

# BENDIGEM

The official newsletter of  
**Bendigo Gem Club Inc.**

March 2017

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**General News**



Bendigo Gem Club Inc.  
10 Galvin Street, BENDIGO  
Victoria 3550  
Reg A 0000448C

[www.gembendigo.org.au](http://www.gembendigo.org.au)  
Enquiries: [secretary@gembendigo.org.au](mailto:secretary@gembendigo.org.au)

 [BendigoGemClub](https://www.facebook.com/BendigoGemClub)

# Bendigo Gem Club

## Postal Address:

10 Galvin St  
Bendigo  
Victoria 3550

## Club Contacts:

03 5442 3691  
www.gembendigo.org.au



facebook.com/BendigoGemClub  
facebook.com/groups/gemarama/?fref=ts

## Executive Committee

### President

Alan Martin 0436 381 329  
president@gembendigo.org.au

### Vice President

Charlie Bock

### Secretary

Lea Smith  
secretary@gembendigo.org.au

### Treasurer

Julie Harrop  
treasurer@gembendigo.org.au

## Extra Committee Members

### Social Secretary

Edith Oakes 5447 0014  
Sandra Anderson 5443 3479  
Neale Anderson 5443 3479  
John Carey 5443 7135

### EXPO Coordinator

Andie Downing 0427 755 205  
andie@bendigoeventmanagement.com.au

### Field Trip Officer

Currently Vacant

### Workshop Manager

Neale Anderson 5443 3479

### Bendigem Editor

Lea Smith 5444 4179  
lea.smith@bendimail.com

## Maintenance Officers

Charlie Bock

## Mineral Reps

Pat Sutton 5441 5656  
John Carey (see above)

## Club Fees 2016

### Joining Fee

\$30 one off

### Name Tags

\$10

### Yearly Membership

\$30/Single  
\$40/Family  
\$15/Associate

### Adult Workshop Fees

Full day \$6.00  
Half/Part day \$3.00  
Evenings \$3.00

### Workshop Times:

Tues. evenings  
5-7 p.m.  
John Carey and Peter Covington

6-8:30p.m.  
John Carey and Martin Ruffell

Thurs.  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Instructors in all fields

Thurs. nights  
7-10 p.m.  
Julie Harrop and Kate Middleton

## Committee Meetings

3rd Thursday every month at 7:00 p.m.  
All members WELCOME

## Annual General Meeting

3rd Friday in November Unless stated otherwise.

# Presidents Report

It's the third month of 2017 and all is busy!

All the trestle table are sold freeing up space in the shed for the silver smithing workshop expansion to take place and has also freed up some funds to pay for this expansion.

We are finally now ready to begin this expansion and a new business plan is underway with Nathan working on some publicity opportunities.

preparations for the 2017 show are underway and going along well.

Any members wanting an article in the newsletter please contact the committee.

We still have a vacancy for a field trip officer, these trips are important to the club in many ways and if you have a favourite dig site please contact me.

I will be out of action for a few weeks as I am going in for surgery but I am hoping to use this down time to catch up on club paper work and to write many articles for the Bendigem.

AI  
President

## Faceting at the Gem Club

I have some enthusiastic faceters who are doing good work. I would enjoy having more faceters.

We are very flexible within the confines of this hobby. One person has just finished a very attractive piece of Chrysoprase where he has faceted the crown, but left the underside flat, great for dress rings or pendants.

Another member has bought her own machine and is very enthusiastic about learning all she can and improving her skills.

I have been working on the largest stone my machine would actually accommodate. Peter Toplut from Halls replaced the mast on my machine with a taller one. I also had my transfer jig cut in half by an engineer to make it wider and longer. It is now on rails.

40m/m is now my limit, so 40m/m the stone has become. The bigger the gem, the more difficult the job becomes. New problems evolve.



Transfer jig

The larger the facets are, the easier the mistakes can be seen with the naked eye. Accuracy becomes essential. Cutting for looks appeals to me. I use a pattern, but on a job like this, certain nuances take precedence.

It is better to see an even pattern, than to make all points touch. The gem can be rotated with a beautiful flowing pattern. Polishing is also more difficult, larger areas are more awkward to get an even surface.

I like to polish quartz using Architect drafting film and Cerium Oxide. I renewed the paper many times for this gem as cleanliness is so important. I spent hours,.... days.....slowly grinding away the quartz, all the time keeping the pattern. I am happy to say that at the end of my efforts, I have a beautiful 40m/m round. The N.Q. Brilliant was designed by Hap Wheelley

The gem is Smokey quartz with copper highlights. If you want to know why I cut a stone so large..... it was because I could.

Janet Baker  
Happy faceting.





# Facetting (cont.)



Some rough stones in various stages of facetting

Thanks to Janet for the above report. We will try to take some images of the fabulous work Janet does faceting her stones and also some of the students work.

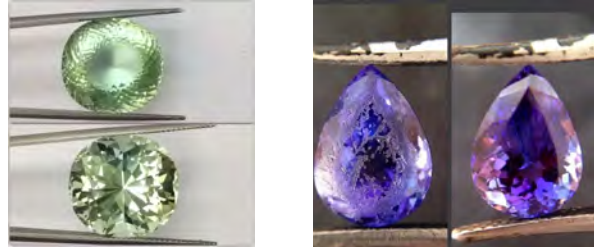
For those who wish to learn the art of faceting, the club has four facet machines for use and instruction can be done on either Tuesday afternoons or Thursday when the club is open.

The image below shows a gemmasta facet machine similar to the ones the club owns.



Faceting can turn, what looks like a rough, opaque piece of crystal into something beautiful and shiny that sparkles in the light. It is very rewarding watching the rough piece take shape and very exciting when you have finished the piece and can see its beauty.

And of course you have the added bonus knowing you cut it yourself. Before and after image below:



You can also re-cut an already faceted stone that has either been cut badly or been abraided, as in the images above. While the first image of the green stone isn't a bad cut, the re-cut shows more "sparkle" or light reflectance so it doesn't look as dull as the original cut. The purple Tanzanite shows an abraided stone that was re-cut to bring it back to its former glory.

Facetting can bring out some amazing patterns in some stones, as in the ametrine below. You can also cut odd shaped crystals free form to avoid wastage, see the orange sunstone below.

If you are looking for a new, rewarding hobby, try faceting. Trust me its addictive!!



## Sapphires

When I mention sapphire, what comes to mind? A beautiful cornflower blue majestic gemstone that glows and scintillates and brings a smile every time we see one.

Sapphires are one of the big three gemstones, Ruby, Emerald and Sapphire. But did you know that Ruby and Sapphire are the same mineral? Ruby is the name given to red sapphire, sapphire is the name given to all other colours, a blue stone is called blue sapphire while sapphires this are not blue or red are referred to as "fancy colours".

# Sapphires (cont.)



Blue cut Sapphires next to a peice of rough.

Sapphires, along with Ruby, make up the mineral family of Corundum. Made from Aluminium Oxide with other trace elements which give their different colours. The blue colour in sapphire comes from trace elements of Titanium and Iron and not from the minerals actual composition, which means other trace elements can create other colours. The image below shows a variety of colours available in sapphire, known as “fancy colours” so if you dont like the blue, there are plenty of other colours instead.



Green and yellow sapphires are coloured by iron, while the pink and red are coloured by chromium, with varying degrees of colours due to the different elements.

Sapphires can be found in many locations around the world, with different localities providing the different trace elements and therefore the different colours as well as a colour change stone.

Australian sapphires contain iron, which causes blue sapphires to be quite dark and not always attractive, but this same element in our country produces some magnificent yellow and green sapphires and sometimes shows a variety of colour in the same stone, known as a party sapphire.

The image to the right is a perfect example of someones ability to cut a party coloured sapphire to show the different colours in a pattern.



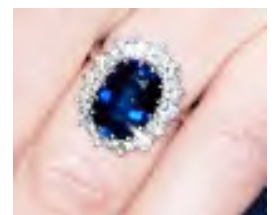
Sapphire is a great choice for rings as it is only second to Diamond in hardness and can therefore resist scratching, but dont get hardness confused with toughness, sapphires are one of the few gemstones that are also relatively tough, and are therefore ideal for rings etc, hardness resists scratching, toughness resists breakage, but I still wouldnt recommend you wear your ceylon sapphire ring gardening.

The most prized sapphires are from Kashmir. They have a beautiful deep velvety blue colour saturation that is highly sought after, see below.



Kashmir sapphires have become very rare and expensive, because the mines are depleted. Be very careful if someone is trying to sell you a Kashmir blue sapphire for a cheap price, it probably isnt what they say it is!!

Next on the list of prized sapphires are the Ceylon Sapphires. Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, produces beautiful blue and yellow sapphires in different saturation and hues and can be more affordable for the average income. The most famous Ceylon blue sapphire is Princess Kate’s, formerly owned by Princess Diana, engagement ring. This Sapphire is 12 carats surrounded by diamonds. see image right:



## Sapphires (cont.)

A very special sapphire is known as the “Padparadscha” which is Sinhalese for “Lotus Flower” named because the orange/pink colour is similar to the colour of the flower. This is a very expensive and rare sapphire, with an amazing colour. See image right:



The down side to sapphires, and rubies, is that they are also the most synthesised and treated gemstones. There are a number of synthetics and imitations on the market, which is fine, but only if the business you are buying them from tells you they are an imitation or synthetic. To be safe, get a gemmologist to check the stones before you buy them. You need to be vigilant especially for expensive gemstones.

Don't assume because you are buying them from a jewellery store, except for our own Ruffells or course, that they are what they say they are and be especially careful if buying online. Not all jewellery sales people are gemmologists. It's a bit like using a plumber to do your electrical work.

Sapphires can also be cabochon cut to show a star effect or asterism. The inclusions inside the stone cause light to reflect off the inclusions back to the viewer as a 6 ray star. Generally you see these in either blue or black, with the blue stones being more expensive than the black stones.



To best clean sapphires use warm soapy water with a soft toothbrush. Ultrasonic and steam cleaners are usually safe for untreated, and heat-treated stones.

Sapphires are a beautiful gemstone that are tough, hard and therefore durable which means they can be used in all types of jewellery. Smaller stones can be relatively inexpensive to buy and come in all colours of the rainbow. If you are looking for something different to use in your next creation, try some sapphires, they will look fabulous.

## Open Day's

The club is holding four open days in April and May. We will be doing some extensive advertising for the open days so please make yourself available to help support this membership drive.

- 1st open day: 10-2pm, Saturday 15th April**
- 2nd open day: 10-2pm, Saturday 29th April**
- 3rd open day: 10-2pm, Saturday 13th May**
- 4th open day: 10-2pm, Saturday 27th May**

Let's have as members as we can available to show visitors around and encourage people to join.

**The more members, the stronger the club becomes.**

## Silver Casting Dates

**Silver Casting Dates for 2017 are:**

**29th April, 22th July, 18th Nov**

**Please register on the form at the club.**

## Field Trips

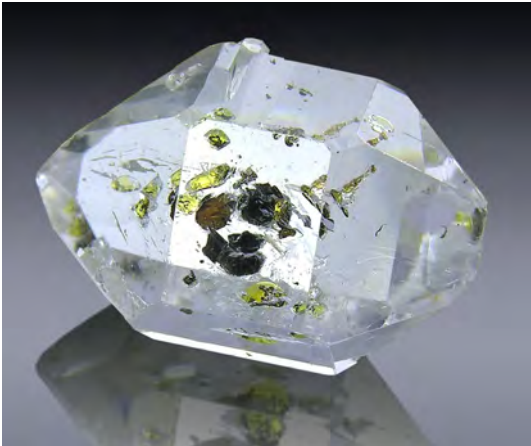
The Field Trip officer position is currently vacant, if you are interested in taking up this position please let us know.

If anyone has any suggestions for a field trip, please contact the president or secretary.



# General Information

## What Am I?



Hmmm, any ideas? Email lea with your answer: [secretary@gembendigo.org.au](mailto:secretary@gembendigo.org.au)

Answer next edition.

Last months gem was a rough watermelon tourmaline

## WORD SEARCH

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B M C A Q M L O B S I D I A N E A D T G
K D D X U S B A K H K H W P T T Q I E K
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AGATE, AMETHYST, AQUAMARINE, BERYL, CHALCEDONY, CITRINE, DIAMOND, EMERALD, GARNET, LABRADORITE, LAPIS LAZULI, MALACHITE, MOONSTONE, OBSIDIAN, OPAL, PERIDOT, RUBY, SAPPHIRE, TANZANITE, TOPAZ

## Upcoming Events

### April

- 1-2 Field trip to Ruffey or Strathbogie, GV Gem Mineral & Craft Group
- 15 **Open Day**, Bendigo Gem Club, 10-2pm, 10 Galvin Street, Bendigo, contact: 5442 3691
- 14-17 **2017 Gemboree, Tony Luchetti Showground, Lithgow NSW**
- 22-23 Essendon Gem & Lapidary Club Inc Annual Show, Cross Keys Reserve, Bridge St, Essendon  
Contact: Daryl Bond 03 9350 1804 or [www.essendongemclub.asn.au](http://www.essendongemclub.asn.au)
- 29 **Open Day**, Bendigo Gem Club, 10-2pm, 10 Galvin Street, Bendigo, contact: 5442 3691

### May

- 1-7 Trip to Flinders Island for Topaz, GV Gem Mineral & Craft Group, Contact George Fadersen 03 5831 8466 after 6.00pm
- 6-7 Diamond Valley Gem Club Annual Exhibition, Masonic Hall, 23 Ester St, Greensborough, Contact: Leigh 03 9846 2335
- 13 **Open Day**, Bendigo Gem Club, 10-2pm, 10 Galvin Street, Bendigo, contact: 5442 3691
- 19-22 Facetors Group Workshop, Sheepparton. Contact: Graham Young 0487 283 598
- 27 **Open Day**, Bendigo Gem Club, 10-2pm, 10 Galvin Street, Bendigo, contact: 5442 3691

### Gemborees

- 2018 Willunga, South Australia
- 2019 Queensland
- 2020 Victoria



## Our supporters

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## Oval Motel

194 Barnard Stree, Bendigo, Vic, 3550  
[www.ovalmotel.com.au](http://www.ovalmotel.com.au)  
Hosts: Lyn, Reuben, Olivia & Ash  
Tariff: Room only. Breakfast to unit  
Reception hours: 7.30am - 9.30pm



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68 Belle Vue Road, Golden Square, Vic, 3554  
Ph: (03) 5444 4179 - [www.bendimail.com.au](http://www.bendimail.com.au)  
Email: [lea.smith@bendimail.com](mailto:lea.smith@bendimail.com)

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E: [ruffelljewellers@gmail.com](mailto:ruffelljewellers@gmail.com)  
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E-mail [wnoack@dcsi.net.au](mailto:wnoack@dcsi.net.au)



Bendigo Gem Club Inc.  
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