



CalCoastGem

The Official Newsletter of Caloundra Lapidary Club Inc.
"Connecting Culture & Community"
9 Caloundra Rd, Caloundra – behind Information Centre

MEETINGS

16 Mar – Committee Meeting

18 May – General Meeting

EVENTS

March

2-3 Nth Brisbane Gem Fest, Aviation High Sec School, Hendra

29-31 Easter Rock Swap, Warwick Showgrounds

April

6 Gatton Gem Show, Showgrounds

25 Anzac Day

May

4-5 Redcliffe Gem Show, Southern Cross Catholic College, Kippa-Ring

12 Mother's Day

18-19 Lismore Gemfest, Lismore Show Grounds

25 Mt Gravatt Gem Show, Mt Gravatt Club House, 1873 Logan Rd, Mt Gravatt

Note to One's self – Public Event

Once every three months, on the last Saturday of the month the Club will hold a garage sale including sales of lapidary items, members' jewellery for sale and anything you may want to sell. A sausage sizzle, museum tours etc. will also be happening.. First event date to be advised.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

AUTUMN 2013

The year began with the hottest summer on record followed by Oswald. I hope our members weren't too affected although some lost their power for several days. We had a great turn out for the Australia Day Breakfast with over 40 attending. Eggs, bacon, tomatoes, sausages and mushrooms were all cooked to perfection by our Master Chefs. We now have a new BBQ donated to the Club by Bunnings. Thank you for your efforts Lynda and a hearty *thank you* to Howard from Bunnings for their generosity. Our Silver classes are being well attended and some excellent work is being displayed. Roger has started his wire wrapping tuition on Monday nights. We purchased a new kiln just before Xmas. The table for the kiln is ready and the sink installed. Casting classes as well as enamelling classes are on the agenda. The club room extensions were started on 23rd January with the slab poured on the

31st. The replacement of the club room roof and the cladding for the new part was booked for the 14 and 15 February. The plaster and electricals are next in line. We look forward to completion. New security grills and benches are on the way for the faceting area.



Our 2013 Jewellery and Gem Show has been booked at Caloundra State Primary School, Queen Street on Saturday 28 September. Further information is detailed in the Jewellery and Gem Show Report.

Diane & Owen are in NZ for a few weeks. Dave has had a trip to Thunderbird Park looking for Thunder Eggs. Cheryl & Craig visited the Tweed River & Mt Warning area and came back with some contacts for a field trip later in the year - agate etc. The club has had offers from two members with opal leases to visit in May, 2500 km round trip for about 2 weeks.

Contact Eric if interested. John & Edith Sandifort are heading for the The Willows Sapphire fields in June, and then on to Mt. Isa, Cloncurry, Harts Range for Zircons, Garnets and minerals. Contact John for more information.

Eric Thomas
President

The Club granted me a Life Membership on Saturday 16th February. I would like to say how honored and humble I feel in receiving this award. My thanks and appreciation is extended to all the members for their part in contributing to the vitality, growth and development of this, our Club.

Thank you,
Eric Thomas

New Members

We would like to welcome our new club members, belated for some and prompt for others:

Dave Nichols
Robert MacNeil
John Neville
Felicia Iligitim
George Sedgewick
Dave Sheridan
Dave Bingham
Frank Timms
David Dowl
Dorothy Marshall
Ian Hill
Barbara Hill
Monica Yarrow
Heather Timms
Astrid Peet

Around the Club

Opening Hours

Mon:	9am to 12noon 6pm to 9.00 pm	Faceting with instruction Wire wrapping with Roger
Tue:	6pm to 9.00pm	Cabochons with instruction
Wed:	9am to 12noon 6pm to 9 pm	Cabochons, Silver & Faceting for the experienced Silver with instruction
Thu:	6pm to 9.00pm	Cabochons with instruction, Carving with instruction and Faceting for the experienced
Fri:	CLOSED	
Sat:	9am to 12noon	Cabochons with instruction. Silversmithing
All day opening – Last Saturday of the Month		
Sun:	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 or John Sandifort (5499 6764) 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.

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

Billy Boulders' wanted

Sapphires (and Zircons) on the Central Queensland field come accompanied by (lots more) quartzite rocks, 'Billy boulders'. I would like to get a supply – probably about 15, of a size to fit in a man's palm – and would be prepared to swap slightly more valuable, slabbed rock in exchange. I want to make door knobs. If you've got some, or are going to CQ soon, please contact Jim McAllister, Ph: **5494 8179**.

Did you know...

Variscite is a hydrated aluminium phosphate mineral. It is a relatively rare phosphate mineral. It is sometimes confused with turquoise; however, variscite is usually greener in color.

Variscite is a secondary mineral formed by direct deposition from phosphate-bearing water that has reacted with aluminium-rich rocks in a near-surface environment. It occurs as fine-grained masses in nodules, cavity fillings, and crusts. Variscite often contains white veins of the calcium aluminium phosphate mineral crandallite.

Variscite is sometimes used as a semi-precious stone, and is popular for carvings and ornamental use. It was first described in 1837 and named for the locality of Variscia, the historical name of the Vogtland, in Germany

At one time, variscite was called *Utahlite*. At times, materials which may be turquoise or may be variscite have been marketed as "variquoise". Appreciation of the colour ranges typically found in variscite has made it a popular gem in recent years. Variscite from Nevada typically contains black spiderwebbing in the matrix and is often confused with green turquoise. Most of the Nevada variscite recovered in recent decades has come from mines located in Lander County.

Notable localities are Lucin, Utah and Fairfield, Utah in the United States. It is also found in Germany, Australia, Poland, Spain and Brazil.



Silverwork

My thanks to Wendy and Edith for their continuing help and without whom the whole thing would not be possible.

Thanks must always go to Ken Dickson for the Wednesday morning he helps out with the jewellery making at the club.

And of course my thanks and gratitude to Don Atkinson for his constant help and guidance throughout the year. His skills help and advice could not be bought at any price. Thank you Don.

I would also like to thank Greg for always being there and sorting out the silver stock. Maybe it's time that some of the 'silversmiths' found out how it all works and then we can give him a night off once in a while!

We are doing very well on Wednesday evenings. The attendees range from school age to, well let's be polite and just say, the other end of the scale! What still thrills me is when someone completes something they thought they couldn't possibly do and the excitement and smiles when they realize that it is they who have managed to do it. That in itself makes it all worthwhile.

The range and the capabilities of the individual are amazing and there is a broad range of skills within the workshop group. Everyone is improving in leaps and bounds and this is mostly due to the happy atmosphere and the generosity of the participants in sharing their ideas, knowledge and skills. I just love it. Although at times I wonder how anything gets done with all the chit chat. Somehow it does, and pretty darn good stuff too!

There are times when you see that someone is getting frustrated with what they are doing as they feel that it's not going right or they feel that it's taking too long to do. But they persevere and in the end out comes one individual work of art. We all just have to remember that hand-made is not about speed, it's about skill and that comes with practice and more practice. If babies gave up the first time they tried to walk then how would they ever stand on their two feet!

The evening is pretty full almost every time. If many more come along then we are going to need a bigger shed!

Wendy is keeping a photo log of almost everyone's finished creative works and one day we might even arrange a cabinet for a show and tell....

Thank you all who come and support the silver workshops. My life is improved by your enthusiasm.

Casting

I have managed to get John Kunhius from the Buderim Club to come and visit. He has had many years doing jewellery casting. He makes many of his own moulds and of course has a great many silver castings for sale for those who do not want to do their own casting. I will get him to bring a sample with him.

We (the club) still have to get some more gear in order to make the casting workshops work at their best for example, Vacuum Investing & Casting Machine and a Kerr Electro Melting furnace. We can cast without these items but they will make up the 'proper deal' for a professional casting experience.

As we speak, I am getting myself invited to other clubs to experience their 'how to' in casting and enamelling and will keep the interested informed. Regarding dates and times for lost wax casting it's much the same as the enamelling. Put your name down on the list of interested people on the sheet in the club so that I can plan accordingly.

Regards
Peter.

Enameling

In 400BC Zeuxis the artist said:

“Criticism comes easier than craftsmanship”.

It is said Zeuxis laughed himself to death after painting a funny old woman. (Just my kind of man) P.

Wendy and I have been attending enameling lessons with Anna-Margot Collins in Aspley, Brisbane with a view to expanding opportunities to club members and increasing our skills in other artistic achievements. Wendy and I are demonstrating what we have learnt to all of those who might be interested in enameling on Friday evenings; this could change depending on interest shown.

It is hard to find suitable times to fit in with the competing schedules of individuals as some work and some don't, some don't like travelling at night, some don't like Friday evenings as it is 'beer / wine' night! Unfortunately, one can't please everyone!

I don't particularly want to do the demonstrations in a normal club open day as enameling involves the kiln and open flame work so I don't want people just popping in or stopping by for a quick look mostly for safety reasons.

My thoughts are the same as they have always been. It will not be for everyone, but everyone should at least have an understanding of how things work and what can be done.

There will be some details and a list made up to see who and how many numbers are interested, and we will work out days and times from there. So look for the list in the Club rooms.

Peter and Wendy.

Website www.caloundralapidaryclub.org.au

Members are encouraged to advertise items of equipment for sale with photos and descriptions on the Club's website

FIELD TRIPS

In October/November we headed down south to Inverell. Sixteen members in total stayed at the caravan park with some staying in cabins. We had three new couples keen to find some good specimens. They were Warren and Bev Rossow, David and Monica Yarrow and Ian and Barbara Hill.

Our first outing was to Staggy Creek. I showed those new to fossicking what to do - basically dig was the order of the day. It turned out to be a very disappointing site just some small pieces of tourmaline and quartz. David found a small topaz and so did I.

The next day we headed off to Stannifer Creek. The weather was looking a bit suss. We were looking for jelly beans and that got everyone interested. They are basically water worn pieces of quartz shaped like jelly beans, hence the name.

We soon popped up some pieces then the rain started. It did not deter anyone as more and more were found. Eventually the rain intensified and we packed up. Some went into the village of Tingha and visited a museum. It was a productive day as everyone came back with jelly beans.

Day 3.

The weather had all cleared up. The group split up some went to Tingha Sands and the others back to Stannifer Creek area (a new site) basically a quarry. We all found more quartz and jelly beans. The others reported finds of smoky quartz from Tingha Sands quarry. Everyone had a great day out.

Day 4.

Again we split up into two groups. Some members went to Nullamanna looking for Sapphires. They did not find any. Some of us went to Elsmore (an old tin mine) and we found some small pieces of cassiterite (tin crystals) and smoky quartz. It was a hot day and digging was hard.

Day 5.

All members went fossicking at 7 Oaks (a pay dig) and we paid \$15.00 per head, a group discount. We spent the whole day there. Everyone found sapphires, mainly small ones. Ray found a big bomb and David found a possible cutter. It was a good day out and the weather was nice and sunny.

Day 6.

Just Peter, Wendy, Edith and myself went to check out Wallangarra, I have not been there before and we came away with a bucket load of tourmaline in quartz. It was just laying on the ground and no hard digging. We also visited a waterfall and cave nearby.

Ray and Denise went back to 7 Oaks to try their luck again. Most other members had left for other commitments.

Day 7.

We left Inverell and travelled to Glen Innes. Ray, Edith and myself visited Bob Irish (his name was given to us by Doug). He has a fantastic collection of rocks and minerals. His main focus is on agates and he had an incredible collection.

Day 8.

At this stage it was only Ray, Denise and ourselves left. We spend the day digging at a free reserve called Wellingrove and found some small specks of sapphire and zircon.

Day 9.

We went to a pay dig Boolabinda at \$8.00 per head. The location was a bush setting with a clean creek flowing through and we settled for the day on a nice grassy patch. The digging was difficult as there were many rocks. I got a pretty blue speck in the first bucket and nothing after that. Ray got nothing except for a flat tyre as we left for home.

All in all a good time was had by everyone and we all went a couple of nights to the local Bowling Club for a meal and as usual we had our obligatory happy hour each evening boasting about what we did not find.

Thanks to all members for their support I hope that our next venture will produce bigger and better finds.

John Sandifort
Field Officer

JEWELLERY AND GEM SHOW 2013 COMMITTEE REPORT

Our 2013 Jewellery and Gem Show has been booked at Caloundra State Primary School, Queen Street on Saturday 28 September - a one day show with set up for the traders booked for inside the hall on the Friday evening. Measurements have been taken and a graphic layout has been put together by Andrea Zink. Traders for the indoor area have been approached and booked. A bulk email will be sent to all our contacts when the payment by PayPal is operating.

Our generous sponsors are:

- **Opals Down Under, Palmview**
- **Sunstate Jewellery, George Street**
- **The Diamond Mine Jewellers, Pelican Waters Shopping Village**
- **Got To Go Camping, Caloundra Road**
- **Rainbow Fuel, Regent Street.**
- **Phil Driver Service Center, Arthur Street.**
- **Gem Cuts, Lapidary & Jewellers Tools & Supplies, Ballina.**
- **Sapphire Engineering, manufacturers of VJ Faceting Machines, Childers**

It would be nice if we could support these generous people.

Eric Thomas
Convenor

Librarian's Report

Some changes have been introduced to the operation of the Club's Library. They have been designed to make it more user friendly for borrowers.

All books dealing with:

- **General Rocks, Gems and Minerals** have been labeled with **White** labels numbered from 1 onwards.
- **Jewellery and Jewellery making** are **Yellow** labels numbered from 200 onwards
- **Faceting** are **Green** labels numbered from 300 onwards.
- **Gold Prospecting** is **Orange** number from 400 onwards.

A laminated list of all books is on the end of the bookcase. The magazine case contains a number of old magazines and these can be purchased for 10 cents each.

When borrowing books or DVDs, it has been decided to ask for a donation of 20 cents per book or DVD for a maximum loan period of 3 weeks (limit of 2 books or DVDs at a time). These donations will help towards purchasing further books and magazines for the library. The 20 cent donation can be placed in the money box provided. It is based on an honesty system.

Greg Reynolds is seeking donations towards the removal of his **famous** beard. All donations raised will also go to purchasing new books or magazines for the club.

There are books labeled 'For reference only. Not to be taken from the Club Rooms'. These books contain information that is relevant to Club Members and needs to be made available at all times.

Book Returns - when returning books they need to be placed in the box provided. Enter the return date in exercise book provided. Do **not** tick the date as the Librarian does this when returning the books back into the shelves.

Any questions can be directed towards Gavin Wheldon, the Librarian

GRANTS COMMITTEE REPORT AGM, 16TH FEB. 2013

At last things are beginning to happen. Shortly after our Christmas break, our nominated builder Dan Rolley received the go ahead to commence work on our building.

This is ongoing as I write this report. Unfortunately the weather has once again hindered the progress. However two or three days without rain would see the project completed. Progress payments have been made in accordance with our contract.

Negotiations are about to commence with Council re the supply and fitting of two Air Conditioning units to be placed in the Club Room and Faceting and Museum area. If this is successful, we will have completed a project that has been a long time in the planning but will result in a magnificent Lapidary Club.

I would like to thank this extremely proactive Club Committee for their sterling efforts in working tirelessly and at times very strenuously over the last two years in order to make this happen. I would also like to thank those members who, without hesitation, put up their hands to help run the Club by becoming Instructors in Faceting, Cabbing and Silverwork and sharing their knowledge and imparting their special skills.

A great effort and it has been a pleasure being part of this Club.

Graydon Willcox,
Grants Convener.

Wendy's Fossicking Trip

Peter and I set off for the Inverell fossicking trip and stopped off at Kilcoy as the Sunday market was on. I found a lovely small dendrobium orchid in flower that I had not got so bought one. Then we drove on intending to stay a Warwick, but when we got there the Rodeo was on that week-end so all the motels had no vacancy on them, we ended up staying at Stannum Lodge Motor Inn, Stanthorpe, and that was the last room available too. We also drove through Girraween National Park as I had been told it was a nice place to stay. I just read the notice boards and we looked at the three camp sites for future reference and agreed it would be nice to stay there one day and do the walks we stopped at Deepwater to look at the Mr. Tumbles shop that had relocated from Brisbane a few years ago. They had loads of lovely tumbled stones for wire wrapping, belt buckles or to make into jewellery and an amazing array of beading items and findings, crafts and giftware.

Next morning we arrived at the Inverell Caravan Park and found we had been upgraded to a family cabin as the rest were full. This was very nice as I had booked ages ago, it was a lot bigger, and it was on the perimeter of the park near the Macintyre River. There was a white egret in the river and I like taking photos of bird, insects and flowers, so that was a bonus too. Also when we arrived a beautiful cat called Phoebe was in reception and the owners had three dogs and a bird aviary in the grounds with finches, cockatiels, budgies, and a guinea pig in it.

John had organised all the trips out and the first one was at Staggy creek. It was quite hot there amongst the trees and I don't dig much anymore, I just speck and scratch about with a small garden rake. We were looking for tourmaline and tourmaline in quartz. I was wandering around looking for a nice spot and found one near the track where a person had previously been digging. I was finding little bits that would fit into a ring then unearthed a long thin well worn piece that looked like a piece of charcoal. It should polish up okay and make a pendant. We all stopped for lunch and had a look what the others had found. Peter had been wandering around and found the skeleton head and two back bones of a cow that had been bleached by the sun. We all agreed to meet at five o'clock to have Happy Hour under the barbecue shelter, and show each other what the finds were for the day. I really enjoy fossicking, being out in the bush and with friendly people.

Next day I went to Stannifer Creek with Ray and Denise Rolley who kindly gave me a lift as Peter wanted to stay back at the cabin to do some silverwork. We were busy digging and sieving and I found my first jelly bean. This was easy digging in sand, but it started to drizzle with rain, so we had a bite to eat and some decided to go back to the caravan park as the rain got heavier. I found a black spider on a rock in the river carrying a white egg sac, so got a good photo of that. When we got back it became sunny again, so Peter and I went for a drive around Inverell and found the lookout point overlooking the town of Inverell.

Then it was to Tingha Sands and only four of us went in the morning as you can't have too many people there at the same time because there is not enough room at the heap, as it falls off the belt that washes the sand. When we got there we had to go to the office to sign in for safety reasons and to pay our fee, and waiting for us was the caretaker/leading hand called Tommy, who was a beautiful grey and black striped cat. He was really fussy and followed us to the heap where I got lots of photos of him. We got a bit of quartz from there but no really good grass stones that morning. What did fall down on to the heap was a huge witchetty grub. I had never seen a real one before, and was amazed at the size of it, a good photo for me there. Then we were allowed to look at a lot of the mullocks heaps around and I found more pieces of clear quartz just sunbaking on top of the soil. We stopped for morning tea where we had parked the car and there was a big lizard, a water dragon sitting on a big concrete pipe. I threw it a bit of apple and it came closer to get it, so I had a good opportunity for more photos. After we left there we went to some different mullocks heaps where some of the others were, and had lunch, then I went to speck and rake small bits of earth and found my perfect jelly bean nearly straight away and next to it in the soil were three or four bits of clear topaz. What a lucky find. As we were about to leave John and Edith called me over as they had found a small frog, so he put it on a rock to take some pictures. It was quite hot that day, especially at Tingha sands, but very enjoyable. In the afternoon Peter and I went for a drive to John Oxley Park where they were going to look for citrine, smoky quartz and tin crystals the next day. We had been there before years ago with some club members and I remember it was hard digging up this hill. The park was lovely as ever though with weeping willows hanging over the river, a picturesque sight. Later that afternoon we also drove to Lake Inverell Reserve to look at the wildlife there. We saw these long-necked turtles up on the bank and wondered what they were doing, then realised they were digging in the soil to lay their eggs, we saw sixteen of them and what an opportunity to take photos for me, one was actually in the process of egg-laying. A local man was there at the time and he said he had never seen it either in all the years he has lived there. On the lake were lots of water birds and black swans and in the reserve around the lake, willy wagtails, blue fairy wrens and currawongs that I got photos of. I have had some of these photos printed on canvas at Big W and they turned out really good.

Next day we decided to stay at the caravan park and walk down the riverside path into town to have a look around, we passed a water fountain spurting up from the river and it was a lovely sunny day. We were having a bite to eat at a café when the lady who owned the caravan park with her husband came by and sat with us, she had just started casual work that day at the newly opened Crazy Clarkes. We went to the tourist information centre too as there was a shop within it that sold jewellery with sapphires in, from the area and the prices were reasonable. Then we found the Inverell Art Gallery exhibiting the local arts and crafts of the town that you could buy, entry was by donation.

When the 7 Oaks trip was on John and Edith kindly took me as Peter was into silver smithing again. It was down this dirt track road and everything was well set up with equipment to dig, wash and sieve for sapphires. I did it till morning tea, then my back told me to stop so I wandered round taking photos of blue fairy wrens, tree creepers, the two dogs that lived there and the artefacts of old farm machinery and an old car, and of course of everyone enjoying themselves looking for the elusive sapphires. At lunch time it was noticed that a man was knelt on the dirt heap looking for colour. Well after that I sat where he had been in the sunshine, and found blue chips of sapphires, more than I had found sieving. Then Barbara joined me on the heap and found some too, to me this was easier than digging, washing and sieving, just wafting my hands through the dirt and seeing the blue colour glint in the sunshine. Another enjoyable day.

Two evenings we went to the local bowls club for a meal which had been booked as there were quite a few of us, the meals were very good and the price was too, and Denise won a prize in one of the raffles.

On the last fossicking day at Inverell there were only four of us as some people had gone home and some stayed at the park. So John, Edith, Peter and I set off to Wallangra to look for tourmaline in quartz, down a long dirt track road to this wooded area. As soon as we had parked up I found loads of it scattered all over the ground, no digging for me here which was perfect. People had obviously been there before and dug and left bits lying around, Peter did bring a bigger chunk back that he levered out of the soil and I was pleased with what we found. We then went on to look the limestone cave near Wallangra and the Macintyre Falls. It was very dry there, so we sat and had lunch and a local ranger drove up to have a chat with us. On the way back we stopped at the pub in Ashford for a drink and the landlady had just taken over the day before, and she had a pet rainbow lorikeet that she brought to show us. It sat on our shoulders and was nibbling the flower clip in my hair. Then it was back to the caravan park to pack up for Peter and I were leaving the next day as he was due back at work soon.

When we set off the market was on in Inverell so we stopped and had a look and I got a tassel bromeliad, and two small opals that were really cheap. We stopped at Somerset dam too for an ice cream and there were sulphur crested cockatoos in the trees and Peter noticed something in another tree. The owner of the café called me over as I had my camera in my hand and said to go into his yard to take a photo as it was a young koala sat in a tree. How lucky is that. Then his wife came out and threw some seeds out and wood ducks, cockatoos, and galahs came right in front of us to feed.

We had a lovely week away and I'd like to thank everyone for making it so enjoyable and giving me lifts, and also to John for organising the trip, I wish we could have gone on to do the Glen Innes trip too.



Wendy

OFFICE BEARERS for 2012

Club Patron: Cr. Tim Dwyer

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Auditor	Save on Tax		

INSTRUCTORS

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Monday PM	Eric Thomas / Faceting / Duty Officer 54 381 094
Wednesday AM	Greg Reynolds / Duty Officer 0408 397755
	Ken Dickson / Silver
Wednesday PM	Peter Dyson / Silver / Duty Officer 54 938 048
Thursday PM	Greg Reynolds / Cabbing / Duty Officer 0408 397755
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