



# LAPIS

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"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

VOLUME FORTY ONE NUMBER NINE JUNE 2007

## CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 8 pm, in the Clubrooms at Beecroft - all members welcome.

Our guest speaker will be Mrs Judy Harris from the Sydney Adventist Hospital speaking on the History of the SAN and its current and future operation.

## New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

- John Uzzell – Berowra (Junior)
- Rebecca Tin – North Rocks
- Alistair Gilmour - Beecroft
- Neil Carter - Carlingford
- Jasmin Lin – Pennant Hills
- Tiana Quillaen - Sydney

We wish them many long hours of enjoyment cutting gemstones or enjoying the other aspects of our Club.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our **July** General Meeting (not the June one) will be a daytime meeting on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm**. Instead of having a guest speaker for this meeting we plan to put on an extra nice afternoon tea and make it a special get together for our long standing (or should that be sitting?!) members – many of whom are no longer able to attend our regular meetings but who still have a real interest in the Club. It will be a great opportunity for them to refresh old friendships and swap the odd yarn or two with us newer members about what things were like in the early days of the Club. Please come along and join in with what should be a great day for all. We have a list of about 30

older members who still live within reasonable distance of the Club and I would like to ask for volunteers who would be able to pick up one or two of them and chauffeur them to and from the Club on the day. If you can help, please contact David Broome asap (Phone 9484 7259) so that he can coordinate the transport arrangements.

Brian Burns

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## From the Committee

It was great to have **Jerry Taylor-Edwards** elected to the Committee last Meeting and take on the vacant position of Education Officer – a much needed role to help liaise with the various Class teachers.

We had an excellent turn-out at our recent Teachers Meeting and a wide range of issues were canvassed with many useful suggestions, particularly with regard to some new workshops that will help to expand our lapidary skills and knowledge. The Committee is currently reviewing these suggestions with a view to implementing a number of them as soon as practicable.

**First Reminder** that August is approaching with our Annual General Meeting and associated elections. Everyone is welcome to stand for election to the Committee and you are urged to ask yourself if this might be the year that you decide to step forward and do that little bit extra to help our Club to continue to provide the excellent services and facilities that we all enjoy (and perhaps occasionally take for granted.)





**A NEW LIBRARY BOOK** has recently been acquired and will be of interest for those doing Jewellery. It is called *Complete Metalsmith* by Tim McCreight and provides a host of simple explanations of just about every technique you can imagine, plus a few handy hints on how to ensure getting the best results. It covers materials, tools, soldering, finishing, casting (all sorts), stone setting, chains, clasps and findings.

It will be in the Reference Library for one year to allow teachers and others to check it out in the Clubrooms, and after that it will be moved into the general library.

### WORKING BEE

A working bee will be held on Sunday 17 June 2007 at 9.30am at the Club rooms.

There is a lot of work that is needed to be done so if you can spare some time and attend it will be greatly appreciated.

Lunch will be provided in the form of a sausage sizzle.

We look forward to seeing you there.

### **NDLC FIELD TRIP**



#### **EMMAVILLE AND HOGARTH RANGE**

**31<sup>st</sup> August to 8<sup>th</sup> September, 07**

For those who are interested, a detailed itinerary is on the Notice Board in the Club Rooms. Please take a copy.

Please add your name to the List if you would like to participate in this Field Trip, which would see us meeting at the Emmaville Caravan Park on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August, where tentative powered sites have already been booked for NDLC Club members.

It is planned to attend the Emmaville Gemfest and Swap Meet, as well as participate in some of the Field Trips being organised for that event, to find Topaz, Quartz and Tourmaline etc.. If time

permits it is also planned to spend some time looking for [*and finding ?*] sapphires in the Glen Innes area.

From Emmaville it is planned to go to Hogarth Range for a few days for some Labradorite. At Hogarth Range we will be bush camping where there are no facilities at all other than the ability to light a warming camp fire.

Please note that it will be cold, so remember to pack warm clothes and heaters !!

Contact Tony for further information, as well as to confirm site bookings at Emmaville Caravan Park.

Tony Try  
F.T.O.  
Ph. [02] 43936168  
Mobile: 0417 676 435

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### **CASTING WEEKEND REPORT**

We gathered on Saturday morning, three new chums, Sharon Waters, Richard Adler and Pam Moore, second timers Maria Mitchell and Bill King, and old hands – no, no – experienced practitioners Eric Stevenson, Bev Malloy and June Staley.



We experienced the usual decision about what to include in our flask and the preparation thereof. Then came the sprueing with the usual effort to make the whole thing hang together in order to survive the investing and casting. A few near disasters were encountered at this stage as models refused to remain fused to their bases. Eric and Beverley took over the investing whilst emergency repairs were made to the stubborn trees.



All appeared to be well by the end of the day as we retired to gather energy for our next stage and allow the invested items to dry.

Sunday morning we gathered again, dare I say with religious zeal, and shared a delicious morning tea of pumpkin scones provided by our old mate Harry Lovell and a tasty caramel walnut bun provided by June Staley, whilst the temperature in the kilns climbed along with our anticipation of the outcome. Along came Bert Deane right on cue to wield the oxy torch and at 1.30 we were ready to cast. The moment of truth had come!

Following are photos taken of our endeavours taken by Bill King. The third photo shows satisfaction of our successful results.

Jean Macleay



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## Some Early History of the Gemfields in QLD

The impetus for the development of the Gemfields came from the construction of the Central Railway. There were already many selectors and even some gold prospectors living in the area and mail runs were established to service the remote areas. The Anakie Railway and Telegraph Station officially opened on the 15th March 1884. In 1885 Anakie Provisional School opened its doors to 16 pupils and, in 1887, the Anakie township was

gazetted. Development had begun. Sapphires had been discovered on the banks of Retreat Creek, possibly around the Reward area, a few years before by a Government Surveyor named Archibald John Richardson. By 1891 there were 31 miners on the Fields but markets were yet to be found for the sale of their stones and a future seemed very doubtful. By the mid 1890's however German buyers were visiting the field with the continental markets of Europe in mind and the first mining "boom" was set to begin. Probably what was the first marriage on the Fields took place in 1897 between Mr Levi Newsome and Miss Lizzie Hunt. Both these family lines remained prominent in local history for the next 50 years.

By 1900 there were camps established throughout the whole of the gem bearing area from Retreat Creek to Tomahawk Creek-the townships of Sapphire and Rubyvale did not exist at this stage. The 1900 Queensland Post Office Directory listed 21 permanent residents of Anakie but, obviously, there were many more itinerants, miners and railway workers scattered around the surrounding districts. In 1902, the area was proclaimed a "Mining Field" of 28 square miles and it was supporting a population of nearly 200 people, women and children included.

Locality names, most still in use, came into being - Ruby Hill, Grave Hill, the Bessie workings, Hunt's Claim, Sultana Reward, the Freehold, Iguana Flat (now changed to Goanna Flat), Newsome's Claim, Policeman Creek and Tempest Gully. The latter being named after Lord Herbert Lionel Henry Vane-Tempest Stewart a miner either in the late 1800's or early 1900's with ancestors leading back to William the Conqueror.

In 1902 the Government sent Benjamin Dunstan, a geologist, to report on the Field and, to quote his words "the richness of the wash astonished me." The Government distributed 2000 copies of his report world wide and the rush was on.

In the following years until 1912, much development took place. Anakie had 1 hotel, 2 sawmills, 1 billiard saloon and Mrs Mary E Pacey was listed as a "carrier and etc."

At Sapphire there was now a school, a police station and a small First Aid and Dispensing Hospital. Charles L Mattingley was the first baker, there were 2 hotels, 3 stores, 2 billiard saloons and 2 dance halls. There was also a butcher, a fruiterer and produce merchant and several local gem buyers. They had tennis courts, a Progress

Association and even a Dramatic Club and a Cricket Club.

Rubyvale was far more progressive with many well known families firmly established.

The first Royal Hotel had been established, there were several stores, a dairy, a draper and a newsagent as well as an Athletic Club, a Workers Political Association and a Sapphire Miners Co-Op.

There were 14 wash plants processing on Policeman Creek and an unknown number on Retreat.

Owing to the availability of water, generally the sapphire wash was carted to these locations to be processed. The future looked bright with Tsarist Russia favouring the deep blue colours and overseas buyers visiting regularly.

The Fields took a slight down turn during the First World War when ten Gemfields soldiers were killed overseas but this was followed, in the 1920's, by the greatest growth period on record, beaten only by the "machinery boom" that would follow 50 years later.

In 1929 the Wall Street Stock Exchange crashed and the flow on effect was to throw Australia into a deep depression. This depression and the onset of World War II, combined to destroy the Gemfields. What started as a slow decline in population snowballed at an increasing rate. The Sapphire school closed in 1939, the Police Station moved to Anakie in 1940. and the small First Aid and Dispensing Hospital also closed its doors.

By 1940 the Queensland Post Office Directory recorded only three residents for Sapphire-two graziers and Mrs Edith Shepherd, nee Holland, the local store keeper and Post Mistress. Ruby vale did a little better and managed to hold on to their school for another 14 years although there were not enough people in town during the week to drink a 5 gallon keg (22-7 litres) so the Royal Hotel only sold beer on Saturdays.

Extract taken from "Some Early History and People who 'Made' the Gemfields" Writer P Villarroya

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## SAPPHIRE

<b>Colour</b>	Blue, yellow, green, white, colourless, pink, orange, brown and purple
<b>Hardness</b>	9
<b>SG</b>	3.9 – 4.1

<b>RI</b>	1.76 – 1.77
<b>Mineral Class</b>	Corundum
<b>Composition</b>	Be <sub>3</sub> Al <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>6</sub>

**In the gem trade**, sapphire refers to the blue variety of corundum. However, excluding red ruby, it scientifically encompasses all other gem varieties of corundum. (In essence, ruby is really a red sapphire, since ruby and sapphire are identical in all properties except colour.) Sapphire is the most precious of blue gemstones. It is a most desirable gem due to its colour, hardness, durability, and luster. The most valuable colour of sapphire is cornflower blue, known as *Kashmir sapphire* or *Cornflower blue sapphire*.

**Until** the last century, all sapphires (excluding blue) were called the same name as a popular gemstone of that colour with the prefix "oriental" added to it. For example, green sapphire was known as "oriental emerald". The practice of applying the name of a different gemstone to identify the sapphire was misleading, so these names were virtually abolished. What was once called "oriental emerald" is now called "green sapphire". The same holds true for all other colour varieties of sapphire. However, the word "sapphire" in its plain context refers only to blue sapphire, unless a prefix colour is specified. Sapphire with a colour other than blue is often called a "fancy" in the gem trade.

**Inclusions** of tiny, slender, parallel Rutile needles cause polished sapphire gems to exhibit asterism. Sapphire gems displaying asterism are known as "star sapphires", and if transparent are especially prized. Star sapphires are usually in six ray stars, but twelve ray stars are also known. Very rarely, sapphire also exhibits cat's eye effect.

Colour zoning, which forms from growth layers that build up during the formation of the stone, is present in certain sapphires. However, uniformity of colour is an important factor in a sapphire's value.

**Colourless** and pale blue sapphires from certain localities may be heat-treated to give them an intense blue colour. Heat-treatment may also improve the clarity of some sapphires by removing tiny inner inclusions. Sapphire is pleochroic, displaying a lighter and more intense

colour when viewed at different angles. Some pleochroic sapphire is blue when viewed at one angle, and purple at a different angle.

A rare variety of sapphire, known as *colour changing sapphire*, exhibits different colours in different light. In natural light, colour changing sapphire is blue, but in artificial light, it is violet. This effect is the same phenomenon seen in alexandrite.

**Sapphire** was first synthesized in 1902. The process of creating synthetic sapphire is known as the Verneuil process. Only experts can distinguish between natural and synthetic sapphire.

**Sapphire** is a tough and durable gem, but it is still subject to chipping and fracture if handled roughly.

**USES** - Sapphire is one of the most popular jewelry stones. The blue variety is most often used in jewelry, but the yellow, pink, and orange stones are also popular. A rare orange-pink variety, known as *padparadschah*, is even more valued than blue sapphire. Stones displaying asterism are polished as cabochons, and, if clear, are extremely valuable. Blue sapphire is sometimes carved into cameos or small figures. Synthetic sapphire is often used as a substitute for the natural material.

Sapphire is the birthstone of September.

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## THE “GATTON GANG”

### Part 2

#### **We Gather some “Goodies”.**

“Chinchilla” to the majority of Lapidarians means “wood”, and for many years beautiful pieces of petrified wood have been carried back to new homes all over Australia, by enthusiastic collectors. However, while there is still obviously a lot of this material in the area, gaining access to it and the private property it is on is becoming increasingly difficult for a variety of reason. We were very fortunate to gain access to one private property - on a “one-off” basis – on our first day. On the second day we were directed to another area where we scoured the edge of the road. We were again very fortunate to be able to pick and choose the pieces we wanted so that we all came

away with an ample supply. We were also convinced that there was some sort of magnetic attraction between our hands and the pieces of wood, which made picking them up somewhat compulsive!! Someone – who shall remain nameless – was so compulsive that she was noticed shuffling back to the car, down the centre of the road with a large piece of wood in each hand. With each step the crutch in her shorts got lower and lower as the pockets – bulging with smaller pieces of wood – pulled them down. By the time she reached the car it was very fortunate that she was wearing a long over-shirt !! Then there was another lady who was heard to say that she really did not need any more of this material, but who filled her bag to the point where the bottom fell out of it and deposited a rather large heap in the middle of the road. Her husband, with a large bucket, was required to get it all back to the car.

The caravan park we stayed in at Chinchilla was small but great with good amenities and camp kitchen, which helped to make our overall stay very pleasant. While at Chinchilla we were joined by a friend [Graham Pemberton - who we had met many years ago while in PNG] and introduced him to the art of fossicking. He left us with the back of his car considerably lower than when he arrived.

During our stay we made a day trip back to Miles to see the historic village and excellent display of petrified wood in the Norman Donpon Lapidary Collection.

From Chinchilla we moved on for an overnight stay at Roma where we shopped and stocked up with supplies before going on to Carnarvon Gorge. Ted and Helga stayed a few extra days at Roma to seek some medical advice. After refuelling [people and cars] at Injune we moved on to Warremba Farm Stay, where we based ourselves [because it was dog friendly] for our excursions into Carnarvon Gorge. The amenities were very good and the camp kitchen was the best I have ever seen. One statement was made to the effect that the bathrooms were so big that one could hold a Ball in there. This led to a wide range of comments, which are best left out of Lapis – being as it is a family magazine an’ all.

On our first day we did a couple of short walks on the Warremba property to prepare for the longer

walks in Carnarvon Gorge. However Carnarvon Gorge had recently suffered a flash flood, which while good for the environment did a lot of damage to the walking tracks. Many of the tracks, while cleared, were covered in deep sand, and the creek was literally covered in a mass of debris, which was predominantly fallen trees and shrubs. As a group we walked up to the Moss Gardens, and then some of the party went on to Ward's Canyon before turning back to our cars – a total of 10 kms..

The next day Norm and Dorothy put us all to shame and did a 7 km walk into the Hidden Haven on Warremba property, while the rest of us nursed aching muscles. It was also the first opportunity we had had to wash our vehicles, which were by this time covered in dirt and dust. Even though all six vehicles were washed there was no sign of imminent rain. A pity, because while Warremba had ample water the country we had been passing through was very dry.

We then moved on to Springsure to look for Labradorite, and were again joined by Ted and Helga for a few days before they reluctantly left us and headed for home. We were all fortunate to find pieces of Labradorite that were big enough to cut, with Jean Macleay finding the largest piece while walking her dogs along the roadside.

From some earlier advice we sampled the meat from the Springsure butcher. The advice – and the meat – was excellent, and many of us trooped back the next day to buy as much as our freezers would hold. For the next few nights the BBQ plate was loaded with a wide array of tender steaks and other meats.

Tony Try

To be continued.



## **Funnies**

A 45 year old woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience. Seeing God she asked "Is my time up?" God said, "No, you have another 43 years, 2 months and 8 days to live."

Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and spent her life savings having a face-lift, liposuction, breast implants and a tummy-tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair colour and brighten her teeth! Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it. After her last operation, she was released from the hospital. While crossing the street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance.

Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I thought you said I had another 43 years? Why didn't you pull me from out of the path of the ambulance?"

God replied: "I didn't recognise you."



A woman came home to find her retired husband waving a rolled up newspaper round 'What are you doing dear?' 'Swatting flies – I got 3 males and 2 females' 'How do you know what sex they were' 'Easy – 3 were on the beer and 2 were on the phone'



A SENIOR citizen is one who was here before the Pill...before Television...before frozen food...before credit cards and ball-point pens.

For us, time sharing meant togetherness, no computers, and a chip meant a piece of wood.

Hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word.

Teenagers never wore slacks.

We were before pantyhose, drip-dry clothes, dishwashers and electric blankets.

We got married first and then lived together afterwards.

Girls wore Peter Pan collars and thought cleavage was something butchers did. We were before Batman, vitamin pills, disposable nappies, ozone layers and pizza. Instant coffee and Kentucky Fried wasn't even thought of. In our day, smoking a cigarette was fashionable; Grass was for mowing! Pot was something you cooked in. A gay person was the 'life of the party' and nothing more, while AIDS meant beauty lotions, or help for someone in trouble.

We are today's senior citizens, a hardy bunch when you think of how the world has changed and of the adjustments we have had to make!







## DATES OF INTEREST

- Jun 8-11** Gosford Show, Gosford Showground, Gosford
- Jun 12** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB  
General Meeting Tuesday 8 pm, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome  
Guest Speaker is Mrs Judy Harris from the Sydney Adventist Hospital speaking on the History of the SAN
- Jun 16-17** Windsor Show, Windsor Function Centre, Macquarie St, Windsor
- July 14** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB  
General Meeting **Saturday 2 pm**, Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome  
*With a Special Afternoon Tea for our longstanding Members*
- July 28** Rock Auction  
Hunter Valley Gemology Club
- Aug 25-26** Cumberland Show  
Roselea Community Centre, Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford
- Aug 31 to Sept 8** Field Trip  
Emmaville & Hogarth Range (Details on the Notice Board at the Club)

- 2007 – GEMBOREE – Queensland, Gatton – April 6-9**  
**2008 – GEMBOREE – SA, Murray Bridge – Mar 21 -24 -**  
**2009 – GEMBOREE – Vic, Horsham – April 10-13**  
**2010 – GEMBOREE – Tasmania**  
**2011 – GEMBOREE - NSW**

For information on Interstate and Overseas Gem Shows see back pages of the Gem & Lapidary News available in clubrooms on shelf near library.



### Northern Districts Lapidary Club Shirts

Good quality polo shirts are available from the shop for field trips and future GEMBOREE'S.

They are royal blue with the Club's badge embroidered above the pocket on the left hand side of the shirt.  
Cost is \$35.00. Sizes range from small to XXXL.

If your size is not available in the shop please complete the form below.

Please indicate the size and number you require. Name:.....

Size:.....Number:.....

Return to Secretary NDLC – PO Box 59, Beecroft NSW 2119

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