



## HISTORY OF GEELONG GEM & MINERAL CLUB

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In early 1967, after a series of Adult Education Classes, which were held in the Geelong Free Library for people interested in the art of Lapidary, under the instructions of local jewellers M. Ross Scott and Mr. John Flowers. An approach was made to Mr. Scott by one of the pupils Mr. Arol Miller asking "What can we do with these stones we have cut"?

Mr. Scott then placed an advertisement in the Geelong Advertiser Newspaper on February 18th. 1967 calling a meeting of all budding Lapidaries, Rockhounds, Collectors, Etc., to a meeting in the Davidson Hall, Gordon Institute of Technology to be held on Tuesday February 21st. Approximately 150 persons attended and it was decided, on the motion of Mr. Bob Warren, seconded by Mr. John O'Dwyer **"That a club be formed, for the purpose of furthering the interests of Gem Cutting and related activities in Geelong"**. A committee was then formed to investigate ways and means of forming the proposed club.

Following meetings of this committee held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Ross Scott, a public meeting was Held on March 21st. at which it was decided on the motion of Mr. Jack Dulfer, seconded by Mr. Jim Ablett **"That the constitution as circulated be accepted as the constitution of the Geelong & District Gem & Mineral Club"**, nominations were called to form a committee of up to 15 members, the following nominations were received, Mr. Jim Ablett. Mr. Graeme Block. Mr. Eric Bryan. Mrs Lyla Bryan. Mr. Alec Chomley. Mrs. Mabel Dulfer. Mr. Charles Gill. Mr. Mike Higgins. Mr. Phil Jacobs. Mr. Jack McKenzie. Mrs. Jean Poole. Mr. Ross Scott. Mr. Bob Warren, as only 14 nominations were received an election was unnecessary, the Executive elected by this committee elected were.

President.....Mr. Ross Scott.  
Secretary.....Mr. Jim Ablett.  
Treasurer.....Mr Bob Warren.  
Membership....Mr. Graeme Block.

Vice President.....Mr. Charles Gill.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mr. Eric Bryan.  
Public Relations.....Mr. Mike Higgins.

It was also decided on the motion of Mr. Block, seconded by Mr. Ablett, **"That the club meet every four weeks, on a Tuesday, the first meeting to be held on Tuesday April 11th. 1967 in the Davidson Hall"** Approximately 120 people attended this meeting and the treasurer reported a credit balance at the bank of \$150.40.

The first Field Trip of the club was held to Steiglitz on April 23rd. under the leadership of Mr. Graeme Block, this trip was voted a great success by all members attending.

A competition for the design of a club badge, the competition being subsequently won by Mr. R. Hand with the design of our present badge depicting the "You Yang's" Mountains" supporting a geologist's Pick & Shovel, and bearing the words "Geelong & District Gem & Mineral Club", the blue & White colours of the badge representing the blue & White waters of Corio Bay, also the colours of the local football team, the **"Geelong Cats"**.

Unfortunately the club at this stage, had no rooms, Club meetings continued to be held in the Davidson Hall and Committee meetings were held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Ross Scott. Meanwhile the committee looking premises suitable for club meeting and/or work room.

A.G.M. 1968 saw club membership at 130 but still no club-rooms, Executive committee for the ensuing year were.

President.....Mr Ross Scott.  
Secretary.....Mr. Arol Miller.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Bob Warren.

Vice President .....Mr. Alec Chomley.  
Ass/ Secretary.....Mr. Eric Bryan.

In this year the club was, at last, able to rent a small room formerly a dental surgery, up two narrow and very dark flights of stairs above what is now the Carlton Hotel Bottle Shop, while not being ideal we were able to equip it for use as a cutting room, one eight inch trim saw, one double-ended grinder, three sanding discs, one



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polishing disc, and a makeshift water supply, this was opened on Monday August 26th., with a limit of ten people per evening, (quite overcrowded) this remained in service until July 1977, the first cutting-room supervisor being Mr. Mike Higgins. The first club delegates to the V.G.C.A., Mrs. June McKenzie and Mr. John McMahon were appointed in June 1968 and our club became affiliated the following August. The Executive Committee elected for 1969 comprised,

President.....Mr John McMahon.  
Secretary.....Mr. Arol Miller.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Bob Warren.

Vice President.....Mrs. June McKenzie  
Ass/Secretary.....Mr. Ron Heil.

This year saw the introduction of the club's monthly cutting competition the results of which were 1st...Mr. Ron Heil, 2nd...Mr. Rodney Mitchell, 3rd...Mr. John Van Sluys. This year also saw the introduction by Mrs. Vera Heil of our club News Letter/Magazine '**GEMINI**'. In July of this year one of our Foundation Members Mr. Jack Graham passed away and his widow, Alma, donated a beautiful Agate Specimen to be used as a perpetual trophy for our monthly competitions, and so was born the "**JACK GRAHAM MEMORIAL TROPHY**". The first recipient of this trophy being Mr. Ron Heil, having the highest aggregate marks for monthly competitions during the 12 months to April 1970. The Executive Committee elected for 1970 saw Mr. Keith Batty replacing Mr. Bob Warren as Treasurer, the Executive Committee being.

President.....Mr. John McMahon.  
Secretary.....Mr. Arol Miller.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Keith Batty.

Vice President.....Mrs. June McKenzie  
Ass/Secretary.....Mr. Ron Heil

In July of this year the club was able to rent another room adjacent to the cutting room and the diamond saw installed in that room, a second double ended grinder was installed in the cutting room and a twelve inch Slab Saw was purchased and installed alongside the trim saw.

In February 1971 our Building Fund was launched with a credit balance of \$55.56  
The clubs first exhibition was held in the Geelong West Town Hall on February 21st. and 22<sup>nd</sup> 1971 with a net return of \$544.48, a great boost to our building fund.  
The A.G.M. in April 1971 saw 18 nominations for the Committee which was a great morale booster, as only fifteen could be elected. The following Executive Committee was elected for 1971.

President.....Mr John McMahon.  
Secretary.....Mr. Arol Miller.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Keith Batty.

Vice President.....Mrs. June McKenzie.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Joyce Foster.

In September of this year the club acquired another adjacent room which, after renovations became known as the Blue Room and was used for Committee meetings which up until then had been held in the home of the President.

Our fifth birthday saw a move to the Geelong West Town Hall Supper Room for the A.G.M. and subsequent general meetings for the next few years, again this year a ballot was necessary for the general committee, the Executive Committee for 1972 being.

President .....Mr John McMahon.  
Secretary.....Mr. Arol Miller  
Treasurer.....Mr Keith Batty.

Vice President.....Mrs. June McKenzie.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mr. Ron Heil

A notable date in our club's history was March 1973, it was on this date that our club launched the "**Gemini International Cabochon Cutting Competition**". This competition was the brainchild of Ron Heil who, in



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collusion with his wife Vera and the president John McMahon, drew up the conditions of entry which still apply to this day, still attracting entries from many Australian states and from overseas clubs. The Executive Committee elected for 1973 as follows.

President.....Mr. John McMahon.	Vice President.....Mr. Ron Heil.
Secretary.....Mr. Arol Miller.	Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Vera Heil.
Treasurer.....Mr. Jack Taylor.	

In November of this year "**Honorary Life membership**" was awarded to Mrs. Vera Heil. In recognition of her dedication to the club .

A.G.M April 90th. 1974 saw fourteen nominations for Club Committee, as there were no further nominations these were elected. From this Committee an Executive Committee was elected for 1974, comprised of:-

President.....Mr. John McMahon.	Vice President.....Mr Ron Heil.
Secretary.....Mr. Arol Miller.	Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Vera Heil.
Treasurer.....Mr. Jack Taylor.	

At this meeting "**Honorary Life Membership**" was conferred on Mr. Arol Miller for his untiring work as club secretary.

Due to ever increasing costs of rental of the Geelong West Town Hall, the venue for our exhibition this year was changed to the Norlane High School. This year the Geelong Club was the winning entry in the "Gemini" competition, the winning team comprising Mr. Alf Feldman, Mrs. June McKenzie, and Mr. Robert Reid. October 1974 also saw the commencement of negotiations with the Shire of Corio for tenancy of a unit, or units, at the former Norlane Migrants Hostel, then the D. W. Hope Community Centre.

Fifteen nominations received for the general committee, the following were elected to the Executive Committee for 1975.

President.....Mrs Vera Heil.	Vice President.....Mr. John McMahon.
Secretary.....Mr. Arol Miller.	Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Yvonne McDonald.
Treasurer.....Mr. Jack Taylor	

October 21st. 1975 and Mrs. Edie McIntosh was awarded "**Honorary Life Membership**" for her efforts for the advancement of the club, in particular "Edie' Market at our annual exhibitions. February 1976 saw the commencement of alterations to units 1&2 at the D.W. Hope Community Centre.

A.G.M. 1976 saw only thirteen nominations for committee, there being no further nominations these members were duly elected. The following members were elected to the Executive Committee for 1976..

President.....Mrs. Vera Heil.	Vice President.....Mr. Ern Haywood
Secretary.....Mr. Arol Miller.	Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Yvonne McDonald.
Treasurer.....Mr. Ern Haywood.	

February 8th. and our general meeting became the D.W. Hope main hall.

The A.G.M. of April 12th. 1977 brought about an amendment to our constitution limiting club membership to 175, as it was felt this was the maximum number for which our then facilities could cater for. In February of this year saw the venue for general meetings, this time to the main hall at the D. W. Hope Community Centre. At GEMBOREE 1977, Miss Nicola Reid, daughter of club members Lorna and Robert Reid was crowned "**GEMBOREE Princess**", the first time this award had been made



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### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1977

President.....Mrs. Vera Heil.  
Secretary.....Mr. Arol Miller.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Ern Haywood.

Vice President.....Mrs. June Mckenzie.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Betty Haywood.

Alterations having been completed, thanks to the efforts of club members, our new club-rooms at the D. W. Hope Community Centre were opened by the President of the Corio Shire Councilor Michael Parks, at 1.30 pm. on July 9th 1977.

At the A.G.M. held on April 11th. 1978 Mr. Arol Miller relinquished the position of Secretary after ten years of continuous conscientious service. The Executive for the ensuing year being:-

President.....Mrs Vera Heil.  
Secretary.....Mrs. June McKenzie.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Ern Haywood.

Vice President.....Mr. Arol Miller.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Betty Haywood.

At the A.G.M. on April 10th. 1979, after much discussion, it was moved by R. Dragt, seconded by Ron Heil, **"That the new name as per notice of motion, ' Geelong Gem & Mineral Club be adopted"**. The motion was carried with only two dissenting votes. The Executive Committee for this year being:-

President.....Mr. John McMahon.  
Secretary.....Mrs. Kay Wood.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Russ Rawson.

Vice President.....Mrs. Vera Heil.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. June McKenzie.

**"Party Nite"** 1979 provided an excellent opportunity for club members to farewell Ern & Betty Haywood who were leaving to take up residence in Queensland, certainly a great loss to the club.

A full compliment of members nominated for the committee for 1980 and from this the following members were elected to the Executive Committee.

President.....Mr. John McMahon.  
Secretary.....Mrs. Kay Wood.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Russ Rawson.  
Ass/Treasurer.....Mrs. Joyce Rawson.

Vice President.....Mrs. June McKenzie.  
Ass/Secretary.....Miss Janet Wood.

In 1980 only twelve members nominated for committee, while this was disappointing it still satisfied the constitution and from this number the Executive Committee was elected for 1981.

President.....Mrs. Vera Heil.  
Secretary.....Mrs. Pat Welsh.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Russ Rawson.

Vice President.....Mrs. June McKenzie.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. June McKenzie.

1982 again saw fifteen nominations for committee, including some new names, and the Executive Committee was elected from this number.

President.....Mr. Colin Hughes.  
Secretary.....Mrs. Phyllis Glover.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Russ Rawson.

Vice President.....Mrs June McKenzie  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. June McKenzie



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As in 1983 fifteen members nominated for committee, and again some new names appeared. The Executive Committee for 1984 being.

President.....Mr. Russ Rawson.  
Secretary.....Mrs. Phyllis Glover.  
Treasurer.....Mr. John Anderson.

Vice President.....Mrs. June McKenzie.  
Ass/ Secretary.....Mr. Ray Humphries.

April 10th. 1984 was another notable date in the club history, on this date the club became incorporated and the official name of the club was changed to "**Geelong Gem & Mineral Club Inc**". The Executive Officers elected for the first year of the incorporated body were:-

President.....Mrs. Vera Heil.  
Secretary.....Mrs. Phyllis Glover.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Lloyd Bartlett.

Vice President.....Mrs. June McKenzie.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mr. Murray West.  
Ass/Treasurer.....Mr. Reg Hudson

March 12th. 1985 A.G.M. saw Mr. Ron Heil awarded long overdue "**Honorary Life Membership**" for his devotion to this club. The Executive Committee for 1985 being.

President.....Mr. John McMahon.  
Secretary.....Mr. Murray West.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Lloyd Bartlett.

Vice President.....Mrs. June McKenzie  
Ass/Treasurer.....Mr. Reg Hudson

This year saw the departure of Ron and Vera Heil for Glenreagh in N.S.W. It also saw the return of Ern & Betty Haywood.

Fifteen members nominated for the Committee and, from this number the Following were elected to the Executive Committee for 1986.

President.....Mr. John McMahon.  
Secretary.....Mr. Murray West.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Lloyd Bartlett.

Vice President.....Mrs. June McKenzie.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Betty Haywood  
Ass/Treasurer.....Mr. Ern Haywood.

Gemboree 1987 and Mr. John Mulder was awarded the title of **Australian Champion Lapidary**. The Executive Committee elected for 1987 being.

President.....Mr. Murray West.  
Secretary.....Mrs. Phyllis Glover.  
Treasurer..... Mr. Lloyd Bartlett.

Vice President.....Mrs. Pat Welsh.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. June McKenzie.  
Ass/Treasurer.....Mr. John Anderson.

This year saw the death of one of our **Foundation members** , Mr. Arol Miller after many years of valuable service to the club. A bench drill was installed for use of members and emergency shut-off valves fitted to gas bottles, also diamond grinding wheels fitted to one of the grinders. the search for more permanent premises was intensified, but still with no positive results.

At the A.G.M. on June 12th. 1987 to celebrate our 21st. birthday was marked it was decided to hold a "**Debutante Ball**" which was a great success, and included the presentation of "**Foundation Members Bars**" to Mrs. Mary McMahon, Mrs. June McKenzie, Mrs. Gwen Pargeter, Mr. John McMahon, & Mr. Stan Rowe, and a history of the first 21 years of the club was presented by Mr. John McMahon, to be kept in the club library.



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Mrs. June McKenzie was awarded "**Honorary Life Membership**" in recognition of her long service to this club in many capacities. Executive Officers elected for 1988 were.

President..... Mr Murray West.  
secretary.....Mr. Graham McKenzie.  
Treasurer..... Mr. Lloyd Bartlett.  
Ass/Treasurer.....Mrs. Carol Jeffery.

Vice President.....Mrs Pat Welsh.  
Ass/secretary.....Mrs. June McKenzie.

A second 12 inch Slab Saw was installed. At the request of members it was decided to open the club rooms on Wednesday afternoons.

At a special meeting held on June 14th. for this purpose Mr. John McMahon was awarded "**Honorary Life Membership**" in recognition of his long devoted service and guidance to this club.

Despite strong rumors' to the contrary, the shire of Corio has denied that the D. W. Hope Centre is to close down, and has said that the shire intended to spend \$50,000 on improvements. Executive Officers elected for 1989 as follows.

President.....Mr. Murray West.  
Secretary.....Mrs. Phyllis Glover.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Lloyd Bartlett  
Ass/Treasurer.....Mrs. June McKenzie.

Vice President.....Mr. John McMahon  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Mary McMahon.

Third unit at D.W. Hope Centre leased and proposal to join to adjacent No. 2 & No. 3 units agreed to by Corio Shire, work commenced by club members.. New Kiln purchased and installed. In addition to silver casting this will enable porcelain doll making to be undertaken, as requested by some members.

A.G.M. April 3rd. 1990. Only six nominations were received, further volunteers were called from the members present and a further seven nominations were received, making a total of thirteen from which the following Executive was elected.

President.....Mr. John McMahon.  
Secretary.....Mrs. Sylvia Smith.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Lloyd Bartlett.

Vice President.....Mr Murray West.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs June McKenzie.  
Minute Secretary...Mrs. Mary McMahon.

The collapse of Pyramid Building Society saw some \$10.000 of club money in limbo, it was decided by members to accept offer of Government Bonds.

Shire of Corio called a special meeting of D.W. Hope tenants to inform them that the shire was considering selling portion of the complex to Ford Motor Company, including the land on which the three units leased by the Geelong Gem Club stood, work on units 2 & 3 ceased.

Due to the uncertainty of tenancy at D.W. Hope centre it was proposed that the club select a committee from volunteers to form a planning & building committee, this proposal was accepted by members. Eleven members nominated and elected to committee for 1991 resulting in the following Executive Committee being elected.

President.....Mr. John McMahon.  
Secretary.....Mrs. Sylvia Smith.

Vice President.....Mr. Murray West  
Minute Secretary...Mrs Mary McMahon.



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Treasurer.....Mr. Lloyd Bartlett.  
Ass/Treasurer.....Mrs June McKenzie.

**"Honorary Life Membership"** was conferred on Mrs. Mary McMahon in recognition of her many years of service to the club.

At the Gemboree in this year Mr. John Mulder was proclaimed Australian Champion Lapidary for the fifth consecutive year.

May 4th. the club received a request from Corio Shire to vacate unit 1 as soon as possible. A Planning & Building Committee was formed with John McMahon as Building coordinator, with John Mulder, Max Parker, Murray West, Ron Benjamin, Anton Secen, & Ern Taylor making up the committee. On May 15th. a site was selected at the Vines Rd. community Centre complex (formerly Geelong Teacher's College) on which to build a 30 meter X 12 meter club room, and a submission re lease was forwarded to the Corio Shire, for consideration at a council meeting on June 12th. 1991.

It was suggested by John McMahon that we should build to the extent of our financial ability, with provisions for extensions, and canvass all State, & if necessary, Federal bodies for a grant.

After much fruitless inspection of many alternative building sites, and buildings, a plan drawn up by John McMahon was submitted to Corio Shire on February 11th. 1992.

A.G.M. April 14th. 1992 nine nominations for committee were received and duly elected, a further five members were nominated from the floor making a total of fourteen. Executive Committee elected from these members were.

President.....Mr. John McMahon.  
Secretary.....Mr. John Mulder.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Lloyd Bartlett.  
Ass/Treasurer.....Mr. Ern Haywood.

Vice President.....Mr. Murray West.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Betty Haywood.

Work-rooms and meeting room declared a no smoking area. Sadly this year Mr. Stan Rowe, foundation member and Geology lecturer at Deakin University passed away and will be sadly missed in our club. An annual NOVICE FACETING competition, for club members introduced. June 16th.1992 lease signed and John McMahon advised members that after numerous fruitless enquiries a request had been submitted, to the Minister for Art, sport, Environment & Territories for the sum of \$40,000. Quotes were invited to have the building completed to lock-up stage. At the Christmas General Meeting John McMahon announced that our application for a grant of \$40,000 had been granted.

February 10th.1993, a red letter day in our history, the slab for our new clubrooms was poured, March saw the building completed to-lock up stage by the successful tender, Anton Secen who then continued to work until the completion of the building at no cost to the club.

A.G.M. April 13th. 1993 seventeen nominations were received necessitating an election to elect only fifteen as per constitution, from which the Executive Committee were elected on May 4th..

President.....Mr. John McMahon.  
Secretary.....Mr. John Mulder.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Lloyd Bartlett.

Vice President.....Mr. Jim Burgess.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Mary McMahon.  
Ass/Treasurer.....Mr. Studley Cornes.

To save water, and money a proposal by John McMahon that we install a 3,600 liter underground recycling water tank was accepted.



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Our new club rooms were officially opened by the new Federal Member for Corio, Mr. Gavan O'Connor, on November 21st.

April 12th. 1994 saw the maximum number of fifteen elected to committee and the following were elected to the Executive committee.

President.....Mr. John McMahon. Vice President.....Mrs. June McKenzie.  
Secretary.....Mr. John Mulder.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Mary McMahon .  
Treasurer.....Mr. Lloyd Bartlett.  
Ass/Treasurer.....Mrs. Judy Selleck.

Gas heating and a photocopier were installed at the suggestion of members. A T/V and Video machine were obtained on loan for a trial period and this resulted in the purchase of these two items. Three new sanding machines made and installed by club members.

A motion was moved by Max Parker, seconded by Betty Haywood, **"That members who have attained 75 years of age, and who have been members for a minimum of 20 years, be offered a 50% reduction in membership fees"**. The motion was carried.

Only six nominations were received at the A.G.A. on April 4th. 1995, this dropped to five with the withdrawal of one nominee. The president pointed out that this did not make for a very satisfactory situation and three more members volunteered their services making for a committee of eight. From which the following Executive Committee was elected.

President.....Mr. Graham Lee. Vice President.....Mr. Max Parker.  
Secretary.....Mrs. June McKenzie.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Betty Haywood.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Ern Haywood.

Another of our long-standing members and an **'Hon Life Member'**, Mrs. Edie McIntosh, passed away this year, Edie will be remembered by older members for introducing and conducting Edie's Market at our exhibitions A.G.M. April 16th. 1996 produced a better result with nine nominations received, and a further two volunteers from the floor, the elected Executive Committee for 1996 being.

President.....Mr. John McMahon. Vice President.....M/s Maxine Niblock  
Secretary.....Mrs. June McKenzie.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Betty Haywood.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Ern Haywood.

Ern Haywood awarded **"Honorary Life Membership"** in recognition of his years of service to the club. After necessary alteration in the silver-work room, a centrifuge was purchased and installed, and instruction classes in silver casting begun.

At the A.G.M. on April 8th. 1977, ten nominations were received, five from newer members which was encouraging.

Executive Committee for 1977

President.....Mr. John McMahon. Vice President.....Mrs. Betty Haywood.





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Secretary.....Mrs. June McKenzie.

Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Mary McMahon.

Treasurer.....Mr. Ern Haywood

Gemkhana 1977 was held at the Geelong Show-grounds, the Geelong club members being heavily involved in the organisation and conduct of this function.

New display cabinets constructed and in the club room for the use of club members to display their work and their collections.

Only nine nominations for 1998 committee were received, from these the following were elected to the Executive committee.

President.....Mr. John McMahon.

Vice President.....Mrs. Betty Haywood.

Secretary.....Mrs June McKenzie.

Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Mary McMahon.

Treasurer.....Mr. Ern Haywood.

Ern Haywood awarded **Life Membership** of the V.G.C.A. for his untiring work for the Association.

Probably due to encroaching age and the persistent inclement weather, nominations for 1999 committee were at a low ebb. Only seven, and no more volunteers.

The Executive Committee elected from these being.

President.....Mr. John McMahon.

Vice President.....Mrs. Betty Haywood.

Secretary.....Mrs June McKenzie.

Treasurer.....Mr. Ern Haywood.

At this meeting Phyllis Glover was awarded "**Honorary Life Membership**". for her long and sterling service to the club.

New carpet installed in all work-rooms and office, a welcome replacement to the old carpet removed from our last premises.

Two of our newer members recruited to the committee, with a promise from another two to join next year. Mrs. Mary McMahon returned to Committee in October after major surgery early in the year.

A.G.M. April 11th. 2,000, our clubs birthday, saw a resurgence of interest with eleven nominations. The Elected Executive Committee for 2,000 were.

President.....Mr. John McMahon.

Vice President.....Mrs. Betty Haywood.

Secretary.....Mrs. June McKenzie.

Ass/Secretary..... Mrs Mary McMahon.

Treasurer.....Mr. Ern Haywood.

Ass/Treasurer.....Mr. Graham Backwell.

Betty Haywood awarded "**Honorary Life Membership**" for her long and devoted service to the club.

Junior cutters to the fore, Adam Van Der Lugt being acclaimed Australian Junior Lapidary for the second year in succession, Timothy Fraser being runner-up. Other members again well to the fore in "Gemboree" competitions. Grant of \$500 received from City of Greater Geelong towards the cost of Garden borders around club rooms.

Ten Nominations received for Committee, with a further two from the floor at the A.G.M. on May 8th. 2001 saw the following Executive Committee for 1971.



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President.....Mr. James Tennent.  
Secretary.....Mrs. June McKenzie.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Erica Baulch.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Ern Haywood.  
Ass/Treasurer.....Mr. Graham Backwell.

Vice President.....Mrs. Betty Haywood.

"Open Day". Held on March 25<sup>th</sup> was reasonably well patronised, and resulted in three new members. Ern Haywood announced that he will be retiring from positions of Faceting Instructor and Treasurer, positions he has filled admirably for many years. Weekend workshops reintroduced at request of members. Vacuum Cleaner supplied for use in silver-work room.

A.G.M. May 14<sup>th</sup> 2002. Only twelve nominations received for Committee, as no further nominations received from floor these twelve were elected and the elected Executive Committee elected from this number were.

President.....Mr. James Tennent.  
Secretary.....Mrs. June McKenzie.  
Treasurer.....Mr. Tony Manders.  
Ass/Treasurer.....Mr. Max Parker .

Vice President.....Mr. Des McKiernan.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs. Mary McMahon.

June 28th. Members of the Geelong Gem & Mineral Club and indeed of fellow Lapidaries throughout Australia were shocked to learn of the very sudden death of Ern Haywood. The Geelong on particular will remember his untiring efforts to promote the art of lapidary. Purchase of a rolling mill for silverwork room roused (again) after further discussion it was agreed that expense not warranted. As too many entrance keys have not been returned by some members, new locks have been fitted and keys issued to authorised members. A "Comfort Corner, furnished with comfortable seating, has been organised in club rooms for use of members when rooms are open. Two ceramic laps purchased for use of faceters, these will only be issued by supervisors on request. A.G.M. May 13<sup>th</sup> 2003. Fourteen nominations received, no further nominations received. All elected to committee from which the Executive for 2003 was elected.

President.....Mr. James Tennent.  
Secretary.....Mrs. June McKenzie.  
Ass/Secretary.....Mrs Mary McMahon  
Treasurer.....Mr. Tony Manders.  
Ass/Treasurer.....Mr. Max Parker.

Vice President.....Mr. Des McKiernan.

New stools installed in Faceting room, New (s/h) copying machine purchased and in service. Plan to extend silverwork room submitted by John McMahon.

Members cars have been vandalised while members attending club rooms at night. City of Greater Geelong (landlord) will install security lights. Ten Members attending Interesting Talk and demonstration by Flo Gates on making wax models for silver casting, very successful Wire Wrapping course, courtesy of members of Waverley club was held on August 16th.. Ten members availed themselves of this opportunity to learn this aspect of our hobby. Club TEE Shirts & WINDCHEATERS bearing club logo are now for available purchase by club members wishing to do so. Four folding trestle tables purchased and installed.

All electrical leads and equipment checked and tagged as required by electrical safety authority, existing exhibition lights to be replaced as deemed no longer reliable. all Dealers advised that they will be required to bring their own lights tested and tagged. Alterations as proposed by John McMahon completed, when cupboards, benches and other necessary equipment is installed this will be used as an enameling room.



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In February 2004, additional faceting courses are now being held on Saturday mornings to overcome backlog of members wishing to learn. This year, due to the scarcity of fossicking the held its first field trip to a previously "salted" area on the property of the President's sister.