

Gem and Lapidary

News

February 2014

Vol 40 No 1

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).

Life Councillors: Ron Beattie, Dot Caladine (dec), Reg Grebert, Frank Hall (dec), Maurya Hutton, Marie Jenkins, Dick Moppett (dec), Arthur Roffey, Bob Wright.

EXECUTIVE:

President: Joan Ball OAM (Bankstown) 02 9773 5092 h
 Vice Presidents: Barbara Try (Northern Districts) 0417 676 435m
 Tony Try (Central Coast)
 Secretary: Arthur Roffey (MinSoc) 0245 725 812 h
 crystalhabit@bigpond.com
 Minute Secretary: Marilyn Behrens (Parra-Holroyd) 02 9635 8218 h
 Treasurer: Francisca Siow (Parra-Holroyd)
 Assist. Treasurer: John Behrens (Parra-Holroyd) 02 9635 8218 h
 Committee: Ron Jones ((Parra-Holroyd)
 Shirley Flynn (Western Suburbs)
 Wally 'Dove' (Port Hacking)
 Shirley Harris (NSW)

Appointments: Public Officer, John Vincent; Honorary Auditor, J Smith OAM, FCPA, MACS, PCP; Editor, Sandra Maher: editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au Education Officer Gordon Sullivan, John Behrens, Equipment Officer; Magazine-Newsletter Competition Judges: Wally Dove and John Behrens.

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.

1-5	Council News
6	Star and Cat's Eye Stones
7-10	Club Activities 2013
11-12	Ammolite
13	AFG Notice
14	Obituary
15	Your Council Members
16-17	Great Victoria Desert
18	Petrified Wood

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
Saturday, February 22nd: 10.30am

At the Clubrooms of the Illawarra Lapidary Club, Tarrawanna Hall, 52 Meadow St, Tarrawanna

Please do come, you will be made very welcome

*** DEADLINE FOR COPY for
March, 2014 issue *
Friday February 28th, 2014**

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

CONGRATULATIONS !!

There have been two courses to train judges recently. The first was for Cabochon Judges in December, 2013. As a result of that course the following five people were successful and have now been appointed as Cabochon Judges. They are – Rod Powell [Northern Districts LC]; Jacqueline Burnett [Northern Districts LC]; Kathy Selwood [Orange LC]; Cheryl Blanch [Central Coast LC] and Danny Rootham [Central Coast LC]. Of these five people, four are “newbies” [new judges], while Kathy has now added another “cap” to her judging portfolio.

The second was for Jewellery and Metalcraft Judges in February, 2014. As a result of this course the following four people were also successful in completing the course and are now judges in the following categories; Kathy Selwood [Orange LC] – Jewellery and Metalcraft; Alan Clarke [Central Coast LC] – Jewellery and Metalcraft; Barbara Try [Northern Districts LC] – Jewellery and Metalcraft; Annette Clarke [Central Coast LC] – Metalcraft. All of these latter four judges have also added another “cap” to their judging portfolios.

Congratulations to all concerned.

Barbara Try

Chairperson

Judging and Rules Committee

Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW

J&R Report

Annette Clarke will hold an enamelling judges course on March 22 & 23. There are 5 candidates, and room for more if anyone would like to do this course. In any event, places are being offered to QLACCA and VGCA.

A 2 day mineral judging course is to be held on Sat Apr 24 at Central Coast clubrooms, with successful candidates doing a second day on Sat May 3 at Northern Districts. There are 4 candidates, and room for more.

Nelson has had apprentice tutors at some of the judging courses - Brian Burns at the jewellery judging course, Paul Sabolta at the faceting judging course and Kathy Selwood at the carving judging course.

J&R Report Cont.

Barbara noted that a lot has been happening over the Christmas break and thanked all the tutors for taking on the extra work.

If you are interested in taking part in any of the above (or any other) courses, Barbara will be pleased to discuss them with you. Contact Barbara Try on 4393 6168, mobile [0417 676 435](tel:0417676435).

Editor's Report: Sandra reported a small delay with printing for the December issue. Deadline for the Feb issue is the Jan 28th. The possibility of a "Skins Polishing" tutorial was discussed following the article in the Dec issue.

Further to the Sept meeting minutes, when clubs were asked to comment on making the *G&L News* available on the website – only one comment was received. Sandra is now asked to send the magazine to the Webmaster, Alex, and have it put on the website, making it freely available. Anyone wanting a paper copy, can still pay at the advertised rate and receive it by regular mail. It is hoped by making it freely available more businesses will find it a worthwhile avenue.

Sandra will be asked to advise everyone who receives copies of the *G&L News* of the new arrangement, by putting a notice into the *G&L News*, AND by putting a notice into the envelope with the *G&L News* and send the PDF file to Alex.

Education Report: Nelson reported in Gordon's absence. All the free courses, provided as a benefit of the Bathurst GEMBOREE, are now complete.

Nelson will hold a silver jewellery workshop at Rooty Hill Club on February 16-17. A carving and a faceting workshop are planned after Easter.

GEMKHANA Report: Arthur has withdrawn his offer to be co-ordinator, but will still be available to help. Therefore, Marilyn has taken on the role, and Arthur will handle dealers.

Recently Barbara and Arthur have looked for a suitable venue for this year. Castle Hill, Lithgow and Gosford are not available, Bathurst is not suitable, Dapto and Goulburn are both considered suitable. We will work on Goulburn for now and Marilyn will contact the Goulburn Club, Council and Tourist Office.

Considering Bruce Copper's thoughts, the first was discussed, "What sort of show do we want?" A GEMKHANA must include a competition. Should it be purely lapidary, with reducing numbers of participants and visitors, or should people with other interests be invited/accepted as dealers and/or tailgaters? What can be added to the show to make it more inviting to participants and visitors? **HELP, we need the ideas of members.**

More discussion next month, and probably more into the future.

Sterling Silver

Your Best Option



Best Prices
Best Range
Best Quality
Made in Australia
Environmentally Friendly

Silver, Gold, Findings, Settings, Chain,
Bi-Metals, Cords, Specialty Alloys

[p] 1300 360 598
[f] 02 8568 4240
[e] sales@aemetal.com.au

68 Smith Street
Marrickville
NSW 2204

A&E

A&E METAL MERCHANTS

www.aemetal.com.au

GEMBOREE 2017: Lithgow

THE POSITION OF CO-ORDINATOR NEEDS TO BE FILLED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY. It is becoming important that people/clubs undertake a role. To this end consideration is being given to breaking up some of the traditional jobs to see how the workload may be spread or, perhaps, two clubs working together to fulfil a role. A new position has been added - that of publicity officer who would be responsible for getting advertising, especially, for the GMB booklet. The competition schedule has to be ready by the end of this year.

**● DON'T FORGET GEMBOREE GATTON EASTER
2014****Robilt Lapidary Supplies****167 Endeavour Drive North Cranbourne 3977****P.O.Box 179 Doveton Victoria 3177****Ph : (03) 5996 0750 Fax : (03) 5995 7505 Mob : 0414 469 203 ABN 37 856 874 788***Email : robilt@unite.com.au***Manufacturers of Lapidary Machines for over 45 years****Tumblers – Trimsaws – Slabsaws – Grinders - Polishers****Vibro Laps – Flat Laps – Faceting & Combination Machines****Suppliers of Grits – Laps – Wheels – Blades – Dops – Discs.*****Service – Repairs – Spare Parts - Rough – Cut – Polished Stones******Servicing Your Lapidary Needs***

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

The G&LC delegates asked clubs (in the minutes of the September 2013 meeting) to advise them on how to proceed with making the *Gem & Lapidary News* available on its website. Since only one club has responded, ***delegates decided to put the magazine onto the website – free of charge.***

All member clubs will continue to receive a paper copy, as they do now.

If subscribers require a ***paper version*** posted to their club or their home, the cost will continue to be as it is now. Alternatively, if subscribers would like to download their copies from the website, ***please do.*** Any member may now download a copy of the newsletter from the website.

If you, dear subscriber, would like to continue receiving a paper copy, please return your renewal notice and fees as usual.

You now have the option of paying for a paper copy as in the past or just downloading a copy from the website if you prefer.

Change of Meeting Venue

As noted in the minutes, Illawarra Club have invited the G & L Council to hold their February meeting at their Club rooms.

The G & L Council cannot invite themselves to your Club but you can invite them to hold a meeting at your Club rooms so that you can participate in the meeting and meet your Council members.

This could be a good opportunity to combine a meeting with some workshops or classes and invite other clubs in your area who are within reasonable travelling distance. It gives Council members the opportunity to get to know your Club and its facilities and to become familiar with areas that may be suitable venues in the future for GEMBOREE'S or GEMKHANA'S

BLUE GEMS.Com.Au

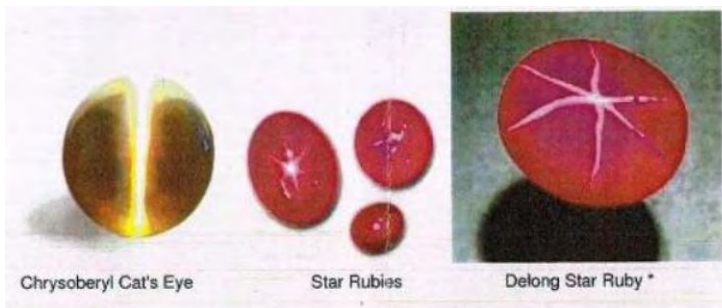
ABN 62669458316

"Djuloom" North Arm Rd, Bowraville
NSW 2449 Ph 6564 4119**MINERAL COLLECTIONS
PURCHASED**Gold, Silver, Jewellery Supplies
TOP SHELF MINERAL**Star and Cat's –Eye Stones. (Pointer Aug, 2013)**

Cabochons can resemble a cat's eye when they have many needle- like inclusions of hollow tubes all parallel to each other, and are cut properly. When the cabochon is placed under a concentrated light source, a band of reflected light is visible across the top of the cabochon. This effect is called chatoyancy and stones that display it are said to be chatoyant (from the Fren^t 'chat' – cat).

A good cats's-eye stone will have a sharp, straight, narrow band, the 'eye', positioned in the centre of the cabochon. The band should be white or grey not the colour of the stone and should extend all the way down the stone. The cabochon should be translucent rather than opaque or clear.

When these stones are cut as cabochons the bands of reflected light may cross each other in the centre, forming a star. The half of the band that starts at the centre and goes to the edge of the stone is called a ray. Star gems generally have from four to twelve rays. Star rubies and star sapphires are the best known of these gems, but others that can display stars are quartz, spinel, garnet and ruby. The three bars of a six-rayed star were thought to represent faith, hope and charity. Star sapphires warded off bad omens.



Chrysoberyl Cat's Eye

Star Rubies

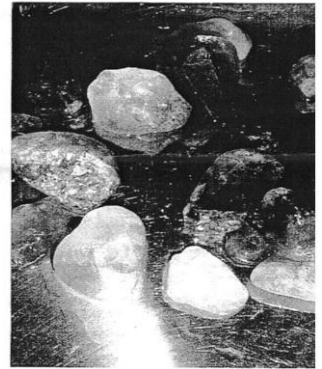
Delong Star Ruby *

Club Activities in 2013



Bankstown trip Tingha

Lismore Field Trip Ewingar



Some of the crystal we collected

Byron Trip to Hogarth Range



Debbie took up her spot, sat and sieved through the dirt and didn't move from HER SPOT all day (apart from break for lunch under the main tree).

Fossil Club at Wee Jasper





Olivine Bomb Cracking at the Club 28 Sept



Fairfield and District Fundraising Bunnings

Canberra

Campbelltown

Workshop Report

"Crystal Sun Necklace"

On the 26th of October we had a workshop on making a Crystal Sun Necklace. Making the necklace was not too difficult but we had to learn some basic jewellery making techniques such as making Eyepins and using jump rings. Clarice, Heather and Carolyna participated in the workshop and it was taught by Suzy.



Byron

The stone in the ring below was faceted by Terry.



And to the right is a piece of Columbian Amber, which has been worked by Jeanette S.



Byron.

Uli Does Lost Wax Casting

Uli spent a day at the Lismore Club recently honing his Lost Wax Casting skills. At the first LWC workshop we had at our Club, in January 2012, Uli stood out as having some potential in the field. He had a few more goes at the Club and from the results he gained at Lismore it is obvious that he has the technique sussed!

Well done Uli.



Lil running the children's gem card & fun was had by both children and adults

Campbelltown Aug Exhibition

Newcastle Club

Orange Club

KNOT BRACELET

Below is a photo of a bracelet made by one of the club's youngest members, Joel.



Jul 2013 pg 3

End of Year Awards night.





Chain making Northern Districts.

FOR SALE

LENSON Type "E" faceting machine
\$2800

- * Accurate Digital Read Out system
- * Positive lock Fine Increment adjustment "cheater" system
- * Heavy duty quill and head with flex free mast
- * Accurate Fine Height adjustment mechanism
- * Variable speed motor with dual voltage circuit , 240 v AC , 12 v Dc supply sockets fitted

For a detailed brochure , e-mail me at leonardh4@hotmail.co
or 0405087321

Ammolite (Various Sources)

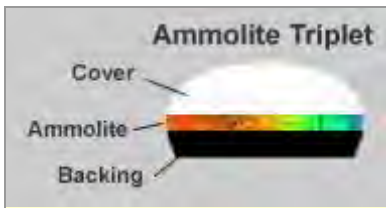
Ammolite, is an opal-like organic gemstone found primarily along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains of North America. It is made of the fossilized shells of ammonites, which in turn are composed primarily of aragonite, the same mineral that makes up nacreous pearls. It is one of few biogenic gemstones; others include amber and pearl.

An iridescent opal-like play of colour is shown in fine specimens, mostly in shades of green and red; all the spectral colours are possible, however. The iridescence is due to the microstructure of the aragonite: unlike most other gems, whose colours come from light absorption, the iridescent colour of ammolite comes from interference with the light that rebounds from stacked layers of thin platelets that make up the aragonite. The thicker the layers, the more reds and greens are produced; the thinner the layers, the more blues and violets predominate. Reds and greens are the most commonly seen colours, owing to the greater fragility of the finer layers responsible for the blues. When freshly quarried, these colours are not especially dramatic; the material requires polishing and possibly other treatments in order to reveal the colours' full potential.

Ammolite is a rare material. All of the world's commercial production comes from a small area along the St. Mary River in southwestern Alberta, Canada. There, two companies mine Ammolite from thin layers in the Bearpaw Formation where the ammonite fossils are found.

Ammolite Gemstones

The colour-producing shell layer of Ammolite is usually very thin (often less than one millimeter) and attached to a dark gray to brown base of shale or siderite. Exceptional pieces can be cut into gems without stabilization.



Most Ammolite is used to produce triplets. These are made by backing the fragile iridescent material with a thin slab for stability and topping it with a transparent cover for protection.

Clear quartz or spinel can be used for the transparent cover. Black shale or another material can be used for the backing. Some Ammolite is made into doublets using the same technique as for opals.

When assembled stones include a clear cap, it normally has a minimum amount of doming to provide the best view of the Ammolite below. A small number of stones have a faceted cap for customers who like that appearance. Uncapped stones are best used in earrings, brooches, pins and pendants where abrasion and impact are less likely. This is because the material is soft (H: 3.5 to 4), brittle and can cleave upon impact.

The story of Ammolite begins about 70 to 75 million years ago when forces within the Earth were building the Rocky Mountains in what is now northwestern North America. The area on the east side of the mountains was covered by a broad body of water known as the Western Interior Seaway. It connected what is now the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean.

Rains falling on the eastern flank of the young Rocky Mountains washed sediments into the seaway. These sediments accumulated and eventually formed a rock unit known as the Bearpaw Formation. The Bearpaw is composed primarily of marine shale but contains some thin sandstones and layers of volcanic ash.

The Western Interior Seaway contained many forms of life, including bony fish, shellfish, sharks, sea turtles and ammonites. Ammonites, the source organism for Ammolite, are an extinct group of marine invertebrates that possessed a tightly-coiled shell similar to the modern *Nautilus*. The ammonites in the seaway grew to a diameter of up to one meter but most were about 1/4 to 1/2 that size.

When the ammonites died their shells fell to the bottom of the seaway and were covered with sediment. Many of them served as a nucleus for the formation of siderite concretions which are now found in the Bearpaw Formation. The ammonite fossils within these concretions sometimes have an outer shell layer composed of gem-quality Ammolite. (Various Sources





The Australian Facetors' Guilds' aim are to promote the art of Faceting Natural & Synthetic materials, to promote the study of all materials and articles used for faceting, to hold competitions, exhibitions, seminars and tutorial classes, to sell & distribute literature in relation to faceting, promote

research and development in faceting and the proper utilisation of Australian gemstone resources.

Members are kept up to date of activities through the Guilds' bi-monthly magazine called Facet talk. It contains reports on branch activities, faceting information & diagrams, competition schedules & results, articles on gemstones and other information related to lapidary.

The Guild has an Annual Seminar held in various places, Website www.facetorsguild.com.au and the choice of Electronic or hardcopy Facet Talk.

Branches hold workshops throughout various regions with the Sydney Branch being actively involved with workshops and demonstrations at local gem shows.

The dates for Sydney Branch activities for 2014 are:

February 16th

May 18th

Aug 17th

Nov 16th

For information, contact the Secretary, Paul Sabolta 0415211475 or

E-mail atlobas53@yahoo.com.au

Obituary (From Marilyn)

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense,

- * who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure
- * how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic
- * red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- * - Knowing when to come in out of the rain;

- * - Why the early bird gets the worm; * - Life isn't always fair;

- * - And maybe it was my fault.

- * Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

- * His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing

- * regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual

- * harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

- * Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

- * It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent

- * to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a

- * student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

- * Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

- * Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

- * Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

- * Common Sense was preceded in death,-by his parents, Truth and Trust,

- * -by his wife, Discretion,

- * -by his daughter, Responsibility,

- * -and by his son, Reason.

- * He is survived by his 5 stepbrothers;

- * - I Know My Rights

- * - I Want It Now

- * - Someone Else Is To Blame

- * I'm A Victim

- * Pay me for Doing Nothing

- * Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.



For 50 years we have been manufacturing and supplying quality base metal Findings and Mountings to Lapidary and Craft enthusiasts.

Shop online for a large range of:

- ❖ Findings
- Chains – Neck chains and Bulk chain
- Mountings: Rings, Pendants, Brooches, Bracelets etc.
- ❖ Snap –Tite™ Settings – Sterling Silver and Gold Filled
- ❖ Discounted and close-out Specials

www.australianlapidarysupplies.com.au

Phone: 02 95318922 Email: sales@australianlapidarysupplies.com.au

Discount for Lapidary Clubs and Members

Simply order online and type in coupon code: **lapidary** at checkout.

Your Council Members

Arthur Roffe

In the Queen's Birthday Honours last year, Arthur was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to lapidary and mineralogy. I have a newspaper article which tells us Arthur's answers to the questions asked at this time: Arthur is an 85 year old retired building contractor. His lapidary interests were aroused in 1959 when a council inspector at a building site asked him to join a lapidary club. Since Arthur likes using his hands, he decided to give this a go. Arthur went on to say he "liked things with an aesthetic appeal, so became interested in mineral specimens".

Arthur is a member of the Mineralogical Society of NSW, Blaxland Lapidary Club; has been Secretary of the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW for 20 years, and is President of AFLACA. He has been involved in setting up constitutions, judging policies, teaching policies and any number of other aspects of administration for NSW and Australia. Arthur has been an active member of other lapidary clubs, depending on where his home was. He was a mineral dealer for many years and brought some magnificent mineral specimens back from Tucson to share with his customers and to also add to his own collection. This collection covers a wide range of minerals, but he specialises in collecting quartz- and he has some not only exquisite pieces, but oddball pieces too. Besides mineral collecting, I've seen Arthur's name in the results of cabbing competitions, he has faceted, cut spheres, and done some jewellery making, carving and copper shim.



The Great Victoria Desert (GVD) is not even near Victoria. It was, however, named after the same queen by the explorer Ernest Giles in 1875.

The GVD is the largest dune desert in Australia, covering 424,400 square kilometres (that's over 42 million hectares). It straddles the South Australia / Western Australia border, stretching more than 700 kilometres from west to east. It experiences low rainfall which averages around 200 mm to 250 mm per year, but the rains vary greatly from year to year. The desert is surrounded by arid areas - the Gibson Desert to the north, the Tirari and Sturt's Stony Desert to the east, the Nullarbor Plain to the south and Western Australian mallee scrub to the west. The GVD is very sparsely populated and it supports virtually no farming. It's central area has never been grazed and is infested by almost no weed plants at all. Some mining activity is encroaching from the east.

Dry as it is, the GVD includes some remarkably diverse areas. Its Mamungari Conservation Park is one of twelve World Biosphere Reserves in Australia. This means that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the Mamungari park has both high biodiversity and legal protection from exploitation. In 2007, UNESCO had identified 529 biosphere reserves in 107 countries. Travellers familiar with the Simpson and other sandy Australian deserts will find an almost bewildering variety of plant life in the GVD. The trees are particularly spectacular - see our [Plants](#) web page. For animals, the GVD acts as a corridor which connects the mallee areas of eastern and western Australia.

Aboriginal people have used the Great Victoria Desert area for at least 24,000 years. A number of Aboriginal groups in the GVD and surrounding central Australian areas form the 'Western Desert Cultural Bloc' which has a common base language and an agreed social structure of long standing. Extended usage of the GVD proper was generally restricted to post-rainfall periods and the groups moved frequently to take advantage of what the land had to offer. Highly specialised water finding, collecting and storage systems were developed. The development of tracks and the availability of vehicles and supplies have now allowed several permanent Aboriginal communities to be established in the desert



The Friends of the Great Victoria Desert Parks was formed in March 1994. The group is affiliated with [Friends of Parks Inc](#) and operates under a memorandum of understanding with the South Australian Department for Environment Water and Natural Resources. We are supported by district rangers in Ceduna and Port Augusta, and our activities are planned with them and approved by the traditional owners of the area

Our members come from all walks of life. Some are retired and some are in full-time or part-time work. All, however, have a passion for the bush and a keen interest in natural and cultural history. The group has experts in identifying a whole range of flora and fauna and these folk are only too willing to share their skills and knowledge. Our group also has people who enjoy photography.

A Different Type of Field Trip.

The Friends' main activity each year is a field trip to some part of the vast Great Victoria Desert. The trips are generally held over two weeks in the cooler months. Members travel in their own vehicles and we are often supported by DEH staff. In recent years the trips have concentrated on biological survey work, but a great deal of valuable clean-up and track clearing work has been undertaken in the past. Our field trips are conducted in a relaxed, friendly manner. Lots gets done, but we take full account of the harsh environment and the long distances involved; not to mention the average age of our members. We camp out every night and a great sense of camaraderie quickly develops. The links above will take you to summaries, photos and reports which will give you a feel for the work involved and how we went about it. Hundreds more field trip photos can be viewed at [Friends of the GVD on Picasa Web Albums](#).



These are just some of the wonderful photos available on <http://www.communitywebs.org/fqvd/>

Petrified Wood

Petrified wood is a fossil. It forms when plant material is buried by sediment and protected from decay by oxygen and organisms. Then, groundwater rich in dissolved solids flows through the sediment replacing the original plant material with silica, calcite, pyrite or another inorganic material such as opal. The result is a fossil of the original woody material that often exhibits preserved details of the bark, wood and cellular structures.



Some specimens of petrified wood are such accurate preservations that people do not realize they are fossils until they pick them up and are shocked by their weight. These specimens with near perfect preservation are unusual; however, specimens that exhibit clearly recognizable bark and woody structures are very common.

Only a small fraction of petrified wood is suitable for lapidary work. Poorly preserved specimens, those with lots of voids or closely-spaced fractures do not polish well or break while being worked. Specimens with no fractures or voids and with spectacular colour are highly prized for lapidary work.

Lapidary Uses of Petrified Wood

Petrified wood is often used in lapidary work. It is cut into shapes for making jewelry, sawn into blocks to make bookends, sawn into thick slabs to make table tops, and sawn into thin slabs for clock faces, cut into cabochons, used to make tumbled stones and many other crafts. Small pieces of petrified wood can be placed in a rock tumbler to make tumbled stones.



Found in most parts of Australia, especially in areas near coal deposits. When prospecting on beaches at low tide, creeks and rivers and ancient valleys which have been exposed by water erosion. Areas of past volcanic activity, where wood already petrified has been covered by lava will often reward the fossicker. A good place to look, too, is in the gutters beside roads in areas where the surface has been quarried

from petrified wood areas. (Various Sources)

Calendar of Events for 2013 -2014

March 2014		
7 th -9 th	Minerama	Glen Innes Services Club
15 th & 16 th	23 rd Annual Gem And Craft Show - New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club Inc. Hobart , Gem Mineral and Fossil Show	Armidale Showground.
22 nd	Newcastle Lapidary Rock Auction	Grandstand Hall, Hobart Showground Tasmania. 2 Dora Rd Adamstown
22 nd & 23 rd	East Devonport Jewellery Gem & Mineral Fair	East Devonport Primary School, Thomas Street, East Devonport. Tas
April		
5 th & 6 th	Rock Swap – Canberra Lapidary Club	
18 th -21 st	GEMBOREE	Gatton Qld.
May		
3-4th	Redcliffe Gem and Mineral and Craft Show	Southern Cross Catholic College Kippa-Ring Qld
9 th – 11th	Hawkesbury Agricultural Society Show	
17 th -18 th	Lismore Gemfest	Lismore Showground.
24 th	Mt Gravatt Gem Show	Mt. Gravatt Club House 1873 Logan Rd Mt Gravatt Qld
31 st – 1 st June	Gumyah Club Lapidary Display	Mt Coofha Botanical Gardens Qld.
June		
7 th & 8th	Canberra Lapidary – Winter Show	
21 st	Deception Bay Gem Show	Community Hall Cnr Ewart St and Raymond Terrace Qld
28 th	Gold Coast Gem and Craft Show	80 Pacific Ave Miami Pizzezy Park Qld

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 February 22, 2014 Held at the clubrooms of the Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club

The meeting was opened at 1.00pm by Vice-President, Barbara Try (Northern Districts), and wished everyone a Happy New Year .

Apologies Moved Minsoc, seconded Parramatta-Holroyd, that apologies be recorded Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Dec 11, 2013): Moved Western Suburbs, seconded Central Coast the minutes be accepted. Business Arising from the Minutes: nil Correspondence

IN

1. From Illawarra Club members asking for numbers attending the February meeting at their clubrooms of the Illawarra Club on Saturday, February 22, and times. Secretary asked to advise that 14 delegates will attend and nominating 10.30 for morning tea and 11.30 for the meeting to start.

2. *Port Hacking Club advises its new secretary is Kathy Fisher. Other positions unchanged at the election.*

3. *O Monty asking when the next casting class will be held. Secretary asked to follow up.*

4. *Hawkesbury Show Society asked for the names of judges for its show (judging day is May*

5, the show itself will be on May 9-11.5. Dept of Fair Trading receipt received for lodgement of returns.7.

Bruce Copper sent his thoughts on future GEMKHANAS

OUT

6. *Barbara Try advised of a successful cabochon judging course, when 4 new candidates became judges and another has a new section to add to her list. Barbara and her supporter, Tony, were thanked for their work. Barbara has "Judges" badges to present to the successful candidates.*

A Jewellery & Metalcraft judges course was held on Jan 18-19. with 4 candidates, all of whom are already judges in other aspects of lapidary. Nelson commented on the skills of these candidates and congratulated them on their outstanding success. Nelson was thanked for running the course.

8. *Parra-Holroyd nominated John Behrens to the J&R Panel, Minsoc seconded, meeting approved.*

9. *Parra-Holroyd agreed to the request to use its clubrooms for judging GEMKHANA competition entries. Paul Sabolta of this Club is the Competition Organiser and other members of the committee are Barbara Clarke and Joe Stellino. The schedule should be available in a couple of weeks on Council's website and in the G&L News. Other club members agreed to help with running and setting up the competition.*

Moved Parramatta-Holroyd, seconded Port Hacking that Inward Correspondence be received, and Outward Correspondence be endorsed.

Business Arising from the Correspondence: as above

Treasurer's Report: not received

The following accounts were approved for payment: Officeworks \$119.96 (G&L News), A Roffey \$52 (annual returns), \$45 (Incorporation Certificate), \$5.50 (postage), WIN \$358.60 (remainder of GMK advertising), Telstra \$25.29, B Try \$300 (cab judging course).

Moved John Behrens, seconded Central Coast that the report be accepted and accounts be paid.

(Other Reports in Council News)

Moved Central Coast, seconded Bankstown that reports be received.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The February meeting will be at Illawarra Club,

The meeting closed at 2.25pm

Next meeting: Saturday, February 22 at the clubrooms of the Illawarra Lapidary Club,

Important!! Important!!

***You can now download a copy of this newsletter
from the Gem and Lapidary Council website for
free.***



Australia's 50th

***National Gem, Lapidary, Jewellery and Mineral
Show***

***GEMBOREE 2014 is to be
held in Gatton Queensland,***

18 – 21 April 2014.