



19—22 APRIL, 2019.....

G E M B O R E E

.....ROCKHAMPTON

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



GEMMOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION VISIT TO ROCKHAMPTON



Kathryn Wyatt, GAA, and Arthur Cleary at the Gemfields

The big news this month is the visit by Kathryn Wyatt, Federal Publicity & Marketing Officer of the Gemmological Association of Australia. Kathryn and her husband, Mark, were hosted by GEMBOREE Coordinator, Arthur Cleary. This was Kathryn's first visit to Rockhampton and, together, she and Arthur started planning for the first ever International Gemmological Symposium in Central Queensland and the first ever combination of a Gemmological Symposium with a GEMBOREE.

During the visit, they viewed possible venues, visited Emerald, the Gemfields, Clermont and the Capricorn Coast. It was very busy five days which included the pre-recording of a radio interview with ABC Capricornia presenter, Jacquie Mackay. Kathryn has returned to Melbourne and will begin the task of fine tuning the Symposium Program and allied field trips.

The formal part of the Symposium, 21-22 April (Easter Sunday and Monday), will follow a combined GEMBOREE-Symposium Dinner on Saturday 20 April. Perhaps a not so well known fact is that Jack Taylor, the founder of the first lapidary club in Australia (The Lapidary Club Of NSW, 1953), was also instrumental in the formation of the GAA in 1945. He was the first Federal Secretary of GAA and the first President of the Lapidary Club of NSW. In fact GAA played an important role in the early development of the first lapidary clubs in Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria which were all off-shoots of GAA. (Tony Annear, Jack Taylor Memorial Lecture, 1991). The dinner will be a good opportunity to recognise and rekindle those early links.

THIS MONTH

- Gemmological Association visit
- Trader Bruno Simonetto
- Sponsor George Weier
- The Alex Amess Trophy
- The Gympie Lapidary Club
- Picture stone explained
- Raffle
- Sponsors



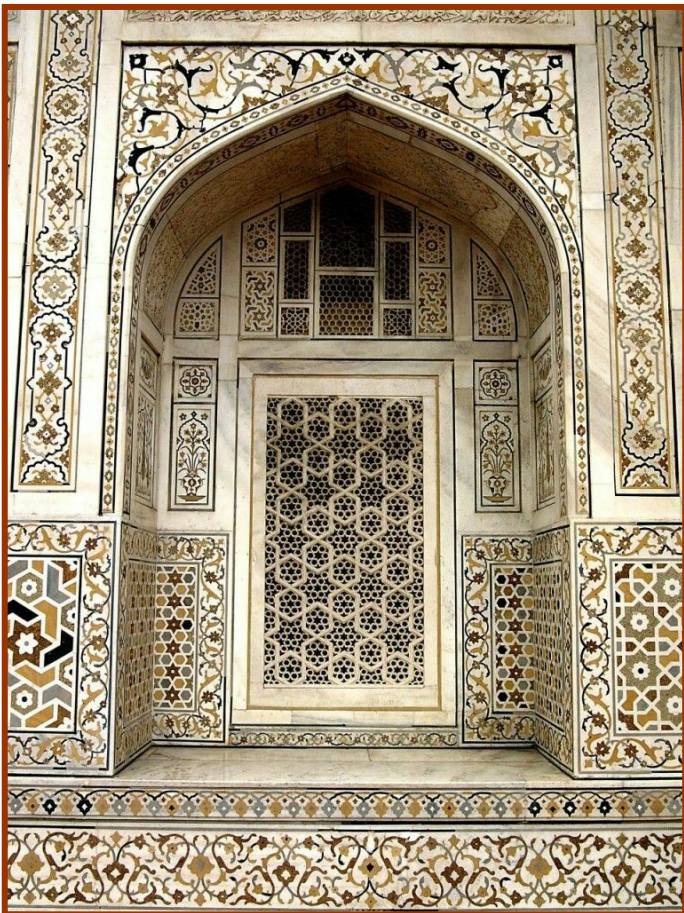
THIS MONTH'S TRADER

Bruno Simonetto



Bruno Simonetto and his wife, Helen, are well known to many lapidaries for the supply of good quality cabochoning material that can be cut into prize winning stones or to make interesting jewellery pieces. They have been trading at shows in Queensland and parts of NSW for a number of years. Their first GEMBOREE was Bathurst in 2011 and they have since attended GEMBOREES at Bundaberg, Gatton and Willunga.

Bruno, who originates from France, developed a passion for stones when he visited Agra and the Taj Mahal in the mid-70s. His fascination with the beauty of the marble exterior and the inlaid stone of the interior has sent him on a life's journey that has involved learning about stone, collecting and shaping stone, and buying and selling it.



Beautiful stone work in the Taj Mahal

Bruno says, 'A stone is an excuse to open doors and communicate with people,' and he has used this excuse to visit many parts of the world to both buy and sell stones.

He first arrived in Australia via India, Nepal, Thailand, Malaya

and Singapore in 1980 in the quest for Australian opal and settled here permanently in 1983. Since then he has travelled and continues to travel extensively in North and South America, Asia and Africa.

Bruno is a regular at Quartzite, Arizona, about halfway between Los Angeles and Tuscon, in the lead up to the Tuscon World Gem Show. Quartzite is a mecca to well over a million visitors each year, most of whom converge on this small town during the months of January and February when up to 2,000 vendors of rocks, gems, minerals, fossils and everything else imaginable create one of the world's largest open-air flea markets. Bruno both buys and sells here, meeting many in the stone industry, before moving onto Tuscon.



The open air market at Quartzite

LOOK FOR BRUNO AND HELEN AMONG THE OUTDOOR TRADERS AT THE GEMBOREE

NOTE TO ALL TRADERS

We would love to have your story in the Newsletter.

If you are thinking of writing something please send it to gemboree2019@outlook.com.au

It is a great way to make yourself known and to have people look out for you at the GEMBOREE.

GEORGE WEIER

Donor of third prize
in the raffle



George Weier is a member of the Rockhampton Lapidary Club and, although he has recently moved to Esk, he still manages to attend important events in Rockhampton. Some of George's work and old lapidary equipment can be viewed at the Heritage Village where he volunteered for many years.

Artist's Statement

Many years ago an interest in fossicking led me to learn the process of Gem Cutting. This also led me to become involved in the Lapidary Movement. This allowed me to further my knowledge of cutting and polishing other forms of Gems, not only Faceted stones. I was also able to learn the basics of Silver Smithing which allowed me to set the stones in pieces of jewellery which I had created. After a Twelve year period as a Commercial Gem Cutter on the Gem fields in Central Australia I moved back to Central Queensland and once again became involved with the Lapidary movement.

To gain a broader knowledge of Silver Smithing I attended the TAFE College in Rockhampton for four years. I have found Russian Filigree to be a challenging and rewarding form of jewellery to produce. To me Silver Smithing is a Hobby. I get great pleasure out of creating the pieces and entering the pieces in competitions which assist the Lapidary Movement.

George Weier



1858 Russian Silver
Filigree Box

As well as his many lapidary skills and winning many prizes in competitions, George also excels in woodwork and has made this beautiful showcase.

He will be using it to display some of his prize winning work at the GEMBOREE.

LOOK FOR
GEORGE'S DISPLAY
IN THE JAMES
LAWRENCE A
PAVILION



The style now referred to as Russian filigree was originally perfected by the Chinese, Indians and South –East Asians. These skills were developed in Russia, primarily in the Krasnoselsky and Kostroma districts. in the late 16th and early 17th century. Filigree is quite labour intensive and delicate and is one of the most complicated forms of decorative art. In Russia if something is done extremely well it is “filigree”.

TROPHIES

Through the newsletter, it is hoped to gather and share information on all the namesakes of the Trophies presented at the competition. Many of these are named in honour of people who have worked hard to establish and promote the hobby of lapidary and allied crafts.

Janett Maunder, the AFLACA historian, has kindly provided information about Tom Jenkins, Tony Annear, Alex Amess, Arthur Roffey, Jack Ryding, Jim Johnson and Ted Kollar—See the August Issue to read about Tom Jenkins and read about Alex Amess in this issue.

If you can provide any information on others please contact Pat on GEMBOREE2019@outlook.com.au

ALEX AMESS TROPHY

(Donated by Victorian Gem Club's Association)

Open Facet Cut

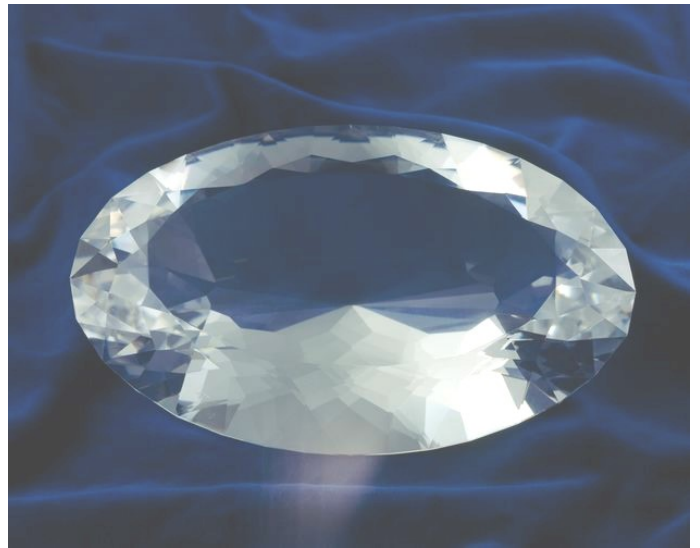
Section O.9B.1

It is fitting that the Alex Amess trophy be awarded in the Facet Section as he was an amazing faceter. This information about Alex is derived from articles written by Tony Annear.

Alex had the unique talent of being able to facet stones simply held in the fingers. All angles were judged by eye and his skill was such that he won in competitions both in Australia and overseas with scores of up to 95 from Ted Kollar, the doyen of judging at the time and very demanding and tough.

Alex was a trained turner-fitter-die maker. Through his training he developed the amazing ability to judge angles and the thickness of steel plates and, in his teens, he was producing flat plates for precision engineering equal to the best in the world. At first he cut his stones on cabochon sanding and polishing equipment, which is why his early stones had rounded facets.

He could cut a 15-20 mm Standard Round Brilliant in 20-25 minutes, talking all the while to the audience—stone held in fingers—a quick look—turn a bit—back to the lap—and so on.



The Crystal King, cut by Alex Amess, is on display at the Science & Life Gallery, Melbourne Museum. It weighs 8510 carats (1.7 kg), measures 19 x 11 x 6 cm and has 196 facets. A flaw in the middle of the original stone led to it's being cut as an oval rather than a round. During cutting, over 1400 carats were removed. The Museum of Victoria purchased Alex's complete collection of faceted stones after his death.

He visited many clubs demonstrating his 'held in the fingers' faceting and often cut a stone on the club's cabochon discs with the club auctioning the finished stone on the night.

Alex had the ambition to cut the world's largest faceted stone. For \$70 he purchased a 14.5 kilogram clear crystal from John Willey who had dug the Crystal King Mine at Tallangalook, near Mansfield, Victoria. Alex had to adapt his existing machinery to accommodate the large stone. It took him nearly 200 hours to cut and he used nearly 700 g of tin-oxide to polish it.

Alex had achieved his aim to cut the world's largest faceted stone at the time. In January, 1973, the year after he cut the Crystal King, he died of a heart attack while on a fishing holiday with family and friends. He was only 50.

Warning: Alex restricted his faceting to mainly quartz and topaz due to an experience he had while faceting man-made ruby. He burnt the nerves in the tips of his fingers and it took six weeks for the feeling to return.

The Crystal King has been superseded as the largest gemstone in the world. To give an example, there is a 22,892 carat (4.5785 kg), 172-facet, yellow topaz, the American Golden Topaz, displayed in the Smithsonian Institute's Natural History Museum.

WHAT IS A PICTURE STONE?

This Article has been contributed by Arthur Cleary. Arthur has a great imagination and a great collection of picture stones. Group 17, Section 17B of the GEMBOREE Competition recognizes his passion.

A Picture Stone is deemed to be a natural lapidary item worked by the entrant. The item must display a picture that can be recognised by the viewer as scene, object, flora or fauna. The picture is generally found when a stone is cut to reveal a scene similar to the real or imagined world. Examples may include a fish, bird, cat, trees, ocean, hills, sand dunes or buildings. It is not a lapidary item that has been cut or crafted into the shape of a picture and it should not be decorated in any fashion. The piece may have a flat or curved surface. The edges may be curved, flat or bevelled but must not contain chips.

The item will be judged by qualified Cabochon judges. Two qualified judges will judge Fit of the Title to Picture and Aesthetic Appeal.

EXAMPLES OF PICTURE STONE



Elephant



Bird in water

THESE ARE NOT PICTURE STONES



Picture cut from stone



Mosaic or Inlay

POINTS ALLOCATION FOR JUDGING OF PICTURE STONE

	(2 nd Judge)			(1 st Judge)
Fit of Title to Picture ()	20			()
Aesthetic Appeal ()	40			()
Edges chipped	2			
Saw/Grinding/Sanding Marks	12			
Pits	2			
Undercut	2			
Polish (lustre)	20			
Internal flaws/fractures	1			
Foreign Surface Material	1			
TOTAL	100			



GYMPIE GEM CLUB

It is only right that the town which saved the Queensland Government from bankruptcy in 1867 with the discovery of Gold by James Nash should have a Gem Club. The Club first commenced on 3rd of June 1966 after a public meeting.

After many venues, in old flour store rooms and under people's houses, the members raised enough money to build the existing Besser block building on land obtained from Gympie Council.

The Gympie Gem Club has been nestled on the banks of the placid Mary River since 31st August 1974. But the placid Mary roars into life every few years and swirling flood waters can inundate the Club house up to its rafters. Unfortunately members have to grin and bear the results. Usually in the dead of night much equipment is removed hastily. Because of this our extensive gem display is now housed in the Gympie Gold Mining and Historical Museum.

Our early members were lucky in that many properties were available for fossicking.

Garnets were found at Proston, Agates abounded at Windera north of Murgon and many other properties which appear in the old minute books. Alas today, properties for fossicking are rare.

In 1978 at Easter, the Club hosted the National GEMBOREE. It was a great success and would have been remembered by many for the rain that fell and caused the tent/caravan city at One Mile Oval to be evacuated.

The Club had a shop and display in the Club House and many people still comment on that's where they went as a kid for a look or buy a rock. After the 1999 flood, it was decided enough was enough of shifting such a huge display, and the shop was not reinstated.

However, even though more floods have come, the Club has continued at this address with workshops 3 days a week on Monday, Wednesday and Saturdays.

GYMPIE GOLD MINING & HISTORICAL MUSEUM
 215 Brisbane Road GYMPIE QLD 4570

While visiting don't miss the extensive gem display -
 Courtesy of the Gympie Gem Club

Museum Entry Fees apply
 Guided tours for groups by arrangement
 Phone Café at the Museum (07) 54 82 3995
 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily

Every Month -
 Steaming Day 1st Monday
 Museum Markets
 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday




GOLD Panning

Email: info@gympiegoldmuseum.com.au
 Check the website www.gympiegoldmuseum.com.au or facebook for special events -
 such as Miniature Train/ Bus Rides/ Australia Day/ Steam Festival



GEMBOREE 2019

FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

Tickets now on sale from

www.raffletix.com.au/Gemboree2019

\$5 each, drawn Monday 22 April 2019



8.5ct Sapphire Pendant

Sapphires Donated by

Coolamon Mining

Designed and Fabricated in

Gold by

Judith Hopwood

Value \$5,934



**Chrysoprase and Sapphire
Earrings set in Gold**

Designed and Donated by

Rod Beattie

Value \$4,168

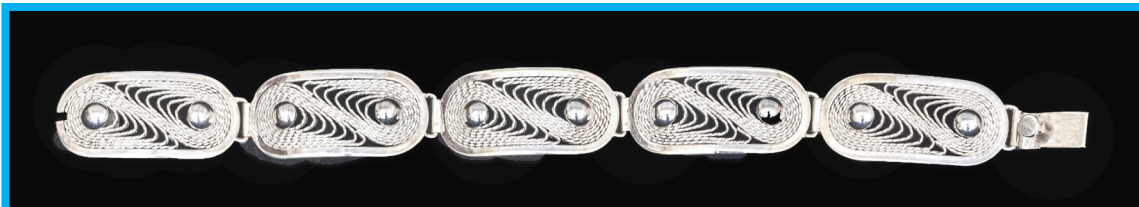


**Boulder Opal and Sapphire
Brooch/ Pendant set in Gold**

Designed and Donated by

Rod Beattie

Value \$3,905



Silver Filigree Bracelet with matching Earrings

Made and Donated by *George Weier*

Value \$1,185

Valuations donated by





SPONSORS



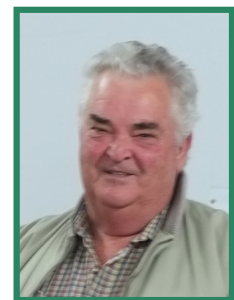
Jim and Jenny Elliot
Coolamon Mining



Rockhampton Girls
Grammar School
Est 1892

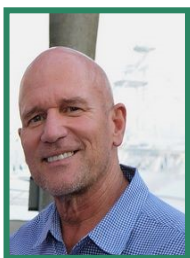


Rod Beattie
Capricorn Gems



George Weier
Silversmith

AMBASSADORS



Ian Bone
GEMBOREE Marketing
Ambassador,
Promoter of CQ Gemstones

Janice Moriarty
Central Highlands Ambassador
Doctoral Candidate, USQ
Principal Consultant **JM2Solutions**
EMERALD QLD



THE GEMBOREE TEAM

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- Treasurer, Competition - PALMA, 0417 716 211
- General Enquires - JANETTE, 0428 224 979
- Competition - DIANE, 0407 784 762
- Assistant Coordinator - BOB, 0407 341 400
- Publicity, Newsletter - PAT, 0400 818 029
- Camping - RUSSELL, 0429 047 003 (Text only)
- Field Trips, Catering - VINCE, 0403 350 898