

Gem and Lapidary

News

April 2015

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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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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

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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 April 22nd 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
May, 2015 issue *
Friday April 24th 2015

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

Reports from General Meeting held in March, 2015

J&R Report:

1. Congratulations to our two new faceting judges: Pam Ferris and Col Wright both of Port Hacking Club. Thank you Nelson and Paul Sabolta for running the course.
2. Judges have been allocated for Hawkesbury Show, and Emanuel has the judging sheets.
3. Judges have been allocated for the AFG competition.
4. Central Coast Club has booked judges for its competition on September 26.
5. GEMKHANA judging will be at Parramatta-Holroyd clubrooms on Sat-Sun 12-13 September. Noted entries close on Fri Aug 28 by mail and Sat Aug 29 by hand.- details are in the schedule (in the *G&L News* and on the website)

Editor's Report:

Later in the year Sandra and Bob will be travelling extensively. Sandra is willing to continue until December, publishing on-the-road if we will accept that production may be later than normal and there is an Officeworks nearby, or other arrangements can be made. Nevertheless, a new editor will be needed after December. Sandra also noted the cost of postage is likely to increase (to \$1 for ordinary letter) in September. Therefore, we are again in need of an editor. Please think about it and tell the Secretary if you can, or know of someone who is willing to take over the role.

GEMKHANA Report October 3-4-5

1. The competition schedule is in the *G&L News* (without faceting diagrams) and on the website (with diagrams). A copy of the *G&L News* is sent to every club. Notice there is a new condition on the Dick Moppet Trophy, where the minimum score for a novice will be 70, and the minimum for open will be 90.
2. On Monday Arthur, John and Marilyn checked out the Hawkesbury Showground. The pavilion is huge. There is plenty of space for tailgating and camping. Would be most suitable for a GEMBOREE, but is not available at that time. Showers and toilets are adequate.
3. We will need several displays to help fill the pavilion. John Vincent will talk to the Hawkesbury Historical Society; Arthur will talk to UWS Hawkesbury and the local Rural Fire Brigade. John V is looking at childrens activities and a Club display. Any offers, talk to Marilyn, John or Arthur. Rather than a gate, entry fees will be collected at the door.
4. We have been asked for more demonstrations since there is so much space. If you can help here, please offer.

5. Expressions of interest will be handed to dealers at Horsham, and posted to those not at Horsham.

GEMBOREE 2017: Lithgow – Easter

We have a Co-ordinator: Col Wright of Port Hacking Club. Welcome aboard Colin. There are not many roles yet to be filled, but the most important yet to come is the Registrar.

The visit on March 11 to the site was undertaken and everyone is agreed camping is limited, but there are two caravan parks in the area which may be helpful. The two halls are adequate for the competition and dealers. A nearby shed is suitable for meetings and evening activities and, with a catering area beside it, could also be used for indoor eating if needed. Mick will check outdoor caterers at the Ironfest at Lithgow next weekend. There is plenty of daytime parking. Still need to decide on camping costs. Will need to order portable amenities to cover the area. Table hire is available from Hawkesbury Hire; toilets need to come from St Marys. Rubbish disposal is to be considered. Marcia agreed to be Volunteer Co-ordinator. The booklet will be available next Easter at the Ulverstone GEMBOREE – print 1200 or 1500, depending on the best price. While at the printers getting quotes for the booklets, Arthur will get a quote to print the tags. Advertising in the booklet was set at \$60/page, \$40/ ½ page, \$25 ¼ page, with advertisers supplying their own artwork. Alan McRae has agreed to be Publicity Officer and will be asked to approach Lithgow Council about sponsoring the booklet (and paying for printing the cover), considering the booklet will be printed by a Lithgow printer, if there is one.

A GEMBOREE meeting was set for August 26, at 11am (ie before the regular monthly meeting)


GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. The new lighting is to be installed in the showcases during the week before the GEMKHANA – Tuesday 29th Sept.
2. Again discussed tailgating insurance Victoria will bring up at the GMB (see last month's mins)
3. Arthur asked to get a supply of bars for judges badges, and will get a quote for Lithgow GMB badges. (38mm)
4. Ask Sandra to put in a note about the new Manuals – cost, postage, etc when known
5. Instead of clubs needing to purchase judging sheets for the new Manuals from Council, they are now available on the website for free – at least they will be there after Easter.

The meeting closed at 2.35pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, **April 22**, 2015 at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

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**GEMKHANA 2015
COMPETITION SCHEDULE
LEVEL 3**

Judging will be in accordance with the AFLACA Competition and Judging Manual Issue No 8

**O=Open I=Intermediate N=Novice J=Junior TR=Trophy
CS = Craftsmanship AA = Aesthetic Appeal**

Entry Fee = \$1.00 per entry for 1st ten (10) entries, thereafter FREE

Standard Cabochon - Must not pass through 15mm hole

O-1A.1	Standard Cabochon	C/S – any material
I-1A.2	Standard Cabochon	C/S – any material

TR

N-1A.3	Standard Cabochon	C/S – any material
J-1A.4	Standard Cabochon	C/S – any material
O-1A.5	Standard Cabochon	A/A – Mookaite
I-1A.6	Standard Cabochon	A/A – Mookaite
N-1A.7	Standard Cabochon	A/A – Mookaite
J-1A.8	Standard Cabochon	A/A - Obsidian

Fancy, Double Standard & Double Fancy Cabochons - Min Dimension to be not less than 30mm on the longest dimension across the outline shape

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
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
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

Freeforms – Must not pass through 15mm hole

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 10mm hole

O-3.4	Freeform	C/S – Opal
N-3.5	Freeform	C/S – Opal

Opal Sections – Must not pass through a 10mm hole

O-4A.1 Opal Doublet – Flat top

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)

O-5A.1 Carving – 3 dimensional

N-5A.2 Carving – 3 dimensional

Hardness 4 and over

O-5A.3 Carving – 3 dimensional

N-5A.4 Carving – 3 dimensional

Any Hardness

O-5B.1 Carving - in relief

N-5B.2 Carving - in relief

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

N-5E.2 Carving not otherwise Specified in Group 5A to 5D

Scrimshaw

Sect. No. Description

O-6.1 Scrimshaw

N-6.2 Scrimshaw

**Facet Cuts: Min size 6mm on shortest axis of outline shape GROUPS 8, 9, 10 AND 11
FACET CUTS**

O-8B.1 Standard Brilliant – Faceted Girdle Natural Coloured Quartz

TR

I-8B.2 Standard Brilliant – Faceted Girdle Natural Coloured Quartz

N-8B.3 Standard Brilliant – Faceted Girdle Natural Coloured Quartz

TR

O-9B.1 Standard Square Step Cut with Cut Corners Australian Labradorite

TR

I-9B.2 Standard Square Step Cut with Cut Corners Australian Labradorite

N-9B.3 Standard Square Step Cut with Cut Corners Australian Labradorite

TR

O-10.1 Modified Standard Cut – Ferris Checked Top MM Coloured Corundum

I-10.2 Modified Standard Cut – Asscher Cut MM Colourless Cubic

Zirconia

N-10.3 Modified Standard Cut – Cushion Triangle MM Coloured Corundum

O-11.1 Fancy Cut – Sphal3 Rev MM Coloured Cubic Zirconia

I-11.2 Fancy Cut – 12 Main Shield MM Coloured Corundum

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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://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/galleries/education-courses/>

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N-11.3 Fancy Cut – Winter Rose MM Coloured Cubic Zirconia

TUMBLLED STONES must not be able to be passed through a 15mm diameter circular hole.

O-12A.1 Tumbled Stones – Preformed Shape - Group of 3 different materials

O-12B.1 Tumbled Stones – Preformed Shape - Group of 3 different materials

POLISHED FACES – Min size 50mm short axis. Max 300mm on any dimension

O-13.1 Polished Face – Flat Surface CS

TR

O-14.1 Polished Face – Curved Surface AA

GEM TREES – Must not fit in 150mm cube – Must fit in 300mm cube.

O-16.1 Gem Tree

N-16.2 Gem Tree

NOVELTY GEMCRAFT - Minimum size 50mm on the longest dimension excluding base.

O-17.1 Novelty Gemcraft

TR

N-17.2 Novelty Gemcraft

HAND FABRICATED AND WIRE WRAPPED JEWELLERY

O-18A.1 H/Fabricated Jewellery **not** intended to include Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral Specimen/s

I-18A.2 H/Fabricated Jewellery **not** intended to include Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral Specimen/s

N-18A.3 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/set by entrant

N-18E.2 Wire Wrapped Jewellery **with** Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral item/s prepared/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, METAL CLAY JEWELLERY USING PATTERNS, MOULDS AND DIES 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

TR

O-19E.1 Metal Clay Jewellery **not** intended to include Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral Item/s

N-19E.2 Metal Clay Jewellery **not** intended to include Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral Item/s

Do You Have A Gemmologist in Your Club?

Gemmology, the study and science of gems, can be as much an anthropological study as it is a mineralogical one. Gemstones, because of their remarkable beauty, durability and rarity, have been granted a significance that helps us understand the history of mankind. The human race, from its infancy to present day, has sought to protect itself behind walls of mysticism and superstition reinforced with gem talismans that could be easily carried and hidden.

Ancient lore and legends associated with gems have, for the most part, been replaced with "rational" references of romance and poetic beauty, but precious stones remain the greatest universal talismans of wealth and power!

What is Gemmology?

Gemmology is the scientific study of gemstones, which often involves the study of mineralogical fundamentals such as formations, genesis, localities, physical properties and identification of gemstones. It includes the basic knowledge of structural, crystallographic, chemical and physical characteristics and properties of gems. It also involves the way in which gemstones are fashioned.

Special Gemmology deals with categories and varieties of gemstones, synthetic stones and imitations. Conventionally, the organic substances such as amber, pearls, coral and the non-minerals are also included in this subject of special gemmology.

Practical Gemmology refers to the application of the knowledge of characteristics and properties of gemstones in identification or separation of synthetics and imitations. Diamond grading is included in practical gemmology.

What is a Gemmologist?

A gemmologist is someone who studies gemstones. Being recognized as a gemmologist usually involves having credentials from one of the Institutes for Gemmological Studies discussed below (see **Becoming a Gemmologist** below).

Since 1945, the GAA has been educating and updating members of the gem and jewellery industry, and the general public, about all aspects of gemstones and their substitutes.

Education

Education of gem enthusiasts and members of the jewellery industry is the primary aim of the Association. This includes short and long courses with a range of delivery and assessment methods. GAA certificates are issued by the Registrar for assessed courses. **GAA Diploma in Gemmology**
<http://www.gem.org.au/>

New Editor needed before December 2015. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary or current editor.

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Coming Up in June

Grafton Gem and Craft Show 6th -7th

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Hey, We're Fashion Leaders.

Young women around the world have gotten fed up with how good older silver vixens can sometimes look with their grey hair and have started dying their hair grey as well. Whether it's an act of jealous appropriation or a tacit nod to the older ladies that know how to rock their silver locks, this grey hair trend has a way of turning heads

Alexandrite

This rare gemstone is named after the Russian tsar Alexander II (1818-1881), the very first crystals having been discovered in April 1834 in the emerald mines near the Tokovaya River in the Urals. The discovery was made on the day the future tsar came of age.

Although alexandrite is a relatively young gemstone, it certainly has a noble history. Since it shows both red and green, the principal colours of old Imperial Russia, it inevitably became the national stone of tsarist Russia.

Beautiful alexandrite in top quality, however, is very rare indeed and hardly ever used in modern jewellery. In antique Russian jewellery you may come across it with a little luck, since Russian master jewellers loved this stone. Tiffany's master gemmologist George Frederick Kunz (1856-1932) was also fascinated by alexandrite, and the jeweller's firm produced some beautiful series of rings and platinum ensembles at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. Smaller alexandrites were occasionally also used in Victorian jewellery from England.

The magic of changing colours

The most sensational feature about this stone, however, is its surprising ability to change its colour. Green or bluish-green in daylight, alexandrite turns a soft shade of red, purplish-red or raspberry red in incandescent light. This unique optical characteristic makes it one of the most valuable gemstones of all, especially in fine qualities.

Alexandrite is very scarce: this is due to its chemical composition. It is basically a chrysoberyl, a mineral consisting of colourless or yellow transparent chrysoberyl, chrysoberyl cat's eye and colour-changing alexandrite (also in cat's eye varieties). It differs from other chrysoberyls in that it not only contains iron and titanium, but also chromium as a major impurity. And it is this very element which accounts for the spectacular colour change. Rarely, vanadium may also play a part. According to CIBJO nomenclature, only chrysoberyls displaying a distinct change of colour may be termed alexandrite.

Like many other gemstones, alexandrite emerged millions of years ago in a metamorphic environment. But unlike many others, its formation required specific geological conditions. The chemical elements beryllium (a major constituent in chrysoberyl) and chromium (the colouring agent in alexandrite) have contrasting chemical characteristics and do not as a rule occur together, usually being found in contrasting rock types. Not only has Nature brought these contrasting rock types into contact with each other, but a lack of the chemical element silica (the second most common element in the Earth's crust) is also required to prevent the growth of emerald. This geological scenario has occurred only rarely in the Earth's history and, as a result, alexandrite crystals are very scarce indeed.

Nowadays not only from Russia

Russia has remained the primary source of alexandrite since gems from the mines of the Urals became available on the market. When the Russian deposits were thought to have been exhausted, interest in the unique colour miracle decreased - especially since alexandrites from other mines hardly ever displayed the coveted colour change. But the situation changed dramatically in 1987, when alexandrites were discovered in a place called Hematita in Minas Gerais, Brazil. The Brazilian alexandrites showed both a distinctive colour change and good clarity and colour. Thus the somewhat dulled image of the miraculous stone received another boost. The colour of the Brazilian stones is admittedly not as strong a green as that of Russian alexandrite, but the colour change is clearly discernible.

Today Hematita is one of the most important deposits of alexandrite in economic terms. Occasionally alexandrite with chatoyancy is discovered there, an effect which has not yet been observed in Russian alexandrite. Alexandrites are also obtained from sources in Sri Lanka, but the hue of these stones compares less than favourably with that of the Uralian alexandrites. They appear green in daylight and a brownish red in artificial light. The Tunduru area in southern Tanzania has also produced some outstanding specimens since the mid-1990s. Alexandrites are also found in India, Burma, Madagascar and Zimbabwe. Although this stone is still considered a rarity, specialised gemstone dealers do stock it, especially since improved trade relationships between Russia and the rest of the world have ensured a better supply of Russian alexandrites to the market.

A gemstone for experts and gemstone lovers

With its good hardness of 8.5, alexandrite is an uncomplicated stone to wear. The more distinct the change of colour, the more valuable the stone. A fine alexandrite should show a vivid bluish-green in daylight and a purplish-red in artificial light, without any trace of undesirable brown or grey. If the origin of the stone is known beyond dispute to be Russia, we are talking about a real rarity of enormous value. Finely faceted alexandrites above one carat are thus among the most expensive gemstones in the world, rarer than fine ruby, sapphire or emerald.

Alexandrite is a stone for experts, enthusiasts and connoisseurs, a true understatement stone. Its uniqueness and high value are not evident at first sight. The mysterious colour change will only occur on exposure to different light sources. But if you really get involved in alexandrite, you will be utterly fascinated by this gem. Maybe you will also feel some of the mysterious magic and lore ascribed to it. It is considered a stone of very good omen. In critical situations it is supposed to strengthen the wearer's intuition, and thus help him or her find new ways forward in situations where logic will not provide an answer. Alexandrite is also reputed to aid creativity and inspire the imagination.

When

What

Where

April

3rd

GEMBOREE

Horsham **VIC**

May

16th & 17th

Lismore Gemfest

Showground **Lismore NSW**30th & 31st

Canberra Winter Show

Pavilion EPIC **Canberra**

June

6th & 7th

Grafton Gem and Craft Show

Grafton Showground

13th-21stWA Lapidary and Rock Hunting
Annual Gemstone ExhibitionGladstone Rd **Rivervale WA**

July

11th & 12thCampbelltown Districts
Annual ExhibitionGreg Percival Centre.
Oxford Rd **Ingleburn**

Aug

15th-16thBlaxland Gem & Mineral Club
Gem ShowGlenbrook Community Hall
Great Western Highway, **Glenbrook,**

NSW

September

26th & 27thBathex 2015 exhibition &
Bathurst bicentenary
White Cliffs Gemfest**Bathurst**

Oct 3rd-5th

GemkhanaCommunity Hall **White Cliffs.**
Hawkesbury Showground
Clarendon.

Nov

7th & 8thSpring Gemcraft & Mineral Show
Canberra Lapidary Club

EPIC – Mallee Pavilion

GEMBOREE DATES

2016 -TAS **MAR 25**2017 -NSW **APRIL 14**

*Next Big Event for Gem and Lapidary
Council.*



GEMKHANA 2015

OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND

3RD - 5TH

HAWKESBURY SHOWGROUND.

We need a new editor

*Please contact secretary if you
can take on this position.*