

SNIPPETS

the bi-monthly newsletter of the Gold Coast Lapidary Club

Jul – Aug
2026
Issue 509



Welcome to the July - August 2026 edition of Snippets, club newsletter of the Gold Coast Lapidary Club.

EVENTS & NEWS

The Club's annual Gem Show was successfully held on Saturday 20th June.



The show started early with first stall holders arriving at 5:15am to set up. We had a total of 32 stalls which was slightly down from last year, possibly due to fluctuations in the economy.

The weather for the Show was fine and sunny all day which was an absolute bonus and quite different from the wet day we had during the 2025 show. Club member volunteers worked hard, offering their support to the event by doing the set up for the event, meeting and greeting the stall holders and then across the public gate entry, food kitchen, barbecue, lapidary workshops and club stalls as well as providing general management and tidy-up after the show. We could always do with more volunteer support and with the high workload on this year's volunteers, we will be working hard on this aspect for next year's show.



The BBQ and Kitchen were very successful enterprises with the delicious smell of cooking food drifting over the area. There was a good variety of materials on offer from traders and the usual split of trader success, between some having a good day and some not so good.

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The cabbing room, faceting and silver rooms were doing their demonstrations which were well received by the public with sufficient interest to encourage 10 new members to join on the day. Prizes were awarded across the various Club competition areas with excellent work noted across faceting, silver-smithing and cabochons.

Overall activities, involvement and takings were ok and raffle prizes well received.

We are now looking for members to participate in the new Show committee and seeking a Show Coordinator to manage the 2027 Show.

Club Annual General Meeting & Committee Elections



The Club's Annual General Meeting was held on 31st May with a good turnout of 49 people, allowing the meeting to proceed. Most meeting attendees were physically present at the Club premises, but we also had four virtual attendees present, connected to the meeting using the on-line "Teams" meeting software. Kim oversaw getting the electronic side of things working in the Clubhouse and the on-line side seemed to work well with the meeting starting on time.

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The meeting proceeded with the planned agenda:

1. Minutes of the 2025 AGM were reviewed and accepted
2. The President's report was offered by Bruce Harle and accepted by the meeting. After three (3) positive Terms as Club President, Bruce noted his role as outgoing President and gave the 2026 AGM President's report, highlighting that
 - a. Council had renewed the Club's tenure for the next 5 years at Pizze Park
 - b. the Club was in a strong financial position
 - c. and that he would remain on the support committee to assist the incoming committee
 - d. and finally thanking all the volunteers for all their support for him and for the Club
3. The Treasurer's report for 2025-2026 was then presented by Bruce Harle (on behalf of Glen Ives) and accepted by the meeting. Bruce then moved that the present bookkeeping arrangements with Glen be maintained and the motion was accepted by the meeting.
 - a. Income reported at \$104,115 (up from \$77,486)
 - b. Expenses reported at \$79,380 (up from \$68,480)
 - c. With a Net Profit of \$4,774 (down from \$9,006)
4. The outgoing President, Bruce Harle, was nominated for Lifetime membership, with clarification that other meritorious nominations has also been made and assessed by the Committee
5. Subsequently the new 2026/2027 Committee elections took place with a largely new Committee being elected. Kim Glasby was elected to the key position of Club President, supported by election of Goran Zivanovic as the new Vice President. Joe Lockley was also elected as the new Treasurer and Wayne Schulz as the new Secretary. For details of the other positions, both elected and un-elected, please refer to the Committee Listing later in the Snippets newsletter.

For details of the 31st May 2026 Annual General Meeting, please refer to the Minutes of Meeting, available on the Club's noticeboard and website.

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President's Report

Dear Artisans of the Gold Cost Lapidary Club

I am honoured to introduce myself as your new club president. I put my hand up for this role not realising how much support I would receive from members and was a little overwhelmed by your generosity. We also have some enthusiastic committee members who put in the time and effort required to do all the background work needed to keep our club running. Thank you to all for your help.

Whether you are a master faceter, a passionate cabochon cutter, a silver smith, or a newcomer discovering the beauty hidden inside a rough rock, I am pleased to serve and support each of you.

To give you a little background on myself, I ran my own IT support business in Brisbane for 28 years. All that time, in my garage I had some rocks that I had collected and carried around from house to house. It was only when I retired that I started with lapidary work to find out what was in those rocks. Opals of course!

My current passion is silversmithing, but what I love most about our hobby is the incredible community surrounding it. There is nothing quite like the shared excitement of slicing open a new rock or seeing a beautifully polished silver creation come together.

As president, my primary goal is to ensure our club remains a vibrant, safe, and an inspiring space for everyone. Over the coming year, I am keen to focus on:

- **Enhancing our workshop spaces** and ensuring everyone has access to the equipment and training they need.
- **Fostering a supportive community** where experienced members can mentor beginners, and we can all learn from one another.

A club is only as strong as its members, and your voice matters. I would like to hear your ideas, feedback, and what you hope to see from the club moving forward.

Please feel free to reply to this email or grab me when you see me around the club. Come chat at our next General meeting on Sunday 30th August.

Thank you all for your dedication to keeping the lapidary arts alive and thriving. I look forward to working alongside you all and seeing your latest creations.

Warm regards

Kim Glasby

President - Gold Coast Lapidary Club

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Club News

Club T Shirts - The new Club T shirts were approved by the Committee in May and are now available for purchase. The T-shirt body is in the Club's light sky-blue colours with the front featuring the GCLC crest and the back highlighting the Club's 60 year anniversary alongside our major sponsors. All sizes are available from small to XXL and everything in between. The cost is \$35 per T-shirt with funds going directly to the Club.

Tea and Coffee area: A new, wall-mounted "Zip" water boiler has been installed in the Tea and Coffee area, replacing the old tea urn that sat on the wall bench. There seems to be unanimous approval for the Zip, which provides instantaneous hot water on demand and operates much more efficiently than the old urn

Current approved grants - Community Services Queensland approved \$2,000 towards the Club's computer backup and sign-in as well as technical upgrades

Grant applications - A discretionary Grant application has been submitted for the Club's annual gem show in May (to cover bin hire, fencing etc), along with a grant application for a new on-site defibrillator to cover community events and normal Club operations.

Maintenance/repairs: A recent incident on the morning of the Gem Show highlighted the need to get a repair completed on the ladies toilet door. After using the toilet one of our members found herself "locked-in" for quite a while due to a faulty door lock. The repair is underway and hopefully now complete. If anyone notices any issues with Club equipment or facilities, then please do report them, either directly to one of the Committee or alternately use one of the Club feedback forms (located in the Cabling room beside the log-in computer) to formally record the issue.

Competency Certificates: The Club provides "Certificates of Achievement" to all members who achieve competency in the various lapidary disciplines on offer at the Club. Currently we have many uncollected certificates in "Cabachon", "Basic Silversmithing" and "Faceting". In 2025 alone there are 34 laminated certificates waiting to be collected. The uncollected certificates are in a folder hanging on the wall beside the noticeboard in the Cabachon building meeting area.

Name Badges: All new members at the Club are provided with a name badge to help with "getting to know" our members. We currently have over 100 uncollected name badges gathering dust on the tea and coffee bench in the Cabachon building. Currently they're just taking up useful space on the bench so it would be good to get these badges out to their rightful owners. Have a quick look when you come in and let's see if we can get the name badges properly homed.

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For Sale

The Club has a Gemmaster 4 faceting machine for sale. Still cuts well and comes complete with transfer jig and some dop sticks. Offers over \$2000 to be emailed to:



secretary@goldcoastlapidaryclub.com.au

Management Committee Members: 2026/27

Position	Name	Email
President	Kim Glasby	president@goldcoastlapidaryclub.com.au
Vice President	Goran Zivanovic	
Treasurer	Joe Lockley	
Secretary	Wayne Schulz	secretary@goldcoastlapidaryclub.com.au
Membership Secretary	Ruth Holliday	
Publicity Officer	Leigh Andrews	

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Sub-Committee Members

Position	Name
General Support	Bruce Harle, Elise Penson, Jan Lippold, Josh (Smiley) Ford, Paul Flynn
Admin Support	Karen Gaunt
Bookkeeper	Glen Ives
Librarian	Mal Wanchap, Robert Keane
QLACCA Delegate	Steve Madeley
Facebook Administrator	Vikki Madeley
Maintenance Officers	Steve Madeley, Ross Cochrane, Wayne Schulz
Purchasing Officer	Gabrielle Curtis

Auxiliary Positions

Gemshow 2026

Position	Name
Show Coordinator 2026	Wayne Schulz
Showcase Stewards	Open
Show Judge – Faceting	Open
Show Judge – Silver	John Bostock
Show Judge - Cabachon	Mal Wanchop

General Support

Position	Name
Field Trip Coordinator	Luke Smith
Raffle Coordinator	Gabrielle Curtis
Editor - Club Newsletter	Ian Gray

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Out & About

Fossicking Trips

During July a small and enthusiastic group of Club members departed the Gold Coast, heading out to the small Queensland town of Yowah, in Paroo shire. The group were travelling to Yowah ahead of the annual Yowah Opal Festival (July 17th – 19th) intending to buy the unique Yowah opal at source and enjoy some opal fossicking while there. As always, Yowah delivered an unforgettable adventure



Bee and Eowin enjoying the Yowah adventure

Yowah is in the true Queensland outback, some 1000 km due west of the Gold Coast. The drive takes around 11 hours, not including stops and is on sealed roads all the way to Yowah. The town itself is quite small with a population of 126 (2021 census) and is famous for its' opal gemstone fields where you can find the unique opal "Yowah nuts".



A beautiful Yowah nut – illustrating the opaline fracture network

Yowah nuts are a type of ironstone concretion which contain a network of thin cracks and fractures, now filled with opaline silica. The colour play of the opal in the Yowah nut contrasts strongly with the dark-brown ironstone background colour, often bringing out a flash and fire in the opal that is not easily seen in lighter colour vein opal from other areas of Australia. The ironstone concretions are a sedimentary rock type which formed in a shallow marine environment, during the Cretaceous period, between 65 and 135 million years ago. The formation process required gradual build-up of the

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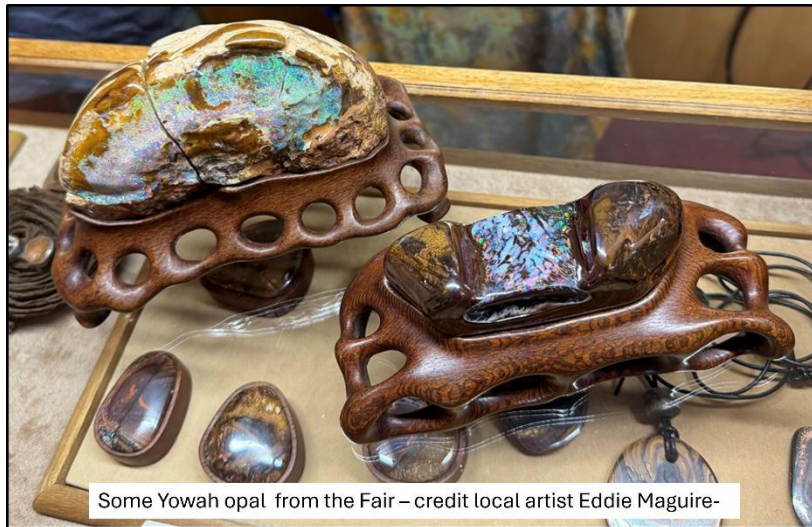
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concretions (nodules) around an originating central nucleus, followed by development of a crack network and then gradual infiltration of silica rich waters into the concretion.

At the Opal festival itself, there were some fantastic bargains to be found, with the Club group noting that many of the best opal deals were made the day before the festival officially opened. The group also enjoyed exploring the local businesses, artists and attractions, including Sewoc Creations, Ossies Opals, Yowah Nut Tag Along Tours.



One of the highlights at the Fair was chatting with some of the locals who have appeared on Outback Opal Hunters. Hearing their stories and learning more about life in Yowah made the experience even more memorable.

Overall, we'd have to say that it's the people who truly make Yowah such a special place and what stood out most was the warm, friendly atmosphere and the generosity of the local community.

Thanks to everyone who made us feel so welcome and a special thank you to the wonderful staff at the caravan park and café, who were incredibly friendly, welcoming, and helpful throughout our stay.

We're already looking forward to our next visit!

Luke Smith

The provisional plan for this year's fossicking adventures is on the Club website and as shown below. Exact timing will always be confirmed on the Club noticeboard. Please do let Luke

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Smith know in advance if you want to join a trip, so he can get numbers, discuss and make sure of suitability. All trips are weather dependent.

Month	Dates	Trip type	Location	Looking for
January	9th - 11th	Overnight Fossicking	Ewingar State Forest, NSW	Smokey Quartz, Amethyst
February	tba	Day trip - rain dependent	Tweed Valley, NSW (1) Tyalgum pub (2) Hopping Dicks Rd Crystal Shop	Chalcedony, Agate, Jasper
March	6th - 8th	Overnight Fossicking	Minerama Glen Innes Torrington Elsmore stannifer	Sapphire, Zircon, Topaz
April	25th	Overnight Fossicking	Yowah, Quilpie, Chinchilla, Wandoan	Boulder Opal, Petrified wood
May	16th	Day trip	Lismore, NSW - Lismore Gem Show	Gem show
	23rd	Day trip	Brisbane (1) Mt Gravatt Gem Show (2) Ithaca crystals, Mansfield	Gem show / crystal shop
October	tba	Overnight Fossicking	Ewingar State Forest, NSW	Smokey Quartz, Amethyst
November	8th	Day trip	Mudgeeraba - Mudgeeraba gem show	Gem show

Who's in the Club?

This edition we're showcasing **Jann Lippold**, a long-time member of the Gold Coast Lapidary Club. The reason for showcasing Jan is to celebrate her achievements at this year's 2026 Gemboree where she won the "Novelty Gemcraft" section of the Tony Annear OAM Memorial Trophy.

The Gemboree is Australia's largest gem show and is held annually in a different state or Territory of Australia over the 4 days of Easter. This year it was held at Nambour in Queensland and for the first in many years the gem show's faceting competition called for natural stones to be cut rather than synthetic materials.



Jan had not entered for 12 years because previous competitions at the Gemboree were calling for synthetic and when spending up to two weeks to cut a competition stone her preference is to use natural materials. As a result of the Gemboree's decision to use natural materials Jan decided to enter the Tony Annear OAM Memorial Trophy competition and put herself up against the best of Australian lapidarists. Divided into 10 sections (2 for Faceted stones, 2 for Cabochons and 1 each respectively for carving, tumbled stones, polished face, jewellery, a mineral entry and the Novelty Gemcraft), Jan entered the Novelty Gemcraft section and made a Grand Piano out of Pilbara Jade.

Shown above, the Grand Piano is now on display in the club along with the entry she made 12 years ago when she last entered this competition (a violin on a round table in petrified wood). Make sure you have a look when you next come into the Clubhouse

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Congratulations to Jan on her achievement and trophy and it's great to know that we have talent like this in the Club.

Birthdays

It's worth mentioning that Bruce Harle (our outgoing 3 Term President) celebrated his 80th birthday at the Club...



**Congratulations on your
80th Birthday**

Bruce Harle
(Life member & former
President)



Thanks for your
dedicated service to
GCLC

VJ Faceting Machines - The story of VJ

In our last newsletter we said that we'd review the three (3) new model VJ faceting machines that have been installed in the Club's faceting room, replacing the older and well used Gemmaster GF4 units.

In general, the opinion from our faceting instructors is that the VJ's have been well received with their accuracy supporting the crafting of some stunning gemstone designs for their users. Inevitably and because they're a different brand to the Gemmasters, it takes a little bit of effort to get used to the new style of operating a VJ, but it doesn't take long and the improved accuracy from the older machines is well worth the time.

For those who don't know too much about the VJ's, following is a little bit of history, extracted (and paraphrased) from the VJ website.

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The VJ Faceting Machine is an Australian designed and manufactured “mast type” faceting machine, originally designed in Rockhampton, Queensland by the late John Carter, an engineer and faceter. The design concept first appeared in 1982, with drawings being shown at the Mt. Isa Gemboree in 1984. A patent for the design was obtained in 1987 at the same time as first production models were made with the VJ model becoming very popular in the late 80's and 90's with Australian faceters.

Production ceased in 1997 due to illness and subsequently the patent was sold to Sapphire Engineering, operated by Mal and Jenny Johnson in 2000, following which production of the machines recommenced. In 2017 production again ceased due to Mal's retirement and the business was taken over by family members Rachel & Brett under the name of “VJ Faceting Machines”. In 2020 Matt and Kerry Young purchased VJ Faceting Machines and continue to run the business from their base in Redridge, near Childers, Queensland.

In choosing VJ's the Club and of course the Club's instructors would have had to consider a number of key issues

- What type of machine to choose – there are many different types and models
- Cost – how would it fit into the Club's budget
- Availability – Is the model currently available
- Reliability – Do they break down regularly
- Service support - Can we get any or is it all down to the Club
- Accuracy and Repeatability – The best gemstone designs require accurate, repeatable work
- Speed – Can we produce our gemstone designs in a reasonable time

We'll talk more about these factors in our next issue of Snippets.

Let's Talk about Gemstones

Gemstone Quiz (Answers on the last page)

1. From which mineral does the Queensland town of Stanthorpe get its' name?
2. What is the name of the red tin oxide gemstone, beloved of mineral collectors?
3. What is the name of the Queensland location famous for colourful agate nodules ?
4. Name at least three (3) “thunder-egg” fossicking locations in Queensland.
5. Where is the closest location to the Gold Coast to fossick for Opal ??

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Club Quarterly Lookahead

Meetings	
Every Tuesday	Club Committee Meeting
30 th August 2026	General Meeting
Events	
Saturday 17 th October 2026	Club Open Day

GCLC Session Times & Instructors – 2026

CHANGES:

- The Tuesday and Saturday faceting classes are running until mid- August.
- Silver-smithing and Wire-wrapping on Tuesdays are now closed
- A new silver smithing session is available on Saturday mornings (9am – 12pm)

Most Club lapidary sessions take place on weekdays between 10am and 3pm, but we also have evening cabbing sessions (Monday and Wednesday) as well as Saturday cabbing, faceting and silver-smithing.

DAY	Monday			Tuesday	Wednesday		Thursday	Friday	Saturday						
09.00															
09.30															
10.00	Tomio Taguchi Dennis Burton	John Bostock Gabrielle Curtis Kim Glasby	Karen Baraket	Neil Wright (until mid August)	Ross Cochrane Robert Keane	Mal Wanchap	Steve Madeley Dennis Burton	Gabrielle Curtis Vikki Madeley	John Grice Rex Keen	Gary Gale	Alex Toro	Zoe D'Orival	Neil Wright (until mid August)	Smiley Ford Zoe D'Orival	Kim Glasby
10.30															
11.00															
11.30															
12.00															
12.30															
13.00															
13.30															
14.00															
14.30															
15.00															
NIGHT	Monday			Tuesday	Wednesday		Thursday	Friday	Saturday						
18.00	Mike Beacall			No evening classes		Jay Neville	Jay Neville	No evening classes	No evening classes	No evening classes					
18.30															
19.00															
19.30															
20.00															
20.30															
21.00															
LEGEND	Cabbing		Opal		Silversmithing	Wire wrapping			Faceting	Casting					

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The Club's casting and Investment area is currently closed while the new equipment is being installed.

The Club would like to open evening classes for Faceting and Silversmithing and encourage anyone that's available to instruct on week-day evenings to contact the Committee. Training will be arranged where required .

THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Many thanks to our generous Sponsors, supporting the GCLC:

- **AJS (Australian Jewellery Supplies)** - Jewellers Tools & Lapidary Tools
- **Gemcuts** - Lapidary Tools & Jewellery Tools
- **Morris & Watson** - Fabricated metal, Refining, Casting & Bullion supply.

Member Contributions – Snippets

If you've a hankering to free your journalistic inner-self or feel like contributing any lapidary or Club related articles, or even have feedback on Snippets and what you'd like to see in future editions of our newsletter, then please do send your pieces/comments in. Either:

- Directly send to the Editor - ianangray@outlook.com
- Or via any of the Club committee team.

Answers to the Gemstone Quiz

1. *Tin. Stanthorpe was founded by tin miners after the discovery of rich alluvial deposits of the mineral. Stanthorpe literally means tin town and is derived from the Latin word "stannum" or tin and the English word "thorpe" meaning small settlement or village.*
2. *Cassiterite. The red translucent crystal of tin oxide is a rare form of Cassiterite and is highly valued by mineral specimen collectors. It can also be used as a rare gemstone due to its' hardness of 6-7 (like quartz) and high dispersion. However, most cassiterite*

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crystals are found in alluvial placer deposits and occur as small, dark, opaque grains which are unsuitable for use as gemstones.

- 3. The most famous location for colourful agate in Queensland is Agate Creek, located in outback Queensland, about 1800km northwest of the Gold Coast and 500km west of Townsville.*
- 4. Thundereggs can be found in several locations close to the Gold Coast – at Mt Tamborine (Canungra and Cedar Creek) and along the Tweed Valley although it's really NSW (anywhere near Mt Warning or Numinbah) as well as further north around Eumundi, Yandina, Bundaberg, Mt Hay, Agate Creek and Chillagoe. Typically, they occur in volcanic rhyolitic - basaltic rocks which have formed gas cavities (vesicles) and which subsequently become filled with chalcedonic silica material (amygdules).*
- 5. Lightning Ridge in NSW is the closest recognised opal location from the Gold Coast. Located 784km from GCLC it is famous for its' black opal, mined at the location since, around 1880. Next closest to GCLC is Yowah (1013 km), famous for its' "Yowah nuts" and approximately the same distance away as Queensland's boulder opal field in Quilpie (1020 km).*