

# SNIPPETS

Mar – Apr  
2026  
Issue 507



the bi-monthly newsletter of the Gold Coast Lapidary Club

Welcome to the March-April 2026 edition of Snippets, club newsletter of the Gold Coast Lapidary Club. **We're moving to a bi-monthly format** for Issue 507 with the view that the timing change supports a more reliable issue.

## EVENTS

**The Club's General meeting** was held on the sunny Sunday morning of February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Lots to review and discuss. For details, refer to the minutes of meeting, available in the Clubhouse.

Club members getting ready to start the GM



Possibly the most significant announcement at the meeting was that **Gold Coast City Council have renewed the Club's lease** for the next 5 years ... removing any remaining tension about the Club moving from the current premises. And meaning we'll remain in the current building until at least 2031 🇺🇸.

**Almost as significant** was the review of Club membership and session fees. Inevitably the Club has had to acknowledge the inflationary world we live in these days. And in short, balancing the Club books means that both Membership fees and Session fees have had to increase. With effect from this February:

- session fees are now \$6 for 3 hours, \$12 for the day
- annual membership fees are \$110 & Renewal \$100

Still great value !

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## Presidents Report

### Lease Update

The new Freehold Lease has been registered with Titles Queensland. The lease term commences on 01/07/2026 and expires on 30/06/2031. Bruce has confirmed that the executed lease has been signed by GCCC and returned via the Titles Office. All documentation has been received, fees have been paid, and the club is legally entitled to remain on site until 30 June 2031.

Bruce went on to advise that there have been numerous discussions about our tenure with council. In state budget in June the LNP government allocated \$850,000 for relocations and Tom Tate indicated he would match dollar for dollar for relocation of our club along with the Men's Shed. Bruce and the Committee were looking to lock that money in prior to the next budget meeting. An email from GCCC has now been received advising that the redevelopment of Pizze Park is not going ahead therefore there is no need to move. GCCC has money to spend to enhance our facility instead. The amount has not been shared. Nothing happening with Pizze Park for at least 10 years. Any updates will be shared with members as they come to hand. Bruce would like to acknowledge all the work the Committee have put in and noted a good result overall

Welcome to autumn! The exceptional rain fall across most of Queensland in recent months must surely have dislodged a massive harvest of precious gems and amassing stones that have been waiting to be found by you for hundreds of thousands of years. If you get to the right place all you will have to do is bend down and pick them up! Enough of my day dreaming and back to work!

Yours sincerely

Bruce Harle

President

### Club Elections and AGM

Reminding everyone that we're on the run home to the club AGM and **need to Elect a new club committee**. To keep the club operational and compliant with Queensland's legislation a new President, Secretary and Treasurer are required, as a minimum. Our existing management committee team and committee members are set out below for information. Please consider applying to join the team

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## Out & About

### Fossicking Trips

January is possibly the hottest month of the year in Queensland and **Luke Smith braved the heat to lead a small group of club members** to the Ewingar State Forest in NSW.



The creeks around the Ewingar area were worked for alluvial gold in the late 1800's by the new Australians, arrived from Europe. The easy alluvial gold was soon exhausted and with no sign of other economic mineral resources, the diggers moved on to earn their living elsewhere. Since the 1970's Ewingar State Park has become a popular fossicking location for local gem clubs with most of the gemstones found in the creeks as alluvial, water-worn stones. The gems are associated with the regional granite country rock. Large euhedral, water-worn, smoky quartz crystals are the most common find in creeks, although occasional specimens of amethyst can be found along with crystal-clear quartz. Best times to fossick are after heavy rain and flooding,

which transports new gravels into the creeks and refreshes the existing gravels as they tumble along the floodwaters. For pristine crystals with good faces, it's best to search outside the creeks in the surrounding granite country rock, looking for weathered pegmatitic vughs (cavities) in the granite; which can produce well-formed smoky quartz crystals (to 40cm) and smaller single crystals with secondary amethyst overgrowths.

Ewingar State Forest is located 240km to the south-west of the Gold Coast (about 3 and a half hours drive) and given the big drive, this means an overnight trip.

In NSW, fossicking is generally permitted in state forests with a permit, while in QLD, a fossicking license is required. The cost of permits in NSW is \$27.50, while in QLD, the cost starts from \$6.50 for a month. Always check the specific regulations and obtain the necessary permits before heading out.

A provisional plan for this year's fossicking adventures is shown below, however exact timing will be confirmed on the Club noticeboard. Please do let Luke 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.

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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 Karen Baraket*** and her ***silver wire-wrapping classes***. For those of you unfamiliar with the concept of wire-wrapping, here's a very brief explanation. Silver wire-wrapping is a creative, simple, and effective way to transform gemstones into artistic, wearable jewellery. The technique involves selecting a gemstone of your choice (usually, but not always, a cabochon) and then wrapping the gemstone in fine silver wire using a design that you create. The idea is to create a protective jewellery setting that enhances the gemstone's natural beauty while allowing the stone to be easily worn.



Karen's a terrific teacher with lots of experience, great ideas to share and the wonderful ability to easily transfer her knowledge to her students. Sessions are currently running on Monday and Tuesday mornings from 10am – 1pm. Have a chat with Karen to find out more.

## 10-year membership Anniversary

Congratulations to our club members who've celebrated 10 years of creative lapidary happiness with the club 🥳 🇺🇸

- Gary Gale, joined 15.3.2016
- Ruth Holliday, joined 15.3.2016
- Gabrielle Curtis, joined 25.6.2016
- Michael Beacall, joined 3.9.2016

Apologies to Gary for not having his picture !



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## Let's Talk about Gemstones

### Gemstone Quiz (Answers on the last page)

1. What is the most desirable colour of Ruby?
2. Think carefully - Yellow is the usual colour, but pink is the most valuable colour of which gemstone?
3. Square, Half Dutch Rose and Briolette - what do these words have in common for lapidarians?
4. Where is the world's largest colourless cut diamond located?
5. What gem is said to protect against drunkenness if worn as an amulet?

## Club Quarterly Lookahead

Meetings	
Every Tuesday	Club Committee Meeting
Sunday 21 March 2026	Club Open Day
Sunday 31 May 2026	Annual General Meeting
Annual Gem show	
Saturday 20 June 2026	Annual Gem Show

For those members interested in entering, the **Club's annual lapidary competition** will be held with a judging schedule to coincide with the Club's annual gem show.

On that subject, planning for the club's 2026 Gem show is now full steam ahead. The Gold Coast Council have been notified, emails to the stall traders sent out and flyers are being printed. This year the team is being led by Wayne Schulz, with able support from Marina, Shelley, Gaye, Bruce and Ian

## GCLC Session Times & Instructors – 2026

There's been a few changes to the club sessions. Due to popularity;

- silver wire wrapping with Karen is now happening twice a week (Mondays and Tuesdays)
- silver-smithing is adding an extra session on Tuesdays, with Vicki, Steve and Kim. We're also looking for more instructors so we can hold extra classes
- faceting is adding two more sessions on Tuesday and Saturdays, with John.

Unfortunately, Friday evening cabbing classes have stopped, due to low attendances.

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## Classes & Workshops

Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9am To 2.30pm				<b>FACETING</b> John Grice Rex Keen		
9am To 3pm			<b>FACETING</b> Mal Wanchap			<b>CABBING</b> Smiley Ford
9.30am to 12	<b>WIRE WRAPPING</b> Karen Baraket					
10am To 3pm	<b>CABBING</b> Tomio Taguchi Dennis Burton	<b>CABBING</b> Robert Keane Ross Cochrane	<b>CABBING</b> Steve Madeley Dennis Burton	<b>CABBING</b> Gary Gale	<b>CABBING</b> Alex Toro	
	<b>SILVER SMITHING</b> John Bostock Gabrielle Curtis Kim Glasby	<b>SILVER SMITHING</b> Vikki Madeley Kim Glasby Steve Madeley	<b>SILVER SMITHING</b> Gabrielle Curtis Vikki Madeley			
Night Classes						
6pm To 9pm	<b>CABBING</b> Mike Beacall		<b>CABBING</b> John Casson  <b>OPAL</b> Jay Neville		<b>CABBING</b> John Casson <b>TEMPORARILY ON HOLD</b>	

**NOTE: FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSES TEMPORARILY ON HOLD DUE TO LOW NUMBERS.**

Most sessions take place on week-days between 10am and 3pm, but we also have evening cabbing sessions (Monday and Wednesday) and both cabbing and faceting day sessions on Saturday.

If you're interested in being an instructor, get in touch with any of the Committee and training can be arranged 😊.

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## Management Committee Members: 2025/26

Position	Name	Email
President	Bruce Harle	president@goldcoastlapidaryclub.com.au
Vice President	<i>Open</i>	
Treasurer	Steve Madeley	
Secretary	Jan Lippold	secretary@goldcoastlapidaryclub.com.au
Membership Secretary	Ruth Holliday	
Publicity Officer	<i>Open</i>	

## Sub-Committee Members

Position	Name
General Support	Ross Cochrane, Josh (Smiley) Ford, Kim Glasby, Garth, Hams, Joe Lockley, Wayne Schulz
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 2026

Position	Name
Show Coordinator 2026	Wayne Schulz
Showcase Stewards	<i>Open</i>
Show Judge – Faceting	<i>Open</i>
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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## THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### New Club Instructors

Congratulations also to our new instructors. And to those who've re-joined the instructor team to support club sessions. You are the lifeblood ❤️

- Zoe D'Orival - Cabbing - trained as a new instructor on Fridays and Saturday
- Dennis Burton - Cabbing - rejoining the instructor group, Mondays and Wednesdays
- Wayne Clarke - Faceting - trained as a new assistant instructor
- Neil Wright - Faceting - rejoining the instructor group, Tuesdays and Saturdays

Not forgetting Vicki Madeley, Steve Madeley, Kim Glasby who've added a silver-smithing session and to Karen Baraket who's added a wire-wrapping session. Both new sessions are on Tuesdays.

### Member Contributions – Snippets

If you've a hankering to free your journalistic inner self, or feel like contributing any lapidary or Club related articles, then please do send your completed pieces for inclusion in future editions of our newsletter. Either:

- Directly send to the Editor - [ianangray@outlook.com](mailto:ianangray@outlook.com)
- Or via any of the Club committee team.

### Answers to the Gemstone Quiz

1. *Pure or vivid red with a hint of blue as the undertone. Also called Pigeon's blood.*
2. *Topaz. Brazil produces most of the world's commercial topaz and is famous for its' Imperial topaz. Colourless varieties of topaz are commonly found in Australia, but that isn't a colour 😊*
3. *Different cuts for faceting gemstones.*
4. *In the Tower of London, within the sceptre of King Edward the 7<sup>th</sup>. (now referred to as the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross and part of the British Crown Jewels). The largest colourless cut diamond is called "Cullinan 1" or more romantically referred to as "The Great Star of Africa", weighing 530.4 carats. It was the first stone to be cut from and is the largest of the 105 polished diamonds cut from the original Cullinan diamond which weighed in at a whopping 3,106 carats before it was cut into the smaller pieces.*
5. *Amethyst. The legend is derived from Greek mythology and the stone's name in Greek is "amethystos", meaning not intoxicated.*

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