

Gem & Lapidary News

October

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Gem & Lapidary News is the official publication of the GEM AND LAPIDARY COUNCIL of NEW SOUTH WALES Inc, PO Box 188 Orange 2800. 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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President	Barbara Try (Northern Districts) 0417 676435
Vice Presidents:	Colin Wright (Port Hacking) Tony Try (Central Coast)
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Committee:	Kathy Selwood (Orange) Alec Gardiner (Blaxland)

Appointments

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Competition Judges	
Education Officer	vacant
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GEMKHANA Coordinator	Barbara Try (voting) and Tony Try (non-voting)
AFLACA delegates	Barbara Try (voting) and Arthur Roffey (non-voting)
AFLACA J&R delegates	

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Visitors welcome to attend

EXECUTIVE meet monthly, fourth Wednesday of the month, 1pm, at Clubrooms, Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club, 73 Fullager Rd, Wentworthville, NSW

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 24th October 2018

EDITOR'S NOTES

- The September monthly council meeting was held on Thursday 27th September, not the 26th, as stated in the previous G&L Newsletter.
- We have a growing interest in the Author's Competition. ***Do you also have a good story to tell? We'd love to hear from you.*** This month's contributions are on pages 11,12,13, 15,17, and 18. All articles contributed will be noted and considered for the prize at the end of the GEMKHANA year.

Suzanne

ADDRESSES for the Gem & Lapidary Council NSW

Website : [http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au /](http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/)

The website has links to the **secretary, editor & webmaster**

Online edition of the newsletter is in colour.

Post : Gem & Lapidary Council NSW, PO Box 188, Orange NSW, 2800

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER 2018 ISSUE

17th October 2018

(third Wednesday of the month—a few days grace is allowed)

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

editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

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per *G&L News* edition

(NB: printed in black & white)

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Parramatta-Holroyd Life Member Ruth Payne passed away on 18th September. A funeral service was held for her on 26th September 2018

Bert Van der Vlag from the Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectible and Lapidary club passed away on 22nd September. There was a service at Bathurst Crematorium on 28th September.

Both will be greatly missed .



Minutes of the COMMITTEE MEETING of 27 September 2018

held at the Hawkesbury Showground

The meeting was opened at 3:00pm by President Barbara Try (Northern Districts) who welcomed delegates from the following clubs: Mineralogical Society (Minsoc) (John Behrens, Arthur Roffey OAM), Central Coast (Tony Try), Hawkesbury Valley (John Vincent), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane), Goulburn (Sue & Joe O'Neil, Marilyn Behrens), AFG (Col Wright), Orange (Kathy Selwood), Pt Hacking (Bob McLean), Illawarra (Joan Zealey),

Visitors: David and Debbie Thompson – Port Hacking Club

Apologies: Blaxland (Pam & Alex Gardiner), Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill, Shirley & Ainslie Flynn) NSW (Lilly Murphy), Joan Ball OAM.
Moved, Central Coast seconded Goulburn apologies be accepted

Minutes of the Previous Meeting (22 August 2018):

Moved Goulburn seconded AFG, minutes be accepted.

Business Arising:

- 1/ Illawarra – wax carving classes date set 27 & 28 October
- 2/ insurance- completed
- 3/ Grafton's enamelling workshop - Annett Clarke
- 4/ Medallions have arrived
- 5/ tagging of cord and power boards completed

Correspondence:

Moved Orange, seconded Illawarra that inward correspondence be received and outward correspondence be endorsed.

Business Arising:

1/ Clubs have acknowledge and are sending email copies of their newsletters

Treasurer's Report:

General a/c: Inc - Exp - \$286.85 Bal at 24/9/18 \$3,340.71

GEMKHANA a/c: Inc - \$1,265.00 Exp - \$187.55 Bal at 24/9/18 \$20,560.76

GEMBOREE a/c: Inc - Exp - Bal at 24/9/18 \$2,589.50

Accounts for payment: Sue for painting, John for a trolley, Judging expenses.

Moved Pt Hacking, seconded Hawkesbury that the report be accepted and accounts paid.

GEMKHANA Report:

- Rock painting to cost \$1 for participants
- Insides Traders down due to traders being away and or health problems.

GEMBOREE 2022 – next NSW GEMBOREE (Apr 13-19 2022) Mudgee

- Bathurst has offered to do outside traders and field trips.
- John suggestion on security has been raised with Mudgee venue committee
- Trophy think of what could be used
- Inside traders Marilyn
- Hall floor plan Arthur
- Field trips any ideas
- Competition Barb & Kathy

Reports received: moved Pt Hacking seconded Minsoc,

J&R Report:

- Some judging still to be done – 21 October Illawarra, Central Coast were judge on 22 September with approx. 124 entries, Northern Districts judging to be done on 13 October - 165 entries
- Gem Council submission to AFLACA for a mineral classification change

Webmaster's Report: no report

Education Report: Going well, 3 courses going at different stages at present.

Editor's Report: change of address for postage

GENERAL BUSINESS

- G & L Council meetings for 2019, April meeting cancelled, AGM's – 12 Dec 2018 - 11 Dec 2019, Meeting dates to Parramatta – 4th Wednesday in the month, GEMKHANA judging 7 September 2019,

General business moved AFG, seconded Orange

Meeting closed 3.40pm

Next meeting, Wednesday 24 October, 2018 Parramatta-Holroyd club

Meeting dates 2018 October 24th November 28th December 12th
Council's website: www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au with a link to Secretary, Editor and Webmaster

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

An upcoming QLACCA event:

Sat 27th - October 2018 Crystal, Gem and Jewellery Show, Gold Coast, SE Qld 225 Morala Avenue, Runaway Bay, Gold Coast Held at the Runaway Bay Seagulls Rugby League Club Free Entry! 10:00am - 6:00pm Minerals, Fossils, Opals, Crystals, Pearls, Jewellery and Gemstones on sale. All quality products from top dealers Ph 07 5537 4844

CLUB NEWS

Email: editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

Illawarra Lapidary club Inc have a Jewellery Gems and Mineral Festival coming up in early November. Please see the Events page for 'where' and 'when'. The Club is contactable via their website:

<http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/>

They had great success from individual members at GEMKHANA 2018.

Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club is having an Open day on 20th October. There will be a raffle held on the day, with jewellery and gem specimens as prizes.

Canberra Lapidary Club Inc have a Gemcraft and Mineral show coming up on 10th and 11th November at Mallee Pavilion. They will have items for sale, demonstrations and displays. Please contact the show convenor Norm Menadue on (02) 6258 6331 for further details.

Paramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club have just elected Shirley Lord as President of the Club. They now have leadlight workshops happening on Thursday mornings from ten till two. The Club had their exhibition 'Everything Copper', last month.

Lismore Gem and Lapidary Club have begun plans in earnest for Gemfest in May next year. No reports, as yet, on the Emmaville field trip. They will be having a display at the 'North Coast National' (the Lismore show), which is on on October 18, 19 and 20. November's trip is to Thunderbird Park, Mt tambourine, Qld.

Northern Districts Lapidary Club had resounding Club and individual member successes at GEMKHANA 2018. Congratulations to all the winners!

Bathurst will have school holiday workshops for polishing and jewellery making on the 11th and 12th October. The days run from 9am to 3.30pm and cost \$25 each. Please contact Paul Martensz on 0427 896 945 or 6332-1017, or email him —

martensz.paul@gmail.com if you are interested in attending them.

Section Results - GEMKHANA - 2018

Award Winners

O.1A.1 Std Cabochon - Crafts - Open - Agate

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- 1st Dave Radke Toowoomba 13 99.97
 2nd Honway Louie Nth Dist NSW 135 99.95
 3rd Honway Louie Nth Dist NSW 134 99.60
 H/C Bob Mc Lean Port Hacking 157 99.30

I.1A.2 Std Cabochon - Crafts - Inter - Agate

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- S/A Amy Cheung Nth Dist NSW 112 94.25

N.1A.3 Std Cabochon - Crafts - Novice - Agate

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- 1st Colin Wright Port Hacking 150 94.20
 2nd Alice Zheng Nth Dist NSW 128 93.00
 3rd Connie Leung Nth Dist NSW 121 92.90
 H/C Sally Lin Nth Dist NSW 118 91.90

O.1A.5 Std Cabochon - A/A - Open - Ribbonstone

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- 1st Honway Louie Nth Dist NSW 137 99.03
 2nd Honway Louie Nth Dist NSW 136 97.50
 3rd Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 67 93.88
 H/C Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 66 91.80

N.1A.7 Std Cabochon - A/A - Novice - Ribbonstone

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- 1st Alice Zheng Nth Dist NSW 129 93.80
 2nd Connie Leung Nth Dist NSW 122 87.05

O.1B.1 Fancy Cabochon - Crafts - Open

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- 1st Honway Louie Nth Dist NSW 138 99.94
 2nd Dave Radke Toowoomba 14 99.80
 3rd Honway Louie Nth Dist NSW 139 99.43
 H/C Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 68 95.96

I.1B.2 Fancy Cabochon - Crafts - Intermediate

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- 1st Amy Cheung Nth Dist NSW 113 96.30
 2nd Nick Boes Port Hacking 4 88.20
 3rd Nick Boes Port Hacking 3 82.00

N.1B.3 Fancy Cabochon - Crafts - Novice

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- 1st Desmond Chung Nth Dist NSW 126 85.00
 2nd Josephine Pagano Port Hacking 28 84.75
 3rd Josephine Pagano Port Hacking 29 84.50
 H/C Peter Howard Port Hacking 97 84.25

J.1B.4 Fancy Cabochon - Crafts - Junior

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- S/A Daniel Chapman Nth Dist NSW 133 85.60

O.1B.5 Fancy Cabochon - A/A - Open - Mahogany Obsidian

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- S/A Sue O' Neil Goulburn 109 84.50

Section Results - GEMKHANA - 2018

Award Winners

O.2A.1 Double Std Cab - Crafts - Open

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- 1st Dave Radke Toowoomba 15 97.65
- 2nd Dave Radke Toowoomba 16 97.45
- 3rd Honway Louie Nth Dist NSW 140 95.55
- H/C Sue O' Neil Goulburn 107 83.10

N.2A.3 Double Std Cab - Crafts - Novice

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- 1st Amy Cheung Nth Dist NSW 114 94.00
- 2nd Josephine Pagano Port Hacking 44 82.80

O.2B.1 Double Fancy Cab - Crafts - Open

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- 1st Honway Louie Nth Dist NSW 141 95.50
- 2nd Walter Dove Port Hacking 36 84.95
- 3rd Walter Dove Port Hacking 37 79.50

N.2B.3 Double Fancy Cab - Crafts - Novice

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- 1st Peter Howard Port Hacking 98 76.50
- 2nd Tony Offord Port Hacking 155 70.20

O.3.1 Free Form - Crafts - Open

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- 1st Honway Louie Nth Dist NSW 142 97.80
- 2nd Honway Louie Nth Dist NSW 143 97.40
- 3rd Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 69 94.40
- H/C Colin Wright Port Hacking 151 93.50

I.3.2 Free Form - Crafts - Intermediate

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- 1st Amy Cheung Nth Dist NSW 115 96.00
- 2nd Nick Boes Port Hacking 5 86.10
- 3rd Nick Boes Port Hacking 6 83.50

N.3.3 Free Form - Crafts - Novice

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- 1st Sally Lin Nth Dist NSW 119 95.70
- 2nd Alice Zheng Nth Dist NSW 130 92.50
- 3rd Desmond Chung Nth Dist NSW 127 89.30
- H/C Russ Chappell Port Hacking 45 85.50

O.4A.1 Opal Doublet - Flat Top - Crafts - Open

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- 1st Dave Radke Toowoomba 17 98.50
- 2nd Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 70 97.40
- 3rd Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 71 95.75

O.5A.1 Carving - Fully 3-Dimensional - Open

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- S/A Kathy Selwood Orange 103 93.50

O.5B.1 Carving - In Relief - Open

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

- S/A Kathy Selwood Orange 104 94.50

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O.5E.1 Carving not otherwise specified in Group 5A to 5D

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Kathy Selwood Orange 105 89.75

O.8B.1 Std Round Brilliant - Faceted Girdle - Open - Any Qtz

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

1st Bob Mc Lean Port Hacking 158 97.29

2nd Dave Radke Toowoomba 18 97.11

3rd Lex Winkelman AFG 8 90.57

H/C Kevin Fletcher Orange 22 85.80

N.8B.1 Std Round Brilliant - Faceted Girdle - Novice - Any

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Laurence Mearing Illawarra Lap Club 51 70.38

O.9A.1 Standard Oblong Step Cut - Open - MM Col CZ

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

1st Colin Wright Port Hacking 152 99.14

2nd Dave Radke Toowoomba 19 99.06

3rd Colin Wright Port Hacking 153 98.27

H/C Bob Mc Lean Port Hacking 159 97.94

I.9A.2 Standard Oblong Step Cut - Inter - MM Col CZ

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Dave Radke Toowoomba 20 96.81

N.9A.3 Standard Oblong Step Cut - Novice - MM Col CZ

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

1st Dave Radke Toowoomba 21 98.14

O.10.1 Trib Brill - Open - Topaz

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

1st Bob Mc Lean Port Hacking 160 97.42

2nd Lex Winkelman AFG 10 96.58

3rd Kevin Fletcher Orange 25 87.30

H/C Kevin Fletcher Orange 26 86.40

N.10.1 Cushion - Novice - MM Col Corundum

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Christine Sutter Port Hacking 27 81.59

O.11.1 Tritop - Open - MM Col Corundum

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Lex Winkelman AFG 11 92.30

N.11.1 Simple Triangle Checker - Novice - MM Col Spinel

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Tony Offord Port Hacking 156 79.78

O.12A.1 Tumbled Stones - Preformed Shape - Open

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 72 97.88

O.13.1 Polished Face - Flat Surface - Open - A/Appeal

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

1st Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 75 97.45

2nd Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 74 97.33

3rd Colin Russell Port Hacking 164 92.70

N.13.2 Polished Face - Flat Surface - A/Appeal - Novice

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Colin Wright Port Hacking 154 95.38

N.14.2 Polished Face - Curved Surface - A/Appeal - Novice

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Russ Chappell Port Hacking 48 93.25**I.18A.2 Hand Fabricated Jewellery - Intermediate**

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

1st Heather Winkelman No Club 40 92.25**2nd Russ Chappell** Port Hacking 49 90.50**3rd Kathy Selwood** Orange 101 89.50**H/C Heather Winkelman** No Club 39 87.50**H/C Russ Chappell** Port Hacking 50 87.50**N.18A.3 Hand Fabricated Jewellery - Novice**

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A P. J. Shepherd Orange 100 91.00**O.18B.1 Hand Fabricated Jewellery - Open**

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

1st Honway Louie Nth Dist NSW 145 89.88**2nd Honway Louie** Nth Dist NSW 144 89.63**3rd Michael Derrington** Illawarra Lap Club 53 89.38**H/C Michael Derrington** Illawarra Lap Club 54 86.88**O.18E.1 Wire Wrapped Jewellery - Open**

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Honway Louie Nth Dist NSW 146 90.05**N.18E.2 Wire Wrapped Jewellery - Novice**

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

1st Amy Cheung Nth Dist NSW 117 94.50**2nd Amy Cheung** Nth Dist NSW 116 90.50**3rd Sue O' Neil** Goulburn 111 81.45**H/C Sue O' Neil** Goulburn 110 78.85**O.20A.1 Cast Jewellery - Natural Pattern - Open**

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 76 88.50**O.24A.1 Enamelled Jewellery - Open - Hand Fab.**

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

1st Michael Derrington Illawarra Lap Club 56 90.95**2nd Barbara Try** Nth Dist NSW 77 86.05**3rd Barbara Try** Nth Dist NSW 78 83.05**H/C Michael Derrington** Illawarra Lap Club 55 82.20**N.24A.2 Enamelled Jewellery - Novice - Hand Fab.**

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Michael Derrington Illawarra Lap Club 57 85.25

O.25.1 Commercial Mount Jewellery - Open

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

1st Honway Louie Nth Dist NSW 148 99.38

2nd Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 79 96.25

3rd Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 80 95.75

H/C Honway Louie Nth Dist NSW 149 95.73

N.25.3 Commercial Mount Jewellery - Novice

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Sally Lin Nth Dist NSW 120 98.25

O.26A.1 Enamelled Jewellery - Open - Comm Mount

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

1st Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 81 94.85

2nd Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 82 92.90

3rd Michael Derrington Illawarra Lap Club 60 84.88

H/C Michael Derrington Illawarra Lap Club 59 76.95

O.26B.1 Enamelled Jewellery - Open - Without Mount

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

1st Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 84 90.05

2nd Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 83 88.80

3rd Michael Derrington Illawarra Lap Club 61 76.50

H/C Michael Derrington Illawarra Lap Club 62 75.40

O.26C.1 Enamelling - Open - Non Jewellery

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Michael Derrington Illawarra Lap Club 63 89.80

O.32A.1 Fossil - Non-Display - Single Specimen - Open

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 85 94.00

N.32A.2 Fossil - Non-Display - Single Specimen - Novice

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Walter Dove Port Hacking 38 76.00

O.32B.1 Fossils - Non Display - Group of 3 - Open

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

S/A Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 88 96.00

O.34A.1 Mineral - Single Specimen - Open

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

1st Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 90 90.50

2nd Arthur Roffey Min Society NSW 165 84.50

3rd Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 89 83.00

H/C Arthur Roffey Min Society NSW 166 68.50

O.34A.3 Mineral - Single Specimen - Open

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

1st Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 91 88.00

2nd Arthur Roffey Min Society NSW 168 86.00

3rd Arthur Roffey Min Society NSW 167 73.50

H/C Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 92 73.00

O.34B.1 Minerals - Group of 3 - Open

Name: Club: Entry: Points:

1st Arthur Roffey Min Society NSW 169 87.17

2nd Arthur Roffey Min Society NSW 170 86.50

3rd Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 93 83.33

H/C Barbara Try Nth Dist NSW 94 80.34

SPECIAL ONE-OFF TROPHIES

donated by Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW

Section N-1A.3 Novice Standard Cabochon -C/S-Highest Score

Awarded to: **Colin Wright Port Hacking Lapidary Club**

Section O-13.1 Open Polished Face-Flat Surface-Highest Score

Awarded to: **Barbara Try, Northern Districts Lapidary Club**

THE JOAN BALL TROPHY

Section O-26B.1 Open Enamelled Jewellery without Mount
-Highest Score

Awarded to: **Barbara Try, Northern Districts Lapidary Club**

THE ALAN COULTON TROPHY

Section O-20A.1 Open Cast Jewellery using Natural Objects as Patterns
-Highest Score

Awarded to: **Barbara Try, Northern Districts Lapidary Club**

THE BORIS NOVIC TROPHY

Section 0-2A.1 The competitor with the highest score in Section O-2A.1
Double Standard Cabochon – C/S

Awarded to: **Dave Radke, Toowoomba Lapidary Club**

THE DICK MOPPETT TROPHY – OPEN

Sections O-8B.1 & O-9A.1 For the Open Competitor with the highest aggregate points for two (2) faceted stones – one shall be ***STANDARD BRILLIANT*** and the other a ***STANDARD STEP CUT***. Note that each entry must achieve a minimum standard of 90 points.

Awarded to: **Dave Radke, Toowoomba Lapidary Club**

THE ARTHUR ROFFEY TROPHY for “BEST MINERAL IN SHOW”

Awarded to: **Barbara Try, Northern Districts Lapidary Club**

THE FRANK LANDER TROPHY for MOST SUCCESSFUL COMPETITOR

Awarded to: **Barbara Try, Northern Districts Lapidary Club**

THE FRANK HALL TROPHY for MOST SUCCESSFUL CLUB

Awarded to: **Northern Districts Lapidary Club**

*Author's Competition**Entry by Michael Burgess***Carving a rhodonite gemstone chain**

I started carving gemstone back in 2007, my latest project is a chain carved from imperial rhodonite from my region of Tamworth NSW Australia, very rare grade to find now, mostly mined out back in the early 1980s, jade would have been the most logical gem to carve a gemstone chain from but its been done before , I chose a more challenging alternative and I think it payed off.

This rhodonite was self collected from a trip back in 2016 when I was still able to go to the deposit, its now totally off bounds to any rockhounds, due to people doing the wrong thing, there was very little left but well worth the full days effort, we collected around 100 lb of rough, only a very small percentage was choice imperial.

Carving (step 1)

I chose a block of Australian imperial rhodonite that was close to fracture free, cut it into a 16 mm square section 130 mm long, it ended up uneven in shape due to the shape of the rough and fractures I wanted to remove, in a mill drill I cut a cross t section with a large diamond point in water, this allows a horizontal and vertical link to be carved.

(Step 2)

I marked out each link section, 15 mm wide x 25 mm long, then started on carving the links using diamond carving points, small diamond cutting disks, diamond drills, diamond bandsaw, and an expanding drum belt to round the links as I separated each link, I use both a flex shaft and a air rotary tool, a freedom and Usio air pencil

(Step 3)

Next in line is the sanding and smoothing process, very time consuming, I started with 220 grit silicon carbide sticks cut to custom shapes in my 10 inch diamond saw, these are basically 6 inch lapidary grinding wheels that are cut into small file shape sections, I used these up to 1200 grit, all grits used wet.

(Step 4)

Diamond smoothing is next in line, 3000 diamond paper cut into small shapes, I used a small piece of bamboo backing to hold the diamond paper, on some of the internals I used a method called stropping, basically using a narrow long strip of diamond paper to remove scratches, the internals were polished with 8000 diamond and the outer was polished on my expanding drum belt on 50.000 diamond.

My lapidary tools used

1st, 10 inch diamond saw to cut out the square section.

2nd, A mill drill set up with a water table to cut out the t section require for the vertical and horizontal links, I used a flex shaft grinder e.g foredom with a diamond point to cut the t section.

3rd, Multiple carving points, to carve out each link, ball end drills, small diamond cutting disks, diamond wire, 1mm long straight shaft points. A small diamond band-saw, silicon carbide sanding sticks custom cut.

4th Expanding drum to smooth each link, old diamond expanding diamond belts cut into custom shapes to sand smooth and polish, Foredom flex shaft and Usio air pencil grinder, does 65000 rpm.

(The gem used) (Imperial rhodonite)

The term is used to describe a rich deep pink to dark red rhodonite , the best imperial is a fine grain gem that takes a good polish, this top of the line material was discovered around the same time as the Queensland chrysoprase in Australia, most of the choice material is now mined out, this choice rhodonite is much more rare than choice chrysoprase but chrysoprase still demands a higher price due to the jade market, ironic, its not jade.

Carving time was well over 150 hours, taking around 3 months to complete, since 2007 I have experimented with many techniques to carve gem mostly learning by my mistakes, but with some miner help from NZ jade carvers, all the carving sequences were tested on scrap before the real chain was carved.

Conclusion

To see my chain completed gave me great pleasure due to the time spent and it being a huge challenge, I was told by a few lapidary artists I should use jade and nothing else on a chain, if it was worn every day this would be the case, but this is more of a piece to be shown, not often worn, carving a gem from my region and showing it to the world is a good feeling, if I carve another chain it most likely would be part of a carving, pushing the boundaries further.

Michael Burgess

*Second Author's competition entry :
Pleasant Memories by Tony Try*

It was in June 1993 – that is 25 years ago – my how time does fly!!

It was at that time when I was the Field Trip Officer for the Northern Districts Lapidary Club [NDLC], and there was a group of keen fossickers who were eager to see different parts of Australia and try their luck with the pick and shovel, and have some fun in the process.

On this particular trip we finished up on the sapphire fields in Queensland and spent a number of days at the Washpool diggings before moving in to what was then the Gemini Caravan Park. This park was situated next door to a commercial sapphire mine which allowed tourists to see the operations of their open-cut mine, and then watch the sorting of the sapphires inside the shed. This was quite a mind blowing experience as we watched the final process of the sorting. This consisted of a conveyor belt which was covered in iron stone and rough sapphire that passed under a set of magnets. The magnets removed the ironstone, leaving a conveyor belt covered in a mass of different coloured sapphires, which were then graded by the two women in-charge of that operation. There were no guard rails or fences to keep us away from these sapphires.

Needless to say we were watched very closely – not that we noticed, because we could not take our eyes off what was in front of us. What we all did though – unconsciously and unrehearsed – was clasp our hands behind our backs so as to resist the temptation to pick them up and look at them. Man – it was hard!!

Our actions were obviously noted, because at the end of the tour the two ladies that were doing the sorting [Pat and Margaret] commented on our be-

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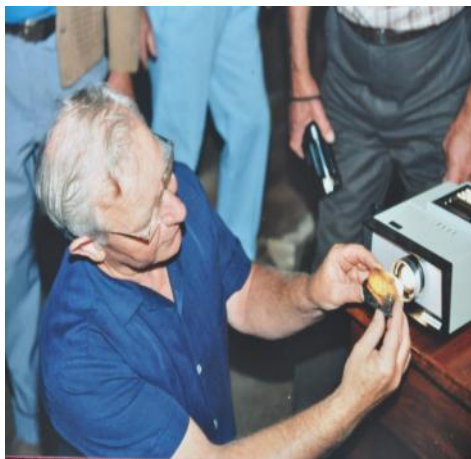
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haviour and invited us to their house that night for a BBQ meal and to see some of their own collection of sapphires.

Although we had found a few small cutters, what they had made our findings very insignificant. They brought out trays and trays of different coloured sapphires. Then towards the end of the night they said that they had a special surprise for us.

They asked us if we knew the movie “Crocodile Dundee” and Paul Hogan’s saying of - “and that’s a knife”, where he produced a large knife. We did not know what to expect, but after a short silence Pat said words to the effect of – “while this is not a knife this is what you call a sapphire” and produced the largest sapphire I have ever seen. It was called the Centenary Stone. Their boss had given them special permission to get it out of the safe to show us.



It just looked like a large and somewhat shiny bit of black gravel until the light of a slide projector was put behind it, when it showed a perfectly clear parti-coloured sapphire of blue, green and yellow. It weighed 13.1 ounces [1,856 cts] the largest clean crystal in the world and was valued at over \$2 million [*then !*] The photo I have enclosed shows its size compared to a normal box of matches. It was unreal!! We were also very privileged to have been trusted enough to see it and handle it

While we swung the picks etc with renewed energy the next day, we definitely did not make our fortunes or find anything like the Centenary Stone.

I do not know what eventually happened to that sapphire. However, as with all large/valuable gemstones there are many stories, myths and legends that surround them.

From memory, the story I was told went like this –



The stone was found by a boy who was playing hooky from school and stubbed his toe on it while walking on the side of the road. He took it home to his father who realised what it was, and its value. There was an attempt to sell the rough stone in the Middle East, but for whatever reason this failed. The person carrying the stone, loose in his pocket, did not declare it at customs while travelling either way, as it was not obviously a valuable piece of rock. However, on the way back to Australia the courier made a stop off in Thailand, where he visited one or two establishments for a good time. Customs Australia came up with a positive reading for drugs, so he was asked to empty his pockets and be prepared for a frisk search. His keys, money and the sapphire etc. were simply placed on a table, in the open, and when asked what the stone was, he simply said that it was his “worry stone”, and no further notice was taken of it. The courier came up clear from the frisk search – [*his clothes must have picked up an odour from where he had been the night before*] – collected his belongings and left the airport.

True or false – who knows: All I know is that I have seen it and feel very privileged to have done so.

Tony Try

Results of the Raffle at GEMKHANA 2017

Saturday

1st Prize Silver Enamelled Pendant & Earrings Set - donated by Barbara Try, Northern Districts Lapidary Club

Won by Lorraine Moorcroft – Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club

2nd Prize Faceted Topaz – donated by Pam Gardiner, Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club

Won by Harry Cheung – Northern Districts Lapidary Club

3rd Prize Wire Wrapped Pendant – Petrified Wood – donated by Sue O'Neil, Goulburn Lapidary Club

Won by Fiona Davis – Min Soc

4th Prize Polished Face Petrified Wood - donated by Barbara Try, Northern Districts Lapidary Club

Won by Pat Sutherland

5th Prize Rhodonite Pendant – donated by Pam Gardiner, Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club

Won by Barbara Clarke – Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club

6th Prize Gypsum Mineral Specimen – donated by Barbara Try, Northern Districts Lapidary Club

Won by C. Russell – Port Hacking Lapidary Club

Sunday

1st Prize Faceting Rough (Tourmaline, Sapphire, Topaz & Zircon) - donated by Barbara Try, Northern Districts Lapidary Club

Won by Lynn – Illawarra Lapidary Club

2nd Prize Faceted Yellow Cubic Zirconia - donated by Pam Gardiner, Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club

Won by Rose Cook - Illawarra Lapidary Club

Results of the Raffle at GEMKHANA 2017

(continued)

3rd Prize Wire Wrapped Pendant – Petrified Wood – donated by Sue O’Neil, Goulburn Lapidary Club

Won by Robyn Stewart - Liverpool

4th Prize Polished Agate Face - donated by Barbara Try, Northern Districts Lapidary Club

Won by May Apap – Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club

5th Prize Jasper Pendant - donated by Pam Gardiner, Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club **Won by Mick Lane – Blue Mountains Lapidary Club**

6th Prize Malachite Mineral Specimen – donated by Barbara Try, Northern Districts Lapidary Club

Won by Leah – Penrith

Monday

1st Prize Silver Enamelled Pendant – donated by Barbara Try, Northern Districts Lapidary Club

Won by Christine Avery – Lawson

2nd Prize Faceted Syn Corundum - donated by Pam Gardiner, Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club **Won by Reg & Bon McLean – Port Hacking Lapidary Club**

3rd Prize Opalite Pendant - donated by Pam Gardiner, Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club

Won by Ingrid Black - Kirrawee

4th Prize Polished Agate Face - donated by Barbara Try, Northern Districts Lapidary Club

Won by Greg Cook – Illawarra Lapidary Club

5th Prize Jasper Pendant - donated by Pam Gardiner, Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club

Won by Archie

6th Prize Gypsum Mineral Specimen – donated by Barbara Try, Northern Districts Lapidary Club

Won by Garry – Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS 2018

October

13—14

Annual Gem Show

Central Coast Lapidary Club

Mingara Recreational Club, Tumbi Umbi

Free entry

20

Open Day

Campelltown Lapidary Club

Lot 1 Bensley Rd

Macquarie Fields

23 Goulburn Gem Society Inc. **Bunnings Barbecue**

26,27, 28

Exhibition

Northern Districts Lapidary Club 2018

November

3

Open Day

Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectible and Lapidary Club

3 &4

Jewellery Gems and Minerals Festival

Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

Heininger Hall, Ribbonwood Centre

109 Princes Hwy, Dapto

23 Goulburn Gem Society Inc. **Bunnings Barbecue**

December

21 Goulburn Gem society Inc. **Bunnings Barbecue**