

BUNDY GEM AND MINERAL NEWS

CHRISTMAS 2011

PO Box 386
Bundaberg, 4670



2012 Committee

CLUBROOM - 41551500

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PRESIDENT Robert Ehrlich

SECRETARY Sherry Leigh 41536278

TREASURER Judy Cosgrove

EDITOR Judith Hopwood

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SESSION TIMES

Mon 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Tue 9:00 - 12:00 noon
Tue 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Wed 9:00 - 12:00 noon
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Thu 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Fri 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Sat 9:00 - 12:00 noon

**EVERYONE IS NEEDED FOR
WORKING BEE SATURDAY
14th Jan starting 8am**



Session Supervisors 2012

MON GENERAL- The Huths
TUE am SILVER WIRE WORK & BEADING
Cyril Budgen, Sandra Jensen
TUE pm GENERAL - Lester Rogers
WED am SILVERWORK - Rex Wells & Phyllis Bujayer
WED pm GENERAL- The Barnettts
WED night FACETTING- Ian Jenkins assist. John Groundstroem
THU SILVERWORK - J. Foster
FRI GENERAL - Paddy Peckover
SAT GENERAL - these are subject to change
Dec. 3rd G. & C. Stirrat; J. Cosgrove; C. Maughan
10th G. & C. Stirrat - L. & G. Rogers
17th R. & N. Huth - R. Ehrlich - J. Cosgrove
Jan. 21st R. & N. Huth - J. Cosgrove - C. Maughan
28th G. & L. Rogers - C. & G. Stirrat
Feb. 4th C. & G. Stirrat - G. & L. Rogers
11th R. & N. Huth - J. Cosgrove - C. Maughan
18th D. & K. Barnett - J. Cosgrove - R. Ehrlich
25th D. & K. Barnett - G. & L. Rogers

CASTING John Foster, Ian Jenkins, Kerry Dunn, John G.
PATRONS Mae Geddes and Rex Wells

DATES TO REMEMBER

Club General Meetings every 3rd Tuesday at 7:00

2012 Gembaroo - EASTER 6 to 9 April Bundaberg

DECEMBER 11 at 3pm THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 17 Last day of club is Saturday.

2012

JANUARY 14 WORKING BEE SATURDAY

JANUARY 16 Club reopens Monday

For more details on all shows see QLACCA calendar or current *Metal Stone & Glass* magazine.

Thanks to the Office of Jack Dempsey for
their assistance with photocopying.

GEMFAIR REPORT

I would like to thank all members who contributed their time to help make our annual Gemfair a very successful event. It was very pleasing to see many of our newer members getting involved and helping in a wide variety of tasks. While the attendance figures were down slightly on last year, it was wonderful to still get the support of the local community despite the hard times that have been faced by so many throughout the year. Publicity was invaluable, and thanks to Judy Cosgrove for doing such a great job in this department. The local web site- ilovebundaberg.com has also uploaded around 40 photographs taken at the weekend, which will help to promote our club and the upcoming GEMBOREE.

The display cases of novelty items were lovely and many complimentary remarks were made about the wide variety of items contained in them. As usual the daily raffle was again very popular and two of our members were the lucky first prize winners each day, congratulations to Danielle and Deanna. All the children who came along enjoyed "marking the spot" on the treasure map in the hope of being the lucky treasure hunter; the winner was a young girl from Kendalls Rd.

Our traders were again a very supportive bunch and have donated some lovely items for future raffles and lucky door prizes. They were all happy with the weekend and I am pleased to say that they are all looking forward to coming back again next November. Many of them will also be at GEMBOREE next Easter.

The GEMBOREE information table was busy all weekend, with general inquiries, raffle ticket sales and bookings being taken for tailgaters and on site campers. The display cases of medals and GEMBOREE memorabilia seemed to attract a lot of interest. GEMBOREE plans are well on track and it will soon be time for enlisting volunteers, I am sure that we can again stage another successful event by all pulling together to help with the many and varied jobs that will need to be done.
Trish Flynn



Some of the Youth members were given pieces of Zebra Stone recently. This will tell you more about the stone & how to work & finish it. You can work it at home over the holidays as it can be shaped with sand-paper. Let's see what you can make with your 600 million year old stones.



ZEBRA ROCK

Zebra Rock is unique to Kununurra in the north of Western Australia. It is found in and around Lake Argyle. Zebra Rock is a rich, reddish-brown and white banded argillite (clay rock) noted for its stripes and spotted shapes.

The texture of Zebra Rock is quite fine with an unglazed porcelain look. The clay contains minute flecks of quartz, mica and the mineral iron oxide, the latter giving Zebra Rock its distinctive colouration.

It is a sedimentary rock. The clay is mostly mineral kaolinite which forms during the weathering of rocks such as granite and is deposited as sediment under water. This becomes clay rock over time which with Zebra Rock is more than 600 million years. The stripes & patterns are created by water containing iron oxide and other minerals filtering through the porous rock.

If you are fossicking for Zebra Rock it is usually a plain brown rock. It is not until it is cut that the patterns are seen. Most of the Zebra Rock is now under water at Lake Argyle Dam. You can only find it in the dry season (October) when the Lake is low. Most of the

Zebra Rock is mined by the Zebra Rock Gallery near Kununurra. Rocks can be bought there polished or rough at anytime. Zebra Rock is soft and is hand-cut by hacksaw or diamond saw and then rubbed with wet and dry silicon carbide paper for shaping. As it is porous, it is polished with either an acrylic sealer to lock in the distinctive pattern or with jewellery it is sprayed with high gloss enamel.

by Katherine Parker "Australian Gold Gem & Treasure"

FOSSICKING IN THE INVERELL AREA

The Huth's and the Roger's decided to attend the Inverell & District Lapidary Clubs 50th Gem & Craft Show. We left on Wednesday 12th Oct staying over night at the back of Warwick Matilda Service Station; we highly recommend this spot if you want to stay overnight.

Next morning we stopped off at Vincenzo's at the Big Apple just before Stanthorpe to stock up on much needed supplies. We can highly recommend this too but you need to allow about 2 hours. Finally after crossing into cockroach country turning right at Glen Innes we arrived at the showgrounds



at Inverell which was to be our home for the next 10 days. After setting up camp we went to the tourism centre to get the lay and maps of Inverell & District and look the town over. Before heading back to the showgrounds we stopped into the Town Hall where we met some very friendly Inverell Club members & booked the first of our many fossicking trips which the Club had organized.

After a good nights sleep we were up early and at the showground gates to receive instructions for our trip to Lone Star Mine tour & fossicking (It was 4 wheel drive only) we soon found out why. Of the 20 vehicles 4 had to be winched out of the first creek crossing but we were incident free after this. On this trip the first group went to fossick for Rhodenite. We found some nice pieces & after lunch we swapped over & did fossicking for Smokey Quartz & Citrine, we did find a few. This was a restricted access area. We had hoped to also try for some Malachite but access was not available although it was arranged

After some heavy rain during the night we awoke again to a beautiful day and spent most of the day at the Inverell Gem & Craft Show. We bought a few items but kept most of our money for the fossicking trips. They put on a good show with some tailgaters and dealers with nice material. That night we attended their trivia night (it was poorly attended) although not winning we did get to take home some of the prizes for dancing. Reg had the pleasure of dancing with a topless lady (a foam model) and was rewarded for his efforts. Next day we attended the Inverell markets in the beautiful park beside the Macintyre River.

Reg & Lester went on most of the tours over the next week with Nola & Geneve opting out of some to do window shopping & buying out the charity shops.

The fossicking tours we went on were the King Conrad Mine tour fossicking for Galena & Quartz. We also visited the Copeton Diamond fields (we didn't find any). On the bomber tour we were fossicking in the mullock heaps for Quartz & Smokey Quartz. We also visited one of the oldest fish hatcheries in Australia. We went onto the Club's own claim to fossick for Tin & Smokey Quartz. Reg & I went on the Tourmaline tour and found some good specimens. The other tours we went on were the Candle Crystal tour and the Grasstone tour (we did not find much). We also went on the Sapphire tour to a new area but did not find much colour.

Overall we enjoyed our time at Inverell, the club members were great & helpful. We would recommend this trip to all members, it will be on again in October 2012 but will not be as comprehensive in the fossicking trips. The Inverell Club put on a Bar-B-Q one night & we had a great time getting to know them. The Club is one of the only Clubs that does not have its own building yet & we wish them well in their building endeavours.

Kind regards
Lester Rogers

INVERELL FACTS

Situated on the western edge of the New England Tablelands, Inverell is nestled in the picturesque valley beside the Macintyre River. Inverell is about 489km south of Brisbane. Known as the "Sapphire City" Inverell supplies around 80% of the world's sapphires. Diamonds were first discovered at Copes Creek in 1875, and mining for sapphires started in 1916. Bauxite, lead & silver have also been mined. A range of Quartz varieties can be found in the Inverell area; Stannifer Creek, Elsmore and Tingha are the best options. Detailed maps and information can be obtained at the Inverell Tourist Information Centre. Water worn Jelly Bean shaped Crystals, Grass Stone, Smokey Quartz, Citrine and Clear Quartz varieties can all be found in these areas. The Inverell Lapidary Club has a fossicking site and will allow fossicking for a small fee, enquire at the Tourist Centre. This area is also well known for its Sapphire and Quartz varieties are also present in the same localities.

Digging and Dry Sieve method is generally used but a coarse sieve works best in the creeks. Fill with gravel and use creek water to separate the fine stones out.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The annual meeting has come and gone, with a couple of changes in the executive. We have a new president and treasurer but the rest of the positions remain much the same. We are still looking for a publicity officer, if you can fill this position contact your duty officer. Congratulations to all the winners in the annual competition. Also thanks to all who entered in them. After the meeting a lovely cupper and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Thanks again to all those who attended.

Regards, Robert.

HEALTH ALERT!!

"FOSSICKER'S FEVER"

CASE HISTORY

- Patients:* - Lester & Geneve Rogers ; Reg & Nola Huth
Symptoms: - Patients feverish, eyes downcast, hands rough and blistered, manner becomes strained and eyes glazed at mention of 'Sapphires', 'Diamonds', 'Galena', 'Rhodenite'
Diagnosis: - The dreaded Fossicker's Fever!!
Treatment: - Condition may be alleviated temporarily by the display of bright mineral objects.
Prognosis: - Hopeless!!
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JUNIORS SHOW THEIR SKILLS AT AGM COMP.



This year again our junior members were the bulk numbers in our AGM Competition. We had 6 juniors enter 10 pieces to be judged in the TOOTELL JUNIOR single cab in commercial mount section of the competition. Rachel Hill again took out first prize which is a superb accomplishment as she has now won first prize two years in a row. Joshua Stewart took out second and third positions, which is a brilliant achievement for him as he is one of our newer members. Well done Rachel and Joshua. All contestants' scores were very close and I am sure that it will not be too long before our other juniors will be likewise winning awards. We also had two juniors brave enough to enter

pieces in the senior categories with one junior taking out a second prize with her silver smithing. Keep up the great work.

Our club is very thrilled with our juniors and I would like to encourage each one of you to keep working hard to try to improve your skills, but most importantly is to enjoy your time at Gem Club and be very proud of the lovely work you all present at the end of each session.

Judy



Art; gat; qua; quart; quartz; rat; rut; tar; tau; tzar; uta;

CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 11TH
3PM
CLUB ROOMS



SILVERSMITH HINTS FROM BRAD SMITH

HOMEMADE WAX TOOLS

Save your used X-Acto or scalpel blades for utility work on the bench. They're wonderful for delicate wax work. Use a cut-off blade or a grinding wheel to shape the blades to what you need. For instance, you can carve away excess metal on the spine to make yourself some narrow carving knives that do a great job of detailing small areas of your waxes.

RING SIZE VARIATIONS

The numerical sizes marked on ring gauges and ring mandrels are often not the same across different manufacturers. If you're using a ring gauge to measure a customer, be sure to compare the markings on the gauge with the markings on the mandrel you use to make the ring. They may not be the same. Also, you may have to adjust a little for the width of the ring shank. If you're making a wide shank ring, the ring generally has to be a little bit larger in diameter than the ring gauge size in order to get a comfortable fit.

DEPTH GAUGE FOR DRILLING

Sometimes you need to drill a number of holes all to the same depth. One quick and easy way to do this is to wind some tape around the drill bit so that the tape just touches the part surface when the hole is deep enough. You can do this either by measuring from the tip of the drill to the tape or by drilling one hole correctly, leaving the bit in the hole, and wrapping tape around the bit at the surface level.

CUTTING A BOLT

Whenever you have to cut a threaded bolt shorter, it's always difficult to get the nut to thread back onto it. And the smaller the bolt, the more difficult this is. The problem is easily solved by screwing a nut onto the bolt before cutting it. So here's how I do it. Screw a nut onto the bolt; grip the bolt by the piece to be sawed off. Saw the bolt to the desired length, taper the end with sandpaper or file, and unscrew the nut from the bolt. Unscrewing the nut over the freshly cut end of the bolt straightens out any damage to the threads. Gripping the bolt by the piece to be sawed off localizes any crushing damage to the piece you're throwing away.

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More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at
groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or facebook.com/BenchTips

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

The annual meeting has come and gone, with a couple of changes in the executive. We have a new president and treasurer the rest of the positions remain much the same. We are still looking for a publicity officer, if you can fill this position contact your duty officer. Congratulations to all the winners in the annual competition. Also thanks to all who entered in them. After the meeting a lovely cupper and fellowship was enjoyed by all, Thanks again to all those who attended. Robert

EDITOR'S NOTE

Columnists and contributors required! It would be great if other members of the Club who have fossicking stories or expertise in particular areas would share their knowledge and experiences as those who took time to contribute to this Newsletter. It's better if it's not too long and pictures add interest. It can be a series of articles or a one-off. Just email your contributions to Judith Hopwood on gmjmmhopwood@bigpond.com with Gem Club as the subject.

Judith

WORD QUIZ

How many words can you make from the letters of the word QUARTZ

There are at least 11 words with more than 3 letters. Get your dictionary out and see if you can find more.

ANSWERS are hidden in the Newsletter!!!!

From

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Bundaberg Gem & Mineral Soc. Inc.

PO Box 386

Bundaberg

4670
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