



LAPIS

www.ndlapidary.org.au

“SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE”

VOLUME FIFTY

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CLUB NEWS

Our next Club gathering will be on Saturday, 7th December 2013 at the NDLC Christmas Party, as described below. All members welcome.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Presidents Message

It's not about the presents, but the present and the future. Like many festivals its' basis is religious, but its' values are adopted by the wider community.

With all the rush and commercial emphasis it's easy to forget that Christmas is a time of thanksgiving, of family and friends, a sharing and expression of hope, joy and well-wishing.

We do our own bit of sharing and well-wishing at the club Christmas party, being held on Saturday 7th at 3pm. See details further on.

All club members and their families are invited to come, so gather with friends, or make a few new friends from members of other classes.

Time also to think also about finishing entries for the GEMBOREE, due before 3rd February 2014.

Then the concentration of effort to stage our Exhibition will consume us for a while after that, with cutting and making for competition, judging, sales stands, rosters, activities to plan, and organisation for what is the biggest event in the club calendar. Every effort and contribution will be much appreciated. October approaches with a rush.

It will be a busy year.

Meanwhile a happy and safe Christmas to all, and a happy, prosperous and interesting New Year.

Colin Hazell

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members. They are:-

Daniel Stace
David Cushway

We wish them much happiness in both their new hobby and enjoyment of the club activities.



NDLC CHRISTMAS PARTY 2013

Diane Neasmith, has kindly offered to host a Christmas Party at her house again this year. A chicken and salad buffet along with tea and coffee will be provided by the Club, but please bring along your own drinks and nibblies.

Date: Saturday 7th December 2013
Time: 3pm start
Address: 82 Essex Street, Epping
BYO: Chairs, tables, drinks, nibblies, cups, glassware, cutlery etc

Santa will be visiting to surprise the children, if you wish, please bring a wrapped gift to place in Santa's sack for your child, maximum value \$25 please.

We'll also have our usual raffle hampers and Tombola. The club will donate hams to the hampers.

NB: Donations to the hampers for raffles

If you haven't been able to get to the clubrooms to add your donation, then bring it along to the Christmas party, where it will be most happily added to the baskets. Please ensure donated foodstuffs are within safe dates.

The Tombola is a fun way to recycle and re-gift items, so turn out those cupboards.

Tombola and hamper tickets will be sold on the day, with hamper tickets available in the clubrooms from November.

WOW Awards

Bring along your unique lapidary item, that interesting, novel, amazing, fantastic most imaginative work to be judged by those present at the Club's Christmas Party. The entries will be put on display at the Party and should provide an interesting focal point for discussion.

The Prize – The sound of the applause from your fellow club-members, plus the satisfaction you have inspired others.

The Christmas party is always a wonderful day and a great chance to get together, meet new members, catch up with friends and celebrate the year's achievements. We hope to see you there!

FIELD TRIP - NOV'2013 "THE GOLDEN HILLS OF NUNDLE"

The sun was up and shining beautifully as the first arrivees were setting up their vans about midday Wednesday. It was going to be a lovely warm afternoon. Twelve of us made camp on the day and most got here without any hassles, although there were some small hiccups!

Bert's van's front window's lid flew off while driving as did Tony's Gone Fossicking spare wheel cover. Norm and Dorothy went to lift up their poptop but the van went down instead (the blocks from under the wheel slipped away). He's a very strongman Norm!! Our awning took off sky high (outriggers & brackets included) as there was a sudden strong gust of wind on Chaffey Dam the day before. Like I said "small" hiccups! An awning which is rolled up and tied down on the roof of the car, does not provide much shade or shelter, we did notice!

On Thursday, we woke up to another lovely sunny day and it looked like becoming a warm one! Soon after breakfast today's arrivals started rolling in. Only minor mishaps were reported. John and

Gina had intermittent starting problems, and John A had dropped a hubcap (wheels for John seldom run smoothly as we have often heard). Diane and Steve drove in with their new flashy unit, nice and sleek, must be a joy to tow!

Midday after lunch was the time to test the competitive edge of the members with a game of "Finska": a mix of Boche-Ball and tenpin bowling. The aim is to knock down as many wooden pins as possible to gain a score of 50 points. After three nail biting rounds, Barbara walked off with the trophy, a bottle of lemon lime and bitters (luckily she didn't spray it over the losers) as they do in Formula 1.

During the heat of the game Ulrich & Sonja rolled up and had to drive right through the field of pins to get to their spot wondering what the heck is growing through the lawn? They soon joined the game and loved it!

As the numbers increased for the afternoon Happy-Hour, so did the laughter!! Jokes were shared, but as always when you want "to crack one" it just does not come to mind. So let's write them down next time we hear a good joke! Thus we'll have plenty to laugh about in Gatton!! Same goes for songs, as some members felt quite musical but could not quite put the words to the music.

Friday was again lovely and sunny as a mild case of gold fever saw a small group heading for the creek, gum boots, picks, shovels and pans clanging. Tony dug a hole big enough to swallow a small car, out of which Barbara panned some noticeable bits of gold!! Reetta panned a bucket of dirt brought down from the pine forest which yielded only a couple of flakes. Diane, Steve and Neil walked back to camp not much richer either.



A group of keen fishos tried their luck on Chaffey Dam but sadly returned empty handed. A lot of fish were actively rising but were not interested in bait or lures??

The remainder of the group drove in today. Brian's car had done a fuel pump in Mudgee and he and Barbara had to get a hire car to complete the journey to Nundle. Everyone else arrived without too much incident. Neil went to pick-up his wife Robyn from the Scone railway station and only got back fairly late. The wildlife on the road slowed him down after dark.

It was good to see so many new faces in Nundle this year; Neil and Robyn, Honway and Anne, Joseph and Marguerite, and Kay and Jason.

The Happy-Hour was getting really big with almost everyone present. The BBQ plate was barely big enough to accommodate all the goodies. A huge ring of chairs tonight of 27 with 4 still to arrive late into the night, giving us a total of 31 people attending this trip - just wonderful.

On Saturday morning the clouds were gathering and the wind had a bit of a cool feel to it. The race was on to the markets. Everyone wanted to get there before 9am. A crowd started to gather, more people walked over, then another lot came from around the corner..... No market?? Panic!! Maybe it's cancelled?? Maybe, it's 10am instead? – Phew! At 9.45 cakes and goodies started showing up! Lemon meringue pies sold like hot cakes and the lady had made plenty this time as she had been made aware of a desperate need, by a phone call from Tony earlier.

Whilst the market was buzzing with buyers in a frenzy, the sky had turned very grey and suddenly down it came, rain and lots of it, and hail the size of marbles!! Everyone got a bit wet on their way back to camp but there was plenty of time to dry out and warm up until the Happy-Hour at 4pm, now in the camp kitchen just to stay dry.

There yours truly gave a demo (by demand) of a brilliant gadget which slices carrots etc, paper thin very easily!! The ladies really like it as it's very handy for making healthy little rolls for Happy-Hour! On the down side they are only sold in street market stalls, where and when – who knows? We bought ours at Crow's Nest.

Tonight's dinner was held at "The Peel Inn" just up the road – easy!! We had our own area near the bar and with another group of 30 people, plus the locals, didn't we keep the staff running!! Surprisingly quickly we had dinner in front of us – good tucker too. The evening rolled along nicely with interesting conversation at each table filled with lapidary enthusiasts.

As most were heading for the comfort of a warm bed, somebody suggested a game of pool, ladies verses gents. The men's team was put together easily, Colin, Ulrich and Joe. The ladies had some hassle putting a team together so Honway joined Jean B and Reetta as a team. Had we known what a hot shot player Honway was, we would have grabbed him into the men's team for sure!! The ladies won easily.

On Sunday morning, Diane and Steve were lucky the rain held off while they packed up to leave and the rest of us were preparing to go up the mountain to Beth Moore's place in the clouds for a visit. Bert had made arrangements beforehand, so off we went at 10am. It was not easy to herd all the eleven cars but we got there eventually, with some hiccups. Of course John A had a flat tyre on the dirt road and Jason's car had a rock caught in the under carriage. (It wasn't even any good for cutting)!

Beth has a beautiful house and garden which everyone enjoyed and admired. The view across the valleys and hills was simply breathtaking. Whilst there, we saw three separate patches of rain falling simultaneously and luckily only copped a few drops of it during our picnic lunch. Some of the plants were totally new to us. We were all intrigued by the Butchers Broom bush, of which Beth gave us some cuttings to try our luck in growing it.

Beth, what a lovely lady, so welcoming and a wealth of knowledge, thanks Bert for taking us there.

On our way back to camp, some of us stopped at the designated fossicking area and specked for sapphires with no luck. We also stopped at the crystal hill and found some nice little ones.

Monday morning saw a few more couples leaving and luckily they were able to pack up before the rain. Down it came around midmorning, there were only 13 of us left. Looked like indoor activities only for today, some worked on their silver chains while others caught up on reading or

finally caught up on emails (with heaters turned on). After being cooped up most of the day it was good to get out to the undercover camp kitchen and gather around together for some nibblies and a bit of a yarn before dinner on the barbie.

Tuesday was our turn to head home with Bert leaving at the same time. We only caught a glimpse of his taillights on the first hill, he really moves when he travels! The last five couples left for home on Wednesday and as far as we know, everyone arrived home safe and sound.

Nundle was a special break again and a good time was had by all.

Thanks to one and ALL.

Joe Tahka

Photos by: Reetta Tahka - See back page.

Field Trip to Gatton Gemboree

Throughout the Nundle weekend, we had several discussions on what everyone wanted to do before and after Gatton next Easter and the most popular place to see was Yowah. Reetta and I are putting together an itinerary for that trip which hopefully we'll have ready by mid-January. The dates will be: leaving Sydney 9/04/14 through Tingha, Emmaville, and Torrington arriving in Gatton 16/04/14. Leaving Gatton 22/04/14 for Yowah. Arriving back in Sydney approximately 9/05/14 or whatever suits everyone individually. This is not 100% set in as yet, but just a guide to start with.

Tall Tales around the Club

Guess which young silver aficionado brings this amazing red vehicle to class. It leaves this struggling student with quite the inferiority complex



Which highly awarded and unsuspecting member was outed by Deirdre for daring to wear a thong..... sorry..... thongs to a general meeting.

The rumour mill is running wild with gossip that two well- known members are so wealthy they can afford to lose cheques.

Seems moonboots are the new “BLACK” for Bev and Bert.

News has it that our champion fisherman will forego a “hit up” to make a welcome appearance at the Christmas party.

Do You Know Your Club Equipment?

Instructions for Use and Care of Nova Resin-Bond Diamond Wheels



Nova Wheels are specially designed to produce an excellent finish on stones with a minimum of time and effort. The diamonds in Novas are embedded within a tough, flexible, plastic resin backed by an extra soft, thick, sponge rubber backing. This soft, flexible construction enables the surface of the Nova Wheel to conform to the stone, eliminating flat spots and scratches.

Nova wheels **MUST** be used with a water lubricant. This fact cannot be stressed too strongly, for if the wheels are run dry for more than a few moments, rapid wear and damage can result

Use sufficient pressure to cause the surface of the wheel to depress slightly to conform to your stone. This eliminates the flat spots left by the grinding wheels and will cause fewer scratches than would be produced by pressure that is too light.

It is important to hold your stone so that you do not allow the upper or leading edge to act as a plow and dislodge diamonds from the surface of

the wheel. They can be dislodged with the sharp edge of a stone.

To prolong the life of your Nova Wheels, be certain to prepare your stone properly on the grinding wheels prior to sanding. Use the grinding wheels to grind your stone to its final size and shape, and to remove all sharp edges and corners before sanding and polishing on the Nova Wheels.

Bench Tips by Brad

MINI DRILL PRESS

If you find yourself drilling a number of small holes for your work, you might want to look at the small, inexpensive drill presses now available. They take up just minimal space on your bench and are always ready to give you nice straight holes. Some models even have a variable speed control. I've been very pleased with a low-priced one that's been well-used in my classes for over a year.



Because these machines are only a foot high, they're limited as to the size of workpieces that can fit into the machine and the size of the drill bits you can use. But I've had no problems with drill bits up to about 3/16" (4.5mm), even drilling steel.

The machines are sold by a number of companies. If you do get one, be sure to buy a spare belt because they are generally not available at local hardware stores.

LASER WELDING

A question came up this week about how to solder some jump rings to hold blue topaz briolettes onto a necklace. We've all heard about ways to do some soldering close to a stone, and some of us have sized a ring without taking the stones out of their mounts. We've used wet paper towels, garnet sand, cooling gels, and my favorite of suspending

the stone in a dish of water. All techniques bank on the principal of using a small, hot flame to do the job quickly before the stone gets hot enough to crack or change color.

But each job is somewhat of a gamble. Some stones are hardy and some are frail. Jades and jaspers will generally take a lot of heat, but I'd never chance it with the likes of topaz or opal. Trying to shield a stone from the torch is always a betting game, and sometimes you lose.

If you're worried about soldering something close to a stone, perhaps it's time to consider a no-heat method like laser welding. Most jewelry stores have laser welders these days, and the cost of having it done is quite affordable. They used to have problems doing silver, but now seem to do it routinely.

I've used a local shop twice in the last year, once for a piece with little emeralds a "friend" asked me to repair and for a second piece where I needed a safety catch and didn't want the torch heat to expose all the solder lines again.

Attribution as requested with each publication:
More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

GEMBOREE 2014 – GATTON - QUEENSLAND

The next GEMBOREE, to be held at Gatton in Queensland, is a landmark GEMBOREE in that it is the **50th birthday** of this national event, so it is a special one.

As usual, the GEMBOREE will be held over the Easter period next year, and will be between the dates of 18th – 21st April, 2014, on the Gatton Showgrounds. Those of you that have been there before will know it as a great venue.

As this is such a special occasion, it would be good if the club could be well represented, not only by numbers of members to attend, but also in the great range of competition sections. Therefore, the request is that ALL members give some serious consideration to at least enter some

of the competition sections, even if you cannot attend in person.

We realise that entering competitions can be a contentious issue, and for a number of reasons 'goes against the grain' for some members, however, we are asking that all members look at putting in at least one piece, in a section of their choice.

Members should keep in mind that if you have not entered a competition before, that you only need to enter the lowest level of the competition ie the Novice sections.

If you do choose to assist the promotion of our club in this regard, we would suggest that you talk to your teacher[s]. They can advise you of what to do, so that you do not inadvertently waste your time by, for example cutting the wrong type of material, or entering in the wrong jewellery section etc..

A copy of the entry form is shown in the competition schedule for this GEMBOREE, which is in the clubroom, and available for copying, and additional copies will also be available in the clubrooms.

Please note that while Easter 2014 is still some time away, entries are required to be with the Competition Committee by the 2nd February, which with Christmas/New Year in the middle really does not leave a lot of time.

Even if you never enter anything else, please give some serious thought to helping promote your club in this particular special event.

Lastly, when completing any of the forms for the GEMBOREE please ensure that when putting our club name that you **show NSW** because there are other clubs with the same initials [NDLC] as ours. **This particularly relates to the campsite Registration Form, [so we can all be together], which is required by the 31st January, 2014.** This form can also be copied from the Competition Schedule in the clubrooms.

The Committee
Northern Districts Lapidary Club Inc

Tuesday Silver Group



Typical Morning Tea Break of the Tuesday Silver Group.

This one happened in November.

Can you guess in which position we sit at the work table?



Here are some examples of the term's work from the Tuesday Silver Group. They include settings for faceted stones, saw pierced silver cuff with Mexican turquoise, assorted ear rings including a mobile breeze catcher, several roller printed pendants and ear rings, a roller printed ring with amber, shaped silver studs, a captured coin, finely pierced butterfly and malachite set in a saw pierced back. Themes this term included setting stones prepared by us in other classes and experimenting with designs using the roller.

Carving Workshop

Frances Sun is running a carving workshop for the weekend of **Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th February** next year, 9am to 3pm for both days. This workshop is for adult members.

Frances is hoping to run another workshop for the juniors later on in 2014.

HAVE YOU GOT A CLUB NAME BADGE ???

Orders for new name badges will resume in the New Year.

New Member? It is a great way for people to know your name.

Old Member? Your name escapes some memories. Let people know who you are.

Add your name to the list on the notice board in the cutting room or ring Diane Neasmith 9869 2314. Name Badges are \$10 each.

NDLC CONTACT INFORMATION

NDLC Telephone Number P) 9484 0014

Public Officer Brian Burns P) 9878 4073

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Northern Districts Lapidary Club acknowledges the support of Hornsby Council.

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NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

holds the majority of its monthly meetings in the Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Road, Beecroft at 8pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, except January. Any variations in date and time of meetings are published in *LAPIS*, and on the Club's website. The Entrance to the clubrooms is on the railway side of the building.

Membership fees

Entrance fees (effective from 01/07/2008)

Full Member (aged 18 or more years)
\$25

Junior Member (10–17 years incl.) \$10
 Family Concession \$40

No instructor – self help –
 enquiries :-please Contact:
 John Weatherburn, P) 9871 3302

Annual renewal fees (effective from 01/07/2012)

Full member (aged 18 or more years) \$22
 Junior Member (10–17 years incl.) \$11

Class fees (Effective from 01/01/2009)

First Class \$30
 Any Additional Class \$25
 Casual Use of Machinery \$5
 Workshop – 2-day weekend \$25*
 Workshop – 1-day \$15*
 * plus materials

In case of a person being admitted to membership on or after January 1st in any Club financial year, the subscription fee that year shall be half the amount.

Saturday

1.00pm FAMILY CLASS
 Instructor: Paul Khoo
 with Corin Sadlier, P) 9869 7775

Class fees: can be paid to your class teacher, as can annual membership fees when due plus any purchases from the shop.

There are waiting lists for some classes.

Workshop weekends: Subject, date and requirements will be printed in this newsletter as they occur.

**CURRENT CLASSES & ACTIVITIES
 HELD IN CLUB ROOMS**

Monday

4.00pm Casual Cutting 4.00 – 7.00pm
 Co-ordinator Rod Powell P) 9655 1565
 or M) 0419 225 966

Monday

7.30pm CABOCHON CUTTING
 Instructor: Glenn Brown P) 9617 0446
 7.30pm SILVER JEWELLERY
 Instructor:Johan ten Hoedt P)9484 6521

Tuesday

9am SILVER JEWELLERY WORKSHOP
 Contact: Ed Bentley, P) 9498 5748

Wednesday

10.00am SENIORS ALL DAY WORKSHOP
 Contact: George Hunter P) 9871 2126
 7.30pm SILVER JEWELLERY
 Instructor: Brian Burns P) 9878 4073

Thursday

7.30pm CABOCHON CUTTING
 Instructor: John Weatherburn, P)
 9871 3302

Friday

5pm onwards CASUAL CUTTING
 1st Friday of the month
 Cutting for competition

Meeting dates for 2013-14

All meetings are held in the Club rooms at Beecroft.

General Meetings:

2013			
Saturday 7 th	December	2013	XMAS PARTY
2014			
Tuesday 11 th	February	2014	8pm
Tuesday 11 th	March	2014	8pm
Tuesday 8 th	April	2014	8pm
Saturday 17 th	May (Social)	2014	3pm
Saturday 14 th	June	2014	2pm
Saturday 12 th	July	2014	2pm
Saturday 16 th	August	2014	2pm
Tuesday 9 th	September	2014	8pm
Tuesday 14 th	October	2014	8pm
Tuesday 11 th	November	2014	8pm
Saturday 6 th	December	2014	XMAS PARTY

Committee Meetings:

2014			
Tuesday 28 th	January	2014	7.30pm
Tuesday 25 th	February	2014	7.30pm
Tuesday 25 th	March	2014	7.30pm
Tuesday 29 th	April	2014	7.30pm
Tuesday 27 th	May	2014	7.30pm
Tuesday 24 th	June	2014	7.30pm
Tuesday 29 th	July	2014	7.30pm
Tuesday 26 th	August	2014	7.30pm
Tuesday 30 th	September	2014	7.30pm
Tuesday 28 th	October	2014	7.30pm
Tuesday 25 th	November	2014	7.30pm

**THE CLUB FINANCIAL YEAR IS
FROM - JULY 1ST – JUNE 30TH**

Interesting dates for your diary

(bold items are run by your Club)

2013

**7th December NDLC Christmas Party at 82
Essex Street Epping**

**14th-15th December J & R Judging Course
(Cabochon) at NDLC**

2014

31st January Cessnock Faceting Comp. closing
date

**15th-16th February Carving Workshop with
Frances**

**23rd February-5th April Faceting Class with
Barbara**

2nd March Newcastle Lapidary Club Rock Auction

15th-16th March New England Lapidary Club
Annual Gem & Craft Show

5th-6th April Canberra Lapidary Club Rock Swap

**18th-21st April Australia's 50th National Gem
and Mineral Show GEMBOREE 2014 held in
Gatton Queensland**

9th-11th May Hawkesbury Agricultural Show with
Lapidary Competition

17th-18th May Lismore Gemfest

7th-8th June Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Show

16th June Hervey Bay Gem & Min Club Faceting
Challenge closing date

24th-26th October NDLC Exhibition at Beecroft

*Is there a workshop you would like to see added to
our schedule? Please contact the Secretary or
Committee.*

Lapis now available by  or !

Members, if you wish to change the way you
receive your *Lapis*, snail mail or email, please let
me know.

Jean Barringham at jeanbham@optusnet.com.au

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those of the original Authors and do not
necessarily reflect those of the Editor, Committee
or Members of the Northern Districts Lapidary
Club Inc. Persons acting on any opinions, advice
or facts published in this issue do so at their own
risk.

From the Editor's Desk

Please send Jean Barringham contributions for
LAPIS. I am interested in articles that would be
enjoyed by one and all.

Phone: 9869 2168

Email: jeanbham@optusnet.com.au

Please note that the December 2013 edition of
LAPIS was edited, collated, formatted and
distributed by NDLC's Editor of Lapis, Jean
Barringham, with contributions by Colin Hazell,
Bert Deane, Rod Powell, Joe and Reetta Tahka,
Mark Sheldon Frances Sun, Brad Smith



Descriptions for photo collage:

Top left to right:

- 1) Colin and Tom checking out the cake stall at the markets.
- 2) John A with a new hairstyle!
- 3) Bert - The Mexican
- 4) Bert presenting our gift to Beth Moore for allowing us to visit her place.

Centre middle:

- 1) The Butchers Broom – one of Beth’s amazing plants.
- 2) The whole group (missing are Diane & Steve, Ulrich & Sonja, and Reetta)

Bottom left to right:

- 1) Ulrich in action with Honway studying his style.
- 2) John W, Barbara and Joe – The 3 Grand finalists in “Finska”
- 3) Part of the Backbone of our Club!



On behalf of Northern District Lapidary Club I would like to wish all a Happy and Safe Christmas. Editor

*Merry
Christmas*