



LAPIS

www.ndlapidary.org.au

“SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE”

VOLUME FORTY SEVEN - NUMBER NINE JUNE 2011

CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on **SATURDAY 18th June at 2pm**. All members welcome.

Guest speaker

Guest Speaker for June, starting promptly at 2pm, will be **Michael Reimer**, from the Neutrog Organisation.

Neutrog manufactures fertilizers for specific purposes in the agricultural industry

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Winter! It is hard to get out at night, but our club rooms are warm so you soon forget the cold. 1st Friday night of the month cutting saw only three using the equipment so there is plenty of room for more people.

RIP to Harry Lovell will be found within this magazine. A friend of the Club who will be long remembered by its members.

Are your membership details up to date? Are you receiving your Lapis? Let someone know if you need to change your phone number or address on our records.

At the Gemboree the Club purchased an Azurite ‘Sun’ which will soon be on display in the club’s mineral cabinet. The story of the mine in the Northern territory is on the board above of the book stand. Don’t forget to check it out.

Meantime, happy cutting and it is time to start planning for next Gemboree in Bundaberg Queensland, Easter 2012.

Diane Neasmith.

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members Karen Baynes of Berowra Heights

Peter Torrinello of

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

Auditor found

Nivea Adami has agreed to perform the role of Auditor for NDLC this year. Many thanks Nivea

About Harry Lovell

About the time of printing of the May Lapis, Harry Lovell, whom I had mentioned as being hospitalised, died. I didn’t find out about his death till the next day. Like many in the NDLC, this prompted feelings of affection for a man who truly lived the club motto and was so well loved and appreciated as a good man. This has led to an unusual situation for Lapis. This issue contains both Harry’s own biography, which he had just recently written at the request of Diane Neasmith, Club President, as part of a series on Life Members, and a Vale for Harry written by fellow life member Jean McCleay. You, as did I, will gain an appreciation for a life well lived.

Ed.

LIFE MEMBER AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Mr Harry Lovell.

How I Found and Joined Northern District Lapidary Club.

I had retired and my wife and I were very compatible. Where I went Flo went. We both went fishing and we loved our garden.

We were working in the garden one day when Flo said to me that we will need to find a hobby. There is too much time being wasted. There is a Gem Show at Beecroft. Can we have a look at it.

So off we went to see it and we liked what we saw very much.

A member took us around and explained how the Club worked and gave us the papers to join the club. We could not join then but we could join at the next General Meeting. At the meeting we joined the Club.

The first person I saw that night was Alex Campbell. I had known the Campbell's all my life. Alex took us both under his wing and said we should join the Thursday night class and we did. Barbara Try was the teacher and was tough on us. Well, it was not long and Flo was winning prizes at the Easter (Gem) Show.

We soon joined the Wednesday group. There was always 20-25 members and it was not just lapidary, they did everything. Copper Shim class, Enamelling class, a Bead Making class, Gem Tree making class, China Doll making class. Flo got involved with all these classes and did very well.

Alex Campbell was in charge of the Wednesday group. He was mostly slabbing on the big saws. He said "I am getting too old for this. I will teach you and you can take over" and for the next 20 years I cut slabs and material on those saws.

The Annual Meeting came up. We went to it and found out more about the workings of the Club. At that meeting Flo was appointed Lapis editor and I was committee man. At the next meeting I was made cutting room supervisor and I really got involved in the workings of the Club.

The sanding and polish machine was in a state of disrepair. I replaced pulleys and belts on them. I found out from this that I would need help which I got. I found out there were lots of helpers and my job became easy.

The meeting room got carpet then the cutting room got carpet. The silver tables got made and cutting room was remodeled. The covering on the chairs were in a bad way. We had a lady in my silver class who said to get a working bee going and material and I will teach them and it was done.

I bought a faceting machine and a book in faceting and taught myself to facet with help from Alex Campbell. It was not long and I was teaching it for many years.

Flo was minute secretary and was also the Thursday night cabochon teacher and supper maker.

I joined a silver class and learned enough from Ron Field to take on teaching. I was not a good teacher, only taught what I knew and what I could get out of books.

The Gem Show was at Mt Isa. The Club arranged a coach trip to it and on to the Centre and Harts Range for Zircons and Garnets. We found a lot. We made a lot of good friends on that trip. Later we had a coach trip to the west and the wild flowers etc. Another coach trip was the Gun Barrel Highway. What a trip that was. We enjoyed every bit of it.

Flo and I had found our hobby. We made great friends and there was always help. We had our own club at home with all the same tools and machines that were in the club. If any people came to see us they did not go to the house. They came straight to the shed.

I lost Flo 12 years ago. The Club still misses her but not as much as I do.

At 90 years I am not much help in the Club but I still enjoy my Wednesday. My only complaint is that I have out-lived all the friends I had in the early days.

There are still many good members in the Club. It is just different. I have two special members that I call my angels.

written by Harry Lovell during the week before his death

Joined March 1983 Life Member 1991 Deceased 11 May 2011

VALE HARRY LOVELL



You could say that Harry was "the old man of the club", certainly a father figure, always prepared to give advice or help wherever needed. Harry and his much loved wife Flo joined our club when he retired encouraged by his long time friend and original member Alec Campbell. Like so many before him, he discovered his creative streak in his later life. Harry learned cab cutting, jewellery making and faceting and excelled at all crafts. He

taught both faceting and jewellery classes for many years.

But lapidary was not the only talent Harry discovered late in life. He wrote an autobiography which revealed his tough early life.

Harry grew up in Thornleigh in a family that was far from well off. He admitted that he was a larrikin when young and wagged school at every opportunity. Consequently he was illiterate at the time he joined the army. Harry fought in the hardest of theatres of war in both the Middle East and New Guinea. During this time in the army his sergeant taught him to read and write. Harry's working life was then with the Water Board. His book tells us of the hard slog cutting trenches through the tough Sydney sandstone providing reticulation of water throughout the Sydney area. By the time Harry retired he had reached the senior ranks and knew the layout of the whole of Sydney Water in his head and knew where to cut off the mains in times of trouble.

Harry's first wife died of a long and chronic illness leaving him with two daughters, Karen and Lesley.

He later married Flo, a long time friend, then a widow, making a family of six, including Flo's girls Bev and Cheryl. Harry loved his four girls equally and their love for him was evident. Sadly he lost Cheryl some years ago and then, very suddenly, his soul mate Flo.

Lately Harry's health has been deteriorating but he has kept us in order on Wednesdays and I suspect he was giving the nurses cheek up to the last in hospital.

He died peacefully at his target age of 90 having lived a full and productive life. We will miss him dearly.

Jean Macleay

Our Team of Trophy Winners at 2011 GEMBOREE



L to R Diane Neasmith(Pres.) holding the trophy awarded Elizabeth Khoo(junior), Brian Burns, Barbara Try, Helga Clarke, John Weatherburn

Why the reprint of the photo of Trophy winners?

Because I misnamed one of our winners in the May Lapis. My apologies to John Weatherburn. Ed.

And such a great effort by them all.

The Family Class Group, Our Juniors



A Photo of the Family Class group with their instructor, Paul Khoo. They competed successfully in the junior competition at the GEMBOREE.

Family Class Report

Every Saturday, from one to three p.m. during school terms, five to twelve young individuals (at times with family members) attend class at the club premises. The junior members, aged between 10 and 18 years old, generally have a good time. So it is time for a short report on what they get up to.

The major part of their time is learning to use the equipment to convert stone slabs or rough stones into polished stones, cabochons. However, this only leaves them with a polished stones to show family and friends. So they also get to learn wire wrapping, which is using nickel-silver wires to wrap the cabochon so that it can be made into an ornament, usually a pendant. Add a silver plated chain, and they get a necklace to present to a loved one.

Last year we had our biennial show. This created a bit of stress for everyone as they worked on

projects for display. Besides cabochons and wire wrapped necklaces, junior members also had to try polish stones up to competition standards. Cabs, which seemed acceptable when seen with the naked eye, had to be examined under loupes and much effort had to be exerted to correct flaws. Juniors also carved mushrooms from lumps of fossilised wood. To give variety, they also created some displays of gem trees and copper tooling.

Just when we thought that we could take it easy, it was time for the Bathurst Gemboree. Everyone spent long hours for more than three Saturdays to produce cabs worthy of submission to the competition. In between significant events, juniors had more chances of trying their hands on carving. Many marble letter openers were carved, that is until they had to be polished. We soon learnt not to put too much pressure on marble letter openers when polishing them because it led to snapped blades which had to be re-carved as letter openers with much shorter blades. In addition, some had a chance to carve marble dolphins.

Our most recent project has been making a basic ring from nickel-silver wire. It allowed juniors to understand that stress on alloys hardened them and that wires needed to be annealed, i.e., heated to alter the microstructure so that alloy would be soft enough to work. Then there was learning how to solder wire into a ring, shaping the ring on mandrel, sandpapering and finally polishing. Below are pictures of a ring specimen as well as the class proudly displaying their rings.



We have been very fortunate that our class has received help from many of our experienced members like Kevin, Kristen, Glenn, Tony and Barbara, Jim and Bill. Our thanks to them for their assistance and we hope they can continue to help by sharing their experiences in projects.

Paul and Corin

Casual Cutting

Casual cutting will be available on the first Friday of each month, limited to club members only.

Starting time from 5pm

No teacher will be available, but the principle of “share the knowledge” will, I’m sure, apply.

Casual cutting rates will apply.

Well Done

Rod Powell on his results in the Lapidary Competition at the recent Hawkesbury Show. Rod came second in both the Standard Cabachon and Double Standard Cabachon sections.

It is good to see one of our members becoming involved in the competitive side of our hobby.

Competitions are not everyones cup of tea but it is the best way to improve your skills and also gain a lot of self satisfaction.

Norm Fitzgerald and **Bruce Macleay** have both been awarded their OBE (over bloody eighty).

Alex Maitland for his beaut photos of the recent GEMBOREE. They cover the tailgaters, dealers and the competition and are worth a look.

Google AFLACA (Australian Federation of Lapidary and Allied Crafts Association) and check out the GEMBOREE 2011 Gallery.

Tony Try and **Alan Clark** (Alan belongs to the Central Coast Club) for their input and support to Barbara and Annette, who together ran the competition at the Bathurst GEMBOREE. I understand Tony and Alan have booked an overseas trip for 201? When the next GEMBOREE is to be held in NSW.

Ernst Holland (from Bathurst Club) for the hard work he and his many workers did to make the Bathurst GEMBOREE such a success. For no extra charge Ernst organised perfect weather for the Easter break (at Bathurst anyway).

and

‘The Society for Wrong Things to Say to Your Wife’.

They recently did a survey and found that women's faces age and wrinkle just like their mothers'.
J.W.

Annual Membership Fees are due for payment at the end of June.

Management committee have determined that fees will remain the same for the coming year.

Rates are therefore

\$20 for Full Members

\$40 for Family concession

\$10 for juniors.

Please make cheques out to Northern Districts Lapidary Club, or pay cash to your class Instructors, specifying that payments are for Annual fees.

It would be greatly appreciated if all members could confirm that contact information held by the club is correct as we do get a number of returned mail and email items, or find we are unable to contact persons by phone as numbers have changed.

NEW CONSTITUTION

The sub committee has completed writing a new constitution based on the Model Constitution issued by Fair Trading NSW and using where possible our old constitution. Most controversial will be the composition of the management committee and its members voting rights. This was item 12 in the old constitution.

The sub-committee examined 3 models and recommends the following model to the members. If you have objections please raise them at the next General Meeting as we need a consensus from members.

14 COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE.

14.1 *The Members shall elect at each Annual General Meeting eligible nominated Members, to fill each of the following:*

a) *The Executive Positions of the Club are as follows:*

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

b) *The Committee shall consist of the Executive and the following ordinary Committee Positions.*

Minutes Secretary

Editor of "Lapis"

Field Trips Officer

Education Officer

Cutting Room Supervisor

Delegate to Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW

c) *Additional to the above Committee Members, elections will be held for the following Support Positions which shall report monthly to the Committee but will not be required to attend Committee Meetings unless requested by the Committee. Support Positions will not have voting rights on Committee.*

d) *The elected Support Positions include the following:*

Librarian

Social Secretary

Publicity Officer

Membership Secretary

14.2 *A Committee Member may hold up to 2 positions (other than two of the Executive Positions). A Committee Member holding two positions would still exercise only one vote in Committee.*

14.3 *Each Member of the Committee is, subject to this constitution, to hold office until the conclusion of the annual general meeting following the date of the Member's election, but is eligible for re-election provided that a member of the Executive may not hold the same office for more than three (3) consecutive years.*

NOTE: The full draft of the new constitution is available in the club rooms and electronically on the web site.

Field Trip Officers' Report
Next Field Trip

Friday 14 – 22 October

Rockerama, the Inverell district Gem Festival.

There are 11 field trips to choose from.

ALSO, a Guyra Sapphire collecting trip, either side of the Inverell 'Rockerama'.

More details will be published in a later edition.

Words with two meanings

Communication

Female: The open sharing of thoughts and feelings with one's partner.

Male: Leaving a note before taking off on a fishing trip with the boys.

Entertainment

Female: a good movie, concert, play or book

Male: anything that can be done while drinking beer

Topaz Information

Topaz is a hydrous silicate of Aluminium and Fluorine, it often occurs in acid igneous rocks, such as granite, where crystals may occur in pegmatites. Topaz is often associated with fluorite, cassiterite, quartz and beryl. Gem quality



Gem quality topaz is found in Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia. The most popular gemfields in Australia for fossicking topaz are [Mt Surprise](#) Queensland, [Beechworth](#) Victoria, [New England area](#) New South Wales and [Killiecrankie Bay](#) Flinders Island off Tasmania.

Topaz Distinctive Features

Topaz can be pale amber to clear prismatic crystals with a perfect basal cleavage on 001. Common natural colours in Australia are clear, pale honey yellow, pale blue. The Topaz Crystal system is Orthorhombic. Topaz has a hardness of 8 on the Mohs' Scale.



Chemistry	Aluminium fluorine silicate
Crystal System	Orthorhombic
Hardness	8
Refractive Index	1.610 - 1.638
Specific Gravity	3.53 - 3.56
Lustre	Vitreous

Fossicking Method

Large quantities of topaz are associated with alluvial gravels in and around the creeks and tributaries and also where it has been released from the decomposing granites. Generally the rains and subsequent floods tend to wash the topaz toward the creeks and gravel deposits. Dry Sieving in dry creek beds is the method used most frequently. Use a shaker box and shovel/bucket the alluvial gravels directly into the shaker box. Rocking the box backwards and forwards rapidly separates out the gravels and dust. You are left with the larger pebbles and stones. The topaz is

easily identified as clear or frosty crystals or waterworn rounded pebbles ranging in size up to 2 or 3cm in diameter (see photo above). The most common colours are clear (Silver) or very light blue and occasionally a very light honey coloured crystal is found.

Topaz is often found in old tin mining areas along with beryl and quartz and may turn up in gold mining areas in granite country.

All three materials were considered non-valuable and discarded in the tailings dumps.

In certain alluvial areas and creek beds sapphire and even the occasional diamond may be found, so remember to keep your eyes open.

Cook's Corner

Brown Onion Soup

1 kg sliced onions
60 g butter
60 g plain flour
2.5 litres stock
Salt and pepper
1 tsp sugar

Fry the onions in the butter until soft and golden. Stir in the flour then cook for a few minutes till it browns. Add the stock and seasonings and sugar, bring to the boil while stirring, then simmer for about 1 1/2 hrs. Check the seasonings, then serve with croutons or toast.

Col's Quick Tomato Soup

1 small onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped, Optional
Small qty olive oil or butter
1 800g tin crushed tomatoes
1 cup of stock, chicken or vege.
1 fresh tomato, finely diced
Pepper, salt, sugar to taste
Fresh herbs to taste, to garnish

Fry the onion and garlic till golden then add the canned tomato, stock and seasonings, bring to the boil then simmer for about 20 minutes. Add fresh tomato, check seasoning. Serve with croutons or toast to taste (I prefer toasted sourdough). This is a rough soup, textured by the onion and fresh tomato, the fresh tomato contrasting to the sweeter crushed and simmered canned tomato.

Add a dollop of yoghurt or sour cream and fresh herbs (parsley, coriander or basil).

DIRECTORY

President Diane Neasmith 98692314
Mob. 0468973320 dneasmith@ozemail.com.au

Vice President Vacant

Secretary Glenn Brow 9617 0446
glenn.brown@csiro.au
secretary@ndlapidary.org.au

Treasurer Sharon Waters 98718938
sgwaters@tpg.com.au

Minutes Secretary Gibson Owen 94114767
Mob. 0418227127 gibson@lawfully.com.au

Editor of Lapis Colin Hazell 0410 659 729
col.hazell@Bigpond.com.au

Cutting Room Supervisor Phil Manton 91445869
Mob. 0431184110

Education Officer Vacant

Field Trips Officer Edward Zbik 96386186
mob.0410 538 480 etzed@optusnet.com.au

Librarian Marijke Noonan 94491107
Mob. 0410443777 noonandm@bigpond.net.au

Social Secretary Vacant

Publicity Officer Vacant

Gem Council Delegate Barbara Try 4393 6168
twotrys@bigpond.net.au

Committee Member Tony Try 4393 6168
twotrys@bigpond.net.au

Web Master Alex Maitland
maitland1@gmail.com

Club Telephone Number 9484 0014

Public Officer Brian Burns 9878 4073

Postal Address Secretary
Northern Districts Lapidary Club
PO Box 59
Beecroft NSW 2119

Northern Districts Lapidary Club acknowledges the support of Hornsby Council.

~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 01/07/2010
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	Phil Schofield 88851723
		Mob.0405 035 226
Friday		CASUAL CUTTING
	1 st Friday of the month,	from 5pm
	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 Cutting– per attendance \$5
Workshops –Costs as published when notified, plus materials.

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

June 18-19; Windsor Jewellery Beading Gem & Mineral show, Windsor Function Centre, cnr Dight & Macquarie Sts, Windsor

Aug 11-14, Gemfest, Anakie, Qld

Aug 20-21, Blaxland Club, Annual Gem Show, Glenbrook Comm.Hall, Gt West. H'way, Glenbrook

Aug 27-28, Carlingford Jewellery Beading Gem & Mineral show, Roselea Community Centre, Pennant Hills Rd, Carlingford

Oct 1-3, GEMKHANA, Cessnock Showground

Oct 14-16, Central Coast Club ; Annual Festival, Mingara Club, Tumbi Umbi

Oct 5-6, Illawarra Club; Annual Exhibition, Heininger House, Dapto Ribbonwood Centre

2012 GEMBOREE, Bundaberg, Qld

2113 GEMBOREE, Murray Bridge, SA

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) 98886750 or Mobile 0410 659 729
Email col.hazell@bigpond.com.au

MEETING DATES for 2011

All meetings are held in the Clubrooms at Beecroft.

Saturday 18th June, 2pm

Saturday 16th July, 2pm

AGM Saturday 13th August, 2pm

Tuesday 13th September, 8.00pm

Tuesday 11th October, 8.00pm

Tuesday 8th November, 8.00pm

Saturday 10th December, 2pm, Christmas Party

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

