



Gem and Lapidary

News

October 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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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 October 22nd 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
November, 2014 issue *
Friday October 24th 2014

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

Extract and Reports from Council Minutes 24/09/2014

J&R Report:

1. Judges have been allocated for all competitions. Four will go to Illawarra Club for its first judging day on October 18, and Club members are looking forward to the day.
2. Barbara will talk to Joan about the best way of getting the judging sheets from her and Arthur will print what Barbara advises is needed.
3. Hunter Valley Gemology Club's competition judging will be done as previously this year, but will hold a formal judging day at its clubrooms next year.

Editor's Report: I have reduced our printing to 120 copies and that seems to be sufficient. Alex (webmaster) sent stats on downloads of the G&L News from the site – they seem to have improved greatly. I have been very busy and the G&L News got away later than I would have liked. This may be the situation until the end of the year because I am deep in uni assignments at this time. From now on, there will be a special online edition to make life easier for Alex. The online version will be single A4 pages, not back-to-back A5. Content will be the same just organised differently for online. If you are interested you can see the stats in the next issue of G&L News.

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

The trailer went to Goulburn yesterday. Newspaper ads have started, radio and TV start very soon. The floorplan is drawn up and 14 dealers will attend. Tailgating enquiries are coming in – remember there is now Commercial and Non-commercial tailgating – forms are on Council's website, or wait until you get to Goulburn. Remember, if you have your own insurance, we need A COPY. We noted many people at the Bead Show took flyers for Goulburn. And next Sunday is the Cumberland State Forest open day where we hope to hand out more on Goulburn.

GEMBOREEE 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.

The competition for a logo was decided today. While both entries were admired, the simpler one won the day. The design will be made up and a sample taken to Goulburn.

Barbara will design a GMB letterhead, showing G&LC and GMB logos, and business cards with details of the GMB secretary (Arthur) and publicity officer (Alan).

Port Hacking club members were thanked for designing a cover for the booklet, but Lithgow Council may agree to sponsor the printing of the cover and it is something they would be invited to do.

The schedule is now only waiting for the AFG to look at the gemcad designs.

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GEMBOREE MATTERS 2015

Camping:

This past two weeks the issue of accommodation in Horsham has been brought to my attention. Motels and Caravan Parks are filling up fast; my informant stated that one park was nearly fully booked and the other three parts full.

There are still vacancies in Hotel & Motels at this stage. We believe that as well as GEMBOREE bookings that there is some spill over from the Stawell Gift. My advice, if you choose not to camp at the GEMBOREE and intend to stay in the city, **book early**. If intending to stay on-site at the GEMBOREE you are also advised **to book early**, especially if you have any special requirements.

Scams:

It has been reported that scammers (scalpers) are targeting Gem Shows offering free passes or cut price tickets. It is the practice for some clubs to issue free tickets; however, these are generally mailed or personally handed to the recipients, never given away on the Internet. Likewise, for the GEMBOREE; passes for Guests & Traders will be issued through the Administration Office & Campers Marque by arrangement with the intended recipients. ***Beware of the Scammers!***

Off-site Bookings: Our advice is to use the GEMBOREE 2015 Registration Form page 15 of the GEMBOREE Booklet. This page may be photo copied if required or can be downloaded from the VGCA Website. Ensure that it is mailed to the correct address.

Extra Curricula Activities

Once again the popular GEMBOREE Princess event will be conducted with Senior Princess, Junior Princess and Tiny Tots Princess sections. We are also conducting a section for boys, this will be known as GEMBOREE Prince.

The Senior Princess & Prince will be invited to assist with Trophy presentations on Presentation Night. Wendy Bergamin from Bergamin Beads is assisting us with the awards for the Princesses and Prince. Entries for this event can be made at the GEMBOREE Administration Office from midday on Friday 3rd April. Judging will take place at 10 am Saturday morning.

Why should the kids have all the fun?

The traditional Easter Bonnet/hat competition will be conducted; let your imagination run wild, the more the merrier. This will be judged at the free sausage sizzle breakfast on Easter Sunday morning.

A Fancy Dress Competition will be conducted, again the more participants the better. Fifty years of GEMBOREES has passed, during that time various trends, fashions, cultural emphasis have been and gone but some still linger on. You can probably identify some particular trend in your State or locality. Just in music we had Rock'n'Roll, Abba, Pop, Wrap, Country, Country & Western, Opera & Crooners amongst others. Then we had some cultural identities, Surfers, Grey Nomads, Boot Scooters, Rockers, Rappers & Hippies to name a few.

GEMBOREE MATTERS CONT.

Again join in, make this a fun event. Sunday entertainment will be a Trivia/Rock Auction night commencing at 7.30 pm. The Fancy Dress Competition will be judged during the evening. Come join us with your friends and make this an evening to talk about.

Des McKiernan
Secretary 2015 GEMBOREE.

The Hidden costs of judging and improving your work. (Tony Try)

In these instances one could be forgiven for thinking that the major cost is “emotional” as one waits for the results. However, for this to happen there are a number of other substantial monetary costs, - of which many people may not be aware – that are paid for by your Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW.

To start with, to become a qualified Judge in any of the lapidary and allied craft fields, a person must attend a course – normally of two days – where they must learn and then be tested on the relevant sections of the Competitor and Judging Manual.

While the cost for each person attending the course is minimal [often only \$20, which can be paid for by the attendees’ club] the actual course can cost anywhere between three and six hundred dollars. Even when there is a maximum of ten people to attend each course, there is a large difference between receipts and costs. There is normally a very big difference because in most cases the course consists of a lot less than the maximum ten persons.

When one considers that in NSW there have been five courses to train Judges since December, 2013, resulting in twenty new qualified judges, it adds up to quite a lot of money paid out by the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW in an effort to help you improve the quality of your work. These judges will always offer constructive comments for your benefit.

Additional costs for the Gem and Lapidary Council occur when you submit entries in any competition, which requires them to be judged by a qualified Judge. For example judging for the 2014 GEMKHANA to be held in Goulburn, required the services of fourteen judges. Every time there is a club competition it requires the services of between eight and ten Judges. While all of the Judges are volunteers and freely give of their time to carry out these assignments, they are compensated for any relevant travel/fuel costs. Naturally, these costs are greater when the services are required for clubs/shows which are outside of the Sydney metropolitan area. All of these costs are also paid for from the coffers of the Gem and Lapidary Council.

Members may also recall that the Gem and Lapidary Council also recently paid for a large number of free educational courses for various NSW clubs, costing over \$10,000. The Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW is continually looking for ways to advance and improve the skills sets required for our various crafts and willingly outlays the money as listed above.

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What is Chiastolite?



Chiastolite is a variety of andalusite that contains black particles of [graphite](#) arranged in geometric patterns. The graphite is pushed aside by crystal growth within a rock that is being metamorphosed.

As growth occurs, the particles become concentrated at crystal interfaces. The result can be a cross-shaped pattern within the mineral - similar to the "cross-stone" shown in the photo at right.

People have known about these cross stones for centuries and have valued them for their perceived religious or spiritual meaning. Attractive specimens are often cut and polished for use as amulets, charms, and novelty gems.

Have you heard of Etsy? Etsy is an online website that offers buyers and sellers the chance to buy or sell handmade or vintage items. <https://www.etsy.com/au/>

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Ed, Note: You may notice that from September, your download copy of the G & L News will be in A4 format. This is to make uploading slightly easier for our webmaster. Information will be the same as A5 hard copy. It would seem that having our newsletter on site has been successful and our readership has increased.

Here are some stats for hits on recent issues of G&L News

Sept 1-14th

G&L News August - 237

G&L News July - 35

G&L News June - 16

Aug 1-31st

G&L News August - 1034

G&L News July - 366

G&L News June - 144

G&L News May - 355

July 1-31th

G&L News July - 1074

G&L News June - 585

G&L News May - 613

June 1 - 30th

G&L News June - 1144

G&L News May - 198

May 1 - 30th

G&L News May - 541

G&L News April - 383

Council Promotes YOUR club at the Bead Show

There were beads, beads and more beads plus all the paraphernalia that goes with achieving the “so many things you can do with a bead”.

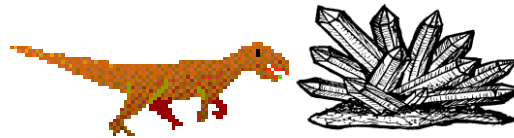
The Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW was invited to have a promotional stand at the Sydney Spring Show 2014 – The Bead Show -, held in the Marrickville Town Hall over the weekend of 19, 20 and 21 September, 2014. The Town Hall is a beautiful old building, which was constructed in 1924 with a very high and ornate ceiling and a mezzanine viewing area.

Lapidary clubs teach a wide variety of skills and related crafts – one of which is beading, and while in some clubs it is not popular, in others there are very vibrant and active cells of beading activity.

The G&L Council stand attracted a lot of attention and enquiries, which resulted in many referrals to a range of clubs all over New South Wales, as well as Southern Queensland and Tasmania. As one would expect those clubs in closer proximity to Marrickville received the majority of referrals. A prime drawcard to the Council stand were the practical demonstrations of Silver Wire French Knitting and Silver Chain Making, which led to a range of other “lapidary type” enquiries

It was also a great opportunity to promote the GEMKHANA in Goulburn, which resulted in a great deal of interest from potential day visitors from Sydney. It was also opportune to promote upcoming shows for a number of other clubs. R.R.



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The Mystery of Jokers Tunnel.



The mystery of Jokers Tunnel is the stuff of legend in Yalgoo, a small mining town about 220 kilometres inland from Geraldton in Western Australia. The mysterious tunnel burrows right through the base of a hill near the historic gold mining town. Locals will tell you that it was built in 1896 and was funded by English investors.

Early miners in the Yalgoo area in the 1890s must have known the risk they took with searching for gold. Many leases took on names associated with popular card games, the full hand, the king and queen of hearts and even the joker. In the 1890s, gold was found in rich pockets in numerous areas surrounding Yalgoo, with an alleged initial strike in the area of three kilograms of gold.

Stories of Yalgoo being rich in gold travelled to other countries around the world, bringing thousands of miners and some investors to the town looking to strike it rich. English investors in particular very quickly took to putting their money into Yalgoo. History Buff Alex Palmer said a great deal of money was spent and made, and also wasted in the early days of the boom.

"People just had that much money over there in England to invest. Western Australia was the really going ahead place at the time, so when it didn't work, they just had the attitude of 'oh well, it didn't work'," he said. English investors paid a large amount of money to dig a tunnel near the Jokers Lease, but the gold they hoped to receive was never found. From the 550 tonnes of rock that was dug and processed, only three kilograms was found.

To this day the tunnel is known as Jokers Tunnel, with various interpretations as to how the tunnel got its name. Many believe the name comes from being associated with the Joker Lease, the large mine behind it. But the tunnel was in fact located on its own lease, meaning the tunnel must be a joke for some other reason.

Many like Yalgoo pub owner Stan believe it was named for being the big joke of the town. "They found no gold, cost a lot of investors a lot of money and that's why it's called Jokers Tunnel. Because the joke was on the people who invested the money," he said. But perhaps the name comes from something a bit more mischievous. Historian Alex Palmer said maybe it was a joke on the investors. He suggests it was always known there was no gold in there. It was merely a plan to get the money out of the English investors.

"It was all money that came from investors in England. And they didn't have a clue about what they were putting their money into here," he said.

"After the expedition was over, they would just say 'sorry, we made a mistake, your money is gone'.

"They had to show some kind of work on the place so they did the minimum amount of work, digging a few holes here and there.

"It was a take-down by the people over here. They were gathering the money and then putting it to people who worked.

"They would just say later, we didn't find anything but we might have another one later, would you like to put money into that? There was a lot of money to be found in England those days."

Local prospector Beno also believes the tunnel was merely just a scam to get money out of investors. He said with his knowledge of geology, there would be no reason for the miners to tunnel in that area.

"The joke was on the investors. I've walked through the tunnel and I couldn't see why anyone would drill and fire a hole through a side of hill.

"I know there is a cross-cut in there. Maybe that was used to encourage investors, but from what I know in geology, I wouldn't put a hole in there," he said.

The idea prospectors that knew they were digging in the wrong place to find gold is not confined to Jokers Tunnel.

Historian Alex Palmer says that, in the 1890s, misleading investors on the hope of striking it rich was a common practice.

"There was so many of those things going on at that time. It was all fake gold put there to make buyers think it would be a good place. It happened a lot in the 1890s." ([abc rural news](#))

GOLD DISCOVERY At Mt. Ainslie Camp (Verbatim from Canberra Times 1927)

CANBERRA'S ROARING DIGGERS

Considerable excitement has been occasioned in Mt. Ainslie camp by a reported discovery of gold in a watercourse on the mountain slope. For some time, the affair has been kept a close secret, while men stole out by night to secure bags of wash from which tails of gold were secured. Though a number of men have small bottle of the gold in their possession, none so far have sold any to the banks for reasons which are disclosed below.

The discovery of colours of gold in wash from a watercourse on Mt. Ainslie near Mt. Ainslie camp, is a matter which few are prepared to discuss. It is a matter which the diggers of the camp maintained for some weeks, and others will always keep. During those weeks the camp had all the air of suppressed excitement which pervaded the mining camps of diggers in the roaring days.

The original discoverer appears to have confided his find to a few mates, each of whom kept it a very close secret. Discreetly, basins and frying pans were purchased, and commenced a series of stealthy exits under cover of night to take bags of wash from the bed of the

watercourse. These were then stowed in the cubicles until opportunity came for panning off in a crude fashion by oil or candle light.

With a feverishness by no means dimmed by the secrecy preserved, tails of gold were collected, and none was prepared to sell the gold for fear that news of the discovery might leak out. It was evident, however, that breaking point would be reached sooner or later, and the denouement came as an altogether unexpected anti climax.

"ALL THAT GLITTERS—"

One night as some of the "diggers" were gathered to talk as if they held no secrets, the "original prospector" returned from Yass, where it was presumed he had disposed of some of his "gold" dust. His condition certainly justified the deduction, particularly a smile which his face bore. This was accompanied by continual merriment for which no apparent ground existed. At last, the reason for his merriment became as patent as his merriment itself. "You chaps think you are pretty good 'diggers,'" he scoffed, "but you don't know 'gold' when you see it. You all think you are very clever in hiding that you have been getting 'gold wash' up there, but I put the 'gold' there."

"Yes," he repeated, while they looked one from the other, "I put it there. What's more, my cobber (indicating him) made it. It's not gold at all—it's only brass filings."

And now one member of Mt. Ainslie camp is wondering how he is going to explain it all to his wife, to whom he confidently sent a small bottle of "gold" dust for fear it might be stolen in that wild "gold" diggers' roaring camp. According to latest reports they are wild. The Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995) <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/de/article/1213785>

Obsidian

Obsidian is the result of volcanic lava coming in contact with water. Often the lava pours into a lake or ocean and is cooled quickly. This process produces a glassy texture in the resulting rock. Iron and magnesium give the obsidian a dark green to black colour.

Obsidian has been used by ancient people as a cutting tool, for weapons, and for ceremonial purposes and is sometimes found by archaeologists in excavations.

Obsidian has several varieties. Obsidian can contain small bubbles of air that are aligned along layers created as the molten rock was flowing just before being cooled. These bubbles can produce interesting effects such as a golden sheen, known as Sheen Obsidian or a rainbow sheen called Rainbow Obsidian. Inclusions of small, white, radially clustered crystals of [cristobalite](#) in the black glass produce a blotchy or snowflake pattern producing Snowflake Obsidian.



Small nuggets of obsidian that have been naturally rounded and smoothed by wind and water are called Apache Tears.



Often confused with smoky quartz, obsidian has similar properties to quartz because of a similar chemistry. However, many properties dependant on a crystal structure are altered or absent in obsidian because it lacks any crystal structure of its own.

The piezoelectric and optical properties in quartz are thus absent in obsidian. Smoky quartz usually has a splotchy or zoned distribution to its colour while Obsidian's colour is more uniformly distributed

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Congratulations

Two clubs will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year.

Bankstown is holding its anniversary lunch on October 18.2014

Lismore celebrates its anniversary on November, 30th

Next Year Lismore will be holding its **25th Annual Gemfest.**

Let me know if **you** have a special event or anniversary coming up. Let's hope all our clubs are here in another 50 years.

Chrysoprase (from Lapidary Club News, Sept 2014. No author)

Chrysoprase, the alternative birthstone for those born under the sign of Gemini, is an attractive translucent-to –opaque green chalcedony.

When shaped and polished, this massive microcrystalline quartz resembles much valued green jade(ite) of near Imperial quality. Indeed Australian chrysoprase is so beautiful that in the past it has been marketed under the misnomer “Australian Jade”.

This well coloured and colour stable green gem material is much admired and sought after by Australia’s Asian neighbours for a range of cabochons, beads and carvings.

Best quality chrysoprase has a uniform, vivid apple-green colour and is near transparent. The attractive greenish hues of this chrysoprase are due to the presence of nickel.

Chrysoprase Deposits in Australia.Marlborough Chrysoprase.

The Marlborough deposit is 90km northwest of Rockhampton, on Mount Slopeway. Here chrysoprase occurs as veins and nodules within an iron-rich laterite profile which has been produced by deep weathering or serpentinised, nickeliferous, ultra-based rocks.



<http://www.candalachrysoprase.com/apps/photos/photo?photoid=93030296>

During 30 years of mining more than 800 tons of chrysoprase have been recovered by mechanised bench stripping of laterite, followed by ‘eye spotting’ the surface of each cut for evidence of chrysoprase veins. When detected, veins of chrysoprase are excavated by backhoe and the material is then cleaned and graded by hand.

By conservative estimate, the Marlborough deposit is likely to contain sufficient chrysoprase to allow economic mining for a further 35 years.

Chrysanthemum Stone

This striking stone has the appearance of a painted flower on black rock but it is in fact entirely nature's own work.



Chrysanthemum stone was formed many millions of years ago when a deposition of a thick strata of mud that was rich in organic materials occurred at the bottom of a sea. Calcium Carbonate (Calcite) and abundant Strontium Sulphate (Celestite) precipitated in the ooze at the bottom. As the layers were compressed, these sediments were buried by continuous deposition of more mud. At these lower depths it allowed the spectacular radial growth of celestite formations that remain as the flower patterns in the solidified limestone. The white "flower" on

Chrysanthemum stone consists of Andalusite, Celestite, Feldspar or Calcite while the black base rock is Dolomite, Limestone, Porphyry or Clay Gypsum.

Called the "Stone of Wealth & Honor" by the Chinese people for centuries, Chrysanthemum stone took shape due to geological changes in the Permian age of the Paleozoic era, 248 to 290 million years ago. After millions of years of high temperature and high pressure, silt from the Sea bottom and marine organisms sank deeply into the earth and, formed chrysanthemum stone. Chrysanthemum stone is found mainly in the Hunan area of China, but also in Canada, USA and Japan. The stone is often carved by artisans into incredibly complex shapes to depict trees or sprays of flowers, and is revered by many people in China.

Chrysanthemum stone is also the official symbol of the Chinese imperial family. Many people believe that Chrysanthemum Stone is of harmony and change. They say that it enhances compatibility, is excellent for renewal of relationships, and helps to progress toward unity. It is also believed to help one to bloom and to progress on the path toward the perfect self.

The Chrysanthemum stone inspires, enlivens and enkindles and it helps to eliminate jealousy, animosity, and resentment from one's character. Some say that this stone provides new opportunities of luck, once one has moved forward on a new path. The stone is often chosen as a gift for a person starting out on any new path, such as a relationship or career.



When	What	Where
2014		
Oct 4 th -6 th 11 th & 12 th	GEMKHANA 2014 White Cliffs Gemfest and Car Boot Sale	Goulburn Showground, Braidwood Rd Goulburn White Cliffs.
11 th & 12 th	Central Coast Show	Mingara Recreation Club Mingara Dr Tumbi Umbi NSW
11 th 17 th -24 th 18 th & 19 th 25 th 26 th 24 th -26 th	Hunter Valley Gemology Open Day Inverell Gem and Craft Show Blue Mountains Annual Exhibition Lapidary Club of NSW Exhibition Northern District Gem Show	No details as yet. Inverell. Cnr Great Western Hwy 136 Reservoir St Surry Hills. Beecroft Community Centre Beecroft Rd Beecroft.
Nov 1 st	Cessnock Gem and Mineral	Clubrooms, Hall Park, Stephen St Cessnock.
1 st & 2 nd	Ilawarra Lapidary Festival of Gems	Dapto Ribbonwood Centre Princes Highway Dapto.
7 th -9 th 8 th & 9 th	Parra-Holroyd Annual Exhibition Newcastle Lapidary Club Annual Gem Show	73 Fullagar Road Wentworthville 2 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
2015 Feb 14th & 15th March 21st & 22nd NSW	Orange Club 50th Anniversary New England Lapidary &	Senior Citizens Kite St Orange Armidale Showground Armidale
21 st & 22 nd	Fossicking Club Canberra Lapidary Rock Swap	24th Annual Gem and Craft Show Wagtail Way EPIC Canberra
April 3 rd	GEMBOREE	Horsham VIC
May 16 th & 17 th 30 th & 31 st	Lismore Gemfest Canberra Winter Show	Showground Lismore NSW Pavilion EPIC Canberra
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

National Gem and Mineral Show.

3rd-6th April 2015

Horsham Vic.

Showcase Displays Demonstrations

Competitions.

Show off Your Skill and Expertise.