

# Crystal Lines

**NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB Inc.**

*Newsletter for October 2014*

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

SUR-  
FACE  
MAIL

In this Edition:

AFG SEMINAR ROUNDUP

COPETON DAM FIELD TRIP

SHOW & TELL THIS SAT. NIGHT

NEW PRESIDENT



# NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

PATRON	Jason Woodforth MP	TREASURER	Tony Wheate
PRESIDENT	Steve Bell	MEMBERSHIP	Linda Forbes
VICE PRESIDENT	Graham Fox	LIBRARIAN	Linda Forbes
SECRETARY	Katarina Hayston	EDITOR	Katarina Hayston
5 <sup>th</sup> Member	Barry Kirkham	Email:	<a href="mailto:katarina.hayston@gmail.com">katarina.hayston@gmail.com</a>

## WORK SESSIONS

Monday	7.00pm-9.30pm
Tuesday	7.00pm-9.00pm
Wednesday	9.00am-12noon
Friday	7.00pm-9.30pm
Open other times by arrangement	

## JOINING FEES

\$20.00	First member
\$15.00	Second member
\$15.00	Pensioner
\$40.00	Family (at same address)
\$15.00	Associate member
\$15.00	Junior member

## + ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$30.00	First member
\$24.00	Second member
\$60.00	Family (2 adults & 2 children 12-18 years)
\$20.00	Pensioner Under 70 Years & Junior members
\$6.00	Annual postage required for Crystal Lines (members only)

## WORKSHOP FEES

\$3.00 Per work session

## OTHER FEES

\$5.00	Badges members
\$6.00	Badges non-members
\$35.00	Club T-shirts
Free	Club bumper stickers
Silver sales available	

## CUTTING & TOOL FEES

\$1.50 per ½ Hour	Diamond grinders or part thereof
50c per sq inch	24" saw
	14" saw
	10/12" saw
50c per cab	Trim saw
\$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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Clubhouse Address: Albert Bishop Park; Nudgee Road; NUNDAH QLD 4012

Postal Address: PO. Box 48; NORTHGATE QLD 4013

Phone: (07) 3260 7025 E-mail Club: [info@nblc.com.au](mailto:info@nblc.com.au) Web Site: [www.nblc.com.au](http://www.nblc.com.au)

# NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

## Club Reports & News

### URGENT REMINDER

**Show & Tell Night - is this coming Saturday night – Sat 27 Sep at 7pm at the clubhouse.**

Members who attended the recent 3 month field trip to the N.T. will be displaying some of their specimens, gems, Minerals, Etc. Ray Wilson will also be giving a presentation on Prehnite. Please bring a plate, for a light supper will be enjoyed afterwards.

### *President's report*

Hi All,

This a short report, because I have been only here a short time. Sorry to see Barry Waller shift W.A., he will be missed, he was the go to guy. But being near family is also important. I join with all club members wishing him all the very best. AFG round up is over for another year. Glen Innes was a cool place in every sense of the word minus 4 was lowest temp. Our club was well represented with Garry Gatfields presentation on the latest field trip narration backed up with slides was well received by a large audience. Also Sandra Bell gave an interesting talk on "Skin Polishing Sapphires" which also went over well. We were represented by four Facetors in the Australian Faceting Comp. Entries from five overseas countries made it a worthy battle. Barry (BAZZA) Chapman was runner up in the intermediate class, Barry Kirkham won a Third prize medal in one of the cuts, Vikki Thompson and Ross Beattie finished on the heels of the 1-2-3 in the novice, with Ross cutting his first 90+ stone (92.70). Thanks to those members that showcased NBLC. Show n Tell night 27/9 7pm will be great night will be able to see the goodies collected on the main field trip, also other treasures collected through the year, so make an effort to come and see. There will also be a talk on Prehnite by Ray Wilson and a video on Agates from around Australia.

PLEASE BRING A PLATE (with something on it), I know I'll be hungry.

Not bad for a short report.

Regards to all,  
Steve

### *New Members*



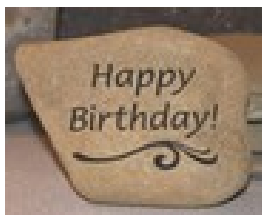
Please welcome the following new members:

Ross Kinder, Kelvin & Glenys Stace (NZ), Henk & Glenys Prins (AFG members). P.S. Kelvin & Glenys from Auckland accompanied us on the recent 3 month trip to the N.T. Henk & Glenys have just returned from doing the big lap around Australia. Membership now totals 253.

Please say 'G'Day' and introduce yourself, when you see an unfamiliar face.

# NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

## **Birthdays**



A very **Happy Birthday** to all celebrating their birthday in October: Gabe Parker, Michael Gardner, Carolyn Waite, Pauline Fountain, Josie Iosia, Gregory Dunstan, Riley Parker-Maylon, Delvene Heideman, Garry Gatfield, Ray Wilson, Robert Heideman, Jeanine Wilson, Carol Gatfield, Beverley Litvensky, Graham Kinsela, Stephen Bell, William Clarke, Barry Chapman, Don Clarke, Ellen Stancombe, Linda Forbes, Helen Moriarty.

I do apologise if we missed anyone.

## **Club News**

### **NEW WEBSITE**

We now have a new website. The website address is still [www.nblc.com.au](http://www.nblc.com.au), but it has undergone a facelift, update and extension. The website now also includes a members' only area. If you did not receive the password via email, please ask in the club.

Jim Jeavons has looked after the previous website for over 10 years. Most of you have probably never seen the website or haven't taken much notice. But it was there and it was and is our face to the outside world. People interested in lapidary or who have a simple question are able to contact us via the website as well.

We as the club owe Jim a huge thank you for all the work, time and effort he has put into the website. So Jim, Thank You.

Jim has also, together with Ray Wilson and Thierry Tomczak worked on the new website, its content, layout and feel. And to make it easier going forward the website is using Wordpress, and we have moved to a local firm in Brendale.

Together with a lot of information, we also have a blog going. And not to forget our Facebook page. So if you have a Facebook account, please 'like us'.

Please have a look around, read the stories, information. If you have any suggestions for a story or feel there is anything missing, please let us know.

And as everything exciting comes with a bit of a bitter pill: we are looking for someone who would like to assist or take over the administration of the website. Knowledge with Microsoft Word and being intuitive with computers would help. Maybe you can share the role with someone. So if you are interested, let us know.

### **Library News**

Have you checked out the recent library acquisition of the Australian Mineralogist Magazines? The club has also decided to purchase the complete set of the annual publications from the Age of Dinosaurs Museum at Winton, they should arrive shortly. It was also decided at the Sep. meeting to purchase a copy of the new book from the N.T. Mines Dept. - *The Geology and Mineral Resources of the Northern Territory*.

# **NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.**

## ***General Meeting Roundup***

We were successful in obtaining a grant from the BCC, to assist in moving and advertising our new Gemshow venue. It was decided to proceed with the gas installation, with some provisos. AFG President -Graham Kinsela thanked NBLC members for their presentations, attending, and supporting the AFG at the recent seminar in Glen Innes, which next year will be called the Facetors Muster!

## ***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.

## ***Australian Facetors Guild Seminar.***

NBLC was well represented at the recent seminar in Glen Innes, although those attending can attest to the coolness of the weather! My opening presentation was on the recent Northern Territory field trip, in which 40 NBLC members participated. On Sunday morning, we covered the National Library of Australia website – *Trove*. It is a very useful website for researching Australian mining & family history. <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Sandra Bell's presentation on skin polishing Sapphire was also very well received and ran overtime. The week after the seminar, involved numerous field trips to various fossicking sites around Glen Innes, all were well attended. We visited Yarrow River for Sapphires & Zircons, Torrington for Quartz & Emeralds, Tingha Sands for Quartz, Stannifer for Jellybeans, and the Sara River at Kookabookra for Gold, Topaz & Quartz.

## ***Copeton Dam Field Trip.***

Following the AFG field trips, I lead a group of the more dedicated fossickers to Copeton Dam campsite on the following weekend for a weeks' camping, fishing and fossicking around Inverell. We were joined by Robert from Brisbane, but otherwise the participants were AFG members from S.A., Vic., or Qld, a majority were NBLC members. Namely: Barry & Dawn - Hervey Bay, John & Hazel - Innes Park, Ed Allison & wife – Vic., Garry & Carol, Ross & Vicki, Jim & Sian, Doug & Leonie – S.A., John & Joy – Vic., Rod & Lorraine – Gold Coast.

The group was successful in finding 6 Diamonds at Copeton, (Vicki & Garry found 2 each), loads of quartz jelly beans at Stannifer, Gold at Bingara, and a reasonable amount of Sapphire & Zircon at Billabong Blue. The weather was much milder at Copeton Dam, compared to Glen Innes, and our more compact group really enjoyed our time together.

## ***Q.L.A.C.C.A AGM***

The Annual General Meeting will take place at the Gunya Clubhouse this Sunday at 10am, members are invited to attend if they wish. Our peak body is always looking for new volunteers.

## ***Thank You***

Sir Paul Howard has recently donated a copy of his DVD on Agates, to most Lapidary Clubs in Australia & N.Z. It is now in our library and well worth viewing, in fact we will premier it, this coming Saturday night. NBLC sincerely thanks Sir Paul and Lady Marie Howard for their generous donation. The DVD is available from Sir Paul direct, for \$20.

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## ***Interesting Internet Site***

The International Gem Society contacted us last week. The email in part said: "I really enjoyed the information I found on your site as it was both interesting and helpful. I am writing because I thought your members/visitors might be interested in a lot of the free resources and content we've created over the years. We host an online gem and rock encyclopedia, and numerous articles related to all things gemstone and mineral, including a gemology scholarship which we would like to see more people applying for." Christine Garcia International Gem Society

The URL is [www.gemsociety.org](http://www.gemsociety.org) and is well worth a look. The reference material contains numerous interesting articles on cutting gemstones, lapidary, jewellery making and other topics.

As an example there is a lengthy article on earrings. The section on posts covers French hook, shepherds hook, kidney wire, post with ball, and post with basket.

## ***Our New Web Stats***

As part of our web development we have embedded StatCounter which provides a whole range of analytical info on who is using our web site, what pages are visited, what key words were used, what type of computer the visitor was using and much more.

In the 2 weeks that the web site has been active I can tell you that we have averaged around 30 first time visitors to our website each day.

Within the 2 weeks, as further indication that the world is becoming increasingly mobile, just over 19% of visitors viewed our website on a mobile device. Of the mobile users Apple Ipad or Iphone accounted for 805 of visits while Samsung devices were used in 11% of visits.

If anyone has suggestions for additional content that they would like to see on the web site please let me know.

*Ray Wilson*

## ***Club closure notification***

No closures for the months of October.

## ***Upcoming Meetings***

Next General Meeting:	Date:	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in October, 15 OCT.
	Start:	at 7.30 pm
	Location:	Clubhouse

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



# NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

## Courses & Workshops

### EVENTS PLANNER

Date	Activity	Instructor	Cost	Comments
5 Oct	Making Jewellery For competition	Peter Smith Ray Wilson	\$6 + Material	Sun
11 Oct 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.

### Show Dates

	When	Who	Where	Time
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		

# NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

## A bit of this and a bit of that

### *What is your birthstone?*

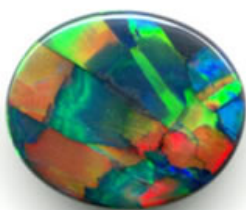
“October’s child is born for woe,  
And life’s vicissitudes must know,  
But lay an opal on her breast,  
And hope will lull those woes to rest.”

*Vicissitude: the quality or state of being changeable*

The name opal is derived from the Sanskrit word “upala,” as well as the Latin “opalus,” meaning “precious stone.”

The opal is a fragile hydrated silica material. It is a soft stone, easily altered in appearance by changes in heat and pressure. The varying amounts of water within it determine the appearance of the gemstone: when water evaporates out of an opal, the stone appears slightly smaller and the stress of the evaporation creates cracks on it.

Colours vary depending on impurities present within the stone: a pearly appearance is due to inclusions of tiny gas bubbles. Yellows and reds indicate the presence of iron oxides. The spectacular black opals that sometimes flash green, blue and red get their colour from magnesium oxides and organic carbon within the stone.



The most valuable opal pattern is possibly the “harlequin” which has large angular patches of red, yellow and green, resembling the checks on a clown’s costume.

According to Indian legend, the origin of the opal lies in a feud between the gods Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva who once vied in jealous love for a beautiful woman. This angered the Eternal, who changed the fair mortal into a creature made of mist. Each of the three gods then endowed her with his own colour so as to be able to recognise her. Brahma gave her the glorious blue of the heavens, Vishnu enriched her with the splendour of gold, and Shiva lent her his flaming red. Alas, all this was in vain, since the lovely phantom was whisked away by the winds. Finally, the Eternal took pity on her and transformed her into a stone, the opal that sparkles in all the colours of the rainbow.

To ancient Romans, the opal was a symbol of love and hope. Orientals called it the “anchor of hope.” Arabs say it fell from the heavens in flashes of lightning. It was believed to make its wearer invisible, hence the opal was the talisman of thieves and spies.

During the Medieval period, a change in colour intensity of an opal was believed to indicated if its wearer was ill or in good health. The opal was supposed to maintain a strong heart, prevent fainting, protect against infection, and cleanse foul-smelling air. The stone, as in ancient times, was still regarded as a symbol of hope.

I suspect, due to the change in believe that opal was a ‘cursed’ or ‘bad’ stone, the world added the Tourmaline as alternate birthstone to the month of October.

The name of this gemstone is believed to derive from the Singhalese (Sri Lankan) word “toramalli,” a term applied to





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yellow, green or brown stones, that means “something little out of the earth.”

Tourmaline exhibits the broadest spectrum of gemstone colours: yellow, green, red, blue, pink, brown, black. Some even have bi-particularly valued bi-coloured variant is The outer edges of the gem are green, transparent white zone that gives way to

Tourmaline is a complex aluminous crystals with complicated aggregations boron, oxygen, hydrogen and silicon also present within the crystal structure, characteristic colours of the gemstones. the presence of manganese, while vanadium betray their presence as green gemstones.



coloured properties: a called the “watermelon.” passing through a a pink or light red interior.

borosilicate mineral built of of sodium, aluminium, atoms. Other metals are and are responsible for the Pink, for example, is due to ferrous iron, chromium or

Gem-quality forms of this mineral have in the past been mistaken for rubies, emeralds and sapphires - a famous tourmaline - the size of a pigeon’s - egg-belonging to the Russian Empress Catherine the Great was long thought to be a ruby.

Tourmaline has an unusual property: When warmed or rubbed it attracts small bits of lint, ash and paper because the gem becomes charged with static electricity.

Compared with other gemstones, tourmalines are a relatively recent discovery. Hence, it lacks the rich lore that accompanies many other precious gems. However, among some people, the stone is known as the “peace stone,” believed to dispel fear and make its wearer calm.

[above text was pinched from: [www.birthstonesbymoon.co.uk](http://www.birthstonesbymoon.co.uk)]

The 4 Copeton Diamonds found by Vicki & Garry, Vicki’s 2 are on the right.



## NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

# COMPETITION REMINDER

This article is to remind members of the competitions being conducted between now and the end of the 2015 GEM SHOW.

COMPETITIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 NBLC CHRISTMAS PARTY JEWELLERY COMPETITION,  
There is to be two parts to the competition this year Textured Metal and Enamelling.
- 2 QLD FACETING COMPETITION,  
Conducted by NBLC for Qld Faceting Guild Winners announced at our 2015 Gem Show.
- 3 THE PRESIDENTS CHALLENGE,  
There are four separate competitions in the Presidents Challenge as Follows:
  - Faceting,
  - Metal Smith Jewellery
  - Standard Cabochon and
  - Most Appealing Gemstone.Workshops for Metal Smith Jewellery will be held on Sun 5 Oct and Sun 2 Nov.  
Workshops for Standard Cabochon will be held on Sun 9 Nov and Sun 23 Nov.  
If more workshops are required we will conduct them in Jan/Feb.  
Winners announced at our 2015 Gem Show

**DETAILS FOR EACH COMPETITION ARE AVAILBLE AT THE CLUB. FOR MORE INFO CONTACT PETER SMITH.**

***I urge everyone to have a go. We don't have anything to lose by entering but we can gain a lot from the Judges' comments. I believe entering competitions can help us improve our personal skills.***

***The more Member that enter the better the competition.***

Newsletter Editor & Compiler:

Garry Gatfield, 25 Sep 2014