



LAPIS

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"SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

VOLUME FORTY FOUR - NUMBER SIX MARCH 2009

CLUB NEWS

The next General meeting will be on 10th March 2009 at 8 pm at the Club rooms - all members welcome.

The Speaker for the March General Meeting will be Brian Burns who will present a dry run of the talk that he will give to Castle Hill Rotary later this month. The title is "The Origin of Gemstones: or *Where did that Sapphire Ring Come From?*" Come along for a fascinating layman's walk down the corridors of geology and fossicking to see just how and where our gemstones are formed, transported and ultimately found.

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members –

- Zacky Lee – North Epping
- Lucy Chan – Cherrybrook
- Jade Hodgson – Kenthurst
- Ingrid Crawley – Eastwood
- Kristofor Rec – Hunters Hill (Junior)
- Patrick Choo - Epping (Junior)
- Jacob Choo – Epping (Junior)

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the February General Meeting members expressed their wish that the Club make a donation of \$500 to the Victorian bushfire appeal, subject to it being consistent with the Club's Constitution. In addition, a donation box was set up at the Clubrooms for anyone to make a donation.

After a careful review of the Constitution and Bylaws the Committee agreed that, while the Club does not *normally* make donations to Charities, the magnitude of suffering and damage in the bushfires was such that it was not a normal event and so an exception could be justified and still be consistent with the Objects of the Club.

In the two weeks since the General Meeting, Club Members have donated an additional \$437 via the box. The Committee has increased the Club's contribution to \$563 to make it an even \$1000 total and a cheque for that amount has been sent to the Bushfire Appeal. For an extra bonus it was being sent through Myers stores since they have indicated that Myers will match any donations given through their shops.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed so generously to this marvelous effort.

Brian Burns

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FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Acting Publicity Officer

Phil Williams, our current Publicity Officer, has been granted 3 months temporary leave from the Committee to attend to a number of pressing and time consuming personal issues. Colin Hazell has agreed to take over as acting Publicity Officer for this period.

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Noise Levels in the Cutting Room.

Sometimes the noise from the diamond saws (mostly the smaller ones) can be a little uncomfortable for some people. The Club now has some inexpensive disposable earplugs

available from the Shop. If you need to use the saws then please endeavour to do it in short periods to minimize any inconvenience to others in the room.

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New Club Acquisitions

The Club is using the current spate of discount 'specials' to purchase a number of the items that were recommended at the last AGM. These include a TV/DVD, desk and chair, and a printer to replace the old one which is on its last legs. These should be acquired before the March General Meeting.

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Horsham Gemboree

Thanks and Good luck to all those who have entered the Competition at the upcoming GEMBOREE 2009 in Horsham. Please add your name onto the list on the Club Notice Board if you are planning to attend.

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Gem & Lapidary Council Snippets

The 2009 Gemkhana will be held in October again at Goulburn. There has been a delay in announcing the event due to the lack of a Competition Coordinator but the council now has one and the show will go ahead.

The schedule for the Gemkhana will be in the Club rooms shortly for those members who wish to compete.

The Gem & Lapidary Council would like to congratulate the five new cabochon judges who recently completed the Judging course in February.

They are:

- Frances Sun – NDLC
- Bev Hodder – Bankstown
- Alan Clarke – Central Coast
- Barbara Clarke – Parramatta-Holroyd
- Paul Sabolta – Parramatta-Holroyd

There is also a **Faceting Judging Course** which will be held in May 2009. This course will be run by Nelson Robertson.

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SAFETY ISSUES

What's in a name?

Many rocks, minerals and materials used as abrasives travel under a variety of aliases and that as such may pose serious risks to the health of those choosing to mine them, work them, own them or just examine them.

For instance, everyone is aware of the dangers of asbestos which is known to cause lung cancer and mesothelioma, but did you know that by ingestion of even small amounts of their fibres may cause bowel and kidney cancer as fibres may penetrate and then migrate through the body.

Now back to the name issue.

Chrysotile is the mineralogical name for white asbestos.

Crocidolite is the name for blue asbestos.

Amosite is the name for brown asbestos, but also may be known from a group of minerals called **cummingtonite-grunerite**

Then there are the related group known as **Amphibole asbestos**, consisting of the minerals **Tremolite, Anthophyllite and Actinolite**. This latter group form both fibrous and non-fibrous forms, but the jury is still out on how dangerous each form is as it is conjectured that non-fibrous may grind, mill or fracture into fibres.

For the new –agers, **Seraphinite is well crystallised Actinolite**.

Then it must be remembered that all of the above minerals may be found in different rocks (combinations of minerals) , or as part of a metamorphic series that changes from one mineral to another as a result of changed heat, pressure and time , or by a process of chemical alteration. Basically this means that the dangerous may lurk along with the non-dangerous, and yet not even be visible.

An example is the continuum of talc – serpentine - nephrite jade – asbestos, all of which may contain various parts of the other and all of which may therefore contain dangerous fibrous materials.

Then there are the **pseudomorphs**, that is one mineral that has replaced another but retains the crystalline form of the original mineral.

Probably the best known of these to the rockhound is **Tiger's eye**, (or **Hawk's eye**) which is a quartz replacement of asbestos.

The problem here is that soft patches and peeling fibres may indicate incomplete replacement, hence exposure to asbestos.

The solution is to always cut this material with plenty of water, wash hands well before eating or drinking and don't lick the rocks

As you can see, in dealing with only one small group, the un-initiated may unwittingly be exposed to risk, so do your homework on alternate names and find out what that mineral specimen contains to reduce the health risks.

Naming of minerals and gems may also be a wealth risk, but that is another matter.

Colin Hazell

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MORE MANUALS

The Club has purchased some more Competitor & Judging Manuals - they are in the shop at \$6.00 each. Members who wish to cut for competitions should have one in their cutting box so that they can refer to them at all times. There is one in the cutting room at the club for referencing.

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FACETORS

The club would like to increase the interest in Faceting and they need to know who can facet, and who has their own faceting machine. Could you please let Mike Robertson, Education Officer know by ringing 9868 3975.

HANDY HINT No 32

Have you ever noticed the pieces of flat white plastic sitting in the grinder tray? When you are grinding a stone put one of the plastic bits on the tray under the wheel you are using.

The shape and the outline of the stone you are working on will now be more visible.

Try it, you will be surprised at the difference.

HANDY HINT No 33

A common method of checking the outline

shape of a standard cabochon is to draw around the stone with a fine pencil on a sheet of paper. Then turn the stone end for end, sit it back on the paper and see how it fits on the drawing.

However, this method does not work for fancy cabochons. But, if you use a piece of tracing paper or similar translucent paper, then flip the paper over to the reverse side and the shape of the stone can be checked.

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If any member has any handy hints that the members could use please let me know and they will be printed in Lapis

Ed.

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Chef's Corner



5 MINUTE CHOCOLATE MUG CAKE

4 tablespoons flour
4 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons cocoa
1 egg
3 tablespoons milk
3 tablespoons oil
3 tablespoons chocolate chips (optional)
a small splash of vanilla extract
1 large coffee mug

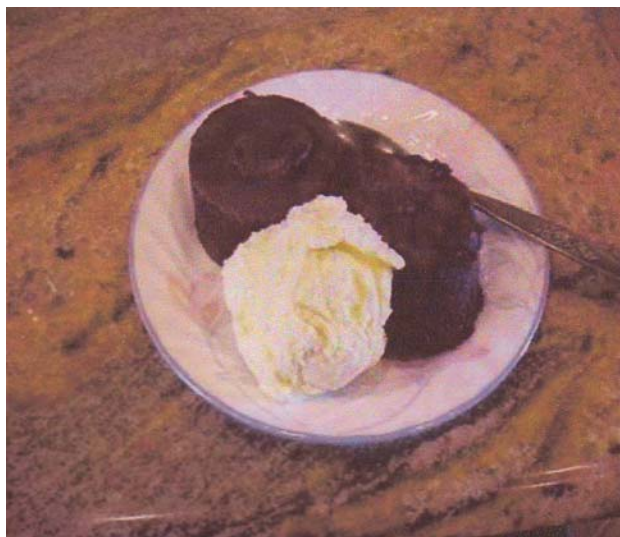
Add dry ingredients to mug, and mix well. Add the egg and mix thoroughly. Pour in the milk and oil and mix well. Add the chocolate chips (if using) and vanilla extract, and mix again.

Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes at 1000 watts (high). The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed! Allow to cool a little, and tip out onto a plate if desired.

EAT! (this cake can serve 2 if you want to feel slightly more virtuous). And why is this is the most dangerous cake recipe in the world? Because now we are all only 5 minutes away from chocolate cake at any time of the day or night!



Hungry Yet ??????



Flat Lap

Please ring Bert Deane on 9489 6480 and make a reasonable offer.

HAEMATITE

Chemical Formula: Fe_2O_3

Composition: Iron oxide. May contain slight amounts of titanium.

Variable Formula: $(\text{Fe}, \text{Ti})_2\text{O}_3$

Color: Black, grey to silver grey, brown to reddish brown, red. Some specimens are iridescent.

Streak: Red to reddish brown

Hardness: 5 – 6

Crystal Forms and Aggregates: (Hexagonal)) Crystals occur in thin plates, as well as bundles of small micaceous plates, in thin splinters, and oolitic.. It most commonly occurs massive, mammillary, botryoidal, reniform, stalactitic and radiating. Scalenohedral and rhombohedral crystals occur, although infrequently

Transparency: Opaque

Specific Gravity: 4.9 - 5.3

Lustre: Metallic to dull

Cleavage: None, but occasionally exhibits rhombohedral and basal parting.

Fracture: Uneven

Tenacity: Brittle

Other ID Marks: Haematite is paramagnetic.

Other Names: Red Iron Ore

Varieties:

Bloodstone - Compact, amorphous Haematite.

Iron Rose - Disorganized, flat, hexagonal plates of Haematite that form a formation resembling a rose.

Kidney Ore – Globular (botryoidal, reniform and mammillary) Haematite.

Martite - Haematite pseudomorph after Magnetite.

Paint Ore – Massive red, brown, or reddish brown Haematite.

Specularite (or **Specular Haematite**) – Micaceous Hematite with small, intergrown, hexagonal plates that produce a glistening effect when a specimen is rotated.

Rainbow Hematite – Iridescent Hematite displaying a play of colors.

Titano-haematite - Titanium rich variety of Haematite.

All About: Hematite is one of the most common minerals. The color of most red rock, such as sandstone, is caused by small amounts of Haematite. It may also be responsible for the red color of Garnet, Spinel, and to some extent, Ruby.

All non-crystalline forms of Haematite are supposedly transformations of the mineral **Limonite** that lost water, possibly due to heat

Uses: Haematite is the principle ore of iron. Huge quantities are mined yearly for industrial production. It is the source for roughly 90 percent

of all iron mined in the United States. Haematite was largely used in the past as a red and brown pigment, although nowadays cheaper sources have been substituted. Well formed Haematite crystals are popular among mineral collectors. Highly polished, tumbled Haematite from Brazil makes a very popular, inexpensive specimen for collectors. Haematite also has gem uses. It is cut and polished into cabochons for jewellery and ornaments, fashioned into beads for bracelets and necklaces, and carved into ornamental figures

Striking Features: Reddish streak, hardness, crystal habits, and paramagnetism

Complex Tests: Becomes strongly magnetic when heated

Distinguishing Similar Minerals: There are dozens of minerals that resemble Haematite in looks, but Haematite's red streak is a distinguishing property. **Lepidocrocite**, which has a red streak like Haematite, is softer ($4\frac{1}{2}$ - 5), and is translucent in thin splinters.

Commonly Occurs With: Quartz, Calcite, Albite, Biotite, Barite, Pyrite, Magnesite and Magnetite.

Noteworthy Localities: Haematite has numerous localities, and therefore, only the finest will be mentioned. Extremely large and rather thick crystals have been found in Minas Gerais, Brazil. Iridescent Haematite (Rainbow Haematite) has also been found at those localities, as well as in Rio Marina, on the island of Elba, Italy. Cumberland, England, is a big provider of the Specularite variety, and much of the globular and stalactitic specimens. In the U.S., an enormous deposit exists throughout the western area of Lake Superior, which includes the rich Keweenaw Peninsula. "Iron Roses" occur in the Thomas Range in Utah, as well as in numerous localities in Arizona, namely Aztec Peak, Gila Co.; Bouse, Yuma Co.; and in the Buckskin Mountains in La Paz Co. Good crystals also occur in St. Lawrence Co., New York, at Antwerp, Gouverneur, and numerous other areas. In Australia the major areas are in the Pilbara in Western Australia and in Flinders Ranges in South Australia.



Please note there is a display of Haematite in the foyer showcase at the Club

Iron Ore in Australia – Red Gold in the Pilbara

Fifty-five years ago, the Hammersley Basin of Western Australia was a scenic but sleepy 127,000 square kilometre area of rust-red gorges and mesas, cut by the occasional river or creek. At the time, no one in Australia had any idea that the banded iron formations found in the Pilbara would, in less than fifty years, become the iron bones of the third great industrial revolution in the history of the world.

Mother Nature deposits her riches where she wishes. This seemingly random distribution of natural bounty is arguably the source of nearly all geopolitical conflict. For example, underneath the desert sands of Arabia lie two-thirds of the world's premium oil reserves. Prior to 1989, gold companies based in South Africa had produced over 40% of all the gold that had ever been mined in the world.

Compared to oil, gold, or gems, high-grade iron ore might seem like a miserly geographic birthright. After all, the world still spends more money looking for gold than any other single mineral resource. But in Australia, iron ore comes in a solid second.

Why is the red soil iron ore comes from so important to today's world?

The simple answer is that without iron ore there is no modern civilisation. Without iron ore there's no China boom, no housing boom, and no global boom at all. The world's economic growth is increasingly built directly on the millions of tonnes of iron ore that Australia exports to steel producing countries like China, Japan, and South Korea.

In 1952, West Australian Lang Hancock discovered the vast iron ore riches of the Pilbara. Hancock would spend the next twenty years trying to unlock those riches and make Australia a global player not just in iron ore production but steel too. He would fail with steel. And with iron ore, he faced a long struggle.

Iron ore was thought to be scarce in Australia in 1952.

Like Paddy Hannon, the man who discovered the Golden Mile 370km north-west of Kalgoorlie, Hancock would be the man who unlocked a boom for those that followed. He spent the next twenty

years trying to get a piece of the action himself. Though he received royalties on ore bodies he had discovered, he did not achieve his ultimate ambition and that was to own a producing mine.

This was taken from an article by Dan Denning called **Iron Ore in Australia – A History of Red Gold in the Pilbara, Sept 2007**

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Tiger's Eye

A yellow, brown, red (tiger's eye) or blue (hawk's eye) coloured quartz pseudomorph after crocidolite asbestos, which retains the original fibrous structure of that mineral. The best specimens when cut and polished show a bright band of light known as "chatoyancy", across the fibres.

The most important deposit is in South Africa also found in Western Australia, Burma, India and the US. When cut as a cabochon, the surface shows chatoyancy reminiscent of the eyes of a cat.



Funnies

Dan was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business. When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, he decided he needed a wife with which to share his fortune. One evening at an investment meeting he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. He said: "I may look like just an ordinary man," he said to her, but in just a few years, my father will die, and I'll inherit \$200 million."

Impressed, the woman obtained his business card and three days later, she became his

stepmother.

Women are so much better at financial planning than men....

•••••

A big game hunter went on safari to Africa with his wife and mother-in-law.

One evening the wife awoke to discover that her mother was gone. Rushing to her husband, the wife insisted that they both look for her.

The hunter picked up his rifle and they started to search.

In a clearing not far from the camp they came upon a chilling sight. The mother-in-law was backed up against a bush and a large male lion was facing her.

The wife cried, "What are we going to do"?

"Nothing ", replied her husband, "the lion got himself into this mess, let him get himself out of it".

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40 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

A married couple in their early 60's was celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary in a quiet, romantic little restaurant. Suddenly, a tiny yet beautiful fairy appeared on their table. She said, 'For being such an exemplary married couple and for being loving to each other for all this time, I will grant you each a wish.'

The wife answered, 'Oh, I want to travel around the world with my darling husband.'

The fairy waved her magic wand and - poof! - two tickets for the Queen Mary II appeared in her hands. The husband thought for a moment: 'Well, this is all very romantic, but

An opportunity like this will never come again. I'm sorry my love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than me.

The wife and the fairy were deeply disappointed, but a wish is a wish. So the fairy waved her magic wand and -poof! - the husband became 92 years old.

The moral of this story: men who are ungrateful bastards should remember fairies are female...

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Gem Council Delegate	Tony Try	4393 6168
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Club Telephone Number **9484 0014**

Public Officer Brian Burns **9878 4073**

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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. The Entrance to the clubrooms is on the railway side of the building. ~

Membership Fees: effective from 01/07/2008

	Entrance	Annual Subs
Full Member aged 18 or more yrs	\$25	\$20.00
Junior member aged 10 to 17 yrs incl.	\$10	\$10.00
Family Concession	\$40	As Above
Junior Associate member aged less than 10 yrs		No charge

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.

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

WEBMASTER - Thomas Maitland
 Mail to: tamaitland@optusnet.com.au

CURRENT CLASSES & ACTIVITIES HELD IN CLUB ROOMS

Monday	7.30pm CABOCHON CUTTING Instructors Glenn Brown 9617 0446 7.30pm SILVER JEWELLERY Instructor Johan ten Hoedt 9484 6521 7.30pm CARVING/FREEFORM Instructor Bill Ashman 9484 0356
Tuesday	9.00am SILVER JEWELLERY workshop Contact June Staley 9869 0054
Wednesday	10.00am ALL DAY WORKSHOP Contact George Hunter 9871 2126 7.30pm SILVER JEWELLERY Instructor Brian Burns 9878 4073
Thursday	7.30pm CABOCHON CUTTING Instructor John Weatherburn 9871 3302 7.30pm FACETING CLASS Instructor Norm Fitzpatrick 9876 1815
Friday	CASUAL COMPETITION CUTTING No teacher – self help - enquiries please contact John Weatherburn – 9871 3302
Saturday	1.00pm JUNIOR CLASS Instructor Kevin Davey 9869 1950 with Kristen & Corin Sadlier 9869 7775 1.00-3.00pm CARVING/FREEFORM Instructor Bill Ashman 9484 0356 ~

CLASS, CASUAL & WORKSHOPS FEES – EFFECTIVE FROM 01/01/09

First Class – per term (School Term)	\$30
Any Additional Class – per term (School Term)	\$25
Casual Use of Machinery – per attendance	\$5
Workshops – 2 day weekend	\$25
1 day (plus materials)	\$15

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

There are waiting lists for some classes.

DISCLAIMER: Opinions expressed in LAPIS are 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 the Issue do so at their own risk.

From the Editor's Desk

Please send me contributions for LAPIS. I am interested in articles that would be enjoyed by one and all.
 Ph. (02) 4393 6168 or Mobile 0417 676 435
 Email twotrys@bigpond.net.au

DATES OF INTEREST

- Mar 10** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Tuesday 8 pm at the Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome
- Mar 7 & 8** **Back from Tucson** – Crystal Habit, Quality Gem Rough Supplies & Quality Alpaca Supplies – 52 Macpherson Road, Londonderry
- Mar 13 -15** Minerama – www.minerama.com.au (02) 6730 2400
Glen Innes & Districts Services Club
- Mar 21** HunterValley Gemology Club
Gem & Mineral Auction at 1 Maize St, Tenambit. Viewing from 11am, Auction at 12 Noon, Afternoon Tea 1.30pm
- Mar 21** Nepean District Lapidary Club Inc - Jewellery & Gemcraft Sales & Open Day
12 North St, Penrith – 9am to 4pm
- Mar 28 -29** Blue Mountains Lapidary Club – Gem Show
Progress Hall Bullaburra (Cnr Noble St & GWH) 9am to 5pm Saturday, 9am to 3pm Sunday
- Mar 28 -29** Canberra Rock Swap – EPIC Showgrounds Northbourne Ave Canberra
8.30am to 5pm both days
- April 10-13** **GEMBOREE - Horsham**
- April 14** NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
General Meeting Tuesday 8 pm at the Clubrooms Beecroft all members welcome

2010 – GEMBOREE – Tasmania – Devonport – April 2-5

2011 – GEMBOREE – NSW – Bathurst - April 22-25

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 \$38.00. 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

Lapis now available by  or  !!

Members, if you would prefer to receive your LAPIS by email rather than by snail mail please send you email address to Barbara Try. My email is twotrys@bigpond.net.au