

Gem & Lapidary News

August 2017

Vol. 43 No 8

Print Post Approved PP243352/00002

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).

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GEMBOREE Coordinator	Col Wright
GEMKHANA Coordinator	Bob and Reg McLean

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

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Full page - \$40 per issue
1/2 page - \$25
1/3 page - \$20

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Gem & Lapidary Council NSW's website is gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au with links to the **secretary, editor & webmaster**

AFLACA's website is: www.aflaca.org.au

NB: CHANGE OF POSTAL ADDRESS FOR THE G&LC NSW

Gem & Lapidary Council NSW, PO Box 163, Wentworthville NSW, 2145

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 23rd August at the Clubrooms, Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club, 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville, 1pm

Please attend - you will be made very welcome ♥

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 ISSUE

August 16th (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:

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G&L COUNCIL INFORMATION

Minutes from GENERAL MEETING of Wednesday, 26th July 2017.

The meeting was opened at 12.55pm by President, Barbara Try (Northern Districts Lapidary Club), who welcomed delegates from the following Clubs: Central Coast (Tony Try), Blaxland (Pam & Alec Gardiner), Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill, Shirley & Ainslie Flynn), Port Hacking (Bob Mclean), Australian Factors Guild (Col Wright), Goulburn (Sue & Joe O'Neil), Parramatta-Holroyd (John & Marilyn Behrens), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane), NSW (Lilly Murphy), and Hawkesbury Valley (John Vincent).

Apologies: Blue Mountains (Una King), Port Hacking (Wally Dove), and Life Councillor (Arthur Roffey OAM).

J&R Report: Judging dates for the following shows: Australian Facetors Guild 29 & 30th July at Parramatta-Holroyd clubrooms; Parramatta-Holroyd 6th August; Hunter Valley Gemmology 2nd September; Central Coast 23rd September; GEMKHANA 9th September; and Illawarra Sunday 22nd October.

G&L News: nil

Editor's Report: nil

Education Report: Note all requests for courses to be to the Secretary, so tutors can be allocated. A suggestion on making the numbers and costs for courses more flexible was debated, Barbara Try to make new suggestion for next meeting.

GEMKHANA Report: Expressions of interest letters were resent to dealers in PDF form. Cost of hire of Hawkesbury Showground \$3,045, and a deposit has been lodged. Cost of garbage removal still to be negotiated. Catering to be arranged by Barbara Try. Sue O'Neil to organise Children's activities. Raffle prizes still needed - all donation gratefully received. Camping fees to be \$20 per night. Medallions: only gold needs to be ordered - Colin Wright to follow up. Reminder that competition entries close on August 18 by mail, August 19 by hand. All NSW clubs to be contacted to remind members of GEMKHANA times and dates.

GEMBOREE® Report: nil

General Business: Minor changes to contract documents were discussed and agreed on.

The meeting closed at 2.10pm

Next meeting: 1pm Wednesday 23rd August at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville.



CLUB NEWS

NB: Please forward your Club's information (newsletters etc) to the *G&LNews* Editor to include your NSW lapidary Club's news: editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

Blaxland Lapidary Club's Gem Show is on this month from the 19-20th August, at the Glenbrook Community Hall. There will be displays of lapidary work as well as gem, mineral, jewellery, beads and crystal sales. The show is open 8am-4pm daily. Adults \$3, children \$1. Refreshments available!)

Campbelltown Lapidary Club issue a general reminder to all members who use the workshop that 'it is really important to look after the equipment. It is expensive and if used incorrectly or not cleaned up after use, can be damaged and rendered unusable. Wash your hands and your stones thoroughly before moving to the next wheel (don't just dunk them quickly under the tap). Clean your machine after use. If something breaks or isn't working properly, report it immediately to the duty officer.' The Club's next field trip is to Lightning Ridge in October. Members are reminded that Membership fees are due.



Last month Campbelltown Club ran an earring-making workshop

Canberra Lapidary Club report that their next social meeting will be a 'Show & Tell' where individuals bring in a mineral, gemstone, fossil or any lapidary item, and do a brief talk on it, providing a good opportunity for new members and newcomers to the hobby to see what they do, and collect etc. Twenty-five people attended last month's field excursion to a private property at Kangaroo Valley near Moss Vale. According to the newsletter, 'the weather was just perfect and the day was spent chasing petrified wood, jasper, agate, chalcedony and quartz which are

found amongst the river gravels and boulders. Everyone was able to procure a specimen or two of these varieties of quartz.' This month's Club field trip is to Kangaroo Valley (a different location) to fossick for jasper, petrified wood and agate. A six-week Introduction to Mineralogy and Gemmology course will be run from the end of next month. Members are reminded to start cleaning up their work areas 15 minutes prior to closing time, including the work units and adjacent areas, as well as cleaning up and putting away in the tea room. Entries are invited from Club Members and other interested parties for the 2018 Royal Canberra Show Crafts Expo (Lapidary & Allied Crafts), organised & sponsored by the Canberra Lapidary Club. Entry forms are not yet available, but the sections will include jewellery, faceting, cabochon and grand champion. The Club recently held a Detector theory and practical lesson refresher for enthusiasts, with practical demonstrations on the oval. New Club by-laws were drafted and ratified by the Committee and published in last month's Club newsletter.



Goulburn Gem Society have a Sunday BBQ Fundraiser at Bunnings on the 20th of this

month. All members are encouraged to be involved.

Illawarra Lapidary Club has a social walk field trip organised for this month, walking from Minnamurra Train Station to Bombo Quarry.

Inverell & District Lapidary Club has an Open Day on the 27th of this month. Meanwhile, members are busy preparing for their Annual Gem & Craft Show coming up on 13-15th October at the Pioneer Village in Inverell. This is a big event for the Club, and all hands will be needed on deck. The last meeting saw a large number of apologies come in, and hopefully attendance will improve as the cold weather goes. The newsletter reports, 'The construction phase of our building project is finished, all hands to the brushes as painting has now started. Work, for those not painting, will concentrate on catching up with some of the long-delayed landscaping.' The Club recently acquired some faceting machines donated by TAFE NSW. These are to be used for Club training, and are currently undergoing maintenance work before being installed. The last Club field trip to the Granite Belt was reportedly 'split into two groups, the oldies went looking for petrified wood and fossils, not so wet and cold, the brave ones went looking for crystals.'

Lismore Lapidary Club report that a leak has been fixed, the drill press has a new bench, and the Club is looking to get some window blinds. Members were advised on the recent changes to the AFLACA judging manual, and new members were welcomed. Members are advised that anyone who has not paid this year's membership fees will

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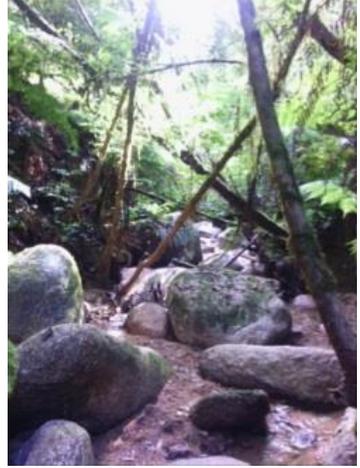
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cease to be a member and will not receive further newsletters. The Club has their AGM this month. The Club also have a field trip to Hogarth Range this month looking for labradorite. Last month's field trip to Ewingar yielded some big terminations and finds of smoky and clear quartz. A trip to the New England district is planned for October. The Club Newsletter reported the editor's trip to the Rockhana at Cloncurry, which after a dusty start, turned out a beautiful day. Some regular Lismore Gemfest tailgaters were there, and the Mt Isa Club put on a comprehensive display of local gems and minerals for sale. Wearing their Lismore Club member badges made for an instant rapport with other Club members, and everyone was extremely friendly and welcoming.



Lismore Club field trip to Ewingar

Newcastle Lapidary Club have their annual Gem and Jewellery Fair on 11-12th November at the Basketball Stadium in Broadmeadow. Parking and entry is free, and there will be demonstrations of jewellery-making and faceting, as well as many stalls selling a variety of tools, jewellery, craft and gems and minerals. This is a new venue

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with more stalls in an indoor, spacious, well lit location with plenty of all weather parking. Canteen facilities are available throughout each day. Members have made and donated two more beautiful pieces of jewellery for raffle prizes to raise funds for the John Hunter Hospital Kids' Club.

The **Lapidary Club of NSW** have their Annual Show coming up from the 28-29th October, at the Lapidary House in Surry Hills.

Northern Districts Lapidary Club report that the wire-wrapping workshop was a success, and the recent chasing and repousse class has been completed. The newsletter featured a story on this, saying, 'Brian Burns introduced 6 selected silver class members to the art of Repousse using new tools that he has purchased and manufactured. Brian copied a set costing \$300 by cutting screwdrivers to the same dimensions and shape of the tools to create 6 sets. The group hammered away and shaped copper into a pretty repousse butterfly, achieving some spectacular results. The



members can now go back to their classes and teach others.' The Club have a casting workshop coming up soon, and report that the cleaning bee went well with thanks issued to all who attended. A new revised dopping bench is now ready for Club use. The newsletter reports that, 'Following the cleaning of the Trim Saws, we are



Northern Districts' members at the chasing and repousse workshop

trialling the use of Rice Bran Oil as the coolant/lubricant, given the apparent success of its use by the Lapidary Club of NSW, in their trim saws. Their choice of Rice Bran Oil was chosen on the basis that it's readily available from grocery stores; has a high flash point of 245 deg.C; it's humanly/environmentally friendly, and has a low risk of going rancid or oxidising. So please don't add any water or soluble oil to our saws for the foreseeable future, while we establish whether this change is beneficial for our purposes.' The bearings in the flat lap have been replaced, and it is much quieter to work with. Members are reminded to report any repair or maintenance issues and to leave suggestions on the cutting-room whiteboard. The AGM is this month, and is followed by an afternoon tea. A three-day field trip to Laurieton in November is being planned for some Club R&R. Club members are reminded to submit GEMKHANA entries, as October is not that far away, and competition entries close on 18th of this month. Roving members, Joe & Reetta, report a stop at the Mary Kathleen uranium

mine, which Joe describes as a vast eerie abandoned area of enormous devastation [which, according to Wikipedia, is leaking high rates of radioactive seepage from abandoned evaporation ponds etc, causing widespread death of native vegetation—Ed.]. The Club are manning the door entry table for the Carlingford Gem & Mineral Fair being held at the Roselea Community Centre, on 26-27th of this month. Opening times are Saturday 9.30am to 5pm and Sunday 9.30am to 4pm.



Reetta bagged some samples from the abandoned Mary Kathleen uranium mine

Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club have their Annual Exhibition Show on this month from the 18-20th August at the Wentworthville Clubrooms, open 9am-4pm each day. This is the Club's 57th Exhibition and it will be more fun than ever with interactive activities, and a theme of India and the subcontinent gems and minerals. There will be stalls with displays of specimens, rocks and minerals, jewellery, and plants for sale, as well as demonstrations of lapidary arts, children's activities such as sand sieving and a fossicking heap, and a Club raffle. Floral art, and artistry with rock, displays will be featured among the Club showcases. Members are asked to help where they can and to help spread the word to friends and neighbours. The Club have their AGM coming up this month, and at next month's meeting, a member from Illawarra Club is guest speaking on a prehnite dig. This year's in-Club Dulcie Stellino Award 'is for the Club member who has contributed above and beyond normal activities to the Club's benefit and improvement during the year. Previous recipients are not eligible.' The Club also runs their President's Award for a standard cab of ribbonstone in open, novice and junior sections. It's great practice for honing skills for state and national competitions. All Club members are urged to enter items into the upcoming GEMKHANA, the state-wide lapidary competition held from September 30th to October 2nd at the Hawkesbury Showground in Clarendon. GEMKHANA Competition Entries are due this month by the 18th August. Get your entries in! The Mineral Group, who meet at the Clubhouse, invite people to come along to their monthly meetings. ♦

GEMBOREE BOOKLETS

Booklets are available for next year's national GEMBOREE at Willunga in South Australia.

Postage is \$2 per copy, however if people are travelling, we may be able to make other pick up/delivery arrangements.

Email Marilyn Behrens to request copies: secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au



ARTEFACTS UP TO 80000 YEARS OLD

According to *The Guardian*, 'The findings on about 11,000 artefacts from Kakadu national park... prove Indigenous people have been in Australia for far longer than the much-contested estimates of between 47,000 and 60,000 years, the researchers said. Some of the artefacts were potentially as old as 80,000 years.'

The *Guardian* article, reported findings revealed in *Nature*, states, 'The significant trove of thousands of artefacts was buried in 2.6 metres of sand and sediment on

the western edge of the Arnhem Land plateau. The site at Madjedbebe is on the traditional lands of the Mirarr people, but currently within the confines of the Jabiluka uranium mining lease, and surrounded by the 20,000 hectares of the heritage-listed Kakadu.'

'More than 10,000 artefacts were uncovered in the "zone of first occupation", including ochre and reflective paint substances, as well as the oldest unbroken ground-edge stone axes in the world, by about 20,000 years, and the oldest known seed-grinding tools in Australia.'

"What we found was it's not just one kind of hatchet head we've got, but four or five quite different kinds," said professor Richard Fullagar from the University of Wollongong.'

According to the *Guardian* article, 'Artefacts were both carbon dated and dated using optically stimulated luminescence, a technique that measures the radiative signature of a grain of sand to measure when it was last exposed to sunlight... That date was confirmed by researchers at the University of Adelaide, who tested a blind sample, and at New Zealand's Waikato University.'

'The site has been excavated twice by [excavation leader] Clarkson's team, under a special agreement with the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, in partnership with the current leaseholders, Energy Resources of Australia. Under the agreement, which Clarkson described as one of the strongest in Australia, the Mirarr have total control over the extent of the dig, and veto power. All discoveries must be reported to them and all artefacts must be returned to the Mirarr at the end of the project.'

"They have to bring it back here, it belongs to this place," said May Nango, a Mirarr traditional owner... Nango said the country had to be protected for the younger generations, and she was worried about non-Indigenous people coming in and clearing out trees or mining... "We like to stay forever, we're buried here too. We like to stay forever on our land, and we like to teach our young kids too so they remember our old people who gave us the stories."

(Info & images from: https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/jul/19/dig-finds-evidence-of-aboriginal-habitation-up-to-80000-years-ago?CMP=soc_567 & https://theconversation.com/buried-tools-and-pigments-tell-a-new-history-of-humans-in-australia-for-65-000-years-81021?m_source=facebook&utm_medium=facebookbutton)



Edge-ground hatchet head being excavated



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GEMKHANA 2017

GEMKHANA is the annual Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of lapidaries from all over New South Wales.

Presented by the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW Inc, GEMKHANA 2017 will be held at the Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon, from 30th September to October 2nd.



Competition Entries for GEMKHANA 2017 close on 18th August, so there's still time to formally enter the lapidary competition. Check the Competition Schedule (<http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/gemkhana/>).

Colin Wright, the Competition Coordinator, says, 'This is a challenge to ALL NSW Clubs to support the event and to encourage your members to enter the competition. "Interstate Clubs are also welcome to enter"... Entering a competition for the very first time can be [a] daunting experience however, this is where your Committee together with your workshop supervisor/teacher/tutor can provide the necessary support, advice and encouragement to help your members achieve the next step with their craft.'



Colin says, 'When you compete, your work is critiqued by an impartial judge, who does not even know who has done the work... The Judge's comments will be encouraging, but also where due, will have constructive criticism which points out areas where you may improve your performance/skills... If the judge gives you a good mark (not necessarily win a prize) it will make you feel that your efforts have achieved something with your craft, but it is also a reward for your teacher/tutor that their knowledge has been passed on to you. It is also a way of promoting the reputation of your Club.'



The Show will feature gem and mineral displays, traders and tailgaters selling specimens, jewellery, stones, tools etc, with lapidary demonstrations, and activities for children. Refreshments are available and there's camping at the showground. The venue is wheelchair accessible, and has plenty of parking.

Come along and support this major competition and showcase event, and enjoy the best in lapidaries that GEMKHANA 2017 has to offer. ♥



GEM & JEWELLERY

SHOW



30th September to 2nd October

Hours: 9am to 5pm Saturday & Sunday
9am to noon Monday

Location:

Hawkesbury District Agricultural Grounds at
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Children's Activities

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Enquiries: - Bob McLean 0429 804 580



August

- 5 Innisfail Club Show Club Rooms, Innisfail, Qld
6 Atherton Club Show Club Rooms, Toga, Qld
10-13 Anakie Gemfest Allen King Memorial Park, Anakie, Qld
18-20 Parramatta-Holroyd Annual Exhibition, Clubrooms, Wentworthville NSW
19-20 Ballarat & District Gem Club Show, 'The Farm', Invermay Park, Vic
19-20 Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Gem Show, Glenbrook Community Hall, NSW
26 Waterloo Bay Gem Show, Hemmant Community Hall, Hemmant, Qld
26-27 Carlingford Gem & Mineral Fair, Roselea Community Centre, NSW
26-27 Frankston & Peninsula Lapidary Club Annual Gem Exhibition, Cranbourne Public Hall, Vic
26-27 White Cliffs Gem Fest and Car Boot Sale, White Cliffs Community Hall, NSW

September

- 2 Ipswich & District Lapidary Club Show, Silkstone Primary School, Qld
2-3 Mildura & District Gem & Mineral Club Annual Exhibition & Jewellery Show, Sunraysia Masonic Hall, Irymple, Vic
9-10 Bribie Island Gem Festival Lapidary Club Show, Banksia Beach, Qld
9-10 Blue Mountains Gem & Mineral Club Show, Clubrooms, Bullabura, NSW
23 West Australian Lapidary & Rockhunting Club 'Bring & Buy' Market Day, Riverdale, WA
23-24 Caloundra Gem Show Caloundra State School, Qld
23-24 Waverley Gem Club Exhibition, Brandon Park Community Centre, Waverley, NSW
30-Oct 2 GEMKHANA, Hawkesbury District Showgrounds, Clarendon, NSW

October

- 6-8 New Zealand National Gem & Mineral Show, North Shore Events Centre, Glenfield, NZ
7 Beenleigh Gem Festival Beenleigh Showgrounds, Qld
14 Campbelltown Lapidary Club Open Day, Clubhouse, Macquarie Fields, NSW
14 Nambour Gemfest Nambour Showgrounds, Qld
14-15 Central Coast Lapidary Club Annual Gem Festival, Mingara Recreation Club, Tumby Umbi, NSW
14-15 Mordialloc Lapidary Club Gem Fair, Moorabbin Senior Citizens' Hall, Vic
21-22 Nunawading & District Lapidary Club Annual Exhibition, Dorset Primary School, Croydon, Vic
21-22 Toowoomba Gemfest, Centenary Heights High School, Toowoomba, Qld
28-29 Lapidary Club of NSW Inc Annual Show, Lapidary House, Surry Hills, NSW
29 Warragul Lapidary Club Rock Market, Logan Park, Warragul, Vic
28-Nov 5 Grafton Gem Club Display Jacaranda Festival, Grafton, NSW

November

- 4-5 Bundaberg Gem and Mineral Society Gemfair, Civic Centre, Bundaberg, Qld

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



GEMKHANA

September 30-October 2

Hawkesbury Showground

Clarendon, NSW

