

Gem and Lapidary

News

September 2014

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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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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

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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 September 24th at the clubrooms of the Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club
73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

Please do come, you will be made very welcome

* DEADLINE FOR COPY for
October, 2014 issue *
Friday September 26th 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.

Extract and Reports from Council Minutes 27/08/2014

J&R Report: Illawarra Club members will hold their first judging day on October 18 at their clubrooms.

Barbara is allocating judges to competition judging while Joan is out of action. Judges have allocated for competition judging at Central Coast, Northern Districts, Parra-Holroyd and Illawarra. GEMKHANA judging is done now until we get to Goulburn.

Editor's Report: Nothing to report today.

Education Report: New England Club cancelled the carving course due to insufficient people. Delegates are asked to think about how to overcome this difficulty for country clubs. This also brought to attention the fact that training judges, costs quite a lot of money and Tony was asked to write an article for the *G&L News* about the cost of training judges, to inform members of one aspect of Council's activities.

GEMKHANA Report: Basketball Pavilion, Goulburn Showground, October 4,5,6.

Competition entries that can be judged in advance of the GEMKHANA have been judged – some lovely work – hope you will all be there to see it.

TV, radio and newspaper ads are booked. Please tell us if you hear or see any of them
Camping is available \$20/n. Tables & chairs are booked. We didn't plan any fieldtrips, but if we can twist some arms we may have one or two new sites. Among the demonstrations will be children showing their stuff. Could do with some help on the children's activities.

Looking at a BBQ or pizza tea one night and maybe a quiz & something the other night. The Convoy for Kids people are delighted with our offer to donate the raffle proceeds to them and they have a big day about a month after the GEMKHANA.

GEMBOREE 2017: Lithgow – Easter

Some roles have been filled, but there are still more. It is vital we find Registrar very soon, and he/she will need the support of a club.

Alan McRae has been added to the mailing list for these minutes and the Secretary will shortly be in touch with the Lithgow tourist officer.

The competition schedule is almost finished.

Will ask Alan to get a quote for printing the booklet (using 2011 booklet as a guide) so advertising costs can be determined.

We have two entries in the **competition for a logo** and the winner will be decided next month.

Moved Parramatta-Holroyd, seconded Port Hacking that reports be received.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

None, but that leaves time for an address by Steve Dangaard.

Since December 2012, NAPFA has been lobbying and making submissions to relevant State Government Departments about diminished access to areas suitable for prospecting (for gold) and fossicking. They are being successful in having people listen to them and some action is following, but there is still a lot more to do.

Steve noted that the Dept Min Res website points out that prospectors/fossickers cannot sue a landowner for something you do yourself – such as fall down a hole and break a leg. *Look at the Mining Resources & Energy website.* Permission is still, as always, needed to enter land belonging to another person, private or public.

This meeting was to introduce our two groups to each other (consultation) and so we can provide a united front to the government.

The meeting closed at 3.50pm

Educational Courses

The Council is pleased to offer a range of interesting courses in the craft of lapidary. The minimum number in a class will depend on the type of class and complexity of the class.

Course	Max People per class
1. Cabbing	Max 10
2. Carving	Max 10
3. Enamelling	Max 10
4. Faceting	Max 10
5. Mineral Appreciation	Max 10
6. Opal	Max 10
7. Silver Jewellery and Smithing	Max 10
8. Casting Lost Wax	Max 10
9. Casting Cuttlefish	Max 10
10. Wire Wrapping	Max 10

If you would like to see some photos from some of our courses please visit our gallery here <http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/galleries/education-courses/>

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New Judges

Congratulating our newly qualified Carving Judges? They are Juanita Willoughby from Orange Lapidary Club, Frances Sun from Northern Districts Lapidary Club and Cheryl Blanch from Central Coast Lapidary Club who completed their Judging course in June.



Nelson Robertson, with Frances Sun, Cheryl Blanch and Juanita Willoughby at the Central Coast Lapidary Club rooms where the course was held. The other photo is Juanita receiving her Judging certificate from Karen Ruddy at Orange Club.

For Special Attention.

Following a request last month about junior members – Barbara supplied a *Working with Children Check* document from the NSW Government which members who work with children can fill in and then be kept in the club files. It does not need to be submitted to police or anyone else, but it does show the club is fulfilling its obligation in due diligence and care. *A copy is being sent to clubs with these minutes.*

When a **direct payment** is made to Council, please send a note, or an email, or phone the Secretary so we know where it came from. Bank statements do not show who made these payments.

The 51st National Gem & Mineral Show, GEMBOREE 2015 will be held in Horsham, Victoria 3rd- 6th April 2015. Venue is Wimmera Events Centre, Longerenong Rd, Dooen, via Horsham

GEMBOREE MATTERS (Des McKiernan Secretary GEMBOREE 2015)

The Australian Facetors Guild Ltd has through the President Graham Kinsela offered to conduct a course on GEMCAD and support program, Data View at the 2015 GEMBOREE. This course will be conducted at no cost to participants and will be of four hours duration. If participants do not have this program on their computer this will be loaded on also at no cost.

It is anticipated that the course will take place on Sunday 5th April, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm.
Participants will need to be:

- a) Have their own computer
- b) Need to be computer literate, at least have a working knowledge and skills in using a computer.
- c) Be available for the duration of the four hour course.
- d) Have space on the computer to load the program if required.

The course will be limited to twenty (20) participants; my advice is to apply early by emailing GEMBOREE Secretary, Des McKiernan at dpmckiernan@bigpond.com of your interest in participating.

Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club

ANNUAL EXHIBITION

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SATURDAY 8 November - 10am-4pm

SUNDAY 9 November - 10am-4pm

CLUBROOMS: 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

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Everyone welcome

For more information phone 9636 7843;

www.parraholroydlapidaryclub@yahoo.com; email: phlapclub@hotmail.com

Eromanga Natural History Museum

The Outback Gondwana Foundation's collection contains Australian dinosaur and other fossilised fauna and flora from Australia's newest palaeontological frontier in South-west Queensland, and represents specimens that are "new" to science and some of the largest and most complete dinosaurs in the world.



The Outback Gondwana Foundation is helping to bring these scientifically significant and unique discoveries to the world.

However, dinosaurs and fossils are only part of this unique and valuable collection which also contains amazing examples of the geological, extant floral and faunal diversity and cultural heritage of South- West Queensland.

Outback Gondwana Foundation endeavours to enhance our knowledge of this diverse and complex environment by building the Eromanga Natural History Museum to conduct research and education within the contextual area of discovery. It will be a public facility open to all to view and discover Australia's natural history.

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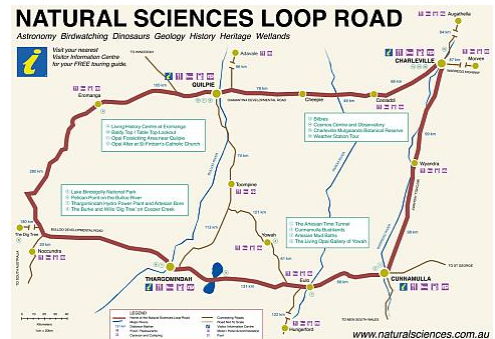
Eromanga Natural History Museum (cont)

The Outback Gondwana Foundation was established in 2008 and is one of only a few of palaeontologically-oriented not-for-profit organisations in Australia. It runs the Eromanga Research Field Station and Dinosaur Preparatory Laboratory and acts as the public research body for the proposed regional natural history museum for South-west Queensland.

Natural Sciences Loop Road

The Eromanga Natural History Museum will be located on the Natural Sciences Loop Road in South West Queensland. The loop includes Charleville, Quilpie, Eromanga, Thargomindah, and Cunnamulla.

The sights along the way include the diverse areas of astronomy, geology, paleontology, cultural heritage, history, and the unique flora and fauna of the region.



South-west Queensland remains a largely untapped resource, in terms of scientific research. The potential for unique discoveries from the region is substantial and has already been proven, with the discovery of: a new species of dinosaur; several new species of insects and spiders and numerous, as-yet-untouched dinosaur sites and other fossilised fauna sites. Opportunities abound for keen researchers in the scientific community.

Interesting facts about the Eromanga Dinosaurs:

- Australia is one of the last frontiers for dinosaur discoveries and research
- South-west Queensland is Australia's newest frontier for dinosaur discoveries and research
- Eromanga Dinosaurs are over 1000 kms away from other Australian dinosaur discoveries
- Largest dinosaurs ever to be discovered in Australia
- Largest animals that has ever walked the Australian continent
- Titanosaurs were the largest ever land-dwelling animals in the world
- Recent discoveries represent some of the most complete dinosaurs in Australia
- Little has been know about Titanosaurs in Australia, until these recent discoveries. <http://ogf.org.au/natural-history-museum/>

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Fossicking – Oberon On Your Way to GEMKHANA



Fossicking is a popular and rewarding activity in the Oberon district, with a few designated fossicking areas accessible to the public where you do not require a "Fossicking Licence". A fossicking license is required in all other State Forest areas. More details can be obtained from Forestry NSW (Bathurst Office 6331 2044). Gold, sapphires, zircons,

occasionally diamonds, smokey quartz. Fossicking in other than designated fossicking areas or private property requires permission from the owner.

Fossicking in Oberon

Many techniques used in fossicking are the same as used by prospectors a hundred or more years ago. Convicts it seems were the first people in Australia to find gold. Convicts while working on the Bathurst road in 1814 found traces of gold. Flogging was threatened for anyone who told about the discovery. The first officially recorded report was made on 15th February 1823, when James O'Brien, an assistant surveyor, found gold in the Fish River around Tarana. News of gold discoveries were kept quiet in those days as it was feared by the Government that rogues and convicts would turn to a life of crime and that workers would desert their employers.

Gold can be found in coarse and fine particles, irregular masses, strings, threads, thin plates and rounded masses known as nuggets. As gold is very heavy it will sink readily in water and therefore will be found at the lowest points of the river or creek.

Fossickers looking for gold mostly use a pan, with sloping sides and at least one narrow groove stamped into the side. The pan can be plastic or metal. When deciding where to pan, choose sediments under boulders, by river banks, in crevices or cracks in the face of the ledge, in small sheltered pools in rapids, in areas where two creeks join or where sediments may be trapped around tree roots.

Oberon Cont.

Fill the dish 3/4 full with dirt. Add water and then begin puddling. “Puddling” is basically washing the dirt. Break up any clay material by rubbing the dirt between the hands—this also helps to remove the mud from the dirt. Continue puddling until the water is relatively clear. Once the clay and mud has been removed, cover the remaining dirt with water and shake the dish. This causes the heavier particles to sink and brings the coarser gravel to the top and sides of the dish. Move the dish with a swirling motion but at the same time, tilt it forward and slowly remove the top gravel by letting the water pass over it.

This process should be repeated slowly until approximately one tablespoon of fine black sand, heavy material and gold remains. Leave enough water in the dish so that the remaining material is loose allowing any gold to sink to the bottom. Then gently tilt the lip of the dish backwards leaving the gold at the top of the dish. By licking the tip of the finger and placing it on the gold, it can be lifted and placed in a small vial containing water.

Fossicking for Sapphires & Zircons

Find an area near the creek where others have been digging, dig 2 or 3 small shovel loads of soil or muddy smallish grained rocks and clay into a large pan or bucket.

Cover the soil or mud with water and break up any clay material and mud with your hands by rubbing the clay etc between your hands. Throw any larger rocks out after checking they are not sapphires or coloured stones. Hold them up to the sun and if you can see through any small areas on the outside of the stones or blue pink or clear colours, keep them.



<http://www.oberonaustralia.com.au/visitor-information/things-to-see-do/fossicking/>

Some Club Activites.



A

small group of very keen enamellists jumped at the opportunity to experience the techniques involved when Barbara Try offered a 3 day workshop at the club in July. (Northern Districts Lapidary Club)



Lismore Club at Newman's Pinch for lace agate and Red Rock Road for fossils

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Lapis lazuli

Lapis lazuli is a gemstone of the kind that might have come straight out of the Arabian Nights: a deep blue with golden inclusions of pyrites which shimmer like little stars.



This opaque, deep blue gemstone has a grand past. It was among the first gemstones to be worn as jewellery and worked on. At excavations in the ancient centres of culture around the Mediterranean, archaeologists have again and again found among the grave furnishings decorative chains and figures made of lapis lazuli – clear indications that the deep blue stone was already popular thousands of years ago among the people of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Persia,

Greece and Rome. It is said that the legendary city of Ur on the Euphrates plied a keen lapis lazuli trade as long ago as the fourth millennium B.C., the material coming to the land of the two great rivers from the famous deposits in Afghanistan. In other cultures, lapis lazuli was regarded as a holy stone. Particularly in the Middle East, it was thought to have magical powers. Countless signet rings, scarabs and figures were wrought from the blue stone which Alexander the Great brought to Europe. There, the colour was referred to as 'ultramarine', which means something like 'from beyond the sea'.



The most expensive blue of all time The euphonious name is composed from 'lapis', the Latin word for stone, and 'azula', which comes from the Arabic and means blue. All right, so it's a blue gemstone - but what an incredible blue! The worth of this stone to the world of art is immeasurable, for the ultramarine of the Old Masters is nothing other than genuine lapis lazuli. Ground up into a powder and stirred up together with binding-agents, the marble-like gemstone can be used to manufacture radiant blue watercolours, tempera or oil-paints. Before the year 1834, when it became possible to produce this

colour synthetically, the only ultramarine available was that valuable substance made from genuine lapis lazuli that shines out at us from many works of art today. Many pictures of the Madonna, for example, were created using this paint. But in those days, ultramarine blue was not only precious and so intense that its radiance outshone all other colours; it was also very expensive. But unlike all other blue pigments, which tend to pale in the light, it has lost none of its radiance to this very day. Nowadays, the blue pigment obtained from lapis lazuli is mainly used in restoration work and by collectors of historical paints.

The stone of friendship and truth

Lapis lazuli is regarded by many people around the world as the stone of friendship and truth. The blue stone is said to encourage harmony in relationships and help its wearer to be authentic and give his or her opinion openly.

Lapis lazuli is an opaque rock that mainly consists of diopside and lazurite. It came into being millions of years ago during the metamorphosis of lime to marble. Uncut, lapis lazuli is matt and of a deep, dark blue colour, often with golden inclusions and whitish marble veins. The small inclusions with their golden shimmer, which give the stone the magic of a starry sky, are not of gold as people used to think, but of pyrites. Their cause is iron. The blue colour comes from the sulphur content of the lazurite and may range from pure ultramarine to a lighter blue. At between 5 and 6 on the Mohs scale, this stone is among the less hard gemstones.

When the cutter turns up his nose ...



Many a cutter 'turns up his nose' when cutting lapis lazuli, for as soon as the stone comes into contact with the cutting-disc it gives off a typical smell. An experienced cutter can even tell from the odour how intense the colour is. When polishing this stone, he must handle it gently on account of its modest hardness and not subject it to much pressure.. Lapis lazuli is often sealed with colourless wax or synthetic resin.

As they did more than 5000 years ago, the best raw stones still come from the steep Hindu Kush in the north-east of Afghanistan. The lumps of blue rock, extracted from the inhospitable mountains by blasting, are brought down into the valley in the summer months by mules. Nature also created deposits in Russia, to the west of Lake Baikal, and in the Chilean Andes, where the blue rock often has white or grey lime running through it. In smaller amounts, lapis lazuli is also found in Italy, Mongolia, the USA and Canada, Myanmar and Pakistan, but in really good qualities it is rare all over. The most popular is an intense, deep blue. Women with a pale complexion, however, often prefer the lighter shades of blue.

Lapis lazuli is a versatile and popular gemstone which has shown extraordinary stability in the turbulent tides of fashion. No wonder, since it has fascinated both men and women for thousands of years with its fabulous colour and those golden points of light formed by pyrites.

(<http://gemstone.org/>)

When	What	Where
2014		
Sept		
13 th & 14 th	Kalumunda Club Annual Exhibition	Clubroom @ Kosteria Oval, Recreation Road Kalamunda . WA
19 th – 21 st	The Bead Show	Marrickville Town Hall Marrickville Rd Marrickville.
Oct		
4 th -6 th	GEMKHANA	Goulburn Showground, Braidwood Rd Goulburn White Cliffs.
11 th & 12 th	2014 White Cliffs Gemfest and Car Boot Sale	White Cliffs.
11 th & 12 th	Central Coast Show	Mingara Recreation Club Mingara Dr Tumbi Umbi NSW
11 th	Hunter Valley Gemology Open Day	No details as yet.
17 th -24 th	Inverell Gem and Craft Show	Inverell.
18 th & 19 th	Blue Mountains Annual Exhibition	Cnr Great Western Hwy
25 th 26 th	Lapidary Club of NSW Exhibition	136 Reservoir St Surry Hills.
24 th -26 th	Northern District Gem Show	Beecroft Community Centre Beecroft Rd Beecroft.
Nov		
1 st	Cessnock Gem and Mineral	Clubrooms, Hall Park, Stephen St Cessnock.
1 st & 2 nd	Ilwarrara Lapidary Festival of Gems	Dapto Ribbonwood Centre Princes Highway Dapto.
7 th -9 th	Parra-Holroyd Annual Exhibition	73 Fullagar Road Wentworthville
8 th & 9 th	Newcastle Lapidary Club Annual Gem Show	Dora Road Adamstown
8-9 th	Zeehan Gem and Mineral Show	Zeehan Primary School Zeehan Tasmania
15 th -16 th	Canberra Lapidary Club Spring Gemcraft and Mineral Show	Epic – Mallee Pavilion Canberra

When	What	Where
2015		
Feb		
March		
21 st &22 nd	New England Lapidary and Fossicking Club 24 th Annual Gem and Craft Show	Armidale Showground Armidale
21 st & 22 nd	Canberra Lapidary Rock Swap	Wagtail Way EPIC Canberra
April		
3 rd	GEMBOREE	Horsham VIC
May		
30 th & 31 st	Canberra Winter Show	Pavilion EPIC Canberra
June	Hervey Bay Gem and Mineral	
15 th	"Cut for a Cause" Faceting Comp	Entries to Hervey Bay Gem & Mineral Club PO Box 3007, Pialba QLD 4655.
Nov		
7 th & 8 th	Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show Canberra Lapidary Club	EPIC – Mallee Pavilion

Competition Closing Dates.

GEMBOREE 2015 HORSHAM VIC

Entry Forms for **ALL** must be received at P.O. Box 500, Mooroopna, Vic 3629 by **Sat 31st January, 2015.**

Costs \$6 plus sufficient postage amount for entry return and a stamped self addressed envelope for receipt.

GEMBOREE DATES

2015	-VIC	APRIL 3
2016	-TAS	MAR 25
2017	-NSW	APRIL 14

GEMKHANA 2014
GOULBURN
OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND
4TH, 5TH, 6TH



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