



LAPIS

www.ndlapidary.org.au

"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

VOLUME FORTY TWO NUMBER SIX MARCH 2008

CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on Tuesday Evening 11 March 2008 at 8.00pm in the Clubrooms at Becroft - all members welcome.

Following the General meeting we would normally have a guest speaker but our Publicity Officer, Phil Williams, has not been able to secure anyone for this meeting. So members please come along and join us for a social evening.

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

- Edward Zbik – Rydalmere
- Tereska Zbik – Rydalmere
- Fay Pan – West Pennant Hills
- Chelsea Simpson – Pennant Hills (Junior)
- Vince Hughes – Berowra Heights
- Eva Molnar – Mt Colah
- Claude Zemiro – Mt Colah

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our First Term is off to a good start and a number of ideas have already been presented to help improve the presentation and variety in our upcoming Exhibition.

It is particularly pleasing to be able to congratulate two of our long-standing and very active members – Jean and Bruce Macleay – who have reached their 40 years membership milestone – a really great achievement! They will be

presented with their mementos at the upcoming March General Meeting (along with the other 10-, 20- and 30-year awards listed below).

Brian Burns

~

From the Committee

Gem & Lapidary Council

The 2008 GEMHKANA will be held in Goulburn at the Goulburn Recreation Ground on the Braidwood Road, from Saturday October 4 to Monday October 6 2008

There is consideration being given to having the GEMKHANA opening earlier than 12 Noon. We will notify you when a decision has been made.

The GEMKHANA schedule has been published in the February Edition of the Gem & Lapidary News, so those who like to compete can start cutting.

Joan Sheppard has already started to organise a day Bus trip to this event.

GEMBOREE 2011 – is well and truly on its way to being a

The Committee is moving ahead with the necessary arrangements, and these are well on the way to completion.

~

NDLC FIELD TRIPS



For Members who are going to the GEMBOREE 2008 at Murray Bridge SA, we wish them safe travelling and a very happy holiday. For those

who still want to go but have yet to book, you will need to make urgent arrangements as time is running out.

Happy Easter every one!!!

With this being an exhibition year there will not be any field trips until after that event. We are hoping to have a couple of day trips - please watch Lapis for further details.

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

~

Membership Awards

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

40 Years Membership

- Jean Macleay
- Bruce Macleay

20 Years Membership

- Don Ross
- Bill McLean

10 Years Membership

- Johan Ten Hoedt
- Karen Simpson



Thank you for your loyalty and continuing support of the Club.

~

SES (State Emergency Service)

Following the February General meeting we had Ms Lee Lowe, who is the Deputy Local Controller for SES Hornsby who gave us a very informative talk on the role that the SES has, and how they can assist us.

Home Emergency Kit

Every home should have one in case of an emergency. This should consist of:

- Portable Radio with spare batteries
- Torch with spare batteries

- First Aid Kit (with supplies necessary for your household)
- Candles and waterproof matches
- Important papers including emergency contact numbers
- Copy of any Home Emergency Plans (e.g. Home FloodSafe Toolkit – available from the SES)
- Waterproof bag for valuables

If you have to evacuate, add the following to your Home Emergency Kit:

- A good supply of required medications
- Any special requirements for babies, the disabled, infirm and/or elderly
- Strong shoes
- Fresh food and drinks

Your Home Emergency kit should be kept in a waterproof storage box.

Check your Home Emergency Kit contents regularly and restock any out-of-date items such as batteries.

The number to ring for emergency help from the SES in floods and storms is 132500.

~

GOOD FAIRIES

Did you know that our Club has a number of fairies, elves and gnomes who are very active around the Clubrooms? They are seldom seen, but the work they put in is very obvious, our rooms get cleaned, garbage bins get emptied. Chairs are set up for meetings; clean tea towels are always there and lots and lots more. However, they always need more helpers so here is some information for you so you can help out.

The pantry cupboard in the kitchen between the fridge and the stove is normally well stocked with paper towels, matches, garbage bags and coffee cups etc. Food stocks are kept in the right hand pantry cupboard, tea towels and tablecloths are to the right under the servery and cleaning items are under the sink or in the broom cupboard. If something is needed then just get it out. If something needs cleaning or washing then do it. If the garbage bin is full then take the bag up to the Council bin at the top of the pathway.

For the Cab cutters there is an important cupboard in the entrance lobby. It's the second one to the right from the door. The top shelf has the sanding discs, spare vinyl discs and usually a spare canvas buff. Polish powder and oil for the trim saws is kept on the centre shelf with silicon carbide grit and a tin of disc cement on the bottom shelf.

If a sanding disc or vinyl needs replacing then check with your instructor and replace it. Spread a thin coat of disc cement to the back of the disc and then stick the disc on. Sometimes there is enough cement left from the old disc so new cement is not needed. Vinyl discs are put on the same way.

Polish bottles need a good scoop of polish powder and then filling with water.

The three trim saws use a soluble oil water based coolant. This is mixed with one part of oil to twenty parts of water. The three big saws near the Dopping bench use a very different oil and the two types must never be mixed.

Metho is kept in a bottle on or over the sink. Spare metho is in the sink cupboard.

Of course, when you finish a class then all machines and dopping bench are always cleaned down and if necessary the cutting room garbage bin is emptied.

So here is your chance - you too can be a good fairy, or if you prefer an elf or a gnome.

~

CASTING WEEKENDS 2008

The dates have been set for the Casting Weekends during 2008. They are listed below:

- 17 & 18 May
- 21 & 22 June – **Exhibition Casting**
- 9 & 10 August
- 20 & 21 September

On Sunday 18 May while we are waiting for the kilns and flasks to do their thing, we will be preparing a large number of articles in readiness for the June Exhibition Casting weekend.

If you have any questions about the casting weekends please ring me on 43530240 or 0414564174.

Sheets are on the notice board at the club room to enter your name.

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. The dates are currently being negotiated. Please watch Lapis and the Notice board for the dates. A sheet has been placed on the notice board for those who would be interested in attending, to add their name.

Jean Macleay

~

Advanced Enamelling Workshop

An enameling workshop was held at the clubrooms on 1 March 2008. A total of 9 members attended and found that working bowls was considerably more difficult than working flat shapes. The challenges faced by all concerned caused moments of consternation as unexpected problems eventuated for nearly everyone at one stage or another.

Fortunately, most of the "mishaps" were able to be rectified with some original thinking and the experience of Annette Clarke from the Central Coast Lapidary Club, who we were fortunate to have with us for the day.

By the end of a long day I believe that most of the participants learned a lot and were happy with the end results.

I would suggest that, based on the knowledge gained from this workshop, any future sessions will produce some very nice work.

Thank you to all who participated and made the day an enjoyable one.

Barbara Try

~

Chef's Corner



This recipe came to me via email and it looked mighty tasty.

NEIMAN-MARCUS COOKIES

(Recipe may be halved)

2 (500 ml) cups butter
24oz. (680 g) chocolate chips
4 (1000 ml) cups of flour
2 (500 ml) cups brown sugar
2 tsp. (10 ml) (Bicarb) soda
1 tsp. (5 ml) salt
2 (500 ml) cups sugar
18 oz (500 g) Cadbury Chocolate (grated)
5 (1250 ml) cups blended oatmeal
4 eggs
2 tsp. (10 ml) baking powder
2 tsp. (10 ml) vanilla
3 cups (375ml) chopped nuts (optional)

Method:

Measure oatmeal, and blend in a blender to a fine powder.

Cream butter and both sugars

Add eggs and vanilla, mix together with flour and oatmeal, salt, baking powder and (bicarb) soda.

Add chocolate chips Cadburys chocolate and nuts.

Roll into balls, and place two inches apart on a cookie sheet.

Bake for 10 minutes at (180 °C) 375 degrees.

The above quantities make approx. 112 cookies

~

EXHIBITION BULLETIN

A number of members who are on the email list have again received the Competition Schedule and conditions for the 2008 competition. I would like to remind all members that it is now the time to start preparing your entries for this competition. Copies of the schedule are on the shelf near the shop, along with the faceting diagrams.

For the cabochon cutters there are a number of cabochons to be cut in different materials:

Open Standard Cab – Obsidian
Intermediate Standard Cab – any material
Novice Standard Cab – Ribbonstone
Junior Standard Cab – Any material

For Standard Cabochon Aesthetic Appeal in all four sections the choice of material is YOURS so here is your chance to cut your favorite material

Petrified wood is the specified material for all four sections in the Fancy Cabochon, and the Aesthetic Appeal section in the Fancy Cabochon for Open only, is Tiger's eye.

Please watch Lapis for the Working Bees that will be called in the time leading up to the exhibition after the Easter Holidays during the year.

Barbara Try
Exhibition Coordinator

~

Gold in the Goulburn District

The Nerrimunga Goldfield, Parishes Inverary and Nerrimunga, County Argyle, is the only area in this district, which has sustained the interest of the reef and alluvial gold miner. Throughout the area to the east of Bungonia and Windellama and southwards to Oallen Ford, Ordovician shales, slates and quartzites are traversed by many quartz reefs, stringers and shallow quartz "blows". About 100 reefs had been worked to shallow depths and abandoned by 1875. The average depth reached in the better prospects was said to be about 30 metres, and the deepest the 90 metres shaft on Prospector's Reef. Most important subsequently were Manton's Reef, 11 km S.E. of Bungonia and Kangaroo Reef, 5 km south of Manton's Reef.

Alluvial deposits in the area were worked over an unusually long period. The gradients of the watercourses, 460 metres and more above the Shoalhaven River were steep and the early practice of sending waste down the gullies had filled natural waterholes, so that alluvial deposits for the most part could be washed only during wet periods, or with stored water. In 1906 a party of six miners who had excavated dams for dry weather conditions washed continuously throughout the year for fair wages. During such dry periods the miners generally worked the bars exposed on the Shoalhaven in low water conditions. Stockpiling of wash material for wet weather sluicing conditions was also general practice.

The alluvial deposits were in part those normal to an auriferous area and in part the high level gravel deposits which extend for many kilometres along the Shoalhaven River from the vicinity of Bombay

Crossing and Oallen Ford to Bungonia (where within reach of water they have been worked).

Prospectors have from time to time found coarse alluvial gold in the vicinity of Tiranna, 8 km SE of Goulburn and from near the Hanworth Post Office.

It is interesting to note, that gold, diamonds and other gemstones have been found in other locations such as: Rotten and Spring Creeks (16 km WNN of Crookwell), Upper Tarlo and Wheeo. At Red Ground (10 km NW of Crookwell, auriferous wash at a depth of about 20 metres was exposed as part of a Tertiary, basalt covered lead.

SHOALHAVEN (area):

Alluvial gold deposits have been worked on the Shoalhaven River between Bombay Crossing and Oallen Ford, the drifts trending as discontinuous patches, on and at a distance from the rivers, to near Bungonia. The gold is finely divided and distributed unevenly so that great thicknesses have had to be treated necessitating the use of storm water races and sluicing methods. The unworked portions are at a considerable height above the river and could be profitably mined only by the use of hydraulic sluicing. The use of a metal detector could be beneficial here in locating those larger nuggets.

Taken from:

http://www.treasureenterprises.com/Gold%20Prospecting%20Information/gold_prospecting_locations_New%20South%20Wales.htm

Chert

Chert is a finegrained cryptocrystalline sedimentary rock that often contains small fossils. It varies in colour from white to black, but most often manifests as gray, brown, and grayish brown. It outcrops as nodules in limestone and chalk formations, and is generally considered to be less attractive and more common than flint, although the two materials are closely related.

In prehistoric times, chert was often used as a source material for stone tools.

When a chert stone is struck against steel, sparks result. This makes it an excellent tool for starting fires, and both flint and chert were used in various types of fire-starting tools, such as tinderboxes, throughout history. This practice continues up

until today for cigarette lighters and certain specialized tools like the igniters used by modern welders to ignite their torches. A primary historic use of chert was as flints for flintlock firearms, in which flint or chert striking a metal plate produces a spark that ignites a small reservoir containing black powder, igniting it and discharging the firearm. Modern uses of chert are generally limited to construction activities.

Taken from

<http://www.ebroadcast.com.au/lookup/encyclopedia/ch/Chert.html>



Funnies

For the Mechanics!

I've made a major breakthrough! A wheel-less, motorless, crash-proof, car. Just one little item left to sort out.

What's that?

It won't move!

•••••

What's made of wood but you can't saw it?

... Sawdust!

•••••

For the Scientists!

At 5000m the plane's engines conk out. On board are five people - the Prime Minister, a clergyman, the smartest scientist in the world, the pilot and a kid - but only four parachutes. The pilot takes one and jumps - showing the others how to do it. The PM takes the next parachute and jumps - he has to run the country. The scientist takes one and jumps because he has to solve all the problems of the world. The clergyman says to the boy "You take the last parachute and jump - I am old and have lived a full life, you still have much to live for!"

The kid replies "Thank you! - but we can both jump - the smartest scientist in the world took my backpack!"

•••••

Julie's Favorite things

To commemorate her 69th Birthday, famous and well-loved actress Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall. One of the songs she sang - or, rather "recited" -

was her parody of "My Favorite Things" from the film version of Sound of Music in which she starred.

Here are her lyrics:

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts and hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favourite things.

*When the pipes leak,
When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favourite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.*

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Back pains, confused brains and no need for sinning,
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinning,
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favourite things.

*When the joints ache,
When the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.*

Julie Andrews received an enthusiastic Standing ovation for her performance

●●●●●

The Mayonnaise Jar and Two cups of Coffee

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes." The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things---your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favourite passions---and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car.

The sand is everything else---the small stuff. "If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your children. Spend time with your parents. Visit with grandparents. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. *Play another 18.* There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first---the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand." One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled and said, "I'm glad you asked."

The coffee just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."

●●●●●

Answer to February's Edition - Brain Teaser Doubling Lily

Twenty Nine Days!!!

●●●●●

DATES OF INTEREST

- Mar 7 -9** Glen Innes Minerama 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
- Mar 15-16** **Back from Tucson Sale**
52 Macpherson Road, Londonderry – Peter & Debbie Beckwith - 0412 333 150
- Mar 21-24** GEMBOREE 2008
Murray Bridge Showground
- 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
- Apr 12** **Campbelltown & Dist Lapidary Club Open Day / Boot sale**
Lot 1 Bensley Road, Campbelltown – 02 9618 3206
- Apr 19** **Nepean Club – Open day & Sale**
Club Premises, 12 North Street Penrith – 02 4777 4105

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