

CRYSTAL LINES

1966-2019

NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.
Newsletter for October 2019

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

**SURFACE
MAIL**

Remember when people
had Diaries & got
mad when
someone
read them?
Now they
put everything
online and get
mad when people don't.





Club Development Plans Moving Along

In August 2018 Peter Smith proposed some changes to the club premises that would improve the safety in the soldering area and provide some growth potential for the future. Basically, the proposal was to create a purpose-built saw room in the cabbing area, move the large 24 inch saw to the garage and build a dedicated “hot work” area where the existing saw room is. The hot work area will be used for soldering, lost wax casting metal smelting and enamelling. Moving the soldering away from the current location provides a safer environment away from the busy thoroughfare. It was also planned that ng be constructed to provide us with growth options for the future.

This proposal was voted on and agreed to by members, the management committee, headed by Lola, appointed a building sub-committee in September to oversight and carry forward the proposal. The building committee has now made some progress towards this plan. The first stage was the acquiring of some temporary storage so that space in the garage can be freed up for us to be able to move the 24-inch saw.

As we lease the ground from the Brisbane City Council an application for work needs to be approved before anything can be done. In addition, our lease area has been excised out of the lease of the Virginia United Football Club and because our premises occupy almost all our lease, we also had to negotiate with VUFC before we could place the temporary storage on their land. Further complicating matters is the council policy of “no dig” on contaminated land. It has taken a long time but now we have a container with approval for 12 months, we can move ahead with the rest of the plans. The cost of the container, which we ultimately decided to rent, will be around \$2,500 which has been funded from existing club funds.

This year the council advised that they were releasing grant funding to incorporated associations for repairs and development. Up to \$100,000 was available to clubs to fund the type of project that we proposed.

Plans have been drawn up and quotes from contractors were sourced. This enabled us to again lodge application for work to the council to get approval. These plans were approved .in early September, freeing the way for us to apply for a funding grant to cover up to 75% of the costs. Concurrently with this work, 2 other problems were being dealt with. Last summer we had some ongoing issues with power loss and an audit of our usage showed that at maximum usage we

were drawing more than Energex circuit breaker catered for, which was caused by the installation of the air conditioning units 2 years ago.

Don Clarke negotiated a solution with Energex, and they have recommended upgrading our power to 3 phase. While normal domestic lease agreement would see the property owner responsible for supplying power, in our situation, council have told us we need to fund this from club resources. A further application for work was lodged and approved and electrical contractors engaged to provide quotes on the work. Fortunately, this project also is suitable for grant funding from the Building Stronger Communities grants, so this was added to our building development plans.

The other problem that we have been dealing with for more than 12 months is the apparent movement in the old part of the building. This is noticeable when going into the library where a 10 – 15mm fall has occurred. Council provided a consultant engineer to make recommendations on how to resolve this issue. The engineer's investigations are currently being formalised, but their preliminary report has identified several problems that we need to address as well as a recommendation to do nothing other than take measurements over the next 12 months. Council will continue to fund the consultant engineer to monitor the movement to see if the building is still moving and at what rate. This will then inform the solution. There will be some things that we need to do in the interim like construct compliant rain water and "trade waste" disposal methods to take water away from the footings. We will wait for the formal report before taking any action in this regard.

Overall this project has been costed at \$43,694 which includes \$8,580 for the electrical work, \$17,118 for the building work, \$11,086 for stainless steel benches and cabinets and \$4,320 of "in kind" volunteer labour. We will need to fund \$6,693 from club funds, if we are successful in gaining a grant of up to \$32,771. Grant applicants will be notified by December 9 if they are successful.

If we are successful in this round of funding then we would hope to be commencing the electrical upgrade as soon as the contractor is available, and hopefully having the dedicated saw room constructed in early 2020.

As we start to get ready for the build, we will be looking for volunteers to assist in moving equipment and other work like preparation and painting.



Ray Wilson - For Building Sub-committee

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to everyone having a birthday this month



- Barry Chapman
- Benjamin Deasy
- Carley Howarth
- Carol Gatfield
- David Edmunds
- Don Clarke
- Garry Gatfield
- Graham Kinsela
- Gregory Dunstan
- Helen Moriarty
- Jeanine Wilson
- Linda Forbes
- Mark Stenzel
- Ray Wilson
- Samara Stocker
- Stephanie Malcolm
- William Clarke
-



VALE YVONNE LEE

Yvonne Lee, NBLC Life Member, passed away on 20 August 2019 in her 86th year. Yvonne joined NBLC in the early 1980s along with her young son, Tony, Junior Member. Yvonne worked tirelessly for the Club taking on the role of Treasurer for many years. She was also involved in working bees, fundraising and on the Social Committee where she introduced us to favourite recipes including Pecan Nut Pie, Mandarin and Pineapple Salad and Avocado Dip which can be found in NBLC's *Hungry Hound Cook Book*. Yvonne assisted with the production of the first 3 editions of the Cook Book which was undertaken as a fundraising initiative. Yvonne put her School Tuckshop skills to good use when she became the Canteen Convenor at NBLC's first Gem Show, a role she carried out for many years tempting dealers, members and public with many home-made treats, especially her strawberry cheesecake.

Yvonne joined in many QLACCA Gem Rallies and field trips, the most memorable being to Harts Range in 1986 with Yvonne perfecting cooking dinner in the camp oven. We had many a laugh with Yvonne on field trips, in the house at Proston, in the kitchen and wherever we were.

Yvonne's Funeral Service was held on Monday, 26 August at St Oswald's Anglican Church, Banyo. Our sincere condolences go to husband, Reg, and children, Garry, Cherie and Tony and their families.

Rest in Peace, Yvonne.

Dianne Ezzy & Maureen Sargent

Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties this article didn't make it into the last newsletter. Apologies

Newsletter Contributions



Please think about contributing to your newsletter and share your knowledge, tips and tricks you have learned with less experienced members. Contributions can be sent to newseditor@nblc.com.au



Events, Workshops, Work Sessions

Please Note Details May Change

Check the club notice board for up to date information

Notices posted on the Club notice board have up to date information. You can also add your name to attend workshops.

If you would like anything included in the timetable or can showcase a new skill, please see Carol South.

DATE	ACTIVITY	INSTRUCTOR	COST/COMMENTS
Sat 5 th Oct 10 am Start	Projects from Professional Jewellery making	Katarina Hayston	\$3 per session BYO Lunch This course is held on the first Saturday of each month for experienced Jewellers.
Sun 6 th Oct 9am start	Opal Cutting Course Maximum 8 students	John Fleming and Sally Lyon	This is a 1 day course If you wish to learn how to cut opal this is a great course for you. Cost \$20; Plus \$25 in materials, pay John on the day for materials
Sun 13 th Oct 9am start	DAY 1: Beginners Enamelling Course Max 6 students	Carol Gatfield and Helen Moriarty	This is a 2 day course held over 2 weekends Sun 13 th and 20 th October Cost \$15 plus materials
Sun 20 th Oct 9am start	DAY 2: Beginners Enamelling course Max 6 students	Carol Gatfield and Helen Moriarty	This is the 2 nd day of the 2 day enamelling Course
Fri 25 th Oct 7pm start	Lost Wax Casting	CANCELLED	Normal Friday work session
Sun 27 th oct 9am – 3pm	Casting Burn out Free work day	CANCELLED Carol South	Fee work day BYO Lunch

Calendar of Events

October

- **Sat 12th - Sun 13th October 2019**
Coffs Harbour, NSW
<https://www.crystalfestivalsaustralia.com.au>
- **Sat 12th - Sun 13th October 2019**
Felictowe, Adelaide, South Australia
Payneham Library complex, corner Turner and O.G. Road, Felictowe.
Sat - 10:00am to 5:00pm; Sun - 10:00am to 4:00pm. Adults \$5, concession \$3, Under 12 yrs. free
www.adelaidegmc.wordpress.com email: gmc@gmx.com
- **Sun 13th October 2019**
Mackay Annual Gem & Craft Fair
3 Leisure Street, Mackay, Queensland
Contact Jim at mackaygemclubaustralia@gmail.com or 0418 563 477
- **Sat 26th - Sun 27th October 2019**
Coffs Harbour, NSW
<https://www.crystalfestivalsaustralia.com.au>
- **Sat 19th – Sun 20th October 2019**
Toowoomba Gemfest – Gems and Jewellery
Centenary Heights State High School. Sat 8:30am - 5:00pm; Sun 8:30am - 3:00pm
Details: <https://toowoombalapidaryclub.org/>

November

- **Sat 2nd - Sun 3rd November 2019**
Queanbeyan Crystal and Gem Festival, ACT/NSW
Entertainment Centre
<https://www.crystalfestivalsaustralia.com.au>
- **Sat 2nd - Sun 3rd November 2019**
Bundaberg Gem and Mineral Society Gemfair - Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show.
Bundaberg SE Qld. Bundaberg Multiplex, Civic Avenue, Bundaberg, Queensland
- **Sat 9th - Sun 10th November 2019**
Redcliffe Xmas Gem Show, SE Queensland
The new venue is the Hercules State School, Kippa-Ring the Redcliffe Peninsula Queensland, north of Brisbane.
- **Sat 9th – Sun 10th November 2019**
Newcastle Lapidary Club Gem and Jewellery Fair
PCYC Newcastle, cnr Young and Melbourne Roads Broadmeadow
Newcastle Lapidary Club will be holding its popular annual Gem and Jewellery Fair on Saturday 9 November (9.00am to 4.00pm) and Sunday 10 November (9.00am to 3.00pm), at the PCYC Newcastle, For more information: Phone 02 49529611 (Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays) Email:newlap@gmail.com Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Newcastle-Lapidary-Club-616736661717997/>

- **Sun 16th November 2019**
Suncoast Gem and Fossicking Club show
Mooloolaba State School, Douglas Street, Mooloolaba
8:30am to 4:30pm
Email: gemclub@bigpond.com
Website: www.suncoast-gem-club.com.au

- **Sat 23rd - Sun 24th November 2019**
Goulburn Valley Gem show, Shepparton, central Victoria
9:30am - 4:40pm both days
Quest Shepparton Racing Complex, Goulburn Valley Highway, Kialla, 7km south of Shepparton.

- **Sat 23rd - Sun 24th November 2019**
Windsor Gem and Mineral Expo, Western Sydney, NSW
The Windsor Function Centre, corner of George Street and Dight Street Windsor, 2756.

For more information please go to our website www.agamexpos.com.au or contact Peter on 0412 333 150 or email at raregems@optusnet.com.au You can also find and follow us on [Facebook Australian Gem and Mineral Expos](#)

- **Sat 30th November - Sun 1st December 2019**
St Ives, Sydney, NSW
Details to come
<https://www.crystalfestivalsaustralia.com.au>



News, Information & Contributions

Giant Rock Sale

I hope you have all recovered from our Giant Rock Sale we held on Fri and Saturday.

A big thank you to all our members new and old we were a fantastic team getting it all together for the Fri night members sale and the big sale on Saturday itself. We had lots of fun and laughs as well as the hard work. So, THANK YOU ALL once again. 🙌

I suppose what you would all really like to know is how much did we make. We will have approximately \$3905. to add to the club's bank account. There are still a few dollars to take off for expenses but not many.

Carol South
Activity Officer

Understanding Metal Hardness

Learn to use the correct hardness of sheet and wire metals for your jewelry-making techniques.

Authored by Eddie Bell. Last edited: 9/16/2019

<https://www.riogrande.com/article?name=UnderstandingMetalHardness>



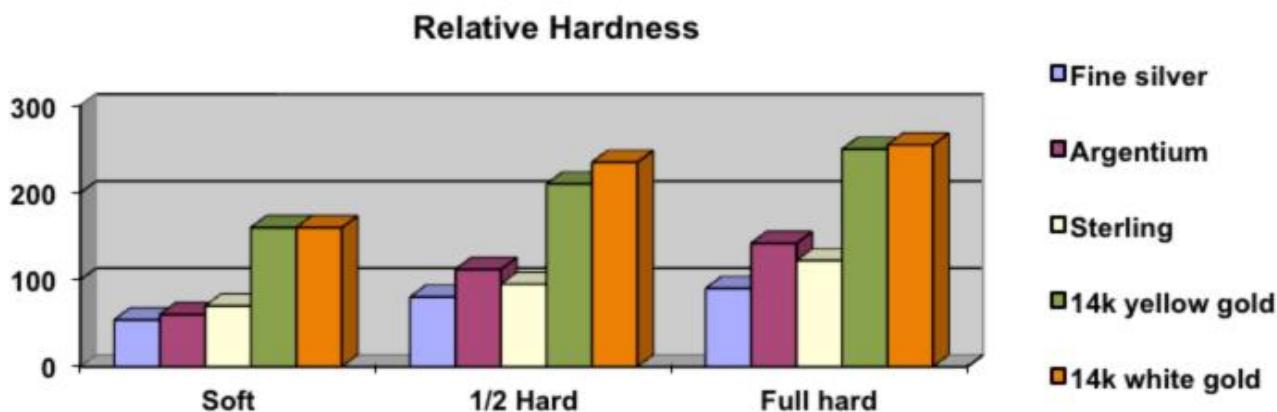
In this article from 2013, [Eddie Bell](#) explains metal hardness and when you should use which hardness.

Knowing how to choose the correct hardness of sheet and wire metals for your jewelry techniques and designs helps you achieve the good-looking, long-lasting results you want. Below, we share some of what we know about metal hardness and we hope it enriches your experience at the bench.

Metal hardness is one of the trickiest things to try to explain—the term is relative to the particular metal or alloy, for starters; depending on the elements that make up each particular alloy, what's called "hard" in one metal won't bend, form, work or feel the same as a material designated as "hard" in another metal.

The Hardness Relativity

Metal is composed of individual crystals arranged in a pattern and density specific to that type of metal. Because of this, the range of hardness from soft to hard will be relative to each metal (see the Vickers hardness chart below). Dead-soft [sterling silver](#), for example, does not feel or behave the same as dead-soft [white gold](#).



If you will be soldering on the piece you're making, you may as well start with dead soft because it's easy to work with and any hardness the metal may have will be lost when you apply heat to solder. If you will be cold-working the metal (manipulating, forging, twisting, folding, etc.), you may want to start with dead-soft metal and anneal it every so often as needed to resolve the work-hardening and return the metal to a dead-soft state. Jewelers who wire-wrap usually use 1/2-hard wire because it holds its form well in the finished design—as the wire is bent to wrap it, the working hardens the wire further so that the finished jewelry is stronger.

Any kind of cold working such as rolling, drawing, bending—even uncoiling and coiling wire—increases the hardness incrementally. Annealing can return the metal to dead soft, and further work will again begin to harden it. Mills that make sheet and wire typically measure the hardness of their products based on how much the product has been worked (a percentage of reduction, for example, in rolled sheet or drawn wire) since they were last annealed to dead soft.

The descriptions below offer, in general, what you can expect from the various hardnesses, but remember that these will vary in degree depending on the metal you're working with, what you're making and how you work.

Dead Soft

Metal that is dead soft is in a relaxed state at its molecular level, so it is easy to bend, shape and hammer. The act of bending or shaping will gradually work-harden the metal—right up to the breaking point. Dead-soft metal will not hold its shape if put under stress in structures such as hinges or clasps.

1/2-Hard

Metal that is 1/2-hard has been worked a bit, tightening the grain at the molecular level. This metal is harder to bend and hammer, but it is still possible in some cases to shape the metal—it just takes more force. While still malleable, it will also hold its shape under a certain amount of stress; it is ideal for wire wrapped structures that will support other components. If you are



fabricating an item that needs both strength and a thinner gauge, you would probably choose 1/2-hard.

Full-Hard

Metal that is tempered (or significantly work-hardened) will be difficult to bend but will hold whatever bend you put into it pretty stubbornly. This hardness is ideal for clasps or hinges.

Spring-Hard

Metal thoroughly hardened will lose pretty much all of its malleability and will actually spring back into its original shape when bent by hand. This hardness is ideal for ear wires, jump rings head pins and pin components.

More About Hardness

It is important to remember that metal hardness is changeable. Metal alloys will harden and soften in a number of ways. Most metal alloys used to make jewelry become harder from cold-working (stressing) them and can be made softer by a process called annealing.

Work-hardening can be pictured easily if you imagine bending a paper clip. Keep bending the paper clip back and forth, and eventually it breaks. With each bend the wire has become "work hardened" and more difficult to bend until it simply can't bend anymore and breaks instead. The same thing happens to sheet metal passing through a rolling mill or to wire pulled through a draw plate—each pass makes the metal a bit harder. Twisting wire will work-harden it, too; this is great to know for making ear posts—by adding a twist, you can keep the wire round while giving it more strength. When hammered into shape on a steel plate, sheet and wire become work-hardened (and they take on a nice hammered texture, too). Basically, anything done to the metal (without heat or abrasives) that changes the shape of the metal—such as bending, forming, twisting, stretching and so on—work-hardens it.

The point here is, if you start with dead soft metal and work it or stress it, it will get harder. If you heat and cool alloyed metal in a very specific process, you can harden it. On the other hand, if you take a harder metal and heat it either by soldering on it or by deliberately annealing it, you can soften the metal—all the way back to dead soft, if that's what you want.

So What Hardness Should I Use?

For our customers, we tend to start by asking questions that can help narrow the options—starting with "How do you want to use your metal?" and "What metal are you using?"

If you will NOT be wire-wrapping:

- Will you be applying any heat to your metal?
- Do you plan to acid-etch the metal?
- What type of jewelry are you making?



If you will NOT apply heat to the metal, we tend to recommend a dead-soft hardness and let the work harden the material in the finished piece. For items such as cuff bracelets, we tend to recommend 1/2-hard because they will further work harden, and you want the finished piece to be stronger than, for example, a pair of earrings. If you WILL be applying heat, start with dead soft because the heat will remove any hardness anyway. You can harden the finished piece as needed (see [heat-hardening](#) link below). If you plan to acid-etch the metal, we tend to recommend 1/2-hard or spring-hard varieties.

If you WILL be wire-wrapping, we tend to recommend:

- For sterling or [Argentium[®] Silver](#), use 1/2-hard. (Argentium tends to work-harden more readily than traditional [sterling](#), so you may want to try a dead soft in that metal to see how it suits your work.)
- For [14-karat white gold](#), use dead-soft.
- For [yellow gold](#), use 1/2-hard for 19–22 gauge; use dead-soft for 18 gauge and heavier.
- For [base metals](#), dead soft is the starting point for just about everything and can be work-hardened if needed.

If your finished silver or gold pieces will take some stress when worn (rings or bracelets, for example), you can harden the finished piece by heating it to increase its hardness. See our handy [how to heat-harden silver](#) tip for more information about this.

We hope this helps unravel the mysteries of metal hardness. At least it may be a good start. Nothing teaches better than experience, so I encourage you to experiment with hardness. Push the envelope and try different things with different hardness. See what works best for the work you're doing and pieces you're creating. And let us know what you discover—we love learning from your experience, too!

Around Your Club...

Fold Forming Course

A great time was had by all at the Fold forming Course run by Jeff O'Dea our wonderful metalsmith instructor. The photos show the completed pieces we all achieved.

Carol South

Activities Officer



GENERAL INFORMATION

Clubhouse Address: Albert Bishop Park, Nudgee Road, NUNDAH QLD 4012

Postal Address: PO. Box 48; NORTHGATE QLD 4013

Phone: (07) 3260 7025 ✉ Email Club: info@nblc.com.au 🌐 Web Site: www.nblc.com.au

Banking Details: Westpac Bank - BSB: 034-060 - Account Number: 291941

President	Robert Jones	Membership/Librarian	
president@nblc.com.au		membership@nblc.com.au	
Vice President	Paul Falloon	Newsletter Editor	Liz MacLeod
Secretary	Brenda Honey	newseditor@nblc.com.au	
secretary@nblc.com.au		Training/Activities Officers	Carol South
A Secretary	Sue Newcomb	Field Trip Officer	Garry Gatfield
Treasurer	Doug Forbes	Maintenance Officer	Tony Perry
treasurer@nblc.com.au		Competition Officer	Sally Lyons
A Treasurer	Tina Gordon-Brown	Gem Show Convenor	
5th Member	Robert Maxwell	gemshow@nblc.com.au	

Joining Fees		Annual Subscription
First member	\$30	*\$60
Second member	\$20	*\$48
Seniors (65+), Associate & Juniors (12-18)	\$20	*\$30
Families: (Same address; 2 adults & 2 children)	\$40	*\$120
Long Distance Members	First & Second Member	\$20
*Please note a discount on Annual Subs may be applied at the committee's discretion if members volunteer their time		
Other Fees		
Badges: Members		\$5.00
Badges: Non-Members		\$6.00
Club T-Shirts		\$35.00
Bumper Stickers		Free
Annual fee for postage of newsletter – email free		\$10.00

Club Meetings: Club meetings will be held at the Clubhouse on the **third Wednesday** of each month except January, **unless otherwise indicated**. All members are encouraged to attend.

Work Session Fees: Work Session costs are \$3.00 per session for general members with no additional cutting or tool fees. Commercial member's fees are slightly increased with an additional \$5.00 on top of the work session fees.

Work Session Times: Club work sessions are held regularly each week. New members can attend the work sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays to learn new skill. Instructors are available at each work session except Tuesdays to assist:

- **Monday:** **7.00pm-9.30pm**
- **Tuesday:** **7.00pm-9.00pm**
- **Wednesday:** **9.00am-12.00pm**
- **Friday:** **7.00pm-9.30pm**

The Clubhouse is open at other times as per activities program or for certain activities by arrangement. These dates will be included in the newsletter or emailed to members as they occur. Late updates will be included on the Club noticeboard so don't forget to check it when you are at the Club.

Silverwork:

If you are coming to the Club for the first time to do silverwork you don't need to bring anything with you. Tools are available for use and silver is available for sale. There are introductory projects that can be done for a small cost.

Lapidary:

If you are attending a work session to do lapidary work (cabochons) you will need to bring the following with you:

- Waterproof apron
- 3 power head loupe, cost approx. \$30.00
- 10 power hand loupe
- Dop stick
- Slabbed stone of your choice

Fossicking:

The club Field Trip supervisor organises fossicking trips which are advertised in the newsletter and at the Club. The items below are a few of the basic requirements to enable you to carry out fossicking. Extra equipment can be obtained later if required.

- 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 – Depends on what has been booked so it could be 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

Enjoy yourselves; leave fossicking areas clean and try to leave something for others to find.