



# **Gem & Lapidary News**

October 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**

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Vice Presidents:	Colin Wright (Hacking) Tony Try (Central Coast)
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Minute Secretary	Marilyn Behrens (Parramatta-Holroyd) 02 96358218
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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 October 28th 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 NOVEMBER 2015 ISSUE**

October 21st (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:

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.

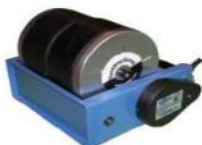


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# COUNCIL NEWS & INFORMATION

## Minutes from G&L Council Meeting, 23 September 2015

The meeting was opened at 1pm by President Barbara Try (Northern Districts) who welcomed delegates from the following clubs - thanking everyone for coming out in the wind and especially welcoming Shirley & Ainslie: Minsoc (Arthur Roffey OAM), Central Coast (Tony Try), Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill, Shirley & Ainslie Flynn), Blue Mountains (Una King & Mick Lane), NSW (Lilly Murphy), Nelson Robertson (AFG), Port Hacking (Col Wright & Wally Dove), Hawkesbury Valley (John Vincent), Parramatta-Holroyd (Ron Jones, John & Marilyn Behrens). **Apologies:** Blaxland (Pam & Alec Gardiner), Bankstown (J Ball, B Hodder, M Quinliven).

**J&R Report:** Judging allocation for Parramatta-Holroyd is the last one for the year, and is nearly complete. The next J&R meeting will be held before the October general meeting, at 12noon – Oct 28. Barbara will hold a Judges Forum for judges, entrants, tutors and other interested people. It is along the lines of previous Manual Appreciation days. The first will be at Central Coast on Tuesday, 3 November at 1pm, and should only take a couple of hours. The second is planned for Saturday, 21 November at 1pm in the metro area. Venue to be advised.

**Editor's Report:** nothing to report

**Education Report:** nothing to report

**GEMKHANA Report** October 3-4-5

1. A little glitch experienced with the promotion, but mostly it has been better than expected. Ron Jones reported it was on Channel 9.
2. Judging day went well. Colin thanked everyone for their time. 181 entries were judged.
3. John Vincent brought in lots more raffle prizes from Hawkesbury Club members. Perhaps some should be used as lucky door prizes.
4. Arthur will arrange access to the pavilion at 9am on Tuesday so the showcase lights can be changed.
5. NSW & Western Suburbs brought in info sheets today.
6. CWA ladies have agreed to do Devonshire teas on Saturday and Sunday.
7. Peter Beckwith's signs will be put on the Richmond-Blacktown Rd and opposite airfield. Need to be chained during the day and brought back at night.
8. Mick asked if more rubber matting required. No, we should have sufficient.
9. Mick will get tape, and get screws for the showcases.
10. Una offered two showcases from Blue Mountains Club.
11. Please bring a supply Judging Manuals and GEMBOREE booklets.
12. Barbara asked if we needed more plastic table covering. No, a new roll is in the trailer.
13. Mick today brought in a voucher from the Alexandra Hotel at Leura for Dinner & Accommodation to the value of \$200 as a raffle prize. Thank you Mick.

**GEMBOREE 2017: Lithgow – Easter**

The faceted stone Arthur donated was given to Ainslie Flynn who will set it. Badges: Amanda will be asked to engrave the trophies and make the 1st, 2nd, 3rd medals. Action Badges quote of \$673.75 to set up the die and make 250 badge and inserts for the keeper trophies, accepted. Trophies: Tony has cut 20 of the rhodonite trophies, but 25 more are needed. He is still in need of material for the 25. When all are cut, he will flat lap them, Nelson will engrave NSW onto them and paint the outline. Another member will make the wooden stands for them. Clubs have already been asked if they can provide any of the rhodonite – to date no response. The size required is 100mm x 80mm x 10mm. If you can help, please let Tony know, 4393 6168. Contracts and deposits etc, have started coming in from dealers. Raffle Prizes: We already have a major prize thanks to Arthur and Ainsley. Would love to hear others are making something, too. Next GEMBOREE meeting is before the November general meeting: Nov 25th, at noon.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. NSW Club will hold its annual exhibition on October 24-25.
2. Tony asked if another home can be found for the Judging Manuals blocking up his garage. Hopefully, some will fit into the new shed.
3. Lilly asked for advice finding reasonably priced workers for maintenance at the club. Colin recommended Master Builders Assn for information.
4. Nelson advised he will not be a delegate next year.

The meeting closed at 2.10pm. Next meeting: Wednesday, 1pm October 28, at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

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# WORLD'S LONGEST VOLCANIC CHAIN

The world's longest continental hotspot track has been discovered in eastern Australia by scientists researching volcanic hotspots. Through evidence of volcanism and magma composition, the scientists determined the volcanic chain was formed by ancient continental movement as Australia shifted northwards over a hotspot in the Earth's mantle. The mantle plume is thought to be still in existence under the sea in Tasmania's northwest in a region that coincides with recent seismic activity. The team of scientists have named the 2000-kilometre long hotspot trail, the 'Cosgrove Track' after an extinct Victorian volcano.

The Cosgrove Track was formed by a mantle plume between 33 million years and 9 million years ago. Volcanic activity forms where the mantle plume rises close enough to the surface to melt Earth's solid outer layer (the lithosphere) into magma. The team of scientists found that "lithospheric thickness has a dominant influence on the volume and chemical composition of plume-derived magmas... Trace-element concentrations from samples along this track support the notion that these compositional variations result from different degrees of partial melting, which is controlled by the thickness of overlying lithosphere" (*Nature*). "The plume created volcanic activity only where Earth's solid outer layer, called the lithosphere, is thinner than 130 kilometres" (ANU).

The concept of mantle plumes was hypothesised by a geophysicist in 1971, and the convection force of mantle plumes are said to be independent of plate tectonics (Wikipedia). Geochemistry is a fascinating field.

(Information from *Nature*: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v525/n7570/full/nature14903.html#tables> & info/image from <http://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/worlds-longest-continental-volcano-track-found-in-australia>) & [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mantle\\_plume](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mantle_plume) & <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-09-15/worlds-longest-continental-volcanic-chain-in-australia/6769360>





## CLUB NEWS

A **Byron Gem & Lapidary Club** newsletter featured a photo of a carpet python that had ventured into the clubrooms, which is apt as the Club are about to install some generously donated carpet in the clubroom. The Club has been running street stalls in Byron & Mullumbimby, raising funds to help equip the Clubrooms. Their recent newsletter featured a lovely personal story on former President and foundation member, Pat Tanner, who has sadly passed on.

**Campbelltown Lapidary Club** are holding their annual Open Day on Saturday 17 October 9-2pm at the Clubhouse, Lot 1 Bensley Rd, Macquarie Fields. There will be displays, jewellery and gemstone stalls, assorted bric-a-brac available, and a sausage sizzle. Join them for a cuppa at the Clubhouse.

The **Canberra Lapidary Club** is getting ready for their Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show, 7-8 November at the Mallee Pavilion. At their August Club social meeting, Dr Frese (University of Canberra and CSIRO) gave an interesting talk on Jurassic insects in the Talbragar Fish Bed near Gulgong, NSW. Members wishing to exhibit in the Lapidary & Allied Crafts section of the 2016 Royal Canberra Show are advised to have their official entry forms in by mid-December, although you have till mid-February to finish your work .

**Casino Lapidary Club** recently enjoyed their 50th birthday celebrations. It was a well-attended event enjoyed by all. The Club now has a State Forestry permit, and a discounted fee of \$2.20 per person is payable for each visit. Casino Club are in liaison with an officer of the NSW Forestry who plans to submit a proposal for a discounted senior and pensioner fee for individual permits. Casino Club is asking all Clubs interested in fossicking in State Forests to write and ask State Forests to consider putting in place a discounted permit for Club members for fossicking and recreation. They ask that you point out that Clubs carry public liability and personal insurances, and mention that a lot of our members are seniors and pensioners, and perhaps SF could consider discounted fees. Several Casino Club members are going on a fossicking trip south, meeting at Dunedoo. On their schedule are glossopteris fossils at Dunedoo, sapphires at Grabben Gullen, green stone at Temora, and peridot (green and other shades including gold) at Mortlake.



The **Central Coast Lapidary Club** have their Gems and Treasures Show on at the Mingara Event Centre, Tumbi Umbi, 9-11 October. Times are Friday 9am-8pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, & Sunday 9am-4pm. There will be many exhibitors and sales tables, including local and imported jewellery. The Club Committee is currently drawing up a Code of Conduct to ensure that all members demonstrate appropriate behaviour. Inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated and will result in a loss of membership. Around the workshop, a burnt out motor has been replaced on a cabbing room saw, bearings for a grinder were replaced, and so were two new diamond wheels.

**Fairfield & Districts Gemstone Club** are set to welcome a new president as John retires from the position.

**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, is on October 3-5 at the Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon. Good luck to all lapidary competitors!

The **Illawarra Lapidary Club** recently held a 'get to know you' social night to encourage familiarity amongst members. They also held a very successful mineral group meeting convened by Roland with information presented by individual members.

**Inverell & District Lapidary Club** are holding their Gem & Craft Show from Friday 16 till Friday 23 October at the Inverell Showground, Tingha Rd, and also at the Inverell Clubhouse, Mcilveen St. Activities include fossicking excursions, demonstrations, traders, tailgaters, and a mystery tour.

The **Lapidary Club of NSW** are holding their annual themed 'OMG! Ore-some Minerals & Gems' Exhibition on 24-25 October at their Lapidary House, 136 Reservoir St, Surry Hills (10am-4pm). Gems, minerals, jewellery, slabs and books will be for sale. Morning and afternoon tea available. The Club has recently adopted a new Constitution.

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## **CLUB NEWS** CONT.

Following their AGM, **Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club** have elected a new president. The Club is currently preparing for the North Coast National Show. Clubhouse workshop improvements have been made, including upgrading the storage layout, repairing the enamelling kiln, replacing the switches in the cutting room, rewiring and circuit protection, replacing grinding wheels, and installing extractor fans in the saw room and the bathroom. The Club are planning an October field trip to Emmaville for their Gemfest.

**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.

The **Northern Districts Lapidary Club** are in the consultation period of renovating their kitchen, which they hope to have completed by Christmas.

The Club has had an active year. Club-run classes, activities and workshops have proved popular. Donated and obtained rocks and minerals have been made available to members for purchase. Following the AGM, there are some new people on the committee, however a few positions still need to be filled. 2016 is the Club's 50th year, so plans for a celebratory social event are under consideration. The Club will be using AFLACA standards for cutting and jewellery-making to ensure quality skill acquisition and craftsmanship.

The **Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club** is holding their Annual Club 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.

**Wingala Lapidary Arts & Craft Group** are Celebrating their 50 year anniversary with an Exhibition & Open/Sale Day on October 17th at the Club House on the southeastern corner of Harbord Park, Wyadra Ave, Freshwater. Please come along!



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# HOW THE G&L COUNCIL WORKS

by Marilyn Behrens

All lapidary clubs in the State are invited to join the Council and send a representative (delegate) to Council meetings, which are held monthly, to participate in discussions and decision-making. Of course, it is difficult for clubs outside the metropolitan area to do this, but many metropolitan clubs don't send a representative either.



From the delegates – that is, representatives from the clubs – at the AGM (held in December), one of their number is elected as President, Secretary, Treasurer, and so on. Not all delegates are elected into a position, but then some positions are appointments, such as the Editor, and are not necessarily a delegate of their club. Any, and all, club members, even if not a delegate of their club, may attend meetings, and will always be welcomed. Visitors may not vote, but are welcome to join all discussions.

The Gem & Lapidary Council cannot and does not tell clubs how they should be run.

The Council attends to matters that clubs, one by one, would find difficult, such as dealing with government departments, in particular regarding fossicking sites and problems arising from misconduct that could restrict fossicking for all of us. Sometimes, clubs are asked to send a letter or petition to reinforce the Council's efforts – very few clubs manage to do so.

The Council has been able to arrange various insurance cover at very competitive cost and, recently, has arranged public risk insurance your club can avail themselves of, also at competitive rates, when other community groups have had insurmountable problems causing them to close down or cancel events. All types of policy arranged by the Council are through the broker, Webster Hyde Heath. WHH sometimes changes insurers, always gaining us the best deal possible.

The Council organises GEMKHANAs and GEMBOREEs to promote our hobby/art. The delegates, alone, cannot do all the work involved in these events, and need members (ie member clubs AND their members) to do some of the tasks that make these events the success they always are – financially, we

hope, but also in terms of bringing people of like-minds together.

Of course, the more people who are willing to do something, however small, the less each person has to do.

Council has very few ways of raising money to attend to the work it does on behalf of us all. As you can imagine, membership fees (at present \$70, due on Jan 1) don't go very far. GEMKHANAs and GEMBOREEs cost a lot of money to stage, often for little return.

The Council can arrange tutorials (1 or 2 day workshops) in many aspects of lapidary.

The Council also provides judges for club competitions, GEMKHANAs and GEMBOREEs. It circulates news about the clubs and their events, and all sorts of other news, through the *Gem & Lapidary News* and on its website: [gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au](http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au)

AFLACA (Australian Federation of Lapidary & Allied Crafts Associations Inc ) is the national lapidary body, and operates in a similar fashion to the Council. We are all members of AFLACA, too. The executive of AFLACA are delegates appointed by each of the State bodies.

Our G&L Council, and AFLACA, have done a wonderful job in keeping clubs and their members in contact with one another – the family of lapidary is all the stronger for their existence.

How can you help?

Make notices from the Council available to all your members. Send items of interest to the editor for the *G&L News* and make each issue available for members to read. Become a judge. Just one day, now again, to help on an outside promotion, would help. Perhaps you would make a raffle prize for the GEMKHANA or GEMBOREE.

Whatever you do, by being an active member, you will reap more than you sow.



**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.**

# GEMKHANA

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

## HAWKESBURY SHOWGROUND Clarendon

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



### Labour Day Weekend – October 3-4-5

Saturday	Oct 3	10am-5pm
Sunday	Oct 4	10am-5pm
Monday	Oct 5	9am-12 noon

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- Displays and demonstrations of faceting, carving and gem identification 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, equipment and tools.
- Club members will tailgate/sell excess material from their own fossicking trips. Great gem and mineral specimens are available, as well as hand-crafted items and much more.
- Raffles and attractions for everyone of all ages
- Plenty of parking and refreshments available

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# EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

## 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                            |
| 17    | Rockingham Districts Gem and Rock Hunting Club Annual Open Day, at    | Bungarree Oval, Rockingham, WA                   |
| 17    | Wingala Lapidary Arts & Craft 50th Anniversary Exhibition & Open Day, | Clubhouse, Freshwater, NSW                       |
| 24-25 | Lapidary Club of NSW Annual Exhibition,                               | Lapidary House, Surry Hills, NSW                 |
| 24-25 | Toowoomba Gemfest   | Centenary Heights High School, Toowoomba, Qld    |

## November

- |       |  |   |
|-------|--|---|
| 7     | 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 Annual Exhibition,            | 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 |
|-----|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|

## 2016

### March

- |       |   |                                  |
|-------|---|----------------------------------|
| 19-20 | New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club 25th Annual Gem & Craft Show | Armidale Showground, NSW         |
| 25-29 | GEMBOREE 2016   | Ulverstone Showgrounds, Tasmania |



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



# **GEMKHANA**

**October 3-5**

**Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon NSW**