



# GEMCLUB NOVEMBER 2018

## NEWSLETTER

Clubrooms: Grace Park Cottage (Corner of Henry and Duncan Avenue Greensborough). Postal Address: P.O. Box 3088.

Phone: 0413 435 899 (Keith Billing).

[www.diamondvalleygemclub.com.au](http://www.diamondvalleygemclub.com.au)

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: 7.00 – 9.00 pm  
Tuesday: 10.30 – 3.00 pm  
Tuesday: 7.00 – 9.00 pm  
Thursday: 7.30 – 10.00 pm  
Saturday: 1.30 – 4.30 pm



*Diamond Valley Gem Club Inc.*

### MONTHLY NOTICES

**Monthly Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Minutes and Correspondences are on the Club Room Notice Board**

**The Meeting was opened at 7.15pm and closed at 8.50pm**

### Office Bearers

President:	Keith Billing	0413 435 899.
Vice President:	Maureen Boyle	0412 303 816.
Treasurer	Keith Kerr	0409 504 021
Secretary:	Leigh Carbines	9846 2335
Minutes Secretary:	Robert Cooper	

### Duty Officers

Monday:	John Milner.
Tuesday Day:	Neil Crammer.
Tuesday Evening:	John Milner.
Thursday:	Keith Billing/John Neville/John Milner.
Saturday:	Neil Crammer.

### Committee Members

Gary Benson (9467 1174), Anne Brewster, Neil Crammer (0419 021 221), Clair Gleeson (0409 511 751), Mike Griffin, Dawn Lee (9434 1512), John Milner (9435 5710) and Jaci Anderson

### Newsletter Editors

Neil Crammer and Rahn Krammaer  
Email: [dvgnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:dvgnewsletter@gmail.com) (New Email Address)  
(only for issues relating to the newsletter)

## **Business Monthly Meetings**

### **Notice Board**

It was decided that for any general business matters that members would like to discuss at the Monthly Meeting should be placed on the Notice Board list for that month. The Committee would then know of additional items of general business to be considered for the meeting.

This allows the Minutes Secretary to keep track of these matters.

Current and New Members can also attend the meeting to join in any discussion that they are interested in. If a member wishes to raise an item at the meeting but cannot attend the meeting, they are welcome to give the information to a committee member to raise for them or the item can be placed on the Notice Board.

### **Committee Meeting**

- **Committee meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each Month (except January) at 7:15 pm**

### Points of Interest

#### Inward Correspondence and Minutes

#### Pointer

- **November Pointer 2018 Club copy is available at the Club Rooms**

#### From Other Clubs

- The Gemini
- Gemform
- The Mordi-Agate
- Frank Stone Chaser
- Rockfella
- Gem Gossip

#### Other Inward Correspondence

Nil

### Items of Interest

- An information table was set up at the Watsonia Library from 10.00am until 3.00pm on the 6.10.2018
- The Museum Tour has been delayed
- Information on rotation of Executive positions is to be considered and will be explained in a future newsletter. A list of Club Executive and committee positions and duties to be allocated is being prepared
- A discussion on holding regular lapidary night will be reviewed at our next committee meeting
- A Draft is being prepared for a Membership Card is in progress
- A letter is to be sent to the Victorian Assessment Council regarding the proposed reduction in forest and recreational areas for Fossicking.

**Detailed Copies of the Minutes and Correspondence has been posted on the Notice Boards at the Club Rooms. Please Read. If you want any further information on any items listed in the minutes speak to a committee member for further clarification**

# **CLUB MEMBERS CORNER**

**Dear Member**

- **Members Please Note** No Workshops are available or Courses to be undertaken on the club premises on Monthly Committee Meeting Nights. First Tuesday of each month

## **Membership Renewals: 2018-2019**

Becoming a member is a great way to get involved in the club. Members between the age of 16 and 90 are included in our Public Liability Insurance and Personal Accident Insurance.

**Joining Fee: \$10.00 Annual Subscriptions: First Adult: \$30.00 Additional Adults: \$20.00 Under 15: \$15.00  
Life Members: nil**

## **Important Notice**

**Duty Officers please confirm that all members who are operating club equipment are financial.**

## **Please note**

**Workshop Fees have been increased from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per session commencing from 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

## **Newsletter Notice**

If all members with an email address could give it to **Neil Crammer** or send an email to **dvgcnewsletter@gmail.com** (with your full name), so that we can send the newsletter to you. If you change your email address, please advise us in order to still receive the Club Newsletters and emails.

Current Newsletters will also be available to pick up from the clubrooms.

**Our Christmas Party will be held Saturday 8th December 2018. From 4.30pm onwards.**



Location is at "Grace Park".

BYO your Drinks and Food (BBQ – Meat, Fish, ect.)

Leigh Carbines to provide the Salads.

Members to bring a plate of Nibbles or Sweets

Keith to bring Strawberries and Ice-cream

We will be conducting a Kris Kringle. Ladies to bring a lady's present and men to bring a man's present of \$5.00 or less

## **Christmas Shut down**

**Note: The club will be closing as from Thursday 20th December 2018 and reopening on Thursday 3rd January 2019**

## **Field Trips DVGC 2018**

Field Trips:

If a club member has a suggestion about what may be able to be organized for future field trips please contact me on the following mobile phone number. Alternatively, you can give a suggestion via a notice on the notice board I will be putting up leaving your phone number so I can contact you.

I will put on the notice board any field trip that may be coming up for anyone interested to put their name telephone number on for that particular field trip. I will contact those people who are interested.

DVGC Field Trip Officer - Robin Jongebloed – 0418806410

### ***Field trip November Lake Cooper Quarry Report***

Hi all,

November weekend of the 10th there is a V.G.C.A meeting to be held at Shepparton on the Saturday and a trip to Lake Cooper Quarry on the Sunday.

During the weekend a rock auction will be held as well as a visit to the Rockery at Longwood.

This is courtesy of the G.V. Gem, Mineral and Craft Group

All are welcome contact me or the G.V. Gem, Mineral and Craft Group for more information.

Robin Jongebloed

### **Miners Rights**

All adult members will require a Miners Right that can be purchased on the Earth Resources web site children under 18 do not need a Miners Right if supervised by an adult with one.

The Miners Right is for 10 years so this allows fossicking on public or crown land (confirm before fossicking)

Visit [www.earthresources.vic.gov.au](http://www.earthresources.vic.gov.au) and look up on the right hand side of the website to take you to the Miners Right page.

Read all the info to ensure you are aware of where you are allowed to fossick etc.

Visit the parks website for the Chiltern –Mount Pilot Park and take note of where you are allowed to prospect on their map overlay.

I believe the Eldorado Historic area is out of bounds.

Important: Where ever you fossick fill in all your holes, take all your rubbish with you and leave the area as you found it.

### **Brief Field Trip Report carried out at Eldorado (Mon, Oct 15, 8:09 AM)**

Hi all,

Thanks to all those that attended the Field trip to Eldorado.

Weather was perfect for fossicking all weekend.

Although crystals were hard to come by some of the smoky quartz found was of good quality.

Marion's water worn crystal looked to be the pick for polishing as its shape was unique and clarity was quite good.

Margaret and I were also able to pick up some water worn smoky quartz crystals, Amzar's daughter picked up a crystal with the classical crystal shape.

When panning we kept finding very small but beautiful red colored stones and after some overnight research by Margaret it was confirmed they were ruby colored Zircon's.

All were able to find some good gold color's and Keith came across a patch of fines with Margaret able to find a picker nugget.

Marion and myself on discussion thought what we could do to lighten Keith's load of gold either swapping sucker bottles or settling it the Kelly country way after Keith had finished getting all the gold.

Amzar and his children were able to learn some panning techniques and seemed to be having fun collecting the gold, zircons and crystals.

Brenda and I assisted each other on day one with a water worn crystal or agate and other quartz found.

Robin Jongebloed

### Field Trips

GV Gem Mineral and Craft Group Rock Auction held on the 10th and 11th of November.

Just a short note on the GV Gem Mineral and Craft Group Rock Auction and Lake Cooper Field Trip.

We had a good turnout for the Lake Cooper Quarry field trip from our club with at least 8 people attending and from the feedback it seemed everyone had a good outing.

I attended on the Saturday at the club premises and had a look through the workshop with George as I had visited Lake Cooper twice and still had plenty of rock for polishing.

It is great to see club members availing themselves of the field trips as this is one way we can ensure we have access to forest and other areas in the future.

The locals are happy to see us as there is a direct economic benefit in people visiting their regions.

Robin Jongebloed



The DVGC's field trip to Eldorado on the weekend of Oct 13-14th was a wonderful success a group of about 12 met at the Eldorado General Store on Saturday and/or Sunday, and led by Robin went off to fossick for gems and gold. We had beautiful weather which was good for snakes too, but luckily only saw them while on the roads!! Robin shared his best locations with us, and we all managed to find some gold specks, smoky quartz crystals and some very small gems (zircons and a sapphire - I think? the biggest in the picture above is about 2.5mm wide). A big thank you to Kevin and Robin who worked hard to help keep our pans full of dirt. I am sure



I speak for everyone in thanking Robin for organising the weekend and sharing his expertise, we all had a very enjoyable and rewarding time.

And yes we did find the gold nugget in the picture (pity it's only 2.5 mm long!!).



## Club Members Thank you

Thank you to the Members who have carried out activities for the benefit of our Club members during the month.

- *Our Volunteer repair people and other support members keep the club in a safe and clean condition for your personal safety and a good environment to work in. If you can assist and help the club, please contact the Committee.*

Our Club member John Milner is still on the Sick list. From all club Members we wish you a speedy recovery and a welcome return to club. You are being missed around the club rooms.

### ***Members Sale of Materials and Machinery***

***Check the Notice Board for any items of Machinery, which are for sale. Please contact number listed.***

## Findings & Windings (formerly Jaci's Findings)

Whether cutting & polishing a cabochon or faceting a stone, colour & light is what lapidarists work with. Mother Earth hides a rainbow beneath her skirts which humanity has been mining for millenia. From cave paintings to jewellery to an artists brush, nature has been giving up the full frequency spectrum for us to decorate & enhance our selves and surroundings.

Each month will explore, albeit briefly, how the earth's minerals have influenced the arts, to inspire our own lapidary creations.

### RED

**Red ochre** (clay) was first used in prehistoric cave art. Neanderthals used the iron-rich soil as far back as 250,000 years ago. Cave art was a means of communicating stories &



cultures that can be found all across the world. Much more than graffiti, it depicted myths & rites of passage of ancient peoples.



**Carmine** (a white cochineal insect) was a popular pigment during the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. It came from a prickly-pear cacti plant in Mexico. Once crushed, it produced a potent red dye & turned into paint for the European Masters to use. Carmine became the third greatest import, after gold & silver, out of the New World. Its non-toxic properties are still

**Cinnabar** (natural mercuric sulfide) is extremely toxic. In ancient Egypt & Rome slaves were used to mine it, & meant certain death. This compound was used as frescos for homes, & has been found on walls from Pompei. From the 12th century China also used it in the carved lacquer arts.

**Minium** is highly poisonous. Despite this, it was used to embellish medieval manuscripts. It was also used by popular Mughal artists from India & Persia of the 17th & 18th centuries. The Post-impressionist painter, Van Gogh, used it in his works – which probably didn't help his delicate mental & physical condition.

**Vermilion** was originally invented in China. It became a ubiquitous pigment from the 16th century art throughout Europe.

**Cadmium Red** is an element that was only discovered by a German chemist in 1817. The red colour was only introduced in 1910, & has since been used in many 20th century artworks.

- Red is:**
- The first colour humans recognise after black and white.
  - The first colour to return after losing one's sight.
  - Associated with; energy, danger, war, passion, love, power.
  - Enhances human metabolism, increases respiration rate and blood pressure.
  - Brings text and images to foreground (think about the Buy It Now button).

**Quotes & Colloquialisms:**

"Put on your red shoes and dance the blues" (David Bowie)

"The man who invented the red carpet needed his head examined" (Prince Philip)

"Nothing attracts attention like a red dress" (Laura Bush)

A red rag to a bull

Be on red alert

A red-letter day



Catch one red-handed  
**Rough Garnet**



Cut through the red tape  
**Garnet Ring**



**Mookaite Jasper Eff**





**Moussaieff Diamond 5.11 carat**  
**Attributed to William Scotts**  
**Red Peitersite**  
**Ruby Pendant**



*Section of rock-wall painting, ca. 5000-2000 B.C.*  
Art History 101

**Rhodochrosite**  
**Section of rock-wall painting**  
**ca. 5000-2000BC**



**Elizabeth 1 when a princess**  
**1546 - 1547**

## Courses

### **Cabochon**

**courses are conducted by Keith Billing for New Members to the club. New members should contact Keith Billing as to when the courses are available.**

### **Faceting**

**The faceting room is overseen by John Milner. New faceting workshops will be help for members wishing to learn faceting. Contact John Milner for more information.**

### **Last Wax Casting**

**Leigh Carbines teaches a lost wax course. Put your name on the list on the Notice Board so that Leigh can contact you with the relavent information.**

### **Wire Wrapping**

**Claire Gleeson teaches a wire wrapping course. Please check at the club for an update on this course. Clair is currently unavailable.**

### **Silversmith/Jewelry**

**For information contact Mike Griffin or Keith Billing.**

**Course Fee: all courses cost \$35.00 plus materials and usually run for five to six weeks.**

## Duty Officers

**Duty Officers are always required.** If you believe that you would like to be a Duty Officer inform **Keith Billing**.

- Duty Officers are appointed by the DVGC Committee of Management.
- Are in charge of working sessions and they can direct members on behaviour in the clubrooms.
- Can allocate (or no access) to machinery and/or facilities in the Club Rooms.
- Are responsible for the opening and locking of the premises for each sessions.
- See that the premises are clean and tidy, along with water, lights, power and heating are switched off.
- Are responsible for collecting the daily Workshop money.
- Can accept Membership Subscriptions ,issuing a receipt and ensure that the member fills out a **Membership Application Renewal Form** and making sure each person, including visitors are entered on the days worksheet.
- **Note: Duty Officers Requirement Lists are located on the Notice Board. These list in detail the requirements and items that are to be checked by the rostered Duty Officer of the current session.**

Duty Officers are unpaid volunteers and deserve cooperation of help from members

## Workshop Notes

Nil

# Diamond Valley Gem Club .inc Web Page

Report from Jeff Hill

- We are Still looking for photos of our members work to put on the Web Page to show the world what we can do. Please send Photos of your work as an attachment to an email to Jeff.
- We have sent out the June/July VGCA Pointer on line in conjunction with VGCA. This will allow more of our members to be able to read this Monthly Magazine in detail. You will receive a monthly Email with an attachment. Open up the attachment and you will be able to view the monthly Pointer Issue. NMC Download the attachment to your computer. Save or Print out a copy
- Members, Check out our Public facebook.: <https://www.facebook.com/DVGCinc/>
- Our Private group page is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/diamondvalleygemclub/>
- Please join this group if you are not already using it.

[jeff.hill@torsolutions.com.au](mailto:jeff.hill@torsolutions.com.au)

Mobile No .0407 548 692

# John Milner Lapidary Corner

## **TURQUOIS**

**TURQUOISE** derives its name from the fact that the first specimens of the stone were imported through Turkey. It is a blue or greenish-blue precious stone, of which the earliest and best specimens came from Persia. It is composed of a phosphate of aluminum, with small portions of copper and iron which latter provide the interesting matrices running through the various nuggets.

India, Tibet and Silesia yield turquoises, while other varieties are also found in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Canada (and Australia).

Turquoise is the oldest gem known to have been use by mankind both as adornment and in worship. Ancient civilizations such as the Egyptians, Aztecs and American Indians have used the turquoise as their sacred stone. But the Australian Aborigines have never used any type of precious stone for religious ceremonies, or even for adornment.

As early as 400 A.D. turquoise was found and mined in New Mexico and the aborigines there used the stone in their worship. But so beautiful was the stone, that soon men and women were using it as their main adornment those who had the most goods to barter, using it as a symbol of wealth. Even earlier than this, the Egyptians were using it – mainly in the implements used for their sacred rites – and many of these items have been recovered from the pyramids of the Pharaohs.

Now, however, Australian women – and men – are becoming more fascinated with the magic qualities of this precious mineral. It is not just the beauty of the turquoise which creates the charm, but also the craft of the American-Indian silversmiths who design the settings ... tribes with fascinating names such as the Zuni, Navajo, Hopi and Santo Domingo. The combination of their skills and the vibrant colours of the turquoise give one the feeling of being transported to another time and place. They have truly made an impact on the Australian scene.

The folk-lore of the tribal Indians; the tradition connected with each symbol used in the design; the exquisite designs on each hand-made piece all combine to weave something akin to a spell which keeps the buyers returning to add to their collections.

Did you know for instance, that turquoise – the sacred stone – represents Father Sky; that coral (traded from Formosa) is Mother Earth, and that mother-of-pearl represents Grandfather Spirit? Or that the leaf or feather design used in many Navajo settings, stands for peace and healing; that a crack in the stone means that the evil spirit has escaped from it; that silver guards one against evil spirits and that a squash-blossom necklace is worn by brides as a symbol of fertility; and that, when a necklace of fetish beads is worn, each hand carved creature or bird has a spirit which protects the wearer

Whether one prefers the primitive effect of the Navajo-Indian freeform – or mosaic designs, or the more delicate needlepoint, or inlay, of the Zuni tribe, there is one thing certain; once a person wears turquoise jewellery, that person understands the meaning of addiction. They have been captured by the spell of the world's most ancient jewel.

From the article by Nanette Rudge The Australian Reproduced from "Lapidary Magazine" Vol.13 No 12, 1977

John's comment: - although used throughout the ages turquoise continues to challenge the lapidary. Turquoise is a most beautiful and desirable stone, with a hardness of 6 on the Mohs scale, yet it is very fragile and easily fractures. Some material is very porous and subject to cracking. To ensure its stability,

Turquoise is often impregnated with wax or resin making the material more workable and resistant to fracture. As good turquoise rough is often sold by the gram and can prove expensive for the lapidary, it is wise to determine whether the material is stable prior purchase.

## POINTER

<u>November</u>	3-4	<b>Geelong Gem and Mineral Club.</b> "Gem, Crystal and Jewellery Show," Geelong West Town Hall, 153 Pakington St, Geelong West. 10-5 Sat 10-4 Sun. geelonggemandmineralclub@gmail.com.
	10	<b>V.G.C.A. Meeting,</b> Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm.
	16-19	<b>Victorian Facetors Group Beechworth Workshop.</b> The Old Priory, 8 Priory Lane, Beechworth, Vic 3747. Contact Graham Young 9363 1803. Mob: 0487283598.

<u>December</u>	8	<b>V.G.C.A. Meeting,</b> Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm.
<u>February</u>	1-4	<b>Victorian Facetors Group Traralgon Workshop,</b> Contact Graham Young 9363 1803. Mob: 0487283598.

August 2018

## POINTER

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<u>March 2019</u>	9-10	<b>Combined Victorian Gem Clubs show.</b>
<u>April</u>	19-22	<b>Rockhampton GEMBOREE</b>
<u>May</u>	17-20	<b>Victorian Facetors Group Shepparton Workshop,</b> Contact Graham Young 9363 1803. Mob: 0487283598.

GEMBOREE 2020 Albury  
Yes, Its only 18 months away!

2021 Tasmania,

Clubs (including interstate clubs) do you know dates, locations and contact persons for your 2018 show? Please let us know when the information is available so that it can be published in forward diary.

**Note: Please check your Monthly Email Copy of the Pointer for further Forward Diary Dates**