

SNIPPETS

October 2014

Issue 429



Michel and Josh receiving their
Certificates of Achievement
Awards for Cabbing



Rob McGregor's Silver Medal for facet-
ing at the AFG Seminar at Glen Innes
September 2014—Congrats Rob—

GOLD COAST MEETINGS

General Meetings: 11am Sunday November 30th

Management Committee Meetings- 2nd Tuesday of the
Month

Australian Facetors' Guild- Gold Coast Group Meetings
7th October (7pm start)

CLUB'S CHRISTMAS FUNCTION—Club Rooms Saturday
6th of December 2014 (More info to follow)

Inside this Issue

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Monthly Newsletter of the Gold Coast Lapidary Club Inc

www.goldcoastlapidaryclub.com.au

Members of Queensland Lapidary & Allied Craft Associations Inc.

80 Pacific Avenue, Miami. Queensland. PO Box 12, Nobby Beach, Queensland 4218 Phone: 5526 1190

Hon Patron: Ken Wilks

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The Management Committee 2014-2015

President Wayne Schulz 55 961865 / 0417-96185 / president@goldcoastlapidaryclub.com
Vice President 1 Geoff Saunders 0407125567 Vice President 2 Ken Wilks 55 789419
Secretary Lenora Collins de Luthé 0402605935 Treasurer Vicki Lumm 55 247951 / 0418466130
Member Secretary Deborah Ensor 0418537234

General Committee

Chez Siwka 55 799989 Jadwiga Siwka 5579 9989 Steve Profke 0419471332 Denis Burton 55 276488
Robert McGregor 55323469 Allen Frenz 5571 6436

Management Positions

Snippets Editor Deborah Ensor 0418537234/55292884 Purchasing Officer Geoff Saunders 0407 125567
Club Curator Burt Last 0401355271 Senior Librarian Liz Nicholas
Assistant Librarian Jadwiga Siwka Raffle Coordinator Elena Sparks 0450 562830
Show Co-ordinator Uta Sorenson 0424206610 Show Stall Conveners: Elaine Arch-Row & Pru Aguinaldo

Judges

Faceting - Robert McGregor Cabochons - Ken Wilks Carving - Allen Frenz
Silversmith/wire work Lady Marie Howard and Jadwiga Siwka

Instructors & Workshop Times

Monday 10am to 3pm

Cabbing Ray Tolley 55 244642
Beading Di Scott 0400 342717

Monday 7pm to 9.00pm

Evening Cabbing John Nelmes 0412 575995 & Terry Houghton 55 946814
Opal Cutting and Polishing Jason Neville 0433 691025

Tuesday 10am to 3pm

Faceting Burt Last 0401355271 (Members who have done Basic Faceting Course)
Cabbing Shirley Sunderland 0411 175095
Bone Carving John Tonkin 55 3471121
Free Form Boats (1st and 2nd week of the month) Laurence Yannacelli 55 772185

Wednesday 10am to 3pm

Silver Jewellery/Wire Wrapping Marie Howard 0428 732276 & Jadwiga Siwka 55 799989
Cabbing Denise Burton 55 276448
Faceting Steve Profke 0419 471332
Investing Book with Instructor Geoff Saunders 55 687616 / 0407 125567

Wednesday 7pm to 9.00pm

Evening Basic Silver Jadwiga Siwka 55 799989 / 0419 756533
Cabbing Mal Wanchap 55 798908
Faceting Chez Siwka 55 799989 / 0407 7598755

Thursday 10am to 3pm

Cabbing Shirley Sunderland 0411 175095
Silver/Casting/Cabbing Ron Barr 55 394737
Faceting Brian Brown 55 278552 & Lawrence Yannacelli 55 772185
Casting Book with Instructor Geoff Saunders 55 687616 / 0407 125567

Friday 10am to 3pm

Faceting Owners Club Steve Profke 0419 471332 (Must have own faceting machine)

Friday 7pm to 9.00pm

Evening Cabbing Ron Palmada 55 345701

Saturday 9am to 3pm

Cabbing Alex Toro 0411 805378
Faceting George Tsakmakis 55 909470
Soap Stone Carving/Viking Chain Merv Scott 55 314576

FROM THE PRESIDENT
October 2014

Hi Members

Well now I think I can see the flow of things and with a supporting committee and Club members behind me I have been able to get a reasonable view of how the Club is running and with a rub and a pat we are functioning ok.

We have managed to get through a period in which we had reduced instructors for different reasons and I thank you for your patience and especially those that helped out through this period, your help was appreciated by all I am sure.

I would like to thank Sir Paul Howard, one of our life members no: 33, for his informative presentation on Queensland Agate which he delivered at the Club to 36 members and guests who attended and enjoyed both the presentation and informative material which Paul has now passed on via a donated DVD to go into the library. It was apparent that Paul has quiet a bit of knowledge gained over 30 odd years of fossicking and examining Queensland Agate plus the enjoyment that goes with it as he and Lady Marie keep going back.

Again thank you for supporting your Club's endeavors to provide something different and interesting and we hope to do similar again. We were spoilt with homemade continental cake which is generally served to European royalty and I have to say I was easily talked into seconds.

Please keep me or committee members informed of our members who are in ill health or doing it a bit rough so that we can at least offer our thoughts and support as fellow members.

As a Club of like-minded individuals whose interests, skills and knowledge make the Club what it is and produce what it does, we should always be aware of our actions and opinions. Whilst we may differ in areas it is the end result that counts and the Club as a whole is promoted.

We have our Open Day coming in October and your help will be needed again to show our Club off to the public and hopefully gather new members. Also if your interested we are trying to fill a bus to Suncoast Gem Show, see the list.

We'll the Club got a once over and it was a good one, as it now looks rejuvenated thanks to those members that could come and help out. For me it was an injection of motivation to have enthusiastic members respond willingly to the call and hear the banter and laughing going on. We'll done to Bob McGregor for his facet achievements with the Guild competition a second and 2 third placing's.

Continue enjoying the Club as the Club enjoys you

Wayne Schulz

.....
: *The Boomerang Golf Club*
: *Has a rather modest member who has played a round of Golf,*
: *which we believe, is quite remarkable and therefore we have*
: *decided the story must be told.*

: *During ONE round of Golf this member managed to win TWO nearest*
: *the Pins. To win one is good golf but two!*
: *Then to add to this he also scored a Hole in One during the*
: *same round.*
: *This I believe brings his total Hole in One to EIGHT.*

: *Congratulations Ken Wilks.*

: *Just keep swinging.*
.....



The Gold Coast Lapidary Club wishes to express their sincere thanks to Michael Hart local MP, who has offered the facilities of his office for photocopying our Snippets Newsletter.



SPINEL

A gemstone that was confused with ruby and sapphire for over 1000 years

Spinel is a gemstone mineral that has been confused with ruby and sapphire for over 1000 years. Several of the most spectacular spinels ever discovered have been mounted in "crown jewels" and other "jewelry of significance" under the assumption that they were rubies or sapphires.

Spinel occurs in the same bright red and blue colors as rubies and sapphires. Spinel forms in the same rock units, under the same geological conditions and is found in the same gravels. It is not surprising that ancient gem traders thought that these colorful spinels were rubies and sapphires.

Why the Confusion?

Two thousand years ago, gemstone traders did not know that spinel and corundum (the mineral of ruby and sapphire) have different chemical compositions and different crystal structures. Instead, gem traders thought that every bright red gemstone was a "ruby" and every deep blue gemstone was a "sapphire". As a result, lots of spinels are now in very important jewelry collections based on their incorrect identification as a ruby.

The Black Prince's Ruby

The most famous example of a spinel being identified as a ruby is a 170 carat bright red spinel named "The Black Prince's Ruby". The first known owner of this beautiful stone was Abu Sa'id, the Moorish Prince of Granada, in the 14th century. The stone passed through several owners and eventually made its way into the Imperial State Crown of the United Kingdom, where it is mounted immediately above the famous Cullinan II diamond.



The Timur Ruby

The "Timur Ruby" is a 352.5 carat bright red spinel that is currently in a necklace of The Royal Collection that was made for Queen Victoria in 1853.

The stone was found in Afghanistan and is inscribed with the names and dates of its owners back to 1612.

It was part of a group of spinels from the Lahore Treasure presented to Queen Victoria by the East India Company in 1849.



What is Spinel?

Spinel is an oxide mineral with a composition of $MgAl_2O_4$. It is very hard (7.5 to 8 on the Mohs Hardness Scale) and is often found in octahedral crystals. It is typically found in three geologic situations:

- 1) as crystals in limestones and dolomites that have been subjected to contact metamorphism¹(¹The process by which rocks are altered in composition, texture, or internal structure by extreme heat, pressure, and the introduction of new chemical substances.);
- 2) irregularly-shaped grains in basic igneous rocks; and,
- 3) as water-worn pebbles in alluvial² deposits. (²material deposited by rivers. It is usually most extensively developed in the lower part of the course of a river, forming floodplains and deltas, but may be deposited at any point where the river overflows its banks or where the velocity of a river is checked)

Spinel is very resistant to chemical and physical weathering. It often occurs in marbles which are much less resistant to weathering. Spinel easily weathers out of the marble and is transported by streams. This places spinel in alluvial deposits which are often worked for gemstones. Most of the spinels of a "ruby red color" are produced from alluvial deposits in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, and other countries. Other countries where spinel is mined include: Afghanistan, Nepal, Tajikistan, Australia, Madagascar, Nigeria, and Tanzania.

Uses of Spinel

The only significant use of spinel is as a gemstone. It occurs in a variety of colors (colorless, pink, red, orange, blue, purple, brown, black). The colors that imitate ruby and sapphire are the most popular; along with an orange-red color that known as "flame spinel".

Gem-quality red and blue spinels are very rare. They are much less abundant than rubies and sapphires of similar quality and color. Even with equivalent beauty and greater rarity their prices are much lower than ruby and sapphire. This is an example of how rarity has not determined the price. Spinel is not as valuable because it is not as popular. Spinel has not been strongly promoted by the gem and jewelry trade because its supply is limited and unreliable.

Occasionally an exceptional spinel or a jewelry item of historical significance is sold at auction for a very high price. One necklace containing eleven bright red spinels, totaling 1,132 carats and inscribed by Mughal emperors sold for over USD\$5 million.



Synthetic Spinel

The first synthetic spinel was produced in 1847 by Jacques-Joseph Ebelmen, a French Chemist. Commercial production of synthetic spinels was very limited in the 1800s. However, in the 1930s synthetic spinels in a wide variety of colors were produced to imitate popular gemstones such as aquamarine, zircon, tourmaline, emerald, chrysoberyl and ruby. The colors were produced by introducing metals in trace amounts into the stone by the addition of: cobalt oxide (blue), manganese (yellow), chromium oxide (green), and iron (pink). Careful chemical procedures allowed the manufacturers to control the color of the stones.

These colored synthetic spinels were given trade names such as "Tourmaline Green", mounted in inexpensive settings and sold as "birthstone" jewelry. These synthetic stones were the first encounter with spinel for most of the consumers who purchased them. In addition to its use as a gemstone, synthetic spinel is also used as a refractory. It is used to produce heat-resistant coatings on metal tools and as an additive in making refractory bricks and ceramics.



Several pretty facet-cut spinels. It is easy to see how spinel can be confused with ruby and sapphire or used as an alternative stone. The top three red and pink stones were cut from material mined in Myanmar. Deep red spinel is rarer than ruby but sells at a fraction of the price. The blue stones below them were cut from material mined in Tanzania

Photo of the Samarian Spinel, the largest known spinel in the world and part of the Iranian Crown Jewels. It weighs approximately 500 carats. It bears an inscription dating to the mid-1600s attributing its ownership to Jehangir, the Mogul Emperor of India. It was taken from India in the early 1700s, during the Afsharid Conquest.





SUSIE ROACH
 F.G.A.A. NCJV (QLD) Inc
 Qualified Gemmologist
 Registered & Licensed Valuer

ABN 83 286 552 834

**QUEENSLAND
 JEWELLERY
 APPRAISALS**

P.O. Box 190,
 Helensvale Q 4212
 Phone: 07 5561 1010
 Mobile: 0407 374 002
 Email: qldja@iprimus.com.au

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

we look forward to seeing you around the club house.

Brad Coleman, Trevor and Elena Clinton, Kerryn Nicoloff
 and Mike Skidmore

UPCOMING GEM SHOW DATES

- October 4th Beenleigh Gem Festival, Beenleigh Showgrounds, James Street, Beenleigh
- October 11th Nambour Gemfest, Nambour Show Grounds, Coronation Ave Nambour
- October 11th-12th- Central coast Lapidary Show, Mingara Sports & Recreational Club, Mingara Rd, Tumbi Umbi
- October 25th-26th- Toowoomba Gemfest, Centenary Heights High School, Ramsay St Toowoomba
- November 8th-9th- Bundaberg GemFair- Bundaberg Civic Centre, Burbong St Bundaberg
- November 15th SunCoast GemShow, Mooloolaba State School, Douglas St, Mooloolaba
- December No Events

*If you know of any other Gem shows , please place the info in the SNIPPETS BOX or email me on
 seiira@bigpond.net.au - Thanks Deb*

ATTENTION CLUB MEMBERS

SUPPORT OUR CLUB BY PARTICIPATING IN OUR RAFFLE!!!

THE GENERAL MEETING RAFFLE!
 (DRAWN ON THE 30th November 2014)
 Tickets \$2.00 each or 3 tickets for \$5.00

FIRST PRIZE: BOULDER OPAL PENDANT SET IN 9CT GOLD,
 THE OPAL WAS CUT & DONATED BY STEVE AND DIANE PROFKE



2nd Prize: A signed Limited Edition hard copy of Sir Paul Howard's Fossicking for Queensland Agate Donated by Sir Paul & Lady Marie Howard



3rd Prize: Septarian Nodule Sphere

Raffle Box located on table in front of the kitchen or contact Elena Sparks your raffle coordinator on 0450-562830

OCTOBER'S BIRTHSTONES

October is another month with two birthstone choices– Tourmaline & Opal

Tourmaline:

Has become a favorite gemstone among jewelry designer, and gem collectors the world over. Since it is available in a wide variety of colors, it is ideally suited to almost anyone's taste. Tourmaline also is known for displaying several colors in the same gemstone. These *bi-color* or *tri-color* gems are formed in many combinations; gemstones with clear color distinctions are highly prized. One multi-color variety is known as *watermelon tourmaline*, and features green, pink, and white colors bands; to resemble its namesake, the gemstone is cut into thin slices having a pink center, white ring, and green edge. Tourmaline is found in many localities including Brazil, Afghanistan, East Africa, and the USA. Pink Tourmaline stimulates the creativity of its wearer. Pink varieties of Tourmaline range in colour from pastel pink to ruby red. A gift of this stone is symbolic of hope.



Opal:

The name opal derives from the Greek Opallos, meaning "to see a change (of color)." Opals range in color from milky white to black with flashes of yellow, orange, green, red, and blue. An opal's beauty is the product of contrast between its color play and its background. Opal is a formation of non-crystalline silica gel that seeped into crevices in the sedimentary strata. Through time and nature's heating and molding processes, the gel hardened into the form of opals. The opal is composed of particles closely packed in spherical arrangements. When packed together in a regular pattern, a three-dimensional array of spaces are created that give opal its radiance. Opal means hope, innocence and purity. It is believed to have healing and restoring qualities and there are many different varieties of opal.



October Birthday Wishes to the following members:

Barbara Bible, Ethan Byrne, Sik-On Chow, John Imbruglia,
Emmanuel Karakatsanis, Sean McMahan, Diane Profke, Neville Sandoz,
Jadwiga Swika, George and Barb Tsakmakis, Maria Waldhomall

How to Harden a Soft Stone

By Jadwiga Siwka

Things You'll Need

600mls acetone
1 two-part (resin and hardener) epoxy adhesive kit
Large clean glass jar with lid
Spoon or small kitchen whisk
Kitchen tongs
Protective kitchen gloves
Raw or tumbled turquoise
Several sheets of newspaper

Instructions

Lay several sheets of newspaper on a work surface.

Pour the acetone into a clean, dry glass jar.

Carefully add the complete contents of both the resin and hardener tubes of epoxy glue to the acetone and stir the mixture well using a spoon or whisk.

Add the stones to the jar, cap it tightly and swirl the jar a few times. Dispose of the newspaper and stirring utensils, or clean the utensils for reuse.

Store the jar in a cool, dry area for five to seven days, swirling it daily to keep the chemicals well mixed.

Remove the stones from the jar using kitchen tongs and let them air dry for two weeks, preferably in a sunny location. You are ready now to start shaping and polishing your stone.

Should any member wish to submit an article(s) please email them to me at senis@bigpond.net.au or place it in the Snippets Box near the Old Polisher.

THE AMAZING EMU EGGS OF ST. GEORGE BY ARTIST STAVROS MARGARITIS

While visiting St George, a beautiful little town on the Bolone River in southwest Qld we came across a little private gallery with the most amazing hand carved emu eggs created by the artist and gallery owner Stavros Margaritis and my new friend.



Stavros was born in Greece in the village of Vounihora and came to Australia as a teenager in 1954 to work in his uncle's café in St George and has been now in Australia for 60 years.

One day an aboriginal man called Smithy tried to sell him a badly carved and broken emu egg and Stavros said "No thanks mate" but a while later while riding a horse through the bush he found an emu egg in the grass. He emptied the egg and carved several animal shapes into it and this first egg is still displayed in his gallery.



And that's how it all started.

Stavros slowly came up with a concept through trial and error to transfer his concept to the egg using finesse and his technique. He told us that an emu egg is Unique in that it has several layers of shades of the external layer the deeper you etch and it is a real challenge to reveal these shades. He lights up each egg internally using a led light and that really brings them to life. He says he is a real "True Blue Aussie".

His unique collection has been displayed at world expos, trade fairs, and at the Greek Olympics. His eggs are in private collection of important people such as our previous governor Quinton Price, the Queen and USA President Obama and the likes.

We were very happy to have the opportunity to view such an amazing display and if any of you travel that way why not stop at St George and see The Unique Emu Egg Gallery at 108 Victoria St, St George. Jadzia and Chez.

