

Gem and Lapidary

News

November 2014

Vol 40 No 10

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).

---

**Life Councillors:** Ron Beattie, Dot Caladine (dec), Reg Grebert, Frank Hall (dec), Maurya Hutton, Marie Jenkins, Dick Moppett (dec), Arthur Roffey, Bob Wright.

---

#### **EXECUTIVE:**

President: Joan Ball OAM (Bankstown) 02 9773 5092 h  
 Vice Presidents: Barbara Try (Northern Districts) 0417 676 435m  
 Tony Try (Central Coast)  
 Secretary: Arthur Roffey (MinSoc) 0245 725 812 h  
[crystalhabit@bigpond.com](mailto:crystalhabit@bigpond.com)  
 Minute Secretary: Marilyn Behrens (Parra-Holroyd) 02 9635 8218 h  
 Treasurer: Francisca Siow (Parra-Holroyd)  
 Assist. Treasurer: John Behrens (Parra-Holroyd) 02 9635 8218 h  
 Committee: Ron Jones ((Parra-Holroyd)  
 Colin Wright (Pt. Hacking)  
 Wally 'Dove' (Port Hacking)  
 Shirley Harris (NSW)

Appointments: Public Officer, John Vincent; Honorary Auditor, J Smith OAM, FCPA, MACS, PCP; Editor, Sandra Maher: [editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au](mailto:editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au) Education Officer Gordon Sullivan, John Behrens, Equipment Officer; Magazine-Newsletter Competition Judges: Wally Dove and John Behrens.

#### **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.**

## Contents

- 1-2 Council News
- 4-5 GEMKHANA Reports
  - 6 An Unusual Stone
  - 7 Letter to Mrs. Joan Ball
  - 9 Some Club Activities.
- 10-11 Places to Visit
  - 12 Rock-tober
  - 13 Cannel Coal
- 13-14 Miniature Gardens
- 15 WWW

---

### NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 26th at the clubrooms of the Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club

73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

Please do come, you will be made very welcome

---

\* DEADLINE FOR COPY for  
, 2014 issue \*  
Friday 28th 2014

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

---

*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*

## Extract and Reports from Council Minutes 22/10/2014

### J&R Report:

John & Jan Mackenzie have settled into their new home and John is now willing to take up judging again. Good News. The first judging day at Illawarra Club was a very educational day and judges were "well fed". Members thanked for their hospitality.

**Education Report:** Nelson is proposing faceting judging course in February. Applicants interested should contact him on 43854495 or email [nelsonjr@optuset.com.au](mailto:nelsonjr@optuset.com.au) to arrange a date and venue.

Barbara is proposing a cab judging course in January. Applicants should contact her on 4393 6168 or email [twotrys@bigpond.com.au](mailto:twotrys@bigpond.com.au) to arrange a date and venue.

The cuttlefish casting day at Central Coast has been changed to 21.

### GEMKHANA Report

Arthur asked to write a short history of the people being honoured by the trophies presented at GMKs

The weather was perfect. Everyone had smiles on their face. There were plenty of comments on the demonstrations – thank you Kathy Selwood, Nelson Robertson, Barbara Try, Barbara Clarke, Colin Wright and all the Goulburn Club members. We feel the great need for general dealers and will continue looking for some to attend future shows. As field trips are not easy to arrange these days, perhaps we can find something to replace them. The raffle ticket sellers outdid other GEMKHANAS by raising \$609 for Convoy for Kids, Goulburn.

The new tailgating arrangements worked well and the weather meant we had more this year. A longer report is in the *Lapidary*. Thank you everyone who helped and especially Goulburn Club members, who it was reported were willing to help in so many capacities. Dealer ribbons disappear so quickly, we are looking at using cards in plastic covers instead– Marilyn to get prices for the covers. They will be suitable for GEMKHANAS and GEMBOREEES.

Noted the great advantage it is to organisers to have a club "on the ground".

### GEMBOREEE 2017: Lithgow – Easter

**Some roles have been filled, but there are still more. It is vital we find Registrar very soon, and he/she will need the support of a club.**

The logo was decided last month, but the designer wasn't announced - pleased now to say congratulations to Barbara Try. Barbara's design for business cards and letterhead were accepted. The competition schedule is now only waiting for faceting designs to be finalised and is being proofread. Very soon the schedule can be sent to the other States for their scrutiny. Badge design is also being finalised, so the logo can also fit into medallions.

*Moved Blaxland, seconded AFG that reports be received.*

### GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Blue Mountains annual show did well considering the roadworks on the highway nearby.
2. Several clubs have showcases they may be willing to lend for the GEMBOREEE. They need to be asked.
3. Some clubs noted their appreciation of the thank you letter from GEMKHANA organisers.
4. It was also noted Tony's story about how Council spends money in assisting clubs was appreciated.
5. Also noted that for Sue and Joe O'Neil (Goulburn re GMK) nothing was too much trouble, even to printing club info sheets that ran out.
6. Blaxland will soon send in information sheets for use at events Council attends.

The meeting closed at 2.30pm

Next meeting 26, 2014 at Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

---

**Special Note  
Judges Course.**

**Barbara Try and Nelson Roberts are holding judging courses in cabochon and faceting in January and February. Please contact them if you are interested. It is important that we have qualified judges at all levels.**



**Thanks Lapis**

## **Robilt Lapidary Supplies**

167 Endeavour Drive North Cranbourne 3977  
P.O.Box 179 Doveton Victoria 3177

Ph : (03) 5996 0750 Fax : (03) 5995 7505 Mob : 0414 469 203ABN 37 856 874 788

Email : [robilt@unite.com.au](mailto:robilt@unite.com.au)

**Manufacturers of Lapidary Machines for over 45 years**

**Tumblers – Trimsaws – Slabsaws – Grinders - Polishers**

**Vibro Laps – Flat Laps – Faceting & Combination Machines**

**Suppliers of Grits – Laps – Wheels – Blades – Dops – Discs.**

**Service – Repairs – Spare Parts - Rough – Cut – Polished Stones**

**Servicing Your Lapidary Needs**

# Sterling Silver

Your Best Option



Best Prices  
Best Range  
Best Quality  
Made in Australia  
Environmentally Friendly

Silver, Gold, Findings, Settings, Chain,  
Bi-Metals, Cords, Specialty Alloys

[p] 1300 360 598  
[f] 02 8568 4240  
[e] sales@aemetal.com.au

68 Smith Street  
Marrickville  
NSW 2204



A&E METAL MERCHANTS

[www.aemetal.com.au](http://www.aemetal.com.au)

## GEMKHANA REPORTS.

### NSW GEMKHANA – 2014 Goulburn

While the GEMKHANA itself was open to the public on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday morning, a lot of work to prepare the hall commenced on the Thursday prior to the opening. Facilities were cleaned; tables and chairs were delivered and set up for the Dealers, and showcases organised for the competition sections.

Friday then allowed all the Dealers to bring in their goods and establish their areas, which had all been pre-measured and set up. It was at this time also that all the competition entries were set out and displayed in the showcases.

It was good to see a number of new faces as willing workers, which greatly assisted with the preparation of the hall and general duties during the running of the GEMKHANA. Numbers through the door were good, and it appeared that the Dealers were making good sales, as many people made return trips after looking for ATMs back in the main streets of Goulburn. Others said that they were glad that it was only a once a year event because there were so many temptations on which to spend their money.

For the most part the weather was good with cool nights and fine warm days. Although on the Wednesday night before the GEMKHANA the temperature got down to minus 2C, and left ice on the cars parked outside. Unfortunately on that night, one of the amenity blocks did not have hot water, which meant that taking a shower was a very quick affair; so quick in fact that one barely required the use of a towel at the end of it. Other than that first night there was however, plenty of hot water, which was greatly appreciated at the end of a long day's work.

A big "thank you" should go to all those people that took the time, and made the effort to put entries in the competition and promote to the public the various lapidary skills learned in the clubs. They drew many a favourable comment with enquiries for the contact details of a number of clubs concerning membership. Special congratulations should go to those entrants who excelled and won in the various sections.

Overall congratulations should go to the Parramatta Holroyd Lapidary Club as the Champion Club for the 2014 GEMKHANA competition.

A big "thank you" should also go to the Goulburn Gem Society, which as the local Lapidary club did a lot of on the ground work to help ensure that the GEMKHANA was the obvious success that it was. And last but by no means least a "thank you" should go to all the people that bought tickets and supported the raffle that was run over the three days of the GEMKHANA. It is very pleasing to report that the raffle raised over \$600, which was donated to the Goulburn branch of the Convoy for Kids Charity. A fantastic result.

A cheque for the total money raised was publicly handed over to a very pleased representative of that Charity, just prior to the close of the GEMKHANA. R.R.

## GEMKHANA REPORT

What wonderful weather we had. After our previous visits to Goulburn I think everyone must have been praying for us. It seemed to have set the scene for this year's event.

Plenty of visitors came from as far away as Sydney, Bathurst, Canberra and Nowra. Those days we spent demonstrating and talking to people at the Bead Show and the Cumberland Forest open day must to have paid off.

It's a shame we cannot locate and entice tool and findings dealers to the GEMKHANA. It seems because so many people deal directly via the Internet, we are not providing enough custom for locals. If you know of anyone who would be interested in coming to our shows, please tell us.

This venue was good, but there are fewer and fewer suitable venues now as country councils don't have the funds to keep theirs maintained to a level we require. Again, if you know of any venue you think may be suitable, please tell us.

Camaraderie at this GEMKHANA was excellent. Everyone seemed to have a smile on their face all weekend. If you couldn't make it, please think about coming next year.

Quite a few familiar faces were missing this year – and we missed you. We hope you will be able to join us again soon. There were some wonderful competition entries, and lots of people are going home with plans for some new techniques for work they already do, or plans for trying something new. If you saw these entries, I'm sure you, too, would be inspired to try something new.

Unfortunately, we didn't have any field trips this year. Perhaps we need to think of some alternative activity because it's getting harder to find places where fossicking is available.

Our sympathies with all the Bulldog supporters – and we had a few with us. Good luck for next year! Still there were lots of happy Rabbitohs supporters sharing our weekend.

A big "thank you" to everyone who helped make the show the great success it was. **We covered our costs and made a little extra.**

Marilyn and John Behrens

### **RAFFLE WINNERS**

#### **Saturday RF Norris**

John Newland  
Pat Spilsbury  
RF Norris  
Stuart Clark  
M Quinlivan

#### **Sunday Margaret Foster**

Mark Howlett  
Judy Bladwell  
J Foster  
Kimberley Hayes

#### **Monday Jocelyn Cooper**

Lionel Kent  
Gabbie Paananen  
Wendy Taylor

Thank you everyone who donated prizes. **We raised \$604 for Convoy for Kids.**

Ed. Note. Results couldn't be published in G & L News but are available on the website.

**Editors Trophy Winners – Margaret Dodd, Byron Bay and Arthur Main, Canberra.**

**The 51st National Gem & Mineral Show, GEMBOREE 2015 will be held in Horsham, Victoria 3rd- 6th April 2015. Venue is Wimmera Events Centre, Longerenong Rd, Dooen, via Horsham**



## BLUE GEMS.Com.Au

ABN 62669458316  
 "Djuloom" North Arm Rd, Bowraville  
 NSW 2449 Ph 6564 4119

## MINERAL COLLECTIONS PURCHASED

Gold, Silver, Jewellery Supplies  
 TOP SHELF MINERAL

### An Unusual Stone- by Arthur Main. Canberra Club Newsletter. ( Editor's Trophy Winner)

Amongst some rocks dropped off at the club was a lump of white material with fine black dendrites.

Indian moss agate is a translucent chalcedony with green dendrites, whilst the variety of "tree agate" is opaque white chalcedony, but again with green dendrites. The dendrites in the club specimen had a rather sub-metallic lustre and gave a brownish black streak. When worked on a grinding wheel the water turned black, whilst the white material proved to be hard.

Being an impure material an SG reading would be meaningless. However the specimen floated in Bromoform (SG 2.88) and thus indicated a density close to chalcedony, even though manganese oxides have densities exceeding 4.

Sinkankas merely describes moss agate as chalcedony commonly containing dendrites of manganese oxides. Quick in his book on Agates describes Montana agate as a chalcedony shot through with manganese oxides presenting scenes of black mossy inclusions. But again this chalcedony is translucent.

Wikipedia has photos of both Pyrolusite and Psilomelane showing a dendritic habit.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyrolusite>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psilomelane>

So, the club specimen is a dendritic manganese oxide in a white chalcedony (photo attached) (As usual we do not know the source location of the material :-)



Club Specimen – dendritic manganese oxide in white chalcedony.



Moss Agate



Tree Agate



Non-profit Educational Organisation  
Founded in 1975

## GEM & LAPIDARY COUNCIL of NEW SOUTH WALES INC

PO Box 4233, Londonderry NSW 2753 Australia  
[www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au](http://www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au)  
secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

28<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Mrs Joan Ball OAM

Dear Joan,

The committee of the Gem & Lapidary Council of New South Wales, together with its member clubs wishes to convey their thanks for your years of service and dedication to our craft. Over a long period you have served on numerous committees as well as holding several executive positions not only on "Council" including GEMKHANA and GEMBOREE and as a judge but also in your own club. Whenever you agreed to commit yourself to a position it could be assured you would give it your all. This you have done sometimes with disregard to your health.

We are glad to see you are back on the road to recovery and we wish to see you back at meetings in the near future.

It is with deep regret and thanks that your resignation from the position of President is accepted.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur Roffey OAM  
Hon Secretary

---

# Gemcuts

\*Lapidary \* Fossicking  
\* Jewellery Making Tools



Cabbing



Tumbling



Jewellery Tools



Carving



Sawing



Ultrasonic Cleaners

**We stock an extensive range of our own diamond tools, faceting accessories and products. We are Authorised dealers for:**

**Diamond Pacific Tool Corp** – Nova, Genie, Bigfoot, Galaxy

**Barranca** - MK Diamond Saw Blades

**Lortone** - Cabbing Machines, Saws, Rotary Tumblers

**Ray Foster** - High Speed Polishing Machines

**Saeshin** - "Strong" Micro Motors

**Cratex** - Rubberised Abrasives

**Crystalite** - Diamond Laps, Crystal Pads, Poly Pads, Flexo Pads

**Klingspor** - Industrial Grade Sanding Sheets, Belts & Disks

**Eastwind** - Flex Wheels, Resin Bonded Diamond Products

**Estwing** – Fossicking Picks & Gold Pans

34 Smith Drive  
Ballina NSW 2478  
Ph. 02 66811686  
A/H 0427 012 014  
Brian & Liz

MAIL  
PHONE &  
INTERNET  
ORDERS

[www.gemcuts.com.au](http://www.gemcuts.com.au)

## Some Club Activities.

### Campbelltown Lapidary:

#### Fossicking

The trip to Tambar Springs was attended by six members. There are problems with property access and lack of good specimens might mean this trip was the last to the area.

25th - 27th November Wee Jasper

1 5th - 1 7th Nov Sofala – Gold

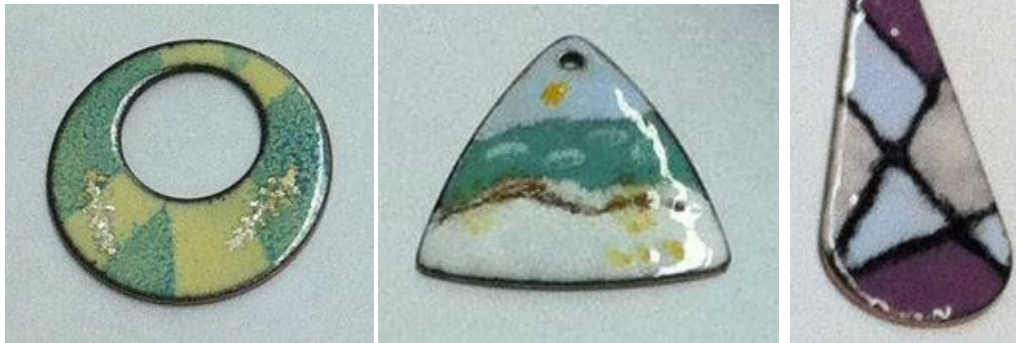
. Ern Stevens is going to the area in advance and will indicate where members should be looking.

### Northern Districts Lapidary.

#### Enamelling Workshop

Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th 9.00am - 3.00pm.

See sign-up sheet on the Clubs notice board.



Samples

#### Carving workshop

There will be a **carving and inlay workshop** for the weekend of Sat **22nd** and Sun **23rd of Nov**, 9am to 4pm for both days. This workshop is for adult members. Workshop information sheets will be posted on the Club's notice board. Francis Sun

### Lismore Gem and Lapidary.

#### FIELDTRIP – Eureka 14 th September

23 keen rock-hounds meet @ Bexhill Hall, on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014 ,  
“Eureka here we come ”.

Once we got out there , we left some of the cars on the hill near the farm house & continued down through a couple of gates, a small creek crossing (Whian creek), coming out along side “ Cooper’s Creek ”.



### Club Activites Cont. Lismore.

After lunch we all wondered around a little more, driving through-out the cow paddocks following the creek line. Late afternoon – we all drove down to the Coopers Creek causeway to search a little more before calling it a day. NEXT TRIP IS TO “ Hogarth Range “ ..... “ SEE YA THERE “ .....



Specimens Found.

---

### Places to Visit.

#### Northern Queensland fossicking

##### O'Briens Creek fossicking area

O'Briens Creek near Mount Surprise is well-known for gem-quality topaz, attracting visitors from all over Australia and overseas.

##### Access

Mount Surprise is a small township about 200km south-west of Cairns between Mount Garnet and Georgetown on the Gulf Developmental Road. From the township go north-west across the rail line on the Mount Surprise Station road and travel 37km to cross Elizabeth Creek. Follow the sign to the fossicking area along the road to the left for a further 1.5km, passing Diggers Rest about 200m before the main entrance sign. Refer to the map for details of tracks and signs within the fossicking area and note boundary limits.

The gravel road to O'Briens Creek may become impassable in wet weather and care is required on black soil sections. Flooding of creeks and gullies occurs during the wet season. Check local conditions before setting out.

##### Facilities

Camping is not permitted in the fossicking area. However, the landholder of Mount Surprise Station allows camping nearby, at a site adjacent to Elizabeth Creek with basic toilet and shower facilities, for the payment of a fee.

Fossickers intending to camp should contact the landholder's agent at the camping area about 200m south-east of the Elizabeth Creek crossing. Camping is also not permitted elsewhere on adjoining properties. A range of accommodation is available at Mount Surprise.

The creeks are dry and water is not usually available on the diggings.

##### Fossicking notes

The rocks in the vicinity of O'Briens Creek are mapped as the Elizabeth Creek Granite of Carboniferous age. The granite is a pink medium-grained, and slightly porphyritic granite containing minor mafic minerals. Topaz and tin were deposited in veins and altered zones derived from late-stage melts and fluids during the cooling of the granite. These resistant minerals were liberated by erosion and later concentrated in creek alluvium and possibly hillwash. The area has been extensively worked for alluvial tin.

Topaz and other gemstones are found in alluvial gravels (wash), which are up to 2m deep, usually in present creeks and gullies. The wash consists of sand and gravel with some cobbles and boulders. Colluvial or hillwash deposits also have potential to be gem-bearing. Tailings from previous tin mining operations throughout the area offer further potential for gem finds.

### Places to Visit Cont.

Other gem materials found in association with the topaz are mainly the quartz varieties, rock crystal, citrine and smoky quartz, and the beryl variety, aquamarine. Fragments of cassiterite (tin oxide) are also found.

O'Briens Creek, Tourmaline Gully, Crystal Gully, Swampy Gully, Six Mile Creek, McDonald Creek and Lancewood Creek are the main areas of interest to fossickers (see map).

Digging with hand tools and dry sieving are the usual methods used to search for gems.



#### Special conditions

Several mining claims and two mining leases within the area are excluded from the declared fossicking area these must not be entered without the permission of the holders.

Posts mark the corners of each tenure. Several residence areas exist along Elizabeth Creek which are also excluded from the fossicking area.



## “ROCK”TOBER

November is a very busy month for anyone interested in “rocks”.

Many clubs have their major shows or exhibitions in November, to the point where there really are not enough weekends in the month to cope with demand for peoples’ time. This means that unfortunately, there is often more than one event on each weekend. A number of these events are forced to flow from the manic period in November, into before things settle down briefly so we can all prepare for Christmas.

However, it is not just the event itself that has a demand on people time. It is all the preparatory work in the lead-up to each event that also requires people numbers. For example, judging days for the competitions held by clubs in order to show off members’ skills also takes time. A judging day can involve between twenty and forty people – depending on the size of the club/event - and sometimes over more than one day.

The NSW GEMKHANA, which was held in Goulburn in early November was a success, both from the point of view of the event and also the weather, which was fine for the whole time. There were good numbers through the door and many appreciative comments from visitors as well as participants.

Another major show held in November was for the Central Coast Lapidary Club. This was a large show which included a range of commercial Dealers as well members of the Central Coast Lapidary Club. If the numbers of people in the main hall on the Saturday were any indication [ *there was “shuffling” space only*], then this too was a successful exhibition.

Unfortunately, the Saturday was also the Judging Day for the Northern Districts Lapidary Club, which involved over thirty people for that day. The actual NDLC exhibition was held later in the month over three days [Fri. Sat and Sun] and attracted a great number of people from other clubs as well as interested public – many of whom took application forms with the intention of joining the various classes on offer.

The Illawarra Lapidary club held its first Judging day in the its premises during November. From reported comments this was greatly appreciated by the members of the Illawarra Club, who gained an insight into what is involved in organising a competition, which met the guidelines of the AFLACA Judging and Rules Manual. It was also seen as a good social function where members from a number of clubs could get together, reminisce and tell “stories” – all absolutely factual of course!!

Unfortunately however, this was also the day that the Bankstown Lapidary Club celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, with a special dinner, which precluded some people from attending.

Other clubs, which held major events in November were the Hunter Valley Gemmology Club, the Inverell Gem and Craft Show, the Blue Mountains Lapidary Club’s annual exhibition and the annual exhibition for the Lapidary Club of NSW.

Early then becomes just as busy with shows for the Cessnock Gem and Mineral Club, Illawarra Lapidary Club, Parramatta-Holroyd’s Annual Exhibition and the Newcastle Lapidary Club’s annual Gem Show, – all within the first ten days of .

I have no doubt that there are also other clubs which have major events in this same period, and this is just within NSW.

It is no wonder that people say that those who are heavily involved in the lapidary movement have “rocks in their head”. R.R

# **australian lapidary supplies**

For 50 years we have been manufacturing and supplying quality base metal Findings and Mountings to Lapidary and Craft enthusiasts.

Shop online for a large range of:

- ❖ Findings
- Chains – Neck chains and Bulk chain
- Mountings: Rings, Pendants, Brooches, Bracelets etc.
- ❖ Snap –Tite™ Settings – Sterling Silver and Gold Filled
- ❖ Discounted and close-out Specials

[www.australianlapidarysupplies.com.au](http://www.australianlapidarysupplies.com.au)

**Phone: 02 95318922 Email: [sales@australianlapidarysupplies.com.au](mailto:sales@australianlapidarysupplies.com.au)**

**Discount for Lapidary Clubs and Members**

Simply order online and type in coupon code: **lapidary** at checkout.



**Cannel Coal:** The name is derived from English “candle” referring to the way extracted from combustible – rich layers in coal seams. Formed predominantly by plants, sores & pollen. Found in England, Germany & Scotland. A high lustre can be achieved by polishing. Serves as substitute for Gagate. Both can be worked on a lathe. Used for mourning jewellery, rosaries, ornamental objects & cameo.

Paddy says "Mick, I'm thinking of buying a Labrador" .

"Blow that" says Mick, "have you seen how many of their owners go blind?"

The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner.  
Talk about Dyson with death. (Thanks Lapis)

## **Miniature Gardens – Use up some of your spare rocks.**

Miniature gardens are a great way to extend your hobby and craft skills and combine with your favourite plants. Many of your not so special rocks can be used in a miniature garden. Larger rocks are useful around your specimen or feature plant or can be sliced to create pavers. Smaller stones make great paths or keep the weeds out.

### **Creating a Miniature Garden.**

Container: Choose a container that will hold soil and drain well. The best containers have a large open surface area to accommodate your garden features.

Potting Mix: Any good potting mix will do but make sure it is a quality one that will provide good drainage.

Your Design: Before planting, place all your features, paths, furniture and plants on top of the soil and move them around until you are happy with your placements.



## Miniature Gardens Cont.

**Plants:** Suitable plants are Dwarf trees, succulents, preserved moss, any small leaved ground covering plants. Type will depend on whether your garden will be inside or out, in shade or sun. You will need one specimen plant or tree that should be placed slightly off centre and to the back of your design.

**Materials:** Strips of wood or veneer or cut up yoghurt containers can be used to outline your paths or sections. Dolls furniture or small animals or figures are purchased from toy shops. Cement or sand is useful to make paths or patios. Dolls bath tubs or similar make great pools or lakes. What you use is really up to your imagination. Just remember that it will get wet.

**Maintenance:** Water regularly but gently so you don't spread your rocks or sand etc. Tip prune plants to keep them in shape.

Miniature gardens make great gifts for someone special. They can be made inexpensively from things you may already have.



*Miniature Garden Designs*

When	What	Where
<b>2014</b>		
<b>Oct</b>		
4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup>	GEMKHANA	Goulburn Showground, Braidwood Rd <b>Goulburn</b> <b>White Cliffs.</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	2014 White Cliffs Gemfest and Car Boot Sale	
11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Central Coast Show	Mingara Recreation Club Mingara Dr <b>Tumbi Umbi NSW</b> No details as yet.
11 <sup>th</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup> 26 <sup>th</sup>	Hunter Valley Gemology Open Day Inverell Gem and Craft Show Blue Mountains Annual Exhibition Lapidary Club of NSW Exhibition	<b>Inverell.</b> Cnr Great Western Hwy  136 Reservoir St <b>Surry Hills.</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup>	Northern District Gem Show	Beecroft Community Centre Beecroft Rd <b>Beecroft.</b>
<b>Nov</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Cessnock Gem and Mineral	Clubrooms, Hall Park, Stephen St <b>Cessnock.</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ilawarra Lapidary Festival of Gems	Dapto Ribbonwood Centre Princes Highway <b>Dapto.</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	Parra-Holroyd Annual Exhibition Newcastle Lapidary Club Annual Gem Show	73 Fullagar Road <b>Wentworthville</b> 2 Dora Road <b>Adamstown</b>
8-9 <sup>th</sup>	Zeehan Gem and Mineral Show	Zeehan Primary School Zeehan <b>Tasmania</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	Canberra Lapidary Club Spring Gemcraft and Mineral Show	Epic – Mallee Pavilion <b>Canberra</b>
<b>2015</b>		
<b>Feb</b>		
14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Orange Lapidary 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration</b>	<b>Senior Citizens Centre Kite St Orange.</b>
March 21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club 24th Annual Gem and Craft Show	Armidale Showground <b>Armidale NSW</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Canberra Lapidary Rock Swap	Wagtail Way EPIC <b>Canberra</b>
<b>April</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	GEMBOREE	Horsham <b>VIC</b>
<b>May</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> 30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup>	Lismore Gemfest Canberra Winter Show	Showground <b>Lismore NSW</b> Pavilion EPIC <b>Canberra</b>
<b>Nov</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Spring Gemcraft &amp; Mineral Show</b> <b>Canberra Lapidary Club</b>	EPIC – Mallee Pavilion

**Competition Closing Dates.**

**GEMBOREE 2015 HORSHAM VIC**

Entry Forms for **ALL** must be received at P.O. Box 500, Mooroopna, Vic 3629 by

**Sat 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2015.**

Costs \$6 plus sufficient postage amount for entry return and a stamped self addressed envelope for receipt.

# **National Gem and Mineral Show.**

**3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**Horsham Vic.**

**Showcase Displays Demonstrations**

**Competitions.**

**Show off Your Skill and Expertise.**