

SNIPPETS

Sep – Oct
2026
Issue 510



the bi-monthly newsletter of the Gold Coast Lapidary Club

Welcome to the September – October 2026 edition of Snippets, club newsletter of the Gold Coast Lapidary Club.

EVENTS & NEWS

Club General Meeting

The Club's quarterly general meeting was held on Sunday 30th August at the Club premises. The formal business agenda was attended to, followed by the regular raffle and sizzle on the barbie. Happy days and some pictures of happy people at the August meeting.



General meetings are held quarterly and as a Club member it's a great way to meet other Club members as well as have your voice heard on matters affecting the Club's operations.

Hope to see you at the next GM in November 😊 🍷 .

Gold Coast Lapidary Club Inc.

Member of Queensland Lapidary & Allied Craft Club Association

80 Pacific Avenue, Miami, Queensland 4220

Mail: PO Box 12, Nobby Beach Queensland, 4218

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President's Report

Hello fellow Artisans

We have been busy these past few months updating our Workplace Health and Safety procedures amongst all the other jobs that need to be done.

In the Cabbing, Silversmithing and Faceting rooms there is now a Red Folder on the wall near the first aid kits labelled Safety Data Sheets. These folders are to be used as a first point of reference should any member have an accident and need first aid treatment. Each folder is different and contains the necessary treatment for accidents in the respected area.

A follow-up to these folders is the training of a First Aid Certificate for our Instructors. We now have secured a grant to train up to 10 people. If you can spare time for training, please let us know. It can be done at a time that suits you, and the venue is at Varsity Lakes.

We are going to update the toilets with a coat of paint, and the date has been set for Sunday 25th October. If you can help, please let the committee know. Start time is 9.00 am expected finish is 1.00pm.

As a bonus for a lucky member, we are running a Raffle with a \$400.00 cash prize to be drawn at Christmas. Tickets are only \$5.00 each. Make sure that you ask your instructor for a few tickets so that you don't miss out. You could pace yourself and buy 2 tickets a month to get a good chance to win. This raffle is to provide funding for some new equipment.

Our newish VJ faceting machines had a small hic-cup, the lift table started to jam. This problem is now being corrected by the supplier under warranty.

We now have a Show Co-Ordinator, Bee Everett. Thank you for taking on this role Bee, and if anybody can help her run the show for next year, please let Bee or a Committee member know.

All the Best

Kim Glasby

President - Gold Coast Lapidary Club

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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
Publicity Officer	Leigh Andrews	

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
Membership Secretary	Ruth Holliday
QLACCA Delegate	Steve Madeley
Facebook Administrator	Vikki Madeley
Maintenance Officers	Steve Madeley, Ross Cochrane, Wayne Schulz
Purchasing Officer	Gabrielle Curtis

Auxiliary Positions

Gemshow 2027 (VOLUNTEERS required)

Position	Name
Show Coordinator 2026	Bee Everest
Showcase Stewards	Open
Show Judge – Faceting	Open
Show Judge – Silver	Open
Show Judge - Cabachon	Open

General Support

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

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Club News

YouTube channel: Social media is everywhere these days and the Gold Coast club is no exception, having already established a Facebook page to communicate with members. Since the last edition of Snippets, the Club has established a YouTube channel in support of an increase in accessibility to the public. The channel's been active for about two months now and currently features two videos. The first video is a General Introductory video for new and potential members, featuring this year's annual Gemshow. Do have a watch. Just recently a Faceting video was created for the channel, introducing the art of gemstone faceting and offering a behind the scenes look at the Club's faceting facilities. It features club member "Ray West", a Master Facetor and is a great introduction to the Art.

Grants: On 7th September our local area Councillor Nick Marshall, OAM, presented the Club with a cheque for \$4,385, representing our successful 2026 grant applications



1. **Community Projects Program - Senior First Aid and Transfer Jigs - \$2,390**
2. **Community Projects Program - Defibrillator - \$1995**

Club defibrillator: As a result of the successful grant application a new defibrillator has been installed at the Club. It's located in the reception area of the cabbing room, on the east wall and in between the Casting area and the sliding entry door. Hopefully it never needs to be used, but it's great assurance for our members if it does. Thanks are due to Wayne Schulz for the installation.

Club Raffle: The Club's offering raffle tickets for sale at \$5 per ticket, with the raffle proceeds helping to support Club activities. The draw (and last ticket sales) will be on 5th December at the Club's annual Christmas Party, at Varsity Lakes Tavern.

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Club T Shirts - The new Club T shirts are on cabinet display in the cabbing room and available for purchase. Talk with any of the Committee to buy one. The T-shirt body is in light sky-blue colours with the front featuring the Club crest and the back highlighting the Club's 60-year anniversary, alongside our major sponsors. All sizes available from small to XXL and everything in between. **\$35** per T-shirt with funds going directly to the Club.

REMINDER - Competency Certificates: The Club provides "Certificates of Achievement" to all members who achieve competency in the various lapidary disciplines on offer at the Club. There are still many uncollected certificates in "Cabachon", "Basic Silversmithing" and "Faceting. The uncollected certificates are in a folder hanging on the wall beside the noticeboard in the Cabachon building meeting area.

REMINDER - 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 those badges home.

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Club Quarterly Lookahead

Meetings	
2nd Tuesday of each month	Club Committee Meeting
30 th November 2026	General Meeting
Events	
Saturday 17 th October 2026	Club Open Day

Club Open Day

The next Club Open day is on Saturday 17th October, 10am – 3pm, showcasing the Club's lapidary activities to the Community and offering lapidary items for sale. If you'd like to try your hand at selling lapidary material on the day then contact Goran Zivanovich, the Club's VP, to reserve your slot. Tables are \$20 a piece.

Volunteers are also required, to clean up the Club on 16th October ahead of the Open day, as well as volunteers to support the day itself. If you think you can break out some time to help the Club, then please contact the Committee or directly to Kim Glasby, the Club's President.

For Sale

Lortone Rock Tumbler with three rubber tumbling drums. \$150. Comes with;

- box of various tumbling grits
- bucket of red jasper from the Eyre Peninsula, SA

Interested. Contact Ray via the telephone number on the Club noticeboard.

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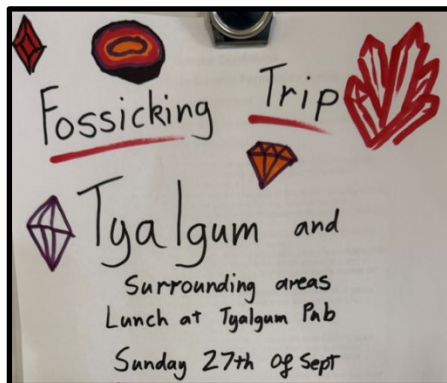


Out & About

Fossicking Trips

After the monster journey to Yowah in outback Queensland looking for Opal, fossicking trips have been on hold for the last couple of months.

A new fossicking adventure is planned to Tyalgum, NSW on 27th September, looking for agate, chalcedony, jasper and quartz. Tyalgum is located in the Tweed Valley, about an hour's drive from the Gold Coast so is very accessible for a day trip. The trip is planned as a social trip with a lunch break (or longer for those who want) at the Tyalgum pub.



A little-known related fact: At the Tweed Regional Museum in Murwillumbah (about 20kms from Tyalgum), you can see a collection of Tweed Vally gemstones, collected by Barry Waters, a founding member of the Gold Coast Lapidary Club in 1965 and who later became the first

President of the Beenleigh Gem Club.

The Tyalgum area's quite beautiful and if the weather is good, the trip will be a lovely adventure. The plan is to walk along the Creek on private property (for which permission has been obtained). Bring old comfy shoes that don't mind getting wet, a hat, sunscreen and water bottle and loose clothing to scramble around if you need. If you're interested, then give Luke a call or sign up on the Club noticeboard.



The provisional plan for this year's fossicking adventures is available on the Club website and as shown below with all trips weather dependent. Exact timing will always be confirmed on the Club noticeboard and please do let Luke Smith know in advance if you want to join a trip, so he can get numbers, discuss and make sure of suitability.

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Month	Dates	Trip type	Location	Looking for
January	9th - 11th	Overnight Fossicking	Ewinger 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	Ewinger State Forest, NSW	Smokey Quartz, Amethyst
November	8th	Day trip	Mudgeeraba - Mudgeeraba gem show	Gem show

Jewels of the Gemfields Festival (article by Zoe D'Orival)

In August a few Club members (Garth and his wife Donna, Janene and Tammy, Grace and Zoe and Mike) took a week out to head off to Sapphire, in the Central Queensland Highlands; attending the [Jewels of the Gemfields community](#) festival as both visitors and traders.

The festival is a 3-day community event, organised by the “Gemfields Lapidary & Craft club”. It celebrates the sapphire mining history of the area which dates back over 150 years to the original discovery of sapphires in the 1870's and features over 200 exhibitors.

Some of our intrepid travellers stayed in the Anakie caravan park, where one afternoon's activity involved buying a bucket of mine wash (the sapphire-bearing gravels after processing) and passing them through gemstone sieves to hunt for sapphires.



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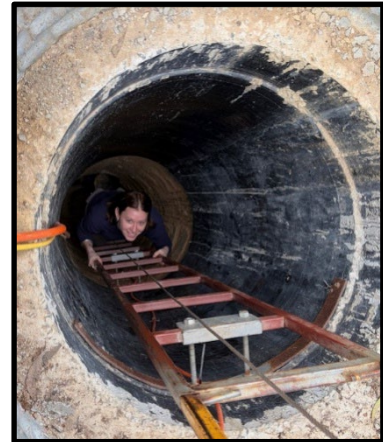
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While in Sapphire, Garth, Donna, Grace and Zoe took time to visit a working sapphire mine that one of our club members owns and works on when he's up the gemfields. It's an underground mine accessed through vertical tunnels and ladders on the surface, which lead down to the sapphire bearing pay gravels. Both Grace and Garth were brave enough to venture down and



have a look-see. Is that a nervous smile from Grace on her way down .. ? Or is it a "thank god I'm outta here" on the way back up ?

Thursday till Sunday was spent at the Showgrounds, setting up the stalls and then trading during the Gemfields festival with Zoe selling, and with Janene and Tammy's help.



A great time was had by all that attended ❤️ and bring it on for next year !!

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Who's in the Club? (reprinted article due to quality issues in the July-August issue of Snippets)

"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 crafted and entered a Grand Piano made of Pilbara Jade in the Novelty Gemcraft section.



Shown to the left, Jan's Grand Piano can be seen in the Club's display cabinet area, along with the entry she made 12 years ago when she last entered this competition (a violin on a round table made from petrified wood). Make sure you have a look when you next come into the Clubhouse

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

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The new VJ Faceting Machines – Selection considerations

The Club recently purchased three brand-new, Australian, VJ faceting machines and in our last newsletter we provided a brief introduction to the history of the VJ's and how the machine design evolved. This edition we're following up by discussing some of the key issues that our instructors would have had to consider when buying the VJ's:

- What type of machine to choose – there are essentially three (3) different types and many different brands, so where to start. Types include “mast machines”, “jam pegs” and “hand piece” machines. Mast machines are highly accurate, but expensive and slower than the others. Great for competition cutting, craftsmen and hobbyists who want technical outcomes. If you want the most accurate angles in your facet cuts, look for these. Jam-peg machines on the other hand are fast, great for commercial users but trade facet angle accuracy for speed; although still very accurate in the hands of experienced users. The trade-off is that they can take a long time to master. Hand piece machines are a compromise between the mast machines and jam peg machines, offering speed, accuracy, repeatability and adaptability during the cutting process. The VJ's are a mast-style machine, great for the type of work that a lapidary club does most often – competition cutting and training of club members. Other well-known brands include:
 - Ultra Tec (American)
 - Facette (originally Facetron, American)
 - Graves (American)
 - Polymetric (American)

Surprisingly and given the massive size of the Chinese gemstone industry (with their relatively low manufacturing costs), there are no Chinese models on the list and while people may complain about Chinese quality, there's little doubt that the country has now become the manufacturing factory of the world with huge upgrades in quality, including in gemstones.

- How does it fit into the Club's budget – The VJ can be one of the more expensive machines, but costs remain competitive after allowing for the American machine transport costs.
- Availability – Is the preferred model currently available. VJ as a company has been around for 40 years with short periods where manufacture stopped. The Club has bought the latest and greatest version of VJ's faceting machines, ensuring that short of manufacturer liquidation, parts and support will be available through the life of the machines.
- Reliability – Do they break down regularly? So far so good is probably the answer. Australian machines generally have a good reputation for reliability due to their over-engineering but have become increasingly dependent on imported parts like motors and electronics.

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- Service support - Can we get any or is it all down to the Club. VJ's are the only machine to be manufactured in Australia and can provide service support, being based in Queensland near Childers. The other machines being manufactured in America would rely on overseas courier timing for parts support and require the Club to do all the maintenance - undesirable for expensive machines under warranty.
- Accuracy and Repeatability – The best gemstone designs require accurate, repeatable work and the VJ as a mast style machine is very accurate and the robust, precision engineering of the product combined with relatively light club use provides repeatability.
- Speed – Can we produce our gemstone designs in a reasonable time? The compromise with the VJ is the trade-off of accuracy against production speed; due to its' mast style design. Additionally, some of our members have mentioned that they find it technically more demanding and more difficult to learn on, compared to the older faceting machines that the VJ's replaced.

Overall, the new VJ's have been well received, with the accuracy, local availability and service support for the machines being key factors in their selection. The VJ's will allow our members to work on world-class lapidary machines, produce accurately cut stones and achieve competition grade outcomes. Not only that but they support the lapidary industry in Australia!

Editor's note: *The new VJ's are great outcome for the faceting section of the Club. That said, it might be useful to consider some diversity in the machines, via cheap, easy to learn, hand-held, faceting arms, as used by production cutters in the low-cost gemstone manufacturing countries. While not suitable for competition outcomes they'd provide an easy-to-use contrast to our world-class machines while providing fast results especially for low-value stones and supporting interest in faceting and gem-cutting.*

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Let's Talk about Gemstones

Gemstone Quiz (Answers on the last page)

1. When and where were sapphires first discovered in Queensland?
2. What is the Moh's hardness of natural sapphire?
3. Apart from Sapphire, where else in Queensland can we fossick for sapphire?
4. What colours of sapphire are the Central Queensland gemfields famous for?
5. What other gemstones can be found on the Central Queensland gemfields?

GCLC Session Times & Instructors – 2026

CHANGES:

- Tuesday faceting classes finish at 2.30 instead of 3pm
- Wednesday night cabbing & opal class and Friday night cabbing - currently suspended

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

Gold Coast Lapidary Club						
CLASS SCHEDULE						
TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
09:00 - 12:00						SILVER SMITHING
09:00-02.30		FACETING		FACETING		
09:00-03:00			FACETING			CABBING
						FACETING
10:00 - 03:00	CABBING	CABBING	CABBING	CABBING	CABBING	
	SILVER SMITHING		SILVER SMITHING			
NIGHT CLASSES						
06:00-09:00	CABBING					
	WIRE WRAPPING					

NOTE: FRIDAY & WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS TEMPORARILY ON HOLD DUE TO LOW NUMBERS.
SATURDAY SILVERSMITHING CLASS FOR MEMBER WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR COURSE ONLY. NO NEW STUDENTS.
SATURDAY FACETING CLASS FOR MEMBERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR COURSE ONLY. NO NEW STUDENTS.

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

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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 of Parliament, Ray Stevens, MP: A big thanks to our local MP, Mr Ray Stevens for all the complimentary printing services and support his office provides to the Club; including the printing of Snippets, all of our new member pack information and flyers for our annual gem show. Stevens and his staff are very supportive of our community club and their ongoing support is both acknowledged and appreciated.

Member Contributions – Snippets

Many thanks also to our club members who contributed their time preparing articles for this month's edition of Snippets.

- Luke Smith - Fossicking Trips
- Zoe Dorival – “Jewels of the Gemfields” article

If you're interested in contributing any lapidary or Club related articles, have feedback on Snippets and what you'd like to see in future editions of our newsletter, then please:

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

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Answers to this month's Gemstone Quiz

1. *The discovery of Queensland sapphires in the Central Queensland Highlands dates to the 1870's (1875?), when a Scottish born government surveyor, Archibald John Richardson identified gemstone deposits (sapphire, zircon) near Retreat Creek, Anakie.*
2. *Corundum (or natural sapphire) has a famously hard crystal structure with a Moh's hardness of 9, second only to Diamond. This hardness is what allows it to endure and resist erosion in the alluvial gravels where they are commonly found and mined.*
3. *Sapphire is found on the Central Queensland gemfields in the area around Anakie (the administrative centre), Rubyvale (possibly the most productive area), Sapphire (famous for its' alluvial workings) and The Willows (which produces a lot of the yellow's greens and mixed Parti-colours. Sapphire can also be found at the Lava Plains at Undara Volcanic National Park in tropical north Queensland, some 300km south-west of Cairns, however the sapphires are generally found beneath some very hard volcanic layers and are more difficult to extract.*
4. *The dominant colour produced at Anakie and the associated fields is blue, but it is a blue of a particular character: often deep, sometimes approaching navy or teal, and frequently carrying a greenish secondary hue that distinguishes it immediately from the violet-blues of Burmese or Kashmiri origin. Green and yellow stones are common, and parti-coloured sapphires — single crystals displaying distinct zones of blue and yellow, or blue and green — are a well-known specialty of the Queensland fields. Black star sapphires are also known as well as occasional colourless "geuda" crystals.*
5. *Apart from sapphires, the Central Queensland sapphire fields produce zircons, spinels, garnet, amethyst, quartz, chalcedony, jasper, tourmaline (as schorl), topaz, and very rare diamond. Gold can also be found. (Referenced from "The Sapphire fields of Anakie", report by B Dunstan, Asst Government Geologist, published in 1902.)*

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