

CRYSTAL LINES

NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB Inc.

Newsletter for September 2015

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

SURFACE
MAIL

IN THIS EDITION:

General Meeting Notes and bits & pieces.



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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Club Reports & News

Presidents Report (G. Gatfield)

In my last full report, written in May, prior to our departure for Cape York, I mentioned I was busy preparing our car and caravan for the club field trip to Cape York. Now that we have returned, I find myself busy cleaning and repairing the van and car in preparation for the annual Facetors Guild Muster in Glen Innes in early Sept.

I do hope the club functioned smoothly whilst we were away, and I thank all those who helped out and kept the club running. I have noted that the work to fully upgrade the Cabbie area is proceeding nicely, and we will soon have an excellent work area to pursue our ambitions.

All up 34 members and friends attended the field trip, and even though no spectacular fossicking finds were made, we did recover some Gold from the Palmer River, Georgetown & Forsyth districts. We picked up Agates aplenty from Agate Ck, and Chialstolite from Western Ck. Fossils from Chillagoe were readily available, but we also obtained Marble, Copper Mineral specimens, Calcite & Fluorite. One of our surprise fossicking finds was beautiful Quartz specimens from Cooktown.

At Chillagoe we were also privileged to visit a Marble Processing Plant, and witness the large boulders being cut by multiple diamond saws into large slabs, the entire process takes about 12 hours and we were allowed to souvenir some small cut slabs from the off-cut bin before we departed.

Whilst camped on the Einsleigh River between Forsyth and the Lynd, three of us managed a day trip to Chudleigh Park for Peridot, and a quick fossick for Moonstone at Moonstone Hill.

The trip ended at Tomahawk Creek, I found it hard to get any decent cutters, but some of the other members had more success. Sadly, Carol & I had to depart early, when news came through that the girl – Lucy had cancer and we were needed at home.

On journey from Tomahawk Ck., we visited one of our distant members – Ian Ruff at Yeppoon for a cuppa. Ian is not in good health, and consequently couldn't attend this years' trip to the Cape, but he did keep in touch via phone to enquire how the trip was progressing.

The field trip was not just about fossicking of course, the group enjoyed some truly spectacular scenery and the roads, tracks and the destinations we visited were a reward in themselves. For instance, 21 of us stood on the tip of the Cape, we viewed the famous Roaring Meg Falls, swam in the waters of Twin Falls, and visited Thursday Island & Gilberton.

Similar to last year, I will be on a field trip with the Facetors guild camped at Copeton Dam from Sat 12 to Fri 18 Sep. We will be fossicking for Diamonds, Sapphires, Zircons, Gold, Quartz, Etc. Club members are welcome to join us for the fossicking and Copen Dam is a great camping spot.

Garry Gatfield , President NBLC Inc. (16 August 2015)

New Members

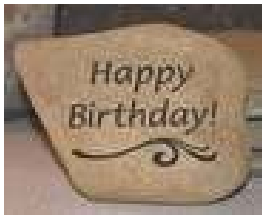


We are welcoming the following new members: Allison Rapisarda, Riley Parker, Joanne Johnston, the family Blackburn (Richard, Ebony, Jenny & Annelise), Justin Clay, Harrison O'Farrell, Dylan Evans, Holly Robinson, Nicholas King, Sian McFarland, Mary Lancaster, Stephen Grail, Elaine Gostelloe, Christopher Homewood, Mark Stenzel and Edward Lewis. We are also welcoming James Williams back.

With the 19 new additions and James returning, we now have 291 members. So if you see a face unknown to you, go over, say "Hello and introduce yourself.

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Birthdays in July



A very **Happy Birthday** to Ken Roberts, David Littlejohn, Wendy Hope, Beverle Wheatley, Allyce Mattlock, John Fitzgibbon, Bill Groth, Vicki Thomsen, Caroline Trask, Susan Newland, Rodrigo Orozco, Bevan Turner, Leanne Gaudion, Marama Taurau, Trevor Savage, Kevin McNeill, Rhonda Green, Simon Carr, Nicholas Ng, Courtney Williams, Helen Barnham, Margaret Hodge, Desli Pomfret, Marcus Friman, Maraeka Trueman, Ram Chandra, Joanne Johnston, Jenny Blackburn & Justin Clay.

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

Ray Wilson has kindly sent me the following minutes from the last general meeting:

Fossicking Thomahawk Creek and Gemfest (by R. Wilson)

Jeanine and I joined the major field trip at Thomahawk Creek to dig for the elusive sapphires. And elusive they were. We stayed in Sapphire for a few days en route and took a trip out to Graves Hill. While the area was extensively dug over there were very few fossickers on the field and it appeared from the amount of grass overgrown it has been a while since any serious work has been done in the area. A good looking prospective hole remained just that (a prospective hole) after a day's digging and sieving without result. Some small red zircons were spotted in the bottom sieve.

At Thomahawk Creek, under the direction of our field trip leader, we dug in the third creek on Featherbed Run. Some tried existing holes, some started new holes and others like me lacked enthusiasm for the task. While some small stones were found, with a few small cutters spread between the groups were uncovered, it was Ross and Wanda who ended up with the prize stone; a 16 carat triangular blue green stone that appears to be flawless. A nice stone.

Marcus and his Mum Anna, put in a solid 2 weeks digging and his haul was 700 carats. Marcus posted a photo onto nblc Facebook page.

We took a day off to visit Gemfest at Anakie and look over probably the premier gem show event in Queensland. I was disappointed that there was very little rough sapphire for sale. This probably indicates how hard it is getting to find good quality rough. I did lash out and spend \$10 each on 2 Chudleigh Park trilliant cut Peridot of just over a carat each. Also bought a packet of rough Peridot from Chudleigh for \$10, which has probably saved me over a thousand dollars in travel and expenses to find my own.

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Gemfest was reasonably busy in the morning of the first day but the crowd soon disappeared after lunch. The usual traders were present but a large contingent of stalls selling 12 volt power solutions were also present. Lambert Industries were doing a steady trade taking in stones for cutting. I took the opportunity to have Elsbeth design a pendant to set a nice piece of boulder opal that will hopefully be home before Xmas.

While at Gemfest we heard that Gareth and Lorraine Gregory had specked a 33 carat sapphire at The Willows. This looks to be a really nice blue-green stone and just shows you that there are good size stones around. As Lorraine said, "after 13 years we struck it lucky".

Late arrivals at Thomahawk Creek, Marco and Anna, didn't have much luck digging, but Anna has been seen showing around a 6 carat red-orange zircon that Anna "dug" from a "Buy a Bag" fossicking site. It should also cut a very nice stone.

New Video – Torch Fired Enamelling

A new video called Torch Fired Enamelling has been added to the library shelves. The video comes from Rio Grande's education unit Craftsy and is a lesson structured video that will lead the viewer through safety, use of a microtorch to do enamelling on various metal types.

To view the video you do need a computer with VLC Media Player installed. This media player is a free open source product that can be used to play a whole variety of DVD formats.

Gem Show 2016 News

Activity on planning the 2016 gem show is gearing up. We have been successful with a grant for \$2,300 to produce radio adverts to promote the show. It will allow us to produce 2 separate 30 second adverts, which will be played on 27 occasions between March 1 and March 5. Included in the package will be a live talk on Friday during the breakfast session. Stay listening to 4KQ – Classic Hits. Additionally, the general meeting agreed to the purchase of \$300 worth of gemstones to be given away to the first 100 visitors on Sunday who say 4KQ Classic Hits.

Flyers and rack cards offering free entry have also been approved and are now in design phase. Advertising material has been sent off to magazines that come out in February/March.

Lola tells me that she already has 21 kgs of strawberry jam made for sale. A great effort Lola!

I have also been working on a redesign of the table layouts within the hall. This was prompted by some dealers requesting a break between their stall and the next stall. This was put to me as a security issue so that the trader could quickly get out from behind the table to dealer with any theft or damage issues. It also allows closer communication with customers. It means we will move to using all 1.8m tables and do away with all of the problems of getting the right size table in the right place. We will lose about 4 metres of saleable space but a slight increase in the cost to dealers will reclaim this.

I am still looking for help from members to take on the responsibility for a job in show planning or during the show. For example, a member to take on show promotion; someone to assist Anne Bell in canteen organising, a member to take on raffle prize preparation, ticket printing and distribution, a member to take on responsibility for the entry roster would all provide some assistance to me.

Web Sales Are Now Up and Running

Carol South has been busily creating parcels of stones and stuff for sale via our web site. Although sales have been slow, last week the Items For Sale page was viewed 105 times. Why not check out what is for sale. After all you won't need to pay postage on any purchases.

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New Sanders To Be Introduced

The new sanding units that have been taking place in the cabbing area are about to be put into production. Tuesday September 1 is the “go live” date provided by project manager, Barry Kirkham. At the general meeting, president Garry sincerely thanked Barry, Tom, Tony and Peter for the work that they have done in building this unit. The new sanding unit will replace all of the wet and dry paper wheels. In their place will be 8 diamond impregnated Nova wheels in 280, 600, 1200 and 3000 grades. This will mean now that all cabbing will be done on diamond wheels from the grinding through to the pre polish (3000 grade).

An official opening day celebration will be held on Saturday September 19, with an open work session, followed by the official opening of the new sanding unit. A sausage sizzle will follow the official opening.

The old sanding units will be sold to the highest bidder at the official opening. One unit (the wooden one) will be available for immediate removal and the metal framed unit in about 2 months time after the polishing wheel unit has been refurbished.

As these wheels are expensive and need to be used correctly to ensure we get good value, instruction sessions will be held at each work session over the next few weeks, to acquaint members with the rules in using these wheels. A list of the rules will also be posted near the unit.

UNTIL YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT USE!

Cutting Fees Abolished

The Management Committee has agreed to abolish all cutting fees within the club as from Wednesday 26 August. This includes all saw use charges and fees for the use of the diamond grinders. With the move to all diamond sanders, it was not sustainable to continue charging for the opal cutting machines. However, over the next few months the usage and wear of the saw blades and wheels will be monitored. If there is an excessive over use leading to additional consumable charges to the club this decision will be reviewed. Members are reminded that the intent of the club is to provide an environment for hobbyists to pursue their personal interests. The equipment is not available to support the commercial operations or prepare material for sale on market stalls of members.

Orders Taken For Optivisors

A decision has been made to purchase some more Donegan brand optivisors (head loupe) for use by members doing cabbing. If anyone would like to order an Optivisor please place your name on the list by September 10. The total order will be placed after this date. By buying in bulk it is expected that the cost will be around \$52- \$55. The local retail price is just on \$100.

Field Trip

A field trip to Copeton Dam is being held from Sept 12- 18. For details contact Garry Gatfield.

Sundry Meeting Decisions

1. A crockpot is to be purchased for Carol to continue cleaning mineral specimens.
2. A blood pressure monitoring unit is to be purchased for use by the club – primarily on field trips.
3. Ray Wilson has volunteered to be the liaison officer under the BCC “good neighbour” policy and commence discussions with the soccer club over several issues affecting our amenity.
4. New gold plating material is to be purchased to get the electroplating up and running again.
5. Quotes for an awning cover over the ramp and front of building have been obtained.
6. An application for a grant to fund the awning is being developed.

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7. Trial of pickles has resulted in using sulphuric acid in cold pickle and sodium bisulphate in the hot pickle.
8. New jewellers' files are to be purchased.

Library News

The club has reordered our subscription of Art Jewelry and Jewelry Artist for another 2-3 years. Also we started ordering subscriptions for Metal Glass and Stone and Gold Gem and Treasure. These two magazines were not ordered for a few years but are now available in the library for your use. If you are interested in enameling be sure to look at the latest Metal Stone and Glass magazine for some interesting ideas. Also look at the old issues as most of them have displays on enameling done by students.

Also purchased in the last couple of months are videos on Wire fusing and other Micro torch Techniques, Brazing for Copper Jewelry Making, Enameling Techniques.

Books on Wire Fusing, Handcrafted Metal Findings and Making Metal Jewelry Special Issue.

As you can see the club has been steadily increasing our supply of new books, videos and magazines.

Linda Forbes
Librarian

Courses & Workshops

Upcoming Meetings – all meetings at clubhouse unless indicated otherwise

Next General Meeting: Date: t.b.c
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
29 th & 30 th August	Wax Work shop	Dan Cox		More details later – See board at club rooms
19 th Sept.	Work Session		Normal Work fees apply	2 – 5 pm
18 Sept	Lost Wax Casting	Ray Wilson	\$5per flask +Materials +\$3 work fee	(1) Fri start 7 pm, max 12, suitable for beginners
19 Sept	Wax burnout	Ray Wilson	No charge	Sat 12 noon – 3pm Clean up cast objects
19 Sept	Social Event Sanding Unit Official Opening		No charge	3pm – 5pm Use the new diamond wheels followed by a sausage sizzle
27 Sept	Jewellery making for competition	Peter Smith	\$6	Workshop to encourage members to prepare a piece of jewellery for the presidents challenge competition
4 Oct	Wire wrapping	Lola Tierney /Graham Kinsela		Participants will be taught the art of wire wrapping a standard cabochon to make a pendant and a ring. Cost for material:

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11 Oct	Cabbing for competition	Peter Smith	\$6	Cut a cabochon in a standard oval to the standard required for competition. Suitable for beginners.
6 Nov	Lost Wax Casting (investing)	Ray Wilson	\$5per flask +Materials +\$3 work fee	(1) Fri start 7 pm, max 12, suitable for beginners Casting from 8.30 Sunday
8 Nov	Free work Day	Peter Smith	No charge	Sun 9am – 3pm Free use of all workshop tools and facilities
29 Novr	Cabbing for competition	Peter Smith	\$6	Cut a cabochon in a standard oval to the standard required for competition. Suitable for beginners.
6 Dec	Jewellery making for competition	Peter Smith	\$6	Workshop to encourage members to prepare a piece of jewellery for the presidents challenge competition
13 Dec	Xmas Party			Commences at 11.30am
18 Dec	Lost Wax Casting (investing)	Ray Wilson	\$5per flask +Materials +\$3 work fee	(1) Fri start 7 pm, max 12, suitable for beginners Casting from 8.30 Sunday
20 Dec	Free work Day	Peter Smith	No charge	Sun 9am – 3pm Free use of all workshop tools and facilities
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: I will open the club during September only on 1 Saturday (19th) however Kerry Darton may open up on another Saturday – please check the board in the club.

Other News & information

Gemshows in September:

- 12 - 13 Bribie Island Gem Festival, 191 Sunderland Dr.Banksia Beach, Bribie Island
8.30am - 4pm
- 26 Caloundra Gem Show, Caloundra State School; George Street
8.30am - 4pm

Google Groups

You may have received an email from me previously saying that Google won't let me send group emails anymore – seems I am spamming now. As I still would like to stay in contact with you and keep you informed as well as keep sending the newsletter electronically I have created a "Google Group".

Now, I can't tell you exactly what I can or cannot do yet. I am still loading the email addresses. If you don't receive any communications or newsletters, please send me an email.

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You may have already received an email from the group: the group is called NBLC-News and the email address is nblc-group@googlegroups.com

Unfortunately I cannot separate those out that do not receive the newsletter electronically. Don't worry, you will still receive the paper copy but also the electronic version. Just delete that email. Should you encounter any problems or oddities with emails / message from this group, please contact me via email (katarina.hayston@gmail.com).

A beautiful email from Margo

Barry [Kirkham] has been interested in rocks for longer than I have known him and that is getting towards 40 years. For over 20 years he drove past NBLC twice a day most days and if I was with him would have a conversation about "must go there one day and check it out".

As you know Barry doesn't ever rush things. But he had started to think retirement, he had a birthday coming up (it is this Friday actually 14/8) and I had no idea where to take him for a special outing. I had done my homework and found out when the club was open, so for his birthday in 2004 I bundled him into the car and took him along to NBLC. Garry was duty officer that night and showed him around and really impressed him with all the things I clearly remember as we left hearing someone say to Barry, "I hope you will come back and join us" and Barry's reply "I will" Little happy dance from me there.

Our first field trip was spending some of Easter 2005 at Kilkivan looking for some gold. We were hooked.

The reason for these musings was that we found our new member kits recently with everything we needed to know and more and our first official Crystal Lines dated April 2005. What was interesting a worthy of mention is that committee members and volunteers mentioned in that newsletter are mainly still around, still volunteering, still making a difference and doing their bit to help the rest of us enjoy or lapidary and fossicking pastimes in so many ways. That says that there is something very special about members at NBLC

Thank you Margo, this is a wonderful email so I am happy to share it with all.

For Sale: Faceting Machine

I have a Hall Mark III machine which I purchased from the Atherton Lapidary Club. Bob Johnson from Atherton taught me how to facet and I am now considering selling the machine. It is in great order and has been checked by the fellow who worked with Hall in Cairns about 2 years ago. I would be interested in a sale if anyone is interested and the asking price would be what I paid for it - \$2000.00

If you are interested, please contact the Beenleigh Lapidary Club via email direct: beenleighlapidary@hotmail.com

For Sale: Foredom Flexible Shaft Machine

Jim Jeavons has a Foredom for sale with the following specs:

- Includes a Flexible Shaft Machine with foot control
- Quick Change Handpiece
- Hammer Set Handpiece (used to set bezels)
- Hammer set pieces
- Various other pieces and cleaning kit
- Excellent Condition used 3 times.

Cost \$575us - **Sale \$400**

If you are interested, please contact Jim direct.



Dogs can't do this

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El Presidente on the Radio

Garry has been interviewed by WA ABC morning radio on behalf of the AFG. You can find the interview here: http://blogs.abc.net.au/wa/2015/07/beautiful-gemstones.html?site=perth&program=720_perth_breakfast

History of Silversmithing

Did you know that the vocabulary of the modern day silversmith has been handed down through history and is said to date to 4695 B.C. Words used throughout history include: annealing, engraving, planishing, polishing, raising, repousse or repoussage, chasing, sinking and soldering

That the separation between goldsmith and silversmith occurred in the Middle Ages when silver became more plentiful and cheaper. Individuals starting out could not afford gold as their working medium. The goldsmith became more highly revered and was often the banker for the community. The silversmith took the training and skills of goldsmithing into a new trade market

The rarest Gemstones in the world

That is according to Wikipedia are:

Painite - The painite was discovered in 1956 in Ohngaing in Myanmar. The mineral was named in honor of the British gemologist Arthur Charles Davy Pain. In 2005 the painite has been described by the Guinness Book of World Records as the rarest gem mineral on earth.

Hibonite - The hibonite was discovered in 1956 in Madagascar. The mineral was named after the discoverer the French geologist Paul Hibon. The mineral in gem quality was only found in Myanmar.

Red beryl or bixbite - The red beryl or bixbite was discovered in an area near Beaver, Utah in 1904. The mineral was named after the American mineralogist Maynard Bixby.

Jeremejevite - The jeremejevite was discovered in 1883 in Russia. The mineral was named after the discoverer Pawel Wladimirowich Jeremejew (1830–1899).

Chambersite - The chambersite was discovered in 1957 in Chambers County / Texas / USA. The mineral was named in allusion to the deposit.

Taaffeite - The taaffeite was discovered in 1945. The mineral was named after the discoverer the Irish gemologist Count Edward Charles Richard Taaffe.

Musgravite - The musgravite was discovered in 1967 in South Australia. The mineral was named in allusion to the deposit at the Musgrave Mountain Ranges in Australia.

Grandidierite - The grandidierite was discovered by Antoine François Alfred Lacroix (1863 – 1948) in 1902 at the Tuléar Province Madagascar. The mineral was named in honor of the French naturalist and explorer Alfred Grandidier (1836 - 1912).

Poudretteite - The poudretteite was discovered in 1965 at the Poudrette Quarry in Canada. The mineral was named in allusion to the deposit and the operators of the quarry, the Poudrette family.

Serendibite - The Serendibite was discovered by Dunil Palitha Gunasekera in 1902 in Sri Lanka. The mineral was named after the old Arabic term for Sri Lanka: Serendib.

Zektzerite - The zektzerite was discovered by Bart Cannon in 1968 on Kangaroo Ridge near Washington Pass in Okanogan County, Washington, USA. The mineral was named in honor of mathematician and geologist Jack Zektzer who presented the material for study in 1976.

Did you know that there are over 130 types of Minerals that have been used as gemstones? And could you name a rock that is used as gem?