



# **Gem & Lapidary News**

September 2015

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**Gem & Lapidary News** is the official publication of the GEM AND LAPIDARY COUNCIL of NEW SOUTH WALES Inc, PO Box 4233, Londonderry NSW, 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: Joan Ball, Ron Beattie, Maurya Hutton, Arthur Roffey, Dot Caladine (dec), Frank Hall (dec), Marie Jenkins (dec), Dick Moppett (dec) & Bob Wright (dec).

#### **EXECUTIVE**

President	Barbara Try (Northern Districts) 0417 676435
Vice Presidents:	Colin Wright (Hacking) Tony Try (Central Coast)
Secretary	Arthur Roffey (Min Soc) 02 45725812 crystalhabit@bigpond.com
Minute Secretary	Marilyn Behrens (Parramatta-Holroyd) 02 96358218
Assistant Minute Secretary	Mick Lane (Blue Mountains)
Treasurer	John Behrens (Parramatta-Holroyd) 02 96358218
Assistant Treasurer	John Vincent (Hawkesbury Valley)
Committee:	Ron Jones (Parramatta-Holroyd) Wally Dove (Port Hacking) Marcia Hill (Western Suburbs)

#### **Appointments**

Public Officer	John Vincent
Honorary Auditor	J Smith (OAM, FCPA, MACS, PCP)
Editor	Theresa Mason (BA hons, ADA) editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Equipment Officer	John Behrens
Competition Judges:	Wally Dove John Behrens

#### **HOTLINE to the COUNCIL - 0427 993903**

Website: <http://www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/>  
Webmaster: Alex Maitland - Please send updated information  
[webmaster@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au](mailto:webmaster@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au)

#### **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

EXECUTIVE - Meet monthly, fourth Wednesday of the month, 1pm, at Clubrooms,  
Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club, 73 Fullager Rd, Wentworthville NSW

**Visitors welcome to attend**

#### **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  
Free online subscriptions (see website for details) NB: colour version available online

#### **ADVERTISING RATES per G&L News issue** (NB: printed in black & 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 September 23rd at the Clubrooms, Parramatta-Holroyd  
Lapidary Club, 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville, 1pm

Please attend - you will be made very welcome

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## **DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER 2015 ISSUE**

September 16th (third Wednesday of the month, plus a few days' grace)

### **ATTENTION: CLUB EDITORS**

Please add me to your mailing list to receive your Club newsletters, Ed:)

### **CONTACT THE G&L EDITOR TO INCLUDE YOUR CLUB'S NEWS**

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#### Disclaimer:

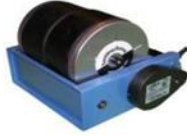
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# COUNCIL NEWS & INFORMATION

## Minutes from G&L Council Meeting, 26 August 2015

The meeting was opened at 12.40pm by President Barbara Try (Northern Districts) who welcomed delegates from the following Clubs: Minsoc (Arthur Roffey OAM), Central Coast (Tony Try), Blaxland (Pam & Alec Gardiner), Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill), Blue Mountains (Una King & Mick Lane), Port Hacking (Col Wright & Wally Dove), Hawkesbury Valley (John Vincent), Parramatta-Holroyd (Ron Jones, John & Marilyn Behrens), and visitor Brian Beauchamp.

**NB: 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 necessarily show who made these payments.**

**J&R Report:** Only one judging allocation is still to be done, Parramatta-Holroyd (at the end of October).

The next J&R meeting will be held before the October general meeting, at 12noon, October 28.

**Editor's Report:** We were lucky for Theresa to find us so quickly. She produced an August issue in a few days and has the Sept issue on track. Barbara and Marilyn sent stacks of files that Theresa has quickly sorted through. Moved Blue Mtns, seconded Central Coast, the meeting agreed to purchase of software @ \$89 to allow Theresa to do the pdf files for printing, and further agreed to the purchase of Terabyte hardware to the value of \$150 to allow the files to be kept in a manner that will allow quick transfer to the next editor when the time comes.

It was decided to dispense with the Editor's Award and the Magazine-Competition Awards this year, because the change in editors has disrupted the Editor's Award, and so few magazines have been received from clubs this year – of the clubs that did send a magazine, many only sent one, so none was available for the judges.

## GEMKHANA Report, October 3-4-5

1. Promotion is well underway, but there is still some to do
2. The partitions Col has arranged will not need to be returned, rather they will be collected at 3pm on Monday.
3. There are some nice raffle prizes this year.
4. Some good demos are planned, instead of field trips
5. Clubs are reminded to send us their information sheets for the club info table
6. A catering van will provide all sorts of hot foods during the day.
7. Consider asking CWA to do Devonshire teas.
8. Peter Beckwith has offered his A-frame advertising boards – thank you
9. Two new dealers this year – one beading and one gem tree stones and wire

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Joyce Beavan returned her judges badge and delegates badge. Sadly accepted her

resignation.

2. Approval was given for a pre-paid Wifi to be purchased for the former treasurer but wasn't done. Today Port Hacking moved, Blaxland seconded, one now be purchased for John (treasurer) and Marilyn (AFLACA sec) to use. (AFLACA provided the laptop computer.)

3. Moved Minsoc, seconded Parra-Holroyd that Council purchase a small site-shed or small container to house the equipment that no longer fits into the trailer.

4. As Arthur will not nominate for secretary at the AGM (in December), the printer he uses will need to find a new home before Christmas.

The meeting closed at 2.20pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, 1pm September 23, at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

Clubs should keep in mind that any Club that assists with the practical running/organising of the GEMBOREE will be allowed FREE tailgating space at the GEMBOREE for the duration of the event.

Keep in mind that material sold at the free tailgating stall MUST be Club material - that is, it is not to be owned by an individual. It is aimed to benefit the Club as a whole.

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# NEW STATE EMBLEM

A 360 million year old fossil of the largest fish from the Canowindra site near Cowra, named *Mandageria fairfaxi* after the sandstone formation in which it was found and philanthropist, James Fairfax, has just been named as NSW's state fossil emblem.

It was on a country road in the 1950s that a bulldozer turned over a rock that had been buried since the Devonian period. The rock was left on the side of the road, and the story goes that about a year after, a local Canowindra resident, Bill Simpson, recognised the rock's significance and informed the Australian Museum and it was recovered and sent to the Australian Museum. In 1993 a rediscovery of the site led to the excavation of a further 4000 fish specimens across eight fish species, including discovery of the *Mandageria*, an extinct genus of lobe-finned fish.

The Devonian is a geologic period and system of the Paleozoic Era. It was during the Devonian period that the first significant adaptive radiation of terrestrial life began. According to Wikipedia, 'free-sporing vascular plants began to spread across dry land, forming extensive forests which covered the continents. By the middle of the Devonian, several groups of plants had evolved leaves and true roots, and by the end of the period the first seed-bearing plants appeared. Various terrestrial arthropods also became well-established. Fish reached substantial diversity during this time, leading the Devonian to often be dubbed the "Age of Fish".' The Age of Fishes Museum in Canowindra showcases the unique Devonian fossil collection, and is one of only two Devonian fish fossil museums in the world.

Information from <http://www.prehistoric-wildlife.com/species/m/mandageria.html>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devonian> & <http://www.abc.net.au/news>



Fossil is recovered in 1956. Image/info from: <http://www.ageoffishes.org.au/>

## Mandageria

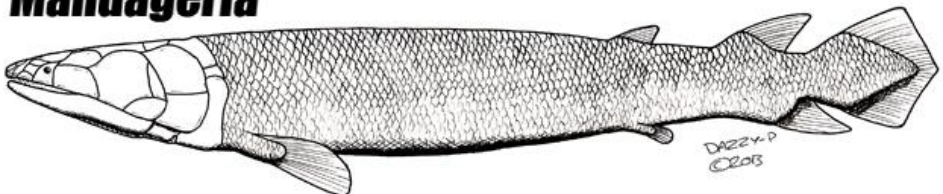


Illustration by Darren Pepper, reproduced on [www.prehistoric-wildlife.com](http://www.prehistoric-wildlife.com) with permission.



## CLUB NEWS

**Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables & Lapidary Club** are holding their BATHEX Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition at the Bathurst Showgrounds on 27-28 September. The theme is Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History, and a broad range of items and memorabilia will be on display, with traders and dealers also interested in acquiring collectables.

The **Bendigo Gem Club** Expo will be held on the 12-13 September Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. Formerly known as Gemarama, the Expo has moved to a larger venue at 757 Mclvor Hwy, Junortoun. There are over 30 quality stalls. Come and try gold panning, metal detecting and gem sifting. See Australian gold nugget replicas, club competition entries, and gemstone sculptures. Jewellery making demonstrations on stage will be streamed live to the big screen with guest presenters, mineralogists and prospecting experts. Admission includes a ticket for your chance to win a Minelab metal detector. More info at [www.gembendigo.org.au](http://www.gembendigo.org.au)

**Campbelltown Lapidary Club** has reported the sad passing of longstanding member, Laurie O'Shannessy. Laurie had been unwell for quite a while, but his passion for rocks was never diminished. Condolences to Kath and family. The Club is planning a fossicking trip is to Lightning Ridge on Saturday 19th September. The Club's annual Open Day will be held on Saturday 17 October at the Clubhouse, Lot 1 Bensley Rd, Macquarie Fields.

**Canberra Lapidary Club** reported having queues to their machines on a Saturday as new members and regulars turned up to use the workshop facilities. It shows they have a very keen and active Club membership. The Club is currently organising their annual rock auction to coincide with the 10th September Social Meeting. The Club also holds a gem study each month, which offers members a great opportunity to bring in stones for identification. The Canberra Club is also getting ready for their Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show, 7-8 November at the Mallee Pavilion.

The **Central Coast Lapidary Club** have their Gems and Treasures Show on at the Mingara Event Centre, Tumbi Umbi, 9-11 October. There will be many exhibitors and sales tables, including local and imported jewellery.



**GEMBOREE® 2016** is to be held at Ulverstone Showgrounds in Tasmania, March 25-29, 2016. Registrations are being taken and sites are filling up fast. Check the Australian Federation of Lapidary and Allied Crafts Associations website for more info: <http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/>

**GEMKHANA®**, the annual State Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of lapidaries from all over NSW, will be held October 3-5 at the Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon.



Members of the **Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club** are going all out to help make this year's GEMKHANA a great success. While there won't be field trips this year, the planned demonstrations should prove highly entertaining. There are some lovely raffle prizes, thanks to the members who have made them, and there will be lots of tailgaters selling excess material. There are plenty of other things on around the area over the weekend, so you might make time to see some of them too. NB: Could all Clubs kindly print off the poster on page 13 for your Club's noticeboard.

**Hunter Valley Gemmology Club** are holding their annual Open Day on 12 September at the Clubhouse, 1 Maize St, East Maitland. All welcome:)

**Mitchelton & Districts Gem Club** are holding their annual Club competition and dinner night on 17 October. Each section will be judged by popular vote, and the highest aggregate score will be awarded a trophy, with prize cards for each of the ten section winners. On 4 October, the Club will be running their major yearly fundraiser sausage sizzle at Bunnings.

The **Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society** has gained a grant from Community Gambling which will be used to lay a concrete slab and install lockers, as well as buy new faceting machines for when the faceting room is refurbished. The Club is looking at significantly extending their workshop area. The Club has seen a surge of nearly forty new young members thanks to the running of demonstrations at the show. The Club says it's great to see that interest in the art of lapidary and associated crafts is not lost.

The **Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club** is holding their Annual Exhibition on 13-15 November at the Clubrooms, 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville. There will be sales, demonstrations, displays, and children's activities. This year's theme is Birthstones.



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## **ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS**

I'm sure Sandra sent reminders to you when your subscription was due for renewal because so many of you have paid, but quite a few of you have not.

Please note, your name will be taken off the mailing list for the next issue, ie October, if your renewal is not received by the deadline for that issue.

Gem & Lapidary Council

## **REMINDER**

Please forward all details of elected Club officers in NSW to the G&L Council Secretary following your local Club AGMs. If your Club has a webpage or a facebook page, make sure you inform the G&L Secretary and email the webmaster to ensure that the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Club Index page is current.

## BREAKING NEWS

The 'Big Blue', a 3700 carat topaz crystal, is one of six gems stolen from a private museum at Mount Surprise in far North Queensland sometime in early August. The crystal was discovered at the O'Brien's Creek



Gemfields in 1976 and is one of the largest ever found in the region. If you know of its whereabouts, please contact Queensland Police.

Image from: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-27/stolen-gems-from-mount-surprise/6728100>

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# GEMKHANA ~ OCTOBER 3-5



GEMKHANA is an annual State Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of lapidaries from all over NSW, presented by the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW. This year it will be held over the Labour Day Weekend, October 3-5, at Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon, NSW.

This year's GEMKHANA features displays and demonstrations, a wide range of lapidary products from commercial traders, as well as excess rocks, minerals and handcrafted items from Club member tailgaters.

There are two types of tailgating: commercial and non-commercial. Conditions for commercial tailgating include submitting a Public Risk Insurance policy, not selling goods by auction or for wholesale prices, abiding by the terms of the contract, etc.

Conditions for non-commercial tailgating include: being a hobbyist and not earning any income from any commercial phase of the hobby, eg mining, dealing, full time cutting or manufacturing, and that the only material sold is surplus to the hobby activities, eg field collecting, upgrading collections, and/or items personally made as ancillary items for their hobby, which will be of a lapidary nature. NB: non-commercial tailgaters MUST have their applications in by September 15.

Application forms are available via the website. For essential information on tailgating at GEMKHANA, check the G&L Council's website: <http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/gemkhana>

GEMKHANA dates and times are: Saturday October 3 from 10am to 5pm, Sunday October 4 from 10am to 5pm, and Monday October 5 from 9am to 12 noon. Camping is available at \$15 per night.



see

## THE MAGIC OF GEMSTONES & MINERALS

JEWELLERY & BEADING



# GEMKHANA

The Annual Gem & Mineral Show & Competition  
of lapidaries from all over NSW  
Presented by the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Inc

## HAWKESBURY SHOWGROUND, CLARENDON

A short walk from the Clarendon Railway Station (between Windsor & Richmond Stations)

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Labour Day Weekend – October	3 Saturday	- 10am to 5pm
	4 Sunday	- 10am to 5pm
	5 Monday	- 9am to 12 noon

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Bring the family – come and see for yourself, the wonderful work amateurs can do

- **Competition entries to inspire** – handcut and faceted stones, carvings, handcrafted jewellery, enamelling, novelties, minerals and fossils
- **Displays and demonstrations** by experienced club members
- **Children's Activities:** Make your own specimen card, colouring competition
- **Traders** from throughout Australia will display and sell the best in lapidary requirements: Ready-to-wear jewellery, gems, mountings, minerals, fossils, crystals, turquoise, jade, beads, gift items, books and tools.
- Club members will **tailgate** excess material from their fossicking trips. Great specimens are discarded as they improve their own mineral collections, as well as items they have crafted, and much more.

**Refreshments** available

**Admission** is only \$3 for adults, \$1 for Children & a family rate of \$8

For further info phone Marilyn or John on 02 9635 8218, or Arthur on 02 4572 5812

[www.gemlapidarycouncil.org.au](http://www.gemlapidarycouncil.org.au) and facebook

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# EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

## September

- 12 Hunter Valley Gemmology Club Open Day, Clubhouse, 1 Maize St, Maitland, NSW  
 12-13 Bendigo Gem Club EXPO 757 McIvor Hwy, Junortoun Vic  
 12-13 Bribie Island Gem Festival Clubhouse, Bribie Island, Qld  
 26 Caloundra Gem Show Caloundra State School, Qld  
 26-27 BATHEX Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition, Bathurst Showgrounds, NSW  
 26-27 White Cliffs Gemfest & Carboot Sale White Cliffs Community Hall, NSW

## October

- 3 Beenleigh Gem Show Beenleigh Showgrounds, Qld  
 3-5 GEMKHANA Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon, NSW  
 9-11 Central Coast Lapidary Club Gems and Treasures Show, Mingara Sport & Recreation Club, Tumbi Umbi, NSW  
 10 Nambour GemFest Nambour Showground, Qld  
 16-23 Inverell & District Lapidary Club Gem & Craft Show, Inverell Showground & Clubhouse, NSW  
 17 Campbelltown Club Open Day, Clubhouse, Lot 1 Bensley Rd, Macquarie Fields, NSW  
 24-25 Toowoomba Gemfest Centenary Heights High School, Toowoomba, Qld

## November

- 3 Cessnock Gem and Lapidary Club Rock Auction (viewing 12 noon), Hall Park Clubhouse, Stephen St, West Cessnock, NSW  
 7-8 Bundaberg Gem Fair Civic Centre, Bundaberg, Qld  
 7-8 Illawarra Gem Show Ribbonwood Centre, Dapto, NSW  
 7-8 Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show Mallee Pavilion, Canberra, ACT  
 7-8 Zeehan Gem & Mineral Show Zeehan Primary School, Tas  
 13-15 Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club Exhib. Clubhouse, Wentworthville, NSW  
 14 Suncoast Gem Show Mooloolabah State School, Qld  
 14-15 Launceston Gem & Mineral Show Elphin Sports Centre, Launceston, Tas  
 14-15 Newcastle Jewellery & Gem Show Club Rooms, Adamstown, NSW  
 28-29 Windsor Gem & Mineral Fair Windsor Function Centre, NSW

## December

- 5-6 Nepean Lapidary Club Show Day Nepean Club House, St Marys, NSW

**GEMBOREE 2016      25-29 March      Ulverstone Showgrounds, Tasmania**

# **NEXT BIG EVENT FOR GEM & LAPIDARY COUNCIL**



# **GEMKHANA**

**October 3-5**

**Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon NSW**