



The Rhodoniter

NAMBOUR LAPIDARY CLUB INC.



Newsletter... June 2016

Email nambourlapidary@hotmail.com

Management Team elected March 2015

President	John Spencer	0434 785 880
Vice President:	Trevor Renshaw	0419 781 105
Treasurer:	Bernadette Anderson	0419 737 587
Lap. Supervisor:	Ian Rose	0405 216 444
Silver Supervisor	Freda Wengert	0400 717 589
Silver Supervisor	John Huelin	0499 554 673

Workshop Session Times

Monday pm:	6 to 9 pm	Silverwork
Tuesday am:	8.30 to noon	Lapidary
Thursday pm	6 to 9 pm	Lapidary
Other times by request		

June Birthstone Moonstone



Moonstone is the birthstone for June. It was given its name by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon — a belief that held until well after the sixteenth century.

It is a phenomenal gemstone, moonstones show a floating play of light (called *adularescence*) and sometimes show either a multi-rayed star or a cat's eye.

Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones are often displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune.

Part of the family of minerals called *feldspar*, moonstone occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks and comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue, peach, and champagne.

The most prized moonstones are from Sri Lanka; India, Australia, the United States, Myanmar, and Madagascar are also sources.

The Pearl and Alexandrite are also Beautiful June Birthstones

Birthday wishes to :
Gary Foster

Feature Page: Trevor and Lyn Renshaw

These 2 great folks are long overdue for a feature page..
A special tribute is needed here....
More on Page 3 and 4....



The decision to axe the new 'front entry' construction, meant the display cabinets still posed a problem for access to the Club House...

Read more on Page 5.....



Project Proudly Hosted by the Club's resident Geologist
Matt Houston

Major Improvements Have commenced !.

It would be fair to say, The club improvements, as planned, would not be going ahead without the tireless input from..... ?

More on Page 6....

Great success at the 2016 Nambour Agricultural Show

The Club had record sales at the show this year.

This was largely due to the Show management's decision to reduce the entry fees and have a 'kids free' day on Friday.

See pics on pages 7 and 8....

Club Report

So much has happened in a short space of time, it seemed like a good idea to 'bung out' an early newsletter to keep everyone up to date.

Early in the stage of improvements, the 2 display cabinets were moved to different spots to improve the front entry access. This meant that all the rocks and specimens had to be removed and replaced.

This seemed like a great opportunity to 'sort out' the rocks from the specimens and tidy up decades of random placements. There is a separate page in the newsletter about this.

Matt made special visits over 5 days to do the work (with microscope, lamp and laptop) and then spent time at home on the computer listing everything and making labels...what a huge undertaking!

What a fantastic Job. The cabinets have never looked so good, and the Club now has something to be really proud of.

Matt is a professional and passionate Geologist, and he is not happy unless he can fully identify and locate every specimen. He says it is just as important to know where a specimen is from as to what it is.

A specimen may look similar to another, but if you know it came from a certain area, which is no longer available, it can increase its value tenfold. Matt has a face book site and a web site, called 'Red Dog Minerals', with a lot of great information and specimen sales. He also has a stall each year at the Gemfest. A must to visit...

The 3 day Agricultural show was a great success and we took as much in the first day as we normally do for the whole weekend.

The weather on the first 2 days was beautiful. Sunday was a bit cooler but still fine.

The 'show committee', this year, decided to reduce the entry costs to \$10 also Friday was a 'kids free day' This, along with the fine weather made a huge difference to the attendance. We have never seen so many children..

The fossicking Barrow was a huge success and all records were broken on the first day, with 210 bags of gems and fossicking maps given out. It cost over \$1000 to re-stock all the tumbled/polished stones afterwards.

There were some amazing volunteers this year, and a big thanks goes out to all those who attended and helped to make it such a success.

*Pep Dorsch
John Huelin
Kitty Spencer
Trevor and Lyn Renshaw
Ian Rose
Laurie Jones
Derek Hill
Susan Lawrence
Ron and Susan Contini
Gail Johnson
Tina Begeda
Dee Dunham
Freda Wengert
Jarrod (Treeman) Haines
Matt Houston
Bernadette Anderson
Andrew Willing
Gary Foster
Vince Warren
Larry Hanley
Gillian Smith
Neils Ashby*

John Crain and Peter Kerr both volunteered, but regrettably were unable to attend due to family commitments.

Kath Mckee stepped in at the last minute and eased the load on the others, Kath is great with the Kids.

Because there was a nice profit at the show, and also because of the Council Grant, The management team agreed to hold a special meeting to vote on the viability and purchase of a new 24" Slab saw which is almost \$10,000. This will be the first 'new' saw ever owned by the club.

It was agreed unanimously to go ahead.

This has now been ordered and Peter Kerr has volunteered to fetch the huge crate from Glen Innes, which is saving the club \$500 in Transport costs.

Back in the Clubhouse, the improvements have started in earnest.

13th June saw the first 2 large benches brought in by John H and Pep. and put into the saw room.

15th June

John H arrived with his horse float and delivered 2 freshly manufactured tables, with center up stands plus a new tool cabinet.

The wall under the window was demolished to make a new opening.

The 2 main benches were set in place, and a total of 14 new double power points installed.

*John H and John S
Andrew and Bernadette*

Freda, Laurie and Derek gave a hand

A 10" diamond saw, donated by Bob Ellis has been refurbished with a paint job and a 1/3rd HP motor and was given 'first place' on the new saw bench.

The other saws will all be refurbished in due course. We don't want dirty grubby old saws on the new work benches.

Once again a huge thanks to John Huelin for his untiring work for the club, The steel frames for the benches are great, If it had been left to me they would have all been made out of Timber.. lol.

Laurie Jones is having great success with the vibrating lap, and has reported that he has lots of slabs finished and is on to the next batch. We might be able to flog some off at the next show.

Preparations are now underway for the next show which is the Garden Expo. We are having to pay more money for the passes this time, so we have reduced the number of volunteers, who are now being asked to work for a full day instead of half days. 6 People are needed for each day.

Just a reminder, there will be NO workshops, daytime or evening, on the week leading up to the show.

For security reasons, No clubs can operate while the show preparations are on.

The 'Saw room' is in a mess at the moment, but this is only temporary. All the stuff is getting moved around from pillar to post while the new benches are put in place.

Thanks to Andrew who came in after work to take away a load of rubbish to the tip.

Once again thanks to all the great members who put up their hands to help out and make this such a great club to work in.

Cheers John Spencer



Improvements project proudly sponsored by the Sunshine Coast Council's Grant Program

Trevor and Lyn Renshaw



These 2 great folks are long overdue for a feature page.. A special tribute is needed here....

Without Trevor and Lyn, it would be safe to say the Club would not be where it is today. They first Joined the Club over 10 years ago while they were still running their Camping Shop business in Cooroy. Since then they have worked tirelessly to support the club in every direction, at home, at the club and all the events along the way.

Retired now, they are still as enthusiastic as ever and never miss an event, that is, unless they are out hunting rocks somewhere in the great outdoors on a Caravan trip. At home they have a truly magnificent collection of Rocks and Specimens which they have collected over the years. Trevor has all the equipment to do what he wants at home, but still wouldn't miss coming to the club to meet up with friends and newcomers. Lyn loves their specimens, and in her spare time she spends hours Cataloguing, sorting and arranging the displays.

After a brief introduction to the club, Trevor learned Lapidary the hard way, using very basic equipment. Back then, polishing wheels were simply spinning flat laps with emery paper stuck to the face.

He remembers fondly being taught by Alice Hing, who threatened to slap his wrist on many occasions for not switching the grinding wheel off while he was trying to retrieve a lost stone. Trevor soon became a supervisor at the club and has taught more new members than he cares to remember.

3 years ago, the existing president resigned at short notice and Trevor stepped in half way through a term to take the reins. He was then officially voted in as President at the next AGM. Trevor's enthusiastic, generous and fun approach is his endearing quality and all the members enjoyed being under his leadership.

As can be seen by the photos, Trevor has produced some amazing polished stones of all shapes and sizes. One of his passions is for opals and his skill has made a beautiful collection of simply stunning pieces.

Not content with just polishing stones, He has also become a master at the ultimate art of faceting, an enviable skill. He is always happy to give instructions to anyone who is willing to have a go.

Thanks Trevor for your brilliant work for the club. Hope you will be with us for many more years to come.

Lyn doesn't attend the workshops but her work in supporting the club as an associate member, is incredible.

As far as the Club is concerned she is without doubt one of the most important members we have. In addition to carrying out Secretarial work for many years, Lyn continues to organise the October Gemfest every year.

What may appear a simple job to some, is in fact a time consuming and dedicated job. Organising over a 100 Traders each year is a mammoth task and is one of the most 'responsible' jobs at the club. The traders can be demanding and quirky and each one has to be treated with empathy and respect to keep them coming back each year.

They all have to be logged in, forms and insurance, sites allocated etc etc.

There is no-one else at the club who would, or could undertake this work.

Without the money from the Gemfest each year, it would be safe to say the club would barely make enough money to cover its running costs, let alone buy all the consumables we need, with new diamond wheels and polishing wheels costing upwards of \$350 each. That's like; the takings from 4 or 5 workshop sessions to buy 1 wheel !!

Lyn also attends every show and event when possible and volunteers her time to sell stones and make money for the club. The place wouldn't be the same without you Lyn.



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Cabachons from the early days



Rare Blue Topaz from N. Queensland
Fossicking trip



fine Facetted gem samples



Boulder Opal and freeform gem creations



Magnificent Opal pieces



Display Cabinets Revival A Long awaited 'Makeover'

The decision to axe the new 'front entry' construction, meant the display cabinets still posed a problem for access to the Club House. With a little bit of planning and re-arrangement the cabinets were moved to new locations which has opened up the entry way. The results are dramatic and everyone is delighted with the result.

In order to move the Cabinets, they had to be completely emptied.

This was a perfect time to give the Cabinets a complete makeover.

The Club is very fortunate to have Matt Houston as a member.

Matt is a professional Geologist and he has generously donate many days of his time (indeed weeks) to completely re-organize the entire stock of specimens.

Everything was a complete mess, with 'nothing properly identified or sorted. 50 odd years of random donations of specimens, rocks and minerals.

Matt has 'Identified', 'located, (where possible, through research), sorted into categories', 'logged', 'listed' on a spread sheet with identifying serial numbers and then printed out labels for every single item. Finally arranging them back into the specimen cabinet freshly cleaned by Kitty.

Gail loved every minute, and generously volunteered her time to help with sorting and cleaning the specimens.

As you come through the door, the specimen cabinet is on the left. The cupboard on the right is a display of rocks and minerals mostly from the club which have been cut and polished.

Well done to everyone involved .



The Rhodaniter



Major Improvements Have commenced !.

It would be fair to say, The club improvements, as planned, would not be going ahead without the tireless input from John Huelin and his home workshop.

John is one of the Club's major assets. An unsung hero who is happy to Donate his time and skills for the benefit of the club and the members.

We are looking forward to working and playing in the new, well earned, club renovations.

Making the new Tables for the main workshop



New steel frame Benches for the saw room, with integral Tool cabinet

A new table becomes a useful storage area for timber sheets
.....
John spraying the finished products



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Great success at the 2016 Nambour Agricultural Show



The Club's new 6m x 3m tent makes a great area for the outdoor sales



Sales set a record this year, thanks to the 'free day for kids' on Friday.



Freda and Dee on the Raffle and Rock sales table



John, Ian and Trevor taking a breather at the fossicking Cart.



Andrew and Ron enjoying the day



Suzie on Sales doing a great job

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John, Pep and Ian egging on the fossickers.
Even the Adults loved the Cart.



The Country's leader passed by...
(you can just see the corner of our tent in the background haha..)



Gail keeping the boxes filled and tidy.



Bernadette and Kath having a well earned break



Kitty and Freda looking after the outdoor sales



Larry and Kath on the fossicking Cart.
Record sales for the Cart over the weekend with
210 Sieves.

Up and Coming Australian Gemshows: courtesy of Australian Gem and Mineral <http://www.mineral.org.au/>

July

- Sat 9th - Sun 10th July 2016 Hervey Bay Festival of Gems - Hervey Bay SE Qld To be held at Star of the Sea Catholic School, 39 Hughes Road.
- Sat 16th July 2016 Caboolture Gemfest - SE Qld To be held at Caboolture Historical Village Beerburum Rd. Caboolture, SE Queensland. Contact Paul Futcher 07 5432 3219
- Sat 23rd - Sun 24th July 2016 Townsville Gem and Mineral Gem Show Mineral displays, lapidary and silversmithing demonstrations, rough and cut gems, refreshments and lucky door prizes. At the clubrooms 96 Mooney Street Gulliver, Townsville North Queensland Contact Elethia Brady on 0411 800 944 for more information.
- Sat 30th - Sun 31st July 2016 Cairns Mineral and Lapidary Gem Show Club rooms, 129 Mulgrave Road, Cairns, far north Queensland

August

- Fri 5th - Sun 7th Aug 2016 Kybong Rock & Mineral Fest and Campout at Cooloola Rocks and Minerals, Kybong, SE Queensland 1 Lobwein Rd, KYBONG, Qld 4570 Phone/Fax (07) 5483 5252 (Just a few kms south of Gympie on the Bruce Hwy and only about 2 hours drive north of Brisbane) Email John & Cecile Steenbergen: [Cooloola Rocks and Minerals](mailto:CooloolaRocksandMinerals)
- Sat 6th - Sun 7th August 2016, Marrickville, Inner Sydney NSW 9.00am – 5.00pm Fraser Park Pavilion, 100 Marrickville Road, Marrickville (Close to the Sydenham Train Station) Less than 10km from the CBD! rockncrystals@gmail.com or phone (02) 9559 6737 <http://www.sydneycrystalshow.com>
- Sat 6th Aug 2016 Ipswich and District Lapidary Club Show, Ipswich, SE Queensland Showgrounds, Warwick Road, Ipswich
- Sat 6th Aug 2016 Innisfail Gem Show, Nth Queensland Club House, River Avenue
- Sun 7th Aug 2016 Atherton Gem Show, Nth Queensland Club House, Racecourse Rd, Toga
- Fri 12th - Sun 14th Aug 2016 GemFest - Festival of Gems Anakie - Central Queensland Allen King Memorial Park Australia's largest gemstone and jewellery exhibition held annually. Celebrating and showcasing sapphires, crystals, fossils, minerals, precious and semi-precious gemstones, lapidary and jewellery. Four days of exhibitions, workshops, entertainment, prizes and demonstrations to keep you busy. For more information contact the Event Coordinator on 07 49854 375 Email: info@gemfest.com.au www.gemfest.com.au
- Sat 27th - Sun 28th August 2016 Carlingford Gem & Mineral Fair, Sydney outskirts NSW This fair is held at The Roselea Community Centre which is located at 645 Pennant Hills Road. We will have lots of traders from around Australia as well as displays and demonstrations from the 2 local lapidary clubs, Parramatta Holroyd Club as well as Northern Districts Lapidary Club, as well as the NSW Mineralogical Society. A great day out for the whole family. Adults \$7, kids with parent/s are free! Opening hours are 9:30 till 5:00 on Saturday and 9:30 till 4:00 on Sunday. For more information please contact Peter at raregems@optusnet.com.au or 0412 333 150
- Sat 27th August 2016 Waterloo Bay Gem Show, Hemmant, Brisbane, SE Queensland Hemmant Community Hall, Corner of Ramsay and Brandt Streets, Hemmant, Qld

September

- Sat 3rd - Sun 4th Sept 2016 Mildura and District Gem and Mineral Club Annual Show, Mildura NW Victoria This year will be our 24th annual event. It is to be held at the Sunraysia Masonic Centre Irymple Calder Highway, 15th Street, Irymple 6 km from the Mildura CBD. Any information required please phone [Hellyn Parker](mailto:Hellyn.Parker) on (03) 50245 451 or 0408 502 340
- Sat 10th - Sun 11th Sept 2016 Bribie Island Gem Show, Bribie Island, SE Queensland Arts Centre 191 Sunderland Drive, Banksia Beach, Bribie Is Gem Festival Co-ordinator: Kel Barlett Email: kel@bribieisland.lapidaryclub.com.au Web site: www.bribieisland.lapidaryclub.com.au
- Sat 17th - Sun 18th Sept 2016 Waverley Gem Club Exhibition, Melbourne, Victoria Brandon Park Community Centre, 645 Ferntree Gully Road Glen Waverley The annual Waverley Gem Club Exhibition is open from 10am to 5pm both days and includes jewellery, gemstones, crystals, rocks, mineral and fossil sales, gemstone identification, fossicking, faceting and silversmith demonstrations, showcases and more. Devonshire Teas and a canteen are on site. Contact Gwen on 0407 512 883 for further information.
- Sat 24th Sept 2016 Caloundra Gem Show, Caloundra Queen Street and George Street, Caloundra Website: <http://www.caloundralapidaryclub.org.au>

October

- Sat 1st - Mon 3rd October 2016 Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia 39th Annual Seminar Brisbane, Queensland
- Seminar and Field trips run by the Mineralogical Society of Queensland. Seminar will be held in the Theaterette of the Qld Museum and a dinner will be held on Saturday night. A mineral sale will be held on the Sunday morning before the first session. [Information soon to come!](#)
- Sat 1st - Mon 3rd October 2016 NSW GEMKHANA Hawkesbury Showground The competition between lapidaries from across the State, and often other States, too, will inspire new and older members to try a new aspect of this great hobby. As a special treat the Museum of Comparative Zoology has agreed to attend again this year, and will have a model of the fierce Albertasaurus, along with many other pre-historic models. Traders have lots of wonderful things to tempt us; a great chance to buy gifts for those hard to please people, and tailgaters who may well have that special something you've been hunting for. Demonstrations by experienced club members always attract a lot of attention, and the free activities for children will keep their interest for some time. Camping is available. Wheelchair access is easy. Parking plentiful. Refreshments top notch. So come and join us. Contact: Marilyn Behrens : 02 9635 8218 mbehrens@optusnet.com.au
- Sat 1 Oct 2016 Beenleigh Lapidary Club Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, Beenleigh, SE Queensland. Beenleigh Showgrounds, Beenleigh, Qld 8am - 4pm
- Nambour GEMFEST, held at the Nambour Showgrounds, QLD. Saturday 8th October 2016. From 8 am to 4 PM This year is bigger and better than ever before with well over 120 stalls, all undercover in the Main Pavilion and 2 large Outdoor pavilions. This is one of the most popular shows of the year, with traders and dealers showcasing fantastic Crystals, Jewellery, gemstones, opals, minerals, crafts and much more. Lots of lucky door prizes, Great Raffle, kids fossicking, Prizes for kids puzzle corner. All day food and drinks, and more. Entry is still only \$4.00, kids under 12 free