



# **Gem & Lapidary News**

May 2016

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**Gem & Lapidary News** is the official publication of the GEM AND LAPIDARY COUNCIL of NEW SOUTH WALES Inc, PO Box 163, Wentworthville, NSW, 2145. 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 Councilors: Joan Ball, Ron Beattie, Arthur Roffey, Frank Hall (dec), Dot Caladine (dec), Maurya Hutton (dec), Marie Jenkins (dec), Dick Moppett (dec) & Bob Wright (dec).

#### **EXECUTIVE**

President	Barbara Try (Northern Districts) 0417 676435
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Editor	Theresa Mason (BA hons, ADA) editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Webmaster	Alex Maitland webmaster@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Property-Equipment Officer	John Behrens
Competition Judges:	Wally Dove & John Behrens
Education Officer	vacant
GEMBOREE Coordinator	Col Wright
GEMKHANA Coordinator	vacant
Printer	Arthur Roffey

**Website: <http://www.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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**NB: CHANGE OF POSTAL ADDRESS FOR THE G&LC NSW**  
Gem & Lapidary Council NSW, PO Box 163, Wentworthville NSW, 2145

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## **NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday May 25, 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 JUNE 2016 ISSUE**

May 18 (third Wednesday of the month, plus a few days grace)

**CONTACT THE G&L EDITOR TO INCLUDE YOUR CLUB'S NEWS**  
[editor@gemplapidarycouncilnsw.org.au](mailto:editor@gemplapidarycouncilnsw.org.au)

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### Disclaimer:

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# G&L COUNCIL NEWS & INFORMATION

## Minutes from G&L Council Meeting, April 27, 2016

The meeting was opened at 1pm by President Barbara Try (Northern Districts) who welcomed delegates from the following Clubs: Mineral Society (Arthur Roffey OAM), Central Coast (Tony Try), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane & Una King), Port Hacking (Colin Wright and Wally Dove), Parramatta-Holroyd (John & Marilyn Behrens and Ron Jones), Western Suburbs (Shirley & Ainslie Flynn and Marcia Hill), Hawkesbury Valley (John Vincent), NSW (Lilly Murphy). **Apologies:** Bankstown (J Ball OAM), Goulburn (Joe & Sue O'Neil), Blaxland (Pam & Alex Gardiner).

**J&R Report:** The GEMBOREE 2018 competition schedule should be finalised soon. The judging for the Hawkesbury Show went very well, congrats to all involved.

**G&L News:** Due to changed circumstances, a new editor is required for the *G&L News*.

**Education Report:** Nothing to report.

**GEMKHANA Report October 1-2-3:** New power leads for 3&4ft showcases have been purchased to be fitted Tuesday prior to show. G&L Council will coordinate the show, but volunteers to help still needed. Competition schedule is now on the website, closing date 19th August, judging date September 10th. Suggestion for Clubs to coordinate and run future GEMKHANAs to be further investigated. Raffle prizes still needed, any donations will be very welcome. The website has up-to-date GEMKHANA info. Camping fees will be \$20 a night. A fee of \$20 will be charged for the days the building is used before the show opens. Entry fees under discussion. New hours, 9am start each day. Demonstrators also needed. One tailgate application received in February.

**GEMBOREE 2016, Tasmania:** Thanks to NSW contingent for their efforts in making it a great success. There were 35 showcases.

**GEMBOREE 2017, Lithgow – Easter:** Donated Raffle prizes will be appreciated. Colin Wright has a draft risk management plan ready for Lithgow Council. Reiterating rules for tailgaters. Clubs to tailgate must book site through the Lapidary Council. Ideas for a gate shed. Lithgow Council to be approached for loan of site van. Booklet now printed and available. Committee members are asked to note 'committee' on their registration form.



Catering to be followed up by Marilyn Behrens, still a work in progress.

**General Business:** Council's electronic typewriter to be donated to a charity op shop.  
Invitation to Cumberland State Forest later in the year to be followed up.

**NB:** Please note change of address for all postal mail to Council:

**PO Box 163, Wentworthville 2145**

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, May 25th, at 1pm, at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville.

Meeting closed at 3.15pm.

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

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## 2017 GEMBOREE



### ACCOMMODATION AT LITHGOW AND SURROUNDING AREAS

There are a variety of accommodation styles available to you within the Lithgow City area, from B&B, Hotel/Motel, cabins to caravan parks.

Information, contacts and bookings can be provided by the Lithgow Visitor Information Centre: [www.Tourism.lithgow.com](http://www.Tourism.lithgow.com) T:1300 760 276 or (02)63503230.

You are advised that this event, over Easter 2017, is in conjunction with the NSW school holidays and therefore the majority of accommodation will be booked very early and advice from the Lake Lyell Recreation Area is that 60% of their sites have been booked already. Some facilities however will not accept bookings until the new year and you would need to be quick to confirm.

There are many alternate Towns and Historic Villages within 30 to 50 minutes out from Lithgow that have satisfactory accommodation to suit your needs and a chance to explore the beautiful Blue Mountains region of NSW.

Some suggestions would be to travel back east approximately 35 mins to Blackheath or Katoomba, or further west to Wallerawang, Kelso and Portland or onto Bathurst and many small villages in between. Information on any of these areas would be available from the Visitor Information Centre.

There are a limited number of powered and un-powered sites available within the Showground, however with any of the accommodation on offer, BOOK EARLY to avoid disappointment.

Colin Wright  
GEMBOREE Co-ordinator



## NPWS DRAFT FOSSICKING POLICY

National Parks & Wildlife Service have been reviewing their Fossicking Policy following the Government's response to the 2014 Legislative Council's Inquiry into Tourism in Local Communities.

For more information on the proposed fossicking policy changes, or to make comment, SEE: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/policies/fossicking-policy.htm>

## GEMKHANA 2016

### October 1-3

Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon (NB: Clarendon is two stations Sydney side of Richmond)

Featuring Competition, Exhibitions, Dealers, Tailgating and Demonstrations.

Since this venue was so successful last year, we are going back again this year.

As for last year, we won't have field trips, but hope you will enjoy the demonstrations we are planning. If you would like to demonstrate your favourite art for a couple of hours, please let me know – I'd love to have more short demos.

I look forward to help from the members of the Hawkesbury Valley Club again, in demonstrating and otherwise.

If you would like to contribute something to the raffle, again, let me know. By giving the proceeds to a local charity, we benefit from local support.

We have a reasonable advertising-promotional budget, but I am always being told I don't do enough to promote the show. I will appreciate assistance from ANYONE OF YOU who can help, especially with on-line promotion.

Last year, tailgating was really good, and I'm looking forward to similar numbers again.

Marilyn Behrens  
2015 Co-ordinator  
9635 8218



## CLUB NEWS

**Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club** are holding their Club Open Day on Saturday 7th May at the Progress Association Hall, Valley Rd, Valley Heights. Also coming up, the Club are holding their annual Gem & Mineral Club Gem Show on August 20-21st at the Glenbrook Community Hall, open 8am-4pm daily. There will be displays of lapidary work and gem, mineral and crystal sales. Refreshments available.

**Campbelltown Lapidary Club's** next big event is their Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show which will be held at The Greg Percival Centre, Oxford Road, Ingleburn, on 9th & 10th July. This month the Club are taking a field trip to Inverell. The Club reported a fabulous Open Day.

The **Canberra Lapidary Club** are now holding 'show & tell' at their social meetings, giving members an opportunity to share their love of all things lapidary. The Club have had a busy few months, with ten members enjoying the Club field trip to



Canberra Club field trip to Kangaroo Valley

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## EDITOR FOR G&L NEWS NEEDED

Unfortunately, due to changed life circumstances, I have to step down as Editor. While I am willing to stay for another few issues, this position must be filled asap! Please contact either myself or the Secretary if you are interested.

NB: I can assist with the transition process ♥

Kangaroo Valley, with finds including chalcedony, jasper, agate and petrified wood. Eight members undertook a field trip convoy to Minerama, and although no significant finds were reported, by the photos in the newsletter, it seems everyone had a good time. The Club's stall at the local fete proved popular with the kids, with crystals and polished rocks in high demand. The stall at the Royal Canberra Show Craft Pavilion was a big success. Thanks go to all members and attendees.

The **Casino Lapidary Club** have decided to postpone raffling the quality cookware donation by Daph Westman till later in the year to increase the ticket sales on this generous prize. Meanwhile, the Club have organised another raffle prize for their stall at the Lismore Gemfest. The Club will be showing several demonstrations at Gemfest, including faceting and sphere-making, as well as operating the popular microscopes.

The **Central Coast Lapidary Club** adopted amended constitutional changes during their last AGM. Other developments by the Club include adoption of a Code of Conduct, revised safety rules, refurbishment of the capping room, updating of faceting equipment, and an improved accounting system. The Club newsletter reported on many successful events including their rock auction, and attendance at the Gosford Show, Wyong Pioneer Celebrations, and Mingara Gemfest.

**Fairfield & Districts Gemstone Club** welcomed new members into the Club, reminding them that there are a lot of experienced members willing to assist and offer guidance. The Club has had 24hour security cameras installed, including infrared, after having items stolen on several occasions.

The **Illawarra Lapidary Club** are planning a day trip to Grabben Gullen this month, fossicking for sapphire. The Club's next major event is the Club Open Day and fundraiser for the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea, Sunday May 29th at the Club Hall, Tarrawanna.



**Inverell & District Lapidary Club** have a trading cabinet display in their Clubhouse where members can sell their goods, with a commission going toward the Club. The Club's annual Gem & Craft Show is coming up from the 14-21 October at various

locations around Inverell. Last month's 'Digging the Dirt' focus is on Cliff & Rhonda, whose favourite fossicking places are O'Brien's Creek, Crystal Hill, and Bellata. They'd love to fossick in South Africa. Their advice for fossickers is 'head down and eyes open'. The Easter fossicking trip saw 28 members enjoy an Easter egg fossick at Gum Flat before extending the search to quartz and tourmaline. It was a busy month, with 22 members making the annual fossicking trip to Bellata, resulting in some great finds of carnelian, agate, vertebrae and petrified wood.

**Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club** are hosting their annual GEMFEST on the 14-15th of this month at the Lismore Showgrounds. Members are needed to distribute

## GEMBOREE 2016 ♥ THANK YOU!



Treasurer of Western Suburbs, Colin Platt is presented with the Champion Club Trophy, by Sam Caberica, the Competition Manager, & Marcia Hill, Vice President from Western Suburbs, is shown holding the Keeper Trophy, one of the paintings that Sam did.

The Tasmanian Lapidary & Mineral Association send their thanks for the efforts in the judging for GEMBOREE 2016.

There were about 700 entries and the quality of the entries was very high. The Competition was a highlight of the GEMBOREE.

Sonia Phelan, Secretary, GEMBOREE, and Secretary TLMA Inc.



promotional flyers and posters, and set up showcases for the display, as well as many other tasks, including demonstrations and helping with the popular Cent Auction. GEMFEST is one of the biggest gem and lapidary shows in Australia, and is a major fundraiser for the Club. Around the workshop, electrical tagging has been done, the new sanding units have arrived, and new equipment has been installed, including an exit sign, safety cut out switches, and an external flood light.

The **Northern Districts Lapidary Club** report that work is commencing on their new kitchen in July. The Club has a silver casting workshop coming up this month. They also reported on attendance to the GEMBOREE in Tasmania, where 13 Club members entered the competitions resulting in awards for ten members. The newsletter presents an interesting history of memories from early Club members, covering pre-Clubhouse days, various incidents, and characters. Next month the Club will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary.

**Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club** have their annual exhibition coming up in November, and this year's theme is fossils. Members are working on the schedule, flyer design, education and demonstrations for the event. Donations of cut and



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uncut stones are required for this event, and the Committee are working on items and displays for sales. Members are also meeting to discuss the Club's future plans, such as skill-sharing, Clubhouse improvements, and fundraising activities. ♦

**WHALE TOOTH FOSSIL FOUND**

A 30cm fossilised tooth from a giant sperm whale was found on a beach at Beaumaris, near Melbourne, in February. The tooth, nicknamed 'Murray' after the owner, is currently on display at the Melbourne Museum. The tooth is believed to be five million years old.

(info from: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-04-21/giant-sperm-whale-fossil-found-on-melbourne-beach/7348230>)

Beachcombing fossil-finder, Murray Orr, with Dr Eric Fitzgerald from the Melbourne Museum.

**GEMBOREE STATS 2016**

by Barbara Try

Of the 106 competitors that entered into the Competition at the Ulverstone GEMBOREE, 47 of them were from NSW. That meant there were 15 NSW clubs involved with this competition. They were: Bankstown, Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Cessnock, Goulburn, Grafton, Illawarra, Inverell, Lismore, Northern Districts, Orange, Parramatta/Holroyd, Port Hacking, Tamworth, and Western Suburbs.

Some of these Clubs had only one competitor entering and it is hoped that this will mean a greater competitive spirit within the Clubs for future competitions.

A great effort by the Clubs of New South Wales – well done!



# INDIGENOUS ARTEFACTS FOUND

During construction of the south-east light rail line for Sydney, contractors unearthed around 20 000 Indigenous artefacts over a 100-square-metre area near the corner of Alison Road and Doncaster Road in Randwick. Elders have said that this site is a unique heritage area of high significance, and have called on the Federal Government to intervene and ensure it is properly assessed. The site was being destroyed to build a carriage stabling yard for the light rail.

According to the ABC, "Darug Elder Uncle Des Dyer visited the site and said the artefacts included spear heads and cutting tools, some of which appeared to show trade and contact with Indigenous people in the Hunter Valley... And on our song-lines one group would come down to us and they'd bring their stones and tools with them to swap and we'd give them ours and they'd take it back to wherever they came from". Mr Dyer said he'd like to see construction stopped "and the area classed as an Aboriginal heritage area".

The rail line needs a serious rethink as it is an affront to Indigenous peoples' cultural heritage. Murri author, Ken Canning, told ABC, "We can learn so much from these



**Protectors want the area properly assessed**

sites, it's a unique opportunity to think more about land usage... our people have lost enough through construction, these things are very, very traumatic". According to the ABC, an application has been lodged "on behalf of local elders and clans asking for an end to the construction, so a proper assessment of the site, under sections nine and 10 of the Federal

Aboriginal Heritage Protection Act, could be carried out."

Associate Professor of Aboriginal History at University of Technology Sydney, Professor Norman, told the ABC, "We can learn so much from these sites, it's a unique opportunity to think more about land usage, patterns of migration and as we think more about environmental change, what kind of knowledge is available to us by looking closely at these sites."

(info & images from: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-30/indigenous-artefacts-near-light-rail-construction/7283594> & <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-04-01/protest-to-stop-sydney-light-rail-after-indigenous-find/7293890>)



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# EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

## May

- 7 Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Open Day, Progress Association Hall, The Valley Rd, Valley Heights, NSW
- 14-15 Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club GEMFEST, Lismore Showgrounds, NSW
- 28 Mt Gravatt Lapidary Club Gem Show, Logan Rd, Upper Mt Gravatt, Qld
- 28-29 Canberra Winter Gemcraft & Mineral Show, Mallee Pavilion, EPIC Arena, ACT
- 29 Illawarra Lapidary Club Open Day Cancer Council Fundraiser 'Biggest Morning Tea', Clubhouse, Tarrawanna, NSW

## June

- 4-5 Gunyah Lapidary Club Display, Mt Coot-tha Garden Auditorium, Brisbane, Qld
- 11-12 Grafton Gem & Craft Show Grafton Showgrounds, Grafton, NSW
- 18-19 Windsor Gem & Mineral Fair Windsor Function Centre, Windsor, NSW
- 25 Gold Coast Gem & Craft Show Pizzey Park, Miami, Qld

## July

- 8-9 'Queen of Gems' International Boulder Opal Jewellery & Fashion Design Awards, Winton Opal Tradeshow, Winton, Qld
- 9-10 Campbelltown & District Lapidary Club Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show, Greg Percival Community Centre, Ingleburn, NSW

## August

- 5-7 Kybong Rock & Mineral Festival Cooloolo Rocks & Minerals, Kybong, Qld
- 6-7 Sydney Crystal Show Fraser Park, Marrickville Road, Sydney, NSW
- 20-21 Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Gem Show, Glenbrook Community Hall, Glenbrook, NSW
- 27-28 Carlingford Gem & Mineral Fair Roselea Community Centre, Carlingford, NSW

## October

- 1-3 GEMKHANA Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon, NSW
- 8-9 Central Coast Gem and Mineral Festival, Mingara Club, Tumbi Umbi, NSW
- 15 Campbelltown & District Lapidary Club Open Day, Macquarie Fields, NSW
- 14-21 Inverell Gem & Craft Show Various locations around Inverell, NSW
- 28-30 Northern Districts Lapidary Club Gem and Lapidary Show, Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft, NSW
- 29-30 Canberra Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show, Mallee Pavilion, EPIC Arena, ACT

## November

- 26-27 Windsor Gem & Mineral Fair Windsor Function Centre, Windsor, NSW

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



# **GEMKHANA**

**October 1-3**

**Hawkesbury Showground, NSW**

