



LAPIS

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“SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE”

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CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on **Tuesday 9th March at 8pm**. All members welcome.

Guest speaker

Our guest speaker for March is Mr John Chapman, who will give a talk and demonstration of techniques of micro-photography of minerals per ‘powerpoint ‘presentation and will include a display of photographs taken by him.

John has spent a lifetime in the geosciences and is a member of the committee of the Minerological Society of NSW

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SOCIAL EVENT

A **Trivia Afternoon Tea** will be held in the clubrooms on Saturday 6th March at 2.30pm

Members are requested to bring along a plate of food to share.

These events are always fun and a great opportunity to meet people from other class groups in the club.

The invitation is extended to all club members, family and friends.

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

Roseanne Hall of Balmain
Sandra Kalnins-Cole of Westleigh
Paul Yavor of North Ryde

We wish them much enjoyment cutting gemstones and enjoying the other aspects of our Club.

GEMBOREE 2010 – JUDGING

Judging of many of the entries submitted for the 2010 GEMBOREE to be held at Devonport in Tasmania, took place in the clubrooms of the Northern Districts Lapidary Club Inc [NDLC] on Sunday 14th and Monday 15th February, 2010. A total of 550 entries were judged during those two days. This was because Tasmania only has a small number of judges, and in recent years it has built up a close relationship with NSW, who offered its services to assist them with the judging processes. The NSW Gem and Lapidary Council assisted by paying for the food and drink used during the two days.

I believe that it was a very successful operation and my sincere thanks go to the twenty judges and their Pencillers for putting in two solid days in very “cosy” and humid conditions. It was a big job, well done.

My thanks must also go to the nine people who acted as Scrutineers and “adder-uppers”, who ensured that the numbers were all in the right places and gave correct totals.

As with any large group, it is a well known fact that it cannot operate well unless it is fed and watered properly. The six people involved in the purchasing, preparation and serving of the food and drink under humid and trying conditions did a marvellous job. Thank you.

While this rather large and complex event took place in the NDLC club rooms, I am pleased to say that a number of other clubs were also represented and willingly assisted during the two days. These were Bankstown; Parramatta Holroyd; Port Hacking; Central Coast; Illawarra; Armidale and Orange Lapidary clubs. Truly a

great team effort, and while our club motto is “share your knowledge”, this was a classic case of “sharing the load”

Again my sincere thanks go to everyone involved.

Barbara Try
N.D.L.C.

A backward poet writes inverse.
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FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Required

NDLC EXHIBITION COORDINATOR

The NDLC will hold its Exhibition this year, end of October. A **Coordinator** for the many activities preparatory to the exhibition is required to oversee the events and efforts needed to stage this most important event in the clubs calendar.

Please consider whether you may be able to assist in this role.

Obviously, all the teachers and club executive offer full support and the benefit of experience from past exhibitions.

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TASK BOARD

Tony Try will produce a board that will be mounted in the cutting room indicating tasks required for the Exhibition plus listing the various stalls that will be held at the exhibition.

If you can assist in any role please add your name to the list, the earlier the better, so that appropriate planning can take place.

Many thanks to all in anticipation of your help.

Instructors Meeting and Luncheon

An instructors meeting will be held on Saturday 17th April, 11 am, inviting instructors, those interested in becoming instructors and committee members to discuss issues of class management. This will be followed by a luncheon provided by the club.

Education Officer Required

The Education Officer position on committee is currently vacant.

It is a liaison position between instructors and committee, currently being managed by committee, but ideally held by an individual.

Please consider whether you may have the skills and time to join committee in this role.

Please contact club President John Anderson to discuss issues if interested.

Field Trip Officers Report

Questions for the members to assist preparation for outings

1. Does anyone know anything about an occurrence of blue agate just to the south of Wauchope?
2. What fossil locations have members been to or know about that they would like to visit ?

call Edward & Tereska Zbik on
Phone:(02) 9638 6586 day or
evening till 10:00 pm.
Mobile:0401 538 480

E-mail: etzed@optusnet.com.au

Next Field Trip: Kangaroo Valley

Date: 20th / 21st March

Friday is travelling down day.

Kangaroo Valley Glenmack Caravan Park
02 4465 1372

Ed is booking Friday & Saturday nights and arriving around 8:00 pm Friday night

Fossicking areas:

1. Along Kangaroo River under Hampton Bridge – Fossicking Area 59

For Chert, Jasper, Wood Fossils

2. Camden, Fossicking Area 62, Gibbergunyah Creek

For Sapphire

3. Negotiating to enter private property on Wingecrabbe River (Moss Vale) –

For Sapphire, Topaz

For more information please contact Ed as per details above

Next trip to Oberon

Saturday 12th June to Tuesday 15th June –
doona plus weather!

Base: Jenolan Caves Caravan Park,
Cunynghame Street, Oberon, 2787.
Phone: 02 6336 0344

ALL SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME

Recent books and DVD's received in the Library: Lou Sun, Librarian

Two videos on Jewellery featuring about 20
photographs of filigree pendants and earrings

SOCIAL SECRETARY

The club committee position of Social Secretary is
currently vacant and as with all committee
positions we seek someone to step forward to fill
the position. With all such positions, much
support and education as necessary will be
provided by committee and the Old Hands in the
club who have previously filled the role.

Are you the right person?

Please contact John Anderson, President, if
interested.

Age or gender no barrier.

Cutting Room Supervisor

Some new diamond grit Cutting wheels and
sanding wheels have been installed in the cutting
room and will be monitored for performance and
user satisfaction over the coming months

Discussion arising within the NDLC Committee
Meeting on 23 February resolved in decision to
re-name the Junior class as the Family Class, as
for some time the operation of the class has been
inclusive of family members accompanying
juniors joining in the activities taught.

Safety issues

The Fossicker's Lick

An article in a current hobbist/professional
magazine written as a health warning lost some

credibility as it cited a fictitious name as the
authority.

However, the principle point in the article, that
infectious diseases such as colds and flu's,
intestinal parasites such as worms and gastro bugs
can be passed from person to person via 'the
fossicker's lick', are very valid. Neither does the
saliva on a specimen have to be wet, but merely
dried onto a surface in order to transmit an
infection.

Some bacteria, viruses and parasite eggs are
capable of encapsulating themselves or resisting
complete dessication for extended periods of time
until in more favourable environments ie. your
body.

Neither will you necessarily make a connection
between the last rocks you shared a lick of and the
subsequent infection, as incubation periods may
vary from hours to weeks depending on the
infecting organism.

Don't forget that the 'spit and rub' method is not
much better in lessening infection potential if you
don't wash your hands before eating or drinking
or smoking.

Few people would voluntarily share a toothbrush
with a stranger. There's not much difference.

If you need to wet that rock to view it, reach for a
water source, or defer the viewing till later.

Colin Hazell, Registered Nurse, Nursing Unit
Manager and rockhound.

From the net. Item on credit card fraud

*People sure stay busy trying to cheat us, don't
they?*

*A friend went to the local gym and placed his
belongings in the locker.*

*After the workout and a shower, he came out,
saw the locker open, and thought to himself,
'Funny, I thought I locked the locker?'*

*He dressed and just flipped the wallet to make
sure all was in order.*

*Everything looked okay - all cards were in place.
A few weeks later his credit card bill came - a
whooping bill of \$14,000!*

*He called the credit card company and started
yelling at them, saying that he did not make the
transactions.*

*Customer care personnel verified that there was
no mistake in the system*

*and asked if his card had been stolen. ?
'No,' he said, but then took out his wallet, pulled out the credit card, - you guessed it – a switch had been made ?
An expired similar credit card from the same bank was in the wallet.
The thief broke into his locker at the gym and switched cards.*

Verdict: The credit card issuer said since he did not report the card missing earlier, he would have to pay the amount owed to them.

How much did he have to pay for items he did not buy?

\$9,000! Why were there no calls made to verify the amount swiped? Small amounts rarely trigger a 'warning bell' with some credit card companies. It just so happens that all the small amounts added up to big one!

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A Happy Event.

To Sophie and John Klepetko, a son born on Wednesday 24th February, rumours are that all are well. Congratulations, and many good wishes to all, including grandma Barbara.

While we concentrate on gems from the earth, true treasures are born from the works of man.

Note:- Even when bathed and deprived of all confectionery, somehow small children still seem to be sticky.

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Mineral Musings

CALCITE

Calcite is common mineral found in a myriad of forms and circumstances .It is hardness 3 on the Moh's scale of hardness, and brittle. In colour it can be colourless, white, yellow, brown, reddish, bluish to black. In transparency can vary from transparent to translucent. Its luster can vary from vitreous to pearly. It has excellent cleavage, readily forming rhombs when cleaved, and has a conchoidal fracture.

In morphology (mode of occurrence), it can be found as crystals, granules, stalactitic forms, as massive, or earthy, as coatings, crusts, aggregates, concretions, and geodes.

Specific Gravity is 2.6 – 2.8.

Calcite may fluoresce and /or be luminescent in colours of white, yellow, bluish, reddish, orange or greenish.

Chemically it is Calcium Carbonite (CaCO₃), but has many admixtures including magnesium, iron, manganese, barium, strontium, lead, and zinc.

Its crystal system is Trigonal, but very interestingly has more than 80 rhombohedral forms, more than 200 scalenohedral forms and as platy, twinned or compound crystals over 1000 forms. Some enthusiasts have made extensive collections of the great number of crystal forms of calcite.

Crystals have been recorded exceeding 6m x 2m, and more than 25 tonnes in weight.

In genesis (origin) calcite occurs in hydrothermal, sedimentary, secondary deposition, metamorphic and magmatic rocks.

It is mostly seen in marbles, limestones, travertines, and forming extensive beds and mountain ranges all over the world.

Uses include optical instruments, burnt for cement hence used in the building industry, in metallurgy and for ornamental purposes.

Calcium carbonate is the primary mineral in coral and seashells, egg shells, and as a major component in bones.

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A Cooking Conundrum

How Much salt do YOU use?

A campaign has begun internationally to reduce the amount of salt in foods because its implicated in so many diseases.

High blood pressure, cardiac disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease, Meniere's Disease and other hearing related disabilities and in failing vision.

Every cooking program sees pretty fair quantities of salt used.

We are all exposed to huge and unnecessary amounts of salt in fast foods and processed foods and preserved foods.

Even salt in bread has increased up to six times in the last 10 years.

Check your food purchases because I believe you will be amazed at how many foods exceed the recommended limits of 300 mgms per 100 grams. Try the experiment of cooking without salt and not adding salt to your food, especially spiced foods.

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CLASS FEES can be paid to your class teacher, also annual membership fees when due and any purchases from the shop.

**CLASS, CASUAL & WORKSHOPS FEES –
EFFECTIVE FROM 01/01/09**

First Class – per term (School Term)	\$30
Any Additional Class – per term (School Term)	\$25
Casual Use of Machinery – per attendance	\$5
Workshops – 2 day weekend	\$25
1 day (plus materials)	\$15

Workshop Weekends: Subject, Date, and requirements will be printed in this newsletter as they occur.

There are waiting lists for some classes

DATES OF INTEREST

March 13 & 14, Back from Tucson
52 Macpherson Rd, Londonderry
NB; this is a private dealers event

March 12-14, **Minerama** –Glen Innes and Districts Services Club

March 20 – 21, **Blue Mountains Club**;
Annual Exhibition
Progress Hall, cnr Noble St – Gt Westn Hway,
Bullaburra

2010 – GEMBOREE – Tasmania – Devonport
– April 2-5

May 15-16, **Lismore Club Gemfest**
Lismore Showground

July 17-18, **Cambelltown Club**: Annual Gem,
Mineral and Jewellery Show, Community Hall,
Library Bldg, Ingleburn.

October 2-4 GEMKHANA

October 29-31 Northern Districts Lapidary Club
Bi-annual Gem Show
Beecroft Community Ctr, Beecroft Rd, Beecroft.

2011 – GEMBOREE – NSW – Bathurst –
April 22-25

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 Colin Hazell. My email is col.hazell@Bigpond.com.au

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From the Editor's Desk

Please send me contributions for LAPIS. I am interested in articles that would be enjoyed by one and all.

Ph. (02) 9888 7650 or Mobile 0410 659 729

Email col.hazell@bigpond.com.au

Just a chuckle to finish

The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian .

She was only a whisky maker,
but he loved her still.

A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.

3 boys owned a farm on which one raised chickens, one raised beef and one raised pigs, but never could agree on a name for the property. Their Mum said it was easy, name the property 'Focus'. The puzzled boys asked why, to which she replied "Its where the sun's rays meet"

