

# ROCKBOTTOM NEWS

Established 4<sup>th</sup> February 1964

October 2015



## CHRISTMAS PARTY

**11AM 29TH NOVEMBER**

We need donations for a **Continuous Raffle**

**Secret Santa — bring a gift for your own gender to the value of \$10**

If you bring children bring a labeled present for them

**FOOD -- A – L brings desert**

**M – Z brings Salads**

## CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The Club will close on the 18<sup>th</sup> December for the Christmas break and recommence on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

## ROCK AUCTION

The rock auction held in September was a great success. There was \$1226 raised. At the August Meeting it was suggested by Wilma Nezmah that the proceeds be divided equally between the Flying Doctor and the new building fund. So the annual donation to the Flying Doctor was \$713 as Wilma had made and sold 4 of her lovely bags donating the proceeds to the Flying Doctor.

## AGM: 7.30pm 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015

Please check on the office window for the Agenda for the AGM

All Members are encouraged to attend — Tea and coffee after

## Mt Gravatt lapidary Society Inc BY-LAWS

The BY LAWS were reviewed and passed at the October Meeting and the session fees will be going up to \$5 from the first of January 2016.

There has been a motion put forward to increase the yearly subscriptions and joining fees. This will be on the Agenda for the AGM.

“This facility has been sponsored by the Queensland Office of Arts and Cultural Development “

Friendship and Fellowship – our precious gems

## **NEW MEMBERS**

This month the Management Committee welcomes:

**Julie Helmstedt, Des Weldon and Lia Molnar**

If you see these members at the club Introduce yourself to them and make them welcome

## **Presidents Report**

October 2015

Hi,

Our rock auction was a great success and I have had comments from many members who were lucky enough to win bids on the high quality of their purchases this year.

A big thank you must go to all those members who donated rock and especially to George, who donated many kilos of rock. I can lay testament to this as I carried it to the car at the Caboolture Gem Show.

There has not been a lot happening with the internal upgrade of the clubhouse over the last month due to personal commitments and illness, however things have been going on behind the scenes and should produce results next month.

We applied for a Federal Grant through our Member Ross Vasta, but did not get through his selection panel for the proposal to go to Canberra.

The lockers at the side of the club are progressing and should be completed by the end of the month.

The Cab-room lights are progressing and the refurbishment of the benches and upgrade on the motor mounts will be in progress over the next month.

Jim Horton

## **CHIEF INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT**

All Sessions seem to be running well at the moment, however please be careful to use the cabbing wheels correctly. It's been noticed that the whole wheel is not being used by some and also cutting by using the edge of the wheel shouldn't be done.

Jim and David have finished fitting the lights to the last of the cabbing machines. So far they have been well received. If you haven't tried them yet, have a go. I think you will see a vast improvement.

The faceting machines are getting a workout at the moment which is good to see. If you would like to use them, you can book a session for yourself. Just see one of the instructors.

The new silver classes are under way and seem to be going well. If you would like to purchase any specialty silver supplies, please leave a note with Trevor or Tina. We now have access to a wider range of materials and if there is enough interest we can look at buying it in.

## ***Management Committee***

### **President:**

Jim Horton  
0418 885 180  
mglsresident@gmail.com

### **Vice President:**

Max Walsh  
0403 349 071

### **Treasurer:**

Tina Horton  
0432 288 670  
mglstreasurer@gmail.com

### **Secretary:**

Louise Fieldhouse  
0414 960 069  
mglssecretary@gmail.com

### **Chief Instructor:**

Brad Thomson  
0407 576 094  
mglschiefinstructor@gmail.com

### **Publicity Officer**

Linda Fountain  
mglspublicity@gmail.com

## ***Committee Officers***

### **Assistant Treasurer:**

Andrea Horton

### **Assistant Secretary:**

Trevor Lewis

### **Maintenance:**

As determined by the management committee

### **Librarian**

Sue Horton

### **Museum Curator**

Sue Ericksson

### **Field Trip Officer**

To be appointed

### **Providore**

Trevor Lewis  
Jim Horton

**Chief Steward**

Tina Horton

**Stewards:**

Trevor Lewis

Andrea Horton

**QLACCA****Representative**

Tina Horton

**Housekeeper**

Contracted

**Silver Committee**

To be formed

**Life Members**

John Brady

Val Cugola

Sue Eriksson

Bob Kelly

Helen Petterson

Albert Taylor

Joan Taylor

Laurel Viogt

Kevin Voigt

**LIBRARY****BORROWING**

Members may borrow up to two books at a time.

Please return all borrowed books within 2 weeks of borrowing them.

Please sign out all books being borrowed from the library.

There is a register for this purpose on or in the desk in the library.

**Silver Course**

It is disappointing members who had confirmed their attendance for the course only four days prior to commencement did not attend.

In future members must be made aware that other members have missed out on the opportunity to do the class because of these actions.

Commencing with the first course in 2016 all members confirming that they wish to do the course must pay 2 weeks prior to the course commencing.

Thus ensuring that all members really interested in doing the course have the opportunity to do so.

**Trophies**

It was passed at the October Meeting that we go ahead and update all the trophies making sure they are up to date before our Gem Show.

**LIBRARY REPORT**

The Library has a new book this month for the silversmithers "Victorian Jewellery".

Can any Member tell me if they have seen the DVDs the club purchase on "Intarsia" in Feb 2009. They are missing from the club along with several other DVDs and Videos previously purchased by the club. If they happen to be found please return them to the office so that they can be accounted for thank you.

**MINSOC REPORT**

Sue Ericksson would like all Mt Gravatt Member to know that they are welcome to attend Minsoc Meetings at our club. The mineral society meets the fourth Wednesday at 7.30pm and Micro Minerals on second Saturday of the month at 9am

**QLACCA REPORT**

QLACCA will be running a showcase judging coarse at the Mt Gravatt clubrooms on the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> of December. Those interested in become a judge for showcases should contact Graham McLean on 3288 9883.

**J&R Definition of a showcase:** A Showcase is defined as an enclosed case with a maximum base area of 1 square metre, maximum width of 1.3 metres and maximum height of 1 metre, which has been dressed by the entrant and in which the entrant displays items and labels as required by the Competition Schedule.

We are sorry to hear from Graham McLean on the 14<sup>th</sup> October that Greg Godson (passed President of QLACCA) had passed away on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Condolences of all club members have been sent to the family.

**EQUIPMENT**

The club is now dealing with A&E Metals another silver supplier. A&E have New different profiles of silver some of which are now available. For more information contact Tina or Linda. Trevor will still be ordering from Twin Plaza if their prices are competitive.

The Club also has a few DURATECH TORCHES. For any new members wishing to purchase, they are a bargain at \$40.00.

**FACEBOOK**

The club now has its own Facebook page up and running with likers joining everyday. Linda Fountain [mglspublicity@gmail.com](mailto:mglspublicity@gmail.com) and Louise Fieldhouse [mglsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mglsecretary@gmail.com) are the administrators of the page. Have a look and keep up to date with what is going on at the club, especially if you are away or unable to attend for an extended period.

## Making Models out of Stone



### **These models were made by Les and Zelda Welland and Bernie Dobson**

When we joined the Mount Gravatt Lapidary Club we enjoyed the challenge of changing a dull ordinary rock into a lovely cabochon. Les went on to do faceting, I joined in the Silver classes and made earrings and pendants with the cabs.

At the show each year we marvelled at Jim Mattsrelli's models that he entered into the Lionel Whitby Trophy competition. I started making small silver miniatures, and Les made some small models out of different rocks, then I started working with rocks too.

At last year's Waterloo Bay Show I was delighted to see two of Lionel Whitby's models (the Lighthouse and the Church). Though I had heard of them, I didn't know they were so big. Although our models are smaller, In my mind I think we are achieving a standard both Jim and Lionel would approve of.

### **To begin Modelling**

For me it takes a lot of time with pencil and paper. I draw out each piece, specify size and how many of each I need but the general steps are the same for each project:

Decide on a subject, scale it down to the size you want.

Check that you have enough material to make what you want.

Cut your rock to the sizes you need eg 4mm square x 16mm long, 2mm thick slab 15mm x 20 mm.

Shape your pieces with trim saw, wheels and Dremel. Polish.

Then the fun starts as you glue the pieces together. Some projects need to be fitted and glued as you go.

Some you complete all pieces, then roughen the surfaces to be glued, so when set, the project is finish.

To help assemble your project you may need to be creative and make wedges and frames to hold the things in place while the glue set.



I find it easier to have a picture or model to check your progress against.

Be prepared to make changes, to compensate for the inflexible nature of rocks

Continued.....



For my birdhouse, for example, I selected a slab of gympieite for the base to represent grass, Petrified Wood for the pole and supports, Gympieite for the platform and roof, Himalayan Marble for the walls of the birdhouse. The birds were mostly Agate, ground to the appropriate shapes. After cutting and polishing all the pieces, I assembled as follows.

glue the house together

fit the base supports to the pole, making sure it is exactly vertical

then the top supports to the underside of the platform

glue the two together, this time making sure the platform is level

glue to "grass" base

place 1 bird in the house and glue to platform

arrange other birds where they look right

always leaving time between each stage for it to set firm.



I hope you enjoy your new challenge.

## BAGS FOR SALE

Wilma is continuing to make her quilted bags for sale. They are priced at \$25 dollars and the proceeds will go to the building fund as a donation.

**Great Christmas gifts**



## A RATHER UNFORTUNATE TURN OF EVENTS.....

It seems the Club has a thief among the ranks. Money has been taken from the box in the office, so steps have to be taken so this doesn't happen again.

It would be helpful if all Members could bring the correct change to sessions. The money box will now be locked at all times and change will be given only by authorised Club Members.

Please don't be offended by these measures.

We can



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**DISCLAIMER:** Opinions expressed in the "Rockbottom News" are not necessarily those of all members. The Committee nor the Editor accept any liability from errors, omissions or mistakes contained within this newsletter.

## **Rock Tumbling**

This kind of hobby is suitable for anybody who has an interest in exposing the natural shine and colour of various types of semi-precious gemstones. It is an ideal way to begin your exploration of the lapidary arts..

The tumbling of rock is a lapidary technique consisting of one or more barrels containing rock and abrasive rotating on a frame that also holds the motor and shaft. An electric motor provides power to one or both shafts by a pulley and belt.

A rotating barrel tumbler, when properly filled with rock, water, and abrasive media, imitates a cascading waterfall where water swirls, bounces and slides over the streambed. The barrel's rotation lifts the rock pieces up the sidewall where they then slide and tumble in a cascading fashion down the top surface of the rock and abrasive media.

Typically, a full tumble polish from rough rock, to polish takes between 10 to 14 weeks (this may be shorter with soft rock) and is done in 5 steps. Step one is grinding and shaping with 60/90 abrasive. Step two is smoothing the surface with 120/220 abrasive. Step three is further smoothing with 600 abrasive. Step 4 is pre-polish with 1200 abrasive. Step five is polish with Tin Oxide or Cerium Oxide.

## **WANTED**

We are compiling an electronic history of the club and we are missing all newsletters between January 1971 and 1990 as well as the appendix, to the booklet "*Our First 25 Years*".

**If there is anyone** out there who may have relevant information on the committees and any history that may be in these items could they please send copies to the club or email scanned copies to

[mglspresident@gmail.com](mailto:mglspresident@gmail.com)

### **LAPIDARY**

#### ***What is Lapidary?***

**Lapidary** is the craft of collecting, cutting & polishing of precious, semi-precious & other attractive stones for the purpose of display, ornamentation or for jewellery.

**History** Lapidary has its origins when Stone Age man first needed tools and weapons and began selecting stones and shaping them for this purpose, tens of thousands of years ago. Through the ages special stones also became symbols of worship, jewellery and adornments. The early Egyptians subsequently developed techniques for cutting and polishing stones as hard as quartz and amethyst as can be seen in the items found in the Egyptian Tombs.

Our modern day lapidary hobbyists are the present day custodians of these ancient lapidary skills.

### ***VIV DADOW'S association with the club***

Viv Dadow was a founding member of the club as it is today. He owned The Rock Shop in Brisbane and later moved to Cooperoo. Viv enjoyed fossicking, cutting and polishing his finds and the social side that went with the activities. Viv obviously enjoyed carving as can be seen by the pieces on display in the club house today. Viv was President of the club in the founding years but due to commitments had to give up committee but remained an active member until the late 80's.

#### ***FROM the 25th YEAR BOOK***

Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society started off as "The Lithophilic Society – Mt Gravatt Branch" on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 1964 at a meeting convened by Viv Dadow and Stan Deem.

Viv had been a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lithophilic Society, which was founded on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1963. This was mainly a social club and Viv felt it would a good idea to form a working club which would hold field trips, where members could cut and polish the material they found on these trips. He was joined by Stan who was associated with the Lapidary Section of the Gemmological Association of Australia, and was experienced in lapidary work.

Viv was the first President of the Society and Stan Deem the chief instructor. Viv remained President for 2 years and an active member for 25 years plus, time permitting from his Rock shop in the city.

## Nomination for Committee Positions AGM 2015

The Secretary  
Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society Inc.  
PO Box 150, Mt Gravatt 4122

WE wish to nominate (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ for the position indicated below.

(please circle one option only, per nomination)

**PROPOSER**

**SECONDER**

(signature) \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ (Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

<b>President</b>	<b>Chief Instructor</b>	Show Convenor	Publicity Officer
<b>Vice President</b>	Museum Curator	Librarian	Maintenance Officer 1
<b>Secretary</b>	Maintenance Officer 2	Maintenance Officer 3	
Assist. Secretary	Providor	Field trip Officer	QLACCA Delegate
<b>Treasurer</b>	Silver Committee 1	Silver Committee 2	Silver Committee 3
Assist. Treasurer			

**Nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chief instructor must be received by 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (the cut off).** The Nominations will be posted on the Office Notice Board by the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Late nominations for these positions are treated the same as nominations from the floor of the meeting. Nominations from the floor will not be considered if a nomination is received before the cut off date.

Nominations for other positions can be accepted at any time before voting on that position.

I accept the nomination

(signature) \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The nominee must be a financial member of the society and must accept the nomination by signing above

## DATES TO REMEMBER

If undelivered please return to  
Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society Inc  
PO Box 150  
Mount Gravatt Qld 4122

### Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society Details

**Address:**

Mt Gravatt Park, 1873 Logan Road, Upper Mt Gravatt Qld 4122

**Postal Address:**

P.O. Box 150, Mt Gravatt Qld 4122

**Phone:** (07) 3219 3381

**Email:** mtgravattlapidaryclub@gmail.com

**Website:** mtgravatt.lapidaryclub.com.au

**Club meetings** are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. All Members are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

**Club Opening Hours**

Mon 7.30—9.30 pm

Tues 7.30—9.30 pm

Wed 9.00—12 noon

Fri 9.00—12 noon

Fri 7.30—9.30pm

*Closed public holidays*

Open Saturday

Open Sunday

**Silver Classes**

Tue 9.00—12 noon

Thur 7.00—9.30

**Mineral Society**

Last Wednesday of the month at  
7.00 pm

3rd Saturday of the month

4th Sunday of the month

**JOINING FEES**

**Adult Members** - \$50 - Comprising \$20 joining fee, \$20 annual subscription and \$10 badge.

**Junior Members** (between 10 and 16 years) - \$25 - Comprising \$5 joining fee, \$10 annual Subscription and \$10 badge.

**NEWSLETTER LEVY**

Friendship and Fellowship – our precious gems