



# LAPIS

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“SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE”

VOLUME FORTY FIVE - NUMBER EIGHT MAY 2009

## CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on **SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 3 pm** at the Club rooms - all members welcome.

We will be having a **Mini Slab Sale at 2.30 pm** just prior to the meeting. So come along early and see what is on sale.

Our guest speaker at this Saturday's meeting will be George Richards.

George Richards retired from The Sydney Morning Herald in January 2004 after 45 years, which included writing Column 8 for the last 15 years.

Coming from a family of journalists, he began his journalistic career on the Sydney Daily Telegraph as a copyboy in 1950, worked in the Telegraph's London office in 1956-57, then joined The Sydney Morning Herald as a sub-editor in 1958.

In his 45 years with Fairfax he held a number of positions including news editor of its London office for three years, editor of one of its magazines, chief sub-editor, and later chief of staff of the Herald, and Editorial Training Manager (recruiting and training its cadet journalists). He also helped to introduce its computerised editing system and to train 800 computer-illiterate journalists.

He has published four books of collected items from Column 8, two published in April and May 2006 to coincide with the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SMH, and does a lot of speaking about the column.

He joined the Rotary Club of Wahroonga in 1990. He has a 100 per cent attendance record, and is a past-president and Paul Harris Fellow.

George's other interest is cricket umpiring. He umpired in Sydney grade cricket and Shires

cricket from 1986 to the 2008-08 season. He has travelled to England (three times) and to India (once) with teams from the International Fellowship of Cricketing Rotarians. In his umpiring, he has no-balled Brett Lee five times in one over and Shane Warne twice in one over. George is married to a retired maths teacher, and they have three adult children and two grandsons.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Congratulations to all of our members who entered the competition sections of the recent Horsham GEMBOREE. We had some very good results (see following report) – the most notable was John Weatherburn winning the Brian Bown Trophy for Open Standard Cabochon. Congratulations John! Also our congratulations go to the Western Suburbs Lapidary Club for being the Champion Club this year.

We are still keen to hear from everyone who has completed a faceting course at the Club (or elsewhere) – doesn't matter how long ago – and also any members who have their own faceting machine. Please contact our Education Officer or any Committee Member.

**REMINDER:** Our next four 'winter' General Meetings will switch to **Saturday Afternoons at 3pm**. The next meeting is on **9<sup>th</sup> May**. Put it in your diaries.

Brian Burns

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## FROM THE COMMITTEE:

### **Rock Survey**

While we have plenty of rough rock the Committee is looking at replenishing some of the rocks/slabs that are popular with the members. This will happen over the next few months.

## Safety issues

We are all a little different metabolically, much evidenced by the need for often many medications to treat the same diseases. The differences are also noted in our reactions to various foods, some people having the most severe and life-threatening reactions to such things as peanuts or seafood to name a couple, while some of us quite literally could live on an exclusive diet of same.

But did you know that your jewellery could be making you sick, causing pimples and skin infections, causing skin discolouration, could be lowering your resistance to infection or just plain poisoning you?

Individual reactions to metals may be as markedly different and as severe as to foods.

Metals that commonly cause reactions are nickel, copper, silver, iron, lead, tungsten, zinc, vanadium, zirconium, selenium, platinum, palladium, molybdenum, manganese, mercury, lithium, cobalt, chromium, cadmium, beryllium, arsenic, antimony.....

The list may just go on because many metals have not been studied in depth.

How can you be in contact with many of these metals?

Simply because many metals are in alloys, their properties reliant on sometimes very small amounts of other metals to produce specific characteristics.

Who knows what is in that base metal, plated ring or chain and with sometimes several metals used in the plating processes, who can determine what you may be exposed to?

I suppose the same applies to some enamels and paints also, and of course some people may react to some stones e.g. azurite, malachite, or turquoise due to their copper content.

While most people will not have any problems, it does pay to be aware of the possibilities. You might prove to be a good neighbor even if not affected yourself.

Girls, this might make a pretty good case for gold, the purer the better. It only seems to cause delight.

Colin Hazell

## HANDY HINT No 35 POLISH

The secret of a good polish is in the sanding. This is a very old saying and it still very true. If you don't spend the time on the sanders and also use the best system then you will not get a good, quick polish.

If you are working the flat back of a cab then you must have flat glass and then work your way through the grits up to 1200. At times I have gone on to 2600 Aluminium Oxide powder on glass.

On the dome side don't rush through the 280, 600 and 1200 Nova wheels. The more time you spend on the Nova wheels then the less time on polish.

JW

## *Chef's Corner*



### **Choc Banana and Custard Stacks**

- 1 sheet frozen ready-rolled butter puff pastry.
- 200g dark chocolate, chopped.
- 1 cup pure cream
- 2 medium bananas, sliced diagonally
- 1 cup Irish cream-flavoured custard

#### Method

Cut pastry into four squares and place on prepared tray. Bake for 10 minutes or until golden and puffed. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

Meantime, place chocolate and cream in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high for one to two minutes, stirring every 30 seconds with a metal spoon, or until smooth. Set aside for 20 minutes to cool.

Using a small knife, split each pastry square in half crossways. Place bottom halves on plates.

Top with the chocolate mixture and banana. Spoon over custard. Sandwich with pastry halves and serve.

You could use thick vanilla custard instead of Irish cream-flavoured custard.

Taken from Express Advocate Central Coast

**GEMBOREE 2009  
Horsham**

The Ray Powell Champion Club Trophy was won by the Western Suburbs Lapidary Club of NSW. Congratulations on a great team effort by a Club with a total of only 60 members. They also won the Intermediate Champion Trophy and the Novice Champion Trophy. Well done!!

Our John Weatherburn won the Brian Bown Trophy for the Open O1A section (Standard Cabochon). Well done!!



Other results are as follows:

**Section O1A/C** Standard Cab – Specified Size 40mm x30mm – Not Agate

|                 |                  |       |
|-----------------|------------------|-------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | John Weatherburn | 99.35 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Barbara Try      | 99.30 |

**Section N1A/C** Standard Cab

|                 |             |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Tom Bridson | 89.40 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|

**Section O1A/AA** Standard Cab – Petrified Wood

|                 |             |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Brian Burns | 94.15 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Barbara Try | 94.05 |

**Section O1B/C** Fancy Cab – Coloured Crystalline Quartz

|                 |             |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Barbara Try | 97.70 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|

**Section O4B/C** Opal Doublet – Domed Top

|                 |             |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Barbara Try | 96.90 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Barbara Try | 93.85 |

**Section O5A** Carving – Fully 3-Dimensional

|                 |               |       |
|-----------------|---------------|-------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Lewis Calwell | 82.25 |
|-----------------|---------------|-------|

**Section 13/AA** Polished Face – Flat Surface – Petrified Wood

|                 |             |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Barbara Try | 94.10 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|

**Section O18B.1** Hand Fabricated Jewellery with Lapidary item cut & set by entrant – Solid Opal

|                 |             |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Helga Clark | 91.05 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|

**Section N18B** Hand Fabricated Jewellery with Lapidary item cut & set by entrant

|                 |             |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Lyn Bridson | 84.00 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|

**Section O19A** Cast Jewellery using patterns made by entrant

|                 |             |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Helga Clark | 92.25 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Helga Clark | 85.50 |

**Section O20A** Cast Jewellery using natural objects

|               |             |       |
|---------------|-------------|-------|
| Special Award | Helga Clark | 74.75 |
|---------------|-------------|-------|

**Section O22A** Cast Jewellery made by free form casting into Liquid

|                 |             |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Helga Clark | 85.00 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|

**Section O23A** Combined Jewellery with Lapidary item cut & set by entrant

|               |             |       |
|---------------|-------------|-------|
| Special Award | Helga Clark | 81.00 |
|---------------|-------------|-------|

**Section O25** Commercial Mount Jewellery with Lapidary Item Cut & Set by entrant

|                 |             |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Barbara Try | 92.25 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|

**Section O32A.1** Fossils – Single Specimen – Vertebrate - Not Tooth or Claw

|                 |             |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Barbara Try | 96.00 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|

**Section O32A.2** Fossils – Single Specimen – Vertebrate - Tooth or Claw

|                 |             |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Barbara Try | 95.50 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|

**Section O32B** Fossil Mixed Group of 3

|                 |             |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Brian Burns | 94.01 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|

**Section O34A.2** Mineral – Single Specimen Overseas

|                 |             |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Barbara Try | 92.00 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|



John Weatherburn accepting his award with the Junior Princess Brooke Crachi and the Senior Princess Ilana Razbash at Horsham

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## **GEMBOREE – Easter 2009 Horsham – Victoria**

### **GETTING THERE.**

Even though it was only six months since we had taken the van out, we had forgotten the routine involved. We ultimately decided to leave on Sunday evening to avoid the traffic on the F3 during Monday morning peak hour [or two]. Sunday, therefore became a very busy day. There was last minute washing; cutting of lawns; morning tea with visiting relatives; lunch with neighbours from one side and afternoon tea with neighbours on the other. Amongst all that was the obligatory house cleaning to make sure that it was clean for the “burglars” – as my Mother used to say.

This going on holidays thing is hard work !!..

We finally left home shortly after 6pm, after a “scratch” evening meal [ *all the food was in the caravan, wasn't it ?!* ] However, we had only gone about a Kilometre from home when Barbara noticed that I had forgotten to attach HER rear vision mirror to the passenger side of the car. So, we did a quick U-turn and after finding and affixing the missing mirror, we finally left about 6.30pm. We had a dream run to Pheasant's Nest, where we had a hot chocolate before going to bed, while parked in the wide open spaces of the truck parking area. Soon after getting into bed a truck arrived and released his air-brakes right beside us. After scraping Barbara – [*and all the blankets*] –

off the ceiling of the van we settled back down for a good night's sleep.

As Barbara had been asked to assist with some judging, and the setting up of the competition, we were obliged to arrive at the GEMBOREE venue on Tuesday evening, rather than on Wednesday as originally intended. So, we made an early start and headed for Bendigo, where we stayed the night. The next day was then an easy run into Horsham. The countryside was very parched with Scotch Thistles growing in the dry bottom of a number of the dams.

It was interesting to note that underground pipes were now replacing the open canal type irrigation in much of the area between Bendigo and Horsham. Although an expensive undertaking, it will save a lot of water that would otherwise evaporate from the open canals.

As one would expect, the GEMBOREE site was well laid out, but very dry and dusty.

Ted and Helga Clark; Tom and Lyn Bridson and John and Gina Weatherburn arrived and set up their camps on the Wednesday afternoon. Our club was also represented by Lorna Whitton; Glenn Huntley; Pam Retamal and Lou and Francis Sun, who all stayed off site, and made a total of thirteen members who visited the GEMBOREE..

Lou and Francis were quick to point out that they not only contributed generously to the Victorian Bush Fire Appeal, but also to the Victorian Government coffers when they paid a speeding fine of \$210 during their trip to Horsham.

### **THE GEMBOREE**

The GEMBOREE was held on the Wimmera Machinery Field Days site. A very large area, which could cater to nearly 1000 vans if required. Unlike many other GEMBOREEs that we have attended, there was plenty of power and virtually no restrictions in that regard. The camping sites were large with plenty of room. However, this meant that those who did camp on site were spread over a very large area, which resulted in getting fit, or driving to the various venues, such as toilets, showers, Exhibition Hall and the Tailgaters. Unfortunately the eight club members who did camp on site were situated in two groups of four, which were just over half a Kilometre

apart. Happy Hours and combined evening meals still happened, and just took a little more effort.

As a number of Central Coast members were situated near us, there were several combined Happy Hours, which produced some memorable moments – not all of which can be recorded – this being a family magazine an' all.

However, a certain high ranking official of the Central Coast Club was known to have been caught in his “jim jams” as three strange women were being shown the interior of his new van. Evenings were quite chilly, and most people rugged up as we sat outside. However, one Central Coast member persisted in wearing shorts. Relations between the two clubs obviously got closer, as a lady from our club felt his knee – purely to see how warm it was, of course !!.

As we had been warned, drinking water was in short supply, and the grounds were devoid of any greenery at all except for a few scattered, hardy trees. Fortunately there was very little wind and dust was minimal, although it did permeate everything in the vans as all windows were kept open during the heat of the day. The days averaged temperatures between 25 and 30 degrees Centigrade, while the nights were cold – reaching as low as 1 degree Centigrade on one night.

The main Exhibition Hall was large and well air-conditioned, and the competition section was able to be partitioned off from the rest of the Hall for judging etc as required.

Although we did not win the Ray Powell Championship Club Trophy it did come back to NSW, as it was won by the Western Suburbs Club. CONGRATULATIONS !! This club, which has a membership of about one third of ours, obviously showed some club pride and pulled together to make a successful bid for it. It is good to see a club pull together like that.

As usual, there were a number of controversial decisions in the judging of the competition entries, which led to some lively discussion and protests. This was particularly so in regard to the number of entries which were marked as “ineligible”. I have never seen so many.

Because of water shortages there were only six portable showers available for the 500 odd

campers on site. However, the water was hot [*until the last day when the gas seemed to run out on a couple of them*] and most people using them did the right thing, so queues were minimal. However, it did surprise me that a facility of this size did not have any permanent showers or “dump points” for toilets.

On Easter Sunday we visited the Farmers' Markets at Natimuk, which was a pleasant diversion. Earlier, the Easter Bunny found us once again, even though we were spread all over the paddock. [*I am going to say “thank you Gina” – even though she denies all knowledge*]

Unfortunately Ted gave us a bit of a fright on Sunday evening and spent the night in Horsham hospital. Thankfully, he was released the next day.

On Monday evening, after collecting competition entries, the eight of us went into the Horsham RSL Club for a meal together, which was excellent value and is well recommended if you are in the Horsham area.

In all the travelling in this very dry and dusty part of the country, it was noted that while houses had no lawns and very little greenery of any sort, rose bushes bloomed profusely and were in brilliant colour, which created a stark contrast to the rest of the landscape.

## **AFTER THE GEMBOREE**

It was interesting to note that a lot of on-site campers left the GEMBOREE early on the Sunday and the Monday. However, our on site members all left on the Tuesday morning. Tom and Lyn were heading North to do some fishing and then on to Coober Pedy and the Hart's Range and Ted and Helga were to make a leisurely trip home. John and Gina retraced part of the latter portion of their journey looking for a “mat” that had been left in a Rest Area on the way down. They then met up with us at Donald, where we had morning tea before heading to Kerang where we spent the night. The caravan park even had green grass to park on !!

The next morning was very windy and dusty, as top soil from the surrounding ploughed paddocks filled the air. We decided to stay another night and do some much needed washing, so said

goodbye to John and Gina as they also headed straight for home.

We then made our way via Narrandera to Forbes to visit some relatives before moving on to Oberon, which did its “thing” and turned very cold with sleet type rain and wind. We then moved on to Sofala and Mudgee, which was a very hilly but pretty drive. We made the obligatory tour of a couple of the wineries and had a day trip out to Windeyer for future reference. The river there was very dry with only odd water holes remaining. From Mudgee we completed the circle by coming home via the Golden Highway.

It was a pleasant few weeks, once again enjoying the company of friends and acquaintances from other clubs and States.

Tony Try



Fish River Dam, Oberon – The dam is very low



**Funnies**

**SIGNS (continued)**

**At a Tyre Store**

'Invite us to your next blowout.'

**On an Electrician's truck:**

'Let us remove your shorts.'

**In a Non-smoking Area:**

'If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action.'

**On a Maternity Room door:**

'Push. Push. Push.'

**At an Optometrist's Office:**

'If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.'

**On a Taxidermist's window:**

'We really know our stuff.'

**On a Fence:**

'Salesmen welcome! Dog food is expensive!'

**At a Car Dealership:**

'The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment.'

**Outside a Car Exhaust Store:**

'No appointment necessary. We hear you coming.'

**In a Vets waiting room:**

'Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!'

**In a Restaurant window:**

'Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up.'

**In the front yard of a Funeral Home:**

'Drive carefully. We'll wait.'

And don't forget the sign at a

**Radiator Shop:**

'Best place in town to take a leak.'

Sign on the back of yet another

**Septic Tank Truck:**

'Caution - This Truck is full of Political Promises'

•••••

**Some Trivia**

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

•••••

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.

•••••

Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear well.

•••••

Coca-Cola was originally green.

•••••

It is impossible to lick your elbow.

•••••

The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.

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### DATES OF INTEREST

- May 9** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB  
General Meeting Saturday at 3 pm at the Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome  
**Our Guest Speaker is George Richards**
- May 16** Central Coast Lapidary Club Inc.  
Annual Rock Auction & Garage Sale (The garage sale starts at 7 am), at the Clubrooms\  
Lot 7 Ourimbah Creek Road, Ourimbah  
Auction Viewing 10 am, Sausage Sizzle 10 am
- May 16& 17** Lismore GEMFEST at the Lismore Showground
- May 23 & 24** Faceting Judging Course – Being run by Gem & Lapidary Council  
Held at NDLC . Contact Nelson Robertson on 4385 4495
- May 30** Nepean District Lapidary Club Inc.  
Jewellery & Gemcraft Sales & Open Day at the Clubrooms 12 North St Penrith  
9am to 4pm
- May 30** Gem & Lapidary Council Meeting – Starting at 11.00am  
Held at Central Coast Lapidary Club Inc.  
Lot 7 Ourimbah Creek Road, Ourimbah
- June 13** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB  
General Meeting Saturday at 3 pm at the Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome

**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](mailto:twotrys@bigpond.net.au)