

CRYSTAL LINES

NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB Inc.

Newsletter for May 2015

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

SURFACE
MAIL

IN THIS EDITION:

Torrington Fieldtrip report; safety;
what happened at the last GM;
Presidents Challenge and a bit of this
and that.



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)

My first duty as President should be to welcome all those who have taken up positions to help run the club over the next 12 months, and to thank those office bearers, from last year, for their sterling efforts.

The new Secretary – Lorraine Gregory, the new Treasurer – Kerry Darton, and the new Vice-President – Bevan Turner, I take this opportunity to congratulate them on accepting these vital positions of responsibility in the running of the club. Thank you also to Katarina for assisting in a smooth transition of office bearers, and for filling in for Lorraine whilst she was sick. We are indeed a fortunate club to have such members who volunteer their time and effort, so that we all may enjoy this wonderful hobby of Lapidary and its' associated arts.

Since the recent Gemshow and AGM, the club has been a hive of activity, with Lost Wax Casting, Free Sunday work sessions, and a trial of Saturday afternoon work sessions. The AGM Bar-B-Q was well attended, and a small token of our appreciation to all those members who helped out at the show. Except for the Easter week, the club work sessions continue to be well attended.

A decision was made at a previous monthly meeting, that the club would spend some funds on upgrading the Cabochon work area and equipment. This upgrade, when completed, will enable members to pursue cabbing to a higher standard than currently available. In recent times, we have gradually upgraded the Faceting machines and the Silver/Gold work bench area, the cabbing area is overdue for a major facelift!

The recent field trip to Torrington at Easter was well attended, despite the wet weather. All up 28 members and relatives, attended this trip, and all fossickers recovered specimens of green Beryl, Topaz and Quartz crystals. It was good to see 5 young children attend, and they all enjoyed fossicking for gems. They are, after all, the next generation of fossickers and club members hopefully!

In that light, I consider it important, that we all encourage and mentor the younger members in our club. If a person accumulates a lot of knowledge on particular aspects of the lapidary crafts, and then does not pass that knowledge onto the next generation, than for what purpose, their knowledge and life's work is wasted. Far better to encourage, mentor, and pass on your skills to members and friends younger than you, and consequently you have achieved some useful purpose.

I remind all members, that we are a non-profit, non-political, strictly volunteer group of like-minded people, that all share the common interest of the Lapidary arts and crafts. To this end, all members need to treat each other with respect and to appreciate any voluntary contribution that any person makes towards the smooth running of the club.

Garry Gatfield
President NBLC Inc.
14 April 2015

New Members

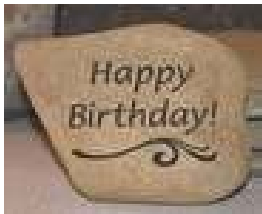


We are welcoming Kim Gasson, Emily Power, Brian Worth, Leon Greenway, Alan Teakle, Teegan Olson, Jennifer Gow, Andrew Darton, Eva Gregoric, Peter & Carol Williams as new members to our club.

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

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Birthdays in May



Beverley Christopher, Robert Clarke, Wolter Graham, Les Wakefield, Joyce Stanton, Ross Chapman, Gareth Gregory, Wanda Richards, Nathan Clarke, Robyn Moad, Rick Brown, Geoff Cahill, Carol South, Cath Collier, Kathy Walsh, Marie-Ann Coyle, John Richardson, Ron Wilkie, Emily Power, Jennifer Gow.

We wish all of you a very **Happy Birthday**. And may your day be filled with joy, people you love and lots of laughter.

Personal News



To all that are ill or not well and those that suffer a personal loss that we are not aware of: We wish you all the best, speedy recovery and hope to see you back on your feet soon.

Club News

General Meeting

Our new management team took over and did a stellar job on hosting their first meeting.

A few notes from the last meeting:

- Tom is currently doing some maintenance on the faceting machines.
- The 14" saw is out of order as it needs a new motor.
- 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.
- On the board of the clubroom we have a safety form – should you see anything that is not safe, damaged equipment or behavior that might be dangerous to others, please complete the form and place it in the Secretary's tray (located on the shelf under the name cards).
- Another safety feature we will be introducing is a health screening report for those who go on field trips. More detail about this at a later stage.
- We are going to investigate the purchase of oxygen bottle & defibrillator for the club as well as for the field trips.

Gem Show 2016

Yes, there is news already. I know we have just recovered from the enormous effort and hard work at the last show but it is time to pull up socks and start planning the next one.

Ray is currently compiling a list of tasks that will have to be completed to make the next show an equal if not greater success and we will get back to you with more details during the year. What we can tell you so far is that Ray has contacted the school to book the event and we are currently waiting for confirmation.

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We are planning to hold the show on the weekend March 5th & 6th, with setup on Friday afternoon / evening. So kindly mark this weekend in your calendar – we will need your help again.

The mobile ATM was very successful and we also will try and book it again for the show.

The booking fees for traders will generally stay the same – some of the spots might go for a higher fee due to certain advantages. So if you want to have a stall at our show – contact Scott Bell. I am not sure if he already takes bookings, but it can't hurt to have your name down for it.

A few more additions / changes were discussed but as we haven't resolved these yet I will get back to you once we do.

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

There are no new books added. However, if you know of a book that you think we should have in the library, please contact Linda. Or email me the details and I will forward it to her. Linda has the discretion of purchase to a nominated amount – any book that exceeds this can be suggested by her and will be discussed at the next General Meeting.

And a reminder to all members & duty officers:

1. Any one member may borrow 2 items (books, magazines, DVD etc) from the library
2. Any item borrowed has to be returned within 2 weeks.
3. If you are returning a book, please contact the duty officer – do not just leave the book on the table and do not put it back in the library.
4. There is a box in the library 'returned items'. Please do not borrow anything out of this box until Linda has processed it and put it back on the shelf. You may read it at the club but it is not for taking home.

Committee Contacts

Following are the emails for the management committee members in case you want to get in contact with them:

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| President | Garry Gatfield | goldpan@bigpond.net.au |
| Vice President | Bevan Turner | bevanchris@live.com |
| Secretary | Lorraine Gregory | lgreg55@optusnet.com.au |
| Treasurer | Kerry Darton | |
| 5 th Member | Barry Kirkham | margoandbarry@bigpond.com |

Fieldtrip to Torrington @ Easter (by G. Gatfield)

Well the short summary of a trip went round via email from Garry earlier:

1. It was wet.
2. It was also really wet and muddy.
3. We all found some Green Beryl specimens, Topaz, & Quartz Crystals.
4. Even the ducks got wet!

For anyone who wants to know more, read the more detailed report Garry presented at the last General Meeting:

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A total of 32 members and friends attended a very wet field trip to Torrington over the Easter break, fossicking mainly for Emerald, Topaz and Quartz crystals. We were based at the caravan park, which is not officially open yet, and is still undergoing upgrade.

We had great weather until mid-day Friday, when it started raining and continued until Sunday. Consequently the grounds in the park became water logged and turned to slush in places. Some members departed for home early as a consequence, but for those diehards (or try-hards), who stayed, the sunshine finally reappeared and fossicking continued unabated.



**A green Beauty found at Torrington
5.1 carats**

The Torrington district is one of the most heavily mineralised areas of the New England District, and contains the world's largest Silexite deposit, as well as hosting Beryl deposits, that in some places produce Emerald. In Australia, Emerald is a fairly rare gemstone, with only 2 main locations, where it has been produced on a commercial scale. Namely - Emmaville/Torrington and around the Cue district of W.A.

List of members, friends and children, who attended the field trip:

Ciana & sister, Milton, Paul & Lorraine, Sally, Gareth & Lorraine, Marcus, Ross & Vicki, Steve & Amelia and kids,

Ross & Dawn, Albert & friend, Rick & Kay, Romano & Michelle and kids, Bevan & Cris, Ross & Wanda, and Garry & Carol (and Lucy)!

For further information on the Silexite deposit see:

http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/238213/Topaz.pdf

Garry Gatfield
Field Trip Officer
NBLC Inc.

Faceting Competition 2016

The details for the Faceting Completion are now available at the club rooms and online on the NBLC website.

It is a Level 2 competition conducted in 2 divisions: Novice & Open. Entries with the official form must be received no later than the 30th of January 2016 to Graham Kinsela.

For more detailed information please see the competition brochure. If you are interested in participating, contact Graham Kinsela or send me an email and I will send you the brochure.

Message from our Competition Coordinator (B. Kirkham)

The entries for the next NBLC faceting competition must be received at the clubrooms by the end of April. All the details and schedules for the NBLC Presidents competition, 2016 NBLC gem show competition and Qld Faceters competition are now available at the clubrooms. If you are unable to attend the clubrooms to pick them up I can email or post them to you. Entering these competitions is a great way to receive feedback on your faceting progress.- Barry Kirkham , NBLC Competitions Coordinator.

Presidents Challenges 2016

The details for the challenges for 2016 are now available. The forms are at the club and will be available online later but here are the details:

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Standard Cabochon

- Style: A standard cabochon that will not fit through a 15mm hole
Material: The cabochon must be cut from Quartz. There is a large variety of stones in the Quartz Family: Aventurine, Tiger Eye, Chrysoprase and many more
Entry: The stone has to be handed in – together with the entry form, placed in a box marked with your name – by 10th February 2016.

Most Appealing Gemstone

- Style: The stone can be any style (Faceted, Cabbed, Carved)
Material: Any normal cabbing / faceting material or Opal. No colour restriction
Entry: The stone has to be handed in – together with the entry form, placed in a box marked with your name – by 26th February 2016

Metal Smith Jewellery - For more information please talk to Peter Smith or Barry Kirkham.

- Style: A *bracelet or necklace*; combination *hand fabricated and cast* (e.g. lost wax casting, cuttlefish). *Set with at least one stone*. The stone(s) don't have to be cut by you
Material: Silver; a mixed use of metals is acceptable but silver has to be the prominent metal
Entry: The stone has to be handed in – together with the entry form, placed in a box marked with your name – by 10th February 2016.

Note: You cannot use any store bought items such as clasps; A pendant on a chain is not acceptable; equally it is not acceptable to hang a pendant on a bracelet.

Following samples from what I understand is acceptable and what is not. Just remember you will have to include handcrafted (e.g. the rings), cast (e.g. the clasp) and a set stone.



Club Safety

The risk assessment of the soldering station has been completed. Most of the threads identified have been already been taken care of. There are still a few outstanding items and we are dealing with them.

I just would like to take the opportunity to remind everyone that:

- Safety is everyone's concern
- If you see something that is unsafe: report it
- If you see someone working in an unsafe manner – talk to him /her. If you do not want to do it, find an instructor.
- If you do not know or are unsure how to use any of our equipment: find an instructor or someone who can assist you.
- We are working with power tools and as such they have to be treated with respect.
- Do not wave any torches around.
- Make sure the gas is turned off when you have finished soldering – every time.
- Safety Goggles and masks and ear muffs are available at the club. Ask for them.

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- Wear sturdy closed-in shoes.
- Make sure you don't wear clothing too loose
- Tuck in long hair and any jewellery such as chains and necklaces.
- Familiarise yourself with the safety measure at the club, i.e. where is the first-aid-kit, fire emergency procedure, where is the eye-wash-station
- Our First-aid Officers are: Carol Gatfield, Carol South and Jim Jeavons. Make sure you know them at least by sight.
- If you suffer from any medical condition that may incapacitate you – make sure that you have included that relevant information on the Emergency Detail form. If not, fill out a new one. Make sure the details are up to date.

Courses & Workshops

Upcoming Meetings – all meetings at clubhouse unless indicated otherwise

Next General Meeting: Date: Wednesday 20th May 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 |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 2 nd May | Saturday Work Session | | Work fee \$3 | 2 – 5 pm |
| 9 th & 10 th May | Faceting Course | Graham Kinsela | \$50 + extra | |
| 16 th May | Saturday Work Session | | Work fee \$3 | 2 – 5 pm |
| 23 rd May | Saturday Work Session | | Work fee \$3 | 2 – 5 pm |
| 30 th May | 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 |
| 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.

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As you can see, the calendar is a tad bare, Yes, a lot of members will be going on a trip shortly, but that doesn't mean the rest of us can't get together and organise one course or another. Is there a technique you would like to explore? Why not get a group of people and explore it together.

On Saturday for example we had a chain-mail course. A group got together and was kindly taught by Lola how to make chain-mail. I at least had a lot of fun. At times we were actually able to talk and work. I can tell you that once you get the hang of it, the technique is not that difficult. Fiddly yes. But it does take a while to get the hang of it. And I promise, I will finish it too. Regardless – a massive Thank You to Lola for spending her Saturday with us.

Cabbing Instructors

Following a two weeks instructor course by Peter Smith, we now have a few more cabbing instructors for the club: Tom Power, John Richards, Barry Kirkham, Ray Wilson, Carol South and Katarina Hayston.

Peter will hold another course later in the year to make sure that all work sessions have cabbing instructors.

Other News & information

Sunstones

Garry sent an email around that there are now synthetic sunstones from China in the market. So: buyer beware. If the price is too good to be true, it most likely isn't a natural stone (or you got a dummy seller).

I just checked the net: the synthetic stuff is available for about \$US0.09 / gram

Silver Smithing – Saw Blades

Have you ever wondered about those sawblade numberings? Well, I have when I started out. One sawblade was like the next one. I finally started looking into it when I realised I used way too many blades. And yes, the numbers have a meaning and different blades do make a difference. So here is a little table to help you with choosing the right blade next time you need to saw some silver:

And if anyone can explain when to use for example Blade size 2 instead of Blade size 4 (both for gauge 16-18) I will add that info in the next newsletter.

| Blade Size | Teeth / Inch | Recommend for | | Drill Size for Piercing |
|------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| | | Gauge | Thickness (mm) | |
| 8/0 | 89 | Up to 26 | 0.40 | 80 |
| 7/0 | 84 | 24-26 | 0.51-0.40 | 80 |
| 6/0 | 76 | 24 | 0.51 | 79 |
| 5/0 | 71 | 22-24 | 0.64-0.51 | 78 |
| 4/0 | 66 | 22 | 0.64 | 77 |
| 3/0 | 61 | 22 | 0.64 | 76 |
| 2/0 | 56 | 20-22 | 0.81-0.64 | 75 |
| 1/0 | 53.5 | 18-22 | 1.0-0.64 | 73 |
| 1 | 51 | 18-20 | 1.0-0.81 | 71 |
| 2 | 43 | 16-18 | 1.29-1.0 | 70 |
| 3 | 40.5 | 16-18 | 1.29-1.0 | 68 |
| 4 | 38 | 16-18 | 1.29-1.0 | 67 |
| 5 | 35.5 | 16 | 1.29 | 65 |
| 6 | 33 | 14 | 1.6 | 58 |
| 7 | 30.5 | 12 | 2.05 | 57 |
| 8 | 28 | 12 | 2.05 | 55 |

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Iolite – the Water Sapphire

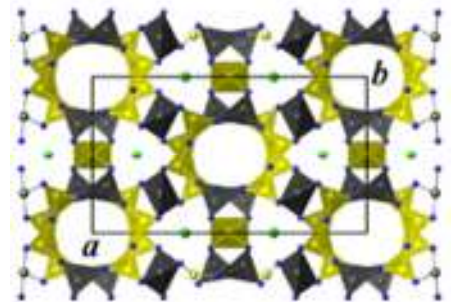


Iolite or Cordierite (mineralogy) is a magnesium iron aluminium cyclosilicate. It was discovered in 1813 and is named after the French geologist Louis Cordier. Although it is said that it was used by the Viking mariners, using thin pieces of it as the world's first polarising filter.

Looking through an iolite lens, they were able to determine the exact position of the sun, and navigate their way safely to the New World and back.

The property that made iolite so valuable to the Vikings is its extreme pleochroism. Iolite has different colours in different directions in the crystal. A cube cut from iolite will look a more or less violet blue, almost like sapphire, from one side, clear as water from the other, and a honey yellow from on top. In the past, this property led some people to call iolite 'water sapphire', though the name is now obsolete.

Colour occurrence is blue, smoky blue, bluish violet, greenish, yellowish brown, gray, colourless to a very pale blue. It can be very brittle and its hardness is 7-7.5 on the Mohs scale. For those interested and in the know: the crystal habit is described as pseud-hexagonal prismatic twins, as imbedded grains, and massive. The crystal system is orthorhombic – dipyramidal space group: C ccm.



Crystal Structure

Pleochroism may have been helpful in navigation but it certainly makes life difficult for the cutter. If iolite is not cut from exactly the right direction, no matter what the shape of the raw crystal, its colour will not be shown to its best advantage.

The name iolite comes from the Greek 'ion', which means violet. Iolite is usually a purplish blue when cut properly, with a softness to the colour that can be quite attractive.

Iolite is sometimes used as inexpensive substitute for sapphire. It is found in Australia (NT), Brazil, Burma, Canada, India, Madagascar, Namibia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and the USA. The largest iolite crystal found weighed more than 24,000 carats and was discovered in Wyoming, US.

I found a price chart for iolite: 1 carat ranges from US\$62.12 (dark blue) to \$100.36 (colorless).

Smile

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. So he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES." When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note: "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION."

Did you know that ...

- If you were to write out every number name in full (*one, two, three, four...*), you wouldn't use a single letter B until you reached one billion
- There was no word for the color orange in English until about 450 years ago.
- *Schoolmaster* is an anagram of "the classroom."
- A *scissor* was originally a type of Roman gladiator thought to have been armed either with a pair of swords or blades, or with a single dual-bladed dagger.
- The shortest -ology is *oology*, the scientific study of eggs.
- As a verb rather than a noun, *owl* means "to act wisely, despite knowing nothing."