



# February Newsletter 2019

Diamond Valley Gem Club

clubrooms

Grace Park Cottage, (Corner of Henry and Duncan Avenue,)

Greensborough, Victoria, 3088

P.O Box 335,

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Phone: 0413 435 899 (Keith Billing)

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The Club fosters 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.

## CLUB TIMES.

Monday: 7.30 – 9.30 pm

Tuesday: 10.30 – 3.00 pm

Tuesday: 7.30 – 9.30 pm

Thursday: 7.30 – 10.00 pm

Saturday: 1.30 – 4.30 pm



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## Monthly Notices

Monthly Meeting . 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 Minutes and Correspondences are on the Club Room Notice Board

## Office Bearer

President: Keith Billing 0413 435 899.  
Maureen Boyle 04 12303 816

Treasurer: Keith Kerr 0409 504 021

Secretary: Leigh Carbines 9846 2335.

Minutes Secretary Robert Cooper

## Duty Officers

Monday: John Milner.

Tuesday : Gary Benson/Robert Cooper

Tuesday Evening: John Milner.

Thursday: Keith Billing/John Neville/John Milner.

Saturday: Douglas Ramsay

## Committee Members

Gary Benson (9467 1174), Anne Brewster, Neil Crammer (0419 021 221), Claire Gleeson (0409 511 751), Mike Griffin,, Dawn Lee (9434 1512) , John Milner(9439 5820,) Jaci Anderson

## Newsletter

Douglas Ramsay  
(0411 105 031) [douglas.ramsay1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:douglas.ramsay1@optusnet.com.au)

## Pretty Coloured Gold -John Milner

Most people think of the colour of gold (Au) as yellow, white or rose; these colours being the traditional ones seen in jewellery shops. These are **alloys** of gold with various metals.

### Yellow Gold

Pure gold is a slightly reddish yellow and at 24ct is highly malleable and very soft, with 22ct gold looking very similar in colour, but proving less malleable. More usual are the 18ct, 14ct, 10ct and 9ct paler shades of yellow gold. The lower carat content makes these stronger, more durable and thus more suitable for use in jewellery. Yellow gold is traditionally alloyed with copper and silver.

Examples of the common alloys for 18ct yellow gold are -

18ct yellow gold: 75% gold, 12.5% copper, 12.5% silver

18ct yellow (darker) gold: 75% gold, 15% copper, 10% silver.

### White Gold

White gold is an alloy of gold (Au) and at least one white metal (usually nickel, silver, or palladium). Like yellow gold, the purity of white gold is given in carats. The alloys used in the jewellery industry are gold, palladium, silver and gold, nickel, copper, zinc. Palladium and nickel act as primary bleaching agents for gold; zinc acts as a secondary bleaching agent to attenuate the colour of copper.

A common white gold formula consists of 90% gold and 10% nickel.

The nickel used in some white gold alloys can cause an allergic skin reaction when worn over long periods, because of this, many countries do not use nickel in their white gold formulae, others use rhodium plating.

### Rose Gold

Rose gold is a gold, copper alloy, also known as red gold and pink gold, and was popular in Russia at the beginning of the nineteenth century. It was once called Russian gold, a term no longer used.

The difference between red, rose, and pink gold is the copper content: the higher the copper content, the stronger the red colour. Red gold uses the most copper, followed by rose gold, with pink gold having the lowest copper content. Examples of the common alloys for 18ct rose gold, 18ct red gold, 18ct pink gold, and 12ct red gold are -

18ct red gold: 75% gold, 25% copper

18ct rose gold: 75% gold, 22.25% copper, 2.75% silver

18ct pink gold: 75% gold, 20% copper, 5% silver

12ct red gold: 50% gold and 50% copper.

### Spangold

Some gold, copper, aluminium alloys form a fine surface texture at heat treatment, yielding an interesting spangling effect.

### Green Gold

Green gold was known to the Lydians as long ago as 860 BC under the name electrum. It is a naturally occurring alloy of gold and silver and actually appears as greenish-yellow rather than green.

### Grey Gold

Grey gold alloys are usually made from gold and palladium. A cheaper alternative, which does not use palladium, is made by adding silver, manganese, and copper to the gold in specific ratios.

## Pretty Coloured Gold -John Milner

### Now for the fun stuff -

Alloys are not the only types of 'gold' on the market. There is another gold group known as **intermetallic**.

The intermetallics have the formula  $AuX_2$  and are brittle. They include Purple and Blue Gold.

**Purple gold** (also called amethyst gold and violet gold) is an alloy of gold and aluminium ( $AuAl_2$ ). Gold content in  $AuAl_2$  is around 79% and so Purple Gold can be referred to as 18ct gold. Created in 2000, its discovery is resultant from research by Aspial-Lee Hwa of Singapore. Check this out when next passing through Singapore airport.

**Blue gold** is an alloy of gold and either gallium or indium. Gold, indium contains 46% gold (about 11ct) and 54% indium, forming the compound  $AuIn_2$ .

A cautionary note – both metals are very brittle, easily fractured and further to this, direct contact of blue and purple gold elements with skin may result in metal leaching and discoloration of the metal surface, however they are highly sought after and rather beautiful.

For the above we thank Mr. Lee Hwa, Wikipedia and the curiosity of jewellery-loving friends.

### Field Trip Report—Robin Jongebloed

So a new year begins and another opportunity to enjoy the Victorian fossicking areas.

I am arranging a Mount Shadwell quarry visit in Mortlake for some time in May.

Any club members can visit this quarry of their own accord on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday by contacting the Mortlake Information Centre and arranging with them.

I was able to visit Mooralla near the Grampians before Christmas.

This is a smoky quartz area that requires deep digging and so cannot be done in a day.

The smoky quartz found can be of excellent quality.

There is some interest in us visiting this area so there may be a trip arranged in the second half of this year for a shared hole exercise so people do not have to spend days digging as the mineral layer is about a metre or more down in places.

#### Field Trip to Reedy Creek Eldorado, Beechworth 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of March.

Hi all,

Club members are welcome to join me on a Tag Along trip to Eldorado fossicking for gold and crystals.

I will wait at the Eldorado store from 9.30am till 10 am Saturday and Sunday.

I will be checking out new places on the Friday so if club members wish to meet on the Friday I will need prior notice.

#### Field trip Ethics

- You must have a Current Victoria Miner's Right.
- Before entering private property, be it grazing, farming, mining, quarrying etc, permission must be obtained from the owner, lessee, manager or other responsible person, for prospecting, mining, collecting gemstones or camping.
- When permission has been obtained, members will obey any direction, restriction, order, advice or precaution given by the person in charge of the property.
- Ensure that gates of properties are left as found, shut or open.
- Stock, including domestic animals, are not to be interfered with under any circumstances.
- Firearms and explosives shall not be taken on field trips.
- Do not take pets on field trips.
- Leave an area as you find it. Fill in

all holes and remove all litter. Be sure that gutters and drains are clear.

- Do not dig in banks of streams.
- Do not dig in or foul streams which are part of a water catchment area.
- Do not damage or undermine trees or other vegetation.
- Keep off crops and tilled land unless permission is granted. Use furrows to walk in if you must traverse tilled land.
- Do not remove excessive amounts of material. Take only enough for your personal use, not for commercial purposes.
- Extinguish all fires by covering them with soil. Don't chop trees to make your fire
- Use fallen and broken limbs. Do not light fires when restrictions are in force, including TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS.

**A reminder that if you would like to fossick a "Miners Right" is required.**

A Miner's Right allows the holder to search for, and take possession of, any mineral located on many areas of public land, or, on private land with the landholder's prior consent. Only basic non-powered hand tools (i.e. pick, shovel, sieve, etc.) can be used.

This can be purchased online at <https://checkout.payments.com.au/minersRight/>

For information on fossicking in Victoria <https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/visit/popular-activities/fossicking>

## Field Trip Report—Robin Jongbloed cont

A Miners Right is mandatory and can be purchased by visiting the Geovic Victorian Government web site.

There is also a list of creeks that cannot be prospected in on the website. There is a notice on the notice board for members to show their interest so I can communicate as the time draws near.

I normally fossick in the gravel banks or along the creek in shallow areas for gold, crystals and small zircons etc.

So anyone with a reasonable level of fitness will find it ok. It is up to members to be self-sufficient. (I will be available to help each day)

Some of the gear I take includes the following :

First aid kit

- Water
- Mobile phone or some form of communication, although some parts of the creek does not have reception.
- Light colored top or high vis.
- Map can be found on the web
- Water Boots or non-slip shoes ( waders are not required and I do not encourage members going into deep water)
- Gold pan(I use green or blue pans but this is a personal choice)
- Sieve 1/8th or ¼ inch or larger for a pan or bucket
- Bucket
- Spray bottle for spraying gravels.
- Digging tool( Shovel etc)
- Gloves as required.
- Plastic sucker bottle to suck up the fine gold etc (I have a couple spare for the day but these can be purchased on EBay or from Minlab Stores)

I have a purpose built pump similar to a yabby pump used to collect bait to suck the fine gold or zircons off of the granite bedrock.

So if you have a yabby pump it is worth bringing along. I have one pump that can be shared as required.

I do not guarantee any members will find anything but since storms may have turned up the gravels there is a reasonable chance of success.

The area around Wangaratta and Beechworth is good for a holiday with plenty to see and do if members so desire.

Robin Jongbloed 0418806410

## Findings & Windings:

Continuing along the colour/frequency spectrum in this months' newsletter, we move on to the colour **orange**. The colour dates back as far as ancient Egypt and Medieval times. The Earth's minerals have been used in earthenware, art (Renior, Van Gogh, Pre-Raphaelites), political/religious propaganda as well as for modern day safety. Orange was the colour of William III of Orange's rebel flag in the 1570s, who became the King of England (from James II). It was the colour of Protestantism in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

### ORANGE

*Terracotta* - "Earthenware clays are formed from sedimentary clays, which contain many organic and mineral impurities....that determine the characteristic colour of the clay. The colour...associated with terracotta is a rich red-brown, which is due to the presence of iron oxide in the clay that, when fired in an oxygen-rich atmosphere, produces the distinctive red colour. The presence of other minerals, the firing temperature and the atmosphere in the kiln all contribute to the final colour"

*Cadmium orange* - a synthetic pigment made of cadmium sulfide (a by-product of zinc mining), that occurs rarely in nature in the mineral greenockite. It is made by replacing some of the sulphur with selenium, and was discovered in 1817.

*Crocoite* - Chrome orange is a basic lead chromate which was introduced as a paint pigment in 1809. Now obsolete, it was discovered by Louis Nicolas in 1797. The painter Renior used this pigment in his work: *The Seine at Asnieres* (1875).

*Orpiment* - A deep-coloured, orange-yellow arsenic sulfide mineral with formula  $As_2S_3$ . It is found in volcanic fumaroles, low-temperature hydrothermal veins, and hot springs and is formed both by sublimation and as a byproduct of the decay of another arsenic mineral, realgar. This bright orange was used from antiquity to the end of the nineteenth century. Despite the high toxicity, it was a favourite of the Impressionist painters.

Uses of Orange:

Life Rafts, Life Jackets, Hi-Vis wear, Astronauts, Signage, Prisoners.



*Flaming June,  
Sir Frederic Leighton 1895*



*Steven Arpad 1939  
(434)*



*Orpiment from an  
arsenic mine - South  
Russia*



*Orange Sapphire natural Imperial  
Topaz*



*Crocoite crystal, Dundas mine, Tasmania*



*Faceted Sphalerite, Aliva mine*



*Ancient Egyptian painting. Image by Saiprw.*

*Ancient Egyptian Art*



*Orange Aventurine*



*Pandora, Rossetti*

## Dawn's Pre Show News

Dear Members

Here we are fast approaching March, and with our show being the first weekend in May, (one weekend prior to Mothers Day) we find ourselves fairly organized, but as always, help is required to bring it all together. We need at least 4 helpers in the kitchen, so as to give everyone a rest. (Please contact me as soon as possible so I can draw up a roster to suit everyone.)

I will have a large noticeboard on display in the clubrooms in a week or so. If you can help, please put your name down where there is a vacancy. (Please include your phone number if you are a new member.)

Stephan would like to advise all traders that you may need your electrical tagging updated. His contact number is 0407 680 750. He will make a time available for this to be done.

Raffle books for the show will soon be distributed to all members. Please sell as many as you can, and leave the envelopes with ticket stubs and money in the club rooms with the DUTY OFFICER. Our raffle has been extremely successful in the past, so please help us to do the same this year.

We still have 3 showcases available. For any information, please contact either John Neville on 0419 550 587 or Dawn on 0400 208 968.

Cheers to all,

Dawn Lee, Show Co-Ordinator.

### Calendar of events

March	3	<b>V.G.C.A. Meeting</b> , Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm
	9-10	<b>Combined Victorian Gem Clubs Show (Gemkhana)</b> . Hosted by the Warragul & District Lapidary Club, Logan Park, Howitt Street, Warragul. 9.30am–4.30pm. Contact Carol Kirby 0411055297.
	30-31	<b>Essendon Gem and Lapidary Club Inc. Gem Show 2019</b> . Club Rooms, Cross Keys Reserve, Bridge Street, Essendon. Melway Ref: 28 K1 Contact: Secretary, Mary Scilio 0419 599 919. Email: <a href="mailto:committee@essendongemandlapidaryclubinc.org">committee@essendongemandlapidaryclubinc.org</a> Sat: 9 am - 5 pm. Sun: 10 am - 4 pm.
April	6-7	<b>Field trip to Rushworth Whroo &amp; Lake Cooper Quarry</b> . GV Gem Mineral & Craft Group, Gold, Crystal, Cabbing rough and Minerals. See your club field trip officer for details. Contact George at 7pm 5831 8466
	19-22	<b>GEMBOREE, 55th National Gem, Fossil, Mineral and Jewellery Show</b> . Rockhampton Showgrounds Queensland.
May	4-5	<b>Diamond Valley Gem Club Annual Show</b> , Masonic Centre, 23 Esther St. Greensborough. Sat: 9am-5pm, Sun: 9am-4pm. Contact Keith Billing 043435899.

## Calendar of events—cont.

May	11	<b>V.G.C.A. Meeting</b> , Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm.
	17-20	<b>Victorian Facetors Group Shepparton Workshop</b> . Contact Graham Young 9363 1803. Mob: 0487283598.
July	6-7	<b>Palmerston North Rock and Mineral Club Show</b> . Leisure Centre, Ferguson St. Palmerston North, NZ.
	13	<b>V.G.C.A. Meeting</b> , Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm.
	19-21	<b>Yowah Opal Festival &amp; Designer Jewellery Competition</b> . Information phone Gwen, 0427068254. Stall Bookings, phone Peter Coulton 0427899943 Email: yowahcommunity@gmail.com For more Info WWW.opalhut.com.au
August	10	<b>V.G.C.A. Meeting</b> , Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm.
	17-18	<b>Ballarat &amp; District Club Gem Show</b> . "The Farm", 800 Norman Street Nth, Ballarat (Invermay).
	17-20	<b>White Cliffs Gem Fest &amp; Car Boot Sale</b> . Contact Jane Stevenson 0429601870.
	31-1st Sept	<b>Frankston and Peninsula Lapidary Club Exhibition</b> . Peninsula Community Theatre, corner Nepean Highway and Wilsons Rd, Mornington. Contact Jo 0420 364980 or Heike 0401 305707
September	14	<b>V.G.C.A. Annual General Meeting</b> , Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm
	21-22	<b>Waverley Gemcraft and Mineral Exhibition</b> , Brandon Park Community Centre, 649 Ferntree Gully Road, Glen Waverley. Contact Peter 9570 5401, or Gwen - 0407512883.
October	5-6	<b>Hutt-Wellington Club Show</b> . Events Centre ,Lower Hutt, NZ.
	11-13	<b>New Zealand National Show</b> , Dunedin, hosted by the Otago Rock & Mineral Club
	12	<b>V.G.C.A. Meeting</b> , Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm
	19-20	<b>Nunawading &amp; District Lapidary Club Annual Exhibition</b> . Dorset Primary School, Rescorla Ave, Croydon. Melway Ref 50 K7. Contact Phil Toland 9761 3169 or ndlclgem@hotmail.com
November	9	<b>V.G.C.A. Meeting</b> , Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm
December	14	<b>V.G.C.A. Meeting</b> , Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm
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January	11-12	<b>Warrnambool Gem Club Gem Show</b> , Contact Helen 0438289620, or warrnamboolgemclub@gmail.com
April	10-15	<b>GEMBOREE</b> , Albury Show Grounds.



**Diamond Valley Gem Club Inc. Registered No. A0007700S**

**ABN 49 690 669 155**

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 5th February 2019**

**Meeting opened:** - 7:15 pm

**Present:** - Gary Benson, Leigh Carbines, Robert Cooper, Neil Crammer, Keith Kerr, Dawn Lee, John Milner, Roger Williams

**Apologies:** - Jaci Anderson, Amrei Bertelsmann, Keith Billing, Maureen Boyle, Anne Brewster, Brendan Meagher

**Visitors:** - Margaret Holmes, Robin Jongebloed

**Minutes from the previous meeting:** Read by Leigh Carbines

- Minutes accepted.

Moved – Roger Williams, seconded – Neil Crammer Carried

**Matters arising from the previous minutes:**

- A draft Membership Card tabled by Keith Kerr was adopted The card is to be laminated, show the member's name and have an expiry date of 1<sup>st</sup> March each calendar year.

Moved – John Milner, seconded – Roger Williams Carried

- A list of Club Positions tabled by Leigh Carbines was adopted. The list to be included in the next newsletter.

Moved – Gary Benson, seconded – John Milner Carried

- The blind purchased for the kitchen window has been installed

- Opening hours shown on the website and newsletter available for download have been updated

- Information of rotation of roles (president, etc.) – ongoing

- Investigation of miners' rights – ongoing

- Relocation of notice board etc. – ongoing

- Decision on spending HWS grant deferred until after the Annual General Meeting

- Investigation of alternative club rooms/premises – ongoing

- Purchase four (4) sets of ear muffs for the cabochon room - ongoing

All other business arising Moved – Neil Crammer, seconded – Keith Kerr - Carried

**Treasurer's report:** - Read by Keith Kerr

Total funds \$43,090.20 as at 31/01/2019

Moved - Keith Kerr, seconded – Gary Benson - Carried

Accounts to be paid –

Rent	\$3,385.25	Electricity	\$293.11
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New belts	\$469.30	Blind	\$70.00
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Raffle prizes	\$300.00		
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Moved – Keith Kerr, seconded Roger Williams Carried

**Correspondence:** – Read by Leigh Carbines, see report

Moved –Dawn Lee, seconded – Gary Benson - Carried

**General Business:**

Life Membership:-

Leigh Carbines proposed that Dawn Lee be recommended for Life Membership at the next AGM

Moved – Leigh Carbines, seconded – Roger Williams Carried

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Duty Officers: -

Neil Crammer resigned as a duty officer and returned his keys to the Secretary

Monday 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm John Milner

Tuesday 10:30 am – 3:00 pm Gary Benson/Robert Cooper 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm John Milner

Thursday 7:30 pm – 10:00 pm Leigh Carbines/John Milner

Saturday 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm Douglas Ramsay/John Milner

2019 Show: -

- Flyers are required by March
- John Neville is organising the updating of signage
- Raffle prizes to be purchased next week
- Dawn Lee to liaise with Neil Crammer regarding photographing prizes
- There is a shortage of help in the kitchen on both days, volunteers needed
- Sausage rolls will be stored by Keith Kerr when required

Field trips: -

- Robin Jongebloed reported that he will be organising further field trips this year. Possible sites are Mt Shadwell, Reedy Creek and Morella (Grampians areas)
- Dates and further details will be confirmed when available.

Meeting closed: 9:25 pm

Signed Robert Cooper (Minute Secretary)

Keith Billing (President)