

CRYSTAL LINES

NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB Inc.

Newsletter for November 2014

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

SURFACE
MAIL

IN THIS EDITION:

Christmas Party, Privacy, a new
dopping station, 5 minute rule, Topaz
& cabochons.



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 | Sandea Bell (act.) | EDITOR | Katarina Hayston |
| 5th Member | Barry Kirkham | | Email: katarina.hayston@gmail.com |

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.

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 Web Site: www.nblc.com.au

NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

Club Reports & News

President's report

Hi All Another month has slipped by we are closing in on Christmas, so the time is right to use your skills to make gifts. On the club scene it was good to see Katarina visiting again today, It will not be long before she is back in the secretaries chair. Bevan Turner is in hospital again where he is receiving medical attention; hope he can return shortly. At long last there has been a quote accepted for a concrete floor out the front of the club which will get plenty of use in the summer and at Christmas time, in two weeks or so it should be finished. The gas relocation is still being pursued with another contractor giving us a quote. We should see some movement soon (hopefully). Graham Kinsela put five new facetors through the beginner's course with some very pleasing results. The silver smith's sapphire skin polishers cabbers are showing good results in their respective hobbies. Talked to Barry Waller in the past few days. He's been doing a spot of babysitting so it may not be very long before we see him back on the eastern seaboard. I must say a big thank you to the Wednesday morning crew for their best wishes for my birthday, Kathy Walsh went overboard with nibbles and all manner of things sweet. To Lola and others a warm thank you (advertising is the way to go).

Regards Steve

New Members

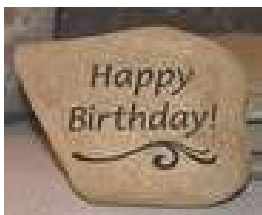


This month we welcome 5 new members: Jessica Butler, Alex Edwards, Sian Ruhe, Klaus Ruhe and Jesse Lee.

Thanks brings our total membership up to 258.

If you see these members at the club, please introduce yourself to them and make them welcome.

Birthdays



In November the following members will celebrate a birthday: George Tetley, Mark Vosten, Romano Torresan, Ashton Beauchamp, Bevon Eising, Jye McM., Ciana Crispin, Robert White, Kelly Proctor, Glenys Prins, Jesse Lee, Susan davies, Dianne Ezzy , Allen Hutchinson, Walter Pampuch, Robert Maxwell, Philip Griffin, Tom Power, Sandra Bell, Dawn Chapman, Marie Root and Brian Lindeberg.

We wish all of you a very **Happy Birthday** and **a Hip-Hip-Horray** for Bevon, Robert and Sandra as they are celebrating a 0-Birthday.

Vale

Thankfully we have no reports for this section.



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Club News

Library

Last Saturday a few of the members of the club attended an illustration on the technique of Fold Forming which was very interesting and informative. Fold Forming is a technique in which you fold metal in order to make interesting and unusual shapes etc. it can be used with most metals. The book of instruction has been purchased for our ever increasing library. Also the latest magazines Art Jewelry and Jewelry Artist have been added to the library. It was decided at the last meeting to purchase a reference book on the Northern Territory Geology which will be very useful for those fossickers etc who venture into this region.

Librarian
Linda Forbes

New Dopping For Cabochons

One of the newly implemented features of the Mt Gravatt work area was an electric dopping station. The dopping stations have apparently been around for a while being manufactured by Inland, a USA based company that manufactures flat laps and other lapidary machines.

Using an electric dopping station removes the need to have metho-burners and open naked flames on the bench.



NBLC has now purchased one of these stations and it will be implemented into our work practices this week. All metho-burners and micro-torches will be removed from the capping area. In addition, **only green dopping wax** will be used.

Currently we are using a mixture of old red, green and black wax which is not ideal. Green wax which has a lower melting point than black wax also contains shellac and therefore there is no need to use dop help on the back of stones to assist in the sticking process. The dop station has a wide edge ceramic pot, where the stone to be dopped can be placed to warm prior to dopping. Typically, as wax is heated and overheated the shellac is driven out. For this reason the only heat source that will now be used to melt wax for dopping will be the electric dopping station. Hopefully this will also mean that wax is not dribbled all over the bench and floor as it seems to be at the moment making the work bench somewhat cleaner and tidier.

The dop station does take some time to heat up and melt wax so it needs to be turned on prior to using it and turned off at the end of each work session.

5 Minute Warning

To be implemented immediately, all work sessions will now finish 5 minutes before the end of the scheduled finish. This was agreed at the October general meeting.

At this time, all machinery should be turned off, tools returned to their correct location and work benches and machines wiped down or cleaned ready for the next session. This is also an opportunity to focus on turning off water supplies to wheels and turning off all electrical machines, including the new dop pot and the pickle pot in the jewellery area.

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NBLC Christmas Party

We hope you have already reserved Sunday, 7th December for this year's Christmas Party. Kathy Walsh, Ray Wilson and Katarina Hayston have volunteered (with only a slight twist of the arms) to organise the party.

We will hang out an attendance list on the board. Please sign in as well as letting us know if you will be bringing a savory dish (salad) or pudding to the party.

As in previous years, the club will organise the ham & chickens as well as drinks.

If you cannot make it to the club, please send an email to: katarina.hayston@gmail.com so we can ensure that we get enough of the good stuff to go around.

2015 GEM SHOW RAFFLE

1st PRIZE:

Handmade 9ct Yellow Gold Ring set with a 1.5ct light Pink Tourmaline. **Valued at \$2,850.**

2nd PRIZE:

Handmade 9ct Yellow Gold Ring set with a 0.8ct Green Peridot. **Valued at \$1,500**

3rd PRIZE:

Hand finished Silver Bracelet set with 9 Cabochons of mid Blue natural Lapis Lazuli. **Valued at \$1,000.**

The raffle will be drawn at the Gem Show on Sunday 8 March 2015 at 2.30 pm.

Tickets \$1 each.

Books of Twenty (20) tickets will be available at the club from Wed 29th Oct.

It is requested that all members sign out books and sell the tickets.

If you can't get to the Club and require some tickets to sell please contact Peter Smith.

Email prcbrs1@bigpond.com .

Privacy

At the last meeting it was discussed that we would add something to the membership renewal forms as well as going forward to the membership sign-up form regarding the use of images. After a discussion it was agreed upon, considering that the club is more active on the website, the blog and facebook. In addition, a motion was passed that the newsletters would be moved to the public domain. During the discussion it came to light that the club has a privacy policy, albeit only one person knew about it. Due to some wording in the policy a motion was passed to rescind it. As we are operating under federal and state law we are obliged to have a policy. We will be working on the policy, most likely a rewording of the old one. Once completed it will be distributed to all for review prior to be decided on implementation. In the meantime, please be assured that we will treat your details as private.

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Upcoming Meetings

Next General Meeting: Date: Wednesday, 19th November
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 Calendar

| Date | Activity | Instructor | Cost | Comments |
|-------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 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 |
| 13 + 14 Dec | Beginners Facet Course | G Kinsela | \$50 + extras | (2) Sat + 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.

Club Trivia

Did you know, that of the 258 members we now have, the average length of membership is 6 years 5 month. The longest membership 48 years. And of the 258 members, 28% have signed up in the last twelve months.

Not all members have listed their birth year, but of those that have: the average age is 60. With the youngest being 13, the oldest member turned a fabulous 90 in September.

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In Other News

Birthstone of November

*"Who first comes to this world below
In dreary November's fog and snow,
Should prize the topaz amber hue,
Emblem of friends and lovers true."*

Thanks to Wikipedia I can tell you that **Topaz** is a silicate mineral of aluminium and fluorine with the chemical formula $\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_4(\text{F},\text{OH})_2$. Topaz crystallizes in the orthorhombic (cubic) system, and its crystals are mostly prismatic terminated by pyramidal and other faces.

Pure topaz is colorless and transparent but is usually tinted by impurities; typical topaz is wine, yellow, pale gray, reddish-orange, or blue brown. It can also be made white, pale green, blue, gold, pink (rare), reddish-yellow or opaque to transparent/translucent.



Orange topaz, also known as precious topaz, is the traditional November birthstone, the symbol of friendship. *Imperial topaz* is yellow, pink (rare, if natural) or pink-orange. Brazilian Imperial Topaz can often have a bright yellow to deep golden brown hue, sometimes even violet. Many brown or pale topazes are treated to make them bright yellow, gold, pink or violet colored. Some imperial topaz stones can fade on exposure to sunlight for an extended period of time.

Naturally occurring blue topaz is quite rare. Typically, colorless, gray or pale yellow and blue material is heat treated and irradiated to produce a more desired darker blue.

Mystic topaz is colorless topaz which has been artificially coated giving it the desired rainbow effect.

In antiquity, all yellow gemstones were called Topaz.

Another birthstone of November is Citrine.

Members Learn Cabbing at Mt Gravatt

Several members of NBLC recently participated in a cabochon cutting exercise at Mt Gravatt gem club, instructed by Mt Gravatt members. Generally the processes followed by Mt Gravatt in cutting a cabochon is the same that has been implemented at NBLC over the last few years. The really benefit of our visit was to see the Mt Gravatt cabochon work area. Their club has moved completely to diamond based wheels and done away with the silicon carbide sanders. They also use an additional 2 fine grinders before moving to the soft Nova wheels for sanding. Polishing is still completed using tin oxide polish. Another great implementation is the lighting

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which is provided by ceiling mounted fluros and provides light straight onto the work piece. This removes the cables and portable lights and makes the work area both cleaner and safer in that there are not cables to get caught up in belts. Another session later this month and we should complete the process of cutting and polishing a cabochon. In the future it is hoped that we will redevelop our cabochon area that will include some of the design features of Mt Gravatt club's work area and processes.

Cabochon forms

A cabochon {pronounced Ka-Bo-shawn} is a stone that has been shaped and polished rather than faceted. Usually shaped in a round or oval form as it is more pleasing to the eye. Increasingly, freeform cabochon are entering the market where the shaping is following the pattern / colours of a stone rather than a geometrical form.

Traditional cabochons have a domed top and at least one plane of symmetry. Freeform, or modern and creative, cabochons may have domed, concave, flat, or other tops and have any shape that exhibits both the skill and creativity of the artist. They are not restricted to having a plane of symmetry.

Plane of symmetry exists when a straight line passed through the middle of the cabochon gives two equal halves in shape and

size. [http://www.austingemandmineral.org/docs/AGMS_Cabochon_Contest.pdf]

For Sale:

- 1 only Lapcraft 9" slab saw with motor.
It is in very good condition with a near new diamond blade, it has a stone vice with a weighted sled. Offers and enquiries to Graham on 0417 770 841
- Old Ultra Tec faceting machine – has been recalibrated & wiring checked and fixed. With laps, several of which need retooling, some new and other equipment. \$1,500 ono. Please contact Katarina on 0434 287 518 or email: katarina.hayston@gmail.com

Thank you

I would like to thank all for filling in for me while I was away/ A special thanks to Sandra Bell for stepping up to acting secretary and Garry Gatfield filling in as newsletter editor.

And another thank you to all that have sent me a message for the passing of my Dad.

Funny

A chicken and an egg are lying in bed. The chicken is leaning against the headboard smoking a cigarette with a satisfied smile on its face. The egg, looking a bit ticked off, grabs the sheet, rolls over and says ... Well, I guess we finally answered "THAT question!"