

CRYSTAL LINES

NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB Inc.

Newsletter for December 2014 & January 2015

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

SURFACE
MAIL

IN THIS EDITION:

Christmas Party, Club news, Show news, Fieldtrip, Poll for General Meeting

We wish everyone a **MERRY CHRISTMAS**, a **HAPPY NEW YEAR** and a wonderful relaxing time with loved ones.

See you all again in 2015.



NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

PATRON	Jason Woodforth MP	TREASURER	Tony Wheate
PRESIDENT	Graham Fox (act)	MEMBERSHIP	Linda Forbes
VICE PRESIDENT		LIBRARIAN	Linda Forbes
SECRETARY	Katarina Hayston	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.

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Club Reports & News

President's report

Unfortunately we do not have a president's report this time. Instead we have to inform you that Sandra & Steve Bell have both resigned from their positions as well as from the club.

It was with deep regret that their resignation was accepted. We wish them all the best and a letter has been sent.

Graham Fox has agreed to step up to the President's role for the time being and Katarina Hayston resumes the role of Secretary.

But here is a message from all of us for all of us. Barry Kirkham has very eloquently put it in words for us:

Dear Members, please remember that the NBLC is a club to promote and enjoy the art of lapidary and allied activities. To this end all members are reminded of the common courtesies of accepting and valuing others and respecting the views and feelings of all members at all times to maintain a peaceful and harmonious environment for all members to enjoy. We also should keep in mind that the NBLC is run and maintained entirely by volunteers and appreciate the work they do for us all.

New Members

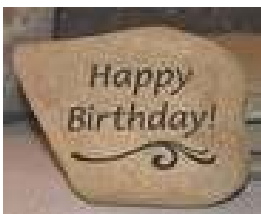


This month we welcome 9 new members: Michael & Michelle Windsor, Chris Blackmur, Aaron Pollock, Luisa Higgins & Steve Storer, Robin Huston, Nicholas Ng, Daniel DeMarco.

Thinks brings our total membership up to 266.

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

Birthdays



In December the following members will celebrate a birthday: Yvonne Lee, Morgan Barnham, Amanda Summers, Bas van der Laan, John Sutton, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Glenys Stacy, Lola Tierney, KimLee Ann Clark, Jean Witt, Helen Cowie, Sandra Jeavons, Darryl Myers, Peter Smith, Warren Williams, Rita Smith, Marilyn Wheate, Marilyn George, Al Watson and Michael Windsor.

And in January we have Erica Murray, Katarina Hayston, Helen Geck, Peter Fitzgerald, Sian Ruhe, Drew Antcliff, Bernadette Kerby, Maureen Sargent, Scott Hindmarsh, Ronald Rivers, Anthony Wheate, Ray swanson, Antonia Swanson, Nicholas Brehmer, Richard Newland, Andrea Young.

We wish all of you a very **Happy Birthday** and **a Hip-Hip-Horray** for John and Scott celebrating a 0 birthday.

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Personal News



John Jones

Some of you may know and remember John Jones He is currently in Palliative Care. It would be great if you could contact him or even visit him. As this newsletter will be on the website, I do not want to include his address. Please contact either Les Wakefield, Garry Gatfield or myself for the contact details. I am sure John would very much appreciate a brief visit from any of you who may have known from the club.

Club News

Library

There is a new DVD on enamelling in the library worthwhile having a look at.

Kiln

The kiln will be available to anyone during the Monday & Wednesday work sessions. The kiln can be only operated by someone who has attended the enamelling course. If you have not, please contact Carole Gatfield or Helen Moriarty to assist you.

The use of the kiln is free.

NBLC Christmas Party

I think we have failed previously to give you any times. So here they are: please start arriving by 12 for lunch at 12.30. The auction will be after lunch and we hope that many of you attend and buy.

And do not forget the jewellery competition. Bring a few 10c or 20c to vote for your favorite

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.

Christmas Auction

In conjunction with the annual Xmas break up party we run an auction of lapidary related items. This is generally a fun part of the day conducted after lunch It also raises funds towards offsetting the costs of the club providing chicken and ham for lunch. For the auction to be successful we need items to auction. If you have any rocks, gems, minerals, books, tools etc that are surplus to your requirements and you would like to donate to the club could you please bring them to the club and leave with Ray Wilson or with the session duty officer.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY JEWELLERY COMPETITION (Contribution P. Smith)

The Christmas Party is only a couple of weeks away and I HOPE to see of competition pieces coming in.

STYLES This year we have two different styles: textured metal the same as last year and a second style: enameling.

JUDGING Is the same as last year member at the party voting by putting a 10 or 20 cent coin in the cup numbered the same as their choice. (***Judging is only on appeal***)

THE WINNER is the is the enter with the most money.

TO ENTER place your piece and an entry form in a plastic bag and give it to the Duty Officer. The Duty Officer will put it in the safe and I will collect them a couple of times a week. Then come to the party and Vote for your piece as many times as you like.

ENTRY FORMS are available at the club.

If you can't get to the club to get an entry form or to put your entry in please call me Peter Smith at home Ph 38824669

2015 GEM SHOW RAFFLE

The details of the raffle and the prizes are now on the website. Peter Smith will email me a page with photos of the prizes on it. So if you want a copy, please contact me and I will send it to you.

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 .

Help Wanted – Gem Show is On Approach. (Contribution R. Wilson)

So by now everyone should know that the theme for our gem show is GREEN. Consequently our competitions in faceting, cabochoning and jewellery making all have a “green” requirement. I'm hoping everyone is making progress with their entries as there are valuable prizes to be won as well as the thrill of knowing that your lapidary or jewellery making skills are improving.

For the benefit of new members and a gentle reminder to members who have been in the club for a while, I thought I would outline what the gem show is about and what the club expects of you to make this show a success.

Our current non discretionary or fixed costs to run the club total close to \$7,000 annually. This includes, building and contents insurance, public liability insurance, personal injury insurance, rates, lease fees, electricity fees, telephone and QLACCA affiliation fees. Our current level of

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membership fees brings in just over \$3,000 so this requires us to raise funds throughout the year to make ends meet or we have to basically double all of our fees.

In addition to the fund raising aspect, the show is a promotion of our hobby and an opportunity for us to show the general public what the club is all about. In this way we generate new membership which is vital for the ongoing success of the club.

The annual gem show will be run in March 2015 for the 31st consecutive year. The show is a huge commitment of effort from club members to pack and carry all of the equipment, set up the hall and kitchen, sell raffle tickets, attend to taking entrance fees at the gate, staffing our club stall to sell rocks, machinery or members work and then on the Sunday take it all down and carry all of the equipment back to the club.

While a few members have already been busy in planning and organising next years event we are now at the point of asking you for your help. Each year we put out a roster showing the jobs that have to be completed and ask members to volunteer. Disappointingly it still falls upon the show convenor to coerce/conscript/delegate enough members to fill all of the tasks. In this newsletter you should see a copy of the roster with the jobs to put your name against. In most areas, we divide the day up into part days and ask that you be prepared to put in half a day.

The tasks requiring filling and what it means:

- **Loading and setting up:** Commences at 2PM on Friday afternoon at the club to pick up all of the equipment required and take to Bracken Ridge High. At Bracken Ridge High from 4PM we have set up about 90 hired tables, run electrical cables, cleanup and establish the canteen, set up our club site, mark out the grounds for the outside stalls and generally establish the show ready for dealers to start unloading their goods from 6PM.
- **Overnight Security:** We ask for 3 members to be prepared to stay in the hall over night to provide a visible presence towards securing the hall. This only requires members to spend 1 or 2 nights away from their beds and if problems arise telephone the police.
- **Gate and Raffle Sales:** The gate area can be hectic first thing on a Saturday morning so we need members who are able to handle money under pressure, particularly for the first session on Saturday. Also at the gate we need people who are prepared to proactively sell raffle tickets in our major raffle. Just being prepared to ask someone if they would like a raffle ticket and show the prizes, has given very good results in the past.
- **Canteen:** The canteen drives a large proportion of our turnover for the 2 days and consequently requires a lot of willing hands from Friday to Sunday afternoon making sandwiches, chopping up salads, plating up cakes and making burgers. Ann Bell is taking on the canteen organiser's role this year for the first time and requires your help to ensure that the canteen runs smoothly. We also need some "runners" to take meal orders and deliver meals to outdoor stall holders.
- **Canteen Sales:** Canteen sales is a busy, busy area, especially around lunch times. We need people who are good with handling money and capable of quickly adding up amounts in their head.
- **Club Stall:** This year we are going to reduce the effort on our club stall in favour of demonstrations. However we will have fossicking, our popular mine, rocks, any machinery we might have to sell and any members work for sale. If you have any rocks, gems, jewellery or allied lapidary "stuff" you are welcome to complete a form with

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the details for the stall to look after and try and sell on your behalf. The club retains 10% from all sales.

- **Demonstrations:** I would like to have an area going some activities like cleaning up castings or working on ring making or other activities to show to the public the type of things that we do at the club.
- **Stage Area:** We need a presence on the stage at all times to direct enquiries, keep an eye on the displays, get all of the raffle tickets ready for the draw. Setting up the stage area on Friday afternoon, taking competition entries and handing competition entries back on Sunday afternoon are the key roles.
- **Stage – Announcer:** This role requires a spruiker who can broadcast in a clear voice, all announcements throughout the running of the show.
- **Security:** All weekend during the operation of the show we need members who are prepared to walk around the show and be vigilant for thieves or other problems.
- **Car Parking Attendants:** None required this year thankfully as we will access to the large bitumened car park that has been used by the tunnel company for the last 2 years.

Thank you in anticipation of your contribution.

Ray Wilson Gem Show Convenor.

The show roster will be on the club room board. Please enter your name if you can spare some time. It is for all of us. Yes, it is work but it is a whole lot of fun too. Plus you get to know your fellow members better. There is no greater satisfaction than being part of a team that pulls off a show that is a great event for members, visitors and dealers.

Membership 2015

It is that time of the year again – you have to renew your membership. The membership renewal forms are available at the club, on the website (members area) or you can send me an email and I will send them to you.

If you have not been working in the club and are only interested in the social side of our activities, you may want to consider changing your status from 'Member' to 'Associate Member'.

It might be a good time to think about the Emergency Contact Details (ECD) you completed previously. If you think they have changed since, please take the time to fill out a new ECD form.

Web Administration

We need someone who is willing to either assist Ray Wilson or take over the duties of web administration (depending on skill level). From what I understand the website can easily be handled with MS Word skills but we need also someone working on the blog and the facebook page. Please contact either Ray Wilson or Katarina Hayston if you are interested.

Show Dates for 2015

The new QLACCA calendar for 2015 is out. Ray has kindly entered all the dates on our website. The QLACCA calendar is available at the club and I will enter all show dates in one of the upcoming newsletters.

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Club Closure

The last work session for this year will be on Friday 19th December.
The Club will reopen on Monday 12th January 2015 but not all instructors will be back until Monday 19th January 2015.

Courses & Workshops

Upcoming Meetings – all meetings at clubhouse unless indicated otherwise

Next General Meeting: Date: Wednesday, 21st January 2015
Start: at 7.30 pm

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

Events Calendar

Date	Activity	Instructor	Cost	Comments
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.

In Other News

Birthstone for December

Well, December born lay claim to three stones: Tanzanite, Zircon and Turquoise. We'll exclude Tanzanite here as it wasn't discovered until the late 1960's. And all the looking I have done on Google indicates that the Turquoise was the original birthstone:

*If cold December gave you birth,
The month of snow and ice and mirth,
Place on your hand a turquoise blue;
Success will bless whate'er you do.*

The name *turquoise*, from the French expression *Pierre tourques* or *Turkish stone*, originated in the thirteenth century and describes one of the oldest known gemstones. Turquoise is an opaque, blue-to-green mineral that is a hydrous phosphate of copper and aluminium. The

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color varies from greenish blue, through robin's egg-blue, to sky blue shades and its transparency ranges from translucent to opaque. Turquoise is plentiful and is available in a wide range of sizes and can be found in Iran, United States, Africa, Australia, Siberia, and Europe.

There are many different kind of turquoise and the price is determined by colour, inclusions, patterns and of course size. As usual, be wary, if the price sounds too good to be true it is. And of course there are also treated turquoise, where the colour was enhanced or where the turquoise was reconstructed. If spending money on a turquoise, check it out under a loupe. If you can't see pores it might have been enhanced by a coat of resin or similar.



From looking around on the internet it seems that today the 'Lander Blue' is among the most valuable turquoise. And there seem to be more on sale today than there was ever mined. And the mine is no longer in production.

This little beauty from the Lander Mine is 2.83ct, 164 x 7 mm and the Price \$225 per ct. Found on http://www.landerblueturquoise.com/turq_select.html

Australia produces some high-quality turquoise, but not in large quantities. Most deposits have been found in Victoria and South Wales, in the Southeast part of the continent.

Birthstone for January

January have the garnet as their birthstone (although there has to be as mistake as I prefer opal).

*By her who in this month (January) is born
No gem save garnets should be worn;
They will ensure her constancy,
True friendship, and fidelity.*

Garnets are a group of silicate minerals that have been used since the Bronze Age as gemstones and abrasives. Garnet is the name of a group of minerals that comes in a rainbow of colors, from the deep red of the pyrope garnet to the vibrant green of tsavorites. Today, the most important sources for garnet are Africa, Sri Lanka, and India. The name derived from the word granatum, means seed, and is called so because of the gemstone's resemblance to a pomegranate seed. References to the gemstone dates back to 3100 B.C., when the Egyptians used garnets as inlays jewelry.

Australian garnets can be found at Fullarton River or Harts Grange

Did you know

That you can find chalcedony, carnelian and enhydros (geode of chalcedony) on the beaches at Redcliffe? Best time to go is after a good storm. If none is around, go at low tide, preferably towards sunset. I know the Redcliff water front has changed. But go and check out the area between the jetty and the spit – there still might be beach access. And to find out when the tide is in or out, go to <http://tides.willyweather.com.au/qld/sunshine-coast/redcliffe.html>.

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Fieldtrip Planned (Contribution G. Gatfield)

A field trip to Ewingar is planned for the Australia Day long weekend.

Duration: from Fri 23 to Mon 26 Jan 2015.

Fossicking: for Quartz crystals and Gold. Required: Sieves, goldpan, shovel, & bucket.

Campsite: at the Ewingar forestry camp atop the 800m mountain, has level ground, water tank and toilet.

See NBLC Facebook Page for more info:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Brisbane-Lapidary-Club-Inc/104002099679265?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

The importance of an occupation after retirement (contribution J. Ruhe)

As we get older we sometimes begin to doubt our ability to "make a difference" in the world. It is at these times that our hopes are boosted by the remarkable achievements of other "seniors" who have found the courage to take on challenges that would make many of us wither.

Retired Bank Manager Greg Smith is such a person. THIS IS QUOTED FROM Greg:

"I've often been asked, 'What do you do now that you're retired?'

Well...I'm fortunate to have a chemical engineering background and one of the things I enjoy most is converting beer, wine and whisky into urine.

It's rewarding, uplifting, satisfying and fulfilling. I do it every day and I really enjoy it."

Members Poll

At the last general meeting we had a discussion about the day, time and frequency of the general meeting. Without wanting to make a decision we want to ask you.

Please complete the following poll and drop it in the box at the club. You don't have to tell us our name.

Or if you cannot make it to the club, feel free to send me an email (katarina.hayston@gmail.com) with your preferences.

If the day & time of the general meeting would change, would you more likely to attend?

Yes No

Which day would you prefer for the general meeting?

Mon Tues Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun

What is your preferred time?

AM PM

How often do you think we should have the GM per year?

Every month (12) Every second month (6) Once per Quarter (4)