

Gem and Lapidary
News
March 2015

Vol 41 No 2

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), Frank Hall (dec), Maurya Hutton, Marie Jenkins(dec), Dick Moppett (dec), Arthur Roffey, Bob Wright (dec) Joan Ball.

EXECUTIVE:

President: Barbara Try (Northern Districts) 0417 676 435m

Vice Presidents: Colin Wright (Port Hacking)
Tony Try (Central Coast)

Secretary: Arthur Roffey (MinSoc) 0245 725 812 h
crystalhabit@bigpond.com

Minute Secretary: Marilyn Behrens (Parra-Holroyd) 02 9635 8218 h

Assist Minute Sec Mick Lane (Blue Mountains)

Treasurer: John Behrens (Parra-Holroyd) 02 9635 8218 h

Assist. Treasurer: John Vincent (Hawkesbury Valley)

Committee: Ron Jones (Parramatta-Holroyd)
Wally Dove (Port Hacking)
Marcia Hill (Western Suburbs)

Appointments: Public Officer, John Vincent; Honorary Auditor, J Smith OAM, FCPA, MACS, PCP; Editor, Sandra Maher: editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au 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

- 1-6 Council News
- 8-9 Meet Your Councillors
- 10 Food for Thought
- 11 Letter from Tucson
- 12-14 Hawkesbury Show Competition Schedule
- 15 What's Coming Up.
- 17 Chrysocolla
- 18 Kunzite
- 19 Entry Form Hawkesbury Show.
- 20 WWW

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 18th March 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
April 2015 issue *
Friday March 27th 2015

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

Reports from general meeting of G & L Wednesday, February 25, 2015 held at the clubrooms of the Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club

J&R Report:

1. Congratulations to our two new cabbage judges: Sue O'Neil of Goulburn Club and Pam Ferris of Port Hacking Club.
2. Barbara complied with the request from Victoria for help in judging GEMBOREE competition entries for Horsham, and arranged a day at Central Coast. All went well, and some more judging will be done at Horsham. Thank you everyone.
3. Judges have been requested Hawkesbury Show. Barbara has allocated most; a few still to be confirmed.
4. AFG has requested judges for 20th & 21st.
5. Barbara and Tony will be away from March 29 to the end of July. They can still be contacted- see General Business.
6. There are 4 candidates for the faceting judging course Nelson will hold on March 14-15.
7. John asked about judging criteria for the newly-popular technique known as *metal folding*. Barbara said it would be judged as metal sheet work, but if it is enamelled, then it will be judged as enamelling.

Education Report: Delegates are thinking about introducing "teach the teachers" and how it may work. If you have ideas, we'd love to hear them.

Editor's Report:

Sandra asked if club show flyers could be included in the digital version of the *G&L News*. The meeting agreed.

Marilyn also reminded delegates of Sandra's request for a, perhaps, ½ page story on them to go with the photos John took last year.

GEMKHANA Report October 3-4-5

1. Although we still do not have a competition committee, Barbara will work on a schedule for this year so it can be included in the *G&L News* and on the website ASAP.
2. People need to inspect the pavilion ASAP to plan the event. Arthur, Mick and, if possible, John and Marilyn will go to the Hawkesbury Showground in the next few weeks.
3. Catering yet needs to be looked at.

GEMBOREE 2017: Lithgow – Easter

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

1. A visit to inspect the grounds and pavilion is on March 11. To attend are: Arthur Roffey, Alan McRae, Ernst Holland, Barbara & Tony Try, Annette & Alan Clarke, John Vincent, Mick Lane, Colin Wright, John & Marilyn Behrens. Mick will collect the keys from Robbie Park (?) at Lithgow Council. Arthur & Mick will bring long measuring tapes.

Clubs should also keep in mind that any club that assists with the practical running/organising of the GEMBOREE will get FREE tailgating space at the GEMBOREE for the duration of the event. Keep in mind that material sold at the free tailgating stall MUST be club material - that is, it is not to be owned by an individual. It is aimed to benefit the club as a whole.

GEMBOREE 2015: Below are items on the agenda for AFLACA meetings that will be held at Horsham, and we need to tell our delegates how we want them to vote...

Submission 1: from NSW recommending the new J&R Manual be sold to organisations at \$6 per copy.

Noted here that of the 1500 copies printed, 994 copies are already spoken for.

Submission 2: from Victoria regarding Paul Howard's offer of a new trophy to be awarded to a person who has done the most outstanding job connected with a GEMBOREE – a perpetual trophy to run for 50 years. Victoria recommends it be changed to be awarded in a section of competition involving Queensland agate. Today's meeting recommended rejecting both. For some years AFLACA has worked at deleting perpetual trophies (the ones that have to be returned every year). Further, that there are already sections where agate can be specified. It would require that every GEMBOREE competition for the next 50 years include Queensland agate.

Submission 3: from Victoria asking that AFLACA take out an insurance policy to cover lapidaries all over Australia for non-commercial tailgating, in an effort to reduce the rate that now stands at \$20 per day. While it sounds good, no insurance company would now issue such a policy. *Keeping in mind that QBE and now CGU wouldn't accept a State-wide policy for personal accident. That now must be taken out individually by clubs.*

Next meeting: Wednesday, **March 18**, 2015 at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

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

A&E METAL MERCHANTS

www.aemetal.com.au

GEMKHANA NEWS

GEMKHANA 2015

October 3-4-5

Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon

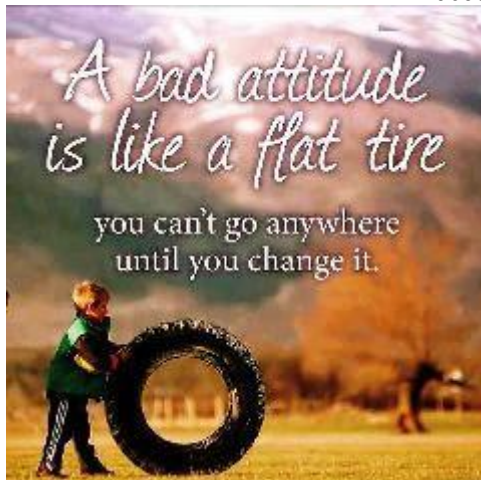
(Clarendon is two stations Sydney side of Richmond)

The Clarendon Showground has been booked for this year. Camping is available on the Showground, at \$15 per night.

While we wait for someone to offer their services as Competition Organiser and, hopefully someone will very soon, Barbara Try is preparing the schedule now so it can be available in time to allow you to work on entries. It will probably be in the March issue of the *G&L News* and on the website by then too. So keep an eye out for it. Let's make this a spectacular show, with lots of entries for visitors to be amazed by.

Help us make this show a spectacle everyone will want to see. Do come to the show, but long before that, come to some meetings and bring your ideas.

Marilyn Behrens
GMK 2015 Co-ordinator
9635 8218



GEMBOREE 2017 NEWS

2015 GEMBOREE is only a few days away, and before you know it, the results will be available.

It may seem a long way off, but 2017 is the turn of NSW to again host the GEMBOREE and, as most of you will already know, it will be held at Lithgow.

Many of the positions are filled, and planning has started. There is still, of course, lots to be done and your assistance would be greatly appreciated. ***Perhaps not immediately, but if you can spare some time in the coming two years, and during the event, we'd love to hear from you.***

You might have read about Council's offer that any club that assists with the practical running/organising of the GEMBOREE will get FREE tailgating space at the GEMBOREE for the duration of the event. Keep in mind that material sold at the free tailgating stall MUST be club material - that is it is not to be owned by an individual. It is aimed to benefit the club as a whole.

Barbara has asked for rhodonite to use for the trophies that are presented at this GEMBOREE. She needs about 40 pieces 100mm x 80 x 10mm thick. If clubs would cut the pieces to size, they can keep off-cuts for the own use. Council is willing to pay reasonable cost for the material. If you can help, please contact Barbara as soon as possible on 4393 6168, 0417 676 435 or twotrys@bigpond.net.au. To date Barbara has about half of what she needs.

Arthur has given Barbara maple wood to use for the trophy bases.

Committee members will visit Lithgow early in March to measure up and check out different aspects of the hall and grounds. So you see, work is now starting in earnest

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

Educational Courses

The Council is pleased to offer clubs a range of interesting courses in the craft of lapidary. The minimum number in a class will depend on the type of class and complexity of the class.

Course	Max People per class
1. Cabbing	Max 10
2. Carving	Max 10
3. Enamelling	Max 10
4. Faceting	Max 10
5. Mineral Appreciation	Max 10
6. Opal	Max 10
7. Silver Jewellery and Smithing	Max 10
8. Casting Lost Wax	Max 10
9. Casting Cuttlefish	Max 10
10. Wire Wrapping	Max 10

If you would like to see some photos from some of our courses please visit our gallery here <http://gemplapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/galleries/education-courses/>

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

Meet Your Hardworking G & L Council Members

Tony Try - Delegate to the G&L Council of NSW – for the Central Coast Lapidary Club



When I left PNG in 1975, I had to gain employment in the city of Sydney. However, being basically a “bush” person I accepted an offer to go fossicking at Oberon. Being completely naïve in these matters, the only ‘fossicking’ of which I was aware related to gold, so I was very surprised when I was informed that we would be looking for sapphire and zircon. In those days they were a lot easier to find than they are now.

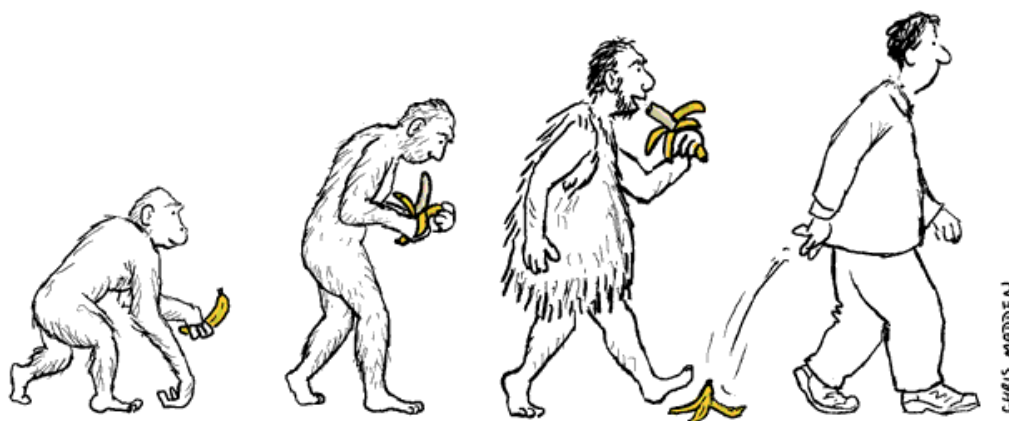
Following this rather successful fossicking weekend I then joined the Northern Districts Lapidary Club Inc. [NDLC] at Beecroft, NSW – I think it was in 1976 – where I learned the art of cabochon cutting and then faceting. Like many others, opal became a passion and I still have a “love/hate” relationship with that particular gemstone.

I have served on the committee of the NDLC as Field Trip officer on a number of occasions, and enjoyed co-ordinating a number of well attended trips to other States as well as to other areas close to home.

While I do not currently hold a position with the NDLC, I am still a member. However, for various reasons – mainly because we live relatively close by – I am now also a member of the Central Coast Lapidary Club, and act as the Delegate to the G&L Council for that club.

Tony Try

THE EVOLUTION OF HUMOUR



Barbara Try – Delegate to the G&L Council of NSW – Northern Districts Lapidary Club Inc.[NDLC]



Mrs Gwen Johnson of the Parramatta Holroyd Club first tweaked my interest in lapidary, when I was at school, by giving me some polished tumbled stones. Later, I went fossicking at Grabben Gullen and found “pin-head” sized sapphires. Then in 1974 I crossed the Nullabor to WA with a friend, and we were fortunate [?] to be befriended by an old miner who had a Chrysoprase mine North of Kalgoorlie.

I still have a soft spot for this stone today. However, on our return trip home the car was considerably heavier as we then collected “rocks” everywhere – we were well and truly hooked.

I then joined the NDLC in 1975, where I learned to cut cabs. During my time as a member of the NDLC I have held many positions on the Committee, including being President four times and Editor of the club magazine, “Lapis” for a number of years. I have also been a teacher, with classes in Cabochon, Faceting and run weekend workshops for enamelling. I have been made a Life Member of the club and currently hold the position of Vice President as well as that of Delegate to the G&L Council.

I am also a member of the Central Coast Lapidary Club, where I learn enamelling from a very well qualified teacher, which allows me to then pass on this knowledge during workshops at the NDLC.

I first became a Judge [Cabochon] in 1979 and have since then have also become a qualified judge for Faceting, Enamelling and Jewellery.

I successfully completed the Diploma in Gemmology in 1981

I have been the NDLC Delegate to the G&L Council for some time, where I am also one of the G&L Council Tutors, who run courses, at a club’s request, to teach members how to cut cabochons to the standard as dictated by the Competitor and Judging Manual for Lapidary and Allied Competitions. The fact that I have been successful in competitions at a National level is a big help, and gives me credence and respect when running these courses.

I have recently been elected as the President of the G&L Council of NSW and I am also the Chairperson the NSW Judging and Rules Committee

Barbara Try

“FOOD FOR THOUGHT”

[Unfortunately some “food” does not taste very nice]

A question I have often been asked is, “why did you join the lapidary club?” Personally, I joined because I like getting out of the town and enjoying the Australian bush. Fossicking was my introduction to lapidary. I had beginner’s luck and found some nice sapphires and zircons which were large enough to cut. The question was – “now what do I do with them?”

So, not knowing how to cut them, and with a wife that wanted them turned into jewellery so she could wear them, I joined a lapidary club. The club had a great atmosphere; everyone was friendly and very helpful and I soon became hooked on trying to cut a “good” stone. I first leaned cabbing and then faceting and some-time later those stones we found were turned into jewellery, which had a far greater emotional value than monetary –WE FOUND AND CUT THEM !!!!!

I have since asked other people the same question, and although there have been a few answers that mirror a similar response to mine, I believe that times have changed, which result in a different view point.

Many of the answers that I have been given revolve around the perception that joining a lapidary club is a means of making a fortune. They will be taken on Field trips where they will be guaranteed a hole that finds large sapphires/gold or other gemstones. After only a couple of classes at the club they will have a finished product that can be sold for a fortune.

I don’t know how many times I have heard frustrated teachers tell the newcomer that it takes longer than a couple of hours to achieve the results they want.

There is even more disappointment when it is realised that some people just do not have the abilities required, and will never be able to cut a decent stone.

I remember one guest speaker that talked about where and how to find opal. We had a great roll-up for the meeting. There were people that did not normally come to meetings, as well as the regulars. Believe it not, but at the end of the meeting a number of people did not stay for the usual tea/coffee and cakes and were heard to mutter that they expected a mud-map with an “X” marking the spot to guarantee that they would find opal.

A club can offer great friendships, camaraderie, an escape from work or other everyday problems as well as some self- esteem and pride when you complete a project to the best of your abilities; something that you are proud to show to others. Maybe consider putting it in a competition to see how your standard compares with others and gain some impartial feedback to assist you to improve even further.

So why did YOU join a lapidary club?

R.R.

Letter and photos from Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.

Hi Sandra,

Once again the Tucson Gem & Mineral show lived up to all expectations.

This was the 61st Show and the showcase focus was on “Minerals of western Europe”.

As you can see from the photos the displays were exquisite and memorable.

Remember that Western Europe was the ‘home of mineralogy’ with many of the early mineral identifications and collections being made in this region. By Western Europe they decided that it was basically Europe minus Russia.

Next year the Showcase theme will be: “Shades of BLUE – minerals of the world”.

Brian

Ed Note: Brian has sent some wonderful photos but their beauty doesn’t show up in black and white. If you would like to view them, follow this link and you can see them in their entire colour.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sc/wveg2dzx91vi6z/AAACOWMpkIMMI-YVb3ocM7Gka>

Hawkesbury Agricultural Show Competiton.

LAPIDARY (16)Major Sponsor: **BENDIGO BANK, NORTH RICHMOND****STEWARDS** Mrs D Galea 0412 210 406, Mrs A Murray 4571 1517, Ms J Murray.**LIMIT OF TWO ENTRIES** per Exhibitor per Class**PLEASE READ the CONDITIONS of ENTRY****Note:** Changes in Delivery days and times.**DELIVERY** – ALL exhibits in this SECTION must be delivered to the PAVILION ONLY on Fri 17th April between 2.00pm & 6.00pm or Sat. 18th April between 9.00am & 4.00pm.**LATE ENTRIES** may be accepted until **3.00pm** on Saturday.**EXHIBITORS - PLEASE READ** the Gem Council Competition and Judging Manual.*All Minerals are to show name and location origin.*

All Lapidary classes will be judged according to the AFLACA Competitor and current Issue Judgement Manual – no 7 - Lapidary and Allied Competitions.

Exhibits must be entirely the work of the Exhibitor.

STAGING - Stones must be on a suitable surface for judging and display**SPECIAL PRIZES for POINT SCORES****GEM & LAPIDARY COUNCIL OF NSW** - Trophies for highest point scores in Open & Junior classes - 1st 4 points, 2nd 3 points, Highly Commended 1 point**HAWKESBURY VALLEY LAPIDARY CLUB** - Awards for highest point scores by Club Members in Open - \$20.00 & Junior classes - \$10.00. 1st 3 points, 2nd 2 points, Highly Commended 1 point**JUNIOR CLASSES** (16 Years and Under)**ENTRY FEE** \$2.00**PRIZES** 1st \$4.00, 2nd \$2.00 unless otherwise stated, plus ribbons & cards***** Please note all Stones MUST be Polished on Backs**

- 400 Standard Cabochon
- 401 Australian Fossil, single specimen- supply name of fossil & area where found.
- 402 Commercially Mounted Jewellery with item cut & set by the exhibitor
- 403 Jewellery Wire Wrapped with commercial stone set by the exhibitor
- 404 Jewellery Wire wrapped with stone polished on both sides, cut & set by the exhibitor
- 405 Hand Fabricated Jewellery, made entirely of metal, not intended to include Lapidary minerals or fossils
- 406 Gem tree - must fit into a cube over 150mm & less than 300mm in height.
- 407 Novelty Gem Craft
- 408 Carving Fully3-Dimensional (Refer Judging Manual Page 37) Section 5A

HIGHEST POINT SCORE IN CLASSES (400-408) – prize donated by D Galea**BEST EXHIBIT IN JUNIOR LAPIDARY**- Ribbon & \$10.00 sponsored by Mrs A Murray
ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD – Voucher sponsored by Bellsbridge Cottage – Kurrajong Heights**GEM & LAPIDARY COUNCIL OF NSW** - highest point score - Trophy
HAWKESBURY VALLEY LAPIDARY CLUB - highest point score by a **HVLC Member** – \$10.00**OPEN CLASSES****ENTRY FEE** \$3.00**PRIZES** 1st \$6.00, 2nd \$3.00 unless otherwise stated, plus ribbons & cards.***** PLEASE NOTE ALL STONES MUST BE POLISHED ON BACKS**

- 409 Standard Cabochon
- 410 Double Standard Cabochon – manual part D
- 411 Fancy Cabochon
- 412 Double Fancy Cabochon – manual part D
- 413 Freeform – max. size 40mm, min. 15mm.

HIGHEST POINT SCORE IN Cabochon classes 409 – 413 – voucher (value \$30.00) donated by Richmond Surf & Sports Shop 257 Windsor St., Richmond.

- 414 Freeform - specified material - Opal solid
- 415 Opal Doublet - **Domed**
- 416 Opal Triplet

HIGHEST POINT SCORE IN Opal classes 414 – 416 - voucher (value \$10.00)
Donated by Richmond Mall Pharmacy Shop 16/271 Windsor St., Richmond.**Classes 417 – 420** – stone, and number of facets, are to be named.

- 417 Standard Brilliant, continuous girdle
 - 418 Oblong Step-Cut with cut corners
 - 419 Modified Standard – must have number of meets & facets
 - 420 Facet, fancy cut – must have diagram with fancy cuts
- HIGHEST POINT SCORE IN Faceted classes 417 – 420** – Voucher (value \$10.00)
Donated by Richmond Mall Pharmacy Shop 16/271 Windsor St Richmond

- 421 Cast Ring made by the exhibitor, with faceted stone, cut & set by the exhibitor
 - 422 Opal Jewellery – setting made, and stone cut and set entirely by the exhibitor
 - 423 Commercial Jewellery Mount with faceted stone cut & set by the exhibitor
 - 424 Hand Fabricated Jewellery made entirely of Metal (not to include lapidary minerals or fossils)
 - 425 Jewellery - Setting made & Stone cut & set entirely by the exhibitor (not faceted)
 - 426 Commercial Jewellery Mount with item cut & set by the exhibitor (not faceted)
 - 427 Cast Jewellery - Setting with Stone, cut and set by the exhibitor (not faceted)
- HIGHEST POINT SCORE 421 – 427 Voucher (value \$25.00) sponsored by Kitchen N Things Shop 15 Richmond Marketplace Richmond**

- 428 Jewellery - Wire Wrapped with stone polished on both sides, cut & set by the exhibitor
 429 Jewellery - Wire Wrapped with commercial stone set by the exhibitor
 430 Bracelet - Wire Wrapped with commercial stones set by the exhibitor
HIGHEST POINT SCORE IN JEWELLERY CLASSES 428 - 430 - voucher (value \$25.00)
 Donated by Bakers Delight 12B/271-281 Windsor Street Richmond
 431 Carving - Fully 3-Dimensional ([refer Judging Manual Page 37](#)) Section 5A
 432 Polished Flat Surface
 433 Tumbled Stones, named set of 3 different materials, natural shape.
 434 Australian Fossil, single specimen - supply name of fossil & area where found
 435 Open Gem Tree - must fit into a cube over 150mm & less than 300mm.
 436 Novelty Gem Craft, hand made.

BEST EXHIBIT IN OPEN LAPIDARY - Ribbon & \$20.00 Donated by D Galea
GEM & LAPIDARY COUNCIL OF NSW - highest point score - Trophy
HAWKESBURY VALLEY LAPIDARY CLUB - highest point score by a HVLC member - \$20.00

MARINE SHELLCRAFT - Maximum size 30cm, minimum size 20cm
Junior Classes - entry \$2.00.

PRIZES - 1st \$4.00, 2nd \$2.00

- 437 Marine Shell Carving
 438 Marine Shell Picture
 439 Marine Shell Novelty
HIGHEST POINT SCORE IN JUNIOR MARINE SHELL CRAFT
 Ribbon & Prize Donated by Ms J. Murray

BEST EXHIBIT IN JUNIOR MARINE SHELL CRAFT -
 Ribbon & Voucher (value \$25.00) **Donated by** - Bellsbridge Cottage Kurrajong Heights

Open Classes - entry \$3.00.

PRIZES - 1st \$6.00, 2nd \$3.00

- 440 Marine Shell Carving
 441 Marine Shell Picture
 442 Marine Shell Novelty
BEST EXHIBIT IN OPEN MARINE SHELL CRAFT - Ribbon & prize donated by Mrs A Murray



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

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

What's Coming Up!

The Cessnock Gem and Mineral Club will be holding three Open Days during Seniors Week in March, on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th from 1pm, and Saturday 21st from 10am.

21st & 22nd New England Lapidary Fossicking Club
 24th Annual Gem and Craft Show
 Armidale Showground Armidale.

21st & 22nd Canberra Lapidary Rock Swap Wagtail Way
 EPIC Canberra

In April
3rd - 6th Gemboree Horsham Victoria.

May
16th & 17th Lismore Gemfest Showground Lismore NSW
30th & 31st Canberra Winter Show Pavilion EPIC Canberra



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

Phone: 02 95318922 Email: sales@australianlapidarysupplies.com.au

Discount for Lapidary Clubs and Members

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



Chrysocolla

In 315 B.C., chrysocolla was first used by a Greek philosopher and botanist known as Theophrastus. During early times, chrysocolla was used as a soldering agent and in ancient Egypt, it was widely known as the 'wise stone' as it was thought to be able to shield the mind during times of negotiation.

Chrysocolla is one of the lesser known gemstones, but it is a fascinating mineral. It is sometimes confused with turquoise due to its colour and greasy to vitreous luster. Chrysocolla is one of a small group of copper-bearing gems that includes malachite, azurite, Larimar, Oregon sunstone and Paraiba tourmaline, as well as turquoise. By composition, chrysocolla is a hydrous copper silicate, often with traces of copper, iron and manganese oxide. It is a fairly soft stone at 2 to 4 on the Mohs scale, which makes it somewhat softer than turquoise. It is almost always opaque, and often occurs in shades of blue and green that make it appear similar to turquoise.

The name chrysocolla comes from the Greek words for gold (chrysos) and glue (kolla). It is a name that the Greeks applied to minerals used for soldering gold, but the term came to be used to refer to various green copper-bearing minerals.

Identifying chrysocolla by composition can be difficult since it lacks a definitive chemical composition. Its chemical formula can vary depending on included impurities. Essentially, any massive, globular, blue to green copper-bearing silicate which cannot be specifically identified as otherwise, can be identified as chrysocolla. Chrysocolla can often be distinguished by its hardness, unique colour and interesting patterns. However, depending on its exact composition, its hardness can range significantly, but in most cases, distinguishing chrysocolla can typically be done through scratch testing. Chrysocolla is slightly softer than turquoise. Smithsonite is similar in appearance, but its colour is slightly lighter and its hardness higher. Variscite is also very similar, but its colour is usually much greener and it is typically much harder than chrysocolla.

Chrysocolla can be found in copper deposits all around the world. The most notable Chrysocolla sources include Israel, the Congo (Zaire), Chile, England, Kolwezi, Katanga (Shaba), Mexico, Peru, Russia, and the USA (Arizona, Utah, Idaho, New Mexico, Michigan and Pennsylvania). Arizona is known to produce some of the finest chrysocolla available today. The Timna Copper Mines of ancient Israel were famous for mixed chrysocolla specimens. Western Australia is well-known for chrysocolla pseudomorphs of azurite.

Chrysocolla is almost always cut en cabochon. Some materials may be faceted, but this is not very common and is typically done only for collectors, rather than for jewellery use. Most chrysocolla is cut into oval and free-form shapes, but fancy shapes are also quite common.

March 1 st	Illawarra Rock Swap	Stuart Park North Wollongong.
21 st & 22 nd	New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club 24th Annual Gem and Craft Show	Armidale Showground Armidale NSW
21 st & 22 nd	Canberra Lapidary Rock Swap	Wagtail Way EPIC Canberra
April 3 rd	GEMBOREE	Horsham VIC
May 16 th & 17 th	Lismore Gemfest	Showground Lismore NSW
30 th & 31 st	Canberra Winter Show	Pavilion EPIC Canberra
Aug 15 th -16 th	Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Gem Show	Glenbrook Community Hall Great Western Highway, Glenbrook,
NSW September 26 th & 27 th	Bathex 2015 exhibition & Bathurst bicentenary White Cliffs Gemfest	Bathurst Community Hall White Cliffs.
Oct 3rd-5th	Gemkhana	Hawkesbury Showground Clarendon.
Nov 7 th & 8 th	Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show Canberra Lapidary Club Illawarra Lapidary Exhibition	EPIC – Mallee Pavilion Ribbonwood Centre Dapto

GEMBOREE DATES

2015	-VIC	APRIL 3
2016	-TAS	MAR 25
2017	-NSW	APRIL 14



National Gem and Mineral Show.

3rd-6th April 2015

Horsham Vic.

“Horsham, here we come”