



# LAPIS

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

"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

VOLUME FORTY THREE NUMBER NINE JUNE 2008

## CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 2:00pm** in the Clubrooms at Beecroft - all members welcome.

Following the General meeting we will have a short discussion on Fossils that are not what they appear to be. So members please come along and join us for this interesting talk.

## New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

- Minna Yen – Epping
- Kerrie Leishman – Kangaroo Valley
- Anton Fischer – Kangaroo Valley (Jnr)
- Travis Thorn – Elvina Bay (Jnr)
- Sandra Halvey – West Pennant Hills
- Jeanne Lam – East Lindfield
- Laura Jeffery - Wahroonga

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The recent Teachers' Meeting was a good opportunity to hear the suggestions and comments from our Class Teachers on a variety of issues that will help us to improve our Classes and provide better ways to develop our lapidary skills. They were able to provide a number of specific suggestions that have been reviewed and approved by Committee and will be implemented as soon as practicable. Some of the details are set out in Committee Report below. On behalf of all Club-members I would like to acknowledge the terrific job that our teachers do and to thank them for

their on-going service and dedication – it really is appreciated by everyone!

We are into June now and so our August AGM is only two months away. 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!)

**Reminder – our June General Meeting is a DAYTIME MEETING ON SATURDAY June 14<sup>th</sup>!!**

Brian Burns

## FROM THE COMMITTEE:

### **Annual Subscriptions to Rise**

Annual Subscriptions and Joining fees will increase from the **1 July 2008**. This is the first increase in our subscriptions since July 2001.

The new annual subscription will be \$20.00 for full members and \$10.00 for junior members. A full list of the fees is on page 5 of this edition of Lapis. Our new fees are due on 1 July 2008.

### **Safety Issues**

The largest organ of the body is the skin. It is a truly remarkable organ that varies in its sensitivity from place to place on the body. It is sensitive enough to detect surface differences as little as 1/400<sup>th</sup> of a millimetre (when trained) without instruments, can sense the movement of a single hair on its surface, or temperature differences as little as 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a degree. It has a built in temperature regulation processes, sterilisation processes and pleasure and pain responses that inform us of heat and pressure and harm to its

surface, and is an effective barrier to most infection when intact

*Which brings us to the topic of this article.*

### **Skin is the most commonly injured part of the body.**

Many of the tasks carried out in the collecting, lapidary and jewellery making areas can potentially harm the skin. I leave the scenarios to you to imagine, but generally:-

**When collecting** we can get cuts, bruises and abrasions, crush injuries, sunburn and cold damage, stings and bites, parasites, allergies, thorns and burns.

**When cutting** we can get cuts, abrasions, burns, poisoned, allergies, dermatitis, glued, or suffer skin discolouration.

**When making jewellery** we can get cuts, piercing (not cosmetic), pinching, abrasions, burns (both chemical and heat), poisoned, allergies, glued, dermatitis and discolouration.

**When skin is damaged** it is generally painful, itching, discoloured, unsightly, messy and inhibiting of normal activity.

In the extreme cases of burns, allergies, infections, poisonings and cancers, the outcome can be fatal.

Given that most risks to skin can be minimised by the use of a little planning, understanding of the tasks undertaken and use of safety equipment and proper technique, why not take the extra moment to ensure your skin remains intact.

Colin Hazell

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### **Library**

Information from our Librarian:

- There is now a “Returned Books” basket provided for returned library books placed next to the library cupboards. Please place returned books in this basket to avoid the mixing up of library books with other books in the Clubroom. It is to be noted that at the moment there is small book shelf for donated books for the Exhibition, please do not put library books on that book shelf.

- The “Loan Book” used for the entries of borrowed books will now also be used for the entries of borrowed magazines (there used to be a separate “Magazine Borrowing Book” which will now be discontinued).

- Please keep looking for overdue borrowed books and return them promptly.

- Please also keep looking for early issues of Lapis (for the Club’s archive). Not long ago one missing old issue was found by a member heeding the request in the Lapis. We are still looking for the following seven missing issues:

November 1968

March, June & November 1992

April & October 1994

July 1996

Frances Sun

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### **Summary of key Teachers’ Meeting outcomes:**

1. A small white board to be provided in the cutting room for teachers to leave information or requests for the Cutting Room Supervisor.
2. Education Officer to visit classes twice a year.
3. Teachers to identify suitably experienced class members to be able to act as temporary replacements when teachers are sick or on holiday etc.
4. A basic Club faceting machine will be made available for use on a ‘casual faceting’ basis on the following basis:
  - Members must have been through our faceting class and reached a reasonable level of competence to operate without teacher assistance.
  - Casual faceting will be allowed during any current Class times. Class Teachers will provide access to the faceting machine.
  - To avoid cross contamination issues, faceters will need to **provide their own polishing laps, diamond grits etc.** The Club will provide two copper laps for coarse and medium cutting, and one Lucite lap for polishing, but users will need to re-charge the laps with their own diamond

grits or Cerium as required. Any other laps will be the faceter's responsibility.

- Users will have to ensure proper clean-up and storage of the machine after use.
5. Mark Young has agreed to run a course for jewellery teachers and experienced class members on how to 'channel set' stones.
  6. Club will acquire some instructional DVDs (purchase and/or loan) on various lapidary skills/topics to be added to the library or used for instructional classes. We will also make enquiries about the availability of external teachers to run specific lapidary workshops of interest.
  7. A number of items - including some more findings, tools, and minor equipment – will be acquired and made available.
  8. OH&S awareness will continue to be addressed with an update of our Safety Booklet and appropriate posters in the Clubrooms, along with a set of rules for 'Use of Machines.'

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### Thanks to the Facetors!

Four of our experienced facetors have agreed to cut a full size replica of some of the famous diamonds of the world, eg the Cullinan, Hope, Dresden, Koh-i-Noor, etc. - so we will proceed to acquire the necessary Cz rough and commence cutting!

It is not too late to join the group so please contact Brian Burns (9878 4073) as soon as possible if you feel up to the challenge.

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### Gem & Lapidary Council Snippets

Joan Ball is urgently seeking expressions of interest from people that can assist her with the 2008 GEMKHANA competition in the following:

- Typing duties at Bankstown during the judging of competition entries
- Typing duties at Goulburn during the GEMKHANA
- "Pencillers" to assist the Judges at Bankstown on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2008-

People that are interested in helping with any of these duties should contact Joan direct on Telephone [02] 9773 5092

There is a drastic shortage of qualified Judges in many areas of Lapidary and its allied crafts. If anyone is interested in becoming a Judge in Enamelling; Showcases; Silver Jewellery; Cabochon or Faceting etc please advise Nelson Robertson direct on Telephone. [02] 4385 4495 so suitable courses can be organised.

Construction of the G & L Council Website is proceeding, and member clubs will be circulated and asked what contact details each club would like shown on the website.

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### CASTING AND CARVING WORKSHOPS

Please note the dates for the wax carving workshops with Mark Young as tutor are set down for 7<sup>th</sup> June and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 21 & 22 June, 9 & 10 August, and 20 & 21 September. The **June workshop** is to make items for sale at the Exhibition. Wax and silver will be provided by the club. You may download the list of items you need to bring to these workshops from our website.

Jean Macleay

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### *Chef's Corner*



#### Lemon Coconut Biscuits

125 grams butter or substitute  
1 cup castor sugar  
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind  
1 egg  
2 cups of S.R. flour,  
Pinch of salt  
1 cup coconut  
Extra sugar

Cream butter and sugar, add lemon rind, beat in egg, and add sifted flour, salt and coconut. Roll into balls and roll in sugar and press with a fork. Place on greased tray and allow for spreading. Bake in moderate oven 10 – 15 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on trays.

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### MAY CASTING WEEKEND REPORT

Eight people attended this workshop. Most had attended similar workshops previously, but we had one new chum, Rebecca Tin. All came with an idea of what they wanted to make which is half the battle. John Corby, who we haven't seen for a while as he and Jill have moved up to Bonny Hills, came down for the weekend.



*Preparing the wax pieces to be cast*

There were no dramas to report (that's a change) and all models successfully cast. Again we must thank Bert Deane for giving up his Sunday to wield the oxy torch. Proof of the pudding below:

Jean Macleay



From left to right Rebecca Lin, John Corby, Bill King, Eric Stevenson, Richard Adler, Bert Deane, Sharon Waters, Jean Macleay & Barbara Try holding their treasures.

## THE MIGHTY MURRAY [BRIDGE] MOB GEMBOREE 2008

Continued:



### THE GEMBOREE

The next morning we turned and made our run into Murray Bridge and the GEMBOREE. The final leg took us along the coast to Beachport and Robe – past more pine forests and another very large wind farm near Millicent – before arriving at our destination on the showground. After a little jockeying, head scratching and deciphering of the site numbers and markings we set up camp on the cricket pitch, which while very dry, still had a touch of green in the grass.. It was here that Norm and Dorothy Savage joined us, and told us of his caravan “water” problems while en-route to Murray Bridge. These he managed to fix, however, it meant that Dorothy had a much more restricted water flow to her sink. *[Given Norm's claims – on previous trips – that Dot used too much water, I wonder whether there may be more behind this story than is being told !]* After getting ourselves established we decided that the next important thing was to try and find the amenities which were some distance from our sites. As usual, the Ladies' facilities were closest and better.

Thursday turned very cold with gusty winds and occasional rain showers. The last competition entries were delivered and placed in showcases and last minute shopping was carried out. Brian and Barbara Burns arrived, after having flown down to Adelaide. We also heard from the Bridsons – who were staying off site – that Tom had squashed his hand between the caravan and the back of his car while trying to position the van on a steep and slippery caravan site. To make matters even worse, it was his “drinking hand” !

Once the GEMBOREE was officially opened at 12 noon on Good Friday everyone was busy with their own agendas for the next few days. Tailgaters were searched for bargains; Dealers – of which there were many – were approached for equipment for both Club and home use, and competition showcases were critically examined for results. The results of the competitions are now “history” in more ways than one.

From my viewpoint, a very disappointing aspect of the GEMBOREE was that of a total NDLC Club membership of approximately 200, only 13 people entered the various competitions to support our club's attempt at making history.

On the positive side, THIS GEMBOREE's competitions resulted in a minimal number of complaints, *[unlike a previous fiasco]*. My congratulations go to the organisers. This type of well run competition should do much to encourage competitors to compete in future GEMBOREES for their own, as well as their club's benefit.

During the Easter period we were joined by four more club members who made the trip to Murray Bridge to enjoy a GEMBOREE experience. Nivea Adami, Bev Molloy, Marian Bruce [who now lives in Adelaide] and Colin Hazel. This also meant that as we had a quorum of Committee members on site, the March Committee Meeting could be legally held, and essential basic business concluded.

Happy Hour on Good Friday evening had our largest attendance – 29 people – as we were joined by several members of the Central Coast Lapidary Club. The Presidents of both clubs were in attendance and the “two Brians” each had a few complimentary words to say about competitors' entries. However, Brian Foster of the Central Coast Lapidary Club finished his few words with an underlying tone of worry, by saying that he thought he had sold his car and was not sure how he was to tow his van home !!

It was during another Happy Hour that Lyn Bridson told us of a very secure and unobtrusive method of carrying a mobile phone, which limited access to only herself – and Tom *[if he was lucky]*

The very secretive Easter Bunny *[ I still have a suspicion that it was Gina W.]* once again delivered non-fattening eggs on Easter Sunday. I believe that members of the Central Coast Lapidary Club who camped with us on the cricket pitch were also included. Thank you Mr[s] Bunny.

On Tuesday morning as we packed up to leave, we said out “good byes” to Bruce and Jean Macleay who were heading straight back to Sydney for family reasons, while the rest of us

headed for McLaren Vale and wine country. Overhead, a beautiful full coloured rainbow reminded us that we had already collected the “Pot of Gold” in the form of the Ray Powell Champion Club Shield

The trip to McLaren Vale was short and uneventful as we passed through some extremely dry and drought ravaged fields. It was here that Barbara was able to complete LAPIS and send it via email for printing and ultimate distribution to club members. Today's technology is wonderful – when it works.

As we spent a few days in the area it allowed us to see the mouth of the Murray River and the Barrages; to enjoy a horse-drawn tram ride out to Granite Island and back; to visit the very tourist but attractive town of Hahndorf [where we briefly met Alan and Annette Clarke again], and being a weekend, a couple of the local markets. It was while on one of these daytrip/outings that Dorothy coined a new version of “are we there yet?” We had bought lunch and were making our way up to The Bluff, looking for picnic seats etc, and as we arrived a soft and plaintive voice said “can I eat now ?”

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March, was the last night that Barbara and I had with our group of travellers, and it was suggested that we should have a meal together in town. A pleasant evening was spent at The Barn in McLaren Vale, where the duck combination main course was a popular choice.

The next morning Barbara and I made an early start and a quick run home, after saying some regretful goodbyes to those that remained.

Thank you to all who joined us for this Field Trip. A special “thank you” must go to John Weatherburn who, by default, became acting Field Trip Officer and organiser for the rest of the trip. My thanks also go to George Hunter who took ownership of the club's medical kit and became honorary First Aid Officer, mainly because of a particular knowledge of what is needed to repair knife cuts inflicted while cutting apples .

Tony Try  
Field Trips Officer.

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## EXHIBITION BULLETIN

We had a very successful working bee on Sunday 25 May 08 with approximately 20 members who came and assisted with the various jobs.

A lot of stock taking was done, along with the setting of stones and cleaning of findings.



Dorothy Savage and Nivea Adami working on agates for the Exhibition

**Reminder:** PLANTS will be needed to sell at the Exhibition.

Also we need **BOOKS** to sell so start looking around at home for books that can be sold at the Exhibition. 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: Wednesday 18 June 2008  
Time: Starting at 1:00 pm

This working bee is for Silver workers. We need anyone who can assist with cleaning findings and setting stones.

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

Barbara Try  
Exhibition Coordinator

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### Funnies

Ever notice, the older we get, the more we're like computers?



We start out with lots of MEMORY and DRIVE then we become outdated, and eventually have to get our parts replaced.....,

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### The Aftermath of Modern Communications

A Minneapolis couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out during a particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier.

Because of hectic schedules, the husband left Minnesota and flew to Florida on Thursday, with his wife flying there on the following day. The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room so he decided to send an email to his wife.

However, he accidentally left out one letter in her email address and, without realizing his error, sent the email.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, Texas, a widow had just returned from her husband's funeral. He was a minister who had a heart attack and died. The widow decided to check her email, expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted. The widow's son rushed into the room and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife  
Subject: I've Arrived  
Date: October 16<sup>th</sup>

I know you will be surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send emails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was. P.S. Sure is very hot down here!

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## DATES OF INTEREST

- June 6-9** Festival of Treasures  
Gosford Showgrounds, Showground Road, Gosford
- June 7** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB  
Wax Carving Workshop – with Mark Young
- June 14** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB  
General Meeting Saturday 2 pm, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- June 14-15** Jewellery, Beading, Gem & Mineral Show  
Civic Centre, George St, Windsor NSW
- June 21 -22** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB  
Casting Weekend for Exhibition
- 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
- Aug 9 -10** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB  
Casting Weekend
- 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

**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)