

CalCoastGem

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

MEETINGS

EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 20 Open Day – Club open all day
27-28 Toowoomba Gemfest

NOVEMBER

- 8 Bunnings Induction
10-11 Bundaberg Gem Show
17 Suncoast Gem Fest

DECEMBER

- 1 Sausage Sizzle
Bunnings

New Members

We would like to welcome our new club members:

Andria Zanski
Mark Hunter
Jordy Stacy
Ryan John
Erin Francis
Madison Gould,
Emily Gair,
Teal Samson,
Cindy Kelly and
Victoria Werne

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SPRING 2012

It has been a very busy three months since our last newsletter. The new shed has been outfitted and pavers layed around the building. Thanks to all of those who put in a lot of time and effort to produce a wonderful job. The Club is very grateful for the donations that have been made including table-cloths, blinds, books, lights, tools, table tops, signage and plumbing activities.

All silver tools and supplies have been moved into the new work area. The new opal 5 wheeler and opal saw are in place. Pegboard and benches all look great. The club rooms have been given a coat of white paint and are sparkling.

Dennis Doherty conducted a second silver wire wrapping class with quite a few people. This is now being continued with members helping one another and using video as a guide.

Graham McLeod, from QLACCA, held a Instructors course in the museum with 8 people attending. Certificates should be on their way.

A successful Sunday market day was held at Currimundi. Lynda and Greg did plenty of PR with the added benefit of some new members signing up. Bullcock Street market was held on the 7th. It was a very hot day and everyone seeking out the shade from the neighbours. A canopy is probably a good idea for next time.

A notice of redevelopment application for the car yard next door has been posted and the club has sent in a formal letter of complaint about the storm water run off from this site. We hope that the council will look favourably on our expressed view for a proper drain.

On a sadder note we have lost one of our Life members and greatest supporter Roger Asher. It was nice to see a large number of our members showing their respect to a fine gentleman. Roger was President on two occasions and helped run the club for over 23 years. He donated some of his finest works to the Club, You can see these in the Museum. His wife Pat has also gifted the Club an extensive tool kit and two detectors. Roger will be sadly missed.

Opening day for NEW WORK ROOM 20th October at 11 am.
Our Patron Cr. Tim Dwyer will do the honours.

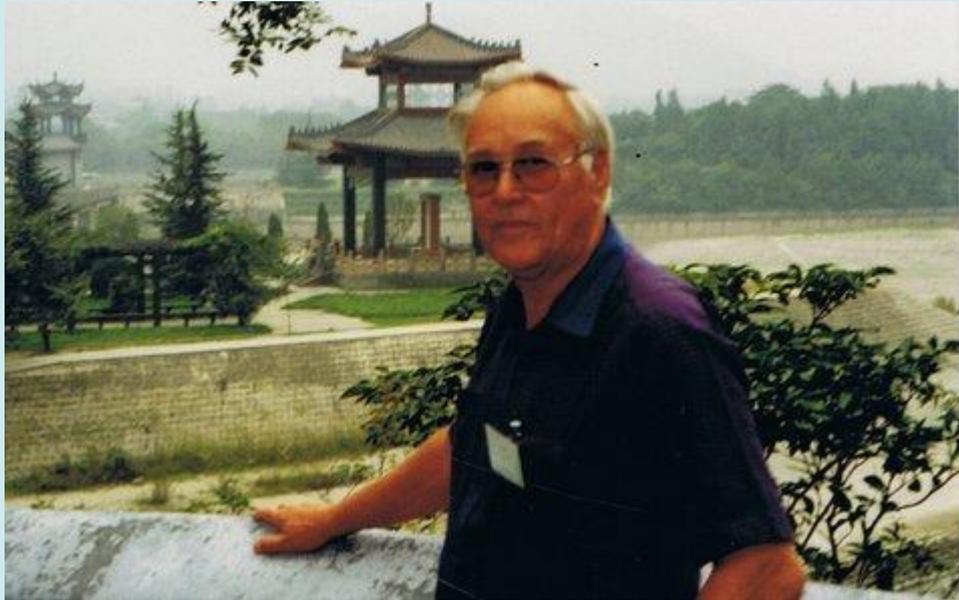
OPEN DAY

20 October 2012 – 11AM

All Welcome

Refreshments provided.

**Tribute to Roger Asher
1920 to 2012**



From Eric Thomas, President

Roger Asher, modest, gentle, much loved and respected member of the Caloundra Lapidary Club. He held the office of president on two occasions and was a life member of the Club. He was always ready to lend a hand, the first in for a working bee and willing to share his knowledge with others, enjoyed using his hands with anything mechanical. He joined our Lapidary Club in 1988.

Roger enjoyed both instructing and taking part in the various techniques of making jewellery but his main love was the maintenance of the machines and this he did for 15 years. He was awarded a Life Membership for his longstanding contribution.

One of Roger's lasting legacies will be the wonderful orb that he created. He enjoyed the intricacies of such a task. His orb is made up of over 750 delicately shaped pieces of carefully chosen natural stones. He has also made small character pieces, a drafts set and a patterned tray. All of these are now on display in the Club's Museum.

We remember him well and respected him for his wonderful friendship, his skill and knowledge, tireless energy, his unfailing good-nature and 23 years of selfless dedication to the Club.

Thank you Roger...we shall truly miss you.

From Peter and Wendy Dyson

I am a proud member of the Caloundra Lapidary Club and would like to give thanks to Roger, Caloundra Lapidary Club Membership # 11. The Club started on 8th February 1968. Later it moved to the "Old Lemonade Factory" in Ormuz Street which is now an undercover Car Park. The present club rooms were opened on 13th June 1981. Life Members then were Don Nunquam who was a foundation member in 1968, Cliff Stembridge, Stan Pounsett and Les Blee. Our Roger was the last active life member. Roger and Pat joined the club in 1988 clocking up 24 years of membership. Wendy and I were introduced into the club by Roger in 1998 – only a mere 14yrs! Pat was Treasurer in 1999, and then passed the job onto Wendy.

Roger was always interested in and helpful with all workshops. He was President in 1990 & 2005 jointly with Selwyn Carbery. He has held many posts including cabbing instructor, all duty officer posts, maintenance officer and most others in the club. Over many years gratitude has been given to Roger in many Presidents' reports. He planted the ideas of grants and open days, instigated visits from students and teachers from the Christian College, helped to build the first big shed in 1999 and contributed enormously to the Annual Gem Shows - always first there and last to leave.

Roger was instrumental in gaining past grants and of course knew all the 'right people'. He was an enthusiastic fund raiser with raffles and bingo, the Gem Shows, club BBQs and dinners. He was always there to help on Club Awareness Days, with Displays and Street Stalls. Until recently I never knew him to miss working bees with all his club friends and everybody was his friend. He pushed me into becoming Inter Clubs relations officer through QLACCA, a post that was very rewarding and presented me with opportunities to visit and gather information on the running of almost all the other gem clubs in Southeast Queensland.

Wendy and I are proud to say that Roger Asher was a good friend and was always ready and happy to help out where he could. Roger once gave me a character reference – if only I could return the favour! As he always used to say when someone died "Ah well, there goes another great store of information" - never more so than on this occasion. He was always cheerful, helpful and interesting, something many of us could emulate. Rest peacefully, dear friend, rest peacefully.

GRANTS

The Club has received grants from the Sunshine Coast Council and from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. We are now able to replace the asbestos roof on the Club Rooms and join the club rooms to the Museum to make one fabulous building. The club extends our appreciation to the Sunshine Coast council for the grants.

Jewellery & Gem Show 2013

Eric has approached the venue regarding booking next year's show (North Street Indoor Stadium) He is waiting for a response. Management feels we need a firm commitment this year possibly by way of deposit after the disappointment of this 2012 cancellation

FIELD TRIP REPORT

We made one field trip recently to Murgon on the 9th of September. Some members met at the clubhouse where we departed at 7.00am. At around 9.00am we arrived in Murgon, the town was busy as they had markets on.

We met up with some more members joining us to continue to our venue, in total seventeen members made the excursion.

Dianne and Owen had already made initial contact with the property owners John and Helen Kratzman. They had sought permission for our club to fossick there.

Our convoy left Murgon at 9.30am and we arrived at the property at around 10.00am. After the introduction of John, and some directions where to fossick, we settled down in the paddock for morning tea.

Some of us could not wait to get started, our mission was to find Agates. The weather was perfect a slight breeze and a blue sky. The ground was hard, so digging was not an option we basically scoured the ground and picked up anything that looked like Agate. We returned with loads of potential Agates at around lunchtime.

After lunch we spend some more time fossicking in a different paddock, however we did not find much at all, some of us returned to the paddock where we had found Agates before lunch, another hour or so and we all returned to our vehicles with bucket loads of finds.

On our way out we stopped to thank John for his hospitality, John has a passion for military vehicles etc. and offered a tour with much enthusiasm. I did not hang around but decided to head home as we had commitments. We had a great day out.

Some of the finds turned out to be some unusual Agates, everyone came back with something.

We will no doubt return to this spot at some other time, perhaps when the ground is softer and some shallow digging might turn up some good Agate.

John Sandifort

Faceting Report

Our faceting machines are being well utilized both Monday mornings and evenings.

Some new members have indicated their interest in faceting. Hopefully as some machines become vacant we can start some of these new members on a course of faceting. Any member interested should talk to either myself or Eric Thomas.

We suggest that all prospective pupils borrow the DVD on faceting available from our library, which will help get some background and basic understanding of what faceting is all about.

I also recommend that beginners source some inexpensive faceting rough to get them started and also check with me as to the cost of a starting kit.

From your Faceting Instructor
John Sandifort

Around the Club

Opening Hours

Mon:	9 am to 12 noon 6 pm to 9 pm	Faceting with instruction. John Sandifort . Open to cabbing & silver. Faceting for the beginners. Open to cabbing and silver.
Tue:	6 pm to 9 pm	Beginner Cabbing with Greg Reynolds
Wed:	9 am to 12 noon 6 pm to 9 pm	Cabochons, Silver & Faceting for the experienced Silver with instruction. Peter Dyson. Cabbing room not open.
Thu:	6 pm to 9 pm	Cabochons with instruction, Greg Reynolds .Carving with instruction. Dave Lavis. Faceting for the experienced
Fri:	CLOSED	
Sat:	9am to 12 noon	Cabochons with instruction. Faceting. Silver with Don Atkinson on 4 th Sat
Sun:	CLOSED	

Visitors Always Welcome!

Silver smithing Classes on Wednesday Evening

A few words sum it all up – fantastic, enthusiastic, talented and social and everyone with a willingness to learn and a desire to create. There are a lot of amazing talents and abilities.

We have now moved to the new big shed out the back and if people keep on coming and joining we will soon need an even bigger shed!

We are delighted to have so many new people wanting to hone their silver smithing skills. Everyone is welcome from beginners onwards. One works at one's own pace. We all have different skills and abilities and there is plenty of talent from everyone attending from design to manufacturing to enthusiasm and all willing to help one another.

I do believe that silver smithing is all part of the lapidary journey as is cabbing or faceting. At some time you need to know how all parts of the jigsaw are put together. You may want to be able to do all things or you may just want to stay with one aspect. Self improvement comes with knowing how to make 'your part' work at its best together with all the other parts to make a beautiful adornment.

My thanks go to Ken Dickson for his wonderful work on Wednesdays 9am to 12noon, to Edith Sandifort without whose help it would probably all fall apart and, of course, to my Wendy who stops me from falling apart.

All new members are welcome as are existing members of the club who may want to try their hand at silver smithing.

I want to thank very much Don Atkinson for the jeweller's workbench which he donated and which now resides in the new shed being well used by all the potential silversmiths. Many, many thanks.

Members, don't hesitate to let me know what you want out of these workshops? Happy to hear any suggestions.

For those who haven't been to the classes then come along and have a look see, make it quick while there are a few seats still left!

With kind thoughts to you all,

Peter Dyson.

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.

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

Website

www.caloundralapidaryclub.org.au

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

Promotional Opportunities

During the last quarter, the Club also had displays of member's artistic endeavours at the Caloundra Library and the Kawana Library. These are great opportunities to promote the Club's activities.

In August a stall was held at the Growers Markets at Currimundi, to promote the club as well as have members make their handicrafts, please and rocks available for sale.

Following on from the previous Caloundra Street Markets, a stall was also taken on Sunday 7 October. The weather was against us with it being such a hot day and no shading and we didn't have such a good position in the street this time. "The Amnesia Shop" was definitely a top spot. The rocks got very hot under the midday sun. Sales were very modest but quite a number of interested parties took brochures. Thank you for all who helped.

DID YOU KNOW?....Moonstone owes its name to the white, almost magical shimmer that resembles moonshine. Blue-whitish light glides over the surface when the stone is cut cabochon. Gemologists call this phenomena adularescence, which originates from the interior structure of the gemstone in scales or lamellas. Incoming rays of light are refracted inside the stone and scattered, creating a unique play of light, which makes Moonstone so special and coveted. Moonstone is the most well known potassium feldspar of the orthoclase. A combination of orthoclase and albite arranged in layers cause the lovely sheen. Moonstone is fairly soft, 6-6.5 (Mohs Scale) and sensitive to pressure.

Moonstone colors - Moonstone from Sri Lanka, the classical country of origin for Moonstone, shimmers pale blue on an almost transparent ground. Specimens from India show cloudlike plays of light and shade on beige brown, green, orange, or simple brown background. They do come as well in blue and peach, smoke and champagne colored, or in black and reddish. Blue Moonstones in fine qualities are becoming increasingly short in supply and push up the prices accordingly. Really top quality fine blue Moonstone show an incredible "three-dimensional" depth of color, which one will see clearly only when playfully tilting the stone and moving it.

Clarity - The more transparent the moonstone, the more valuable it is. Moonstone cat's eye and multi-rayed star moonstone are known, but rare.

Cut - Classically moonstones are always cut as cabochons. Here the appropriate height of the stone is essential to display the desired light reflection. The cutter must also bear in mind to locate the crystal axis exactly in the zenith of the stone, because only then the desired effect of light play will be achieved.

Deposits are found in Brazil, India, Madagascar, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and the United States. There is no treatment known which enhances moonstone quality.

World-famous Moonstone

This gemstone was extremely popular in the times of "Art Nouveau", more than 100 years ago. It used to decorate a striking amount of pieces of jewelry created by the famous French master-goldsmith René Lalique and his contemporaries. These pieces are usually only found in a museum or in safeguarded collections.

OFFICE BEARERS for 2012

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Auditor	Save on Tax		

INSTRUCTORS

Monday AM	John Sandifort / Faceting / Duty Officer 54 996 764
Monday PM	Eric Thomas / Faceting / Duty Officer 54 381 094
Tuesday PM	Greg Reynolds / Cabbing Beginners
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
Saturday AM	Douglas Ritchie / Cabbing / Chief Instructor 54919958
	Mick Gracy / Duty Officer 54927070

Bernadette Neubecker
Editor