

ACCOMMODATION: **Rydges South Bank Brisbane**
(opposite Conservatorium of Music). A direct train is available from the airport
to **South Bank Station**. Book direct with Rydges

(<http://www.rydges.com/cwp/gaaqld>) or contact:
Kim Blain (07 3364 0839; kim_blain@rydges.com)

A limited number of rooms are being held for GAA Conference visitors so please book early;
All Rooms equipped with microwave, wet bar & refrigerator: \$189 Standard Queen room,
\$189 Standard Twin room (2 queen beds – *only a few available*) \$209 Superior Twin room
(2 queen beds with city/river view); Valet parking: \$24 per day



GAA

Gemmological Association of Australia

GAA 64th ANNUAL FEDERAL CONFERENCE - 2010

Thursday 20th May to Sunday 23rd May

at

Rydges

Corner of Grey & Glenaig Streets,
Southbank, Brisbane



South Bank attractions: South Bank Parklands (man-made beaches & swimming lagoons)
Cultural Precinct (performing arts, art galleries, museum, State Library)
Over 30 restaurants and bars in immediate vicinity
CityCat ferry or bridge access to Queen Street shopping mall and Treasury Casino

For things to do: www.discoverbrisbane.com

The Gemmological Association of Australia
Queensland Division

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Wednesday 19th May 2010 (Designated Delegates only)
Full Day (9am – 4pm) **Review of Strategic Plan** (Boulevard Room)
(including m/tea, lunch, a/tea)

Thursday 20th May 2010

Full Day (9 am – 4 pm) **Education & BOS & E forum** (Boulevard Room)
(including m/tea, lunch, a/tea)

9:00 - 10:30 am Publicity Meeting (in Executive boardroom)
11:00 - 12:30 pm Finance Meeting (in Executive boardroom)
1:30 - 4:00 pm Editorial Meeting (in Executive boardroom)
5:30 - 6:30 pm **Social Meet & Greet/Conference Registration** (Parklands Terrace)

Friday 21st May 2010

Full Day (9 am – 5 pm) **Federal Council Meetings** (Boulevard Room)
(including m/tea, lunch, a/tea) **NON-DELEGATES: 12:30-3pm**
Travel by CitiCat to St Lucia for riverside drinks & BBQ

9:00 - 10:00 am Directors Meeting
10:30 – 5:00 pm Welcome and Federal Council Meeting
6:30 - 8:00 pm **Cocktail Party & short talk w/ display** (Ross Chapman "A New Gem")

Saturday 22nd May 2010

(Boulevard Room)

9:30 - 10:00 am **GAA Annual General Meeting**
10:00 - 10:30 am Morning Tea
10:30 - 4:00 pm **Scientific Seminar (NCJV members 5 CPD points)**
(including m/tea, lunch, a/tea) Speaker details on the following page

7:00 - 11:00 pm **Gala Dinner and Graduation Ceremony (Rooftop/Level 12)**

Sunday 23rd May 2010

Post-Conference workshop/mini-trip(s). Pre-booking required

Option1 **Digital Camera Workshop** with Trevor Linton. (Places limited.
9:30 – 3:30 pm Suitable for most cameras less than 4 yrs old.) *Effective use of your Digital Camera – Basics and Computer Enhancement of Imaging.*
(Gemmology House - 4 hr workshop, light lunch, return transport).

Option 2 **Thunder Egg Mine**, Cedar Creek, Mt Tamborine (weather permitting)
9:00 – 4:00 pm Coach tour with talk, lunch & fossicking equipment provided; closed shoes must be worn OR (in case of rain)
Old Government House tour & morning tea 10:00 – 12 noon
(refund for balance of Thunder egg tour)

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Debra Haigh FGAA Dip DT, **Matthew Gray** FGA FGAA Dip DT, **Denise Girdlestone**
Three pearl specialists – Debra Haigh of Haigh's Jewellers in Hervey Bay, Matthew Gray a manufacturing Jeweller and Denise Girdlestone, first and only westerner ever trained in seeding by the Japanese in Japan – offer information, along with a seeding demonstration, about one of Queensland's newest and best kept gemmological secrets, the cultured Akoya "Fraser Island Pearl" being farmed in Hervey Bay.
Talk entitled: *Discovering "Fraser Island Pearls"*

Steve Dobos BSc (Hons) BSc PhD MAusIMM MAWA (Director Dobos & Associates)
After finishing his doctorate at Macquarie, Steve joined Harvard, eventually becoming Laboratories Director at its Earth & Planetary Sciences Department, later transferring to Queensland University. Leaving academe in 1994, he became specialist consultant in environmental geochemistry and mineralogy. A keen collector, especially of beryllium minerals and its gem varieties, Steve is active in the Queensland Mineralogical Society and a 'closet gemmologist' who has been known to teach GAA Queensland elementary crystallography.
Talk entitled: *Less Common and Exotic Beryllium-Bearing Gem Minerals*

Paulo Vasconcelos BSc MA PhD (Head of Earth Sciences, Queensland University)
One of his principle research interests is the origin and geochemistry of gem deposits. Professor Vasconcelos has visited the Anahi ametrine mine in Bolivia and the publication of his studies convinced the skeptics that ametrine was neither synthetic nor from Brazil. His talk will cover his visits to the mine and his high-tech studies of the differing mineral composition of the citrine and amethyst zones of ametrine
Talk entitled: *All about the Anahi Ametrine Mine and the Nature of Ametrine*

Ross Chapman QDA MBA FGA (GAA tutor & Accredited Trainer for Gem-A)
A gemmology instructor since 1970 and owner-operator of a boulder opal mine in central Queensland for more than 25 years, Ross has presented papers in London, Bangkok and Brisbane. He discovered the new gemstone, Thortveitite, co-authoring a *Journal of Gemmology* article on the subject. He conducts annual tours of Thai gem markets and is an active fossicker and jewellery and opal-cutting tutor for the North Brisbane Lapidary Club.
Talks entitled: *Thortveitite - a New Gemstone* (Friday evening cocktail party)
Buyer Beware – Bangkok Gems Markets (Saturday)

For Conference queries contact Ros Kerlin (Conference Co-ordinator) at 0419 128 362. Should you require extra forms, please visit the **GAA website at www.gem.org.au** (refer to *GAA Publicity* in left-hand column) or contact your GAA Division or Michelle at the GAA Qld Office (e-mail: qld@gem.org.au)