



LAPIS

www.ndlapidary.org.au

“SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE”

VOLUME FORTY SEVEN - NUMBER TWO OCTOBER 2010

CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on **Tuesday 12th October at 8pm**. All members welcome.

Guest speaker

The guest speaker for October is **Greg Smith**, MP, member for Epping, shadow Attorney General and shadow Minister for Justice, who will speak on the role of the attorney general in parliament.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another month has passed quickly and we are into the final preparations for our Exhibition commencing Friday 29 October. Read “Lapis” for information on what is needed, where you can help, and when the workshops are scheduled. With your help it can be one of our “best ever” exhibitions. With good preparation and help from our members it certainly will be a springtime show with flowers and rocks reflecting the beauty which springs from our earth. Tell your friends and spread the word.

There are several events and excursions organized for our members. Look for them in “Lapis” and on the notice-board. Your support for these activities will keep organizers enthusiastic to introduce even more activities.

The committee is looking at safety in the club room. If you have spotted an item you feel needs attention please bring it to the notice of your instructor or a committee member. The most important response from members is to “observe and think carefully” before you use equipment, to ensure that you and other members are safe from reaction to your action.

A member willing to rise to the challenge of “Vice President” of our wonderful club has not made a phone call to me! Perhaps you are waiting for a phone call from me!

May the luster of life shine for you.

Diane Neasmith.

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

- Colin Barring ham – Beecroft
- Philip Leung - Alexandria

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

EXHIBITION NOTES IMPORTANT

It’s now just 3 weeks to your Exhibition. It is essential that you read all the information inside this edition.

EXHIBITION BULLETIN

RAFFLE TICKETS:

Please remember to return your raffle ticket books **SOLD OR PARTLY SOLD** to the Club Rooms as soon as possible. It will make it so much easier for the tickets butts to be folded in time and the money to be accounted for. If you really can’t make it to the Club Rooms then bring them along and hand them in at the raffle table at the exhibition.

The prizes are all good value and are now on display in the Club room foyer.

WORKERS are needed to;

Help set up the hall on Thursday morning 28th (lunch will be supplied),

Man the stalls during the show.

To walk the floor as security during the show.

As **demonstrators** in the workshop to show visitors 'what we do and how we do it', (this is your chance to get a lot of free cutting time).
Sleep over as overnight security.
Help pull down the display at 5 pm on Sunday.

SCONES are needed:

As usual we will be providing free refreshments to our visitors.

To do this however we need LOTS of scones or similar. Scones freeze well so please cook off some now. Freeze them at home and bring them in during the Exhibition or you can put them in the Club's freezer now.

This has been a feature at our Exhibitions for many years now, so let's continue. The longer the visitor stays, the more (s) he says and pays.

See scone recipes in Cook's Corner. Ed.

DODGERS

Promoting the exhibition are available in the Club rooms.

Take some and hand out to friends and family.

If you wish to get some exercise then take a handful and **do a letter box drop** in the immediate area around Beecroft. (most exhibition visitors are from the Beecroft and immediate environs). There is a copy of a street map on the inside of the club door, please mark off the area that you cover so that we do not duplicate. Or drop some off in your local area and to those people you know have an interest in the hobby. The more who know, the more will go.

BOOKS and PLANTS:

It's time to start bringing books up to the Club rooms but probably better to keep plants until the week before. If you need anything picked up please contact a Committee Member or ring John on 9871 3302.

MEMBERS ARE URGED TO WEAR THEIR BLUE CLUB SHIRT when attending the Exhibition. It looks great and can help visitors who want to ask questions about the Club's activities identify the club members who can answer those questions. It also shows a pride in the club and its activities.

ALL MEMBERS, including stall holders, are asked to pay the normal admission fee, but only

pay it once no matter how many times they actually attend the Exhibition over the weekend.

BEADING WORKING BEE

There will be a **Beading** day on **Saturday October 9 starting 9.30 am** and going to mid afternoon, (bring a lunch). Members with beading skills are preferred but keen learners are welcome. Please let Nivea Adami, 9802 1477, know if you can attend.

A SPRING CLEAN WORKING BEE

Will take place on **Sunday October 24 at 9 am**. The Club rooms are going to be cleaned from top to bottom, inside and out. Other jobs are on the list as well.

Expert and novice dusters, washers, vacuumers, scrubbers and polishers are needed that day, and possibly painters.

The Club will provide a sausage sizzle for lunch that day.

OFFICIAL OPENING & PRESENTATIONS -

will be on the Friday 29th night at 7.30 pm.

Local author and historian **Trevor Patrick** will open our Exhibition.

Please attend, have some wine and cheese and meet up with lots of fellow Members.

I can't think of any other reminders, anyway not until Colin prints this in Lapis.

Remember that **IT IS YOUR EXHIBITION**. We only run one every two years so let's do it right.

Please contact me for any reason.

John Weatherburn, Convenor
9871 3302

Time to do a Springclean of the basement and shed?

Mineral specimens have proved to be popular items for sale at our Exhibition – so much so that we have sold off much of the material that the

Club has previously acquired. We urgently need to replenish our stocks and so this appeal goes out to all those Members who have ventured afar on field trips across Australia and – as we all do – brought back as many kilograms of rock specimens as the caravan/car springs would allow. Much of the ‘excess’ material from Broken Hill, Mt Isa, etc now forms borders around our gardens or lies ‘buried’ in old boxes under the house.

If this is the case at your home then it might be mutually beneficial should you decide to do an early spring-clean of your old rock/mineral specimens. The Club would greatly appreciate any donations of surplus mineral or fossil specimens. Specimens with crystals are always popular as are samples of ore bodies, etc.

Samples can be left at the Clubrooms or contact John Weatherburn (9871 3302) or a Committee Member if you need assistance with pick-up etc.

Exhibition Show 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 wish); 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.

John Weatherburn Exhibition Co-ordinator

JUDGING DAY

On 16 October 2010 starting at 9am the judging for our Club’s competition entries will take place in our Clubrooms.

While Judges have been allocated we will need help with pencilling and scrutineers.

This is essential to our exhibition and is a great way to learn how the judges assess your entry.

Please mark this date in your calendar and I look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any questions or would like more information on how you can assist, please ring me on 4393 6168 or 0417 676 435.

Barbara Try

The Club has a new Judge

Congratulations to Lyn Bridson who successfully completed the Cabochon Judging Course last month.

GENERAL NOTICE - NDLC FIELD TRIPS

All members should be aware that until a sub committee meets to consider adjustments to our constitution – only financial club members are covered for personal accident insurance on NDLC field trips and excursions.

This means spouses, partners, friends, visitors etc who are not financial club members should be made aware that they are NOT covered for PA insurance. This situation has arisen because of recent changes to our policy.

It is expected that this sub-committee will meet to discuss this and other possible amendments to our constitution as soon as possible after our exhibition.

Tony Try [*for Ed Zbik - FTO*]

Field Trip Officers Report

PHOTOS OF FIELD TRIPS

If you have photos of field trips, can you put them on CD and leave at the club so a pictorial book can be made up of various field trips club members have made. The field trips can be from the past 40 years. We want to see who can produce the oldest club photo. Your contribution may be one photo or a storyboard of the best field trips pics you have. It can include shots of members as well as rocks found and loved to craft items produced from your collecting activities.

Mineral Group

The club is considering holding a minerals group evening. If you are interested in attending, please e-mail Ed at etzed@optusnet.com.au.

We will be looking for ideas as what the group can do. Probable night to be held is Thursday evenings.

What do you want to get out of a fossils, minerals and raw gemstone group???

It will be an informal gathering.

Theme of each month will be the months birthstone. Who's got a specimen the furthest distance from Beecroft?

First session to start next term. 1st topic is Specific Gravity, bring along your unnamed crystals to be examined. If you have scales that read 1g or 0.1g or 0.01g please bring them along.

Starting date to be confirmed. Class fees for term or day fees apply.

NOVEMBER R/R - FIELD TRIP.

TUMUT [12-15th Nov] and an extension to BEECHWORTH [16-21st Nov]

As intimated in earlier Lapis editions this trip is mainly an R & R and social occasion to celebrate the successful completion of another of our Exhibitions

A suggested itinerary for our stay in Tumut is on the Club's notice board. Please make and take a copy, if you have not already done so.

Our stay in Beechworth will include a picnic on the banks of the Murray River, behind one of the well known wineries as well as day trips to a number of the local attractions.

It will also include a meeting & some fossicking in conjunction with another lapidary club from the local area.

Tony Try [for Ed Zbik - FTO]

Ph. (02) 4393 6168 or Mobile: 0417 676 435

November 27 & 28

A trip to Bulahdelah – Gloucester – Dungog area for andesite, rhyolite, thunder eggs and fossils

December 5th Day Only

Warriewood – Turimetta Beach

Along Narabeen Park Drive

Fossils, Surf and vitamin D

DRAFT 2011 Field Trips

January - 4 days Sunny Corner

February - Upper Hunter Weekend– Bush Camp

March - Gundegai – kimberlite fields???

April - Gemboree Bathurst Field Trip, probably Tarana, Lowther or Lett River

April-May - Yerranderie Weekend

June – July - Yowah Qld

July – August – Tingha – Kingston M

Cooks' Corner

Traditional Scone Recipe

Ingredient

1.5oz / 40g slightly salted butter

8oz / 225g self-raising flour

1oz / 25g caster sugar

large pinch of salt

5fl oz / 150ml milk

Method

- Mix the flour and salt together and rub in the butter.
- Mix in the sugar, then the milk until the dough is soft.
- Turn on to a floured board and knead very lightly.
- Make a round roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ in / 2cm thick.
- Using a scone cutter (about 2in / 5 cm) cut into rounds and place on a lightly greased baking sheet.
- Lightly knead together the rest of the dough and continue cutting more scones to use up all the dough.
- Brush the tops of the scones with a little milk.
- Bake for 12-15 minutes in pre-heated oven (220C/425F) until well risen and golden.

Cool on a wire rack and serve with butter and homemade raspberry jam and maybe some clotted cream.

3 INGREDIENT SCONES

Prep time 8 minutes

Cook time 12-15 min

Pre-heat oven 200c. (or 390F)

5 cups self-raising Flour
 300ml cream
 250ml lemonade

Sift flour

Add cream and lemonade then cut and fold till a ball forms, then place on a floured surface. Work lightly till mix is just smooth and springy (don't overwork)

Roll 2cm thick

Cut to shape

Gently separate them onto a baking sheet or tray

Bake approx 15 min till golden.

CHRISTMAS PARTY



Guess what !!! – The silly season is fast approaching and our Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 11 December in the Village Green.

The party will start at 3.00pm and will be an early dinner of chicken and salads.

Please note the date in your diaries and we will have more information in the November Lapis.

A FEW NOTES ON BIRTHSTONES

Ed Zbik's suggestion of a birthstone theme for the proposed mineral group led me to a little research on birthstones and their origins. All is not cut and dried in this area, as there are competing historical, cultural, ethnic, religious, arcane and esoteric beliefs attached to the selection of stones.

The current stones attributed to each month in the modern list only date to 1912, when the organization Jewellers of America adopted a list of stones as a standard to make their own lives (and marketing) an easier proposition. Unfortunately this has led to other countries adopting the same list, including Australia and Thailand, thus diminishing the lore attached to gems historically and in a talismanic sense, which is a part of cultural identity.

The modern of birthstones is

January	Garnet
February	Amethyst
March	Aquamarine
April	Diamond
May	Emerald

June	Moonstone, Pearl
July	Ruby
August	Peridot
September	Sapphire
October	Opal, Tourmaline
November	Topaz, Citrine
December	Turquoise, Blue Topaz

Stones both rare and precious have been attached to powers and portents for at least 10,000 years, with evidence found in graves as personal adornment and engraved or carved to entreat the powers. Early written records attest the trade in gems and their attachment to belief systems.

A few of the influences that could affect birthstone or other reasons for selection are :-

The Ayurvedic (Indian) medicine and philosophy dating back 1500BC.

Mystical birthstones in Tibetan lore with at least a 1000 yr history.

The Jewish historian Josephus proclaiming a connection between the 12 months of the year, the 12 signs of the zodiac and the Breastplate of Aaron as referred to in Exodus 28:17 – 20:.

Reference by astrologers in many civilizations attributing gemstones by colour to the planets, to aid petitioners in their entreaties of the gods,

Each major historically significant culture exerting its beliefs and influences eg. Russian, Roman, Greek, Egyptian, Italian, Arabic, Babylonian, Chinese etc

The list of foundation stones of the new Jerusalem, found in Revelation 21:19 – 20, where they are listed in the order of the Roman calendar.

Many lists that are quite local to particular countries or areas, reflecting availability of materials and attaching belief and meaning to colour that is unique to a culture and often opposite to that accepted in other parts .

Eg the colour Black may represent fertility, wisdom, sophistication, sexuality, mystery, evil, mourning, sadness and anger. Green may represent life, prosperity, healing, growth, youth, envy, misfortune or sickness. Most other colours carry culturally significant and opposite values.

Of course, no calendar month clearly aligns with a horoscope either, so all sorts of overlaps occur.

The current trend to actually wear birthstones appears to have begun in Poland in the 15th century. As a birthstones' powers were greatest during its associated month or astrological sign, one of cause had to have a complete set to rotate

through the year. Might this not have been a device to separate the wealthy and trendy from the common, as the common seem to follow the example of the wealthy?

Just when you thought that was bad enough, there are lists assigning gems to the days of the week and even to the hours of the day.

A fuller description and comparison of list by colour, horoscope and history would need a book in itself.

References used include Wikipedia and an article from Bernadine Fine Art Jewellery(from the web), The Curious Lore of Precious Stones by Geo. F Kunz, and several other books on esoteric uses of gems held privately.

Colin Hazell

Paddy is passing by Mick's hay shed one day when through a gap in the door he sees Mick doing a slow and sensual striptease in front of an old grey Ferguson.

Buttocks clenched, he performs a slow pirouette and gently slides off first the right welly, followed by the left.

He then hunches his shoulders forward and in a classic striptease move lets his braces fall down from his shoulders to dangle by his hips over his corduroy trousers.

Grabbing both sides of his checked shirt, he rips it apart to reveal his tea stained vest underneath and with a final flourish he hurls his flat cap onto a pile of hay.

"What the heck are you doing Mick?" says Paddy.

"Jeez Paddy, ye frightened the livin bejasus out of me", says an obviously embarrassed Mick, "but me and the missus been having some trouble lately in the relationship department, and the therapist suggested I do something sexy to a tractor".

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~NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB INC.
holds the majority of its monthly meetings in the Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Road, Beecroft at 8pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month except January. Variation in date and time of meetings are published in Lapis, and on the club website.
The Entrance to the clubrooms is on the railway side of the building. ~

Membership Fees: effective from 01/07/2009
Entrance/ Annual Subs

Full Member aged 18 or more yrs	\$25	\$20
Junior member aged 10 to 17 yrs incl.	\$10	\$10
Family Concession	\$40	As Above
Junior Associate member aged less than 10 yrs		No charge

In case of a person being admitted to membership on or after January 1st in any Club financial year, the subscription fee that year shall be half the amount.

**THE CLUB FINANCIAL YEAR IS FROM
JULY 1ST – JUNE 30TH**

WEBMASTER – Alex Maitland

Mail to: ammaitland@optusnet.com.au

**CURRENT CLASSES & ACTIVITIES
HELD IN CLUB ROOMS**

- Monday** 7.30pm CABOCHON CUTTING
Instructors Glenn Brown 9617 0446
7.30pm SILVER JEWELLERY
Instructor Johan ten Hoedt 9484 6521
- Tuesday** 9.00am SILVER JEWELLERY workshop
Contact Ed Bentley 94985748
- Wednesday** 10.00am SENIORS ALL DAY Workshop
Contact George Hunter 9871 2126
7.30pm SILVER JEWELLERY
Instructor Brian Burns 9878 4073
- Thursday** 7.30pm CABOCHON CUTTING
Instructor John Weatherburn 9871 3302
7.30pm FACETING CLASS
Instructor Norm Fitzpatrick 9876 1815
- Friday** CASUAL COMPETITION CUTTING
No teacher – self help - enquiries please
contact John Weatherburn – 9871 3302
- Saturday** 1.00pm Family CLASS
Instructor Paul Khoo
with Corin Sadlier 9869 7775

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

An Obituary printed in the London Times - Interesting and sadly rather true.

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, **Common Sense**, who has been with us for

many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers;
I Know My Rights
I Want It Now
Someone Else Is To Blame
I'm A Victim

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

DATES OF INTEREST

October 16 & 17

Central Coast Lapidary Club - Annual Gem Festival – at Wyong Memorial Hall.

October 23 -24

Lapidary Club of NSW holding their Exhibition at their Clubrooms at 136 Reservoir Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010

October 29-30-31

Northern Districts Lapidary Club

Biennial Gem Show

Beecroft Community Ctr,

Beecroft Rd, cnr Copeland Rd,

Beecroft.

November 12 - 14

Parramatta-Holroyd Club – Annual Exhibition. at the Clubroom, 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville

November 13 -14

Newcastle Club – Annual Jewellery, Gemstone & Bead Show – at the Clubroom , Dora Road (off Teralba Rd,) Adamstown

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

DISCLAIMER: Opinions expressed in LAPIS are those of the original Authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, Committee or Members of the Northern Districts Lapidary Club Inc. Persons acting on any opinions, advice or facts published in the Issue do so at their own risk.

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

MEETING DATES

2010

Tuesday 12th October8.00pm

Tuesday 9th November8.00pm

Saturday 11th December.....3pm

Christmas party

Management Committee meets the last Tuesday of each month except December at 7.30 pm, in the clubrooms.