricks of the trade’ and how to recognize them before spending good money on samples that turn out to be fakes.

~

CASTING AND CARVING WORKSHOPS

Please note the dates for the wax carving workshops with Mark Young as tutor are set down for the 5th July. Please ring me (43530240 or 0414564174) if you wish to come. People who have put their name on the list in the cutting room will have first preference. Limited to 10 persons. The purpose of these workshops is to learn to

carve a small item, maybe an animal, to cast at a later date.

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.

Jean Macleay

BEADING WORKSHOP

Nivea Adami has offered to run a beading workshop on Saturday 30 August 2008 starting at 9.30am and finishing at 3.30pm.

This workshop is limited to 10 people and the cost will be \$10.00. Please bring your lunch and a hand-towel along with a selection of beads to make a necklace and 2 pair of earrings. Beads can be purchased at a number of places including Spotlight & Big W. There could be a nominal charge for other basic materials that the Club can supply.

Please contact Nivea Adami on 9802 1477 for any additional information. A list will be put on the notice board in the Cutting Room for those members who are interested in attending.

Chef's Corner

RUSSIAN CAKE

2 eggs
1 cup sugar
300grm carton sour cream
1 cup self raising flour
½ teaspoon of bicarbonate soda
citric acid about 1/3
teaspoon icing sugar

Method

Beat eggs with sugar until dissolved and fluffy
Add sour cream and mix well. Add sifted flour, bicarb and citric acid. Mix all ingredients together till smooth. Butter a baking tin
Pour in mixture
Bake in 160 deg. oven approx 45 to 60 minutes.



Allow to cool, and then turn the cake out of the tin. Dust with sifted icing sugar over the top



60th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Agnes and Taffy Evans who have just celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on the 12th June 2008.

Taffy is 96 years old while Agnes turns 90 in July.

THE MIGHTY MURRAY [BRIDGE] MOB GEMBOREE 2008

Continued:

The Trip Continues.



You all know the old song about
“Ten green bottles sitting on the wall
And if one green bottle should accidentally
fall
Then -----“

Well our trip was a bit like that. Some of our mob left at Murray Bridge, and then Tony and Barbara headed for home at the end of our stay at Maclaren Vale.

Then, only six green bottles were left, and they all headed off for the our next stage to the Barossa Valley. It was only 130 km, BUT we had to negotiate our way through Adelaide without getting lost. No major problems, although there was a bit of confusion in Gawler when Bert and Norm drove past each other going in opposite directions. (who was going in the right direction ?)

We stayed at Nuriootpa Caravan Park and made that our base for five nights. A nice park and fairly busy. Another group took over the barbeque area but Norm came to the rescue with his new barby. We soon cooked the newness off it. One cool night we had happy hour inside the Bridson's caravan, all 11 of us plus their dog Jade. Very cuddly and cosy and not at all cold. We checked out the wineries, Angus dried fruit shop, antique shops, the local butcher shops with beaut metwurst and more wineries.

Like all of South Australia it was very dry and dusty. There was a picnic area next to the caravan park with a lake. There was a sign saying NO swimming, NO fishing, NO boating, the only problem was that there was 'NO water in the lake.'

Drove out to the nearby village of Kapunda which has an excellent local history museum, some lovely old stone buildings and the old home of the "Cattle King" Sir Sidney Kidman. His home is now part of the High school and they were happy for us to have a look around. Went to the Whispering Wall dam for a picnic one day, it is an acoustic oddity. It is a curved concrete wall, if you stand at one end of the wall and close to it, then talk very quietly or even whisper you can still be heard clearly at the other end of the wall. Ted (Caruso) Clark did not whisper but gave us a full rendition of "Oh sweet mystery of life" We woke up one morning to a doozy of a dust storm and very strong winds. We all decided to stay an extra day at Nuriootpa until the winds eased.

Time to move on, but now there were only four Green bottles left as Bert and Jean headed for home and Tom and Lyn were off to check out the Murray Valley. Our next destination was Edithburgh, down almost to the tip of the Yorke Peninsula. Along the way we checked out a monument to the 'Stump Jump Plough', which was invented locally. This invention meant that farmers in the early settlement days could then plough and crop the newly cleared paddocks. I wondered if the need for this plough was also related to the large number of stones that were in paddocks in South Australia. The evidence of these stones is in the dry stone walls along farm boundaries and fields, they go on and on for miles and miles (sorry Kilometres).

Edithburgh is said to be a very windy place, it must be as they have built 55 big wind generators there. They dominate the skyline. But while we were there they hardly moved. One morning not one blade was moving, good holiday weather for us. Although we were 230 km from Adelaide by road it was only 70 km east across the Gulf of St Vincent. The city lights were visible on a clear night and one morning the tall buildings and the Adelaide hills were silhouetted against a magnificent sunrise.

We went across the Peninsula to Spencer's Gulf for a look, drove along the rugged southern coastline and just relaxed. Found a beautiful butchers shop in Yorketown who smoked his own bacon, Kessler pork chops and other products. Very nice! The German heritage of some of the early settlers was evident in many parts of S.A.

Time for the 4 green bottles to move on, so up the middle of the Yorke Peninsula through Minlaton, Maitland, Kadina, across past Crystal Brook (a nice name for us lapidaries) to Peterborough for the night. Peterborough is an old railway town that deserves more time than we had there.

Then along the Barrier Highway to Broken Hill. We met John and Marilyn Behrens in the caravan park there and had a pleasant happy hour with them. While we had been relaxing around the wineries and holiday resorts, they, with others from their Club had been roughing it and fossicking in the Northern Flinders ranges.

Broken Hill is an interesting town with a lot to see.. Jack Absolum's gallery was well worth the visit, particularly for his display of opals. The old buildings and history of Silverton was good. The statues on the hills, the mineral display, the silver tree, photo gallery of early events and lots more. Again a town that needs more time than we had.

And so with great anticipation, we headed off to White Cliffs. Surely we would make our fortune at the opal fields. HA! We were allowed to fossick on the old mullock heaps (unlike Coober Pedy), we were told tales about some body who had found a big stone only recently, even told the best area to start at. I did not even start looking, Gina soon started looking at flowers, George went for a drive, Norm and Dorothy put in quite a few hours, Ted drove Helga from spot to spot and she did not stop fossicking all the time we were. We all found the same, zilch, but we had fun which is all that matters.

A friendly place where they encourage visitors. They probably need the tourist dollars to compensate for the lack of opal. A clean but dusty caravan park, only \$15 a night but \$1 for a nice hot shower. This is possibly to discourage the locals from using them ?

Time to move again, back to Wilcannia where we took photos of the mighty Darling River with water flowing, down the highway to Cobar for a night and then on to Wellington for our last night on the road.

The next morning we were ready to head for home. BUT! **one green bottle would not get off that wall.** At the last minute Ted and Helga had decided to stay away for another week and go home via Coffs Harbour.

So we came to the end of another good trip, nice company, nice weather, and travelling around our beautiful country. We truly are lucky.

John Weatherburn

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EXHIBITION BULLETIN

We had a very successful working bee on Wednesday 18 June 08 with approximately 8 Club members beavering on setting and cleaning up findings ready for the Jewellery Sales. Many thanks to the Wednesday Silver Class for all their assistance in getting the jewellery ready for sale.

The Exhibition Casting Weekend was held on 21-22 June 2008. Jean Macleay, Bill Knight, Helga Clark, Bev Molloy, Eric Stevenson and I created many varied pieces that will be sold at the Exhibition. Our thanks go to Bert who also gave up his time to operate the Centrifuge.

Remember Plants: Need to be potted up so that they will be ready for the Exhibition.

Books are coming into the Club and we have a Pre Exhibition sale in the Clubrooms. Members keep the books rolling in. Storage for these books is available at the Club

Don't forget to start cutting your entries for our Club Competition. The schedule is in the Clubroom for you.

Next Exhibition Working Bee

When: **Saturday 5 July**
Time: Starting at 9:00 am

This working bee is to wash down and patch the Cutting room in readiness for painting which will happen during the **following working Bee on 19 July 2008 at 9.00am.**

Rollers and brushes will be needed to help to make this happen. If you can help, please come equipped with suitable gear for this task.

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

Barbara Try
Exhibition Coordinator



Funnies

AN EMAIL FROM GOD

One day God was looking down at earth and saw all of the rascally behaviour that was going on. So he called one of his angels and sent the angel to earth for a time.

When he returned, he told God, 'Yes, it is bad on Earth; 95% are misbehaving and only 5% are not.'

God thought for a moment and said, 'Maybe I had better send down a second angel to get another opinion.'

So God called another angel and sent him to earth for a time also. When this angel returned he went to God and said, 'Yes, it's true. The earth is in decline; 95% are misbehaving, but 5% are being good.'

God was not pleased.

So he decided to email the 5% who were good, because he wanted to encourage them, give them a little something to help them keep going.

"Do you know what the email said?"

No?

Okay, just wondering. I didn't get one either.....



DATES OF INTEREST

- July 5** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
Wax Carving Workshop – with Mark Young
- July 12** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Saturday 2 pm, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- July 19-20** Campbelltown Annual Gem Show
9am to 4pm Queen Street Campbell town (near the Police Station)
- Aug 1-3** Bankstown & Districts Lapidary Club – Annual Exhibition
Arts & Craft Centre, Olympic Pde, Bankstown
- Aug 9 -10** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
Casting Weekend
- Aug 16** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Saturday 2 pm followed by our AGM, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- Oct 4, 5 & 6** GEMKHANA – Goulburn Showground / Recreation Area
Braidwood Rd, Goulburn
- Oct 24-26** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
Biennial Exhibition – Theme “Rock & Roll”

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

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Members, if you would prefer to receive your LAPIS by email rather than by snail mail please send you email address to Barbara Try. My email is twotrys@bigpond.net.au