

CRYSTAL LINES

NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB Inc.

Newsletter for February 2015

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

SURFACE
MAIL

IN THIS EDITION:

The Gem Show
Upcoming AGM
Workshops
Shopping
Tips
Event Calendar (Jan – Mar)



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

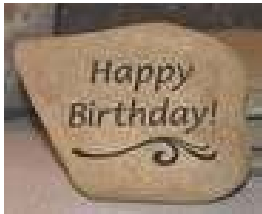
New Members



We are welcoming Courtney Williams, Damien Schneider, Ray Frech, Jacklyn Savage, Andrew Turkington and Abigail E. as new members to our club.

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

Birthdays



Reginald Lee, Pat Cross, Agata Cristol, Anne Brehmer, Paola Valdes, Liam Pooley, Shin Teng, Lee Anne Pope, Carole Olley, Marie Gray, Maria Forbes, Luke Walker, Kelvin Stace & Henk Prins.

We wish all of you a very **Happy Birthday.**

Personal News



Ed Hindmarsh had a heart attack and is in hospital. Following a triple bypass surgery he was in an induced coma for a while but is now awake and has been moved from intensive care to the surgical ward. His recovery will be a long one for sure. But we are glad that he is on the road. Our best wishes to Ed for a full recovery and well-being.

We have a number of members who are not doing so well health wise and are facing upcoming surgery or interventional procedures. Let us wish all those members the very best and speedy recovery.

Club News

Membership 2015

There are still members who have not renewed the membership for 2015. There is a grace period until the end of February 2015 to renew the membership. After February the membership will have lapsed and should you wish to continue you would have to rejoin as a new member

Gem Show News (by Ray Wilson)

The annual gem show provides the largest part of our operating expenses for each year. Without money being raised at the show the fees and charges of the club would probably need to be doubled. As well activities and tools available would need to be curtailed. This is

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the reason that your club has an expectation that as many members as are available, and can assist, make themselves available to help out over the weekend.

Currently around 30 members of our membership of over 200 have volunteered for one of the jobs on the roster and I thank those members for their commitment.

We need more members to put their hand up and help out their club. The roster is currently listed on the noticeboard and you will see that there are critical positions that need filling on both Saturday and Sunday.

Gem Show Advertising

We have around 5,000 flyers for distributions to letterboxes. Some have already been distributed to rock dealers, lapidary stores and libraries. If you can assist in distributing these flyers to letterboxes in your neighbourhood it would help us to get the message out. Please pick up a bundle from the club.

Additionally this year, we have printed 750 rack cards that entitle the holder to free admission. The concept of these is that members could leave free passes with local businesses like hairdressers or butchers who could pass these on as rewards to their customers. Ideally we want to see these passes go towards attracting new visitors to the club. The printing of these rack cards was supported by the Lord Mayor's suburb initiative fund and the Bracken Ridge Ward. If you are able to take some of these cards to local businesses then please do so.

Raffle ticket sales are particularly important to protecting the investment of club funds in the preparation of the gem show. Our traditional strategy is to have members try and sell a book of tickets to friends, work mates or relatives. Coloured posters of the prizes are available to help you sell the tickets. The preselling of these tickets should cover our already outlaid expenses in the event of rain washing out the show. If this were to happen we would still have over \$1,000 of expenses without any income. Members who sell raffle tickets will assist in protecting our club funds. Please take a book of tickets if you haven't already taken one and sign the book so we know where the tickets are.

Member Sales

If members wish to sell some of their excess lapidary items – tools, gems, rocks, jewellery at the show then you need to complete a form so that we can protect your property and reconcile sales against club takings. The club will take 10% commission on all sales.

Help Wanted – Gem Show is On Approach.

The show roster is now on the board at the clubrooms. I will email an updated version around to everyone in the next couple of weeks. Please put your name down for a stint to help us make this show a success.

President's Challenge – Gem Show

Please note that Peter Smith will be away for the next few weeks. The entry dates for the competition still stand and Barry Kirkham will look after them until Peter returns.

If you haven't started yet, it is not too late to get a piece together and hand them in to be judged. Entry forms at the club or on the web.

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2015 GEM SHOW RAFFLE

There are still plenty of raffle books to be sold. Remember, the raffle is important to the club to ensure funding for the coming year so we could purchase more and exiting tools & equipment.

The details of the raffle and the prizes are on the website. I have an email version of the sheet with the prizes available, so if anyone wants it, please contact me via email (katarina.hayston@gmail.com).

We can also send ticket books to you via mail, so if you can't get to the club, please contact Peter Smith (prcbrs1@bigpond.com) or myself (katarina.hayston@gmail.com) and we organise to mail them to you.

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

In the next couple of weeks we will also mail out a book of tickets to members who have not yet checked out a book of tickets.

New Tools

The management committee has agreed that we need to replace the existing drill. Ray Wilson is in the process of purchasing a Dremel Workstation suitable for drilling metals and stones. The drill is not a purpose pearl or bead drill but can be used with great care to ensure accuracy as such.

We have received a very fabulous and generous donation in the form of a small kiln from Sophia W. Helen Moriarty has taken the kiln home for the time being to trial out the functionality and how to set the temperatures. Once the kiln has returned to the club rooms it can be used for smaller items to be enameled (or whatever else you can do in a kiln) rather than having to switch on the big kiln for individual pieces.

Additional Work Session

We will be trialing a new work session in 2015. There will be a new work session on Saturdays from 2pm – 5 pm.

This work session will be held during the trial session only on those Saturdays that do not have a workshop as we do not want to interfere with those.

Starting in February the club will be open on the following Saturdays: 31st. January, 14th February, 28th February & 14th March. Normal fees will apply.

Use of the Burnisher

Before you use the burnisher, ensure that your piece of silver has been cleaned with water & soap as well as the ultrasound.

DO NOT polish the piece with rouge or tripoli and put it in the burnisher for cleaning. This results in the rouge or Tripoli still on the piece to dissolve in the water, making it greasy and black. This in turn will transfer to all pieces in the burnisher.

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Privacy Policy

I have already emailed a draft of the proposed new privacy policy and copies of it will be available for review at the club. Please take the time to read this. It will be discussed at the upcoming meeting in February.

AGM – Management Committee

The management committee will have to retire from their position and an election will take place for those positions.

This year, all positions will be vacant and we require nominations for: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 5th Member.

If you are interested in any of those positions, please send an email to me (katarina.hayston@gmail.com).

It is important that we fill every position. If not, QLACCA will step in until we have filled the positions. And should the positions not be filled, the club will have to be wound up, i.e. closed.

AGM – Other Positions

The management committee has reviewed the constitutions and have not found any reason that the officer positions have to resign and be re-elected at every AGM. We are not aware of any by-law requiring this either. But if you have knowledge of such a by-law, please contact any member of the management committee.

If we do not receive any such notification we will not make all officer and other functions vacant. Instead of this, the Secretary will contact every single person who was elected at the last years AGM to determine if they wish to continue in their position. Should they wish to resign, the position will be open to nominations. Should they wish to remain, we will confirm this at the AGM.

Should any member have an objection to this, please contact the Secretary (via email: katarina.hayston@gmail.com) by the end of February (28th).

We decided on this to reduce the time spent on the AGM and have more time to enjoy the barbecue following.

Future Workshops

At this point in time we only have workshops until the end of March. We need more workshops which requires more instructors. So, if you have any skill related to lapidary & silver smithing please consider chairing a workshop. Think about what you are doing at the club, what you are good at. We haven't had any wire wrapping courses yet – so if you are good at it, why not step forward. Or maybe you know someone outside the club who could and would be willing to be a guest lecturer (like Ty Granger at the Christmas Party)

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Courses & Workshops

Upcoming Meetings – all meetings at clubhouse unless indicated otherwise

Next General Meeting: Date: Wednesday, 18th February 2015
Start: at 7.30 pm

Next Annual General Meeting: Date: Sunday 22nd March 2015
Start: to be confirmed

Events Calendar

Date	Activity	Instructor	Cost	Comments
7-8 Feb	Enamelling for Beginners	Helen Moriarty Carol Gatfield		(3)
21-22 Feb	Setting enamelling pieces in sterling silver	Helen Moriarty Carol Gatfield		
27 Feb	Lost Wax Casting	Ray Wilson	\$5 per flask +Materials +\$3 work fee	(1) Fri start 7 pm, max 12, suitable for beginners
1Mar	Free work Day	Peter Smith	No charge	Sun 9am – 3pm Free use of all workshop tools and facilities
21Mar	Blacksmithing	Paul Fulloon	\$3 work fee +material	(2) Limit of 8 8.30am – 12.30pm
28-29 Mar	Beginners Silversmithing	Carol Gatfield		

*(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.

I have compiled a new calendar for all activities in 2015. A copy of this is attached to this newsletter and it can also be found on the website.

In Other News

Birthstone for February

February has the Amethyst as birthstone which can be pale lilac to violet to red-violet through to a deep rich purple in colour.

*"The February born shall find
Sincerity and peace of mind,
Freedom from passion and from care,
If they, the amethyst will wear."*

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The original symbolic meaning of the colour purple was for penitence and mourning. However, it became symbolic with wealth and power and strongly associated with Royalty as the dyes used for purple materials were extremely expensive to produce.



The word Amethyst is derived from the Greek word "amethystos" which means "remedy against drunkenness" which is reflected in the properties of this stone.



The Amethyst is also referred to as the "sobriety stone" as it was once believed to prevent drunkenness and used to treat alcoholism and other types of addictions.

Amethyst is a purple variety of quartz (SiO₂) and owes its violet colour to irradiation, iron impurities (in some cases in conjunction with transition element impurities), and the presence of trace elements, which result in complex crystal lattice substitutions. The hardness of the mineral is the same as quartz, thus it is suitable for use in jewellery.

Amethyst is produced in abundance in Brazil (the discovery of this mine caused a crash in the price for this stone) as well as in Uruguay, South Korea, Austria, Russia (very fine Amethyst), India, Zambia, US, Canada. I have looked on many websites but none mentioned Australia so this might be one of the well-kept secrets.



There is a myth in which Bacchus (Dionysus), the god of intoxication, of wine, and grapes was pursuing a maiden named Amethyste, who refused his affections. Amethyste prayed to the gods to remain chaste, a prayer which the chaste goddess Diana answered, transforming her into a white stone. Humbled by Amethyste's desire to remain chaste, Bacchus poured wine over the stone as an offering, dyeing the crystals purple. However, this myth was invented by a French poet and has cannot be found in classical sources.

Amethyst can be faceted, polished, cabbed. It is used in jewellery, collected as specimen and thought after for its healing properties.

Where do you shop?

It has taken me a while to get my shopping all sorted but I thought I share with you where I get my stuff for the club work I am doing.

Tools

If I have time I buy from **Gemcuts** (website: <http://www.gemcuts.com.au/>). They have a great range of tools for great prices. And if you order your stuff before the gemshow (any) and they are going to that gem show, Brian and Liz are happy to bring them (saves on postage). **Gemcuts** is also one of our sponsors for the Gem Show Competition.

Another favourite of mine is **AJS** here in Brisbane (Address: 2nd Floor, Pavilion Building 226 Albert Street (Cnr Burnet Lane); website: <http://jewellerssupplies.com.au/index.php>). They have a great range of burrs & drills and wax supplies. Just a small warning: if you go there make sure you have a shopping list. They have a fantastic stock of tools and great sales

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people. Oh and not to forget to mention their books. Dangerous, very dangerous. But do let them know you are a member before you pay.

And because two shops aren't enough: **Rio Grande** (website: <http://www.riogrande.com/Home>) I can very easily drool over their online catalogue for hours. As they are located in the US I only use them to order burrs and drills to build up my assortment. I am too mean to pay the express postage so it does take a while before it arrives. As I am using a travel card loaded with US dollars to pay them I am not charged extra exchange rates on my credit card. You can also pay via PayPal.

Silver & Findings

Of course the **club** stocks silver. And Pam is kind enough to order special silver for you if you let her know what and how much you need.

Another place for silver (as well as findings) is **Twin Plaza** (Address: Level 19 / 141 Queen St; website: <http://www.twinplaza.com/Home.aspx>). **AJS** also sells silver but I have found that Twin Plaza has a wider range of silver available.

And if I have time & money I order silver direct from **A&E Metal** in Sydney (website: <https://www.aemetal.com.au/Webstore/default.aspx>). They also sell other metals (gold, platinum, special alloys and bonded metals). And yes, they do ship smaller orders. Of course, you will have to pay postage.

Stones

I get my stones from pretty much wherever I find them: gem shows, beach, fellow club members. So far I have not bought any stones online. It is one of those things, I rather see what I get and I don't always trust the sources online.

So, where do you shop for what you need? I am sure I left a lot out that I haven't discovered yet or because I don't need it (yet). Send me an email (katarina.hayston@gmail.com) and share your tips.

Soldering Tips

Rouge past can (allegedly – I haven't tried yet) protect existing solder joints. You can buy rouge in powder form. If you can't get hold of it, cut a small piece of your block and crush it to powder form. Mix it with water – drop by drop – to a thick paste.

Next, place the paste on the existing joint. Be careful not to get it on the area where you want to solder. Flux & apply solder as usual. After soldering, quench piece in water – it will get muddy! Before pickling, brush the rouge off or you ruin the pickle as well. If anyone has tried this before, let me know if it works or what pitfalls we would have to observe.

My new love

I am not very good at the conventional way of soldering. I am too impatient, my hand wobble and the solder never stays where it is supposed to. Just before Christmas I have started Soldering Paste. And I am in LOVE. Yep, love in all capitals. That stuff is not cheap. It comes in 10g syringes and costs between \$25-30. But it is so easy to use. And you don't need much. Easily applied with a toothpick exactly where you want it to go. Flux is already included. And you can solder joints off hammered metal for example and the solder won't cover the pattern. How great is that.

NBLC Calendar 2015

Dates and Times can change. Please check newsletter, emails and board closer to date;
 Worksessions may be held on days marked as Public Holidays - will be confirmed closer to date.
 For details on the Gem Shows please check website or the QLACCA calendar

	Monday Work Session 7 pm - 9.30 pm	Tuesday Work Session 7 pm - 9.00 pm	Wednesday Work Session 9 am - 12.00 pm	Thursday	Friday Work Session 7 pm - 9.30 pm	Saturday	Sunday
January				1	2	3	4
				Club Closed			
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Club Closed						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
					Lost Wax Casting 7 pm - 9.30 pm		Lost Wax Casting & Free Workday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Mgmt Meeting		NBLC Field Trip	NBLC Field Trip	NBLC Field Trip	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	
Australia Day NBLC Field Trip Work Session					Trial Work Session 2 - 5 pm		
February	Monday Work Session 7 pm - 9.30 pm	Tuesday Work Session 7 pm - 9.00 pm	Wednesday Work Session 9 am - 12.00 pm	Thursday	Friday Work Session 7 pm - 9.30 pm	Saturday	Sunday
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						Enamelling for Beginners	Enamelling for Beginners
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
						Trial Work Session 2 - 5 pm	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		General Meeting 7 pm			Setting enamelling pieces in sterling silver	Setting enamelling pieces in sterling silver	
23	24	25	26	27	28	1	
				Lost Wax Casting 7 pm - 9.30 pm	Trial Work Session 2 - 5 pm	Lost Wax Casting & Free Workday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm	
March	Monday Work Session 7 pm - 9.30 pm	Tuesday Work Session 7 pm - 9.00 pm	Wednesday Work Session 9 am - 12.00 pm	Thursday	Friday Work Session 7 pm - 9.30 pm	Saturday	Sunday
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						NBLC Gem Show 8.30 am - 4.30 pm	NBLC Gem Show 8.30 am - 3.30 pm
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
						Trial Work Session 2 - 5 pm Gatton Gemshow	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
					Blacksmithing 8.30am – 12.30pm	AGM	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
					Beginners Silversmithing NEW members only	Beginners Silversmithing NEW members only	