



LAPIS

www.ndlapidary.org.au

“SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE”

VOLUME FIFTY-ONE ISSUE NUMBER FIVE FEBRUARY 2015

CLUB NEWS

Our next **General Meeting** will be on **Tuesday, 10th February 2015 at 7.30pm.**

A talk on Amethyst

By Peter Tumminello ND, DBM, Dip Hom. Med., FGAA will follow the meeting.

Amethyst is a fascinating stone and takes the premier position of stones with the violet-purple colour. It has a rich history and broad attraction. I like this stone but soon realised it is not so easy to find good cabbing and faceting material. There is an enormous trade in synthetic Amethyst and many people have bought synthetics without realising it. I was one! I look forward to relating the story of synthetics and natural Amethysts and sharing some useful information about how to tell them apart.

Amethyst also had distinct therapeutic value and I would like to share some of these powerful characteristics. This information is the result of experiments and clinical experience over many years.

Bio: Peter is a practicing Naturopath and Homeopath and has qualified as a Gemmologist. He has spent many years researching the therapeutic powers of gemstones. He has written a number of books and many articles on the subject and lectured on the subject in Europe, UK, Australia and New Zealand.

All members welcome.

President's Report February 2015

Welcome to 2015 at NDLC.

Most importantly, welcome to committee and many thanks to Jean Macleay, who has graciously volunteered herself for the Club Secretary

position, subject to ratification at next general meeting.

If endorsed by membership, Jean will occupy the position in a unique circumstance. She will carry out the job on her days of attendance at the club and through telephone and electronic communications on relevant issue, and reporting to committee in similar manner. This will be a trial for the club in innovative management, in order to fill important positions. Sufficient other committee members attend to vote on management issues.

Many of our classes are already begun and plans for extra activities are underway. Barbara has an enamelling weekend plotted, and Frances has a bone carving weekend lined up. Notices about both are on the board, put your name down if interested, soonest, as these activities tend to fill quickly and places are limited. See Lapis further on for details.

Vivienne and David, on request from their beginner's class members from last term, have extended the classes for another 5 sessions. Thanks to both of you.

Our own Barbara Try has been voted President of NSW Gem and Lapidary Council. Congratulations Barbara. As she is also chairs the NSW committee for Judging and Rules and is delegate from NSW G& L to AFLACA, She is going to be an even busier lady.

We have new neighbours at the club. I have just found out the Golden Kangaroos, the well-known marching band, along with their concert band and a couple of more intimate trio and quartet groups, have begun to move in upstairs in the hall. This means a number of our classes may have a musical accompaniment.

Their representative expressed a desire to be good neighbours, and we have already discussed a couple of scenarios that could be mutually beneficial. Please make them feel welcome. It may take a little time to work out arrangements between us and parking congestion locally may present an issue at times. I will endeavour a meeting with their president to discuss any mutual concerns.

A social event for May has been tentatively discussed, as yet no defined theme. This follows on from the very successful May events from the last two years. All suggestions entertained if you wish to contribute ideas or expertise.

Please be aware of both safety issues in the club and maintenance of equipment in use. Please use equipment only as approved and only if you understand the safety and cost issues of use. Please report all equipment not functioning correctly, even if you think it is only a minor thing. Early attention minimises cost of repair and time out of use.

Wishing everyone a safe and productive year in your Lapidary and allied craft endeavours.
Colin Hazell

NEW MEMBERS

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

- Susie Spence**
- Lauren Spence**
- Lillie Crawford**

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

FIELD TRIP TO ORANGE

Please be advised that the planned trip to Orange has now been cancelled due to a lack of possible participants.

Ulrich Schock FTO

CARVING AND INLAY WORKSHOP

"There will be a carving and inlay workshop for the weekend of **Sat 21st and Sun 22nd of Feb 2015**, 9am to 3pm for both days. This workshop is for adult members. Workshop information sheets will be posted on the Club's notice board.

ENAMELLING WORKSHOP

There will be an enamelling workshop from 9.00 - 4.00 on **Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th March**. Both inexperienced and experienced enamellers are welcome. There will be a sign up notice on the board shortly with the workshop requirements. Strict maximum of 10 participants.

Vivienne (on behalf of Barbara)

BEGINNERS SILVER CLASS

A group of enthusiastic NDLC members joined a newly started silver jewellery class on Thursday mornings in November last year. Their goal was to learn the silver smithing skills which would enable them to turn their beautiful and unusual cabochons into beautiful wearable jewellery.

We all realised that the skills needed for our creative interests are not learned overnight so needed to get into basics right away. We began with saw piercing, and practised by making a silver pendant which was then filed, domed and polished. (Thank you Jean M. for the patterns.)



Alan, Marie, David, Dave, Beverley, Diana
(thank you for the photos)

The second project, which added the techniques of sizing and measuring, drawing a design, soldering and forming, was to make a ring.

There was a great deal to take in during the first 4 weeks of a 5 week course. However, progress was accelerated by the groups' enthusiasm and their commitment to homework! As you see from the photos below, their handiwork wasn't limited to the basic class projects. In days between classes the members managed to source many of the basic tools, setting up their own jewellery tool kits.

What was intended to be the final project was a simple claw setting for a cabochon. The instructions were handed out, but unfortunately there was no time to complete the task in class.

However, all is not lost!

The class will be extended for a further 5 weeks commencing in the first week of term. This means that those members continuing will complete a 10 week term and will hopefully be ready for more creative challenges in the future.



David, Vivienne, Beverley, Marie, Alan and Dave
Teachers are Vivienne and Dave

Faceting Machine for Sale

Jacqueline Burnett has a faceting machine for sale with some laps and bits and pieces.

Please contact Jacqueline on 9877 0402.

A PRETTY NECKLACE



The above necklace designed and made by Jean Barringham is easy and fun to make and looks great when worn.

It is made of 0.8 sterling silver wire. The round links are wound on a no.12 or 2.75mm knitting needle, and the oval links are wound on a no.7 or 4.5mm needle. You only need to solder the larger rings. Use a pair of double round pliers and carefully make a mark at the 2.75mm diameter point. Put the pliers into your soldered ring and stretch apart, trying to keep the join at the end. The chain is put together with five pairs of round links and an oval joiner. A catch for the end and you are done!

SILVER AT OUR CLUB SHOP

A stock take has been made of the silver available to members from our club shop. The little drawers have been tidied and clearly labelled with what each drawer contains. We have tried to provide the most likely requirements of our members.

A review of the cost to the club of the silver has been made and a fair price to members has proved to be \$1.50 per gram.

There are little electronic scales on top of the silver box. Cut off the length of wire or quantity of sheet you require and pay according to the weight. When you are cutting the sheet try and do so in a way that will leave a viable remainder for those who follow you.

Findings and other odds and ends are prices as marked. Second hand (mostly this is unused but tarnished) silver for casting is 50 cents a gram.

CHRISTMAS PARTY REPORT

Our Christmas Party was a great success with a good attendance of new and older members. The meal of chicken and variety of salads was most enjoyable, thank you to the food organisers.

Although the weather started fine and sunny there was a storm threat that unfortunately eventuated with steady heavy rain which divided the party to those under the large carport and those on the verandah. The rain did not deter Santa who arrived wet and was later put to the 'real' test by a tug on the beard by a member's granddaughter.

The raffles were drawn, thank you Phillip for selling tickets, the tombola went ahead with items moved under cover in the garage, and everyone left happy and in good spirits.

Thank you again to Diane for providing the excellent venue which has proved suitable in all weathers.

GEMBOREE 2015

The premier event in the Australian Lapidary and Gem Club calendar, the GEMBOREE® will be held in Horsham, Victoria, 3rd-6th April 2015, is a national event that is staged in a different state or territory each year under the auspices of the Australian Federation of Lapidary & Allied Crafts Associations Inc. (AFLACA).

There are several members of our club who will be camping at the Gemboree, if anyone is interested in joining them please let it be known.

Bench Tips by Brad Smith

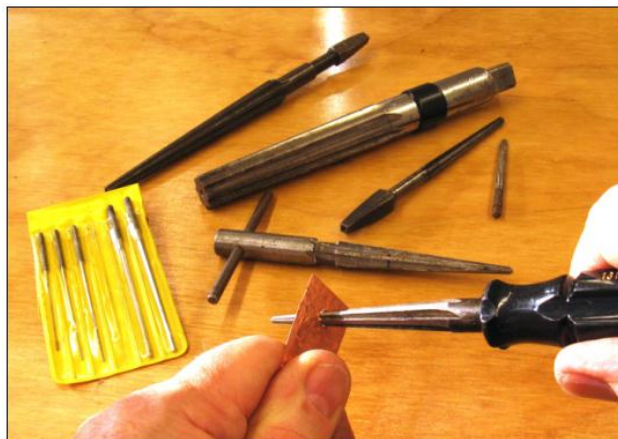
TAPERED REAMERS

A tool you don't see often these days is a tapered reamer. It's not a tool you'll use every day, but they're particularly useful for making an irregular hole round or for enlarging a hole to an exact diameter. For example, the small set in the yellow pouch is for holes in the range of 0.3mm to 2.5mm. They are great for sizing a tube to fit a hinge pin.

Other times when I'm drilling a hole for riveting and can't find the exact size drill, I simply drill the holes with a slightly smaller bit and enlarge them with a reamer until the wire just fits.

For larger hole sizes in sheet metal up to 14 ga, I really like the reamer with the black handle. It makes quick work of sizing holes from about 3mm to 12mm. You can find them in well-equipped hardware stores.

You may never use the large diameter reamers, but when sawing out some rings from 4mm thick sheet, I found they worked well for rounding and sizing the hole.



JANUARY BIRTHSTONE Garnet

Garnet, the birthstone for January, signifies eternal friendship and trust and is the perfect gift for a friend. *Garnet*, derived from the word *granatum*, means seed, and is called so because of the gemstone's resemblance to a pomegranate seed. References to the gemstone dates back to 3100 B.C., when the Egyptians used garnets as inlays jewellery. *Garnet* is the name of a group of minerals that comes in a rainbow of colors, from the deep red of the pyrope garnet to the vibrant green of tsavorites. Today, the most important sources for garnet are Africa, Sri Lanka, and India.

Australian garnets can be found at Fullarton River or Harts Range



FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE

Amethyst

Amethyst, the gemstone believed by ancient Greeks and Romans to ward off the intoxicating powers of Bacchus, also is said to keep the wearer clear-headed and quick-witted. Throughout history, the gemstone has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. English regalia were even decorated with amethysts during the Middle Ages to symbolize royalty. Amethyst is purple quartz, a beautiful blend of violet and red that can be found in every corner of the earth. Historically, the finest amethyst were found in Russia and were featured in much royal European jewellery. Today, while Brazil is the primary source of this gemstone, fine material can be found elsewhere, especially in Zambia.



Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive

set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and, with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him a super calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called "rush hour"

DO YOU HAVE A CLUB NAME BADGE???

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.

To order, 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

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Northern Districts Lapidary Club acknowledges the support of Hornsby Council.

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NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB INC. *at times and dates as published in the calendar in Lapis and on the club's website,*

holds the majority of its monthly meetings in the Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Road, Beecroft at 7.30pm 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

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

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

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.

CURRENT CLASSES & ACTIVITIES HELD IN CLUB ROOMS

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: John Andersen P) 9871 4162

7.30pm SILVER JEWELLERY

Instructor: Brian Burns

P) 9878 4073

Thursday

7.30pm CABOCHON CUTTING

Instructor: Jacqueline Burnett

P) 9877 0402

Saturday

1.00pm FAMILY CLASS

Instructor: Emanuel and Adriana

Vassallo P) 9875 1827

M) 0431 104 554

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.

Meeting dates for 2015

All meetings are held in the Club rooms at Beecroft.

PLEASE NOTE: Tuesday night General Meetings will start at 7.30pm.

General Meetings:

2015			
Tuesday 10 th	February	2015	7.30pm
Tuesday 10 th	March	2015	7.30pm
Tuesday 14 th	April	2015	7.30pm
Saturday 16 th	May	2015	2pm
Saturday 13 th	June	2015	2pm
Saturday 18 th	July	2015	2pm
Saturday 15 th	August A.G.M.	2015	2pm
Saturday 12 th	September	2015	2pm
Tuesday 13 th	October	2015	7.30pm
Tuesday 10 th	November	2015	7.30pm
Saturday 5 th	December	2015	XMAS PARTY

Committee Meetings:

2015			
Tuesday 24 th	February	2015	7.30pm
Tuesday 31 st	March	2015	7.30pm
Tuesday 28 th	April	2015	7.30pm
Tuesday 26 th	May	2015	7.30pm
Tuesday 30 th	June	2015	7.30pm
Tuesday 28 th	July	2015	7.30pm

Interesting dates for your diary

(Bold items are run by your Club)

2015

14th-15th February Orange Lapidary & Mineral Club 50th Anniversary Celebration Exhibition

21st -22nd February Carving and inlay workshop with Frances Sun

1st March Rock Swap – Stuart Park Woolongong-Illawarra Lapidary Club

1st March Newcastle Lapidary Club Annual Rock Auction, club rooms 2 Dora Rd Adamstown

7th-8th March Enamelling Workshop with Barbara Try

21st-22nd March Canberra Lapidary Club Rock Swap

24th March Annual Gem and Craft Show, New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club inc. Armidale showground, free entry

3rd-6th April **GEMBOREE 2015** will be held in Horsham, Victoria

30th-31st May Winter Gemcraft & Mineral Show Canberra Lapidary Club

26th-27th September BATHEX 2015 Exhibition

3rd-5th October GEMKHANA 2015 Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of NSW Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon

7th-8th November Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show Canberra Lapidary Club

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 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.

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Please note that the February 2015 edition of *LAPIS* was edited, collated, formatted and distributed by NDLC's Editor of Lapis, Jean Barringham, with contributions by Colin Hazell, Jean Macleay, Ulrich Schock, Vivienne Jones.

