

December 2022 NEWSLETTER



CONTACT US

www.diamondvalleygemclub.com.au

Phone: 0499 233 500 - Leigh Carbines

PLEASE NOTE: The Club will be closed from the 23rd December 2022 and re-opening on the 9th January 2023.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year is nearly over and it's certainly been a busy one! We have successfully managed to get back on track from the COVID-19 disruptions and the club continues to grow in numbers which is a positive sign. The club currently has 105 members, growing weekly. This is an increase from both the pre-Covid numbers and the Covid lockdown period.

The recent Club presentation night and Christmas Break-Up allowed a large number of members to catch up with one another, whilst celebrating successes and achievements. (More over page.)

Some exciting news - A few weeks ago, a film crew from the North East Link Program filmed our club houses, both new and old, and some of our members.

The film crew was here to document the club's activities before it grants us \$23,000(!) The monies are certainly welcomed and have been granted for the club to run a series of workshops next year for youths, including the Scouts and Girl Guides.

With grants such as these, the club can purchase materials and equipment, with a focus to allow greater community interaction and knowledge skills.

Location

OLD CLUBROOMS
Grace Park Cottage,
Corner Henry St & Duncan Ave,
Greensborough, Victoria, 3088



NEW CLUBROOMS
Bundoora Lapidary Centre,
20 Noorong Ave,
Greensborough, Victoria, 3088

Opening hours

Monday: 7.30 PM - 9.30 PM

Tuesday: 10:30 AM - 3 PM &
7.30 PM - 9.30 PM

Wednesday: CLOSED

Thursday: 7.30 PM - 10 PM

Friday: CLOSED

Saturday: 1.30 PM - 4.30 PM

Sunday: CLOSED

*Classes may run outside
these times but you will be
advised

When filming, one member was asked what the club represented to them. Their response was, "It's like being part of a big family." This pleased me immensely for our family now has a much better home in Bundoora. The short video captured by North East Link Program has now been finished and you can view it [HERE](#). Thank you to all members who turned up on the filming day and offered their support.

Although we were meant to be in our new home by Christmas, the project is progressing nicely and we will be in as soon as possible. Our new club will have many more facilities both to work in and socialise in and we are very excited. Here are the latest photos taken last week. We hope it won't be too much longer now!



- Leigh Carbines, Club President

CLUB PRESENTATION NIGHT

The end of November saw the club host a wonderful Presentation Night and Christmas Break-Up. A lovely social event, open to all members at our new club rooms in Bundoora. Previously just a Christmas break-up, this year we decided to combine it with a Presentation ceremony to celebrate our people who make the club as special as it is. A big thank you to Keith Kerr, Club Treasurer for researching the members milestones and achievements and for presenting the awards on the night.

For those who couldn't attend, here is a list of the worthy recipients who we made mention. Apologies if we missed anybody!

HONARY MEMBERS AWARDS - those that have contributed in a big way to assist us with our successful annual Gem Show in Greensborough.

Grant Pearson - Identifier of rocks and guest speaker

Toni Baldacchino - Security Services

Brendan Meagher - Kitchen Staff

Greg Kirkbride - Outdoor section, Gem Show

Jeff Hill - Designing and creating website

Stefan Waszkinel - Security camera setup and management

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

Claire Gleeson - Wire Wrapping Jewellery Trainer

Dawn Lee - Gem Show Organiser

Douglas Ramsay - Duty Officer and previous newsletter editor

John Milner - Duty Officer and Faceting Trainer

Keith Billing - Cabachon cutting and polishing Trainer

Mike Griffin - Silver Smithing/ Metal Works Trainer

Leigh Carbines - Club president, Duty Officer, Lost Wax Jewellery Making and Crystal Carving Trainer

Robert Cooper - Duty Officer, Covid-19 advisory member

Keith Kerr - Club Treasurer and organiser of the presentation evening

54 YEARS OF ASSOCIATION

John Stevens

40 YEARS OF ASSOCIATION

John Neville

LIFE MEMBERS

Dawn Lee

Keith Billing

Gunter Brazzoduro

Roger Williams

50 YEARS OF ASSOCIATION

John Gilbert

Chris and Maureen Boyle

30 YEARS PLUS ASSOCIATION

Keith Billing

45 YEARS OF ASSOCIATION

Roger Williams

20 YEARS PLUS ASSOCIATION

Gunter Brazzoduro



A great night was had by all and we look forward to being able to host more of these types of functions in our new space! Thank you to all who attended and assisted on the evening.

NEW MEMBERS

Since our last newsletter, we would like to welcome the following people to our club:

Colin Pike
Daniel DeZilwa

Rachelle Cookson
Nicole Breen

JOHN'S FACETING CORNER

Since publication of the last newsletter we've had a good roll up of new members wanting to learn faceting. We currently have ten, which is great.

It was good to see Ron Lavander back on his feet after his operations and also to see some of the stones he has been cutting at home after learning to facet. (Loved the amethyst!)

I would like to hear from anyone who would be willing to enter next year's Gemboree faceting competition. Very worthwhile, if only to get feedback from the judges.

Now on a totally different note -

Did you know that petrified wood comes from a time when dinosaurs populated the earth some 140 million years ago?

Petrified wood is fossilised when volcanic ash, lava and mud bury particular trees, thus depriving them of oxygen. Mineral solutions then infiltrate the cells of the buried trees over a very long time and gradually replace them, leaving the patterns of the original wood. A variety of colours occurs due to the presence of different minerals such as iron and manganese oxides.

Types of trees giving rise to petrified wood in Australia belong to the Araucaria family of conifers, tree ferns and spore bearing trees.

Chinchilla in Australia is regarded as having the best petrified wood for colour and quality, with people travelling from around the world to purchase it.

Whilst traditionally petrified wood, with its interesting patterns and hardness of around 7, is cut as a cabochon, I challenge anyone brave enough to try faceting this stone.

- John Milner



ADÈLE'S GEMMOLOGY CORNER

- THE FIRST TOOL OF GEMMOLOGY

Having recently discovered some back copies of 'The Australian Gemmologist' on our rather dusty bookshelves, and having given them a proper dusting, I recognised some names of famous gemmologists amongst the authors. My curiosity piqued by a reference to Mr Alan Hodgkinson, a gentlemen revered in the halls of gemmology fame, I decided to peruse the associated article.

The author, Mr W.D. Hanneman, also a famous gemmologist, met with Mr Hodgkinson in the late 1970s and was treated to an experience with what Mr Hodgkinson referred to as the 'first tool of gemmology' – our eye. Now as gemmologists we invest in all sorts of expensive equipment to aid in our ability to identifying gemstones. Not so the case with Mr Hodgkinson, who with a good eye and experience, was able to tell our author a great deal about a variety of gemstones just by looking through them towards a pinpoint source of light. (I do tell a lie. The light in question was just a common globe. For our purpose a pinpoint light is far more preferable.)

As gemmologists we measure something called refractive index (RI), which basically tells us how light behaves on entering another substance (in our case a gemstone), and leads to two more derived optical parameters - birefringence and dispersion.

Now these measurements do have an impact on people engaged in lapidary work. Given a good polish for a particular stone, its RI will determine the lustre of the stone - the amount of light reflected by the facet in question. For example, aquamarine with its RI of around 1.563 – 1.582 will have a lower lustre than sapphire, which has a higher RI of 1.760 -1.774, and hence a higher lustre. (Sapphire, because of its higher hardness, will also produce a better polish for a given amount of effort.)



Sapphire



Aquamarine



Birefringence tells us something about the degree to which the rays of light entering a doubly refractive gemstone can be split apart. It's almost a measurement of whether or not we see double when looking into a gemstone. Peridot springs to mind. With its birefringence in the order of 0.037 we most certainly can see double images. A lapidary might want to exploit or hide this feature.

Left: Peridot, showing doubling of internal stress features

Finally, dispersion tells us about a gemstone's capacity to split white light into its spectral colours. You may have noticed that CZ (cubic zirconia) shows more of the spectral colours than does diamond, which shows more than quartz.

Interestingly, we love diamond for its dispersion, but believe that CZ shows far too much dispersion and must obviously be inferior. Quartz does not even enter into the discussion. All of this is a matter of taste. Today, synthetic moissanite, which has an even greater dispersion than any of the above stones, is being proposed for engagement rings with great marketing and no prejudice against its laboratory origins.

Again - a matter of taste.



Cubic Zirconia



Diamond



Clear Quartz

Now, how does this tie in with the eye's ability to discern these very technical phenomena?

Alan Hodgkinson explained that when looking through a faceted gemstone into a single source of light with the table against the eyelashes, one could see a ring of lights through the gemstone's pavilion facets. In the case of a gemstone of low refractive index the ring of lights would appear close to the source. As the RI of a stone increases, the ring would appear to be further away until, in the case of a gemstone of a very high refractive index, the entire ring would not be completely visible at any one time and the lights would appear to be distant. Of course much practice and some knowledge of gemstone properties would be needed to use this method to effectively discriminate between gemstones.

Further to this Mr Hodgkinson explained that in the case of a strongly doubly refractive gemstone (one with high birefringence), two images of the circle of lights would be seen with their separation being an indication of the measure of this feature. Thus a gemstone with high birefringence such as peridot would show the two rings of lights at great separation, whilst a gemstone with low birefringence would either show the two rings close together or only the one ring.

Finally, in stones with high dispersion, the rings of light would actually show the colours of the rainbow through each facet, with a greater spread of the spectral colours in the case of gemstones with the higher dispersion.

Now this type of methodology is not for the faint hearted. Remember that Mr Alan Hodgkinson is a famous gemmologist and well versed in this art. Whilst it does take practice to interpret the patterns observed, this procedure would enable ready discrimination between gemstones of similar appearance without any resource to instruments.

So rise to the challenge and have a go.

Adèle, from the gemmologist's corner.

CLUB ITEMS FOR SALE

With Christmas just around the corner, here is a quick reminder of the items available for purchase from the club rooms. Of course, a club membership can make a great gift for any budding lapidarist too!



Club Buttons \$5.00 Each.



LED Head Magnifier \$22.00



Club polo shirts \$30- Each



Ear Muffs \$6.00 Each.



Safety Glasses \$5.00 Each



Club Sew-on Badges \$5- Each

Stone Slabs from \$2- Each

S/Silver Wire wrapping Kits \$30- Each

NEW

Club Christmas Cards, \$10 for a pack of 5 cards

We endeavour to get these done a bit earlier next year - but great for those who need a few Christmas cards, last minute!

CABACHON POLISHING

A quick update from the Cabachon room too. A very very busy year of training for Keith Billing! More than 30 members signed up this year - almost double previous years. Members enjoyed learning the techniques used to cut and polish their own stones and we saw members of all ages complete the five week course - which is great to see. Pictured is a selection of the beautiful stones that were polished from our members, throughout the year.



FORWARD DIARY

<u>January 2023</u>	14 - 15	Warrnambool Gem Club - Gem Show - O.L.H.C Primary School Hall 2 Selby Rd. Saturday 9-5 Sunday 9-4
<u>February</u>	17 - 20	Victorian Facetors Group Workshop- Sale - Friday, 17 (from noon) through to Monday, 20 ('til noon).
<u>March</u>	19 - 20	Warragul District Lapidary Club Annual Gem Show
<u>February</u>	25 - 26	Bendigo Gem Club Expo NEW VENUE: Bendigo Exhibition Centre, Holmes Rd, North Bendigo
	26	Alexandra & Eildon Districts Gem & Lapidary Club - Thornton Rock & Gem Exhibition. Thornton Football ground from 8am Contact Dave 0408 306 823 or Alan 0492 876 595
<u>May</u>	6 - 7	Diamond Valley Gem Club Annual Gem & Crystal Exhibition Masonic Centre 23 Ester St Greensborough. Sat 9am-5pm Sun 9am-4pm Contact Leigh Carbines 0499 233 500
	19 - 22	Victorian Facetors Group Workshop Shepparton (Kialla) - Friday, 19(from noon) through to Monday, 22 ('til noon).
	27 - 28	Essendon Gem and Lapidary Club Gem Show - Holy Trinity Hall 29 Pleasant St., Pascoe Vale Enquiries: eglcinc@gmail.com
<u>August</u>	18 - 21	Victorian Facetors Group Workshop - Horsham - Friday, 18 (from noon) through to Monday, 21('til noon).
	19 - 20	Ballarat & District Lapidary Club Show. Details in next issue
<u>September</u>	2 - 3	Mildura & District Gem & Jewellery Show. Sunraysia Masonic Hall, Fifteenth Street Irymple. Saturday 9am - 6pm, Sunday 9.30am - 4pm Contact Joe Watson on 0428 540 933 or josephwatson@icloud.com
	16 - 17	Waverley Gem Club Expo - The Exhibition dates and times Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th September, 10 am - 5pm each day. Contact Garry - 0425 710 006, Gwen - 0407 512 883
	30 -	Bairnsdale Lapidary Club - will be hosting its gem show on Saturday 30th September & Sunday 1st October 2023, at the Lucknow hall.
<u>October</u>	1	Bairnsdale Lapidary Club - will be hosting its gem show on Saturday 30th September & Sunday 1st October 2023, at the Lucknow hall.
<u>November</u>	17 - 20	Victorian Facetors Group Workshop - Marong - Friday, 17 (from noon) through to Monday, 20 ('til noon).
GEMBOREE® 2023 Queensland, 7 - 10 April. Hosted by QLACCA.		
GEMBOREE® 2024 South Australia March 24 - April 3 Hosted by GMCASA		

Happy
Holidays



**We wish you and yours the very best, for a safe and enjoyable festive season.
Please remember the Club will be closing from Friday 23rd December 2022
and re-opening on Monday 9th January 2023.
We look forward to seeing you all again in the new year!**

Club President: Leigh Carbines 0499 233 500
Vice President: John Milner 03 9439 5820
Treasurer: Keith Kerr 0409 504 021
Secretary: Robert Cooper 0418 392 861
Assistant Secretary: Douglas Ramsay 0411 105 031

This Club continues to foster the interests of all people who are interested in the collecting, cutting and polishing gemstones, lapidary work, in addition with all associated arts, crafts and activities. We thank our volunteers for the hours of work they put into our club and thank our members for their ongoing support and commitment.

CLUB DUTY OFFICERS

Monday: John Milner
Tuesday: Gary Benson/Robert Cooper (Day)
John Milner/ Leigh Carbines (Evening)
Thursday: Leigh Carbines/John Milner
Saturday: Douglas Ramsay/John Milner

DVGC

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Keith Billing
Mike Griffin
Ron Lavender
Dawn Lee

NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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