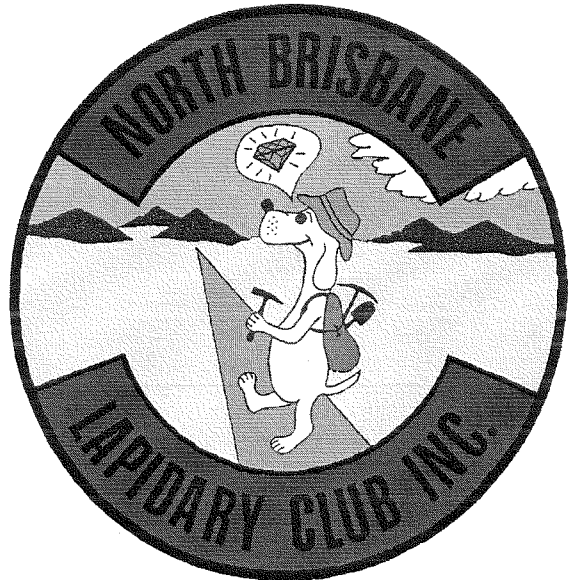


CRYSTAL LINES

NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB Inc.

Newsletter July/August 2011

PRESIDENTS
REPORT
PROGRESS
REPORT ON
MAJOR FIELD
TRIP



If undeliverable, return to
North Brisbane Lapidary
club Inc.
P.O. Box 1248
Toombul Q. 4012

SURFACE
MAIL

NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

Phone: (07) 3260 7025. E-mail Club: info@nblc.com.au
WEB SITE: www.nblc.com.au

PATRON	Neil Roberts MP	TREASURER	Peter Moller 0447 167 136
PRESIDENT	Stephen Bell	MEMBERSHIP	Helen Moriarty
VICE PRESIDENT	Barry Waller	LIBRARIAN	Mike Mahoney
SECRETARY	Ray Wilson	EDITOR	Peter Moller 0447167 136

WORK SESSIONS

Monday 7.30pm-9.30pm
Tuesday 7.00pm-9.00pm
Wednesday 9.00am-12noon
Friday 7.30pm-9.30pm

Open other times by arrangement

WORKSHOP FEES

\$3.00 Per work session
\$5.00 Badges members
\$6.00 Badges non-members
\$30.00 Club T-shirts
Free Club bumper stickers

Silver sales @ \$1.30 per gram

JOINING FEES

\$15.00 First member
\$13.50 Second member
\$12.00 Pensioner
\$35.00 Family (at same address)
\$12.00 Associate member
\$12.00 Junior member

CUTTING FEES

Diamond grinders \$1.50 per ½ Hour or part thereof
24" saw 50c per sq inch
14" saw 50c per sq inch
10/12" saw 50c per sq inch
Trim saw 50c per cab
Tumbler hire \$15.00 per month

Annual postage required for *Crystal Lines* - \$6.00 (members only)

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$26.00 First member
\$22.00 Second member
\$50.00 Family (2 adults & 2 children 12-18 years)
\$18.00 Pensioner Under 70 Years & Junior members

NBLC CLUBHOUSE ADDRESS

Albert Bishop Park
Nudgee Road
NUNDAH QLD.

POSTAL ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 1248
TOOMBUL
4012

BASIC REQUIREMENTS NEEDED TO CARRY OUT LAPIDARY WORK (CABS)

- Waterproof apron
- 3 power head loupe, cost approx \$30.00
- 10 power hand loupe
- Dop stick
- Slabbed stone of your choice

BASIC REQUIREMENTS NEEDED TO CARRY OUT FOSSICKING

- Good maps of the area you intend to visit
- 1 x Aluminium sieve 305mm diameter by 3mm, mesh 1/8 inch
- 1 x Aluminium sieve 305mm diameter by 7mm, mesh ¼ inch
- 1 x Small sturdy shovel (not the fold up type)
- 1 x Plastic gold pan
- Footwear – Preferably boots to support ankles
- Headwear – Wide brimmed hat
- Transport - A 4x4 is nice, but a lot of areas can be accessed by conventional vehicles
- Accommodation - Hotels, motels, caravans or camping. This can lead to very enjoyable family bush weekends
- Communication – With the outside world is not necessary, but very handy to have. A mobile phone is useful in case of emergency and we strongly suggest a handheld UHF CB. These cost around \$50-\$100

The above are only the basic requirements to enable you to carry out this hobby. Extra equipment can be obtained at a later date if required. Enjoy yourselves; leave fossicking areas clean for others and some material behind for others – good luck and good fossicking!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings from Sapphire!

A short report this month - club activities have slowed down with a high percentage of members searching for sapphires, zircons, opal topaz gold and anything in between. The little snippets of information revolve around mice at Mud Tank. During April

anagement meeting Treasurer Peter suggested excess funds be put to work instead of laying dormant. This was passed and now we have \$22,000 working day and night for us. Our latest member is a very interesting young man. He comes from Afghanistan via Pakistan through Malaysia to Indonesia by boat to Christmas Island to Nundah and found our web site on the net. He came to the club on Friday 11th May returned the next week with his application and fees paid. His background in this field is cutting rubies and emeralds by eye only, no machinery at all. I took the liberty of giving him a lesson on the VJ. He took to it like a duck to water and in no time had the pavillion cut and pre-polished. Greg Godson has staken him under his wing in our absence. I had a little trouble with his given name, but he is comfortable with the english equavilent Frank.

The sacrifice and arduous journey that brought him from Afghanistan to the NBLC is a story worth hearing. Kevin speaks very good english so don't be shy with an introduction.

Pres. Steve

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to the club **Harold Charles and Doreen McDougal**

JULY/ AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Unfortunately no monthly reports to work from so until I do may I wish you all on behalf of the club.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

Get Well:

Oh gawd its
nurse |carol

This won't
hurt a bit.

To all those who are unwell or
and complete recovery.



injured please accept our best wishes for a speedy

ROCKTOBER IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING

This new initiative for our club is looking like it will be an enormous success.

We already have bookings from dealers which is a good indication of the confidence felt in our club.

OCTOBER 15TH WILL BE THE BIG DAY.

October was chosen as it is half way through the year between gem shows and there aren't any other gem shows in and around Brisbane at that time.

The structure for this year has been set. The date has been set as **October 15**. There will be about 15 outdoor stall sites and one dealer inside. All participants will be invited. A rolling program of demonstrations has been scheduled which can be seen on the advertisement. I expect that at those scheduled times at least there will be club members participating in those activities. There will be a roster published and volunteers will be called for but if we don't get sufficient volunteers, members will be allocated to tasks for 2-3 hours on the day. If members wish to spend more time using the club facilities to facet, cabochon or do silversmithing then all the better. We will need some volunteers for food and

drink sales but again this will be limited to something simple like sausage and onion on bread, sliced cakes, tea, coffee and soft drinks.

Promotion of the event will commence with notification to all of the south east Queensland lapidary and associated clubs. Event promotion will also be through web sites and hopefully through free local newspapers. Given that it is something new we should be able to generate some editorial interest.

So what do I need of you? Firstly, put a date claimer for October 15 in your diaries or calendars, be prepared to put in a few hours on the day and if you have any ideas on getting the message out to the broader community then I would be happy to hear from you.

Ray Wilson.
Rock-tober

There is a poster/leaflet in PDF form on the website, for Rock-tober, for those that have a notice board they can pin it to.

NBLC SHOW FACET COMPETITION

The competition forms and diagrams are available at the club and can also be downloaded online at <http://www.nblc.com.au/gem%20show.htm>

SOCIAL EVENT

**COMING SOCIAL EVENT
SATURDAY 27TH AUGUST 6.30PM**

THEME - SHOW N TELL

Thanks to the recent "holiday" undertaken by the club I am sure we will be both entertained and interested to hear and see all.

No doubt Gary will have a wealth of knowledge for us all.

Supper will be served (\$2.50 per head)

SANDRA BELL

ROSS CHAPMAN'S THAI GEM TOUR

Ross is once again running one of his GEM TOURS to Thailand beginning on the 3rd of November and visiting the major gem markets as well as many interesting and historically significant sites along the way. Cheryl and I have been on two of these tours and I intend to be there again this year. There is always something new and exciting and this year there is the added dimension of two days in the famous Chantabouri gem markets staying overnight in one of the local resorts.

These trips have proven to be very popular but there is still one vacancy available for this year due to a cancellation.. For those of you interested in next year's trip it is already almost booked out.

MAJOR FIELD TRIP

Compilation of reports received from Gary Gatfield. No dates have been included but I'm sure you will all appreciate the scope of this epic journey they have all undertaken.

We depart Mudtank on Fri 1st and are now travelling via the bitumen to Katherine, then down to top springs on the 9th. Will arrive Wave Hill on the 10th as per the itinerary.

The camping at Mudtank for 3 wks was hard to take, but someone had to do it. Most of the keen fossickers got plenty of good Zircon, albeit only about 10% is good faceting material.

Be that as it may, the Zircon was plentiful for those who put in the time, either digging or specking. I filled a large 4L ice-cream container with zircon, to the brim.

Garnets at the nearby fossicking areas was also plentiful, and I saw clean pieces up to gold ball size, being won By various members.

We skipped spotted tiger campsite due to the rough road to get there, but have now departed early for Katherine.

Leaving Katherine on Sat morning on schedule (9th), at 8.30am.

The French connection of Beatrice & Tahar arrived today from Darwin and joined up with us.

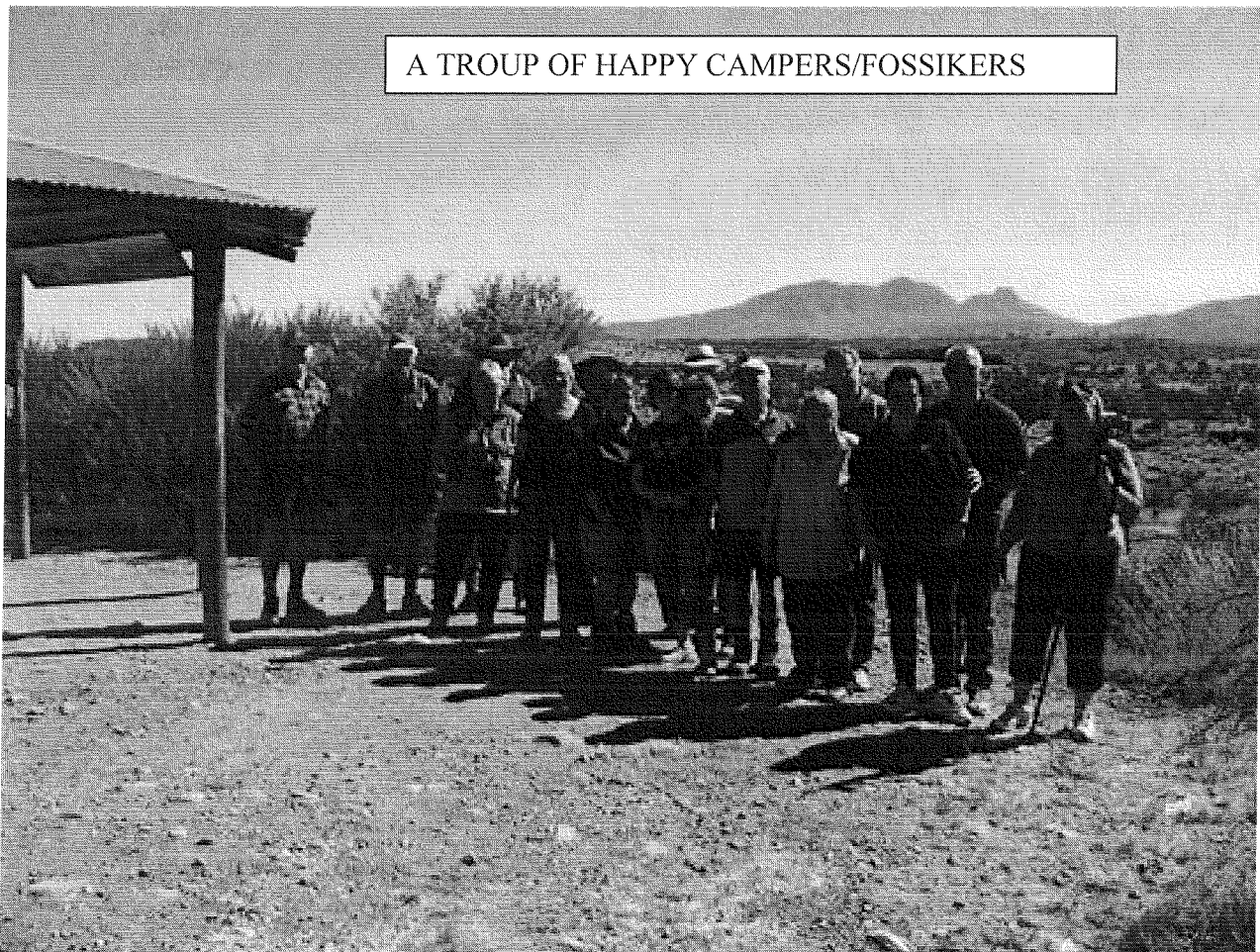
With the Kiwis fitting right in, we now have a field trip group this year, which really does have an international flavour.

If we still have anyone to meet, will probably see them at Top Springs, I hope. But the only 2 we are missing, that I am aware of, are Dave & Sonya. I don't know where we are to meet them? We may not need to stay overnight at Top Springs, unless someone is specifically wanting to Meet us there on the 10th, as from Katherine to Wave Hill campsite at Gourdy Springs Is only 1 day's travel, so we could arrive on Say 9th. At least 3 vans are departing the group early for Wave Hill tomorrow.

Some members are already at Wave Hill campsite, this is what Wanda has to say:

Garry we are camped down near the water hole and it is beautiful.

Follow the graded road all the way until you cross the little creek with water in it, then turn right soon after and follow it until you find us..... Wanda



Well, we have finally departed the fossicking paradise of Wave Hill Station, N.T. Our French connection departed early to tour the Kimberleys, Ray & Antonia departed for Darwin, and Ross & Wanda for Halls Creek.

Most of the rest of us departed yesterday and drove to Dunmarra, then today we arrived at Tennant Ck. But 2 groups are travelling separate, and we all meet up on the banks of the Georgina at Camowéal tomorrow ar.v.

At Wave Hill, we fossicked with permission, on the mining lease, that now covers the main Prehnite deposit.

Most of us came away with sufficient good Prehnite to last a long time, but also Quartz crystal specimens, Amethyst and Smokey, Jasper, Agate, Chalcedony, Etc.

Gary,

Kay and I arrived home yesterday, it was a long safe trip, but its good to be home.

We would like to say that we enjoyed the friendship and the amazing amount of information that was gained at every fossicking spot. You and Carroll make a difficult job seem very easy, it will be a big job for Jim to take over, and you made your last trip as tour leader a great success. Once again thanks, I have unpacked the car (now 100kg lighter) and am in the process of quarrying my way into the depths of the van.

Please pass on our thanks to all the guys and girls, it was great.

Thanks Rick and Kay

hello to everyone

We are at home, in Marseille now. Good to be at home with all the beautiful souvenirs we have thanks to you; and the stones !!! more than 20 kilos of stones; we threw away stuff like old shoes, shirts, (we gave some tools to young guys who were going to the kimberleys).

In spite of a van repair in Kununurra (5 days) we appreciated the time in Australia so much. the travel was tiring as usual (you must know that Qantas oblige you to check up again your luggage when you change the plane compagny;;;)

Tahar began to buy or find machines, tools to work with the prehnite and agates....

We miss you already.

Thanks for your attention, your advices, Thanks Rick, Carol, Ray, and Milton for your so much loved concert near the fire.

Thanks Garry again for your patience and friendship.

Our invitation to come to France is always on my mind. Don't hesitate to ask if you need help.

I'll write later to ask more about what to do now with the stones !!!

see you later.

Beatrice (and Tahar)

By now many of our travelers will be home.

Welcome to you all and we look forward to the stories of your travels.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

My apologies to you all for the lack of a CRYSTAL LINES last month but circumstances overtook me and I was unable to get it out.

Once again I want to emphasise that **ROCKTOBER** is not far away and we need to concentrate our efforts on making it a success.

Remember that this event is more about showing off our hobbie and our club than it is about fundraising. Our members are our club and if this event brings more enthusiastic Rockhounds into our fold than our already strong club will become even stronger.

Keep an eye on the web site as we will be updating the information there regularly.

Peter Moller
peter.moller3@bigpond.com

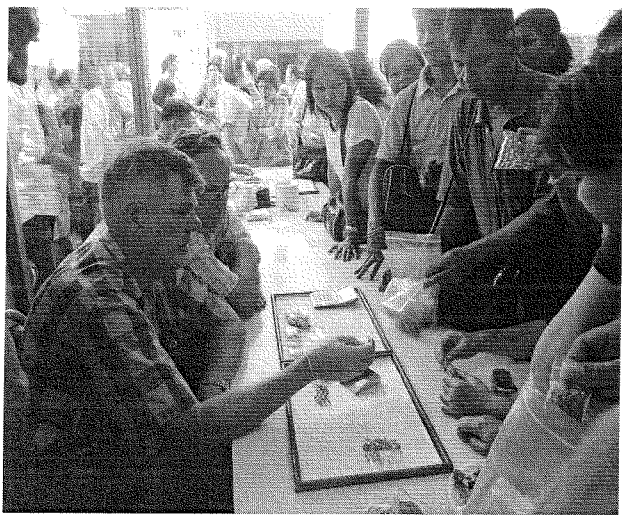
Thai Gem Tour - 2011

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

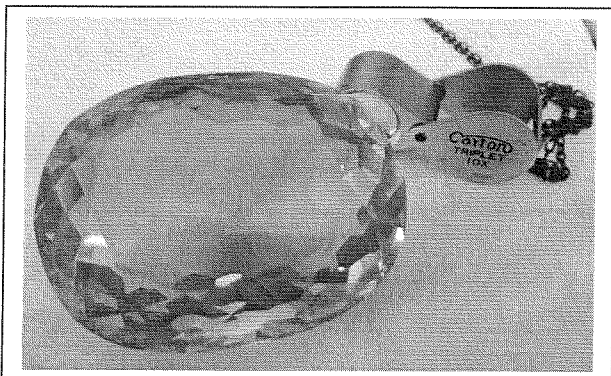
Enjoy a fully escorted small group tour with Ross Chapman, Thai friends and guides.

The tour is designed for gem enthusiasts as Ross has for years taken a group to Thailand in November and has established a network of contacts in the gem and jewellery trade.

ROSS HAS TWO PLACES LEFT FOR THIS NOVEMBER'S TOUR. WOULD YOU LIKE TO FILL THIS PLACE?



As well as visiting the usual tourist sights there are many places and activities that will show you another side of this interesting and beautiful country.



CONTACT: Ross Chapman
28 Victory Street, Virginia Q4014
ross@gemsofaus.com.au
0438 636 294

Tour members should be in Bangkok by Thursday afternoon 3rd November 2011. Tour is for 17 nights and cost includes some transfers, hotel and resort accommodation, most meals, minibus transport, services of tour leader and guides and hill tribe entertainment. Land Costs: \$2390 per person twin share. Single supplement \$420.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to join like-minded 'gemmy' people and be escorted to places such as Mae Sai gem market, Sukhotai ancient city, River Kwai, Burma Railway, and gem dealers. This is just a taste of what the tour is about. One lucky person, or a couple could have all this and will come back with fantastic bargains.