



# Bendigo Gem Club

## Postal Address:

10 Galvin St  
Bendigo  
Victoria 3550

## Club Contacts:

03 5463 5816  
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

Janet Baker  
treasurer@gembendigo.org.au

## Extra Committee Members

### Social Secretary

Sandra Anderson 5443 3479  
Neil 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 2018

### 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

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

Thurs. nights  
7-10 p.m.  
Kate Middleton

## Committee Meetings

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

## Annual General Meeting

3rd Friday in November Unless stated otherwise.



# Christmas Party 2017 (cont.)







# Gemstone Identification

## Introduction to Gemstones

What is a gemstone? The general definition is: something that contains these three qualities - Rarity, Beauty and Durability.

Gemstones must be rare, they must have beauty and they must be durable. Without these three qualities technically the item in question shouldn't be classed as a gemstone. Its these qualities that make gemstones desirable and separates them from other materials such as glass or plastic and synthetic gemstones.

Before we go on much further, I want to give you an example of why we need to learn about gemstones and how to identify them.

If I gave you a red gemstone, what would be your first impressions? Most likely that it would be a Ruby. But can you be sure? Some rubies have a very distinctive red colour, but then can you tell if it is real or synthetic?

Hmmm, burmese rubies and burmese spinels are very close in colour so what would you need to do to tell them apart? What about red tourmaline, they can sometimes look like rubies, and even red garnets can be mistaken for a ruby. Then there is red beryl, zircon, even red diamond. So a number of different red coloured gemstones can be mistaken for each other plus throw in the synthetics and you have even more options.



Burmese  
Ruby

Burmese  
Spinel

Red  
Tourmaline

You can see from the pictures above how difficult it can be to correctly identify each one only by sight.

Some gemstones can be quite easy to detect and others can be hard, depending on what equipment you have available and your depth of knowledge.

There are a number of tools available to help separate and identify stones correctly.

Based on my knowledge I know that rubies and tourmaline are doubly refractive, spinels are singly refractive, this would separate the spinel.

Ruby shows a very distinct orange and red through a dichroscope where as red tourmaline shows red and light red. Tourmalines show a distinct inclusion called a trichyte while rubies may show angular colour banding. So with the correct knowledge you can quite easily and quickly tell them apart.

More to come next edition....

## New Treasurer

The early months of this year saw a new treasurer take over the very important task of keeping our books.

Due to certain circumstances, our previous Treasurer, Nathan, has been made to stand down as Treasurer and expelled from the club.

Janet Baker is our new treasurer and is already doing a fantastic job getting everything sorted. If you need help with anything money wise etc, Janet is only too happy to help.

Janet is available at the club on Thursdays. And if you are not sure who Janet is, see picture below.



# General Information

## What Am I?



What do you think I am?

I am not a sapphire. Answer next edition  
Last months mineral was a pink Argyle diamond crystal.

## Silver Casting Dates

Silver Casting Dates for 2018 are:

**21 April 2018**

Please register on the form at the club

## Field Trips

Possible field trip coming up on the 28th April to dig for topaz and quartz crystals at Strathbogie. Details will be provided at the club rooms

Keep an eye out for the form and put your name on the list if you are interested.

## Upcoming Events

- April**  
19 Committe Meeting. Club Rooms. 7.00pm  
21-22 Essendon Gem & Lapidary show, Cross Keys Reserve, Bridge St, Essendon Ph: 9350 1804  
29 Field Trip to Strathbogie, GV Gem mineral & craft group. Contact AI for details.
- May**  
5-6 Diamond Valley Gem Club show, Masonic Centre, 23 Ester St, Greensborough ph: 946 2335  
12-13 Field trip with GV Gem mineral & Craft group to ballarat and Mt Shadwell. Contact AI  
17 Committe Meeting. Club Rooms. 7.00pm  
18-21 Victorian Gacetors Group Shepparton Workshop, Kialla Scout Hall, Recreation Drive, Kialla Park Community Reserve Kialla. Contact Graham Young 9363 1803
- September**  
8-9 **Bendigo Gem Club Expo, Bendigo Baptist Church, 757 Mclvor Hwy, Junorton**  
22-23 Waverly Gem Club Exhibition, Brandon Park Community Centre, 645 Ferntree Gully Road, Glen Waverley, Contact Peter: 0415 536 770

### Gemborees

- 2019 Queensland  
2020 Albury, Victoria



## Our supporters

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### Martin and David Ruffell Qualified Jewellers

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