



Gem & Lapidary News

November 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).

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Equipment Officer	John Behrens
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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
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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

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NB Apologies for the printing error in the October issue

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday November 25th at the Clubrooms, Parramatta-Holroyd
Lapidary Club, 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville, 1pm

Please attend - you will be made very welcome

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER 2015 ISSUE

November 18 (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

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, 28 October 2015

The meeting was opened at 1pm by President Barbara Try (Northern Districts) who welcomed delegates from the following clubs: Minsoc (Arthur Roffey OAM), Central Coast (Tony Try), Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill), Nelson Robertson (AFG), Port Hacking (Col Wright & Wally Dove), Hawkesbury Valley (John Vincent), Parramatta-Holroyd (Ron Jones, John & Marilyn Behrens), and visitor Brian Beauchamp. **Apologies:** Blaxland (Pam & Alec Gardiner), Blue Mountains (Una King & Mick Lane), NSW (Lilly Murphy), Goulburn (Sue & Joe O'Neil), Bankstown (J Ball, B Hodder, M Quinliven).

J&R Report: Thank you to the J&R panel for coming in at 12 o'clock for the meeting. At the GEMKHANA Kathy Selwood of Orange Club told us about the regulations for using emu eggs. They are rather stringent – a copy of the email will be sent to clubs with these minutes and Theresa will be asked to include it in a coming *G&L News*. Thank you received from Illawarra for their judging day. Hawkesbury Ag Show has asked if we prefer Sunday or Monday for judging – will advise “no preference”. Parramatta-Holroyd judging is next Saturday (31/10). Judging for Ulverstone will be done on January 30-31 at Parramatta-Holroyd clubrooms and February 6-7 at Central Coast clubrooms. An error has been found in the GEMBOREE 2016 entry form, in Jewellery Handwrought with lapidary etc, item Intermediate 18B2 should be Open 18B2; Novice 18B3 should be Intermediate 18B3; and Novice 18B4 is missing. While the booklet itself cannot be changed, the corrections are on the AFLACA website.

Editor's Report: Theresa has had difficulty getting the printing quality to her satisfaction, but is working on it. She will continue to include interstate club shows in Exhibitions & Events, but will only include NSW clubs in the Club News section. It is good to see a few new advertisements appearing.

Education Report: nothing to report

GEMKHANA Report October 3-4-5

1. Barbara thanked the members who helped pack up the competition so speedily.
2. Many of the things to report have already been spoken of elsewhere.
3. The meeting agreed to Hawkesbury being the venue for next year, if the booking is successful (ie site available).
4. A new condition needs to be added to the tailgating contract – that if a tailgater produces an insurance policy it MUST be in the name of the tailgater.
5. It was agreed to hire one of the smaller pavilions at Hawkesbury Showground – Arthur will check availability (week day or weekend) to renovate and repaint as necessary the showcases and lengthen cords that link the showcases, before the next GEMKHANA – in readiness for the 2017 GEMBOREE. Marilyn will look for material suitable for the re-lining

GEMBOREE 2017: Lithgow – Easter

Badges have been ordered from Action Badges – 100 badges and 150 extra inserts for the medallions. Medallions, with the logo and an epoxy centre, will be made by Forest Presentations. Contracts and deposits are still coming in from dealers. Ads for the booklet

page 6

are sent directly to Alan McRae to follow up. Alan McRae has the final copy of the competition schedule. Col reported having spoken with Robby Park, of the Lithgow venue, and will need to further investigate the number of powered sites.

Don't forget the next GEMBOREE meeting is before the November general meeting: November 25th, at noon.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. We have lost our auditor after about 30 years due to ill health (luckily John has another one already). The secretary was asked to send a letter of thanks and our good wishes to John, the auditor.
2. Re the shed: Arthur and John will get onto it shortly. On consideration, Arthur recommended the shed to be purchased be 8x5, rather than 8x8 - agreed
3. Don't forget there will be a judges' forum [on Tuesday 3 November at Central Coast Lapidary Club, Ourimbah, 1pm and] on the 21st, 1pm, at Parramatta-Holroyd clubrooms.
4. Arthur asked for annual reports ASAP, on A4 paper please.
5. Nomination forms for the AGM will be sent out with these minutes. Note the AGM is December 9.
6. Barbara reminded Nelson Robertson will not be a delegate in future and thanked him for all his hard work and many services to the Council.

The meeting closed at 2.25pm. Next meeting: Wednesday, 1pm November 25, at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

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DIFFERENT TYPES OF INSURANCE

by Marilyn Behrens

There still seems to be some confusion about the types of insurance clubs use. Here is a description that may help.

Personal Accident insurance is taken out by individuals (club members through their club) to cover them personally for accident or other mishap – at the clubrooms, on the way to/from the club, and on club trips, attending to club business, so long as it is a direct-unbroken trip. This is the one that until recently clubs paid through the Council, but now pay directly to their chosen organisation.

Public Risk/Liability insures your club against claims by visitors and other outsiders, and when your members are doing club business at another location, such as a street stall. This policy is arranged directly with an insurer. You may choose to arrange your insurance through Council's broker, Webster Hyde Heath, or use someone altogether different.

You should note that your club's policy does not apply if you "sell" selling space, such as a stall at your clubs show to anyone – member or not. Stallholders need to provide you with PROOF of their own cover (a photocopy of a current Public Risk policy for your file), or you may be able to arrange a similar cover to that which the Council provides at GEMKHANAS® and GEMBOREES® where you collect the premiums and send them to your insurance agent.

Comprehensive insurance covers your buildings and/or contents. Again, this policy is arranged directly with an insurer.

Associations Liability: This is a fairly new insurance among lapidaries. It is designed to protect the incorporated entity (club) and its officers should legal action arise from an innocent wrongful act committed whilst carrying out duties running the club. It provides cover for legal expenses of defending claims and personal liabilities that may be incurred to defend allegations made against the club. Allegations of wrongful acts can arise from defamation/slander/libel, occupational health & safety/fidelity/trade practices act & related legislation/websites or newsletters.

NB: From the Tax Pack: "A non-profit organisation is an organisation that is not operating for the profit or gain of its individual members, whether these gains would have been direct or indirect. This applies both while the organisation is operating and when it winds up. Any profit made by the organisation goes back into the operation of the organisation to carry out its purposes and is not distributed to any of the members."

Farewell and thank you to Nelson Robertson. He will be greatly missed by all at the G&LC. We appreciate all his work over the years as Education Officer, and for all the classes he taught for even longer, including silver jewellery-making, carving in all its forms – stone, bone, shell, 3-D, relief, cameo, intaglio, inset (like paua in bone, etc), and teaching judges to be judges, assessing people to become judges, and all the paperwork that involved. Nelson also taught skills and judges in other States. All the best. Thank you, Nelson ♥



CLUB NEWS

Campbelltown Lapidary Club recently held their AGM, and extended thanks to the tireless work of the past committee and welcomed the new. Thanks were issued for all the Club improvements members have made throughout the year such as cleaning the windows, improved lighting, garden beautification, locksmithing work, and setting up a new computer. Club workshops are going well with a large attendance numbers. Barry's silver classes have resumed, and the Club ran a bracelet-making workshop during October. Their recent newsletter featured a story of a combined member trip to Lightning Ridge, with a few days fossicking in the Grawin mullock heaps along the way.



**Grawin mullock heaps. Image from
Rockgrinders Gazette October 2015**

The **Central Coast Lapidary Club** have had a busy October with their Gem & Treasure Festival, attending a Family Fun Day at Wyong, and attending GEMKHANA. The Club now has 251 members. The Club's October newsletter features a good article on Keum Boo, which is an ancient Korean technique of bonding gold foil to silver and other metals using heat and pressure. It is a cost-effective way of adding gold to metal work. The newsletter also featured an article on toxic rocks and the care needed when working them. They advise rock lovers to never lick stones when working them.

Cessnock Gem & Lapidary Club are holding their Rock Auction at the Hall Park Clubhouse, Stephen St, West Cessnock, on 7 November (viewing 12 noon).

Fairfield & Districts Gemstone Club have six new members who all made their first cabochons on their first day, assisted by more experienced members. All were very happy with their first project. Some workshop machines need new parts, with the bearings to be replaced by Jason who is an engineer, with other members assisting as required. Although it is a small Club, they have a friendly atmosphere and strong bonds between members.

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TOP SHELF MINERALS

GEMBOREE 2016 is to be held at Ulverstone Showgrounds in Tasmania on March 25-29th. 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/>



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.

Goulburn Gem Society welcomed new members to the Club, and reminds

existing members that membership fees are now due and need to be paid asap. The Club's beginners' course has just begun for a five-week block and is going well.

The **Illawarra Lapidary Club** are holding their 53rd Anniversary Exhibition Jewellery, Gems & Minerals Festival on 7-8 November (Saturday 9am-4pm, Sunday 9am-2.30pm) at the Heininger Hall, 190 Princes Highway, Dapto (part of the Ribbonwood Centre). The event will feature fossicking information, jewellery-making, faceting and cutting cabs, club information, silvercrafts, mineral information, jewellery valuations, kids games and refreshments, as well as sales of jewellery and lapidary needs. Admission is \$3 for adults, children are free. The Club is planning to run a workshop led by Barbara Try on cutting cabs to a competition level. Club supervisors and members are encouraged to attend. The Club are calling on members to suggest a list of equipment to update the Club facilities. They have several field trips coming up, including a few days at Glen Innes in November, and attending the Sydney Crystal Show in December.

Inverell & District Lapidary Club had a September visit from 23 members of the Cessnock Gem & Mineral Club for an afternoon of knowledge-sharing and socialising. They were impressed with the set-up and offered ideas on using the Club facilities, as well as gifting the Club with some fossils and a wonderful silver pendant as a Club member prize. The Club newsletter featured a 'digging the dirt' interview with member of the month, Beth, on her favourite fossicking place, best find, and tips for fossickers.

Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club are holding a dichroic glass course in November with room for 6-7 people. The Club had a sales table and provided demonstrations at the recent Lismore Show. The Club is planning a November field trip to the Garibaldi Mine and Lionsville.

The **Newcastle Lapidary Club** are holding their Gem & Jewellery Fair on 14-15 November, 9am-4pm, at 2 Dora Rd, Adamstown. There will be displays of jewellery-making and faceting, as well as sales of jewellery, gemstones, beads, silver, opals and tools, with Devonshire teas and sausage sizzle available. Entry and parking is free. The Club holds a faceting day on the

third Sunday of every month, starting with a discussion group. Their recent newsletter features an article on repairing rings. Annealling is recommended first, which is important for fixing rings with stones, and when soldered the ring is half-buried in a tin of wet sand to protect the set stones.

The **Northern Districts Lapidary Club** are following recommendations by members to purchase some new tools to assist with jewellery-making. The Club is also researching replacing their diamond wheels with sintered wheels. Plans for kitchen renovations are currently awaiting approval from Council. Their Club Membership has decided they want all general meetings to be held on Saturdays. Any objections to this change will be considered by the Committee. The Club newsletter features an entertaining story on the joys of outback travel from Joe & Reetta's August escape from the cold of Sydney to Agate Creek where by 11am the crowbar was too hot to handle.



Joe working in the temporary shade of a tarp at Agate Creek

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 Club members celebrated their 50th anniversary exhibition and Open Day on Saturday October 17. Marilyn Behrens visited and met many of their members, some for the first time, and others not seen for ages. Marilyn says the clubrooms were and are a hive of activity, with cabbing, metal, clay and glass fusing among their primary activities. The displays of members' work were a highlight and some must have taken a very long time to complete, they were so detailed. Members' stalls provided a good selection of items to tempt visitors.

MAGAZINE-NEWSLETTER COMPETITION

This is an annual state Competition, running from October to September, with the winners announced at the GEMKHANA. There are two categories: Magazine and Newsletter. To enter the competition, you only need to send two copies of each issue of your Club's publication to the G&L Council for the judges (c/- of the Secretary). NB: If possible, please include a third copy for the G&L Editor, as this helps with information-sharing, and there's also an Editor's award up for grabs. This is a great way to show your Club's Editor how much you appreciate their work. So, why not start with the current issue?

Points are allocated for:

	magazines	newsletters
Cover	10 points	-
Printing quality & presentation	20	25
Lapidary & allied craft technology	20	25
Club activities & reports	25	25
Anecdotes & snippets	15	15
Forthcoming events	10	10
TOTAL	100	100

The number of clubs entering is increasing and some great work is being done. Some clubs produce a magazine, others a newsletter, but all are keeping their members



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informed of their club activities. Producing a club publication lets readers know what your club is up to, and enables information-sharing from Council news and minutes & information from the *Gem & Lapidary News* to be passed on to a broader readership. NB: Please encourage your club to send an extra copy through to the G&L Editor (hard copy or online version), so your club activities can be promoted via the *G&L News*.

Your publication should cover all the segments listed so that points can be allocated. If your club newsletter has some segments missing, perhaps your club members/readers will help the editor out with some ideas. If your club doesn't yet put out a newsletter or magazine, maybe you could consider it as it's a good way of getting information to your members and letting the rest of us know what your club is up to.

EDITOR'S AWARD

Original articles written for your own club's newsletter or magazine or for the *G&L News* are eligible for an award for best published story or article. The Editor's Award is now an annual event. To enter, simply send an extra copy of your club's publication through to the *G&L News* Editor (hard copy or online version). Not only will your publication be eligible for consideration in this award, but it also enables your club activities to be promoted via the *G&L News*.

The competition runs from October to September, with the winner announced at the GEMKHANA. The winning entry may be reprinted in the *G&L News*.

GEMBOREE HISTORY

The first GEMBOREE was held in Coonabarabran in 1965 after suggestions were made to the editor of the *Australian Lapidary Magazine*, Norm Patison. Norm had the vision and organised the GEMBOREE which has continued on every year since as the national gathering of lapidaries.

The newly formed Combined Victorian Gem Clubs Association decided to start small holding a GEMKHANA to bring their state members together in 1968. It was held in March to avoid clashing with the Gundagai GEMBOREE. Buoyed with the success of their GEMKHANA, the Victorian Association sought permission to conduct the 1969 GEMBOREE. One of their objectives was to ensure the GEMBOREE be held in a different state or territory of Australia each year.

With the support of the *Australian Lapidary Magazine* and previous organisers, the first GEMBOREE held outside NSW was held at Beechworth in northern Victoria. The result was the largest gathering of lapidaries and interested public so far.

Since 1969, the GEMBOREE has been staged in all states and territories. Norm Patison's name is commemorated on a perpetual trophy at the National Gem & Mineral competitions held in conjunction with each GEMBOREE. Next year's GEMBOREE will be held 25-29 March at Ulverstone Showgrounds, Tasmania.

Information from: <http://aflaca.org.au/history/>

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TWO GEMKHANA AWARD WINNERS

Story & photos by Michael Burgess

Coober Pedy opal carving by Michael Burgess

I cut the outer shape with a diamond bandsaw, then hand carved with a flex shaft and high speed air grinder, shaped and hand sanded with carbide and diamond, final polish with 100 K diamond, total carving time 80 hours.

Barney the barn owl by Marguerite Burgess, designed by Michael Burgess, Michael teaching Margie all the steps with capping and carving process for this piece.



Gems used,
WA ferro

actinolite backing, Lightning Ridge black opal wings and beak, Andamooka SA painted lady opal eyes, blue natural Peru opal beads for feathers and eyes, all outer shapes cut with diamond bandsaw, shaped and sanded with carbide and diamond, polished with diamond, glued with 330 epoxy, clear lapidary epoxy, timber base, stainless bracket fabricated to hold owl, held by small magnet. total hours 70.

Lapidary background and experience

Michael

I cut my first cab at the Tamworth lapidary club in 2008, started carving in 2009, multiple awards in GEMKHANA and GEMBOREE 2012, 13, 14, 2015 1st place GEMKHANA and GEMBOREE 2015 open carving, 2013 Lightning Ridge IOJDA world opal jewellery awards 1st place pro abstract carving.

Margie

Cut first cab in 2012, started carving in 2013, placed 2nd novice carving section GEMKHANA 2014, placed 2nd GEMBOREE fancy cabochon 2015, Joan Ball award novelty gemcraft 2015.

We live in the Tamworth region, close to nephrite jade and rhodonite deposits, great for the rough gem we need to cab and carve or create art in gemstones.



GEMKHANA REPORT

by Marilyn Behrens

Oh dear! We nearly always have extremes in weather during this weekend. This year, rather than rain and storms, we had extremely hot days, 37 and 38°, while setting up, during the show and when pulling down. Tailgaters were offered shelter under the grandstand but only a few took it up. Most preferred to be out in the heat, saying we're from Queensland, or we have opal to sell and need the sunshine.

Those of us who were in the pavilion were reasonably comfortable with all seven doors wide open. Thank you to all the people who manned the doors over the weekend. Of course, dealers and tailgaters had plenty to offer us. The CWA provided Devonshire teas and Beez Neez provided other food. Both kept up a good supply of cold drinks, thank goodness, and from several sources, very good coffee.



The number of entries in the competition was rather fewer than we'd like. Remember, this is a lapidary clubs show and the reason for having it is so members can have their work evaluated to see how they are progressing and for club members to share their ideas, techniques and experiences. It is not so dealers have a venue – they have other shows for that, but they do enhance our show and contribute the running costs.

Demonstrators – Thank you everyone who demonstrated. They give us an insight into their techniques, give us new ideas to try and, along with the competition, hopefully, inspire you to try something new. It was great to have the help of so many members of the Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club, and Lorraine Moorcroft's fused glass demonstration caused a lot of interest.

Displays are also meant to inspire to you try different aspects of lapidary. Thank you to the people who put in displays, especially MOCZA, the Museum of Comparative Zoology Australia, whose officers also talked to us on Saturday evening about their display.



It's a real shame so few club members come to these shows. Yes, we are always on the lookout for helpers and, if everyone did a little, maybe half an hour on a door etc, it would be a great help. But look at the friendships that are made and the pleasure in catching up with people you only see at shows such as this.

The time when we really need workers is in setting up and pulling down. The people who have been doing this for years are now that many years older and frequently not as well or agile as they used to be, and it is hard work for them.

I'm pleased to report that visitors to this year's show were again up on previous years. The cost to visit is still only \$3 for adults \$1 for children and \$8 for a family, and that seems to be a major draw card. We covered our costs and made a little more profit than last year. This means money in the bank when preparing for next year's event. As soon as we know where, we'll tell you. I look forward to seeing YOU next year.

Images from: <http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/galleries/gemkhana-2015/>

REMINDERS

1. Please remember to send the phone number and address of your officers after your elections.
2. 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.
3. When did your Club start? Tell Arthur 4572 5812 or Marilyn 9635 8218
4. Do you have old photos you are willing to send to the AFLACA Historian?
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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

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 | Southern Rockhounds Gemfair | 17 Gerald Ct, Christie Downs, SA |
| 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 | Geelong Gem, Crystal & Jewellery Show, | Centenary Hall, Norlane, Vic |
| 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 |
| 5-6 | Sydney Crystal Show | Fraser Park, Marrickville, NSW |

G&L News wish all our Clubs, readers & advertisers a safe and happy holiday season ♥

2016

January **NB: There is NO January edition of G&L News**

- | | | |
|------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 9-10 | Warrnambool Gem Show | Warrnambool Primary School Hall, Vic |
|------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|

February

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 28 | Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club | Gem Fair, Thornton Football Ground, Thornton, Vic |
|----|---|---|

March

- | | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 12 | Campbelltown & District Lapidary Club | Open Day, Clubhouse, Macquarie Fields, NSW |
| 12-13 | Victorian GEMKHANA | Centenary Hall, Norlane, Vic |
| 19-20 | New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club | 25th Annual Gem & Craft Show
Armidale Showground, NSW |
| 25-29 | GEMBOREE 2016 | Ulverstone Showgrounds, Tasmania |

July

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| 9-10 | Campbelltown & District Lapidary Club | Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show, Greg Percival Community Centre, Ingleburn, NSW |
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**NEXT BIG EVENT
FOR THE
GEM & LAPIDARY COUNCIL**



GEMBOREE

March 25-29

Ulverstone Showgrounds, Tasmania