



March Newsletter 2019

Diamond Valley Gem Club

clubrooms

Grace Park Cottage,

Corner of Henry and Duncan Avenue,

Greensborough, Victoria, 3088

P.O Box 335,

Greensborough, Victoria, 3088.

Phone: 03 9846 2335 Leigh Carbines

Website: 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: 7.30 – 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



Inside this issue

Presidents message..... 2

Field trip report..... 3

Findings & Windings..... 4

Party photos..... 6

Minutes..... 7

Monthly Notices

Monthly Meeting . 5th March Minutes and Correspondences are on the Club Room Notice Board

Office Bearer

President: Leigh Carbines 03 9846 2335.

Vice President Darren Srblin

Treasurer: Keith Kerr 0409 504 021

Secretary: Robert Cooper 0418 392 861

Assistant Secretary Viki Srblin 0412 905 262

Duty Officers

Monday: John Milner

Tuesday : Gary Benson/Robert Cooper

Tuesday Evening: John Milner

Thursday: Leigh Carbines/John Milner

Saturday: Douglas Ramsay/John Milner

Committee Members

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

Newsletter

Douglas Ramsay

(0411 105 031) douglas.ramsay1@optusnet.com.au



Membership Renewals 2018-19

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

Note, when renewing it is important to fill out the membership form, copies of which are available in the club



2018 Annual Report Keith Billing

2018 has been another successful year for our Club. We continued to get new members and have maintained strong and active membership now close to 100 and more coming in most months.

Our 2018 show was the most successful in recent years in both monetary terms and in putting our name out there to attract new members, all of our traders have indicated that they want to continue trading at our show in the future.

In November 2018 we received a grant of just over \$5400 from the Banyule Council to re-organize the plumbing in the Cab room which will enable us to regulate the temperature of the water at all times. This has been a while coming, however it will be in place prior to next year's cold weather and water. We also continued to keep our equipment in top condition this year particularly in the faceting room and are prepared to replace anything that needs it.

During 2018 we made strong representations to our Landlord, the Banyule Council in order to obtain bigger club rooms and parking. To date this hasn't been successful however it's ongoing; we are encouraged by the council, and are hopeful that in 2019 we will be successful.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our members for their contributions throughout the year, and in particular I thank,

1. Dawn and the show committee for organizing and conducting our show so well, and all members who assisted with our show including those who provided raffle prizes.
2. All of our duty officers for their consistent commitment to keeping

I am interested in members who have a favorite piece they are willing to provide and discuss in the newsletter

Presidents Report Continued

the club room open.

3. All members who have assisted with maintenance of the equipment and the club rooms.

4. All of our members who have conducted courses and assisted in passing our craft on to new members.

5. Our executive and this committee for their commitment to the betterment of our club. A special thanks to Keith for his meticulous abilities in doing the Treasurers job and Leigh for being Secretary and his efforts with the Council.

6. The News Letter editor and his assistant for keeping all members informed as to our activities and note that Douglas Ramsey has taken over as Editor. Thank you Douglas

7. Robin Jongebroed for taking over as our Field Trip coordinator.

8. Jeff Hill for his work in looking after our Web site.

In 2018 our club started on its second 50 years in existence having celebrated our first 50 years in 2017. I have had the privilege of being your President for 20 of those years and where as I will continue in various roles in the club in the future, my personal situation with the health of my wife dictates that this year will be my last in the president's role. I have complete confidence in the current committee and executive, and I'm sure that there is adequate talent and commitment there to take the club forward into the future Finally I thank all of you for your confidence and for supporting me over the years that I have been your president.

Keith Billing

President. Diamond Valley Gem Club Inc.

Field Trip Report—Robin Jongebroed

Hi All

Field trip report: Eldorado

A few hardened fossickers from Diamond Valley and a Nunawading fossicker attended the Field Trip.

Reedy Creek was not running due to the dry conditions which made it better to examine parts of the creek looking for crystals and gold.

Gold was not hard to find but required reasonable effort to extract and to find patches of creek that had water for panning.

After a morning spent looking for crystals without result but

Editors comment

Folk

Hi, it's Douglas Ramsay Here. I have taken over the editing of the newsletter. I would like to interview members about their experiences, and interests, to add some spark to the newsletter, If anyone wishes to volunteer, please contact me on

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.

some nice stones were found) we visited the Eldorado Museum with the mineral collection giving the group an insight into what may be found in the surrounds.

So after a pleasant lunch in the Eldorado park we headed further up the creek and one member of the group found a good size quartz crystal.

We again found gold and had a pleasant time collecting the fine gold.

Day 2 was also hot but after being given a hint to a closer spot to fossick near Eldorado we were able to find more fine gold and a reasonable size gemstone.(some nice stones were also found).

Some of my highlights.(no particular order)

Spending time with other fossickers.

Walking among and on top of huge granite stones and formations normally under water.

Gold at every site visited.

Large quartz crystal.

Good size gemstone that will remain anonymous.

Visit to the Museum

Special thanks to Sue from the Eldorado Museum who opened the museum especially for us on a normally closed day.

Up and Coming Field Trip:

April 6-7 Field trip to Rushworth Whroo & Lake Cooper Quarry. 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

Ruby by name or by nature -John Milner

What exactly is ruby?

Ruby is a red corundum, and corundum is basically sapphire unless it is red, when it is called “Ruby”. Corundum, with its chemical formula Al_2O_3 , is colorless in its pure form as neither aluminum nor oxygen provide colour. Colorless corundum was at one stage used to imitate diamond, apparently not all that successfully as it does not have the brilliance, colour dispersion or luster of diamond, and was readily surpassed by synthetics such as a fabulite, CZ and moissanite.

Corundum is called allochromatic as it derives its colour from trace elements that do not appear in its chemical formula. Blue corundum (sapphire), is coloured by the trace elements titanium and iron, red corundum is coloured by chromium. Chromium is a fun element. It shows a strong red when viewed under long wave ultraviolet light (wavelength of 365nm). Chromium rich ruby literally glows the brightest of reds. An easy test to carry out as UV torches are readily available and one only needs to turn off the light and shine the torch onto the ruby – magic!

Sapphire, with its trace elements of titanium and iron, gives a totally different reaction. In fact, nothing much occurs at all, as the iron in the sapphire acts as a quencher, inhibiting any reaction to ultraviolet light.

But here a question arises – when does a deep-pink corundum become classified as ruby and not as pink sapphire. The answer is often given in commercial terms. If you are buying the gemstone, it is preferable for your purse to consider it to be pink sapphire, when you are selling – red ruby is by far the more expensive stone. A little like the chicken and egg conundrum, this is a corundum conundrum.

So, other than the UV reaction, what other properties does ruby possess?

It is a dichroic gemstone, meaning that when viewed from different directions, one sees different colours. (Very clearly evident when the gemstone is viewed through a dichroscope, which splits the colours of the refracted light ray into two.) In ruby these are red and an orange-red, resultant from its doubly refractive property. For facetors this is particularly important, as the best colour in the faceted stone will be achieved when only red shows on looking through the table. It is always best to position the stone so that the best colour is concentrated in the culet of the gem, as internal reflection will ensure that this is the colour seen through the table. Also very useful for facetors of sapphire, particularly Australian parti sapphire, with its colours of green and blue. When the blue colour is concentrated in the culet of the gemstone, it will appear blue. Get it wrong and the gem will only show a not too attractive green.

Back to ruby. Why by name and not by nature? Historically all red stones were called ruby. This included many that today are not in the ruby classification but are of different chemical formula and crystallographic composition. The best example is the Black Prince’s Ruby in the Imperial State Crown of England, the history of which dates back to the 14th century. Whilst always known as a ruby, it is in fact red spinel, cut en cabochon and passed on through the ages by royalty. (Ruby - Al_2O_3 and Spinel - $MgO Al_2O_3$)

Today jewellery shops abound with rubies in a diversity of settings. There is a code of practice that ensures only natural rubies are sold under the name Natural Ruby, however not all is necessarily as it seems:

heat treatment removes the less attractive orange-red ray giving a brighter red colour and increasing clarity. It is a common treatment in Burma and Thailand, but is rarely disclosed to the buyer;

inferior quality rubies can have their fractures filled with glass giving a smoother surface and appearance of greater transparency. This should be disclosed as G F Ruby; and

many rubies, so called, are not natural yet they possess the same chemical formula and are produced in a laboratory. These should at least carry the qualifier – man made, or created.

The message is clear – “Buyer beware!”

And now for the best part of all - making your own ruby. Yes it is possible and the recipe is simple. Ingredients include, powdered aluminium oxide, chromium oxide and heat. A little like cooking, but care needs to be taken as chromium oxide, an ingredient necessary to produce the colour, is toxic. Add a small, say 1 – 3% by volume, amount of chromium oxide to the powdered aluminum oxide, mix well, slowly feed the powder onto a fireproof surface and heat with a blowtorch. The resultant small red crystals are ruby. Warning - as chromium oxide is not good for health one should wear a mask and eye protection against the powerful white light produced by the torch ...and, please note that this is NOT a project for children. So if interested, watch the whole thing in safety on YouTube “How to make precious ruby at home”

Enjoy!

JAM

Member sharing: Linda Keays

Linda Keays was invited to an exhibition “Renewal” in the Eltham Library foyer, which was visited by the governor of Victoria and her husband. She provided her ‘Burnt Tree Lazarus’ brooch, made of Silver, Copper, Peridot gemstones, Furnace slag from a nickel smelter (which was cut in the club).

The brooch represents the vigorous growth of branches from an apparently dead tree stump after fire.

Well, done, Linda, a beautiful example of something that can be achieved, and something to be treasured.



Dawn's Pre Show News

Dear Members

Here we are in 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 you 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. Pleas 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

April	6-7	Field trip to Rushworth Whroo & Lake Cooper Quarry. 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	GEMBOREE, 55th National Gem, Fossil, Mineral and Jewellery Show. Rockhampton Showgrounds Queensland.
May	4-5	Diamond Valley Gem Club Annual Show, Masonic Centre, 23 Esther St. Greensborough. Sat: 9am-5pm, Sun: 9am-4pm. Contact Keith Billing 043435899.
	11	V.G.C.A. Meeting, Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm.
	17-20	Victorian Facetors Group Shepparton Workshop. Contact Graham Young 9363 1803. Mob: 0487283598.
July	6-7	Palmerston North Rock and Mineral Club Show. Leisure Centre, Ferguson St. Palmerston North, NZ.

Calendar of events—cont.

July	13	V.G.C.A. Meeting , Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm.
	19-21	Yowah Opal Festival & Designer Jewellery Competition. Information phone Gwen, 0427068254. Stall Bookings, phone Peter Coultou 0427899943 Email: yowahcommunity@gmail.com For more Info WWW.opalhut.com.au
August	10	V.G.C.A. Meeting , Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm.
	17-18	Ballarat & District Club Gem Show. “The Farm”, 800 Norman Street Nth, Ballarat (Invermay).
	17-20	White Cliffs Gem Fest & Car Boot Sale. Contact Jane Stevenson 0429601870.
	31-1st Sept	Frankston and Peninsula Lapidary Club Exhibition. Peninsula Community Theatre, corner Nepean Highway and Wilsons Rd, Mornington. Contact Jo 0420 364980 or Heike 0401 305707
September	14	V.G.C.A. Annual General Meeting , Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm
	21-22	Waverley Gemcraft and Mineral Exhibition , Brandon Park Community Centre, 649 Ferntree Gully Road, Glen Waverley. Contact Peter 9570 5401, or Gwen -0407512883.
October	5-6	Hutt-Wellington Club Show. Events Centre ,Lower Hutt, NZ.
	11-13	New Zealand National Show , Dunedin, hosted by the Otago Rock & Mineral Club
	12	V.G.C.A. Meeting , Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm
	19-20	Nunawading & District Lapidary Club Annual Exhibition. Dorset Primary School, Rescorla Ave, Croydon. Melway Ref 50 K7. Contact Phil Toland 9761 3169 or ndlclgem@hotmail.com
November	9	V.G.C.A. Meeting , Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm
December	14	V.G.C.A. Meeting , Nunawading Clubrooms, 2 Silver Grove, Nunawading. Melway Ref 48 E10. 4pm
2020		
January	11-12	Warrnambool Gem Club Gem Show , Contact Helen 0438289620, or warrnamboolgemclub@gmail.com
April	10-15	GEMBOREE , Albury Show Grounds.

Diamond Valley Gem Club Inc. Registered No. A0007700S

ABN 49 690 669 155

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 5th March 2019

Meeting opened: - 7:20 pm

Present: - Gary Benson, Amrei Bertelsmann, Keith Billing, Maureen Boyle, Leigh Carbines, Neil Crammer, Robert Cooper, Keith Kerr, Dawn Lee, John Milner, Douglas Ramsay, Darren Srblin, Vicki Srblin, Brenda Waters, Roger Williams

Apologies: - Jaci Anderson, Anne Brewster, Claire Gleeson, Robin Jongebloed, Brendan Meagher, Adele Satchiw, Berenice Williams

Minutes of 2018 AGM: - Read by Keith Billing, accepted

Moved - Roger Williams, seconded – Dawn Lee

Business arising from the 2018 AGM minutes: -

Membership fees

Moved that the annual membership fee increase approved at the 2018 AGM be deferred to take effect from the 2020 calendar year as follows: -

1st adult person - increased from \$30.00 to \$40.00

Additional adult person - increased from \$25.00 to \$30.00

Discussed and accepted

Moved – Maureen Boyle, seconded Keith Kerr

President's report: - See attached. Read by Keith Billing, accepted.

Moved Keith Billing, seconded – Dawn Lee

Treasurer's report: - See attached, audited by Keith Billing. Read by Keith Kerr, accepted.

Moved - Keith Kerr, seconded – John Milner

Honorary members: - Greg Kirkbride, Grant Pearson

Moved by Keith Billing, seconded – Dawn Lee

Elections: -

<u>Position</u>	<u>Elected</u>	<u>Moved</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
President	Leigh Carbines	Keith Kerr	Robert Cooper
Vice President	Darren Srblin	Keith Billing	John Milner
Treasurer	Keith Kerr	Keith Billing	John Milner
Secretary	Robert Cooper	Leigh Carbines	John Milner
Assistant secretary	Vicki Srblin	Darren Srblin	Maureen Boyle

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Committee Gary Benson, Maureen Boyle, Neil Crammer, Dawn Lee, John Milner
Douglas Ramsay, Roger Williams

Moved – Maureen Boyle, seconded – Neil Crammer

General Business: -

Life Member

Moved that Dawn Lee become a life member of the Diamond Valley Gem Club Inc.0

Discussed and accepted

Moved – Roger Williams , seconded Maureen Boyle

Meeting closed: - 8:00 pm

Signed Robert Cooper (Secretary)

Leigh Carbines (President)

Diamond Valley Gem Club Inc. Registered No. A0007700S

ABN 49 690 669 155

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 5th March 2019

Page 1

Meeting opened: - 8:00 pm

Present: - Gary Benson, Keith Billing, Maureen Boyle, Leigh Carbines, Neil Crammer, Robert Cooper, Keith Kerr, Dawn Lee, John Milner,

Apologies: - Jaci Anderson, Anne Brewster

Visitors: - Amrei Bertelsmann, Douglas Ramsay, Darren Srblin, Vicki Srblin, Brenda Waters, Roger Williams

Minutes from the previous meeting: Read by Keith Billing

- Minutes accepted.

Moved – John Milner, seconded – Maureen Boyle Carried

Matters arising from the previous minutes:

- The Membership Card will be credit card size and printed on quality cardboard

- Information on miners' rights was included in the February 2019 newsletter

- Relocation of notice board etc. – in progress

- Decision on spending HWS grant- ongoing

- Investigation of alternative club rooms/premises – ongoing

- Four (4) sets of ear muffs for the cabochon room have been purchased

- Show flyers have been printed

- Show banners have been updated

- Raffle prizes have been purchased, photographed and ticket will be issued in the next few week

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

Treasurer's report: - Read by Keith Kerr

Total funds \$38,232.50 as at 28/02/2019

Moved - Keith Kerr, seconded – Maureen Boyle - Carried

Accounts to be paid –

Show flyers	\$299.20	VGCA raffle tickets	\$293.11
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PO box rent	\$195.00	Show banners	\$120.00
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Reimbursements	\$326.65		
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Moved – Keith Kerr, seconded Maureen Boyle Carried

Correspondence: – Read by Leigh Carbines, see report

Moved –Leigh Carbines, seconded – Maureen Boyle - Carried

General Business:

Duty Officers: -

Monday 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm John Milner (Robert Cooper to fill in on 11th March)

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

Meeting closed: 9:15 pm

Signed Robert Cooper (Secretary)

Leigh Carbines (President)