



LAPIS

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"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

VOLUME FORTY FOUR NUMBER ONE SEPTEMBER 2008

CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on 9th September 2008 at 8.00pm in the Clubrooms at Beecroft - all members welcome.

Following the General meeting we will have a social occasion and a general discussion on the Exhibition and what still needs to be done.

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

- Elizabeth Khoo – Hornsby (Junior)
- Sabina Keith – North Rocks

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to welcome and congratulate the members – both new and old – who volunteered to form our new Committee for 2008-09. It is disappointing that we were not able to fill four of the Committee positions, because without these we will not be able to provide all of the services that we believe are important for the Club. Since the election I am delighted that two people have come forward to take on the positions of Vice President (Henry Scheele) and Secretary (Glenn Brown) and they will be formally elected onto committee at the next General Meeting. This will still leave the positions of Field Trips Officer and Social Secretary vacant. Please reconsider your own situation and see if you can make the time to take on one of the positions. The roles are not difficult and there is plenty of advice and assistance available.

The coming year will provide some interesting challenges, the foremost of which will be the preparation of documentation to renew our Lease for the Club premises. However, before that, we have the practical issues around the preparation for our Exhibition in October.

Brian Burns

FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Unfinancial Members

This is your **last Lapis**. If you wish to remain a member of the Club you will need to make a payment of your subscription as soon as possible.

Otherwise if you wish to rejoin at a later date all fees including joining fee will be applicable.

Attendance Book

Members, when attending the Club for any reason, ***please ensure that you sign the attendance book***. It has been noted that this is not always being done and you will not be covered for insurance purposes if you have not signed.

Foyer Display

The showcase in the club foyer will be filled with the winning entries from the last GEMBOREE for display during the Exhibition. Take a few minutes to have a look at this wonderful array of entries, and maybe get inspired to have a go yourself next year.

Gem & Lapidary Council Snippets

1. A new brochure has been produced by the Council for use by Clubs as handout material at suitable functions.

2. Joan Ball announced that she is retiring from running future GEMKHANA competitions.

3 The Gem & Lapidary Council website went on-line on 23rd July 2008 and up to 26th August 2008 has already had the following statistics:

➤ Total Sessions	746.00
➤ Total Pageviews	1,650.00
➤ Total Hits	6,572.00
➤ Total Bytes Transferred	134.79 MB

The average length of each session was 4.28 minutes.

Calculation Methodology

- Session: A series of Hits to your site over a specific period of time by one visitor.
- Pageview: A request to the web server by a visitor's browser for any web page; this excludes images, javascript, and other generally embedded file types.
- Hit: Any successful request to a webserver from a visitor's browser.
- Bytes: The quantity of network bandwidth used by the files requested during the selected Date Range.

NDLC FIELD TRIPS



NUNDLE FIELD TRIP
14, 15 AND 16TH November, 08

Ten [10] powered sites have tentatively been booked in the Club's name. These bookings have been made for Friday 14th; Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th November, 08.

Please put your name on the list on the Notice Board in the Clubrooms if attending and indicate whether you will be arriving prior to the 14th and/or leaving after the 16th so I can make confirmed bookings in your name[s].

Details of the various Cabins and On-site Vans available for hire, are also on the Notice Board in the Clubrooms.

If you wish to reserve CABIN or ON-SITE VAN, please place your name on the List [so we know who is going] **BUT MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS**, as there are a range of options and deposits are required.

Please book early as Nundle has become a very popular destination.

For further information please contact Tony Try on [02] 4393 6168 or Mobile: 0417 676 435 and see the complete Tariff Sheet for the Fossickers' Tourist Park [Ph. 02 6769 3355 or 1 300 366 676] attached to the List on the Notice Board.

Tony Try

Chef's Corner



Pikelets

1 cup S.R. Flour
¼ teaspoon carb. soda
1 egg
1 dessertspoon melted butter
Pinch salt
2 tablespoons sugar
½ cup of milk

Sift dry ingredients; add sugar, egg, milk and butter. Beat until smooth, place by dessertspoonful into a greased pan. Cook until bubbly and brown underneath and turn to brown.

Makes approximately 24.

These pikelets will freeze nicely.



CASTING GROUP NEWS

Our most recent casting workshop was held at the club over the weekend 9th and 10th August. Seven members attended, all of whom have taken part in previous workshops and came armed with ideas and in some cases with their models ready to go. With experience under their belt all went very smoothly and the results were extremely pleasing. The illustrations show the moment of truth comes when you quench your casting and you can see Bill King and Rickard Adler look pleased with the

outcome. Two of Helga's beautifully executed pieces show (not yet polished) what can be achieved.

There is one more casting weekend scheduled for this year on 20th and 21st September. Prior to this on 13th September Mark Young will be conducting the final wax carving workshop for this year. Primarily the carving workshop is for those who wish to finish their wax carving for the following weekend, and the casting is the last chance to complete items for the exhibition.

Ring Jean Macleay on 0243530240 if you wish to take part. There are already quite a few names on the list and the class is limited to 10 persons.



Bill King and Richard Adler look pleased with their outcome



Helga's beautiful creations

EXHIBITION BULLETIN

Our show dates are:

**Friday 24th, Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th
October 2008**

RAFFLE TICKETS

If you find a 10 tickets raffle book enclosed with your Lapis, please sell these tickets to your family, friends, relatives or even perfect strangers if you feel so inclined.

Fill in the name and phone number of the buyers on the ticket butts and return the butts, with the money, to the clubrooms please. You can hand them in to any committee member, or pop them in a sealed envelope in the slot of the filing cabinet in the cutting room.

More raffle tickets are available in the clubrooms.

- 1st Prize 15ct Amethyst set in Silver
- 2nd Prize Zircon Pendant & Earrings in Silver
- 3rd Prize Fine Silver Pendant
- 4th Prize Desk Clock
- 5th Prize Crystal Vase



These prizes will be on display in the Foyer Showcase, between now and the Exhibition.

Exhibition Display Cases.

In order to assist with our Exhibition layout we need to **know the number of display cases** (regular wooden one or smaller shirt-box size) that will be required.

Please let Brian (9878 4073) or Barbara (4393 6168) know asap if:

1. You can fill one of the Club cases from your own collection (you can share with a friend if you want to); or
2. You wish to display your Class work in a Club case (teachers please organise); or
3. You already have your own display case and wish to include it in the Exhibition.

Exhibition Competition

Entry Forms for our Exhibition Competition are available from the Clubrooms. **Entry Forms** must be left in the box in the Clubrooms **by 13 Sept** and the **actual entries lodged by Saturday 27 September 2008.**

Please keep preparing your entries. Our Competition provides for all levels from beginners to the experienced – YOUR support is essential to make this part of our Exhibition one of our best displays.

Working Bees

Working bees continue with the latest being held on Saturday 30.8.08 where 8 ladies produced a variety of lovely enameled pieces for sale at the Exhibition.



Rebecca Tin & Stella Carroll using the kilns

Also, Bert Deane will be calling for volunteers to help paint the Clubroom in the very near future. Please help us make the Clubrooms clean and tidy for the Exhibition.

Next Exhibition Working Bee

When: 6 September 2008
Time: Starting at 9:00 am



There will be a sausage sizzle for lunch. Please come along as there will be a number of jobs that require many hands. We will need assistance in preparing the decorations for the hall, making cardboard mineral boxes, some cleaning and other exhibition related work.

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

Barbara Try
Exhibition Coordinator

~ Showcase for Sale

Margaret Turner has a showcase for sale, which can be viewed at the Clubrooms. Please ring Margaret on 9874 7160 for additional information and price.

Coach Trip to the GEMBOREE

Joan Sheppard is organising another Coach Trip to the GEMBOREE 2009 – Easter, Horsham Vic

12 day Luxury 5 Star coach Tour – Top Motel Accommodation. The tour departs Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April 2009.

The tour costs \$1890. A deposit of \$200 is required and if you wish, the single supplement is \$410 (own room).

For the full itinerary contact Joan Sheppard on Tel/Fax 4226 6565 or write to Joan at 2 Stanbrook Ave, Mt. Ousley NSW 2519.

(Additional information is on the notice board)

~ Caring for Pearls



- Store pearls in a box or soft cloth pouch, separate from other gemstones or metallic surfaces.
- Never clean pearls in an ultra sonic cleaner as vibrations can shatter pearls.
- Do not use chemical cleaners.

- Avoid contact with food containing acid, such as orange juice or salad dressing.
- Remove pearls before applying perfume.
- Wash pearls occasionally in mild soapy water.
- Have pearls necklaces restrung periodically

This article was taken from Canberra Lapidary Club Newsletter July 08.

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Zircon

This is one of my favorite gemstones, that is commonly confused by the uninitiated with Cubic Zirconia, which is a man made gemstone.

Zircon has the same reflective properties as diamond; colourless forms of zircon are commonly used as imitation diamonds. Zircon comes in two varieties-Hyacinth, which range in colours of orange, reds and browns and the Jargon variety. These are colourless stones that are used to simulate diamonds. Both varieties can be found in amongst the sapphire fields of Australia. *I have found them at the Mud Tanks (Harts Range) Northern Territory, Anakie in Queensland and Oberon in New South Wales.*

Zircon Properties

<i>Chemistry</i>	<i>Zirconium Silicate</i>
<i>Crystal Habit</i>	<i>Tetragonal</i>
<i>Hardness</i>	<i>7 – 7.5</i>
<i>Refractive Index</i>	<i>1.78 – 1.99</i>
<i>Specific Gravity</i>	<i>3.9 – 4.7</i>
<i>Lustre</i>	<i>Adamantine</i>

Zircon Fields - Zircon is generally found intermixed with sapphire on the sapphire fields; the fields near the township of Sapphire are typical of this. One outstanding Zircon field is found in the Northern Territory where there is a great deposit of Zircon mixed with Apatite, Mica and Vermiculite. This is the area known loosely as the Harts Range; specifically the Mud Tank Zircon field.

To reach this field travel north along the Stuart Highway from Alice Springs for 68Klm to the junction of the Plenty Highway. Turn right and travel east for 69Klm to the Gemtree Caravan Park; continue for a further 7.7Klm where a broken down windmill and tank will be seen on

the right. Turn right at this intersection and follow the gravel road for 7.2Klm. Turn left and travel a further 0.8Klm, where a gate will be found. Proceed through the gate for a further 0.6Klm. At this point you will be on the Designated Fossicking land. The best option is out on the right hand side of the roadway; follow the bush tracks as they all lead to the major digging fields. An area slightly larger than an Australian Rules football ground will be seen easily identified by the amount of work done here.

Camping - The Gemtree Caravan Park is a good option if you need electricity and those services usually supplied by Caravan Parks. The Gemtree combines a bush camping approach with reasonable outback caravan park amenities. The park is famous for its World Championship Paddy Melon Bowls event. Bore water is available here for washing stones

Bush Camping on the field is allowed and you must be self sufficient to do this; take plenty of drinking water. The only amenity in the camp is "Sonny's Dunny"; a long drop toilet erected by the Central Australian Gem Club. The nearest drinking water available is either at the Harts Range Police Station (60Klm), or at Alice Springs (120Klm). Drinking water is not available from the Gemtree Caravan Park. Some general goods-milk & bread, can be purchased from the Caravan Park, and fuel is also available. For all other requirements you must be self sufficient. Most people camp in the vicinity of Sonny's Dunny for obvious reasons; this also provides opportunity to meet others also camped in the area. The camping area is approximately 500 metres from the digging field.

Where to Fossick - The Mud Tank Zircon field consists of two main areas. Zircon Hill and Specimen Hill & digging in either area will yield zircons. The zircons here are orange, pale brown, pink to purple shades, yellow and parti-coloured. The Zircons are found best by digging down to the wash line and extracting the zircon bearing wash - a gravely material containing Apatite nodules, Mica chips and Ironstone rubble.

The Zircons are easiest obtained by using a shaker to remove any dust; inspecting the large sieve for any large specimens then washing the remaining stone in the Willoughby or ordinary sieves. When the stones are clean flip the sieves upside down onto a table and inspect for Zircon. These

are easily seen as the sun will shine through the zircon highlighting the colours.

The wash line varies in depth throughout the field, in general on the western side it is practically on the surface, on the east around on metre from the surface. Many of the zircon found has internal cracks; however there are many good "cutters", that is, quality stones worth faceting to be found.

Vehicle Access - This area is accessible to conventional vehicles except when it rains, then nothing moves as the tracks and roads become very slippery due to the fine dust turning to mud. If it rains while camping or fossicking in this area then it's best to allow the tracks to dry out sufficiently before moving.

Taken from Australia Gem Fossicking Site.



Funnies

Email story of the week

From a northern NSW paper comes this story of a Tweed Heads couple who drove their car to Woolworths, only to have it break down in the car park. The Man told his wife to carry on with the shopping while he fixed the car. The wife returned 20 minutes later to see a small group of people gathered around the bonnet of the car, staring down, goggle-eyed.

On closer inspection, she saw a pair of male legs protruding from under the vehicle. The problem was that because he was dressed in baggy blue shorts on this stinking hot day, the man's obvious lack of underwear had turned his private parts into glaringly *public* ones. Red rigid with embarrassment, the wife nevertheless steered herself long enough to dutifully step forward, kneel and quickly put her hand UP his shorts, to tuck everything back into place. On regaining her feet, she looked across the bonnet and found herself looking at her shocked husband who was standing idly by.

The NRMA man, however had to have three stitches in his forehead.....
He is resting comfortably.



A Garden Recipe

First plant five rows of PEAS...

Patience, Promptness, Preparation, Prudence and Perseverance.

Next to these plant three rows of SQUASH...

Squash gossip, Squash criticism, Squash indifference.

Then plant four rows of LETTUCE...

Let us be faithful to duty, Let us be loyal and unselfish, Let us be faithful to our obligations, Let us respect each other.

No garden is complete without TURNIPS...

Turn up to meeting, Turn up with a smile, Turn up with determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile.



Memories from a friend:

My Dad is cleaning out my grandmother's house (she died in December) and he brought me an old Royal Crown Cola Bottle. In the bottle top was a stopper with a bunch of holes in it. I knew immediately what it was, but my daughter had no idea. She thought they had tried to make it a salt shaker or something. I knew it as the bottle that sat on the end of the ironing board to "sprinkle" clothes with because we didn't have steam irons. Man, I am old.

How many do you remember?

- ★ Headlights dimmer switches on the floor.
- ★ Ignition switches on the dashboard.
- ★ Heaters mounted on the inside of the fire wall.
- ★ Real ice-boxes
- ★ Pantleg clips for bicycles without chain guards
- ★ Soldering irons you heat on a gas burner
- ★ Using hand signals for cars without turning signals.



Brides and Grooms

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" Her mother answered, "Because white is the colour of happiness and today is the happiest day of her life". The child thought about this for a moment and then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"



DATES OF INTEREST

- Sept 9** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Tuesday 8 pm at the Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- Sept 13** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
Wax Carving with Mark Young
- Sept 13** Nepean Club – Open Day & Sale
Clubrooms, 12 North St, Penrith
- Sept 20-12** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
Casting Weekend
- Oct 4, 5 & 6** GEMKHANA – Goulburn Showground / Recreation Area
Braidwood Rd, Goulburn
- Oct 11** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
Judging Day
- Oct 11** Campbelltown Club, - Open Day & Sausage Sizzle – Clubrooms
Bensley Rd, Macquarie Fields
- Oct 18-19** Central Coast Lapidary Club - Gem Beading & Mineral Festival & Annual Competition
At Wyong Memorial Hall, open Saturday 9am to 5pm & Sunday 9am to 3pm
- Oct 24-26** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
Biennial Exhibition – Theme “Rock & Roll”

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 \$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