

SNIPPETS

November 2025



Issue 505

Club 60th Anniversary Function

The function was held successfully with an attendance of members to enjoy the moment. The BBQ steak sandwiches with salad went off with bang and followed by the Double sponge cake to complete meal.

It was great to see members having a chat and a laugh and the atmosphere of the event revolved around this.

The interest in the contents of the time capsule was also great to see as members were able to get a glimpse of the Clubs evolution over the past 60 years. We are fortunate to have the son of the first President, Garth Hams, as a member and he gave a speech on being a part of the initial club environment through to today.

Thank you to members for assisting in setting up and taking down the event.

Also to make note of the work done by the 60th event committee it was a great team effort. Garth Hams, Ross Cochrane, Gaye Porter, Bruce Harle, Wayne Schulz.



Karen Baraket with her winning prize a
6 Faceted stone pendant in club colours Blue & Gold

This Club has managed to be a viable, active, community aware operation for 60 years, thanks to our founders and subsequent following committed volunteers. It would be safe to say that there would be few clubs that have developed resources, machinery and display abilities and survived the time. We should be proud of this and be looking forward to a successful prosperous future.

Historical Presidents Report

Page 6 of Snippets March 1988 editor was Dotty Anderson

In a hobby club such as ours we rely heavily on our members to do voluntary work around the building. The alternative would be a hefty increase in membership fees and pay someone to do the work.

We have an active executive and a dedicated group of instructors who freely give their time and efforts week after week for the good of their Club, not forgetting those members who have worked so hard in the past, to bring the facilities to the present state of excellence, and who are usually the first to volunteer to promote the Club at outside venues.

We realize that it is not possible for everyone to give time and effort after all, some have a living to make and/or other commitments to fulfill. On the other hand, there must be many members who have time but not the inclination, to give to their Club even once a year. Many cannot be bothered to help if they cannot benefit financially, yet they will use the facilities to the utmost when it suits them. Not all the work to be done is physically demanding, some of it is clerical, especially with EXPO coming up. Even coming along to make a cup of tea or coffee for the workers would indicate an interest in the Club.

Presidents Report

Dear Members,

Unfortunately the above presidents report from 1988 is symptomatic of the current situation in the club. Some things never change apparently. The workload in managing the club has increased with the compliance requirements of all levels of government. The sad reality is that the rate of volunteering from members has not matched the increased demand on myself and the committee. Hopefully this will change after the AGM in May 2026 with a new President and a new Committee.

December is the halfway mark of our 12 month reporting period and I am proud of what the club has achieved in this timeframe. The treasurers report will confirm a strong financial position. Our new lease extending our tenure until 30 June 2031 has been submitted along with all accompanying documentation along with the appropriate fees. As usual there are no outstanding accounts to be paid.

The significant events since the last General Meeting include the 60th Anniversary celebration which was a resounding success and the organising committee to be commended on their effort. We recently had an Open Day at the club and 6 new members were signed up on the day as well as in excess of \$300 received from Club activities.

Two new silversmithing benches have been ordered from the Men's Shed and delivery is expected early in the New Year. Silversmithing is still strongly supported by the members and to extend opening days would be dependent upon securing extra instructors.

The Christmas party is on Saturday, 13 December. We hope to see many of you there.

Gold Coast Lapidary Club Inc

Member of Queensland Lapidary & Allied Craft Association Inc.

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

The Management Committee 2025/26

President: Bruce Harle	Email: president@goldcoastlapidaryclub.com.au
Vice President: Open	Membership Secretary: Ruth Holliday
Treasurer: Steve Madeley	Publicity Officer: Open
Secretary: Jan Lippold	Email: secretary@goldcoastlapidaryclub.com.au

Committee Members

Garth Hams, Joe Lockley, Josh (Smiley) Ford, Kim Glasby, Ross Cochrane, Wayne Schulz
and Karen Gaunt providing Admin Support, Glen Ives Bookkeeper

Auxiliary Positions

Gem Show Co-ordinator 2025: Open	Showcase Stewards: Open
Snippets Editor: Open	Librarian: Mal Wanchap, Robert Keane
Membership Secretary: Ruth Holliday	Field Trip Coordinator: Luke Smith
Purchasing Officer: Gabrielle Curtis	Raffle Coordinator: Gabrielle Curtis
QLACCA Delegate: Steve Madeley	Facebook Admin: Vikki Madeley
Maintenance Officers: Steve Madeley, Ross Cochrane and Wayne Schulz	

Judges

Silver Judge: John Bostock

Cabachon Judge: Mal Wanchap

Facet Judge: Open

PRESIDENT REQUIRED 2026

What is a Succession Plan.

This is the ideal way that the next President can take over the running of the Club with their committee. To have a look how it works and what's involved is a great advantage over being given the keys on AGM day and not knowing what is next expected.

I have seen members smile, laugh and duck when the issue is raised and unfortunately none of these reactions will help. Bruce and the committee are offering interested members to come and sit in on a committee meeting or 2 to get a feel of what is being undertaken by management to move the Club forward. If your thinking about it but a bit shy we can do confidential pretty well.

The down side to a late President in May is that the Club's momentum will possibly stall whilst they get to know the ropes, plus it adds unneeded pressure to a position that is great to undertake and enjoy

	Classes & Work-shops					
Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10am To 3pm	CABBING Tomio Taguchi 0410148038 Mike Beacall 0403545381	CABBING Robert Keane 0417141950 Ross Cochrane 0418189941	CABBING Steve Madeley 0419021253	CABBING Gary Gale 0403043412	CABBING Alex Toro 0411805378	
	SILVER SMITHING John Bostock Gabrielle Curtis 0474031934 Chika Murata		SILVER SMITHING Robert Keane 0417141950 Gabrielle Curtis Vikki Madeley		CASTING & INVESTING Peter Markwell 0451461590	
	WIRE WRAPPING Karen Baraket					
9am To 2.30pm				FACETING John Grice 0400755698 Rex Keen 0412056931		
9am To 3pm			FACETING Mal Wanchap 0410249392			CABBING Smiley Ford 0427308058
	Night Classes					
6pm To 9pm	CABBING Mike Beacall 0403545381		CABBING John Casson 0451818343 OPAL Jay Neville 0433691025		CABBING John Casson 0451818343	



Mr Ray Stevens MP dropped in for a visit and a chat with a gift of a Lions Fruit Cake. A cuppa and fruit cake went down well.

Rod Turville put together a faceted Marble with a green and yellow flare in the centre, a faceted stone and a pair of earrings and Bruce presented them to Ray. We offered to do ear or nose piecing however Ray declined.

We appreciate your actions Ray and you will be the talking point for members for the next couple of weeks.





Thank You Cr Nick Marshall OAM

For approving the grant which assisted in the delivery of our 60th Celebration and for attending on the day with an encouraging talk on the Club and Pizzey Park development plan



Schulz Opal Miners part 2

After a session at the pub dad came back with news that we had a change of plan. We were going gold prospecting with an old fellow that had lived in White Cliffs for some time. So we packed 8 into the valiant and headed west for about 100kl to an area that had had gold finds over the years. We were shown how to take gravel from the base of boulders in an old river bed and sifted it then used pans to see if we had anything. The trip was unsuccessful but remains a great memory of panning and one of the best BBQ's I have ever had, something about sausages and chops in the middle of nowhere added the flavour. We left that year with only a small amount of opal but a great experience.

Our third year, 1973, saw us return again with dads gathered knowledge from researching where the opal buyers shops used to be, mind you I never seen him go to a library so I'm not sure where he researched. Anyway he was positive that there was a opal buyer shop next to the church so we set of with picks and shovels to exploit the research. Apparently dad had found out that back then anything that was not the size of a match box was simply thrown out the window into a pit. So we dug and sweated in the heat for half a day before dad gave up and we went back to working the mounds. Years later looking back my thoughts were who would have dug a pit to fill with opal they could have just thrown it down an old mine.

Dad attended the pub again and next day we went on a historical trek of the area which took in the cemetery, which was interesting as in 1890's - 1900 most of the population of the area had been wiped out with an outbreak of Typhoid. Then of to the tip, which was full of aluminium cans and dads recycle bug lit up and opal took a back seat for a couple of days. How many ways can you crush a can? stomp them one at a time, 2 at a time, use a plank and do 6 at a time and so on until we had 4 wool bales full.

We left that year looking like the Clampetts, 7 of us in the valiant and 4 very full wool bales of aluminium cans on the roof. My elder sister and I were at an age where embarrassment was something and you did not want to be seen around and thankfully dad took the back roads to home. He eventually sold the aluminium but never said what he got, we certainly didn't get a share and it was before the 5 cent refund was in place. That was our final family trip looking for opal, great experience and memories. However the bug had been set in my youngest brother and White Cliffs was put on his bucket list.

2018 Bucket List Run

Over a few phone calls a trip to White Cliffs was sorted out with my brother, Ady, and myself. He purchased an old Ford for \$900 and gave it a tune up and away we went. First stop was the Merbien Bowls Club to buy \$80 of meat raffle tickets, so we had meat for the week, we won 6 packs and left 2 with them to collect on the way home. We stopped at the Public Library about the half way point between Mildura and Broken Hill, Just an old fridge full of books with the rule take one leave one, a honesty system.

We arrived set up our room and dived straight in to looking for opal on the piles. Ady gave a miner a surprise by placing a can of coke in his lift bucket, he came up fast to find us laughing and we had a chat on his success and unfortunately a can of coke was not enough to get a look at what he was doing down below. He only worked 3 months of the year as it was to hot after that however he had a nice RV so we were thinking he was doing ok. 9 months off what would you do and it still costs money.

We ate meat like kings cooked on the town BBQ in the park shared with some locals and watched sunrises and sets with cold drinks on hand. We weren't that successful with our finds and not for the want of trying and crazy as it seems we found more on the public sifting mound than anywhere else. The trip home was a stop at the club to grab our meat out of the fridge then home to Loxton for a nice hot shower meat cook up and a laugh with Ady's wife and boys. It was a trip to remember and the old ford still runs today.

Wayne



Jason Neville's spare time success outside the Club

it took a year and 1/2 to over come my illness then 10 months to get fit for swimming at :
The Qld State Titles held on 6-8 November 2025.

I was not up to my normal standard but I did my best at the end of my age group 75 -79 years.

I swam

◇ 50 Fly



◇ 100 Fly

◇ 100 Breast

◇ 200 Breast

◇ 400 Breast

◇ 4x50m freestyle relay

◇ 4x100m medley relay

A National and State Record



What a surprise we went crazy with that result of the Relay.

I must admit I didn't think I would have done so well and it has picked me up after all that illness.
So next year 80 + group I should kick Arse.

Cheers
Jay

ANGIE BELL MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MONCRIEFF

CENTRAL GOLD COAST VOLUNTEER AWARDS



Thank you for the nominate and it was a proud moment for me to accept the certificate representing the Club.

Wayne

Thank you to
Angie Bell MP for supporting the Club.



The Club would like to thank MR Ray Sevens MP, Qld State Government Representative for Mermaid Beach.



Coming up at Your Club

- ◇ Gold Coast Lapidary Club General Meeting
80 Pacific Avenue, Miami
Sunday 11am 30 November 2025
- ◇ Christmas Function
Saturday 13 December 2025
Register on the Notice Board please
- ◇ General Meeting
Sunday 22 February 2026 11am
- ◇ General & AGM meetings
Sunday 31 May 2026 11am
- ◇ Saturday, 20 June 2026
Gold Coast Lapidary Club Annual Gem Show
80 Pacific Avenue, Miami

Snippets Editor Needed

This is one of the clubs main communication platforms and also a way of getting members to recognise other members accomplishments, successes and general club knowledge.

I have picked this task up with the barest of experience and support from Karen and a couple of other's and a bit of You tube so it's not hard and not taxing on your time. All up it might take me about 8 hours over 2 months and material is easy to get.

I want to hand it over to someone so I can concentrate on the other 5 areas I am currently covering so sharing the load will help.

Please contact me and I can give you a look at what I do to get it done.

Cheers

Wayne

wschulz907@gmail.com or 0417961865



Ross Alisa and Bruce

Alisa comes from Munich, Germany and is visiting Australia on a holiday. She is a self-taught Jewellery designer and her Grandfather was a Jeweller. He and friends recommended looking into Lapidary and she travelled from Brisbane via public transport to visit and join our Club for 3 weeks. She managed to knock out 3 cabs on her first day and has really enjoyed the Club and its members.

Alisa is on a personal Jewellery journey intending to visit the east coast of Australia and doing a workshop in each city. Her only downside to the trip is luggage weight management and stones are heavy.

Its been great to be a part of Alisa's journey and we wish he safe travels.

Thank you to Jan Lippold for giving us some Club History, Old Snippets copies from 1980's

