



Gem and Lapidary

News

November 2013

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The **Gem & Lapidary News** is the official publication of the GEM AND LAPIDARY COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES, INC, PO Box 4233, Londonderry 2753. The executive and workforce of the Council are entirely composed of delegates from member clubs. Council is NOT an autonomous body. The Gem & Lapidary Council is a member of AFLACA (Australian Federation of Lapidary and Allied Crafts Association).

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HOT LINE TO THE COUNCIL - 0427 993 903

Website: <http://www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/> webmaster@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
 Webmaster Alex Maitland (please send updated information)

COUNCIL MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE: 4th Wednesday in the month
 MONTHLY: 4th Wednesday in the month, at 1.00pm
 The venue, unless otherwise stated,
 is at the Clubrooms of Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club,
 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

Visitors are welcome to attend Monthly Meetings

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE GEM & LAPIDARY NEWS

\$20 if posted bulk to your club
 \$25 if posted to members private address
 \$30 for non-members of the G&L Council

ADVERTISING RATES per issue in Black and White.

Full page - \$40 per issue
 1/2 page - " " \$25,
 1/3 page - " " \$20,

Please send payment with advertising booking and copy.

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NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, November 27th: 1pm

*At the Clubrooms of Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club
73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville*

Please do come, you will be made very welcome

* DEADLINE FOR COPY for November, 2013 issue *
Friday November 29th, 2013

Club Editors; please add me to your mailing list to receive your newsletters. Ed.

Disclaimer:

Opinions expressed are those of the original authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, Gem & Lapidary Council or its members. Persons acting on any opinion, advice, fact or advertisement published in this issue does so at their own risk

Council News.

GEMKHANA Report: As per Minutes. Apart from the helpers from Port Hacking and the usual year-after-year supporters, very little help was offered. Therefore, discussion on future GEMKHANAS will be held at the January meeting.

The GEMKHANA was financially successful and I think enjoyed by those who attended. The evening at the observatory was enjoyed by a small number, the caterers (Cooks Gap Fire Brigade) were fantastic, thank you to the Mudgee members who did face painting on Sunday. Thank you everyone who supports us. A lot of people think publicity is underdone – so perhaps their help will be offered next year!!!

J&R Report: From Correspondence – how to charge clubs for judging was resolved. *This applies to clubs having their competition entries judged by Council judges.* In future, an account for judging fees will be issued by the person who allocates the judges, at the time of the allocation. After judging of the event, the club will send a letter explaining any variation in the allocation with its payment of \$10 for each participating Council judge.

JUDGING COURSES

At the Judging and Rules Committee meeting held, after the G&L Council Meeting, on Wednesday 23 October, 2013, it was announced that a total of twenty people have indicated that they would like to be considered for inclusion in courses to become judges in the following skills: - Jewellery; Enamelling; Faceting; Cabochon; Carving and Minerals. The tutors for these activities will contact relevant people and advise them of appropriate dates, times and arrangements.

However, at this stage dates have been set for the cabochon judging course on the 14 and 15 December, 2013 and for the Enamelling judging course on the 22 and 23 March, 2014.

In the meantime, if there are any other persons who would be prepared to be a judge for any of these crafts, please contact Barbara Try on [02] 4393 6168 or Mobile 0417 676 435 to discuss the relevant requirements and duties of the positions..

Barbara Try

Chairperson

Judging & Rules Committee

Secretaries: Please remember to send the name and phone number and address of your President, Secretary, Treasurer & G&L Delegate, as soon as your elections are over. An email address would also be handy.

Please also check your club details on our website. : <http://www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/>

Contact the webmaster if corrections needed.

Insurance Matters.

Correction. October issue was incorrect . Clubs should pay their insurance direct to Webster Hyde Heath, as recorded in the August minutes and not to Council as suggested in last month's issue.

FROM GEM & LAPIDARY COUNCIL of NEW SOUTH WALES INC:

Up until now, Tailgaters are expected to abide by the same rules since Tailgating started - some 35 years ago (More or Less). The problem is that Tailgating has evolved over the years - from being a totally 'Private' tailgaters event, to an event that attracts more and more 'Commercial' operators each year. Unfortunately the Tailgating System hasn't evolved to accommodate this trend over time; we have NOT given these Tailgaters the CHOICE THEY NEED! Instead we have continued to create rules that can never be enforced.

A SIMPLE CHOICE needs to be offered that will give ALL Tailgaters the opportunity to either be 'Private Non-Commercial Tailgaters' OR 'Commercial Tailgaters'. We have never given these Tailgaters a choice before, and as a result we have forced these Commercial Tailgaters to lie to us when they sign their form AND we have turned a blind eye to it!.

This will require TWO Tailgating Application forms:

1 Private Non-Commercial Tailgaters.

For Casual Tailgaters that DO NOT have a business name AND / OR buy stock for the purpose of re-selling. The Public Liability Insurance at \$15 per day will be automatically included with the Tailgating fee charged (no refunds if they have their own insurance. If they already have insurance (Market insurance) they are not casual and should apply as Commercial. **Note:** Official Club Stalls need only pay a Tailgating Fee as they will already be covered with their Clubs Public Liability Insurance, providing a copy is attached to the Application Form.

2. Commercial Tailgaters.

For Tailgaters that have a business name AND / OR buy stock for the purpose of re-selling. A copy of their Public Liability Insurance MUST be provided with the Tailgating Application Form. The Public Liability Insurance or \$15 per day will NOT be provided for Commercial Tailgaters. The Benefits of this approach to tailgating are:

• Gives the Tailgaters a choice, and the opportunity to be honest with the forms that they sign.

• All Tailgaters are accommodated for. (Both Commercial and Non-Commercial) -

• All Tailgaters will have the appropriate insurance cover.

• The Tailgaters (Applicants) make their own choice which takes away the responsibility from the organising Committee.

(The Committee may still refuse an Application if the Applicant is known to be abusing the system.)

Remember, Commercial Tailgaters must supply a COPY of their public liability policy at the time of their application. Council now requires such policies to have \$20 million cover.

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Servicing Your Lapidary Needs

Club News.

Northern Districts Lapidary Club is planning its yearly trip to Nundle for November to wind up the year. In October courses were held in carving and faceting. Their Christmas party will be held on December 7th.

Canberra Lapidary Club. Will hold their Spring Gem Show on 2nd and 3rd November.

Campelltown & Districts have been away enjoying a trip to Lightning Ridge.

The Fossil Club has had successful trips to Yass, Wee Jasper and Lake St.Clair. A well attended Fossil identification day was also enjoyed by members.

Albury Club has been out and about looking for crystals at Muttama and then off to Beechworth.

Lismore Gem and Lapidary Club had a successful trip to Goolmangar creek and had to move out of their premises temporarily for the Lismore Show.

Casino Lapidary Club have been to Inverell to attend the Rockerama and some general fossicking.

Orange Lapidary Club held a scrimshaw class and workshop and a carving workshop using Besser blocks.

Parramatta Holroyd Lapidary Club are planning for a successful Annual Gem Show from the 8th-10th November

Cessnock Gem Club is holding a rock auction on the 2nd November.

IF YOU EMAIL YOUR NEWSLETTERS TO MEMBERS – PLEASE ADD ME TO THE LIST.

GEMKHANA REPORT AND RESULTS.

GEMKHANA REPORT

Once again, I enjoyed myself and I thank everyone who helped make the GEMKHANA a success. Quite a few people turn up year after year to work and, each year, a few new people also help.

I don't think most club members realise GEMKHANAS and GEMBOREES are put on by them. Does that sound weird? Well, the Council is only made up of club members. And all of you are members, too. It is only that a one or two members from each club are delegates and it is they who do the planning, but it is the members who help make these shows a success or not a success.

So many of the members who help now, have helped for many, many years – and some are no longer able to help at all, or to physically do what they once could. **We need more people to help** – mostly at the shows themselves, doing jobs such as manning doors, selling entry tickets, selling raffle tickets, putting tables into place, putting the covers on them and, then of course, pulling the tables down again. An hour or so at most jobs, would give someone else the chance to take a lunch break or talk to a special visitor. By the by, a new competition committee is needed for next year – **without a competition, there will be no show.**

Nevertheless, as I said, I enjoyed myself as I think did the club members who came – to stay or on a day visit. It gives us the opportunity to catch up with people we may only see once a year.

Visitors were down a little on last year, which seems to indicate it is time to move on again. Publicity and promotion of the event covered street banners; websites; notice and flyers to the tourist office and shops, caravan parks and some motels; TV, radio and newspaper advertising, plus on-air competition for free passes (courtesy of 2MG) and website free passes (courtesy of Mudgee Guardian), apart from a monthly letter to every club for several months leading up to the event.

There were a few new tailgaters and, as with other aspects of the show, many of the regular tailgaters have called it quits, age and illness is catching up with many of us. Along with the competition, dealers filled the hall and had a good assortment of lapidary requirements. The competition, though entries were low, brought out some lovely work. I did notice there were a lot of novice entries this year, which is good to see and their work will improve as they have more practice.

If you have any ideas on venues or the running of future shows, delegates will be pleased to hear from you. It has come to the time when a lot of thought needs to go into how shows such as GEMKHANAS can continue with the diminishing workforce, suitable sites not being as available as they used to be, not to mention people willing to take on arranging the event and running the competition.

John Mackenzie
Chairman
2013 NSW GEMKHANA
Competition Committee
7th October, 2013

Secretary

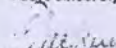
NSW Gem and Lapidary Council
PO Box 4233
Londonderry NSW 2753

Re: G & L COUNCIL OF NSW'S
2013 GEMKHANA COMPETITION
TROPHY WINNERS

Trophies were awarded as follows:

G&L COUNCIL OF NSW TROPHY FOR SECTION: N-1A(2) Standard Cabochon – Agate	JOHN NEWLAND (PHLC)
G&L COUNCIL OF NSW TROPHY FOR SECTION: O-5A(4) Carving – Three Dimensional	MICHAEL BURGESS (no club)
G&L COUNCIL OF NSW TROPHY FOR SECTION: N-21A(1) Cast Jewellery without Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral Item	JOHN NEWLAND (PHLC)
BORIS NOVIC TROPHY FOR SECTION: O-2A Double Standard Cabochon	PAM FERRIS (PHLC)
ALAN COULTON TROPHY FOR SECTION O-20A Cast Jewellery using Natural Objects as Patterns	PAM FERRIS (PHLC)
DICK MOPPETT TROPHY FOR TWO FACETED STONES (Open Division) (Novice Division)	KEVIN FLETCHER (Orange) ROD POWELL (NDLC)
ARTHUR ROFFEY TROPHY FOR BEST MINERAL IN SHOW	No award given for 2013
FRANK LANDER TROPHY FOR MOST SUCCESSFUL COMPETITOR	JOHN NEWLAND (PHLC)
G&L COUNCIL OF NSW TROPHY FOR MOST SUCCESSFUL CLUB	PORT HACKING LAPIDARY CLUB
G&L COUNCIL OF NSW TROPHY FOR BEST NEWSLETTER	CAMPBELLTOWN DISTRICT LAPIDARY CLUB
G&L COUNCIL OF NSW TROPHY FOR BEST MAGAZINE	NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB
G&L COUNCIL OF NSW TROPHY FOR BEST ARTICLE (Editor's Choice)	TONY TRY (Northern Districts Lapidary Club)

Yours sincerely,


J.B. Mackenzie
CHAIRMAN

GEMKHANA 2013 LIST OF PRIZWINNERS

0-1A - Standard Cabochon - C/S - Agate		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Rod POWELL (Nthn Districts)	99.99
2nd	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	99.75
3rd	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	97.55
HC	Walter DOVE (Port Hacking)	96.90
I-1A(1) - Standard Cabochon - C/S - Agate		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Sue O'NEIL (Goulburn)	89.75
N-1A(2) - Standard Cabochon - C/S - Agate		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	88.45
2nd	Eberhard FRANKE (Goulburn)	87.40
3rd	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	77.75
0-1B - Fancy Cabochon - C/S - Petrified Wood		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	95.30
2nd	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	94.05
3rd	Paul SABOLTA (Parramatta/Holroyd)	93.80
HC	Walter DOVE (Port Hacking)	80.80
I-1B(1) - Fancy Cabochon - C/S - Petrified Wood		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Bob BLADWELL (Goulburn)	79.20
0-1B(4) - Fancy Cabochon - A/A - Lace Agate		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Rod POWELL (Nthn Districts)	94.50
2nd	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	93.25
3rd	Rod POWELL (Nthn Districts)	91.55
HC	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	91.48
I-1B(5) - Fancy Cabochon - A/A - Lace Agate		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Sue O'NEIL (Goulburn)	85.40
0-2A - Double Standard Cabochon - C/S - OBSIDIAN		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	98.40
2nd	Paul SABOLTA (Parramatta/Holroyd)	97.45
3rd	Walter DOVE (Port Hacking)	91.60
HC	Sue O'NEIL (Goulburn)	85.20
I-2A(1) - Double Standard Cabochon - C/S - OBSIDIAN		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Rod POWELL (Nthn Districts)	95.60
N-2A(2) - Double Standard Cabochon - C/S - OBSIDIAN		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Michael DEPLEDGE (Goulburn)	78.00
0-2B - Double Fancy Cabochon - A/A - Own Choice Material		
Entry #	Entrant	Score

GEMKHANA 2013 LIST OF PRIZWINNERS

1st	Paul SABOLTA (Parramatta/Holroyd)	89.28
2nd	Walter DOVE (Port Hacking)	84.65
I-2B(1) - Double Fancy Cabochon - A/A - Own Choice Material		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Rod POWELL (Nthn Districts)	96.70
2nd	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	93.45
O-3 - Freeform - C/S - Own Choice Material		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Walter DOVE (Port Hacking)	99.00
2nd	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	95.00
3rd	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	92.25
NC	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	91.75
O-3(4) - Freeform - C/S - Specified Material - SOLID OPAL		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Craig HEARN (Goulburn)	99.50
2nd	Craig HEARN (Goulburn)	97.00
N-4B(1) - Opal Doublet - Doomed Top		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	82.10
O-5A(4) - Carving - 3 Dimensional - Hardness 4 and over		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Michael BURGESS (No Club Named)	99.95
O-5B - Carving - In Relief		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Kathy SELWOOD (ORANGE)	90.50
O-6 - Scrimshaw		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Kathy SELWOOD (ORANGE)	96.00
O-8A - Std Brilliant - Cont. Girdle - COLOURLESS TOPAZ		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Kevin FLETCHER (ORANGE)	84.06
I-8A(1) - Std Brilliant - Cont. Girdle - COLOURLESS TOPAZ		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Kevin FLETCHER (ORANGE)	86.01
N-8A(2) - Std Brilliant - Cont. Girdle - COLOURLESS TOPAZ		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Rod POWELL (Nthn Districts)	90.53
I-8B(1) - Std Brilliant-Faceted Girdle - NAT.COLOURED QUARTZ		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Kevin FLETCHER (ORANGE)	82.22
N-8B(2) - Std Brilliant-Faceted Girdle - NAT.COLOURED QUARTZ		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Rod POWELL (Nthn Districts)	92.86
O-9A - Std Oblong Step Cut with Cut Cnrs - SMOKEY QUARTZ		

GEMKHANA 2013 LIST OF PRIZWINNERS

Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Kevin FLETCHER (ORANGE)	83.55
I-9A(1) - Std Oblong Step Cut with Cut Cnrs - SMOKEY QUARTZ		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Colin WRIGHT (Port Hacking)	97.00
2nd	Kevin FLETCHER (ORANGE)	87.63
N-9A(2) - Std Oblong Step Cut with Cut Cnrs - SMOKEY QUARTZ		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	93.76
2nd	Rod POWELL (Nthn Districts)	90.32
O-10 - Mod Std Cut-Rect Cushion-Shallow Pavilion- M/M Cor		
Number of entries: 2		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Lex WINKELMAN (Cessnock)	95.44
2nd	Colin WRIGHT (Port Hacking)	93.37
I-10(1) - Mod Std Cut-Rect Cushion-Shallow Pavilion-M/M/ Cor		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Kevin FLETCHER (ORANGE)	87.94
N-10(2) - Mod Std Cut - Novice Cushion Triangle - M/M CZ		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	79.31
O-11 - Fancy Cut - Park Lane Cut - M/M Cubic Zirconia		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Lex WINKELMAN (Cessnock)	98.25
2nd	John MACKENZIE (Port Hacking)	95.64
3rd	Kevin FLETCHER (ORANGE)	91.18
I-11(1) - Fancy Cut - Park Lane Cut - M/M Cubic Zirconia		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Colin WRIGHT (Port Hacking)	96.08
2nd	Kevin FLETCHER (ORANGE)	87.22
N-11(2) - Fancy Cut - Park Lane Cut - M/M Cubic Zirconia		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	97.50
2nd	Rod POWELL (Nthn Districts)	96.07
3rd	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	77.05
HC	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	75.15
O-12A - Tumbled Stones Pre-form Grp of 3 Diff Species		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	John BEHRENS (Parramatta/Holroyd)	89.65
2nd	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	87.92
3rd	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	84.92
O-12B - Tumbled Stones Natural Group of 3 Diff Species		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	John BEHRENS (Parramatta/Holroyd)	93.44
O-13 - Polished Face - Flat Surface - A/A		
Entry #	Entrant	Score

GEMKHANA 2013 LIST OF PRIZWINNERS

1st	Ross LESTER (Parramatta/Holroyd)	94.50
2nd	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	93.50
3rd	Ross LESTER (Parramatta/Holroyd)	91.75
HC	Luke BOYD (Manning / G.Lakes)	87.50
O-14 - Polished Face - Curved Surface - A/A		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Russell CHAPPELL (Port Hacking)	83.00
N-17(1) - Novelty Gemcraft		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Gordon SULLIVAN (Parramatta/Holroyd)	86.00
O-18A - Hand Fab Jewellery NO Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	92.00
N-18A(1) - Hand Fab Jewellery NO Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Russell CHAPPELL (Port Hacking)	98.75
2nd	Russell CHAPPELL (Port Hacking)	97.50
3rd	Karen RUDDY (ORANGE)	94.50
HC	Gordon SULLIVAN (Parramatta/Holroyd)	94.25
O-18B - Hand Fab Jwlrly with Lap item/s Cut/set by entrant		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	99.00
N-18B(2) - Hand Fab Jwlrly with Lap item/s Cut/set by entrant		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Rod POWELL (Nthn Districts)	97.50
2nd	Karen RUDDY (ORANGE)	90.25
O-19A - Cast Jwlrly with pattern by entrant NO Lap/Fossil/Min		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	90.50
N-19A(1) - Cast Jwlrly with pattern by entrant NO Lap/Fossil/Min		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	90.50
O-20A - Cast Jwlrly using Natural Objects as patterns		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	94.25
2nd	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	87.75
3rd	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	86.25
HC	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	86.00
O-21A - Cast Jwlrly using Comm Wax Models NO Lap/Fossil/Min		
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	92.25
2nd	Russell CHAPPELL (Port Hacking)	91.25
3rd	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	90.50
HC	Pam FERRIS (Port Hacking)	88.50
N-21A(1) - Cast Jwlrly using Comm Wax Models NO Lap/Fossil/Min		
Entry #	Entrant	Score

GEMKHANA 2013 LIST OF PRIZWINNERS

S Award	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	88.00
O-21B -	Cast Jwly use Comm Wax with Lap item cut/set ent	
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Russell CHAPPELL (Port Hacking)	87.75
N-21B(1) -	Cast Jwly use Comm Wax with Lap Item cut/set ent	
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	86.00
I-25(1) -	Comm Mount Jwly with Lap items Cut/Set by entrant	
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	99.38
N-25(2) -	Comm Mount Jwly with Lap Items cut/set by entrant	
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Rod POWELL (Nthn Districts)	91.75
O-32A(4) -	Fossil- Non-Display - Single Overseas Vertebrate	
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Luke BOYD (Manning / G.Lakes)	84.00
O-32B -	Fossil-Non-Display-Group of 3 Plants-Any Locality	
Entry #	Entrant	Score
S Award	Luke BOYD (Manning / G.Lakes)	86.33
O-34A -	Mineral Non Disp - Single Overseas Specimen	
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	83.00
O-34A(2) -	Mineral Non Disp - Single Australian Specimen	
Entry #	Entrant	Score
1st	John NEWLAND (Port Hacking)	75.00

AGATES HERE AND THERE.

Agates are one of the most colourful and interesting rocks for the lapidary. They can be cut into various shapes for jewellery or other objects. Their variety and colour make them ideal for the collector. Although there are many theories and conjectures, it is still not known exactly how they are formed.

AGATE CREEK QUEENSLAND

Agate Creek, south of Forsyth, is world-renowned for agates of superb colours and patterns. Agate of exceptional colour, clarity and pattern can be found within the hills and creek gravels of the Agate Creek locality. There are 14 main agate digs in the Agate Creek fossicking reserve. Each location produces unique agates and a seasoned collector can tell just by looking at a specimen where it originated from. Whether it is a stunning blue and red combination from Black Soil Creek or a porcelain pink from Pink Patch, each dig produces exceptional specimens that

will enhance any agate collection.

We estimate that 30 percent of agate dug in the field is collector quality with no fractures or damage. This makes good specimens rare and a great deal of work goes in to finding them.

The fossicking localities occur in the basin-shaped area of Agate Pocket, which is underlain by rocks of the Agate Creek Volcanic Group, a remnant of a volcanic sequence of early Permian age. This was deposited on a basement of granitic

rocks of the Robin Hood Granodiorite. Three formations are recognized: the Big Surprise Tuff, Black Soil Andesite and Thunder Egg Rhyolite. Intrusive bodies of much the same age have penetrated the volcanics, including rhyolite and the Connie May Dolerite. In later Jurassic times, the volcanics were covered by sandstones and conglomerates of the Hampstead Sandstone; these have since been stripped off and now remain only as hill cappings on the south-western escarpment bordering the pocket and at the head of Spring and Agate creeks.

Agate occurs as amygdales (filled gas bubbles) in the upper parts of basaltic andesite lava flows (Black Soil Andesite) and thunder eggs occur as spherulites in rhyolitic lava (Thunder Egg Rhyolite) which forms the north-eastern rim of the pocket.

Agates occur as nodules (solid agate) or as geodes, roughly ellipsoidal or rounded in shape in various sizes but averaging about 50mm. The agate is often multi-coloured and usually banded in straight, curved or irregular patterns. The thunder eggs in the rhyolite may contain infillings of red-brown jasper.

Black Soil Creek, Crystal Hill, Bald Hill, Simpsons, Blue Hills and

Flanagans are the main areas of interest. Agates can be separated from the decomposed lavas by hand digging. Because the agate is hard and resists weathering, searching down-slope colluvial deposits may also be productive as agates are released and transported from the host lavas. The alluvium of black soil and gravel of present day drainages is also worth attention, especially after the wet season.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA AGATES.

The Pilbara is a large, dry, sparsely populated region in the north of Western Australia known for its vast mineral deposits.

It is larger than California and about twice the size of the UK yet has only about 40,000 inhabitants. Within this huge area are numerous volcanic formations that contain deposits of agates. The actual location where these ones were found is within the Maddina Basalt not far from the town of Nullagine.



Oldest Agates in the world.

The Pilbara Craton which encompasses the area where the agates are found hosts some of the world's oldest rocks. This includes the Maddina Basalt that has a proven age of 3.48 billion years. Agates have been collected for testing with uranium-lead radiometric dating however the agates do not contain uranium, so an age-link with the host rock is not possible.

Studies have shown that the Maddina Basalt underwent low grade metamorphism, probably due to burial around 2 billion years ago.

As the agates appear to have been affected by these events, then it is likely that they were in place before this time.

So it can be said that the Maddina Basalt agates were probably formed between 2 and 2.72 billion years ago.

Older Uses.

Thumb rings of this type were originally used in archery as a way of releasing the bowstring accurately without injuring the hand. This one was made in the 17th century probably in India.



Cup from shaped and polished agate, with silver-gilt mounts made in Germany in the 19th century.



(From collection V&A Museum)

SAGENITE AND PLUME by Pat McMahan Arizona

Agates with inclusions are some of the rarest and most beautiful agates in the world. These inclusions may be sagenitic (sagenite), plume, dendritic, or moss. A description of each of these most common types of inclusions is important here.

Sagenite, or more accurately, sagenitic agate is any agate having acicular or needle like mineral growths. These hair like filaments are often arranged in fans or sunbursts. The inclusions come in a wide array of colors.

Plume agate has fluffy inclusions which often appear to be soft and have depth. Sometimes plume agate inclusions resemble feathers, plants, or flowers. Colors may vary as in sagenite. Dendritic agate has thin, two-dimensional, treelike growths, usually black or dark brown, as is the case with Montana Agate. Often dendrites form between flat "waterline" bands of agate. Dendrites may also occur in limestone, talc, and sandstone, and in beryl, corundum, and other minerals.

When inclusions in agate are random in pattern, often creating the appearance of seaweed or moss, we have moss agate. Moss agate comes in many colors and is often green. Moss is the most common type of inclusion in agate.

The main focus here is on sagenite and plume agate.



I have identified sagenite from over 250 different agate deposits worldwide. My belief is that at least a little sagenite can be found at most agate fields. It is impossible to say today what percentage of the original deposits was sagenitic, but in the hundred or so agate fields I have been to, a very small percentage of the agate has sagenitic inclusions. With the exception of a small number of fields, probably less than five percent of the available agate at fields I've been to is sagenitic. Those few agate fields that have a higher incidence of sagenite offer a rare and exciting treat to the collector.

Plume is surprisingly more common than most of us might believe. Many collectors know of Friday Plume, Graveyard Point, Del Norte (Colorado), West Texas, and Mexican Plume. The oxides which form plume and other inclusions are quite common. If they are present and conditions are right, the inclusions form. I have plume from over a hundred agate fields in my collection.

Gemcuts

*Lapidary * Fossicking
* Jewellery Making Tools



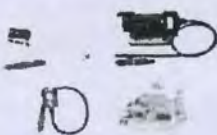
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TOP SHELF MINERAL

Agates Cont.

Inclusions occur where iron oxide, manganese oxide, or other oxides are present when the agate is formed. The oxide minerals grow in the agate when it is in a liquid or gelatinous state. The inclusions grow and are supported by this liquid medium. If sagenite inclusions grow outside of the gel, the tops of the needles resemble a pin cushion. Plume and moss inclusions grow outside the gel as well.

In very rare instances, plume and sagenite are found in the same rock. Plume and moss are often associated together. I have found sagenite in or near moss only a few times.

Multicolor plumes appear to be more common than multicolor sagenitic sprays. I don't understand this. It may be coincidental. It is based on examining several thousand specimens. I have not yet seen plumes or sagenite needles penetrate bands in agate. My belief is that sagenite and plume are formed in silica gel after the gel fills or partially fills the cavity. Banded agate apparently forms at a different time. Some of my favorite agates have complete fortifications next to inclusions.

The thrill of finding a quality agate in the field is only topped by making that perfect, often lucky cut in the saw. Unlike banded agate which often gives the cutter multiple quality slabs, we seldom get more than one outstanding cut per rock with plume or sagenite.

As a collector, I am very selective in what I pick up in the field and still less than 5% of what I cut goes in my display case. That's the nature of what we do. A very small quantity of agates is exceptional.

As a collector, I actively buy and sell quality material. I very much like to trade material and will trade agate hunting locations.

I love to exchange ideas on hunting, cutting, and displaying. I enjoy digging and sharing a good campfire.

I can be reached at: Email: pat@patmcmahan.com or agates920@yahoo.com

What is Ametrine?

Most people have never heard of ametrine and are very surprised to see purple and yellow in a single transparent gemstone. Ametrine is a rare gemstone with a finite supply that is produced in commercial quantities at only one mine in the world. It is a relative newcomer to the gemstone trade, being available in small quantities for just a few decades.

Ametrine is a variety of bicolor quartz that has zones of amethyst (purple) and citrine (golden-yellow) in contact with one another in a single crystal. The words AMethyst and ciTRINE were combined to yield the name "ametrine" - which is widely used in the gemstone trade. This material is known by other less-frequently used names including: "amethyst-citrine", "trystine", "bicolor amethyst", "bicolor quartz" and "bolivianite". The bolivianite name is a response to the material being designated as the national gemstone of Bolivia.



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Please send \$1.20 in stamps for return postage.

WWI PRINCESS MARY'S CHRISTMAS GIFT TIN



From time to time we see a small brass tin come to light amongst the possessions brought home from the First World War. It measures about 5 inches by 3 inches and has an effigy of Princess Mary facing the left surrounded by a laurel wreath with an "M" on either side. The words "Imperium Britannicum" appears centrally at the top and "Christmas 1914" appears centrally at the bottom. At the sides and corners are the names of the Allies, including

France, Russia, Belgium, Japan, Serbia and Montenegro.

On 4th November, 1914, in the Illustrated War News, a story was featured which reported that Princess Mary was appealing for help to send a Christmas present, from the Nation, to every soldier at the front. It stated that remittances should be sent to – "HRH the Princess Mary, Buckingham Palace, SW." with the envelopes to be marked "Sailors and Soldiers Christmas Fund." It seems that the idea for the embossed container united the nation and the money flowed in.

Princess Mary was the 17 year old daughter of King George V and she was determined to see that every person overseas in uniform would ultimately receive a special gift from the citizens of Britain. The idea was that they were to receive it for Christmas 1914, however despite her determination there were those who didn't actually receive theirs until 1916.

Despite the mammoth effort in such a short period of time some 355,000 were actually delivered by the first Christmas deadline, though it was 1915 before the Australian and New Zealanders received their 'gifts' though they were still very appreciative and loved the idea. There were a number of ANZACs who put pen to paper and wrote a personal letter to the Princess. Then to their surprise some received a reply.

Inside each brass tin was a photo of the attractive Princess Mary as well as a Christmas card. Also included was a selection of gifts which did vary a little as each batch was completed. Generally however each tin had tobacco, cigarettes and lighter, in many cases a small pipe for the smokers. Others received boiled sweets, sometimes chewing gum and a bullet pencil. Almost all nurses on the front line received some chocolate as did some troops. Some also received a small handwritten message from the packer though this was not an official part of the process. This small idea went on to be a hit and the 'Christmas gift' continued through the war but just not in the tin.

The idea of sending tins of goodies to the troops was not new as it was used during the Boer War. Treasured by the Boer War troops was Queen Victoria's Christmas gift of chocolate which came in a similar handsome tin. In the hand writing of the Queen were the words: "I wish you a happy New Year." Some 40,000 tins were designed by J. S. Fry & Sons of Bristol. Later tins were made by Cadbury and Rowntree. (Bathurst Stamps, Coins, Collectibles and Lapidary)

WATER FILTERS PART OF COLONIAL LIFE



There are many collectors who put together displays relating to social history or ceramic items from yesteryear. Water filters were commonly found in most colonial homes. The first types were usually made of limestone but later they were manufactured by pottery works. Patent ceramic water filters such as this were common around Bathurst, in fact F. Lassetter and Company of Sydney even brought them to Bathurst where they were displayed at the local Bathurst Show in the 1890s below.



George William Cheavin was not only a good potter but also a clever businessman. Cheavin's purchased the Fulham Pottery Works in Fulham, London, which had been founded by John Dwight somewhere around 1671. The business was to occupy the same site until it was sold and then cleared for a housing development in 1986. Fulham pottery in the early days remained under the control of John Dwight's descendants or until Charles Edward White died in 1859. For a period of about two or three years the works were operated by two men named Clements and MacIntosh before Mr. Charles Bailey purchased the company in 1864. He had some experience though he did not receive any great amount of machinery. Bailey set about modernising his new pottery works and spent a good deal of money on the project.

Some twelve months later he decided to buy another pottery works, the Vauxhall Pottery, and combine the two at the Fulham site. Early in 1869, with problems with two of his kilns, it was decided to demolish and replace one of the existing kilns at a cost of £60.



George set about designing the water filters. He did many experiments and kept abreast of what other manufacturers were doing. In 1876 he was awarded the highest prize for water filters at the prestigious Centennial International Exhibition in Philadelphia in the United States.

Charles Bailey went bankrupt in 1889 and the pottery works was taken over by the George Cheavin Filter Company which bought all the plant and stock at auction. The pottery works was located at 57a and 57b High St and was described as "comprising two shops and houses; freehold". At this time they took on an apprenticeship indenture named Alfred Hambridge, Jr., along with Charles Irvine Cunyngham Bailey who became a 'thrower'. The business seems to have been called the Fulham Pottery and Cheavin Filter Company Ltd.

By 1891 George Cheavin decided to enlarge the business and he set about increasing his sales, especially his filters. He advertised a good deal more after this time though he was quite aware of the benefits of testimonials and advertising.



CHEAVIN'S
PATENT FILTERS,
A RAPID AND EFFECTUAL
PURIFIER
OF
FOUL WATER.

Sizes and Prices, &c. on application.
F. LASSETTER and CO.,
4th, QUEENSTOWN,
SYDNEY.

Advert – George Cheavin's Victorian earthenware Rapid Water Filter and Cooler sold by F. Lassetter & Co, George Street, Sydney.

One of his earlier testimonials appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on 3rd April, 1876, where he declared – "Impure Water made Wholesome" George Cheavin's Rapid Water Filter is the best for this purpose. In reference to Sydney water before and after passing through one of Cheavin's filters, Mr. James Norrie reports as follows – Extract from analysis – "the water shows a

brown colour but after filtration this is entirely removed, and the analysis of the filtered portion reveals the fact that half the organic matter is removed – all that is possible for any filter to do. I consider this filter as good a one as could possibly be used." – 20th October, 1876. Mr. Cheavin had appointed E. Lassiter his agent in Sydney.

Another advert appeared in December 1882, when George had won the "World's Highest Prize" he claimed, for the Improved Patent Gold Prize Medal for the self cleaning (with the purest prepared charcoal). He pointed out that his filter was adopted, in preference to all others, by English and Foreign Governments, the Medical Profession and hospitals.

He also won the First Prize Medal and Grand Diploma of Honour in the Paris Exhibition of 1878. He was able to mark his filters with "By Her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent", which obviously would have added to sales especially in the southern colonies. It seems that Queen Victoria was aware of impure water and sickness and used them in her Royal households so one may find the Royal crest of arms on filters, an honour bestowed by Her Majesty.

The Haircut...

Blessed are those that can give without remembering, and take without forgetting.

One day a florist went to a barber for a haircut. After the cut, he asked about his bill, and the barber replied, 'I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week.'

The florist was pleased and left the shop.

When the barber went to open his shop the next morning, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen roses waiting for him at his door.

Later, a cop comes in for a haircut, and when he tries to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week.' The cop was happy and left the shop.

The next morning when the barber went to open up, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen donuts waiting for him at his door.

Then a Member of Parliament came in for a haircut, and when he went to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you. I'm doing community service this week.' The Member of Parliament was very happy and left the shop. The next morning, when the barber went to open up, there were a dozen Members of Parliament lined up waiting for a free haircut.

And that, my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it.

Some Gardening Ideas *The desert rose*

The desert rose (*Adenium obesum*) is a striking plant with swollen succulent stems and deep red flowers. The plant is deciduous in cooler winters, but it can be kept in leaf provided there is sufficient warmth and light water. There is no part of these plants that doesn't command interest, from the dramatically swollen stems on older plants to the bright flowers to the tight clusters of narrow, green leaves. Beware, though, the sap of the desert rose is poisonous and should never come into contact with children or pets. If you get sap on yourself while handling the plant, wash your hands immediately.



Growing Conditions:

Light: Full sun. Perfect for a sunny window.

Water: Water during the summer and spring. Reduce water in the winter, but keep hydrated enough to retain its leaves.

Temperature: Keep at least 50° at all times; if you keep temperatures of 60° or higher during the winter, the plant may retain its leaves.

Soil: A well-drained succulent mix, with an ideal pH around 6.0 (slightly acidic).

Fertilizer: Fertilize during spring and summer with controlled-release fertilizer or liquid fertilizer according to label directions.

Propagation: Typically by seed. If your plant develops a seed pod, plant the seeds as soon as possible after the pod ripens to maximize chances of germination. The desert rose can be propagated from branch cuttings, but these plants often fail to develop the characteristic (and highly desired) bulbous stem.

Repotting: Repot as needed, preferably during the warm season. To repot a succulent, make sure the soil is dry before repotting, then gently remove the plant from the pot. Knock away the old soil from the roots, making sure to remove any rotted or dead roots in the process. Treat any cuts with a fungicide and antibacterial solution. Place the plant in its new pot and backfill with potting soil, spreading the roots out as you repot. Leave the plant dry for a week or so, then begin to water lightly to reduce the risk of root rot.

Varieties: *Adenium* belongs to the genera *Apocynaceae*, which is native to Africa, the Middle East and Madagascar. The desert rose (*A. obesum*) is the only *Adenium* found in wide cultivation, although it has been hybridized extensively to obtain different flower colors, including orange, white, striped and the traditional red.

Grower's Tips: These are not difficult plants to grow well, provided they get enough sunlight and warmth. Like all succulents, they cannot tolerate sitting in water, and if you err, do it on the side of too little water. Use a specialized soil mix designed for succulents and cacti.

Calendar of Events for 2013 -2014

Nov.

2nd & 3rd

Illawarra Club - Annual Exhibition
Canberra Gemcraft and Mineral Club
Cessnock Gem and Mineral Club Annual Auction

Ribbonwood Centre, Princes Highway, Dapto.
Canberra Lapidary Club Parkes Room Exhibition Park.
Hall Park - Stephen St Cessnock,
Club Rooms - 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville.

8th, 9th 10th

Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club.
-Annual Exhibition

9th & 10th

Newcastle Annual Jewellery Show

Club Rooms 2 Dora Rd Adamstown. For more information contact the club 0249529611 or email newlap@gmail.com.

23rd-24th

Gem and Mineral Show

Windsor

30th & 1st Dec

Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Inc

Bathurst Showground Sydney Road Bathurst.

March 2014

15th & 16th

23rd Annual Gem And Craft Show
- New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club Inc.

Armidale Showground.

22nd

Newcastle Lapidary Rock Auction

2 Dora Rd Adamstown

April

5th & 6th

Rock Swap - Canberra Lapidary Club

18th -21st

GEMBOREE

Gatton Qld.

May

9th - 11th

Hawkesbury Agricultural Society Show

17th-18th

Lismore Gemfest

Lismore Showground.

GEMBOREE DATES.

2015 GEMBOREE - Vic

(Apr 3

2016 GEMBOREE - Tas

(Mar 25

2017 GEMBOREE - NSW

(Apr 14

2018 GEMBOREE - QGCA

(Mar 30

Summary of GENERAL MEETING of October 23, 2013, Held at the clubrooms of the Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club

The meeting was opened at 1.15pm by President, Joan Ball (Bankstown) from Minsoc (Arthur Roffey), Northern Districts (Barbara Try), Central Coast (Tony Try), Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill), AFG (Nelson Robertson), Port Hacking (Wally Dove), Bankstown (Bev Hodder), Parramatta-Holroyd (John & Marilyn Behrens) Clubs, and visitors Colin Wright and Brian Beauchamp.

Apologies:). Moved Minsoc, seconded Northern Districts, that apologies be recorded.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Sept 25): *Moved Central Coast, seconded Port Hacking the minutes be accepted.*

Business Arising from the Minutes: Lithgow City Council advised there is no extra cost for the use of the tables, chairs and partitions that are already inside the building we have booked for the 2017 GMB. An extra charge will be made for the microphone. Further tables are available, but they are trestle-type and not a good idea for a show such as this.

Correspondence *Moved Central Coast, seconded Port Hacking that Inward Correspondence be received, and Outward Correspondence be endorsed.*

Business Arising from the Correspondence: as above

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Assistant Treasurer, John Behrens

Moved John Behrens, seconded Port Hacking that the report be accepted and accounts be paid.

Treasurer Francisca has finished chemotherapy and is doing OK.

Editor's Report: Barbara asked Sandra to put a note into the G&L News to remind members to update their website details. A link to the webmaster (also to the Secretary and Editor) are on Councils website (listed below). Marilyn will advise Sandra of the new procedure for personal accident premiums, and ask her to print them.

Education Report: A jewellery workshop has been allocated to Rooty Hill on November 23-24.

We have a new Education Officer, Gordon Sullivan of Parramatta-Holroyd Club. Thank you Gordon.

GEMBOREE 2017: A co-ordinator is needed

Moved Central Coast, seconded Bankstown that reports be received.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Following an accident at the GEMKHANA, it was decided the Council should have its own first aid kit to take to all Council events. Therefore the Secretary was asked to compile a minimal kit and hold it in his care.
2. Rubber mats are used on the floor at events such as GEMKHANAS and GEMBOREES and until now have been borrowed. The meeting decided Council should have its own and approved the purchase of material that can be cut into appropriate size mats. The cost of material recently looked at is \$77/m which can be cut to size, but before purchasing this we will investigate material in the mat Mick Lane recently gave to Council.
3. Annual reports are due.

The meeting closed at 2.35pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, 27 November at 1pm - at the clubrooms of Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club

*Australia's 50th
National Gem, Lapidary,
Jewellery and Mineral
Show*

*GEMBOREE 2014 is to
be*

*held in Gatton
Queensland,*

18 – 21 April 2014.