



CalCoastGem

The Official Newsletter of Caloundra Lapidary Club Inc.

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

Meetings

Mar 15 Committee Meeting

Events

Mar 10-17	Emmaville
Apr 19 – 21	50 th Gemboree Gatton
May 3 – 4	Redcliffe Gem Show
May 17 – 18	Lismore Gem show
May 24	Mt Gravatt Gem Show
May	Koroit
June 16 to 13 July	The Willows/Mt Surprise
June 21	Deception Bay Gem Show
June 28	Gold Coast Gem Show
July 13	Caboolture Gem Show

President’s Report

The last year has seen many changes within our club including the joining of the clubrooms and museum, the fitting out of faceting room, replacement of the asbestos roof, new air conditioning, and more tools for the silver workshop, three more faceting machines and a membership reaching over 120.

Diane and Owen opened their home to us and provided an entertaining day for us all. Field trips to Murgon and Koroit Opal fields helped fill some brag boxes

Our 2013 Jewellery and Gem Show had a much better outcome than we expected. Thanks to all who participated.

We had a great turnout for the Xmas luncheon and breakup

For the Australia Day Breakfast over 40 attended. Eggs, bacon, tomatoes sausages and mushrooms were all cooked to perfection by our Master Chefs. Sweets provided by all our wonderful cooks.

We have been having some large silver classes and some excellent work being displayed. It’s amazing how talented some of our members are with the fabrication, wire wrapping and enameling.

Our 2014 Jewellery and Gem Show has been booked at Caloundra State Primary School, Queens Street on Saturday 27 September. A one day show with set up for the traders booked inside the hall on the Friday evening. A graphic layout has been put together by Andria Zanki. Traders for the indoor area have been approached and booked. A bulk email will be sent to all our contacts now that the payment by Pay Pal is operating.

Our sponsors –

- Opals Down Under, Palmview
- Sunstate Jewellery, George Street
- The Diamond Mine Jewellers, Pelican Waters Shopping Village
- 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
- Performance Electrical, Arthur Street

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

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. 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

Rita Williams at Sunstate Jewellery has fabricated two Raffle Prizes, an Amethyst ring cut by John Sandifort, set in gold and a pendant with Prehnite in Gold and silver plus diamonds. Scott at Opals Down under will donate the other prize.

Jim McAllister has been unwell for some time. We wish him a speedy recovery.

John has organized trips to Emmaville, Koroit and the Sapphire Gem fields.

All Council health and safety requirements have been completed except for tag and test which will be done shortly

To our hardworking Committees, Grants Committee, Show Committee, Duty Officers, Web Master, teachers and helpers, thank you for your support, friendship and patience in 2013.

We look forward to a very good year in 2014.

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)
Tuesday	6 pm to 9 pm	Beginners (Greg)
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	

Treasurer

New Members

We would like to welcome our new club members:

Claudette Pettinger

Sharon Millward

Jessica Adams

Craig Johnstone

Ron Thornwaite

Allan Quin.

Grants

No action except for the contribution made for the new airconditioning which is now fully installed and up and running.

Library Report

Since my last report quite a number of books have been donated

3 new books were purchased for the Christmas raffle

The honesty box system is working very well and with the proceeds a couple of new books have also been purchased for the library

These books can be identified by having the word New in red on the book number label or by checking the laminated sheets hung on the book cabinet

If anybody has any suggestions on any books dealing with subjects not covered please let me know as we have money in hand to purchase more books thanks to the honesty box and previous donations

I am pleased to see that the library is being extensively used and that projects from the subscription magazines are being constructed by members. Here is an example. This piece done by Dave Yarrow



Gavin Wheldon
Librarian

Faceting

Continues to be a very popular activity and is going extremely well. Quite a few people are keen to come into the classes on Mondays which is beginners' classes. However we only have 6 machines available. I have ordered some new dops for the new machines. Very happy with the results.

John Sandifort

Museum Report

So far a lot of the material has been catalogued and named but not entirely finished. New material is coming in all the time. A lot of excess has been boxed up and sold. Last year we sold approximately \$1200 worth of material which was excess. Thank you to Max Layfield for his donations of stones and also the donations from Rita who donated a faceting machine (incomplete) and saw grinder (incomplete). Her only request was that polish some rocks for her as a thank you for the donation which we were only too happy to do.

John Sandifort
Museum Curator

Field Trips – John Sandifort

Currently, a number of members are very busy digging for their fortunes at Emmaville. Good luck to you all and hope you make some interesting finds.

In May a trip is planned to Koroit digging for opal, followed by The Willows and then on to Mt Surprise. This will be a big trip. Members can join at any part of the trip. There will be a day trip to the Prophet Mine at Kilkivan and another to Murgon to be announced. Later on in the year an excursion to Connondale is in the pipeline. All these trips will be on the board at the Club

Silver Work - A comprehensive report will be in the next newsletter.

Gold electroplating

On the last Wednesday and the last Saturday of March, David Yarrow set up the gold electroplating and a number of people had quite a few pieces plated with 24 karat gold. It was a very interesting process to observe. Attached are a couple of pictures to show you what transpired. (The photography leaves a lot to be desired but hopefully you will get the effect). Everyone was very happy with the outcome. Some people had bails plated as well as pendants. Dave advised that the higher the polish the better the outcome. For comparison, there was a wirewrapped piece that did not have a high polish and you can certainly see the difference. However it still looks good and makes a nice matte finish. You can have all sorts of items plated in the 24 karat gold including chains, pendants bails etc. The stones can already be set in the piece.

On each of the last Saturdays and the last Wednesday evenings of the month, the Electroplating will be set up for you to have your pieces plated. This month I am going to polish an old copper penny that I have added a bail to and see how the plating takes to that.

There is a small fee for each plating to cover the use of the liquid gold. There is also a service for having your silver pieces treated with an anti-tarnish process. So bring your silver pieces along and have those treated. Speak to Dave Yarrow who can give you all the ins and outs.



This piece is a ball pendant in two parts, the top has been plated with gold and the bottom is silver. A very lovely piece constructed by Michelle Spark

News from the recent Tucson Gem and Mineral Show held in February 2014

Master Cutter and a "Prospector" display record Topaz in Tucson

A Woodland Park prospector and a Sedona gemologist set the gem and mineral world to talking at the recent 2014 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. Richard Fretterd displayed some of his rare apricot-peach colored topaz crystal specimens from his "Angus Dei Tribute Pocket" in Colorado. The biggest one, cut and faceted without computer assistance by gemologist Stephen Kotlowski of Sedona, is the largest faceted topaz from Colorado by 3 times.

The Tucson show was the Tribute gems' first public appearance. It created a sensation, and is even being considered for acquisition by the Smithsonian, according to Fretterd, who said he would prefer to

see it stay in Colorado, perhaps at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

Kotlowski surprised Fretterd at the Tucson show by bringing another specimen of Rich's which he was not expecting to be ready. The "Angel" is 171.77 carats and the reflection of the facets when viewed face on with the narrow end up resembles an angel. Turned in certain lights, it appears the angel moves its wings. Kotlowski took the original 450 carat rough crystal and created a custom blunted triangle from it. It is also apricot-peach in color and from the same pocket in El Paso county

Extract from piece by Christine Ford from Tucson Live Blog. Photos by Stephen Kotlowski



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