



## Gem and Lapidary

### News

May 2015

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**May 31<sup>st</sup> Illawarra Club Open Day**      **51 Meadow Street,**  
**Tarrawanna**

#### 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](mailto: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 27th** 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  
June, 2015 issue \*  
Friday May 29th 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*

*Editor Needed – Please Help.*

**Some Club Snippets. (Please email me your club newsletter so that I can include you in Club News.)**

**New members work Byron Lapidary Club Newsletter.**



**From Lapis.**

**BEGINNERS JEWELLERY CLASS**

In our first 6 weeks we made a saw pierced pendant, a ring, and we also began a pendant with a claw set stone. We had learnt so much, but wanted more.

Vivienne and David were kind enough to give us 5 more lessons. The final 3 lessons were dedicated to making a beautiful bracelet with soldered links. The previous class pieces had worked out so beautifully that, with gusto and naïve confidence, we began our bracelets. The class was very quiet except for the occasional choice word when the solder didn't take or the ring sprang apart again. So with a lot of patience (from student and teacher), concentration, and loads of practice the bracelets were finished and the results were stunning.

We all enjoyed the classes so much, and now feel competent enough to continue making jewellery at home, or join one of the other jewellery classes.

A huge "Thank you" to Vivienne and David for giving up their time to teach us, your skills and patience are very much appreciated. Diana Wanders

**ENAMELLING WORKSHOP**

On the week-end of 8th & 9th March an enamelling workshop was held. There were seven very enthusiastic students of varying experience who all had a wonderful time.

The workshop involved basic enamelling techniques on copper to cloisonné on pure silver.



We were a very conscientious group who were ably assisted by our most experienced & encouraging instructor, Barbara. Thank you Barbara.

I know all who were present on that week-end will be eagerly awaiting the next time you are available to run another workshop.

Coral Briggs

### Lismore Club Out and About.

Trip to Emmaville and Torrington. ( Rod Knight)

22 Members attended a very successful trip despite the rain.



### Illawarra Lapidary Club.

Social Meeting

The social meeting for 15th April was Keith Tyssen talk on fossicking for thunder eggs and agate at various locations in Queensland and New South Wales. In conjunction with his talk Keith had a Powerpoint presentation and examples of the thunder eggs he has found in the various locations

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## GEMBOREE – HORSHAM Victoria

### Easter 2015

From the “outside” this was a well-run event. The grounds were large and caravan sites very big. There was plenty of power for all concerned & the toilet and shower facilities were better than last time. The hall was a good size with plenty of room for everyone, although it did make the lack of overall numbers a little more obvious.

I believe the competition entries were also well down on the previous time the GEMBOREE was held in Horsham, which was a pity, but a sign of the times.

Horsham lived up to its past reputation – the country unfortunately was still very dry. I believe they had not had good rain for nearly four years. This meant the gusty winds kicked up a lot of dust until the last day when it rained and turned the dirt into a very sticky mud.

Presentation night was a huge success with a large hall filled with people. Wine, cheese and sweet nibbles were served during the night. Western Suburbs Lapidary Club should be congratulated for once again being Champion Club. I think this makes six times in succession. A great effort.

The tailgaters should also be congratulated. There were plenty of them with lots of material to choose from and they stuck it out until the last day when the weather conditions became too bad for anyone to tolerate outside.

It has been said; many times that lapidarians have “rocks in their heads”. Maybe this is true because regardless of the less than average weather conditions everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and the opportunity to meet up with old friends – unfortunately these are becoming fewer as the years go by.

Next year the GEMBOREE is “overseas” in Tasmania. Hopefully we can get together again there.

RR

## Board Games Making a Comeback.

Board games are having a revival particularly amongst young people. In 2012 The Guardian went as far as dubbing it “A Golden Age for Board Games”, stating board games have seen a growth rate as high as 40% year over year. That’s higher than Google, which sees about 20% growth year over year. Board games and card games have often, in the past, been a favourite of campers and caravanners to while away the evening or rainy days.

### History of Board Games.

Board games are pre-historic beginning with the most common component of most games, the dice. Before we had language we had board games. In the Middle East, artefacts of early games have been found that dated back 5000 years. The ‘dice’ were made from painted sticks that were tossed in the air in unison and the number of painted sides landing face up represented your ‘roll’. Materials used included carved knuckle bones, wood, painted stones, and turtle shells.



Board games became popular among pharaohs in Ancient Egypt. Primarily, the game of **Senet**. The game has been found in predynastic and First Dynasty burials. The Senet board



itself is a grid of 30 squares, arranged in three rows of ten. There are two sets of pawns (at least five of each and, in some sets, more, as well as shorter games with fewer). Historians have made educated guesses for the actual rules of gameplay for Senet, which have been adopted by different companies which make sets for sale today.

Many people think Backgammon has been played the longest out of all board games, however it’s actually **The Royal Game of Ur**. Cont----page 8

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## MINERAL COLLECTIONS PURCHASED

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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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The game had been thought long-dead, superseded by backgammon 2000 years ago. However, game enthusiast Irving Finkel discovered the game's rules carved into an ancient stone tablet. The game gets its name from its founding within the Royal Tombs of Ur in Iraq. There was also a set found in Pharaoh Tutankhamen's tomb. The Royal Game of Ur was played with two sets, one black and one white, of seven markers and three tetrahedral dice (4-sided dice).



**Tafl Games and the Birth of Chess (400 AD)**

Tafl games are a family of ancient Germanic and Celtic strategy board games played on a checkered board with two armies of uneven numbers. Although the size of the board and the number of pieces varied, all games involved a distinctive 2:1 ratio of pieces, with the lesser side having a king-piece that started in the centre. The king's objective was to escape to the board's periphery or corners, while the greater force's objective was to capture him. The attacking force has the natural advantage at the start of each game. It's presumed this indicated the cultural aspect by mimicking the success of Viking raids. Tafl spread everywhere Vikings travelled, including Iceland, Britain, Ireland, and Lapland. Several iterations of the game, were played across much of Northern Europe. Soon after, the game was turned into its European variant, Chess, which is played on the same 8x8 tile board. The earliest evidence of chess is found in Sassanid Persia around 600 AD.

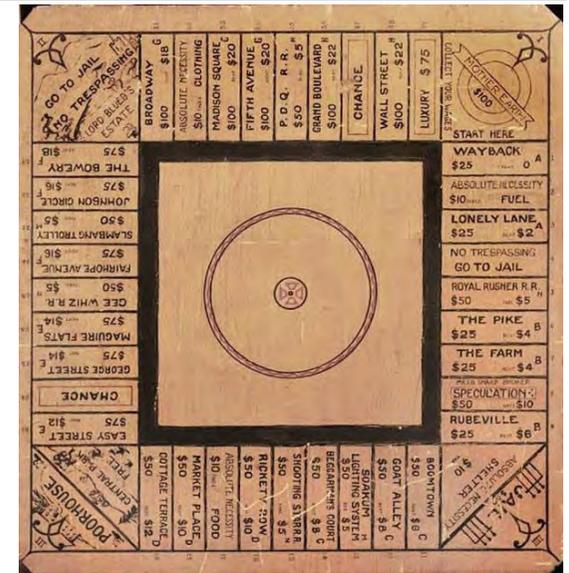
Its theorized Muslim traders came to European seaports with ornamental chess kings as curios before they brought the game of chess.

During the Age of Enlightenment, chess was viewed as a means of self-improvement. Chess was soon after implemented into schools, where the first chess clubs began.



Cont----pge 9

What? You've never heard of The Landlord's Game? It was invented by Lizzie Magie, one of America's very first board game designers. The game board consisted of a square track, with a row of properties around the outside that players could buy. The game board had four railroads, two utilities, a jail, and a corner named "Labor Upon Mother Earth Produces Wages," which earned players \$100 each time they passed it... Sound familiar? In 1935 Magie sold her patent for The Landlords Game to Parker Brothers, which is now what we know as Monopoly.



**Catan's Influence in The States (1995)**

The Settlers of Catan was one of the first Eurogames to achieve popularity outside of Europe. In Catan, players compete to establish the most successful colony on a fictional island called Catan. The game board, representing the island, is composed of hexagonal tiles of different land types.

On each player's turn, they roll dice (amongst other means) to see if the land they occupy produces resources, which they use to build roads, cities, and settlements.



By building settlements and gaining cards, players earn points leading to victory. Unlike most board games, Catan entices players to go outside the confines of strict rules – allowing them to come to their own agreements when trading resources and money with one another. Catan is still played by many young people today.

All of the above is extracts from an article entitled *The Full History of Board Games* from Dicey Goblin reprinted here with permission. The full article is available at <https://diceygoblin.com/blog/the-full-history-of-board-games/> Cont-----pge 10

### Some Modern Games.

**Takenoko** is a fun family board game where players build a bamboo garden – with the most colourful bamboo you've seen

Players will build the garden by laying out coloured hex tiles, will irrigate the garden sections through canals, will move the gardener around to grow bamboo sections, and will move the panda bear around to eat the colourful bamboo sections. And they'll be scoring points all along the way. Takenoko is a great board game that young and old alike can enjoy together. There's enough cuteness to attract the younger kids and enough strategy to engage the



older kids and adults.

### Camel Up.

Camel up is a family game played entirely for fun. Camel Up features a camel race around a small track of sixteen spaces with five camels of different colours. Bets are placed on the camels to see which ones will finish first or last when the race ends.

The way the camels move is the game's most unique mechanic. Each camel is represented by a die with the values 1, 2 and 3 (on two sides apiece), and all five dice go into a cardboard pyramid that, when placed upside down on a hard surface, will allow for the release of just one die. Therefore, one camel moves per die roll—the player choosing to use the pyramid and roll the dice gets one pound coin as an incentive—and when all five dice have been rolled, that

***New Editor needed before December 2015. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary or current editor. Cont---page 13***

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### Coming Up in May.

***Lismore Gemfest -16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>***

***Illawarra Club Open Day 51***

***Meadow Street, Tarrawanna- 31st***

***Canberra Winter Show 30<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>***

### Coming Up in June

***Grafton Gem and Craft Show 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup>***

***Tamworth Lapidary Club 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

***Celebration 9<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> All Welcome.***

### Coming Up in July

***Campbelltown Districts Annual Exhibition***

***11<sup>th</sup>&12<sup>th</sup>***

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**Ballina Eyes.** ( Local Name) from Bruce Copper. Lismore Club

The material is calcite that has filled the vesicles (gas bubbles) in a basalt lava. The bubbles have filled progressively, with some contaminants colouring different stages to give concentric rings that, when cut, can look a bit like eyes.

When the break walls were built at the mouth of the Richmond River, the basalt was quarried from Black Head, adjacent to

the river mouth and contained quite a lot of the eyes. Some can still be seen in the rocks around the edge of the large flat area where the rest of Black Head used to be.



completes one “leg” of the race, and all bets on that particular leg are scored. The dice return to the pyramid, the leg betting cards return to the board, and the next leg begins.



But for pure lapidary people, here is the appropriate game.

**Splendor.**



Splendor is a card-and-token boardgame that combines elegant, simple mechanics with an intense competitive element for a quick, smart 30-minute playing experience. Ideal to play while you're waiting for something to finish before you can do the next step. Cont ----pge 14

Splendor players take the role of gem merchants, attempting to amass riches by purchasing gem cards from the central 3x4 grid, which will allow the player to purchase more valuable cards worth one to five prestige points apiece, or to win a "visit" from one of three to five nobles, which is worth an additional three points. The currency to purchase cards starts as gem tokens, available for free from the central bank, coming in five varieties: ruby, emerald, sapphire, diamond and onyx, as well as the wild-card gold tokens

The game ends when any player reaches 15 prestige points between her purchased gem cards and any visits from nobles (when a noble visits you, you keep the tile), after which any players remaining in that round get to take their turns so all players have made the same number of moves.

It is noted that many clubs have celebrated or are celebrating a 50yr anniversary. It is timely to reflect that many members have spent almost a lifetime in the lapidary pursuits making lifelong friends that they camped, fossicked, shared and taught their art and crafts with over many years. As time takes its toll on our knees and hands cripple with arthritis, perhaps we could bring board games out of the caravans and into the clubrooms so these members can continue to enjoy the club that they spent a lifetime building.

Whilst it is important to encourage junior members and new members to keep our clubs alive, it is equally important to remember our dedicated long term members and look at ways to keep them involved and active at whatever level their physical health allows.

## OLD FRIENDS

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Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures.

Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me... I know we've been friends for a long time but I just can't think of your name. I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is." Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her.

Finally she said, "How soon do you need to know?" (Lapis once again)

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## Not so Precious but Interesting.

### Unakite

Unakite is a very natural looking everyday type stone that works well as cabochons or beads. They are mostly found in the United States, in the mountains of North Carolina.

**Coloured:** Earthy Green with patches of Brick Red or Salmon Pink

**Properties & Characteristics:** Unakite is a combination of two opaque minerals: red jasper and green epidote.



### Drusy Agate / Drusy Quartz



Drusy Quartz with Neon Purple Flourite

natural edge.

Sometimes misspelled as "Druzy Agate" these gem stones are simply Agates that have sprouted crystals (like a Geode). They have become a trend in modern jewellery, especially for those looking for pendants or necklaces with a rougher, more

**Coloured:** Every colour of the rainbow! Green and blue are the rarest Drusy Agates.

**Properties & Characteristics:** Druzy or Drusy Agate tend to be fragile, so they are best avoided for use in rings and bracelets which see too much wear and tear.

### SENIOR DRIVING (Thanks Lapis)

Vernon, a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Vernon, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on I-25. Please be careful!"

Hell," said Vernon, "**It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!**"

When	What	Where
<b>May</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> 30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup> 31 <sup>st</sup>	Lismore Gemfest Canberra Winter Show <b>Illawarra Club Open Day</b>	Showground <b>Lismore NSW</b> Pavilion EPIC <b>Canberra</b> <b>51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna</b>
<b>June</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup>	Grafton Gem and Craft Show Tamworth Lapidary Club <b>50yrs Celebration- all welcome</b>	Grafton Showground 109 Peel St <b>Tamworth</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup>	WA Lapidary and Rock Hunting Annual Gemstone Exhibition	Gladstone Rd <b>Rivervale WA</b>
<b>July</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Campbelltown Districts Annual Exhibition	Greg Percival Centre. Oxford Rd <b>Ingleburn</b>
<b>Aug</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Atherton Tableland Mineral and Lapidary Gemfest	Racecourse Rd <b>Tolga. Qld</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Gem Show	Glenbrook Community Hall Great Western Highway, <b>Glenbrook NSW</b>
<b>September</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	Bathex 2015 exhibition & Bathurst bicentenary White Cliffs Gemfest	<b>Bathurst</b> Community Hall <b>White Cliffs.</b>
<b>Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Gemkhana</b>	<b>Hawkesbury Showground Clarendon.</b>
<b>Nov</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show Canberra Lapidary Club	EPIC – Mallee Pavilion
“ “	Illawarra Annual Gem and Mineral Club Rooms Meadow Street Exhibition <b>Tarrawanna</b>	

**GEMBOREE DATES**

2016 -TAS MAR 25  
2017 -NSW APRIL 14

**VENUE:** Greg Percival Community Centre  
Cnr. Oxford & Cumberland Rds.

**DATE:** 11<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015

**TIME:** 9.30AM–4.00PM



- \*Cold drinks, morning & afternoon tea & Lunch.
- \*Members handmade jewellery & polished gem stones.
- \*Rough & Polished stones : including Opals, Agate & quartz.
- \*Dealers : an assortment of gems, fossils and crystals.
- \*Bead supplies: including findings & tools

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*Annual Gem Mineral & Jewellers Show*