

Crystal Lines

NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB Inc.

Newsletter for August 2014

If undeliverable, return to
North Brisbane Lapidary
Club Inc.
P.O. Box 48
Northgate Q. 4013

SUR-
FACE
MAIL

In this Edition:
Help wanted!, Prehnite and a rolling
stone.



NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

PATRON	Jason Woodforth MP	TREASURER	Tony Wheate
PRESIDENT	Barry Waller	MEMBERSHIP	Linda Forbes
VICE PRESIDENT	Graham Fox	LIBRARIAN	Linda Forbes
SECRETARY	Katarina Hayston	EDITOR	Katarina Hayston
5 th Member	Barry Kirkham	Email:	katarina.hayston@gmail.com

WORK SESSIONS		JOINING FEES		+	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS	
Monday	7.00pm-9.30pm	\$20.00	First member	\$30.00	First member	
Tuesday	7.00pm-9.00pm	\$15.00	Second member	\$24.00	Second member	
Wednesday	9.00am-12noon	\$15.00	Pensioner	\$60.00	Family (2 adults & 2 children 12-18 years)	
Friday	7.00pm-9.30pm	\$40.00	Family (at same address)	\$20.00	Pensioner Under 70 Years & Junior members	
Open other times by arrangement		\$15.00	Associate member	\$6.00	Annual postage required for Crystal Lines (members only)	
		\$15.00	Junior member			

WORKSHOP FEES		OTHER FEES		CUTTING & TOOL FEES	
\$3.00	Per work session	\$5.00	Badges members	\$1.50 per ½ Hour	Diamond grinders or part thereof
		\$6.00	Badges non-members	50c per sq inch	24" saw
		\$35.00	Club T-shirts		14" saw
		Free	Club bumper stickers		10/12" saw
				50c per cab	Trim saw
		Silver sales available		\$15.00 per month	Tumbler hire

BASIC REQUIREMENTS NEEDED TO CARRY OUT LAPIDARY WORK (CABS)

- Waterproof apron
- 3 power head loupe, cost approx. \$30.00
- 10 power hand loupe
- Dop stick
- Slabbed stone of your choice

BASIC REQUIREMENTS NEEDED TO CARRY OUT FOSSICKING

- Good maps of the area you intend to visit
- 1 x Aluminium sieve 305mm diameter by 3mm, mesh 1/8 inch
- 1 x Aluminium sieve 305mm diameter by 7mm, mesh ¼ inch
- 1 x Small sturdy shovel (not the fold up type)
- 1 x Plastic gold pan
- Footwear – Preferably boots to support ankles
- Headwear – Wide brimmed hat
- Transport – A 4x4 is nice, but a lot of areas can be accessed by conventional vehicles
- Accommodation – Hotels, motels, caravans or camping. This can lead to very enjoyable family bush weekends
- Communication – With the outside world is not necessary, but very handy to have. A mobile phone is useful in case of emergency and we strongly suggest a handheld UHF CB. These cost around \$50-\$100

The above are only the basic requirements to enable you to carry out this hobby. Extra equipment can be obtained at a later date if required. Enjoy yourselves; leave fossicking areas clean for others and some material behind for others – good luck and good fossicking!

Our Newsletter is proudly printed by *Jason Woodforth MP*, State Member for Nudgee.

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Page 2 of 12: (07) 3260 7025 E-mail Club: info@nblc.com.au Web Site: www.nblc.com.au

NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

Club Reports & News

President's report

No news from our president, seems he is busy packing ☺

New Members



Please welcome the following new members: Roseanna Riotto; Peter Fitzgerald; Kathleen Fitzgerald; Rosanna Burgin; Michael Creech; Riley Parker-Maylon; Kelly Proctor; John Sutton; Gary Whelan; Mary Graham; Pauline Petit

You may recognise three of the names, as they are returning members. Please say 'Hi' and introduce yourself when you see an unfamiliar face.

Birthdays



A very **Happy Birthday** to all celebrating their birthday in August:

Deborah Gee, Joyce Peverill, Scott Patterson, Joan Colclough, Robert A. Daly, Margaret Paynter, Tony Perry, Sandra Groeneveld, Tim Gibson, Marguerite Mobbs, Carla Sclosa, Wendy Olsen, Justine Maddern, John Broadfoot, Judy Thompson, John Fleming, Jim Jeavons, Suzanne Newcomb, Barry Kirkham, Judith Williams, Jane Eberhardt, Benoit Cristol, Kenneth Root, Michael Mahoney and last but not least Kay Brown.

I do apologise if I missed anyone.

Vale



Thankfully we don't have anyone for this section this month.

NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

Club News

Now that the movers & shakers are mostly back from their trips, things are starting to happening again. Here a few news from the last meeting:

September: the month of Prehnite

I had asked in the previous newsletter what you thought about having a stone as 'stone of the month'. As we did not receive any feedback we have now decided, that September will be the month of Prehnite. More about this further on.

Library News

Linda Forbes is now back and has been busy in restacking shelves and sorting out material that has been donated in the last few months.

As a result there is a large number of Lapidary Journals – mainly fairly old – that have been determined as surplus to our requirements. These will be placed on the table in the club for members to take away at no charge. Those that are still left at the end of September will be disposed of.

In addition, as part of the Daddow collection, we have a number of Australian Lapidary Journals from 1968 through to 1976, all bound in hard covers. This title has long since been discontinued but the volumes may be of historic value to one of our members. This will be put into the auction at Xmas for anyone who is interested. Just don't expect to be still able to purchase a new faceting machine at \$160 as advertised in one volume.

General Meeting Roundup

Temporary Secretary

Sandra Bell has offered to help out as temporary secretary in Katarina's absence over the next few months. Her offer was quickly endorsed at the July meeting.

New Web Site Planned

Ray Wilson, Jim Jeavons and Thierry Tomczak have been authorised to negotiate with a professional web developer to redesign our current web. An expense of up to \$2,000 is planned. The current website has been in existence and supported by Jim Jeavons for at least 10 years and hopefully the new site will include some more modern features and improved targeting for search engines. As well, interactions with social media like Facebook and Twitter are planned.

Queensland Faceting Competition.

The meeting agreed to the purchase of 2,500 carats of mixed colour cubic zirconia to be used as prizes for winners in the 2015 Qld. Faceting comp. This competition will be judged and announced at the 2015 gem show in March. First, second and third in both open and novice divisions will receive a parcel of CZ. Schedules are now available for members to start cutting.

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Gem Show News

NBLC has applied for a grant from the Lord Mayor's Suburb Initiative for funding to support the promotion of the 2015 gem show. Cr. Amanda Cooper from Bracken Ridge ward is supportive of the application and hopefully we will know reasonably soon if we have been successful.

As part of the grant it is planned to print 750 "Rack Cards" for distribution to local businesses to hand out to customers. Each card will entitle the holder to free admission to the 2015 gem show. Hopefully this will attract some new visitors who haven't been to a gem show previously.

Positions Vacant – Help Wanted

Social Media Promotions. -As part of the planned new web development we need someone to help out promoting the club on social media and maintaining the web site. The intent with the new web site is that a comment will be made on Twitter or a photo posted on Facebook that will drive more traffic to the website. News items or photos of activities at the club would be examples that could be used as a promotion.

Gem Show Raffle Coordinator – Still no response to this position which we need to have filled SOON! The raffle prizes have now all been agreed but I will need someone to arrange valuations, get tickets printed, prepare promotional material, distribute and follow up books of tickets to members. See Ray Wilson

Cabochon Cutters- One of the raffle prizes that has been decided is for club members to manufacture a sterling silver cast bracelet with 9 pieces of Chrysoprase set in the links. We need volunteers to cut about 10 pieces of Chrysoprase (material supplied) in 10mm by 8mm oval shapes. See Peter Smith.

Again, I can only ask, plead and beg that more people get involved. Few members are doing a lot. And if we want the club to continue and thrive we need active members with an interest in the club. We need HELP. So please, please. Look into your hearts to see if you could not find some time. As I mentioned before: I am sure either of the jobs mentioned above could be handled by more than one person. So grab someone likeminded and put your hand up to help us.

Club closure notification

No closures for the months of August.

Notice to all Australian Facetors Guild Limited Members

If you will not be attending the Annual General Meeting in Glen Innes on Friday 5th September, could you please complete the proxy voting slips in the next issue of Facet Talk and send off to the secretary of the Guild.

Graham Kinsella

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From the Road

Some of the travellers have already returned, others are on the way back. The hardcore group is still out there, fossicking for whatever they can lay their hands on I imagine. The latest news: they are on the way from Fullerton to Winton.

Safe trip to all on the road.

I have safely arrived in Berlin, Germany and am trying to get in contact with the lapidary clubs here. It seems Berlin has two clubs: one focusing on minerals & fossils, where it seems they have mainly courses about various minerals. The other club appears a bit more hands on, like us. But alas, it is summer in Germany, the sky is blue and the big holidays are on. One club is closed until mid August, and I haven't been able to get in contact with the other.

The French Are Coming!

Over the next few weeks if you are at the club you may find people speaking a foreign language. Most likely it will be our latest members who have joined from France. Agata who has been a member for several years and drops in regularly when she is in Brisbane is bringing a group of French gemmology students to Australia on a gem tour. The new members all attend Agata's Laboratoire de Gemmologie de Marseille (Gemology school in Marseille). The group will be attending the club for a look around in late July, then going on a tour to Lightning Ridge, Yowah and Eulo. On returning from the west the group will be attending a cabochon cutting course on August 4 where they will cut a cabochon of Mookaite and maybe start on some opal if they have been successful in their fossicking to Lightning Ridge. The tour then goes to Anakie for the Gemfest, via a few days R&R on Lady Elliott Island. When the group returns to Brisbane the members may be at the club during normal work sessions to finish off their cabs or start new project. The tour returns to France in mid August. So please make the new members welcome by saying "bonjour, comment allez vous?" or "G'day mate how's it goin?"

Another Overseas Connection.

Ross Chapman, who is a life member of NBLC, is currently residing in Thailand at a place east of Bangkok called Chanthaburi. Chanthaburi is world known for its gem markets and cutting houses. Ross has dropped us a note to advise that if anyone would like to holiday in Thailand he has built some guest houses close to Chantaburi.

"The block looks out onto a mountain and the cabins and house are set amongst fruit trees in a small village. The area is known for its tropical fruit as well as sea food and of course its gems. There are also some beautiful off shore islands that are attracting much tourist interest. The best known is Kho Chang. Some of the people that stay with us go to the weekend gem market, explore our area for a few days and then go on to Kho Chang for a few days to relax. If you Google Kho Chang you will see what they offer. I pick up any one coming to visit us at the Bangkok Airport and organize return Ross, for those who don't know, also conducts gem tours through Thailand and Myanmar.

If you would like information on next year's tour contact Ross at ross@gemsofaus.com.au.

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Grant Application Lodged.

An application for some funding from the Lord Mayor's Suburb Initiative grant has been lodged to help defray the costs of moving the 2015 gem show to Bracken Ridge. We should hear fairly quickly whether we are successful and we can then establish our promotional program for the show. Councillor Amanda Cooper has been supportive of our initiative so we are hopeful of being successful.

Upcoming Meetings

Next General Meeting: Date: Wednesday, sometime in August, tbc
Start: at 7.30 pm
Location: Clubhouse

Next Annual General Meeting: Date: Sunday 19th March 2015
Start: to be confirmed
Location: Clubhouse

Courses & Workshops

EVENTS PLANNER

Date	Activity	Instructor	Cost	Comments
2 Aug 3 Aug	Beginners Facet Course	G Kinsela	\$50 + Extras	(2) Sat Sun
8 + 10 Aug	Lost wax Casting	Ray Wilson		(1) Fri start 7 pm, max 12, suitable for beginners
10 Aug	Free Work Day	Peter Smith		Sun
12 + 14 Sep	Lost Wax Casting	Ray Wilson		(1) Fri start 7 pm, max 12, suitable for beginners
14 Sep	Free Work Day	Peter Smith		Sun
20 Sep	Show N Tell Talk on Prehnite by Ray Wilson			Sat night Bring a plate For supper.
21 Sep	Cutting Prehnite			Sun
28 Sep 26 Oct	Cabochon course	Mt Gravatt Club	\$10 Temp Member + \$4 per Day Total \$18	Course to be conducted Over two Sun Mornings 9 till 12 AM Sun 28 Sep Sun 26 Oct
29 Sep 30 Sep	Beginner Facet Course	T Wheate	\$50 + Extras	(2) Mon Tue

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5 Oct	Making Jewellery For competition	Peter Smith Ray Wilson	\$6 + Material	Sun
11Oct 12 Oct	Beginners Facet Course	G Kinsela	\$50 + Extras	(2) Sat Sun
17 + 19 Oct	Lost Wax Casting	Ray Wilson		(1) Fri start 7 pm, max 12, suitable for beginners
19 Oct	Free Work Day	Peter Smith		Sun
26 Oct	Cab Course	Mt Gravatt		
2 Nov	Making Jewellery For Competition	Peter Smith Ray Wilson	\$6 + Material	Sun
9 Nov	Cutting Cabochon For Competition	Peter Smith	\$6	Sun
23 Nov	Cutting Cabochon For Competition	Peter Smith	\$6	Sun
28 + 30 Nov	Lost Wax Casting	Ray Wilson		(1) Fri start 7 pm, max 12, suitable for beginners
30 Nov	Free work Day	Peter Smith		Sun
7 Dec	Xmas Party			Sun

*(1) Attendees will sprue waxes, pour investment and cast in 9ct gold or silver. Waxes available from Ed Hindmash or supply your own.

*(2) Extra's include Manual, Dop Sticks, Stones.

*(3) Extra's Include Silver/ Copper Bases and Enamels.

A big **Thank You** to **Peter Smith** the coordination of the upcoming events.

QLACCA AGM

The QLACCA Annual General Meeting is to be held at Gonyah Club on September 28. Greg Gosden has asked for anyone interested in taking on a management committee role with QLACCA to "put their hand up". QLACCA is the peak body for lapidary and craft in Queensland and is comprised of volunteer members of affiliated clubs. Please contact Greg if you are interested in taking on a role

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Show Dates

	When	Who	Where	Time
AUGUST	1-3	Rock & Mineral Fest	Kybong	See newsletter
	2	Ipswich & Dist Lap Club Show	Ipswich Showgrounds, Warwick Rd Ipswich	8am - 3pm
	2	Innisfail Club Gem Show		
	3	Atherton Show	Club House, Racecourse Rd, Toga	8am – 3pm
	7-10	Anakie Gemfest	Anakie, Central Qld	
	30	Waterloo Bay Gem Show	Hemmant Community Hall, 3 Hemmant-Tingalpa Rd	
SEPT.	13-14	Bribie Island Gem Festival	191 Sunderland Dve, Banksia Beach	8.30am – 4pm
	27	Caloundra Gem Show	Caloundra State Show George St	9am – 3pm
OCT.	4	Beenleigh Gem Festival	Beenleigh Show Grounds	8am – 4pm
	11	Nambour Gemfest	Showgrounds	8am – 4pm
	26	Toowoomba Gemfest	Centenary Hts High School, Ramsay St Toowoomba	Sat 9am – 5pm Sun 9am – 3pm
NOV.	8-9	Bundaberg Gemfair		
	15	Suncoast Gem Show	Mooloolaba State School, Douglas St, Mooloolaba	8 am – 4pm
December		NO EVENTS		

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Prehnite Month – September

By: Ray Wilson

With the return home of all of the fossickers it was thought that it would be a good idea to declare Prehnite as stone of the month for September. Prehnite is an interesting stone to cut in that it can be attractive in several forms. The Wave Hill Prehnite comes in a pale green to milky clear colour (leached by sun exposure), or a brighter green to golden yellow. Some stones will have a white flourish of Natrolite which can also add a nice feature to the stone.

Prehnite can also be faceted but has to be oriented at 90 degrees to the acicular crystal growth to get the best result.

The most expensive is the translucent golden yellow and if the cabochon is cut from the correct piece of stone, and preferably in a double sided shape, a cat's eye should be seen rolling across the cabochon top.

Anyway if you are attending gem shows and don't have any Prehnite look out for some nice pieces. Alternatively, I'm sure that some members of this year's fossicking trip may be convinced to part with some pieces for other members.

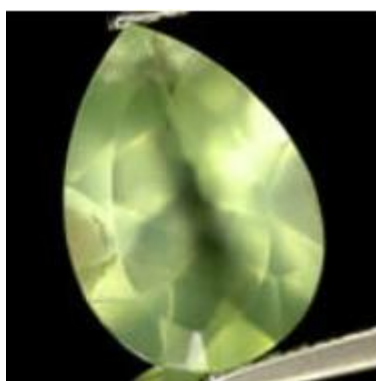
At the September 20 "Show and Tell" night there will be a short talk on cutting Prehnite and (hopefully) a display and discussion on pieces already cut by members.

What Ray did not mention is that Prehnite has the distinction of being the first mineral ever to be named after an individual. It was named after its discoverer, Colonel Hendrik von Prehn (1733-1785).

Until recently Prehnite was a rare gemstone but new deposits have made it more available.



Prehnite Cabochon



Prehnite Pear Facet

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A bit of this and a bit of that

What is your birthstone?

“Wear a Peridot or for thee,
No conjugal fidelity,
The August born without this stone,
‘Tis sais, must live unloved alone.”

To all Birthday children: do not worry. As far as I know my other half has never worn or even possessed a Peridot. And he is neither alone nor unloved.

The word Peridot (apparently pronounced pear-a-doe) derives from the Greek word “faridat” which means ‘gem’. Due to it’s pale green colour this stone is often referred to as ‘poor man’s emerald’.



A little beauty: 5.71 ct for ‘only’ US\$369

Another birthstone of August is the Sardonyx. You can easily replace ‘Peridot’ with ‘Sardonyx’ in the poem and it still works.

Sardonyx is a variety of Onyx in which the colored bands are a shade of red (sard).



Once you start looking in the internet for ‘Sardonyx’ you can find shops that offer green Sardonyx. I guess they mean Onyx with green stripes.

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Burglary!

I know everyone will feel for Graham and Pam Kinsela who recently had their house burgled, not once but twice, while they were away on holidays at Sapphire. Anyone who has suffered this personally will full well understand the feelings of revulsion for the types of people who carry out this type of crime. I was reminded of my old English teacher Keith Spall (now in his nineties) saying to Garry Gatfield and I that “they should bring back the death penalty for people breaking into older peoples’ homes”. Garry and I were at Keith’s home at Newmarket helping sort through his lifetime collection of rocks. While I thought his sentiments were a bit strong, Keith explained it this way: “it might not stop the break-ins but it sure would cut down the repeat offenders!”.

Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone who helped us during our last fossicking trip. We had a few hiccups with Doug's health and had to come home early. After visiting 6 hospitals I thought it was time. We would especially like to thank Ray Wilson and Tom Power who went above and beyond with their help. It was very much appreciated by us.
Thankyou again

Doug and Linda Forbes

The Stone

As I still have some space to fill I want to share a poem with you from one of my favourite poets. Most likely you will not know him: Joachim Ringelnatz, a German writer who is not well known, not even in Germany. His poems are cheerful and funny. And here is the one I picked for you:

A small stone rolled merrily
From a high mountain down.

And as it so rolled through the snow,
Became much bigger than it wanted.

Since the Stone spoke with a proud expression:
“Now I am a snow avalanche.”

Rolling he tore down a house,
And seven large trees.

Then he rolled into the sea,
And there sank the small stone.