



LAPIS

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“SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE”

VOLUME FORTY FIVE - NUMBER NINE JUNE 2009

CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on **SATURDAY 13th June 2009 at 3 pm** in the Club rooms - all members welcome.

Following this meeting we will have a short Trivia Quiz. Members please come and enjoy the fun and see how much you know about gemstones.



New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

- Lauren Blechinger – Hornsby Heights
- Gib Owen - Chatswood
- Ellen Platt - Manly

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last two weeks have indeed been a sad time for the Club with the passing of Gordon Hansen – a ‘retired’ former long term member for over 30 years – and Neil Carter, a newer member who joined us only two years ago. Our sincere condolences go out to their families and friends at this sad time.

Time for a reminder that our August AGM is approaching, and I would ask you all to consider joining the Committee, especially those who have joined our Club over the last few years. Being on Committee is not an onerous job, but it is essential that we continue to build up our core of ‘newer’ committee members as we progressively replace

some of our long serving members who, for a variety of reasons, may be less available in the future and are well deserving of the opportunity to begin to scale back their often considerable involvement in the Club.

Brian Burns

FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Teachers' Meeting

All of our Class Teachers are invited to attend a special meeting at the Clubrooms on **Saturday 20 June at 6.30pm**. The Club will provide suitable food and drink while the attendees will have the opportunity to discuss any ideas, suggestions or other issues in relation to enhancing or improving the running of our various classes and workshops. Teachers are asked to canvass their classes for any suggestion on the sorts of workshops that they would like to see.

Safety issues

In taking an eclectic approach to the arts associated with jewellery (probably the main use of our produce as lapidarists), I have been reading about the techniques of enamelling which is often used as an enhancement or as a stand alone technique adding colour and texture to jewellery pieces.

Apart from the obvious risks associated with the heat used to fire enamels is the less obvious but ever-present risk of ingestion or inhalation of toxic chemicals.

Like many of our gems and minerals, the colours of enamels are due to their chemical composition. Some of the best colours are due to some fairly toxic elements such as chrome, cobalt, selenium, cadmium or lead, just to list a few of the more common.

The first four named are all known carcinogens.

In firing enamels, especially when torch firing where we stand close to direct a flame to a specific part of our project, the risk of inhaling metal oxides is greatly increased.

All metal fumes are irritating to nose, throat and lungs, even worse when poisonous.

In addition to the fume risk, the grinding or handling of enamels pose a dust inhalation risk. Many types of enamel are applied as a very fine powder, often sifted onto the parts to be fired. You can bet on the fact that the finer the work the closer the maker will get to the work to check detail, hence the greater the risk.

With the risk of deposition of fine drifting dust and the condensing of toxic metal fumes onto surfaces, there are a few sensible precautions to take to substantially lower the hazard level.

1. Always wear a well fitting mask approved for protection from fine toxic dust.
2. Ensure adequate ventilation when firing enamels, especially when torch firing.
3. Wash hands frequently when enamelling
4. Do not eat, drink or smoke in the enamelling studio.
5. Damp-wipe, damp-mop and vacuum enamelling areas frequently to reduce contamination risks.
6. Shower and launder clothes each day after enamelling.

Will the risks stop me from having a go at enameling? Not likely.

The potentials in learning a new and very impressive skill are too great.

But I will think carefully about my techniques, where and how I will carry out my enamelling.

My reference cited the fume risk once, but made 4 specific safety references to the dust hazard.

Reference source:- The Art of Enameling by Linda Darty, Professor of metalworking and enamelling at East Carolina University (ISBN-13: 978-1-57990-954-3)

Lark Books, 2006, \$18 US

This is a very easy to read, practical book, with great pictures throughout, for skill levels from beginner to very advanced.

Colin Hazell

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G & L Council Snippets

1. In a bid to promote and inform Lapidary Club members of the council of its functions etc. This meeting was held in the Clubrooms of the Central Coast Lapidary Club. This was a very successful meeting of about 30 attendees, with groups from both Cessnock and the Hunter Valley attending.
2. A Faceting Judges Course was held in the club rooms of the NDLC on 23rd & 24th May, 2009. There are now 5 new judges have now been appointed. They are John Mackenzie from Port Hacking, Les Sinclair from Armidale, Paul Sabolta from Parramatta-Holroyd, Ann Kennon from Illawarra and Marilyn Collins from the Central Coast.
3. The Tony Annear OAM Memorial Trophy has now been officially approved with all the State Delegates of AFLACA agreeing to the criteria and principles behind the awarding of this "all rounder" trophy.
4. The AFLACA website is under construction – with relevant information for all interested parties currently being collated.
5. A special meeting of all State AFLACA J & R Delegates will be held in November 2009 to standardise the teaching of Judges and interpretation of the rules etc for competitions.
6. A special storage/trailer is nearing completion, which will save a lot of money and work with the storage and transport of GEMKHANA / GEMBOREE showcases and equipment.
7. The council is still seeking an Editor for the G & L News magazine. Any interested parties should contact Marilyn Behrens on 09 9635 8218.

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HANDY HINT No 36 GEM TREES

This tip is taken from the April issue of the Orange Lapidary Club newsletter. They had a

Gem Tree workshop recently. They glued a number of small stones together to make flowers, and then glued the flowers on to the trees.

“Assemble and glue the flowers together on silicon baking sheets as the glue will not stick to them and the flowers are then easily removed for fixing to the tree. (Unlike the plastic sheets we used which caused some consternation and cussing.)”

jw

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HANDY HINT No 37 Working the back of a Cab.

I enjoy cutting cabochons, BUT the bit that I don't greatly enjoy is working the back of the Cab on glass with the loose silicon carbide grit.

IF, I have to do that at the Club I always make sure that the sheet of newspaper under the glass is always an interesting read. The sporting section for preference or, maybe the comics. BUT, I usually do this process at home and then I can watch the telly or read a book while I work the stone on the glass.

You too can do this, for only a few dollars you can buy from the club shop a bit of glass and small bags of different grades of grit.

One word of warning though, don't spill wet grit on the tablecloth! From experience I can assure you that the boss will not be amused.

jw

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SILVER CASTING WEEKEND

July 11 and 12, 9am to 3pm

Members are invited to join our silver casting group. On this weekend we will cast natural items and carved or freeform wax items. It is best to come with some idea of what you would like to cast and bring stones you would like to set. Think about texture and 3 dimensional items for casting, if you can construct your idea then it is better to do so. Items needed for the course are on our web site. You may place your name on the list at the cutting room. There is a limit of 10 persons in the class. Ring me if you have any queries you may ring me on 43530240 or 0414564174.

Jean Macleay

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VALE GORDON HANSEN



Gordon Hansen (pictured above at the 1988 exhibition) passed away peacefully in his sleep last Friday. Those in the club who remember him will do so as a man who rarely missed a meeting or a working B. The men at the club remember his strong opinions on cutting room matters. He grew beautiful orchids and provided sufficient at our exhibitions to beautify the whole hall. At his funeral on Wednesday May 27 we learned from his son of his early very tough life as a boy in a Western Tasmanian mining town, then a timber town in Victoria. He moved to Sydney as a young man and became a fitter and turner and brought up his family at Eastwood and where he lived until a few years ago when he moved to a nursing home. He had reached the great age of 96 years.

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Vale NEIL CARTER

Neil was only a Club member for a few years but it was long enough to be a good Member and make many friends. He always had a smile and a happy laugh. He always enjoyed his time with us just as we did with him. Recently, he finished the faceting course, but was then glad to get back into the cutting room so he could return to cutting opals, that was his main interest.

He was always available to do a job and often worked quietly on his own without fuss or fanfare. The roof guttering would be cleaned, grit buckets emptied and depending on his shift work commitments would always be at working bees.

Neil died suddenly last week from a heart attack. He will be greatly missed by all his friends in the Thursday night group.

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NDLC FIELD TRIP



NUNDLE “GET-A-WAY” November, 2009

The Club’s annual few days at Nundle have been organised for the following days in November:

**Friday 13th, Saturday 14th, Sunday 15th &
Monday 16th**

Ten powered sites have been tentatively booked for those dates on the “Nundle Heights” ie the same spots as for the last couple of years. This means we can all be together, with our own BBQ etc in the middle of the area and still not too far from the amenities.

Please add your name[s] to the list on the Notice Board in the club rooms if you would like to be part of this relaxing weekend, which will include some fossicking; an evening meal [probably Saturday] at the Pub and a visit to the local markets and the new Information Centre, which has a very good display of rocks and minerals..

I understand that there is now fuel available at the Café in Nundle [diesel and petrol] however it does NOT have EFTPOS facilities, so it is cash only.

Powered Sites: I will confirm the number of sites required as it gets closer to the time, based on the names on the list on the Notice Board.

Cabins: Members requiring cabins should also place their names on the list so that we have some idea of total numbers taking part in the weekend’s activities. **However, please make your own bookings for the cabins as soon as possible,** because they have become very popular. I have been advised that cabin bookings for weekends in both October and November, 2009 are already filling quickly even though it is still six months away. Needless to say, you will have to pay a deposit to hold your cabin booking.

The telephone number for the Fossickers Tourist Park Nundle is [02] 6769 3355 or Toll Free 1 300 366 676

Papers showing the various rates for the cabins and powered sites are attached to the list on the club’s Notice Board.

For any general enquiries about the weekend please contact Tony Try on Tel; [02] 4393 6168 or Mobile 0417 676 435

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NUNDLE ‘EXTENSION’ *[For those members that do not want to go home !!]*

As members are aware, the trip to Nundle each November has become an annual social and relaxing event, in a very picturesque and increasingly popular setting. Details of that proposed trip are listed under the heading of “Nundle Get–A–Way” in this edition of Lapis.

However, I am also proposing to add a few days after the Nundle event for those members who have the time available to look for **sapphires** at Inverell and **Labradorite** at Hogarth’s Range.

Unlike many Field Trips, I can virtually guarantee that both sapphires and labradorite will be found. We will be spending one day at each of the private sapphire fossicking areas [7 Oaks and Billabong Blue] and a day and a half on private property, in the paddocks at Hogarth’s Range.

I am proposing that we stay in a caravan park in Inverell that will take pets, and make daily trips out for the sapphires. However, at Hogarth’s Range I am proposing that we bush camp in the paddock for the two nights we are there. There would be no facilities at all, other than what we take. On the other hand, Casino is not far away if any members wish to stay in a caravan park or a motel/cabin etc. [*Barbara and I will be bush camping in the paddock with the cows, and arrangements could be made to meet up with members who would prefer to stay in Casino*]

A program for this period of 7/8 days will be placed on the club Notice Board. Members are invited to join us for part or all of this “Nundle Extension”. It would be appreciated if you would add your name[s] to the list on the Notice Board if you are interested in taking part in these additional few days.

For any general enquiries regarding this proposal please contact Tony Try on [02] 4393 6168 or Mobile 0417 676 435

Tony Try

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IMPORTANT REMINDER !!!!!

Please note that if you change your address and/or email contact details it is in your own interest to notify me of the new details otherwise I cannot send you the Club's magazine (Lapis)

Editor

The Fire Station at Beecroft

This article may be of some interest to members who have a predilection for History in the local area.

The Beecroft Fire Station is known as No. 58. On December 10th 1913 the provision of the Fire Brigade Act 1910 were applied to parts of the Hornsby Shire including the suburb of Beecroft. On the 1st January 1914 the Hornsby Brigade was established under the jurisdiction of the board of Fire Commission of NSW and it was this Brigade which principally looked after the lives and belongings of the citizens of Beecroft. At the same time as the Hornsby Shire Council sought fire protection for Hornsby it also made representation to the Board for the establishment of a Brigade at Beecroft, but there was difficulty obtaining a suitable site in the suburb. After much investigation a parcel of crown land was obtained on 22nd April 1914 upon which the existing fire station now stands.

The building was erected by Mr W. Dobson a resident of Turramurra under contract let by the Board. The premises were officially opened by the Board of Fire Commissioners on 7th December 1915 but due to the lack of availability of motorised fire engines at this time the running appliance was a hand drawn hose reel with 1,470 feet of hose.

It was not long before a petrol driven fire engine was installed in June 1915. Beecroft was allotted a "Standford" 25 horse power motor hose carriage. This appliance was used only for the purpose of

carrying hose and small equipment, together with personnel to a fire. It was not fitted with a pump. In 1926 a Garford Hale motor engine with a pumping capacity of 150 gallons per minute was installed and in 1957 a modern Dennis motor engine with a pump having a capacity of 400 gallons per minute was provided for the use of the Beecroft Brigade, with hp of 75. When the fire station was opened in 1915 one permanent officer and one permanent fireman was attached thereto, thus ensuring that one man was available for fires, 7 days a week, 24 hours at day. There was also a volunteer fireman who resided nearby available to respond to calls as they were received. Today there are four officers and eight firemen attached to Beecroft and of this number one officer and two firemen are always on duty. This staff is supplemented by four volunteers. While the other permanent members are on call if needed.

In its first year of existence Beecroft Brigade attended only two calls of fire both of which were slight in character. In the year ended December 31 1961, 19 calls were responded to by the Brigade in the area. The average number of fires which occur in Beecroft each year is 18. The activities of the Beecroft Fire Brigade are not restricted entirely to this suburb and it would travel on occasions to nearby suburbs as and when required. Similarly, other Brigades would attend this suburb should an emergency arise which would warrant such attendance.

In common with all Brigades in Sydney Fire District, there is no limitation as to the particular district in which they may serve at any one time.



The Fire Station opened in 1915

This article was given to the editor by Harry Lovell – Source unknown.

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Tourmaline

Tourmaline is the most varicolored of all gemstones. It occurs in all colors, but red, green, and multicolored are its most famous gem colours. Scientifically, tourmaline is not a single mineral, but a group of minerals related in physical and chemical properties

Although elbaite is a separate member of the tourmaline group, and occurs in all different colours, the term elbaite refers only to green tourmaline in the gem trade. The other colour forms of elbaite have their own variety names on the gem market. Rubellite is the term used for red or pink tourmaline, and indicolite is the term used for blue tourmaline. A recent trend in the gem market is to call all tourmalines by the colour designation as opposed to variety name, such that "rubellite" would be called "red tourmaline".

The pink, emerald-green and multicoloured stones are also fairly expensive. Multicoloured stones are truly a gemological wonder, as their beauty and uniqueness are unparalleled. An interesting form of multicoloured tourmaline, adequately called **watermelon tourmaline**, has a red centre surrounded by a green outer layer (or vice versa). When used as a gem, it is green on one side and red on the other.

All coloured tourmaline gems display pleochroism, meaning their colour changes when viewed at different angles. In some gems, this effect is hardly noticeable, while in others it is strongly apparent. Gemstone cutters must take this into account when cutting a tourmaline, so the finished gem brings out its best colour.

Tourmalines of all colors are faceted into gems for jewelry, but the red, green, and multicoloured stones are the most popular. Pink and green tourmalines from certain localities contain tiny, parallel inclusions, causing them to display a strong cat's eye effect when polished. Such stones are often cut as cabochons. Some pink, green, and multicolored tourmalines are also carved into ornamental figures and carvings.



“Where there is a will there is a solicitor or a relative”.

Did You Know

The can opener was invented 48 years after the can.

7,000 new insect species are discovered every year.

Apples are 25% air

It takes six months to build a Rolls Royce....and 13 hours to build a Toyota.

Kilts are not native to Scotland. They originated in France.

In Singapore, it is illegal to sell or own chewing gum.

There are 635,013,559,599 possible hands in a game of bridge.

More than 50% of the people in the world have never made or received a telephone call.

Pearls melt in vinegar.

Apples are actually part of the rose family.

During the 6th Century, it was customary to congratulate people who sneezed because it was thought that they were expelling evil from their bodies. During the great plague of Europe, the Pope passed a law to say “God bless you” to one who sneezed.

Taken from The Wanderer – June 2008



Murphy's Lesser Known Laws

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
3. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't
4. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.



DATES OF INTEREST

- June 13** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Saturday at 3 pm at the Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- June 13-14** Jewellery, Beading, Gem & Mineral Show
At the Windsor Function Centre, Corner of Dight St. & Macquarie St Windsor.
Supported by The Hawkesbury Lapidary Club.
Open Saturday 9.30am to 5pm and Sunday 9.30am to 4pm
- July 18** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Saturday at 3 pm at the Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- Aug 7-9** Bankstown & District Lapidary Club – Invites you to “Treasures Down Under”
At Bankstown Arts & Craft Centre, Dale Pde, Bankstown. Fri & Sat 10am to 4pm,
Sun 10am to 3pm
- Aug 15** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Saturday at 3 pm at the Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
Following the General Meeting the Annual General Meeting will take place.
- Aug 15** Blaxland Gem Club: Annual Exhibition, Glenbrook Community Hall, Great Western Highway Glenbrook
- Aug 22-23** Carlingford Show, Roselea Comm Ctr Pennant Hills Road Carlingford

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 \$38.00. 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