



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2023

As always, we'd like to thank our members and our volunteers for keeping our club running efficiently, effectively and amicably. Should you have any suggestions or queries in relation to the club or this newsletter, please get in touch via the contact details at the bottom of this email.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

"We can now see the light at the end of the tunnel."

As I write this message, an era for the Diamond Valley Gem Club has closed - Grace Park Cottage (14/2/2023) in Greensborough, which we have occupied for over four decades. But a new era opens – with the move to Telfer Reserve Bundoora, the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people.

We have called our new location the **Bundoora Lapidary Centre**. This is to distinguish the club's location, the club's activities and to emphasis less the Diamonds and Gems in our Club's name (for obvious reasons of security.) However, we still operate under the auspice of the **Diamond Valley Gem Club**.

The Club is most grateful to the Banyule City Council for our new building at 20 Noorong Ave. Bundoora. From a very humble start, the plan was to have two second-hand relocatable buildings side by side; now we have a purpose-built building.

The new building comprises of workshop spaces for Metal working, Faceting, Cabochon polishing and cutting saws, as well as upgraded toilets, to comply with current building codes, providing disability access.

The process of finding a suitable location and building, plus the creation of new workshops, has taken over five years, with the end now in sight. The opportunities our new

'home' offers, are limited only by imagination and the willingness to learn and help others.

The benefits of our new location are a space not only to work, but to hold all our members at social functions, talks and presentations from members or guest speakers, dinners, luncheons, BBQ's. It will be a space to meet members and friends over a cuppa and biscuits, or just a quiet place to sit and read.

The workroom facilities will allow us to evaluate and upgrade our machinery while adding new, best practice equipment and consumables, thus allowing greater participation. Skills taught include faceting, cabochoning, rock cutting, metal work, wire wrapping, lost wax casting, jewellery making, with enamelling and metal clay jewellery soon to be added. The workstations will allow these skills to be practiced, even while classes are being held. Duty Officer training will also be available.

Our club is a proud member of the of the V.G.C.A and we are especially proud of our club's former president Keith Billing, who has once again become it's President.

The North East Link program (NEL) has granted monies for the club to run a series of workshops for youth this year, including the Scouts and Girl Guides, cumulating in a show and the evaluation of the project's success, in the latter part of 2023. A video made by the NEL project promoting the D.V.G.C. is on their website or available to view [HERE](#), Comments by one member on the film, explains the club by stating "It's like being part of a BIG FAMILY." With grants such as these, the club can purchase materials and equipment with a focus to allow greater community interaction and knowledge skills.



I particularly want to thank our members for the contributions they made during last year, to help the club grow. Especially the club's committee and club's duty officers; John Milner for his teaching of Faceting and tireless duty officer work, Keith Billing for teaching almost *all* the new members to Cabochon and Mike Griffin for teaching metal work. Our treasurer,

Keith Kerr, has worked tirelessly to acknowledge members over the years and keep records (financial and memberships) up to date. His work has allowed me to function as the Club's President.

Both Committee Member/Duty Officers Rob Cooper (our Secretary) and Douglas Ramsay have kept members and the committee informed via newsletters, emails and Zoom meetings. We are very pleased to have Hannah Anyoso as our new Newsletter Editor.

We are very fortunate to have Dawn Lee on our committee. Dawn's work co-ordinating our Annual Gem Show is a very big effort, with the income from the show supporting the club throughout the year. Offers of help are always welcome. John Neville's expertise sorting and pricing our rocks for sale is greatly valued too. (We now have rock bins for storage and a rock room for sorting which makes that task easier!)

Thanks also go to Margaret Holmes, our Field Trip co-ordinator. If you are contemplating fossicking or know of places where rocks can be found, please contact Margaret. Our Club is a friendly club and we like to share rocks and stories of fossicking!

Most importantly, I would like to thank *all* club members for participating in our Club activities being workshops and special events. A huge thank you to those members also who are currently assisting with our move - Terry Lewis, Christina Ammazalorso, Amzar Sheikh, Brendan Meagher and committee members Ron Lavender, Mike Griffin, John Neville, John Milner and Keith Billing.

There is much to be done, hopefully you can find time to help at our Working Bees - keep an eye out for dates.

This coming year will allow the Club to blossom with new workshops, equipment, activities and grant monies to run community programs and have more fun!

I look forward to seeing you at our new clubhouse!

- Leigh Carbines

NEW MEMBERS

Since our last newsletter, we have had seven new members join. We'd like to welcome them to the club and thank them for their contribution.

- Nicole Breen
- Rachael Cookson
- Carol Hourigan
- Jade Hearn
- Anne Laviya
- Catherine Leong
- Margaret Martell
- Caroline McKenzie
- Christine Raverty
- Eli Saba
- Jenny Zhang

CLUB MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Please know, personalised membership cards are now available for existing and new Diamond Valley Gem Club (DVGC) Members. Individual cards have now been printed and are available for collection from the box (pictured) at the new club room.



ALTERNATIVE DISTRIBUTION OFFER

Thanks to our own Dawn Lee, Diamond Valley Gem Club Members are now available to purchase amazing crystals and giftware at **50% off** when shopping in store at [Alternative Distribution](#), 9/159 Newlands Road, Coburg North, VIC 3058.

Alternative Distribution are a family run business stocking ethically sourced crystals and gems from around the world. They also have their own aromatherapy range of goods for sale which includes body mist sprays, hair care and skin care.

Members will need to have their DVGC membership card with them and may be asked for secondary identification upon purchase. So be sure to collect yours from the club as stated above, prior to visiting. The showroom is open to guests Monday - Friday 10am till 4pm and Saturdays 10am till 3pm.

Offer is valid in store, and no minimum spend is required.

Happy shopping!



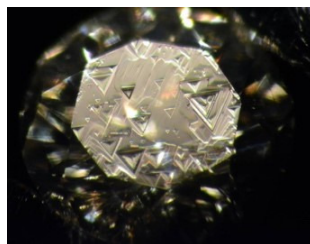
ADÈLE'S GEMMOLOGY CORNER THE HUMBLE HAND LENS – PART 1

Whilst the eye can be considered to be the 'first tool of gemmology', it is fair to say that the modest hand lens or jeweller's loupe is the next most important tool.

Use of a hand lens can tell us a great deal about the exterior of a gemstone, often alerting us to composite gems such as doublets and triplets. It also allows us to enter the secret, mysterious world within a gemstone that can give us clues as to its genesis (whether natural or synthetic), its identity and often to its geological past. In rare instances, inclusions can even point to the country of origin and the mining area.

Some of the most astounding exterior features can be found on diamond crystals. Called "naturals", these can be square or triangular depressions or a series of parallel grooves depending on the crystallography of the diamond.

The picture below shows us the triangular depressions called "trigons", which occur naturally on the triangular faces of the octahedral diamond crystal.



LEFT: Octahedral diamond crystal. RIGHT: Trigons on the table of a cut diamond. The cutter used the octahedral face with the trigons as the table for this cleverly cut diamond.

I have been privileged to view these features on faceted diamonds. On one particular diamond the cutter specifically left a distorted upper girdle facet in order to preserve the trigons. The existence of trigons is proof positive of the natural genesis of the diamond. Synthetic diamonds do not show trigons.

Many other exterior features can be identified using the hand lens.

Today, given rising costs, many opals on the market are of synthetic origin, so one now finds synthetic solid opal and synthetic opal doublets and triplets readily available. With a little knowledge and a good hand lens the synthetic can be identified, as it shows features not observed in natural opal.



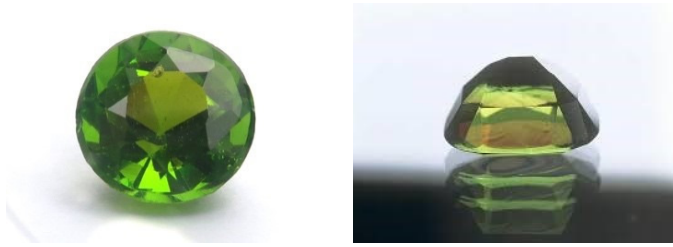
Note: the columnar structure of the synthetic opals above. Using a hand lens this vertical feature can be observed in the thinnest of slivers used in synthetic opal doublets and triplets.

Composite stones are not restricted to opal. During the Victorian era many expensive gems were imitated by the so-called “garnet topped doublet”. The top of the gem was of natural almandine garnet, which would contain natural inclusions and would give a vitreous lustre, thus tricking the observer into thinking that the whole gemstone was natural. The base, however, was made of paste – ie glass.

Now facetors would know that the colour positioned in the culet of the pavilion (the pointy end) will give the colour observed when a faceted gem is viewed through the table. This is one of the reasons we position the blue in a particoloured Australian sapphire in the bottom of the pavilion to achieve an overall blue appearance. This same principle was used in creating the garnet topped doublet. The slice of garnet was very thin, often covering only part of the crown. The balance of the gem was made of glass – green glass to imitate emerald, blue for sapphire, red for ruby, etc. The end result – a pretty stone that just might look like the real thing, but only at a fraction of the price.

Use of the hand lens would generally identify the join between the glass and the almandine garnet, with the garnet portion giving a high lustre and the glass showing a much poorer lustre and more abrasions, as it is the softer material. Another hint to identification is to place the garnet topped doublet table down on a piece of white paper and observe the red

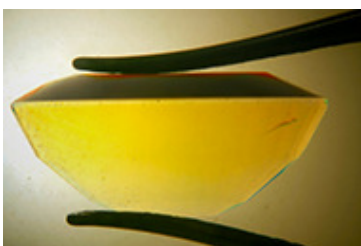
halo around the girdle – a dead give-away as to the composite nature of the gemstone.



LEFT: Note the red tinge visible across the table. RIGHT: Placed table down one sees the very thin red almandine garnet portion of the composite stone.

Another composite is the corundum-corundum doublet. Corundum is the family name for ruby and all colours of sapphire. In this case natural sapphire (generally of Australian origin and poor quality), was used for the crown and the much cheaper synthetic corundum, of whatever colour desired, was used for the pavilion. The colour in the pavilion gave the overall colour of the stone; so red for ruby, pink for pink sapphire, blue for blue sapphire, etc. This type of composite gemstone created problems in identification as both the crown and the pavilion would test as corundum and the astute gemmologist would need to look for a colour difference between the crown and the pavilion, a join plane, and if that was not obvious, for natural inclusions in the natural Australian sapphire crown and inclusions typical of synthetic corundum in the pavilion.

This was certainly a stone intended to deceive. A careless buyer looking though the table of the stone would see natural inclusions and could be readily fooled into thinking the gemstone was natural and thus, valuable.



A yellow corundum-corundum doublet. Note: the very thin crown of greenish natural sapphire and the dominant yellow synthetic corundum, giving an overall yellow colour to the stone.

- Adèle, from the gemmologist's corner.



Temporary faceting set-up at the New Club Rooms

Things are on the move!

As of Wednesday the 8th of February, faceting will be held at the 'New Premises', The N.J. Telfer Reserve, 20 Noorong Ave. Greensborough.

So, welcome to the F. F. F. Club. You might ask – what is this? It's the Fascinating, Frustrating Faceting Club. Yes, true on all counts; but so rewarding when you hold your first faceted stone in your hand. Many have asked – what magic is this?

On completion of the course, you become a Fellow of the F. F. F. Club. Else, well, that's up to your imagination. Suffice to say that no-one has yet failed the faceting course.

So welcome to the fraternity of facetors!

- John Milner

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

11th - 12th

The Combined Victorian Gem Clubs Show (Gemkhana)
The MacIntosh Building

Shepparton Showgrounds.

Sat 11th 10AM - 5PM

Sun 12th 10AM - 4PM

19th - 20th

Warragul District lapidary Club Show

19th - 20th

Hobart Gem Mineral and Fossil Show

Hobart, Tasmania

26th - 27th

Devonport Lapidary Club Jewellery, Gem & Mineral Fair

Devonport, Tasmania.

East Devonport Primary School, Gymnasium Building,

Thomas Street, East Devonport Tasmania 7310

Times: 9:00am - 4:00pm both days

All enquiries - Collene Donaghy (Co-ordinator) - mobile 0407 165 005

Website - www.devonportlapidary.com

April

7th - 10th

GEMBOREE 2023

Dayboro SE Queensland

www.gemboree2023.com.au

The 59th National Gem and Mineral Show

Further information ring Lloyd Hosking 0429 040 600

May

6th - 7th

Diamond Valley Gem Club Annual Gem & Crystal Exhibition

Masonic Centre: 23 Ester St. Greensborough

Sat 9am - 5pm, Sun 9am - 4pm

Contact Leigh Carbines 0499 233 500

September

2nd -3rd

Mildura Club 29th Annual Gem and Jewellery Show

Sunraysia Masonic Centre,

15th Street, Irymple.

Sat: 9AM - 6PM

Sun: 9:30AM - 4:30PM

Contact Joe Watson: 0428 540 933 or josephwatson@icloud.com

(See flyer, below.)

16th - 17th

Waverley Gem Club Show

Brandon Park Community Centre,

Ferntree Gully Road, Glen Waverley

10am to 5pm each day

Details TBC

23rd - 24th

NSW Gemkhana

Hawkesbury Showgrounds.

Contact: gemkhana@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

30th - 1st

Bairnsdale Lapidary Club Show

Details to be confirmed

October

Sept 30th - 1st

Bairnsdale lapidary Club Show

Details to be confirmed.

7th - 8th

Mordialloc Gem Club

St. Bridget's primary school

Chute Street, Mordialloc. **TBC**

14th - 15th

Nunawading and District Lapidary Club

Whitehorse Gem Show

Whitehorse Community Hub

96 Springvale Road, Nunawading (Entrance via Esdale Street)

Sat: 10 - 5

Sun 10 - 4 **TBC**

November

4th - 5th

Geelong Lapidary Club Show:

Geelong West Town Hall

153 Pakington St

Geelong West. **TBC**

12th

Cheong Park Rockswap

Corner Bayswater and Eastfield Rd,

Starting at 9am.

Contact Les Varga 03 9876 3716

Contact Us

www.diamondvalleygemclub.com.au

Phone: 0499 233 500 - Leigh Carbines

Old Club rooms: Grace Park Cottage, Corner Henry & Duncan Street,
Greensborough 3088

New Club Rooms: Bundoora Lapidary Centre, 20 Noorong Avenue, Bundoora 3083

Club president: Leigh Carbines (0499 233 500)

Vice President: John Milner (03 9439 5820)

Treasurer: Keith Kerr (0409 504 021)

Secretary: Robert Cooper (0418 392 861)

Assistant Secretary: Douglas Ramsay (0411 105 031)

Newsletter Editor: Hannah Anyoso (hannah_riche@hotmail.com)

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