



CalCoastGem

The Official Newsletter of Caloundra Lapidary Club Inc.

“Connecting Culture & Community”
9 Caloundra Rd, Caloundra – behind Information Centre

Meetings



Events

Aug 2	Ipswich Show
7-10	Anakie Gem Fest
30	Waterloo Bay Gem Show, Hemmant
Sep 13-14	Bribie Island Gem Fest
27	Caloundra Gem Show
Oct 4	Beenleigh Gem Festival
11	Nambour Gemfest
25-26	Toowoomba Gemfest
Nov 8-9	Bundaberg Gemfair
15	Sunshine Coast Gem Show, Mooloolaba

President's Report

Field trips to Koroit Opal fields and Central Queensland Gem Fields. Jim Kerley was the expedition leader to Koroit on Andrew & Spike's lease. All reported they had a good time with some small finds and plenty of fun. John & Edith attempted to find some cutters from the Willows with an amusing report coming from that crafty person.. ANON. It certainly was a good read.

Over \$3000 worth of replacement diamond wheels have been ordered. Just a reminder that these machines are for cabbing not for large rocks. Owing to the large numbers at some sessions some machines have to be shared by two people, so please have ½ hour sessions and then check that there are not others waiting for their turn.

New carpet has been laid in all the old part of the club rooms and looks and smells 100 percent. The old carpet was acquired second hand some where about 1999 so was well past its use by date.

The club has disposed of both the computer (fried Gecko) and the old Kelvinator refrigerator which just refused to go anymore... Kaput! We have acquired a second hand fridge and Jessie Fletcher hopes to get the computer going again.

Our 2014 Jewellery and Gem Show has been booked at Caloundra State Primary School, Queens Street on Sat 27th September. A one day show with set up for the traders booked inside the hall on the Friday evening. We have spoken to the school tuckshop caterers; they are all prepared for a bigger show this year. The Club has signed up to be part of THE FRINGE FESTIVAL as it is on the same date. We will get added publicity and hopefully more patrons through the doors. Raffle books are ready to be distributed, we ask all our members to work hard to sell these great prizes as it is our main source of income for the year. The prizes have a replacement valuation certificate of over \$7000.

Cheers Eric
President

Eric Thomas, President

Around the Club

Opening Hours

Monday	9 am to 12 noon 6 pm to 9 pm	Facing with instruction (John). Cabochons Wire-wrapping (Roger). Faceting with instruction (Eric). Enameling (Peter & Wendy) Beginners (Greg)
Tuesday	6 pm to 9 pm	
Wednesday	9 am to 12 noon 6 pm to 9 pm	Cabochons. Faceting for the experienced Silver with instruction (Dave & Edith)
Thursday	6 pm to 9 pm	Cabochons with instruction. Carving with instruction. Faceting for the experienced
Friday	CLOSED	
Saturday Last Saturday of the month	9 am to 12 noon 9 am to 4 pm	Cabochons with instruction (Doug). Silver with instruction if required.
Sunday	CLOSED	

Suggestion Box: You are welcome to put any written suggestions in the Suggestion Box on the display case in the Club that may be of benefit to the operation of the club and to its members

Club Merchandise: Club shirts are available for purchase and are available for the handsome sum of \$27.00. Contact the Treasurer if you would like to purchase. Club aprons (vinyl) are also available for \$18.00 each. They are excellent value and are heavy duty and come in a good length and can be cut to size. Loops available for \$62.00

Club Badge: These are standard issue for new members. Cost is included in the joint fee. If you require a new badge, record your request on the sign-in register (in the membership column), deposit \$11.00 in the cashbox and your badge will be ordered by the Treasurer

Grants

Our Grants Committee are endeavouring to get a submission into the Gambling community benefit Fund by the end of August for Solar Power and replacement of electric motors. The cost of these two items is over \$15000

Eric Thomas

Library Report

On our travels I purchased a new book for the library called Complete Jewellery – it is becoming more difficult to purchase suitable books but I will still be looking around.

Money raised from borrowing library books was \$4.40 for the last quarter. This money goes towards purchasing new books. It is good to see the library being used. (There are several books & dvds still not being returned within a reasonable time frame.)

Thank you to David Parker & Greg and anyone else who might have helped move the Library area for the laying of new carpet and then putting it back again - good job, well done! (Thanks also for dusting shelving and books.)

Gavin Wheldon
Librarian

New Members

We would like to welcome our new club members:

Karin Knipper

David Parker

Steve Chaffey

Bryan Fenn

Michael McCuaig

Linda Moore

Jessi Byers



A very happy bunch with their Awards. Congratulations to John Sandifort who was awarded 2nd prize in the faceting competition at Hervey Bay. Well done John.

Faceting Report

The faceting classes are still well attended with even more interest from new member. Many members have purchased their own faceting machine after gaining more confidence and broadening their faceting skills.

We have six machines. The two Halls machines recently purchased as well as the VJ are being well utilised. I would encourage members to enter into competitions in order to gain more skills. It is the best way to become a better faceter. This also applies to cabbing, silver work etc. Many gem shows have competitions in all facets of Lapidary, judged by trained experts.

Anyone interested in learning the skills of faceting can talk to myself or Eric Thomas. A starter kit will cost \$25.00, and you will need an Optivisor, Insulated tweezers, a two pack adhesive and lots of patience.

John Sandifort
Faceting Instructor

Aquamarine

Aquamarine was the

talisman of the sailor for centuries, its colors resemble those of the sea and it has a delicate watery appearance that perfectly suits its name. It is the blue-green to green-blue variety of beryl. It ranges from an icy pale blue to a medium dark blue color. Although, even in the darkest shades, its color is always a pastel blue with varying amounts of green as a secondary color. Aquamarine can be found in fairly large sizes. Light colors can be low in price but more saturated blues can be moderate to expensive.



Aquamarine is readily available in eye-clean stones. Because the color is light, any inclusions in the stone would be easier to see. Its hardness is about 8: it is a fairly tough gemstone. You can assume that an aquamarine has been gently heated. The aquamarine rough is usually a bluish- green when mined; heating drives out the green overtones and intensifies the blue color. The color generally darkens as the size increases: finding a small stone with a medium to dark blue color may be challenging; but larger stones can be found in the darker colors.

Aquamarine is most often cut into emerald cuts. Cushions and ovals

Museum Report

The Museum is looking better all the time, I am about two thirds of the way through identifying and cataloging rocks. There are many good specimens of minerals and Rocks for sale in the Museum at very attractive prices which anyone may purchase. A good selection of Minerals have been photographed and are able to be viewed on the club website. More specimens will be photographed and added to our website in the near future. Please feel free to visit the museum at any time. There are some rare and amazing Rocks and Minerals on display.

John Sandifort
Museum Curator

Field Trips – Previously sent out under separate cover from the Secretary

Silver Smithing Report

Firstly, welcome to our new members, it is truly satisfying to see the good work, which, together with the demonstration of your newly acquired skills, you have produced some eye opening silverwork.

To all our club members participating in our Silver Smithing Classes, the skills and perseverance shown by you, together with your creative designs, all projects are certainly a credit to you and your dedication to silver smithing.



Members are encouraged to consider submitting completed jewellery projects for sale at our Caloundra Lapidary Club Gem and Jewellery Show in September.

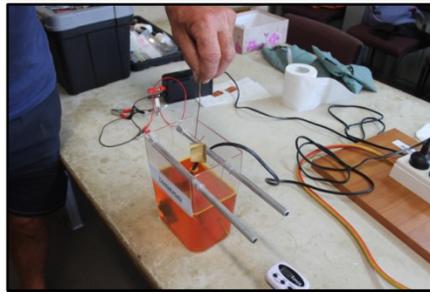
New tools purchased by our club include, disc cutters, dapping punch set and a neck mandrel, all of which are being put to good use by members.



Remember, please use all equipment with care and caution, if in doubt, please ask for assistance, any of our members are only too happy to help.

Electroplating 24 carat gold and Tarnavoid coating sessions, held on the last Wednesday evenings, and last Saturdays of each month, continue to be popular with club members.

are also readily available. If you are buying an aquamarine, the color will be your most important consideration. Examine the stone to be sure that it does not have excessive depth in the pavilion to make the stone appear darker. This will make it heavier and more difficult to set. In some very dark blue Brazilian aqua there may be some inclusions, but eye clean stones in lighter shades are generally easy to find.



Reminder: Tarnavoid prolongs the prevention of tarnishing of sterling silver, gold plating, brass and copper jewellery.

Due to the added interest in Silver Smithing, requests have been made for an additional "ALL DAY" session, as per the end of month session.

This additional "ALL DAY" would be held on the second Saturday of each month. Please advise your thoughts and commitment at your next Silver Smithing session, with the warmer weather approaching, we are confident we should have sufficient numbers to warrant the extra session.

Interest has been shown for detailed instruction for the use of TITANIUM together with silver and copper. Titanium can be coloured by applying heat at varying temperatures.

Please advise your interest to enable your club to pursue an instructor for a future session.



Note – All jewellery images of Caloundra Lapidary Club member`s silver work.

Dave Dowl
Silver Instructor

Prizes for the

TIPS FROM THE JEWELLER'S BENCH



First Prize



Second Prize



Third Prize

Soldering

Ensuring a Clean Solder Joint at every stage in the soldering process, it's essential to avoid contaminants. You can start by cleaning the piece in an ultrasonic before soldering. In addition, follow these steps to ensure the cleanest possible solder joint:

Remove all polishing residue from your fingers before fitting a joint. Most contaminants affecting solder joints are introduced by a secondary process. One of the most common mistakes is having polishing residue on your fingers when fitting a joint together. Most abrasive components of polishing compounds are metallic oxides or inorganic minerals, neither of which responds well to solder. This is why it's essential to clean your hands properly before fitting a joint.

Avoid contact with oil and grease. Although some types of grease are used to form paste solders, most grease and oil will negatively affect soldering. After the grease or oil burns away, a residue of sulphur is left behind while other elements in the mix may volatilize and form a gas. Solder won't flow over sulphur.

Use a fire coat or boric acid slurry to prevent oxidation. Metallic oxides left on the surface to be soldered, including oxidation, account for most solder-flow problems. Solder will not flow over a non-metallic surface. Once a surface oxidizes, it takes on non-metallic properties and henceforth solder will not flow over that area.

The best way to deal with oxidation is to avoid it in the first place. A fire coat should be used to prevent oxidation when the piece is heated. There are many brands on the market that are effective.

Another common surface coating is powdered boric acid. This is usually mixed with denatured alcohol to form thin slurry, similar to condensed milk, into which the piece is dipped. Regardless of which coating you use, be sure to completely cover all surfaces that are exposed to heat. Any metal surface left unprotected runs the risk of reacting with the oxygen in the atmosphere and forming an oxide.

Remove oxidation before soldering. If light surface oxidation occurs, it may be possible to chemically strip it in a pickle solution. A note of caution here: Contaminated pickle solution can defeat the purpose by actually causing surface oxidation. If there is any question as to whether the pickle is contaminated or not, change it. In instances where the oxidation is more severe, it may be necessary to remove it by filing or using emery paper.

Use flux when soldering. You must use flux whenever soldering. Flux performs a variety of important functions. First, it reduces surface tension between the melted solder and the piece to enhance solder flow. It also forms a protective gas barrier that shields the melted solder from the atmosphere.

In addition, flux reacts with oxygen present to keep it from reacting with the metal. Some fluxes are specifically formulated to enhance this action so they are able to remove light surface oxides. However, they are not a substitute for proper cleaning. Since flux enhances solder flow, if it is applied over the entire piece the solder can flow everywhere it is present. For this reason, be sure to apply flux to the joint area only.

Extract from piece by Gregg Todd - © MJSA Journal

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