

Gem and Lapidary

News

April 2014

Vol 40 No 3

Print Post Approved PP243352/00002

The **Gem & Lapidary News** is the official publication of the GEM AND LAPIDARY COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES, INC, PO Box 4233, Londonderry 2753. The executive and workforce of the Council are entirely composed of delegates from member clubs. Council is NOT an autonomous body. The Gem & Lapidary Council is a member of AFLACA (Australian Federation of Lapidary and Allied Crafts Association).

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**HOT LINE TO THE COUNCIL - 0427 993 903**

Website: <http://www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/> webmaster@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au  
 Webmaster Alex Maitland (please send updated information)

**COUNCIL MEETINGS**

EXECUTIVE: 4th Wednesday in the month  
 MONTHLY: 4th Wednesday in the month, at 1.00pm  
 The venue, unless otherwise stated,  
 is at the Clubrooms of Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club,  
 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

**Visitors are welcome to attend Monthly Meetings**

**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

**ADVERTISING RATES per issue in Black and 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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### NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

**Wednesday May 28th** at the clubrooms of the Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

Please do come, you will be made very welcome

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\* DEADLINE FOR COPY for  
May, 2014 issue \*  
Friday April 25th 2014

Club Editors; please add me to your mailing list to receive your Club newsletters. Ed.

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### PLEASE NOTE

***Club memberships are NOW due.***

*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*

## Council News

**J&R Report:** Joe Stellino of the Parra-Holroyd Club was too ill to attend the recent Jewellery Judging Course, but has since completed one, and so has now qualified as a Metalcraft Judge. ***Congratulations Joe.***

Last month, we reported on coming courses. VGCA and QLACCA have been invited to send candidates for the Enamelling Judging Course. VGCA will send one candidate and sponsor her by paying fares; she will be billeted at the home of a Central Coast member. No response received from Queensland.

Noted that NSW J&R is running as many courses as possible to be ready for the 2017 GEMBOREE.

Faceting and carving courses are yet to come, probably mid-year. Candidates are being sought now. If you are interested phone Barbara Try on 4393 6168 or 0417 676 435.

*(From last month: Annette Clarke will hold the enamelling judges course on March 22 & 23. There are 5 candidates, and room for more if anyone would like to do this course. A 2 day mineral judging course is to be held on Sat Apr 26 at Central Coast clubrooms, with successful candidates doing a second day on Sat May 3 at Northern Districts. There are 4 candidates, and room for more.)*

Also noted, assignments have been sent to cabbing judges to keep them practicing, or is that "in practice"?

The 2014 GEMKHANA competition schedule is on the website, and the editor will print some of the details, but if you need a copy of any part, or even the whole thing, ask Paul to post it to you. Paul Sabolta is the Competition Chairman and can be reached at 0415 211 478.

Finally, a big THANK YOU to the judge tutors. A big effort has gone into making these courses so successful.

***Attending a judging course is a great way to improve your skills and assist your club with their own competitions. It also offers you the satisfaction of being part of a great team and involvement with other clubs.***

**Editor's Report:** Sandra reported costs for Feb were printing \$168.50, postage \$130.75 and stationery \$22.72.

Subscription reminders and advertising accounts have been sent. A digital copy of the magazine was sent to the Webmaster and is now on the website (*looks great, congratulations all round*). Marilyn noted the new postage regime makes postage much more expensive – not just 10c, but double because of the new method Australia Post uses. More people are likely to read the *G&L News* digitally because of the cost, and perhaps more advertisers will see the value in advertising because the digital version will reach many more people – it can easily be read by people not only in NSW, but across Australia and for the that matter, the world.

**Education Report:** The silver jewellery workshop Nelson held at Rooty Hill Club went very well. Nelson asked for authority to purchase 15 x 10mm balls for judges to use in checking their callipers, cost 60c each.

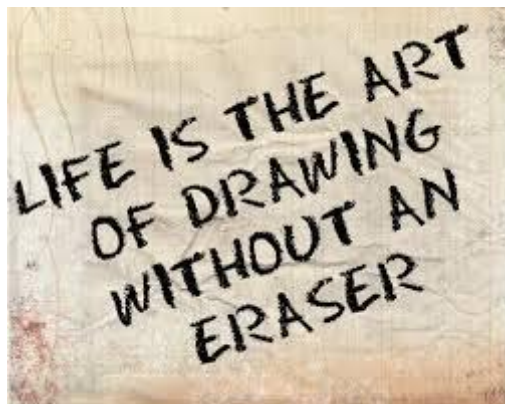
He further asked for authority to purchase the Perspex gauges judges use for measuring the size of cabs and tumbled stones. They are cut to exact measurements and cost \$15 each. Both are supplied at no cost to the judges. Moved Parra-Holroyd, seconded Northern Districts. Carried.

**GEMKHANA Report:** Note entry closing dates for some sections are early this year: Entry forms & postal entries – Friday July 25. Entries in person Saturday July 26 (10am-1pm) at Parramatta-Holroyd clubrooms.

The venue is still not sorted. We are working towards Goulburn, but have not yet heard how our application for a reduction in the hire fee has gone. Today Minsoc moved, Blue Mountains seconded, and they agreed that the executive be empowered to book a suitable site as soon as possible. Other sites are under investigation, and we'll give Goulburn another week before we decide our next move. As soon as a decision is made the Webmaster will be asked to put the venue on the website.

### **GEMBOREE 2017: Lithgow**

The Editor will be asked to run articles on this GEMBOREE in an endeavour to get people to realise it is important that planning start soon.



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## ***August Phenomenon***

This is the only time you will see this phenomenon in your life.

Calendar August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

The month of August this year, will have five Fridays, five Saturdays and five Sundays. This happens only once every 823 years.

***The Chinese call it 'Silver lining their pockets.'***

## **GEMBOREE 2017 – LITHGOW**

If we don't make a start on the Lithgow GEMBOREE very soon, we'll be rushing to have everything ready. It seems every year the GEMBOREE has been held in NSW a similar plea has been made to members.

A letter Arthur (who was Secretary then, too) sent to clubs and their members In 1993, leading up to the 1995 GEMBOREE, about the lack of assistance being offered brought forth a host of responses. Mostly saying their members were more than willing to help, and asking for specific tasks.

I know this because I am Council's archivist and when I add new files to the archives, I need to thin out some old files. I was a member at the time, even editor, but I was working full time so didn't get caught up in all the details, even though as G&L News editor, I became editor of the daily newsletters at the GEMBOREE.

Each month for a while I'll tell you some of the ways you and your club may be able to help. I hope the organising jobs will be snapped up quickly. Jobs such as Co-ordinator, Secretary, Registrar, etc.

A few new jobs have been created: Publicity Officer, Volunteer Co-ordinator and Newsletter Editor. The new jobs don't involve new work, only that they have been taken from other jobs to make each job a little less arduous and, hopefully, more attractive.

Next month, I'll list the jobs. We'll try to have a report each month, telling you how things are progressing. If you have any questions, please ask.

Each GEMBOREE, Council holds a competition for the design of a GEMBOREE badge. It hasn't been mentioned yet, I suppose that's a job the Co-ordinator. In the meantime, you might like to think about it.



Marilyn



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## COUNCIL MEMBERS

*Ron Jones*

I am a member of the Parramatta Holroyd Lapidary Club Inc.



Current membership is about 4 or 5 years but initially joined the club in November 1972. One of our foundation members got me and my family interested in October 1972

Currently I am a teacher in the club and a past Senior Vice President and Register. I have been a delegate for the last 2 years

I belong to the following:

- Australian Faceters Guild & US Faceting Guild. I have been a

member of these for about 4 or 5 years. I am currently an alternate delegate for the AFG on the J&R committee and alternative delegate for AFLACA .

My interests are:-

To gain more knowledge on this facet of lapidary

Teaching people to cut stones and promoting lapidary to new members and old

I am a teacher in my club only in Cabochon Cutting and assisting with Faceting.

**GEMKHANA 2014  
COMPETITION SCHEDULE  
LEVEL 3**

Judging will be in accordance with the AFLACA Competition and Judging Manual Issue No 7.

O = Open                      I = Intermediate      N = Novice                      J = Junior

C/S = Craftsmanship                      A/A = Aesthetic Appeal

AT = Annual Trophy                      PT = Perpetual Trophy                      SC = Special Conditions

**Entry Fee = \$1.00 per entry for 1<sup>st</sup> ten (10) entries, thereafter FREE**

**STANDARD CABOCHONS - Must not pass through a 15mm hole - SC**

O-1A-1	Standard Cabochon	C/S – Agate
I-1A-2	Standard Cabochon	C/S – Agate
N-1A-3	Standard Cabochon	C/S –
Agate.....		TR
J-1A-4	Standard Cabochon	C/S – Agate
O-1A-5	Standard Cabochon	A/A – Petrified Wood
I-1A-6	Standard Cabochon	A/A – Petrified Wood
N-1A-7	Standard Cabochon	A/A – Petrified Wood
J-1A-8	Standard Cabochon	A/A – Petrified Wood

**FANCY, DOUBLE STANDARD & DOUBLE FANCY CABOCHONS - Min. Dimension to be not less than 30mm on the longest dimension across the outline shape - SC**

O-1B-1	Fancy Cabochon	C/S – any material
I-1B-2	Fancy Cabochon	C/S – any material
N-1B-3	Fancy Cabochon	C/S – any material
J-1B-4	Fancy Cabochon	C/S – any material
O-2A-1	Double Standard Cabochon	C/S – any
material.....		TR
I-2A-2	Double Standard Cabochon	C/S – any material
N-2A-3	Double Standard Cabochon	C/S – any material
J-2A-4	Double Standard Cabochon	C/S – any material
O-2B-1	Double Fancy Cabochon	A/A – any material
I-2B-2	Double Fancy Cabochon	A/A – any material
N-2B-3	Double Fancy Cabochon	A/A – any material
J-2B-4	Double Fancy Cabochon	A/A – any material

**FREEFORMS – Must not pass through a 15mm hole - SC**

O-3-1	Freeform	C/S – any material
I-3-2	Freeform	C/S – any material
N-3-3	Freeform	C/S – any material

**FREEFORM OPAL – Must not pass through a 10mm hole - SC**

O-3-4	Freeform	C/S – Opal
N-3-5	Freeform	C/S – Opal

**OPAL SECTIONS – Must not pass through a 10mm hole -SC**

O-4B-1	Opal Doublet – Domed Top	C/S
N-4B-2	Opal Doublet – Domed Top	C/S
O-4C-1	Opal Triplet	C/S
N-4C-2	Opal Triplet	C/S

**CARVING – Hardness under 4 & min. size 50mm on the longest dimension (excluding base or mount) Max. is 300mm (including base or mount) NOTE: All carvings to be accompanied by a neat label, naming material used. (Label will not be judged) - SC**

O-5A-1	Carving – 3 dimensional
I-5A-2	Carving – 3 dimensional
N-5A-3	Carving – 3 dimensional
J-5A-4	Carving – 3 dimensional

**Hardness 4 and over**

O-5A-5	Carving – 3 dimensional	.....TR
I-5A-6	Carving – 3 dimensional	
N-5A-7	Carving – 3 dimensional	
J-5A-8	Carving – 3 dimensional	

**Any Hardness**

O-5B-1	Carving - in relief
N-5B-2	Carving - in relief
N-20E-2	Cast Jewellery without Lapidary Item/s - METAL CLAY (See SC Item 20)

**SCRIMSHAW: Min. size 50mm on the longest dimension, excluding base. Max. 300mm incl. base - SC**

O-6-1 Scrimshaw  
N-6-2 Scrimshaw

**FACET CUTS: Min. size 6mm on the shortest axis of outline shape (NB All Facet Cuts to be cut as per diagrams & specifications supplied) GROUPS 8, 9, 10 AND 11 - SC**

O-8A-1	Standard Brilliant – Continuous Girdle	Colourless
Quartz.....	TR	
I -8A-2	Standard Brilliant – Continuous Girdle	Colourless Quartz
N-8A-3	Standard Brilliant – Continuous Girdle	Colourless
Quartz.....	TR	
O-8B-1	Standard Brilliant – Faceted Girdle	Colourless Topaz
.....	TR	
I -8B-2	Standard Brilliant – Faceted Girdle	Colourless Topaz
N-8B-3	Standard Brilliant – Faceted Girdle	Colourless
Topaz.....	TR	
O-9A-1	Standard Oblong Step Cut with Cut Corners	Smokey Quartz.....TR
I -9A-2	Standard Oblong Step Cut with Cut Corners	Smokey Quartz
N-9A-3	Standard Oblong Step Cut with Cut Corners	Smokey
Quartz.....	TR	
O-10-1	Modified Standard - MB Chevron Square Cushion	MM Corundum
I -10-2	Modified Standard - MB Chevron Square Cushion	MM Corundum
N-10-3	Modified Standard - MB Chevron Square Cushion	MM Corundum
J -10-4	Modified Standard - Simple Jack	Cubic Zirconia
O-11-1	Fancy Cut - Robin	Cubic
Zirconia		
I -11-2	Fancy Cut - Robin	Cubic
Zirconia		
N-11-3	Fancy Cut - Robin	Cubic
Zirconia		

**TUMBLLED STONES must not be able to be passed through a 15mm diameter circular hole - SC**

O-12A-1 Tumbled Stones – Preformed Shape - Group of 3 different materials  
O-12B-2 Tumbled Stones – Natural Shape - Group of 3 different materials

**POLISHED FACES – Min. size 50mm across the shortest axis. Max 300mm on any dimension - SC**

O-13-1	Polished Face – Flat Surface	A/A
O-14-1	Polished Face – Curved Surface	A/A

**GEM TREES – Must not fit in a 150mm cube – Must fit in a 300mm cube - SC**

O-16-1	Gem Tree(s)	Material may be natural, man-made or natural organic
N-16-2	Gem Tree(s)	Material may be natural, man-made or natural organic

**NOVELTY GEMCRAFT - Min. size 50mm on the longest dimension excluding base - SC**

O-17-1	Novelty Gemcraft
N-17-2	Novelty Gemcraft

**HAND FABRICATED AND WIRE WRAPPED JEWELLERY - SC** (H/ = Hand)

- O-18A-1 H/Fabricated Jewellery **not** intended to include Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral Specimen/s  
 N-18A-2 H/Fabricated Jewellery **not** intended to include Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral Specimen/s  
 O-18B-1 H/Fabricated Jewellery **with** Lapidary Item/s cut and set by entrant  
 I-18B-2 H/Fabricated Jewellery **with** Lapidary Item/s cut and set by entrant  
 N-18B-3 H/Fabricated Jewellery **with** Lapidary Item/s cut and set by entrant  
 O-18C-1 H/Fabricated Jewellery **with** Natural Fossil or Mineral Specimen/s set by entrant  
 O-18D-1 H/Fabricated Jewellery **with** Commercial Lapidary Item/s set by entrant  
 O-18E-1 Wire Wrapped Jewellery **with** Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral Item/s prepared and set by entrant  
 N-18E-2 Wire Wrapped Jewellery **with** Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral Item/s prepared and set by entrant  
 O-18F-1 Wire Wrapped Jewellery **with** Commercial Lapidary Item/s set by entrant  
 N-18F-2 Wire Wrapped Jewellery **with** Commercial Lapidary Item/s set by entrant

**CAST JEWELLERY: Using patterns/moulds made by entrant**

- O-19A-1 Cast Jewellery **not** intended to include Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral Item/s  
 N-19A-2 Cast Jewellery **not** intended to include Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral Item/s

**CAST JEWELLERY: Using Natural Objects as Models or Patterns - SC**

- O-20A-1 Cast Jewellery using Natural Objects as Patterns.....TR  
 N-20A-2 Cast Jewellery using Natural Objects as Patterns  
 O-20E-1 Cast Jewellery without Lapidary Item/s - METAL CLAY (See SC Item 20)

**CAST JEWELLERY: Using Commercial Wax Models or Patterns - SC**

- O-21A-1 Cast Jewellery **not** intended to include Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral Item/s  
 N-21A-2 Cast Jewellery **not** intended to include Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral Item/s.....TR  
 O-21B-1 Cast Jewellery **with** Lapidary Item/s cut/set by entrant  
 N-21B-2 Cast Jewellery **with** Lapidary Item/s cut/set by entrant  
 O-21C-1 Cast Jewellery with Natural Fossil or Mineral set by entrant  
 N-21C-2 Cast Jewellery with Natural Fossil or Mineral set by entrant  
 O-21D-1 Cast Jewellery with Commercial Lapidary Item(s) set by entrant  
 N-21D-2 Cast Jewellery with Commercial Lapidary Item(s) set by entrant  
 O-21E-1 Cast Jewellery (METAL CLAY) with Commercial Lapidary item(s)  
     set by entrant (see SC item 20)  
 N-21E-2 Cast Jewellery (METAL CLAY) with Commercial Lapidary Item(s)  
     set by entrant (see SC item 20)

**ENAMELLED JEWELLERY:**

- O-24A-1 Enamelled Jewellery in Hand Fabricated Setting - must be entrants own work  
 O-24C-1 Enamelled Jewellery in Cast Setting - casting must be fully made by entrant  
 O-24D-1 Enamelled Jewellery in Cast Setting - Commercial Wax Models to be used

**COMMERCIAL MOUNT JEWELLERY:**

- O-25-1               Commercial Mount Jewellery **with** Lapidary Item/s cut and set by entrant  
 I-25-2               Commercial Mount Jewellery **with** Lapidary Item/s cut and set by entrant  
 N-25-3               Commercial Mount Jewellery **with** Lapidary Item/s cut and set by entrant  
 J-25-4               Commercial Mount Jewellery **with** Lapidary Item/s cut and set by entrant

**ENAMELLING:**

- O-26A-1 Enamelled Jewellery in Commercial Mount.....TR  
 N-26A-2 Enamelled Jewellery in Commercial Mount  
 O-26B-1 Enamelled Jewellery without Mount  
 N-26B-2 Enamelled Jewellery without Mount  
 O-26C-1 Enamelling Non Jewellery - Functional or Non Functional  
 N-26C-2 Enamelling Non Jewellery - Functional or Non Functional

**SHOWCASE: -SC**

- O-29B-1 Showcase General – Display - LIT  
 N-29B-2 Showcase General – Display - LIT  
 O-29B-3 Showcase General – CLUB –Display – LIT  
 O-31                 Showcase Novelty – OWN CHOICE – (Title MUST be displayed) -  
 LIT.....TR

**FOSSILS:**

- O-32A-1 Fossil - Non Display – Single AUSTRALIAN Vertebrate
- I-32A-2 Fossil - Non Display – Single AUSTRALIAN Vertebrate
- N-32A-3 Fossil - Non Display – Single AUSTRALIAN Vertebrate
- J-32A-4 Fossil - Non Display – Single AUSTRALIAN Vertebrate
- O-32A-5 Fossil - Non Display – Single OVERSEAS Vertebrate
- I-32A-6 Fossil - Non Display – Single OVERSEAS Vertebrate
- N-32A-7 Fossil - Non Display – Single OVERSEAS Vertebrate
- J-32A-8 Fossil - Non Display – Single OVERSEAS Vertebrate
- O-32B-1 Fossil - Non Display – Group of 3 Plants - ANY LOCALITY
- I-32B-2 Fossil - Non Display – Group of 3 Plants - ANY LOCALITY
- N-32B-3 Fossil - Non Display – Group of 3 Plants - ANY LOCALITY
- J-32B-4 Fossil - Non Display – Group of 3 Plants - ANY LOCALITY

**MINERALS and MINERAL SHOWCASES: Miniature or Cabinet size unless otherwise specified**

- O-34A-1 Mineral - Non Display - Single OVERSEAS Specimen
- N-34A-2 Mineral - Non Display - Single ANY LOCALITY Specimen
- O-34A-3 Mineral - Non Display - Single AUSTRALIAN Specimen
- N-34A-4 Mineral - Non Display - Single AUSTRALIAN Specimen
- O-34B-5 Minerals - Non Display - Group of 3 - ANY LOCALITY - Miniature Size
- N-34B-6 Minerals - Non Display - Group of 3 - ANY LOCALITY - Miniature Size
- O-37B-1 Mineral Showcase – Display – LIT

**Special conditions, details and faceting sections can be downloaded from Gem and Lapidary Council website.**

## GEMKHANA REPORT

I know everyone is wondering what's happening with the GEMKHANA. It will be on, in October of course –on 4-5-6, but we're still not sure where.

The cost of Goulburn is much, much more than the last time we were there and I have applied to the Goulburn-Mulwara Council for "reduction or waiver" of the hire fee for the basketball stadium. Hopefully, we'll hear from them very soon.

In the meantime, I've asked Cowra showground for costings, etc. but we haven't seen the pavilion. If we don't have an answer from Goulburn in the next week or so, we'll have to go to Cowra and look at what they have to offer.

I've asked Queanbeyan for details, no answer. Hawkesbury, Lithgow, Castle Hill and Taree are already booked. Some other showgrounds don't allow camping, many don't have a suitable pavilion, many are in towns where the population wouldn't support a show like ours. We still have quite a few to look at for the future. *Actually, it would be a big help if you could let us know what's in your area that would make a suitable venue.*

As soon as we know where we're going, delegates will be told and I will ask Alex (our webmaster) to put it on the website.

One more thing. Competition entries close really early this year – in JULY. So please check the schedule for dates. Would hate to think you missed out.

Marilyn Behrens

## THE BEAD SHOW

Council has been invited to have a stall at the Bead Show, at Marrickville Town Hall. One is to be held in April (4-5-6), but as many will be away for GEMBOREE, the meeting last Saturday decided not to take part in this one, but did decide to ask for a stall at the SEPTEMBER one. It will be for 3 days September 19-20-21. Arthur, Marilyn and Barbara each offered to attend for one day, but more people will be needed each day. Arthur is to get details on what is needed, etc, so more details will be provided later, but please mark it in your calendar - should think lots of people will be willing to attend this show.



## CLUB NEWS

**Fairfield & Districts** have a new trip leader and are hoping to hold some day trips in the near future.

**Byron Bay Club** has a new executive – some old, some new faces. Congratulations everyone.

**Lismore Gem Club** has had a successful weekend trip to Bingara and is planning a return.

**Northern Districts** are organizing their major trip to Gatton for the GEMBOREE and have listed their workshops and competitions for the year.

**Campbelltown & Districts** have a sausage sizzle planned for March 22<sup>nd</sup> at their Clubrooms.

**Casino Club** enjoyed a very pleasant weekend trip to Ewingar. Cabochon cutting and faceting classes have been held at their new workshop.

**Canberra Club** has a Rock Swap planned for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April and looking for volunteers for their Winter and Spring Shows.

Central Coast have held a very successful Rock Auction and advise of a new Rock Shop in Bathurst.

**Illawarra Club** has advertised their coming trips for 2014 and look like they will be very busy. They also hosted the February meeting of the G & L Council.

---

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### Gratitude

An Arab Sheik with a very rare blood type was admitted to Hospital for heart surgery.

Since his blood type couldn't be found locally, the call went out and eventually a Scot was located with the same blood type and he willingly donated his blood for the Arab.

Following successful surgery, the Arab sent the Scot a new BMW, diamonds and £200,000 in appreciation.

Some months later the Arab needed further surgery and the Scot was more than happy to donate his blood again.

After the second surgery the Arab sent the Scot a thank-you card with a box of chocolates which rather shocked the Scot so he phoned the Arab saying: "I thought you'd be generous again and give me another BMW, diamonds and money - but all you sent me was a thank-you card and a box of chocolates"

The Arab replied: "Aye, laddie, but I now have Scottish blood in ma veins."

## ***Bead Making – Ancient Artform***

Beads have been made of glass for over 5,000 years. The discovery of fire was the essential step in glass bead making. There is evidence as early as 2340-2180 BC in Mesopotamia of a method known as "core-forming" where they used a metal mandrel with pieces of glass held over a flame. Gradually as the glass softens, they would wrap it around the mandrel forming intricate ornaments.

These early beads or vessels were considered valuable and were preserved as they were placed in burial tombs. In Nuzi (130 miles north of Baghdad) beads were discovered that date to around 1400 BC. Even today, we make beads by holding glass rods over a flame then gently winding the molten glass over the mandrels. The invention of the blow pipe in gave way to the creation of the Rosetta bead and the seed beads which sustained the bead making industry in Venice for centuries. Beadmaking is truly an ancient artform.



### **Beadmaking in Venice**

The history of beadmaking in Venice goes back to the days of Marco Polo when he returned from his travels with the beads of Asia. Local artisans took to their glass making skills to reproduce in glass the precious stones of Marco Polo.

In Venice and Murano, the beading industry has historically been a woman's work. In the picture above you see the women working while caring for their children. During the 1920s - 1930s, the conterie (seed bead) industry sustained Venice's glass industry. The wars took the men from the furnaces and between World War I and World War II there was little time to build up the industry. During the 1930s there were as many as 30 companies making the tiny beads, employing hundreds of women.

### **Seedbead - Conterie**

Hollow tubes produced then chopped and refired for smoothness and color. Sold in shanks prestrung or by the kilo. Used in decorative jewelry and clothing. The peak of this production was in the early 1900s and today the industry is virtually non-existent in Murano.

### **Rosetta or Chevron**

Produced from the canes known as Rosetta which had a center hole. First produced in Murano at the end of the 14th Century. It was made of a hollow cane and six layers of glass (white, blue, white, brick red, white then finally blue). It was ground to produce patterns of 5 concentric stars with twelve points. The canes were chopped and this production method increased greatly the quantities of beads which could be sold.

## Citrine by courtesy of ICA / [www.gemstone.org/gem](http://www.gemstone.org/gem) by gem

Let's suppose that someone has bought a moped, yet his friends and acquaintances keep talking about his 'wonderful racing machine'. He surely feels confused, or feels that they are taking the mickey out of him. A moped was exactly what he wanted for short trips in good weather, but even the salesman said that he was now in possession of a 'real flyer'.



That's roughly how things go with the citrine, the stone for the month of

November. Many people have come to know and love this stone under the name gold topaz, or Madeira or Spanish topaz, although in actual fact it has very little in common with the higher-quality gemstone topaz - except for a few nuances of colour. Thus the history of the citrine is closely interwoven with that of the topaz, and coincides with it completely when it comes to the interpretation of alleged miraculous powers. However, the citrine is a member of the large quartz family, a family which, with its multitude of colours and very various structures, offers gemstone lovers almost everything their hearts desire in terms of adornment and decoration, from absolutely clear rock crystal to black onyx. And it does so at prices which are by no means unaffordable.

The name is derived from the colour - the yellow of the lemon - , although the most sought-after stones have a clear, radiant yellowish to brownish red. Like all crystal quartzes, the citrine has a hardness of 7 on the Mohs scale and is thus, to a large extent, insensitive to scratches. It won't immediately take offence at being knocked about either, since its cleavage properties are non-existent. Even if their refractive index is relatively low, the yellow stones have just that mellow, warm tone that seems to have captured the last glow of autumn. Like golden Rhine wine or sparkling Madeira, heavy and sweet, citrine jewellery shimmers and brings a hint of sunshine to those dull November days.

There are not many yellow gemstones in the world of jewels. A diamond or a sapphire may be yellow - those will be expensive -, or sometimes a tourmaline or chrysoberyl, though these tend toward green somewhat, a golden beryl or even a pure topaz, which we will mention again later on. However, the citrine fulfils everyone's colour wishes, from lemon yellow to reddish brown.

Rare though it is, yellow does in fact occur in quartz in Nature, if seldom, when there are traces of iron in the silicon dioxide. Historically, it has been found in Spain, on the Scottish island of Arran, in France, Hungary and in several mines overseas. Perhaps the citrine wouldn't have been talked about any more at all if, in the middle of the 18th century, it had not been for the discovery that

Amethysts and smoky quartzes can also be rendered yellow by so-called burning. This heat treatment at temperatures of between 470 and 560 degrees has to be carried out very carefully and requires a great deal of experience. However, in the course of 200 years, its application has become so much a matter of course that most of the stones available in the trade today are in fact burnt amethysts or smoky quartzes. Only a trained specialist can recognise the signs of heat treatment at all, burnt stones having subtle stripes whilst the yellow of natural ones is cloudy. In Europe, the boom on these yellow to reddish crystal quartzes didn't begin until, in the 1930s, expatriate agate cutters from Idar-Oberstein sent large quantities of citrine back home, along with amethyst and agate, from Brazil and Uruguay. Thus the golden-yellow quartzes made a contribution to Idar-Oberstein's becoming - and remaining - one of the world's great gemstone centres. Just as they had been used to doing with agate and other kinds of quartz, the cutters faceted the citrine using large, rotating sandstones over decades. The raw stone was actually held in the cutter's hand during this process. If you give that a little thought, it will occur to you just how skilled the cutters from the Hunsrück really were.



The supply of Europe with sufficient raw material came just at the right moment for the nascent upheaval in social conditions. As the bourgeoisie grew in strength, the demand for jewellery across a broader spectrum of social strata also grew, and the citrine found a permanent niche for itself. Since until then it was really only the topaz which was known and used as a gold-coloured gemstone, the yellow and brown crystal quartzes quickly became very popular among the ladies, being known as gold topaz or smoky topaz, or by the double-barrelled names that proclaimed their origin. However, they were also

found in step and table cuts as cuff-links and rings in the evening wardrobe of fine gentlemen. At the beginning, perhaps, the notion "it's all on the surface" may have played a part. But there was no other stone to which the wrong name clung as doggedly as the citrine. Even now, jewellery enthusiasts with no specialist knowledge may be astounded when you tell them that their 'gold topaz' is a citrine, in other words not a topaz at all, but quartz.

So what is it that constitutes the difference between the real topaz and the citrine? A fluorine aluminium silicate in chemical terms, the topaz is considerably harder and heavier than quartz, and it has a higher refractive index, which endows it with more fire when the colour is good. It does have one weakness: its good cleavage qualities, which must be taken into account when it is being worked on. It can be found in all the colours of the rainbow and has been known to Man for at least 2000 years. It has not been proved beyond doubt whether the name comes from Sanskrit or Greek, though the Greek name 'topazos' means 'green gemstone'. The Romans dedicated the topaz to Jupiter.

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
<b>March</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>	Minerama	Glen Innes Services Club
15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Gem and Craft Show New England Lapidary Club	Armidale Showground
“	Hobart Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show	Grandstand Hall, Hobart Showground
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Newcastle Lapidary Rock Auction Campbelltown and District Sausage sizzle.	2 Dora Rd Adamstown Club rooms
22 & 23 <sup>rd</sup>	East Devonport Jewellery, Gem And Mineral Fair	East Devonport School Thomas Street East Devonport Tas.
<b>April</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup>	Rock Swap Canberra Club GEMBOREE	Wagtail Way Epic. Gatton Qld.
<b>May</b> 3 -4 <sup>th</sup>	Redcliffe, Gem, Mineral and Craft Show	Southern Cross Catholic College Kippa- Ring Qld
9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	Hawesbury Ag Society Show	Hawkesbury
17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Lismore Gemfest	Lismore Showground
24 <sup>th</sup>	Mt Gravatt Gem Show	Club House 1873 Logan Rd Mt. Gravatt Qld
31 <sup>st</sup> -1 <sup>st</sup> June	Gonyah Club Lapidary Display	Mt Cootha Botanical Gardens Qld
<b>June</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Canberra Lapidary Winter Show	W.A. Lapidary & Rock Hunting Clubrooms
14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> & 21 & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Annual Gemstone Exhibition	Cnr Gladstone Road & Newey Street RIVERVALE WA 6103
21 <sup>st</sup>	Deception Bay Gem Show	Community Hall Cnr Ewart St and Raymond Terrace Qld
28 <sup>th</sup>	Gold Coast Gem and Craft	80 Pacific Ave Miami Pizzey Park Qld
<p><b>GEMBOREE DATES</b></p> <p><b>2015 -VIC APRIL 3</b></p> <p><b>2016 -TAS MAR 25</b></p> <p><b>2017 -NSW APRIL 14</b></p>		

## **Summary of the Minutes of General Meeting, February 22 Held at Illawarra Lapidary Club clubrooms.**

There was a good attendance at this meeting and Council members were welcomed by Illawarra President Eve Auerbach. Council President Joan Ball responded thanking Illawarra for their invitation to hold the meeting at their premises.

**Apologies**, Apologies, minutes of the previous meeting and correspondence were accepted.

### **Business Arising included:**

1. *Nepean Club advised of new premises. Postal address unchanged.*
2. *Byron Club advised of new office bearers.*
3. *AFLACA: The meeting nominated the following for election at the coming AFLACA AGM that will be held at the Gatton GEMBOREE: For President, Arthur Roffey; for Secretary, Marilyn Behrens; for Snr Vice President, Graham McLean (QLACCA).*
4. *As you know, we've all had to update our Constitutions, to bring them into line with the Model Rules of the Dept of Fair Trading. AFLACA, too, has had to do this recently in Victoria, where AFLACA was first, and continues to be incorporated. Noted the draft was checked by 4 people and reflects the Model Rules; nothing in the Constitution contradicts the Model Rules. Minsoc moved, Northern Districts seconded that the G&LC of NSW accept the draft. Carried.*
5. *The Secretary was asked to send a reminder to the 18 clubs that have not yet paid their membership fee. At the AGM, the members approved a small increase that brings the membership fee up to \$70 per year.*

**You do realise that the insurer will not accept claims made on the personal accident insurance by unfinancial members. If your club is unfinancial, you are too!**

### **Reports See Council News.**

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. *Personal Accident insurance for members over 80 was raised. It is available for these members, except when fossicking, and such members must include their date of birth in the paperwork.*
2. *Visitors to Blue Mountains Club shows have difficulty getting in. Suggested they post Sandra a mudmap and later phone her the dates of their coming show, so she can include all in the G&L News.*
3. *Western Suburbs, hopefully, will be in their new home in three weeks – at the Concord Community Centre.*

The meeting closed at 12.15pm **Next meeting: Wednesday, March 26 at 1pm - at the clubrooms of the Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville.**



***Australia's 50th  
National Gem, Lapidary, Jewellery and Mineral Show  
GEMBOREE 2014 is to be  
held in Gatton Queensland,  
18 – 21 April 2014.***

