



Gem & Lapidary News

October 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 Councillors: Joan Ball, Ron Beattie, Arthur Roffey, Frank Hall (dec), Dot Caladine (dec), Maurya Hutton (dec), Marie Jenkins (dec), Dick Moppett (dec) & Bob Wright (dec).

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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

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday October 26, at the Clubrooms, Parramatta-Holroyd
Lapidary Club, 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville, 1pm

Please attend - you will be made very welcome ♥

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER 2016 ISSUE

October 19 (third Wednesday of the month, plus a few days grace)

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

editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

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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G&L COUNCIL NEWS & INFORMATION

Minutes from G&L Council Meeting,

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

J&R Report: Judging is in full swing. A J&R Committee meeting will be held following this meeting.

G&L News: Because some magazines we receive are printed in colour, Marilyn got a quote from Officeworks for printing the G&L News (120 copies) in colour: \$642!

Education Report: Looked to see if the Education info sheet for the GMK needed updating. Only change the address, all else is still OK.

GEMKHANA® Report October 1-2-3:

1. Colin thanked everyone involved in judging, and Parramatta-Holroyd for the use of its clubrooms.
2. Everything is well in hand. Lots of demonstrations are planned, and several display showcases will be set up.
3. Have a nice selection of raffle prizes, including the Alexandra Hotel o/n and dinner excursion again, and the Mars Food hamper again.
4. Opal chips have been added to children's activities – helpers would be appreciated.
5. Although there is no TV promotion this year, promotion has been extensive, with details sent to commercial lapidary magazines, websites, local newspapers, tourist office libraries, metro radio stations, 107 schools and craft groups, displays and 3 shows, banners in place, and street signs to be erected. Hawkesbury Club members are putting material up in the district. Sue O'Neil will add info to her Facebook page and Barbara will talk to Council's webmaster about doing the same.
6. Noted that quite a lot of clubs have sent in information sheets for the Club Table, but there are still a lot of clubs that haven't.

**GEMBOREE® 2017 Lithgow – Easter:**

1. Mick will enquire about the availability of a community bus (20 seater) for four days, that may be used for excursions to places such as Glen Davis, glow-worm, etc. Seem to be looking at \$118 day + fuel. Consider cost to passengers.
2. Promotions: Tony has had no agreement from wine and cheese producers. Joe & Sue will inquire about wine. A chocolate maker has agreed to supply 400 items + chocolate for the presentation night. Mineral samples are ready.
4. Raffle prizes are coming in.
5. Since the Enfield tiara, used by the senior princess, can no longer travel, at the last meeting delegates discussed the possibility of NSW supplying a replacement. Ainslie Flynn agreed to make one, Council will reimburse Ainsley for the silver, Barbara & Tony donated pink opal, John and Marilyn donated chrysoprase and rhodonite.
6. Parramatta-Holroyd agreed to our using its clubrooms in January to refurbish the showcases, but asked for dates. Today set dates as 9,10,11. Secretary asked to advise the Club.

General Business: Delegates asked to consider wording to be added to the Dealer Contract regarding refunds. A suggestion today: refund of half payment made if cancelled 6 months or more before the event, no refund if within 6 months.

The meeting closed at 2.20pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, 26 October, 2016, at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

G&L Council NSW's website is gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au with links to the secretary, editor & webmaster.

ALFACA's website is www.alfaca.org.au

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.





DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS

While collecting shells with her daughter on Broome's Cable Beach, Bindii Lee Porth recently discovered dinosaur footprints on the most popular part of the tourist beach.

According to the ABC news article, Palaeontologist Dr Steve Salisbury from the University of Queensland, is impressed with the latest find. 'There have been tracks spotted in



the Cable Beach area over the years, most of those are sauropod tracks, but this is the first time we've become aware of there being another type of dinosaur track in that area... A lot of the time, much of that rock is covered in sand, and Cable Beach is one of those areas where there's obviously a lot of sand. It's one of the reasons it attracts so many visitors.'

The ABC reports that Salisbury, who leads a study of dinosaur footprints along the Broome coastline, said the tracks were made by carnivorous theropod dinosaurs.

According to the article, 'the Broome coastline is renowned for 130-million-year-old dinosaur footprints stretching from Roebuck Bay in the south and over 150 kilometres north along the Dampier Peninsula.'

(info from: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-09-06/dinosaur-footprints-found-among-tourists-on-cable-beach/7818438>)

HUGE GOLD NUGGET FOUND

A 4.1kg nugget (145-ounce) was found last month in a reportedly worked-over area on the southern edge of central Victoria's Golden Triangle. Named Friday's Joy, the nugget could be worth up to \$250,000. It was located one foot below ground surface.



The prospector said he initially thought the gold nugget was a piece of rubbish

According to the ABC news story, 'Minelab said the prospector, who has used his weekends to search for gold and coins for the past 10 years, found a 9-ounce nugget the day before... The man said he planned to buy a van and travel around Australia.'

(info & image from: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-25/gold-nugget-weighing-more-than-4kg-found-in-central-victoria/7785204>)



CLUB NEWS

Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club The AGM will be held this month. All members are reminded that annual fees are now due.

Campbelltown Lapidary Club are holding an Open Day at the Clubhouse, Bensley Rd, Macquarie Fields, on the 15th October, 9am-2pm. This year, the Club is turning 50, and a special 50th anniversary dinner will be held on the 26th November in place of the Christmas party. Adly, the newsletter reported the passing of Bob Pullan, saying, 'Bob's passing will leave a very large hole to fill in our club and a brilliant large gem in our memories.'

Canberra Lapidary Club's recent field trip report says, 'five people attended the field excursion to Coalcliff south of Stanwell Park to admire the spectacular coastal views in the area and try their luck collecting petrified wood, jasper, chalcedony, quartz and agate from the beach pebbles. It was obvious that the rough



seas and weather from the previous month had caused some significant damage and erosion at Coalcliff. Although the pebbles were not as plentiful as on previous occasions, everyone enjoyed themselves. A most enjoyable day by those who attended.' Thanks were extended to Club member, Mavis, who, among other Club activities, maintains the Club's comprehensive library, with books, magazines and maps available to all members to borrow. The Club invites entries for the 2017 Royal Canberra Show Crafts Expo (Lapidary & Allied Crafts), organised and sponsored by the Canberra Lapidary Club. The Show dates are 24-26th February 2017. Club members are encouraged to enter.

Goulburn Gem Society have their Club Christmas dinner coming up on the 17th November. The newsletter issued a reminder that newsletters from other clubs are in the office. They are worth looking through for stories, ads, information and interesting trips. Some Club members were able to purchase surplus equipment from Parramatta-Holroyd Club after reading their ads. Last



month's field trip was to Coalcliff near Wollongong looking for agate and petrified wood. Members are reminded that Club membership renewals were due mid-August.

The **Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club** are co-hosting the Windsor Gem & Mineral Fair next month at the Windsor Function Centre in western Sydney. The Fair will run from 26th-27th November, open 9.30 till 5pm on Saturday and 9.30 till 4pm on Sunday. There will be a number of traders from around Australia displaying their wares, as well as displays and demonstrations by Club members. It should be a great day out for the whole family. Adults \$7, kids with parent/s are free!

Illawarra Lapidary Club have their Jewellery, Gems and Mineral Festival on next month at the Heininger Hall, Princes Hwy, Dapto, from 5th-6th November. Times are Saturday 9am-4pm and Sunday 9am-2.30pm. This will be the Club's 54th anniversary exhibition, and will feature demonstrations of cabochon cutting, jewellery making, gemstone faceting, silvercraft, jewellery

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valuations, Club and fossicking information. Dealers will be selling lapidary supplies, jewellery, minerals, crystals, fossils, beads and opals. Lucky door prizes, children's games, raffle, and refreshments available. Admission is \$3, children free.

Inverell & District Lapidary Club have their annual Gem & Craft Show this month, running for a week from Friday the 14th till Friday 21st October. The Show opens at the Inverell Pioneer Village, and features fossicking excursions, demonstrations, traders, tailgaters, and a mystery tour. An itinerary of events is available from the Clubhouse or Pioneer Village. The Club has an Open House from Monday 17th till Friday 21st, with traders, displays and catering. The Club trading cabinet is available to members to sell their crafted items, eg jewellery, stones, gems. The Club's facebook page is up and running: [facebook.com/Inverell & District Lapidary Club Inc](https://facebook.com/Inverell%20&%20District%20Lapidary%20Club%20Inc). The page will keep members up-to-date on general events, gem festivals, other Club's news, pictures, and some interesting links to geology sites and

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intriguing facts. The Club's recent AGM saw some newly elected officers, returned officers, and issued thanks to outgoing officers. Eight members went on the recent field trip to Gravesend, where a good selection of fossils from shells, plants, and a fish, were found preserved from a long-ago inland sea. The newsletter's 'Digging the Dirt' segment features David, whose best find is a complete fish fossil from Richmond, Qld, which he donated to the museum. David has been fossicking for about five years, loves cabbaging, and wants to find a raw diamond. His advice for fossickers is to 'enjoy the experiences, rewards and social aspect, but always respect the area you fossick in.'



Fish fossil unearthed during a recent Club field trip

Lismore Lapidary Club are preparing for the upcoming North Coast National (Lismore) Show, where the Club will be running a sales table as well as faceting and jewellery-making demonstrations. New lights have been installed over most machines, with more still to come, including installation of lights on a rail above the work benches to remove all cables and powerpoints from the work area. Six new office chairs have been purchased



Fossicking at Ewingar for quartz

for use at the work benches. Thirty-one adults and children attended the August field trip to Ewingar. Everyone found some treasures, and new spots were discovered up the creek, with some nice finds of smoky quartz, clear quartz, feldspar and a piece of amethyst/smoky quartz. Everyone had a good social and enjoyable day. The Club has welcomed

a large intake of new members who will hopefully make good use of the Club and drain much knowledge from all the other members.

Newcastle Lapidary Club's Annual Gem Show is on next month from 12th-13th November at the Clubhouse, Dora Rd, Adamstown. Show times are



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Saturday 9am-4pm and Sunday 9am-3pm. There will be sales of gemstones, beads, silver, tools, and jewellery, as well as displays of faceting and jewellery making. Refreshments are available and entry is free.

The **Lapidary Club of NSW** are holding an exhibition on 29th-30th October from 10am to 4pm at their Clubhouse, Reservoir St, Surry Hills. The title of the exhibition is Come Fossick! The newsletter reports improvements around the premises with gardening, painting, safety equipment checks, general clean ups, and restructuring & refurbishing of the rooms. The Club reported a steady increase in membership, with plenty of young people to bring the Club forward into the 21st Century. All members are appreciated, both active and non-active. Thanks were extended to the outgoing acting president, with the new president promising to ensure the Club remains sustainable, with a focus on the mission statement's strong core principles. Last month the Club held a promotional stall at the Sydney Crystal Show, with a great response. Next month there's a fossicking field trip to the Oberon area looking for sapphires.

The **Northern Districts Lapidary Club** have their annual Club Gem and Lapidary Exhibition coming up this month from the 28th-30th October at the Beecroft Community Centre. Club members are working hard toward making it a success, with an exhibition working bee planned for 16th October. The Club newsletter included a recipe for scones, which are needed in bulk for the exhibition. A new committee, elected at the AGM,



are working on suggestions and ideas put forward by members. The Northern Districts committee is considering taking the opportunity to have a tailgating stall at the GEMBOREE. Club members are needed for the whole four days. The recent enamelling workshop was a success, with seven members creating some masterpieces. The August gem tree workshop produced some beautiful creations. The Club stall at Roselea Show was well attended with members assisting in Club promotion of upcoming events, distributing flyers and membership forms, manning the door, and selling raffle tickets. Thanks were extended to all who assisted, as it was a lovely mix of people who generously gave their time.

The newsletter features the first part of Club member Joe's interesting account of their winter getaway trip with some glorious photos. Diane, has been awarded life membership for her commitment and service to the Club. The Club's Christmas Party will be held in December.



Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club have their Annual Exhibition coming up on 11th-13th November. In the newsletter, thanks were issued from the president to the newly elected committee, sub committee, and volunteers. Annual reports were published in the newsletter, with most issuing thanks to the membership for helping the Club function, reminders that volunteers are still required to step-up so all can have a break from tasks (ie holidays), and that introducing new recruits into Club administration may help keep



Ray Smith being presented with the Dulcie Stellino Award by Joe Stellino for efforts to the Club over the past year above and beyond expectations

the Club viable in the years to come. There are many behind-the-scenes jobs that help with a Club's success, and volunteers are required in diverse ways. Members are asked to please take more care when using the wheels, and to remember to work from the low grit numbers through to the high, carefully washing stones between use. All

members must be financial to use the workshop areas. The Club have agreed to handle the games activities at the 2017 GEMBOREE in Lithgow. There were plenty of fossils to be found for those who went on the recent field trip to Mullbring, including two large rocks with complete numerous shells. Sadly, the newsletter noted the passing of two members, Paul Stepanov, who has been a member since 2000, and Betty Saulits. 'Paul was a very quiet person who most people didn't notice. He did attend the Club regularly for lengths of time, but would then disappear again for lengthy periods. Betty Saulits joined us in 2013, sometime after the Greenwich Club closed. Betty was a very knowledgeable lady and was always willing to share her knowledge.'

◆

SLAB & MINERAL SALE

old lapidaries cleaning out - some good old stuff

October 15-16

10am start (no earlier)

24 Russell Avenue, Valley Heights, Blue Mountains

ABORIGINAL STONE KNIFE FOUND AT SPEEDWAY

An ancient stone cutting tool was found by a four-year-old under his mother's chair at Broome's speedway last month.

Johani Mamid, Broome's Yawuru Aboriginal Corporation country manager, is amazed at the find and grateful to the child's mother for



handing in the stone tool. According to ABC News, he said, 'it's good when someone finds something like that because it's basically a piece of our culture coming back to us.'

Dr Peter Veth, a professor of archaeology and Kimberley rock art, from the University of Western Australia who has worked in the region for over 30 years, estimated the artefact by its look and wear to be about 5,000 to 10,000 years old. According to the ABC, 'Dr Veth said that although the rock looked like a stone spear or arrow head, his experience of the ancient cultures of the Kimberley suggests it is more likely to be a cutting tool held in the hand.'

'Given where it is, in the south-west Kimberley, I'm pretty confident that it's been used as a cutting or woodworking tool,' he said.

He also says that this kind of rock was not naturally found in the Broome area and was evidence of the extensive trading that took place across Australia in ancient times.

'It's an opaline silica rock that doesn't occur around the Broome catchment, so it's definitely been traded in... [Artefacts provide] a material record of quite complex long distance relationships between Aboriginal people.'

Dr Veth said Eli was a role model for anyone who may find Aboriginal artefacts.

(info from: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-09-21/priceless-aboriginal-stone-knife-found-by-four-year-old/7864860>)



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GEMBOREE 2017

53RD ANNUAL GEMBOREE

14TH-17TH APRIL, 2017

LITHGOW, NSW



Clubs that help in planning and running the GEMBOREE are being offered free tailgating space. Your own Club's Public Liability policy will cover you for this stall, and we will require a current certificate of currency.

A GEMBOREE newsletter is available by email. If you would like a copy, just email Alan, at amcrae@lisp.com.au, to be added to the mailing list.

The layout for camping is finalised and there over 140 powered and about 40 non-powered campsites. There is a caravan park in Lithgow and one at Lake Lyell, and both look to be filling fast. In fact, accommodation all around Lithgow is filling fast, and as usual over Easter, there are several events on in the area. The Tourist Office is very helpful in tracking down the type of off-site accommodation you may need - contact it on 1300 760 276 or www.visitnsw.com/Lithgow.

Layout of the halls is drawn up and 20 dealers are expected. The competition will have pride of place – don't forget your entries! We are looking forward to lots of entries so visitors will see a good variety of the work we amateurs can do. There are lots of trophies to compete for – the champion lapidary in junior, novice, intermediate and open sections. There is also the Ray Powell Trophy for the Champion Lapidary Club, and there are trophies for many sections. Wouldn't it be a thrill to win one! Entries close 11 February, 2017.

During the Christmas break we plan to tidy up the showcases used for the competition. Some may need a touch of paint, others re-lining.

Are you getting material ready for your Club's tailgating stall? It's free, but we need help from some of your members for some part of the show or during in the planning. If you are planning on such a stall, you should fill and send a tailgating form to Ernst Holland, the Tailgating Chairman. You can download from the website the application form for a club stall.

The Competition Schedule, Registration and Tailgating forms are available at www.aflaca.org.au under GEMBOREE.

NB: GEMBOREE is held by the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW under the auspices of Australian Federation of Lapidary & Allied Crafts Association.

COMPETITION ENTRIES CLOSE 11 FEBRUARY 2017



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October

- 1 Beenleigh Lapidary Club Gem Festival, Showgrounds, Beenleigh, Qld
- 1-3 GEMKHANA Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon, NSW
- 7-9 Tauranga Gem & Mineral Club Show, Tauranga Racecourse, Tauranga, NZ
- 8 Nambour Gemfest Nambour Showgrounds, Qld
- 8-9 Central Coast Gem and Mineral Festival, Mingara Club, Tumbi Umbi, NSW
- 8-9 Combined Gippsland Gem Show Lucknow Hall, Vic
- 15 Campbelltown & District Lapidary Club Open Day, Macquarie Fields, NSW
- 14-21 Inverell Gem & Craft Show Various locations around Inverell, NSW
- 15-18 Nunawading & District Lapidary Club Annual Exhibition, Dorset Primary School, Croydon, Vic
- 22-23 Toowoomba Lapidary Club Gemfest Gem and Jewellery Show, Centenary Heights High School, Toowoomba, Qld
- 28-30 Northern Districts Lapidary Club Gem and Lapidary Show, Beecroft Community Centre, NSW
- 29-30 Lapidary Club of NSW Show Clubrooms, Reservoir St, Surry Hills, NSW
- 29-30 Canberra Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show, Mallee Pavilion, EPIC Arena, ACT

November

- 5-6 Illawarra Lapidary Club 54th Anniversary Exhibition, Heininger Hall, Dapto, NSW
- 5-6 Zeehan Gem & Mineral Show Zeehan Primary School, Tas
- 11-13 Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club Exhibition, Clubhouse, Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville, NSW
- 12-13 Newcastle Lapidary Club Gem Show, Clubhouse, Dora Rd, Adamstown, NSW
- 12-13 Launceston Gem Show Elphin Sports Centre, Launceston, Tas
- 12-13 Bundaberg Gem and Mineral Society Gemfair, Civic Centre, Bundaberg, Qld
- 19 Suncoast Gem & Fossicking Club Show, Mooloolaba State School, Qld
- 26-27 Windsor Gem & Mineral Fair Windsor Function Centre, Windsor, NSW

December

- 3-4 Sydney Crystal Show Fraser Park, Marrickville Road, Sydney, NSW

February 2017

- 24-26 Royal Canberra Show Crafts Competition, Exhibition Park, Canberra, ACT

March

- 11-12 Victorian GEMKHANA, Gem & Mineral Show, Quest Shepparton Racing Complex, Kialla, Vic

April

- 14-17 GEMBOREE 2017, 53rd National Gem & Mineral Show, Toni Luchetti Showgrounds, Lithgow, NSW

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



GEMKHANA

October 1-3

Hawkesbury Showground, NSW

