Diploma Dinner

**Friday 12th April 2013 at RPYC, 7.00 pm**

During the evening our newest graduates will be presented with their diplomas.

Details and booking form with the next issue of the Gem News.

*Please reserve the date!*

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A new comprehensive publication about Western Australia gemstones.

For details refer page 3.

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**Interactive Gemmology for Seniors**

The first session for 2013 is scheduled for **Tuesday the 26th February** starting at 11am.

I will email the topic to members.

Please bring along your lunch.

*Margot*

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**Wa Gem News**

The newsletter of the Western Australian Division

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January/February 2013 Volume 40, No 1&2

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**On behalf of the Management Committee**

**Welcome to all our New Members and Students**

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**Association News**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The **Western Australian Division AGM** is to be held on **Monday 11th February 2013 at 8.00 pm** in the Association Headquarters.

All members are invited to attend the meeting. This is an opportunity to vote for council members and have your say in the running of the Association. If you cannot attend and wish to nominate a proxy, please fill in the proxy form and send it to the Division address.

*Proxy and nomination forms* are included in this mail-out. The proxy form has to reach the secretary one hour prior to the start of the meeting.

*Members must be financial to vote.*

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

We would like to thank all the members who have renewed their membership.

If you have not renewed your membership yet, please do so promptly. Remember that membership fees special rates ($160 member, $300 couple) are to be paid **by 11th February 2013**. After that date normal fees apply ($180 member, $330 couple).

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**Call for Nominations**

**GAA WA Council**

If you feel you would like to become more actively involved with the GAA this is your chance.

As some Office Bearers will not seek nomination after many years on the Committee, the **Council needs new members** and will warmly welcome your application.

Don’t miss the opportunity!

The meeting on Monday 11 February will be followed by a Social gathering to kick start the new year. See you there!
Thank You
Jan Macfarlane
Margot Willing

After many years involved with the WA Division, Jan and Margot are retiring from the Council. Margot completed her diploma in gemmology in 1971. She started lecturing soon after. She held many positions in the WA Council including President and Education Officer. Margot remains active with the Division’s Interactive Gemmology for Seniors. Jan completed her gemmological studies in 1997. She joined the team of demonstrators and the WA Council the following year. As council member Jan held many positions including Secretary and Librarian. The GAA thanks you for your years of dedication. We wish you the best in your future undertaking.

Education News

♦ 2013 CLASS ENROLMENTS
The Education Officer reports the following enrolment numbers for this year: enrolments for Year 1 are 11 with some prospective students still considering, and enrolments for Year 2 are 8 at the moment. These are not final numbers as we are still taking enrolments.◆

♦ DISTANCE LEARNING BY FLEXI MODE
The first Practical Session for our students learning by flexi mode will be held from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th March. Please note that Gemmo House will not be available for members during these sessions.◆

♦ COMING COURSES
We are now taking enrolment for the following courses. If interested, make sure you enrol as soon as possible as places are limited.

Enrolment forms are available from the Division at gaawa@iinet.net.au or leave us a message at 9385 5489.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail Diamond Consultant</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>17 March</td>
<td>$195 / nm $225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Diamond Grading</td>
<td>5 days</td>
<td>15 to 19 April</td>
<td>$1750 / nm $2250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Practical Diamond Grading</td>
<td>2 days</td>
<td>20 and 21 April</td>
<td>$695 / nm $1045</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FGAA: Fellowship Application

Message to all students who completed their Diploma in Gemmology in 2012.

It is always with great pride that the GAA WA Division Council endorses the Fellowship applications of our recent graduates and forwards them to the Federal Body for approval. Fellowship Application forms have been sent to all of our 2012 graduates. We have already received a few forms, but unfortunately we have not heard from some of you. If you have misplaced the form and would like a new one, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. Looking forward to hearing from you.◆

Federal News

25-26 May 2013 - GAA Annual Federal Conference, Melbourne, VIC

The Victorian Division will host the 67th Annual Federal Conference on 25-26 May 2013. There will be some changes to the traditional format. These include moving the scientific seminar from Saturday to Sunday and featuring more industry relevant topics. For Conference details and forms please visit www.gem.org.au or contact Julianne at the Victorian Division Office at vic@gem.org.au.
Gemstones of Western Australia
The launch of a new publication, Tuesday 22nd January 2013

WA Mines and Petroleum Minister Norman Moore launched Gemstones of Western Australia, a new comprehensive publication about WA gemstones.

Gemstones of Western Australia is the first substantial and systematic work on WA gemstones by the Geological Survey of WA (GSWA) and was produced in collaboration with the Gemmological Association of Australia (WA Division).

The book is the result of three years of collaboration between authors Michael Fetherston, from the GSWA, Susan Stocklmayer, curator of the gemstones collection at the Gemmological Association of Australia (WA Division) and husband Vernon Stocklmayer, consultant geologist.

Mr Moore said: “The book combines geology and gemmology to provide factual information and each chapter has detailed mineralogical information as well as their geological setting and location.”

The Minister said that while Western Australia had a growing international reputation as a major source for rare fancy pink and other coloured diamonds, far less was known about occurrences of gems such as beryl, topaz, tourmaline, gem-quality quartz and associated siliceous minerals.

Mr Moore said the publication also focused on materials peculiar to this State, such as zebra stone, orbicular granite and mookaite, along with pearls, fossil wood and precious metals.

The launch of this special publication, held in the lobby of the Department of Mines and Petroleum’s Mineral House in Perth, was well attended.

From left to right: Jenny Bevan (former Curator of Earth Science Museum UWA), Alex Bevan (Head of Dept of Earth and Planetary Sciences WA Museum), Lena Hancock (research scientist with GSWA and member of GAAWA), Gloria Nanini (Councillor GAAWA), Peter Jansen (President GAAWA) and author Susan.

Left: Peter Jansen, GAAWA President, offering a copy of the book to the Hon. Norman Moore.

Where to get your copy of Gemstones of Western Australia

The Division will have a few copies for sale.

In the meantime if you wish to purchase your copy from the Geological Survey, it is available from: http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/GSWApublications

Costs $50 (inc GST).

Text based on GSWA Press Release.
Images courtesy of Francine.
On-line News

Australian scientists explain photochromism phenomenon in pink diamonds

Extract from: Gemewizard Newsletter January 2013 (www.gemewizard.com/newsletters/)

A group of scientists at the University of Western Australia have managed to explain the photochromic behaviour of pink diamonds, which refers to the stone’s tendency to change colour when exposed to light.

Writing in the journal, Diamond and Related Materials, the lead author Keal Byrne explained that natural pink diamonds have defect centres that allow optically controllable and reversible photochromism at room temperature.

“We have pumped these diamonds with various wavelengths of light and measured the response in both time and absorption intensity,” he wrote. “What we’ve seen is that the diamond colour - the amount of absorption that gives it the pink colour - is dependent on both the wavelength and intensity of the light, and what that is consistent with is a model of electron transfer between the unknown pink defect and other defects in the lattice.”

The paper explained that the pink coloration arises from “absorption bands centred at 550 nanometres and 390 nanometres.” The diamond can be “bleached,” or made lighter, under ultraviolet illumination, while the darker colour can be restored with longer-wavelength light.

The researcher wrote that the pumped-in light caused competing types of photoionization at different defect centres, producing photochromism. They found that while the defect centres are responsible for other diamond colours, among them blue and yellow, the defects themselves do not explain how pink diamonds get their specific hue. The colour centre responsible for the pink coloration, however, is still unknown.

“So we’re trying to work out what these new energy levels are that are unique to the pink diamond and by that way we can work out what properties it has and what use it might have,” Byrne wrote.

Pretty in pink, Barbie shows her stuff

Extract from: Gemewizard Newsletter January 2013

Barbie, the fashion doll launched by the American toy-company Mattel, Inc., in March 1959, and since then has been credited with imbuing generations of young girls with both a clothes sense and an unrealistic impression of healthy body shape, is nothing if not a fashion icon. No wonder then when Mattel commissioned the jeweller Stefano Canturi to create the world’s most expensive Barbie, he chose to do it with pink diamonds.

Priced at $624,734, the Barbie by Canturi wears a necklace made up of three carats of white diamonds set in a geometric shape around a one-carat square-shaped fancy pink Australian diamond.

♦ FOR YOUR DIARY

11 February 2013       AGM, 8.00 pm
18 February 2013        Council Meeting, 8.00 pm
26 February 2013        Seniors Meeting, 11.00 am

♦ ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

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