

CRYSTAL LINES

NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB Inc.

Newsletter for June 2015

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

SURFACE
MAIL

IN THIS EDITION:

Meeting Wrap-Up; Presidents
Message; OHS, Quartz, and other
bits and pieces + legislation re
number plate on caravan

WANTED: More slow cooker with
ceramic bowl for preparing rocks /
stones for the show. Please bring
extras to the club Att: Carol



NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

PATRON Leanne Linard
PRESIDENT Garry Gatfield
VICE PRESIDENT Bevan Turner
SECRETARY Lorraine Gregory
Assistant Sec. Katarina Hayston
5th Member Barry Kirkham

TREASURER Kerry Darton
MEMBERSHIP Linda Forbes
LIBRARIAN Linda Forbes
EDITOR Katarina Hayston
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 *Leanne Linard MP*, State Member for Nudgee.

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NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

Club Reports & News

Presidents Report (G. Gatfield)

This month, I am busy preparing my caravan and 4WD for the forthcoming field trip to Cape York. It is anticipated that around 30 members, relatives and friends will be partaking in this 2 month expedition. We officially meet up at Laura on 11 June, for commencement of the trip proper.

I note from Facebook, that our new Club Patron – Leanne Linard MP is very active in the local community, members who wish to keep abreast of local issues can befriend her of course. Also, the Clubs Facebook page continues to attract attention from admirers.

The major parts for the fit-out of the new Cabbie area have arrived at the club recently. Stainless Steel, motors, Etc. So it won't be long before we see some construction work in this area. Quotes are currently being sought for the supply and erection of a Front Awning for the building.

A new Safe has been purchased, as well as a new Notice Board for the wall where the old name tag board hung.

The Redcliffe Gemshow had to contend with some bad weather this year, consequently the Tail-gaters were not allowed to set-up in the muddy grounds, but the dealers in the hall still enjoyed a good crowd.

Our Secretary - Lorraine is absent for a few weeks on Ross's Gem Tour of Thailand.

Our V.P. - Bevan has had a short spell in hospital, we wish him a speedy recovery.

On behalf of the membership, Carol & I attended a wake for former member - George Greensill. His dear wife Aileen is still a club member and it was pleasing to see the large turnout, who attended, to show their respects for George.

Wednesday mornings is continuing to be a well-attended work session, and with the large attendance, comes a large morning tea. Thank you to all those who provide the extra cakes and slices for the multitude, it is most appreciated!

For those who can't make the annual field trip this year, please keep the club running smoothly, while we are away! Also, don't forget, we will arrive at Tomahawk Ck. at the end of July, so some of you may be able to join us there, for a week or two.

If you are seeking knowledge or inspiration, (after all that is why you joined the club!), may I suggest you check out some of the new acquisitions in our Library. Recently we have subscribed to the Age of Dinosaurs magazine, the Mineralogy Journal, and Lapis is always a great read, the 2 new books on the Geology of Qld. and Northern Territory, and the 2 new faceting books, are just some of the many worthwhile publications available to you.

If you are intending to come on next year's major Field Trip to attend the Easter Gemboree in Tasmania, then don't delay, make your bookings on the Spirit of Tasmania, ASAP.

Garry Gatfield
President NBLC Inc.
17 May 2015

New Members

Welcome



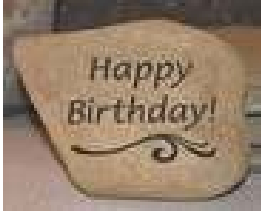
We are welcoming Hannah Griffin, Benjamin Deasy, Kevin Griffin, Jocelyn Girle, Terry Lynam, Ram Chandra, Monique Grol, Irene Goglan, Sandra & Steve Bell as new and returning members to our club.

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

We now have a total of 267 members.

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Birthdays in May



Milton & Graham Fox, Ben Hope, George Cross, Pam Kinsela, Aileen Greensill, Glen Spresser, David Moad, Margaret James, Maree Lindeberg, Brian Brehmer, Paul Fulloon, John Carthew, Tom Crawford, Lorraine Leyden, Venessa de Vos, Raymond Edwards, Susan Hopper, Alison Bruce, Jocelyn Carr, Abigail E., Andrew Turkington, Brian Worth and Alan Teakle.

We wish all of you a very **Happy Birthday**. And folks, you don't get older – you are getting better according to Shirley Bassey. And I have to agree with her.

Personal News



In May I had to make the sad announcement that George Greensill has passed away. Our thoughts are with Aileen.

Graham Fox is still struggling with health issues and we wish you all the best and that you are back on your feet soon. You are being missed.

Club News

General Meeting Round-up

15 members attended the meeting, one member apologized. It would be great to see a few more members – especially new members. The General Meeting is the best – if not only – place where you can participate in the making of the club. If you don't attend, don't complain about something you don't like.

A few notes from the last meeting:

- Tom has got the saw back up and running and carried out his usual diligent maintenance around the club. Thank you Tom, I don't think people realise how much you actually do. So folks, next time you enter the clubrooms, have a look around. The equipment is working because Tom is doing such a stellar job. And if something isn't working, please leave a note with the duty officer, don't just walk away. It won't get fixed if we don't know about it.
- **We are still looking for a QLACCA delegate to take over from Greg Gosden.** The QLACCA meetings are held on Saturday – every two months. The location can vary as they are sometimes held at the Gem Shows. Surely there is ONE person out there willing to give up a bit of their time for the better of the club. I know we are all time poor but without volunteers the club just can't function.
- The itinerary for the fieldtrip has been finalized and is on the board.
- David & Thierry continue working on the improvement for the OHS at the club. Changes are coming for the better. Watch this space.
- Subscriptions to "Gem, Gold and Treasures" and "Metal, Stone and Glass" will be renewed.
- A new by-law has been passed to allow for electronic banking.
- The capping area is still undergoing a refurb. It will look great once everything is completed.
- The new table for the silver smithing is still in the making. The top (it's huge) is finished, now we just need the legs.

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- The new competition rules are available. We are going to purchase a couple more copies so we can have one in the library and one in the common area.
- The club will start selling online – for the time being only club items (stones, rocks, sticks – just kidding – slabs and excess equipment. If it works we will have discussion in the future to allow for sale on behalf of members for a 10% commission. If you are interested in the club selling on your behalf, please let us know just so we assess the situation further in the future. Commercial sale will be excluded, which means we would limit the number of items and / or value.

Gem Show 2016 by Ray Wilson

The 2016 gem show planning has commenced. We haven't yet had final confirmation that Bracken Ridge High will accept our booking, there isn't any impediment to the booking going ahead.

The show will be on March 5-6 and the theme for this year is "Silver". All of the schedules for the Presidents Challenge competitions are now available on the web or hard copies are available at the club. If you can't find the details contact Barry Kirkham.

As part of the extensive planning to get the show up and running I have produced a project plan of all of the tasks that need doing between now and next March. I have also placed a notional effort figure (amount of hours required for the task) to give members an idea of what commitment is required. I would like everyone to check out the plan and see if they can take on one or two of the tasks to help the club prepare for the show. A copy of the schedule is on the web at <http://nbhc.com.au/members-area/> and also on the noticeboard. Please email me if you can help and I will update the plan with your details.

If you want to make a comment or suggest a change, please contact either myself via email (katarina.hayston@gmail.com) or Ray Wilson.

Library News by Linda Forbes

Nine members recently attended a really great instruction on Chain Maille held by Lola . As others are interested also, the club has purchased two books on Chain Maille.

Also purchased is a book 500 Silver Jewelry Designs which may be useful as the theme for the club's next jewellery competition is Silver.

It has been really nice to see so many members browsing our comprehensive library lately. Especially our numerous members who are doing silversmithing. If anyone has a request for a specific book would you please let me know and I will see if we can purchase it.

NBLC Faceting Competition by Barry Kirkham

The results from the last club bi-monthly faceting competition open section were: 1st Barry Kirkham, 2nd Ross Beattie, 3rd Vicki Thompson. Disappointingly there were no entries in the novice section.

The next competition entries need to be received at the club before Wednesday 1st July 2015. The drawings can be collected from the clubrooms, posted or emailed to you. This is a wonderful opportunity to receive feedback on how your faceting skill is progressing. So have a go, even if you are very new at it, or have never entered before.

Barry Kirkham
NBLC Competitions coordinator.

Wax Dopping Station by Ray Wilson

Over the last few weeks members have been experiencing problems with dopping stones using the dop pot. Stones were not sticking or coming off dops sticks as soon as work commenced on the stone. It appeared that the pot was not heating the wax as much as it had when we first bought the pot.

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I have had a discussion with the manufacturers – Inland Craft Products Michigan USA – and they advise that there are no serviceable parts. The temperature is set to operate between 140- 160 degrees Fahrenheit. However the manufacturer believes the problems we have been experiencing are related to reusing old wax.

As wax is heated over and over it gives off volatiles, which renders the wax less effective in sticking. Additionally, the old wax tends to form a skin or layer on the bottom of the pot and this acts as a heat sink.

So, the pot has been cleaned out and new green wax has been purchased. **Only green wax is to be added to the dop pot.** If you have old dop sticks with red or black wax throw them away. Definitely do not put this wax into the dop pot.

Additionally, the amount of wax being melted needs to be kept to a minimum. There is no point in having a full pot of wax being melted if you only need 1 or 2 small dops. Once you have completed using a dop stick then the wax can be remelted into the pot for the next user or kept for your next stone. Just be aware that keeping waxes over a long term and reintroducing to the wax pot will only exacerbate the problems we have been experiencing.

Open All Hours by Ray Wilson

The club is going to trial selling material online. The intention is to create more interest in our web site as well as have the potential to raise a few dollars. We are going to establish a page on our web site with items for sale and then promote them on Facebook in the Australian Lapidary Sales Group. For those familiar with the Ronnie Barker series “Open All Hours” nurse Gladys is going to be played by our nurse Carol South. Carol has offered to look after the site and has been preparing some slabs and other rocks from our stock for sale.

Once we have the site up and running a notice will be sent out to members.

Presidents Challenges 2016

In the last newsletter I published the details of the individual challenges. There are also available at the club. Many of you have probably shrugged their shoulders and thought “It’s not for me.” I have to disagree. No matter your skill level or how long you have been capping, faceting or making jewellery you are good enough to enter. You may not win a prize but what you will get is as valuable: a review of your piece and therefore your skill by an independent judge.

I entered at the last gem show for the first time, both in the capping competition and the jewellery competition. Needless to say, I didn’t win or you’d know about it. But the point is that I entered, knowing that these were not winning pieces. I couldn’t get the cab to shine, no matter what I tried. Admittedly I left it too late and ran out of time. Similar with my jewellery piece. But I did get the results from the judges. And they confirmed what I had suspected: I suck at finishing. And I didn’t agree with the ‘design’ points I got as they told me that the judges looked at the pieces very subjectively. But regardless and far from being disheartened I have taken their judging on board and try to improve. And I am already planning the pieces for the next show.

So what I have tried to say here in my longwinded form: Get your act together, plan a piece and enter it. You can only win, even if you don’t get a prize.

Field Trip 2015

Garry has finalized the itinerary and it is on the board as well as being emailed. I won’t publish it in the newsletter, but let me tell you – I am jealous. As we have come to be used to – Garry has yet again organized an awesome trip.

What is important though is that all going on the trip remember that the Northern Peninsula Area is alcohol restricted: Throughout the NPA Alcohol restrictions are in place:

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The maximum amount of alcohol a person can have in the NPA is: 2 litres of wine (unfortified) and 11.25 litres (1 x 30 can carton) of any strength beer, or 2 litres of wine (unfortified) and 9 litres (1 x 24 can carton) of premixed spirits of up to 5.5% alcohol/volume. This amount is per person on foot, or per vehicle, boat, or aircraft regardless of the number of people in it. It is an offence to drink in a public place. However, Loyalty Beach Camping Ground, New Mapoon and Seisia Camping Ground are designated wet areas. Registered guests of these camping grounds are permitted to drink alcohol.

There are some licensed premises in the NPA, such as the Tavern, where alcohol is sold for consumption on the premises. No more than the carriage limit can be sold for take away per person or vehicle no matter how many people are in the vehicle.

Maximum penalties for possessing illegal alcohol in the NPA are: First offence \$37,500. Second offence \$52,500 and/or 6 months imprisonment. Third offence \$75,000 and/or 18 months imprisonment. Vehicles found carrying alcohol in the restricted area may be confiscated. It is also an offence to attempt to bring illegal alcohol into the restricted area. The maximum penalty is \$37,500. The on the spot fine for drinking in a public place is \$100 or \$300 if under the age of 18. The maximum penalty for possessing alcohol in a dry place is \$1900. These penalties apply to all people living in, travelling through, visiting or working in the restricted area.

More Travelling Tips

For all those interested, the Gemboree 2016 is at Easter in Ulverstone. If anyone is interested in going, it is advisable to make the bookings on the ferry (Spirit of Tasmania) now. It is Easter, so a few people might be heading to Tasmania. Garry has already booked and advised that his fare is \$1,631 (including travel insurance). Head to this website (<http://www.spiritoftasmania.com.au>) to check out the timetable and fares.

Club Safety



Our Safety Team is continuing to work on our OHS system. As a club, the legislation does not apply to us but we believe it is important that everyone is as safe as possible. Currently they are working on a Safety checklist and an induction protocol for members.

But no matter how many safety checks we are putting in place the one thing we cannot regulate and streamline is the way members behave around the club and the tools. The biggest cause for accidents is complacency. So be aware of your surrounding and respect the tool you are working with it. Safety is free, so use it.

New Pickling Solution

We are going to trial a new pickling solution: Sodium Bisulphate. Starting from 1st June we will replace the current pickle with the new stuff – both for hot and cold pickle.

The solution is much safer than the acid we are currently using. The big question now of course is: Does it work. And that is where we do need your feedback. If you are working with the new pickle, please complete the feedback forms we are going to have at the club. We need honest assessment what you think about them. If we don't get any feedback, that stuff will stay.

The MSDS sheet will be available on the board.

Initially the trial will run for 4 weeks. Unless of course the stuff really doesn't work, then we will change back to the old solution.

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Courses & Workshops

Upcoming Meetings – all meetings at clubhouse unless indicated otherwise

Next General Meeting: Date: Wednesday 17th June 2015
Start: 7.30 pm

Next Annual General Meeting: Date: Sunday 20th March 2016 (t.b.c.)
Start: 10:30 am

Events Calendar

Date	Activity	Instructor	Cost	Comments
30 th May	Saturday Work Session		Work fee \$3	2 – 5 pm
5 th & 7 th June	Lost Wax Casting ^{*(1)}		Cost for mould + Work fee + \$5 / flask	Friday Evening – preparing the flasks, Sunday - Casting
6 th June	Saturday Work Session		Work fee \$3	2 – 5 pm
7 th June	FREE WORK SESSION			
28 th Jun	Opal – Theory & cutting	John Fleming	\$5 course fee + \$20 opal package	8.30 am – 3.30 pm Limit of 8 John will include Opals from Lightning Ridge, Cooper Pedy & Yowah / Koroit in the package
20 th Jun	Saturday Work Session		Work fee \$3	2 – 5 pm
27 th Jun	Saturday Work Session		Work fee \$3	2 – 5 pm
28 th Jun	Opal – Theory & cutting	John Fleming	\$5 course fee + \$20 opal package	8.30 am – 3.30 pm Limit of 8 John will include Opals from Lightning Ridge, Cooper Pedy & Yowah / Koroit in the package
19 th July	Opal – Theory & cutting	John Fleming	\$5 course fee + \$20 opal package	8.30 am – 3.30 pm Limit of 8 John will include Opals from Lightning Ridge, Cooper Pedy & Yowah / Koroit in the package
4 th July	Saturday Work Session		Work fee \$3	2 – 5 pm
11 th July	Saturday Work Session		Work fee \$3	2 – 5 pm
5&6 th March 2016	NBLC Gemshow			Location to be confirmed-currently applying for booking for Bracken Ridge State High School.

*(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.

Note: the Saturday Session on 11th July will be the last for the time being. We will assess at the following meeting if we should stay open on Saturdays. So if you are interested, please attend the sessions. The more the merrier.

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Other News & information

Length

I just love the internet. There is so much information there, I could spend hours on it. And when I find something useful, I am happy to share. The table gives you the approximate length for necklace, bracelets and even ankle bracelet. These are average size only but a good indicator.

Style / Size		Measurement (in cm)	
		From	To
Necklace			
Women's	Collar	35	38
	Choker	38	41
	Pendant Length	45	49
	Matinee Length	50	61
	Opera Length	71	82
	Rope Length	101	115
	Traditional Lariat	121	
Men's	Choker	45	
	Medium Length	48	59
	Long	60	

Style / Size		Measurement (in cm)	
		From	To
Bracelet			
Women's	Small	15	18
	Medium	19	21
	Large	21	23
Men's	Small	21	23
	Medium	24	26
	Large	26	28
Anklets			
Women's	Small-Medium	22	
	Medium-Large	25	
Men's	Small-Medium	27	31
	Medium-Large	33	36

Quartz – the stuff for the President's challenge

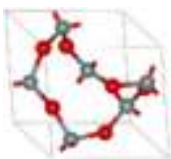


Fatimid Ewer carved in rock crystal with gold lid; c. 1000

Quartz is second most abundant mineral in the Earth's continental crust so you should not have any problems finding one you like to cut for the competition. There are many varieties of quartz so I thought I give you a bit of a run down on this mineral.

Quartz is a silicate mineral. The name is derived from the German word for "Quarz" and its Middle High German ancestor "twarc" which most likely originated in Slavic. Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder believed quartz to be water ice, permanently frozen after great lengths of time. Quartz is the most common material identified as the mystical substance maban in Australian Aboriginal mythology.

Efforts to synthesize quartz began in the mid nineteenth century as scientists attempted to create minerals under laboratory conditions that mimicked the conditions in which the minerals formed in nature: German geologist Karl Emil von Schafhäütl (1803-1890) was the first person to synthesize quartz when in 1845 he created microscopic quartz crystals in a pressure cooker.



Quartz belongs to the trigonal crystal system, the ideal crystal shape being a six-sided prism terminating with six-sided pyramids at each end. In nature

The hardness on the Mohs scale is 7 and lower (depending on impurities).

Major varieties of Quartz

- Pure Quartz (rock crystal) is colourless and transparent or translucent.

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Citrine

- Citrine is variety of quartz with a colour range from pale yellow to brown due to ferric impurities. Natural citrines are rare. Most commercial citrines are heat-treated amethysts or smoky quartz.
- Rose quartz is pale pink to rose red. The colour due to trace amounts of titanium, iron or manganese.
- Amethyst ranges in colour from a bright to dark or dull purple colour.
- When amethysts and citrines are found growing together in the same crystal it is called ametrine.
- Smoky Quartz is a gray, translucent version of quartz and some can be black.
- Milky Quartz is the most common variety and can be found almost anywhere. The white colour might be caused by minute fluid inclusions of gas, liquid or both.
- Chalcedony – term generally used for white or lightly coloured material. If you want some, head to Redcliffe beaches.
- Agate – Multi coloured banded chalcedony, semi-translucent to translucent



Ametrine



Tiger's Eye

- Onyx – Agate where the bands are straight, parallel and consistent in size
- Jasper – Opaque cryptocrystalline quartz, typically red to brown
- Aventurine – Translucent chalcedony with small inclusions that shimmer
- Tiger's Eye – Fibrous gold to red-brown colored quartz
- Prasiolite – mint green, transparent
- Carnelian – Reddish orange chalcedony, translucent

Male / Female

I saw these in the newsletter of the Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club and they are too good not to share around. So Thank you to the TTGGMC:

You might not have known this, but a lot of non-living objects are actually either male or female. Here are some examples...

Egg Timers: Egg timers are female, because over time all the weight shifts to the bottom.

Hammers: Male, because in the last 5000 years, they've hardly changed at all and are occasionally handy to have around.

Hot Air Balloons: Also a male object, because to get them to go anywhere, you have to light a fire under their arse.

Photocopiers: These are female, because once turned off; it takes a while to warm them up again. They are an effective reproductive device if the right buttons are pushed, but can also wreak havoc if you push the wrong buttons.

Remote Control: Female, because it easily gives a man pleasure, he'd be lost without it, and while he doesn't always know which buttons to push, he just keeps trying.

Trains: Definitely male, because they always use the same old lines for picking up people.

Tyres: Tyres are male, because they go bald easily and are often over inflated.

Web Pages: Female, because they're constantly being looked at and frequently getting hit on.

HOT OF THE PRESS:

All, please ensure that you check the height of the number plate on your Caravan. Legislation dictates that it cannot be more than 1.3m above ground [see Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995; Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2010; Current as at 1 January 2015: Section 30 Position, visibility and legibility of number plate (1)(ii)]