

Gem and Lapidary

News

June 2015

Vol 41 No 5

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.**

## Contents

- 1 - 2 Council News.
- 5 - 6 Non Commercial Tailgaters.
- 7 - 8 Clay and Clay Minerals
- 9 - 10 New Mineral
- 14 - 15 Ediacara Fossils
- 16 WWW

### NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

**Wednesday June 24th** 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  
July, 2015 issue \*  
Friday June 26th 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*

### Summary of Reports From Council Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2015

#### Editor's Report:

Things are not working out quite as Sandra planned, but she does still plan to continue as editor until the end of the year, and Marilyn will handle the printing and postage. Please keep in mind that a new editor will be needed next year.

#### GEMKHANA Report October 3-4-5

1. Colin Wright has agreed to be competition organiser and reports he has already received a couple of entries.
2. The hall layout is nearly complete and most dealers have advised their interest.
3. Arthur will soon know what tables to order and will do so.
4. As we have plenty of room for displays: John Vincent has arranged a 3m display from the Hawkesbury Historical Society; Arthur has talked to Minsoc and is yet to talk to the local Rural Fire Brigade about further displays; Arthur will put in a display case, and Blue Mountains Club June also.
5. John V has some children's activities in mind.
6. Arthur has talked to a mobile caterer from Richmond, but needs to find out about payments due to the Agricultural Society.
7. Name tags for each section, committee dealers, tailgaters, etc, will be on different coloured card in the sleeves Marilyn previously priced.
8. Arthur will check if we need overnight security, or whether we can use the Agricultural Society's system.
9. The Ag Soc has agreed to allow us use of the pavilion on Tuesday, 29/9 (10am) to put the new lights into the showcases.

#### GEMBOREE 2017: Lithgow – Easter

##### We still need to fill the very important role of Registrar.

1. The first meeting of the committee will be held on August 26 at 11am (before the regular monthly meeting).
  2. Mick talked to caterers at Ironfest and all agreed to invite *All Fired Up Gourmet Pizzas*, who impressed us at the Gattin GEMBOREE. A coffee van is also expected to be invited and, if we can locate one, a popular strawberries and icecream van June also be invited.
- Mick has also discovered the 1<sup>st</sup> Portland Scouts Group is interested in attending to amenities cleaning. Mick had offered to handle field trips, but the offside he hoped to help isn't available, but has been in touch with Bathurst Club members who seem, at this stage, to be willing to help. He also found people at Oberon to be helpful, supplying maps, etc.
- Colin has info on hiring additional toilets and showers
- Security: Overnight is OK because the halls are covered. Daytime we will use Western Star. Colin has checked caravan parks in the area. Visitors parking is in hand.

## 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 MINERALS

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.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. At the GEMBOREE, the cost of the New J&R Manuals was set at \$6 each and NSW will not add a surcharge: Delegates can collect them from the meeting. For others, please order as required – an invoice will be sent when the number required and the cost of postage is known.
2. 2016 GEMBOREE booklets: Delegates can also collect them. Please order as required, again postage needs to be added.
3. Six clubs have not paid their annual (membership) fee to the Council. A reminder was sent with the minutes of the AGM and another reminder has also been sent. Arthur was asked to phone the six clubs. If they do not pay immediately, their membership of Council will lapse. *That means their members no longer have personal accident insurance cover and can no longer share in the benefits of being a member.* The meeting closed at 2pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, **June 24**, 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



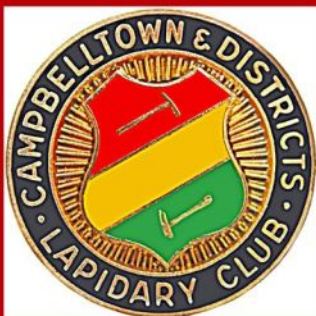
A&E METAL MERCHANTS

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

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

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

**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

PHONE CLUB: 9618 3206

EMAIL: ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com

WEB: campbelltownlapidary.org.au

*Annual Gem Mineral & Jewellery show*

Please **READ** these conditions and keep for your reference

This is your **Permit to Trade**

Stewards signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt no: \_\_\_\_\_

## GEM & LAPIDARY COUNCIL OF NSW, INC

### CONDITIONS FOR NON-COMMERCIAL TAILGATING

1. I will abide by the following terms and conditions to tailgate at this function conducted by the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW.
2. I am a hobbyist and do not earn any income from any commercial phase of the hobby, eg mining, dealing, full time cutting or manufacturing.
3. I will sell only material which is surplus to my hobby activities, eg field collecting, up-grading my collection, and/or items made by me as ancillary items for my hobby, which will be of a lapidary nature.
4. The material for sale has not been purchased with the object of resale, except for commercially manufactured findings used in jewellery production.
5. I will not auction or sell at wholesale rates any goods or material.
6. I will not make credit or debit card or electronic banking facilities available.
7. I will trade only within the times and areas allotted to me by the organisers.  
*Tailgating sites will be cleared each day and there shall be no camping on these sites.*
8. Application to tailgate does not entitle me to trade, except upon acceptance by the organisers and the issuing of their receipt.
9. I agree to register as a participant or day visitor at the event being conducted and to pay the required fees when instructed to by the organisers.
10. Should I contravene any part of this contract, I agree to vacate the event and forfeit all monies paid.
11. I agree to purchase public risk insurance cover from the G&LC for \$20 per day of the event.

**Note:** The Public Risk insurance the Council is able to supply is only available to Council members — ie if you are a member of a club which is a member of Council.

12. By signing the Application Form, you indicate your full acceptance of these terms and conditions, for yourself and/or any person authorised by you.

Trading hours are: Saturday 10am to 5pm  
Sunday 10am to 5pm  
Monday 9am to noon

*Access to the tailgating area will be available to allow time for setting up prior to trading.*

# APPLICATION FOR (Also on Website) NON-COMMERCIAL TAILGATING SPACE

## GEMKHANA

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print clearly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Club (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Your Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to apply for tailgating space during the GEMKHANA.

I have read the Tailgating Conditions, and agree to abide by them.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to apply to trade on the following days ☐ Saturday

☐ Sunday

☐ Monday

☐ Duration of event

### Cost of trading:

\$15 per day for up to 2.4 metres (or part thereof), plus \$5 for each additional metre (or part thereof) **OR**

\$40 for the full period for up to 2.4 metres, plus \$5 for each additional metre (or part thereof).

*Side tables will be included in the selling space, and will be assessed by*

*Stewards after setting up on each day of trading.*

In addition, a DAY VISITORS FEE of \$3 per day will apply if you have not registered as a participant of the GEMKHANA (if you have registered, please wear your name badge).

Tailgating fee: \_\_\_\_\_ metres x \_\_\_\_\_ days: \$

\* Registration as a participant of the GEMKHANA \$5 – **offsite** or \$

\* Registration as a participant of the GEMKHANA \$5 – **onsite** \$

\* Day Visitors Fee (if required) \_\_\_\_\_ days x \$3 per day \$

Public Risk Insurance premium \_\_\_\_\_ days x \$20 per day \$

TOTAL PAYMENT \$

Office use ...

Signed and dated Form received

Site measured

Insurance premium collected

Receipt number: \_\_\_\_\_

(cheques must be made out to **The Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW**)

## Clays and Clay Minerals

Clay is the common name for a number of fine-grained, earthy materials that become plastic when wet. Chemically, clays are hydrous aluminium silicates, usually containing minor amounts of impurities such as potassium, sodium, calcium, magnesium, or iron.

One of the commonest processes of clay formation is the chemical decomposition of feldspar. Clay consists of sheets of interconnected silicates combined with a second sheet-like grouping of metallic atoms, oxygen, and hydroxyl, forming a two-layer mineral such as kaolinite. Sometimes the latter sheet like structure is found sandwiched between two silica sheets, forming a three-layer mineral such as vermiculite. In the lithification process, compacted clay layers can be transformed into shale. Under the intense heat and pressure that June develop in the layers, the shale can be metamorphosed into slate.

Properties of clay minerals include plasticity, shrinkage under firing and air drying, fineness of grain, colour after firing, hardness, cohesion, and capacity of the surface to take decoration. On the basis of such qualities, clays are variously divided into classes or groups.

Individual clay particles are always smaller than 0.004 mm. Clays often form colloidal suspensions when immersed in water, but the clay particles flocculate (clump) and settle quickly in saline water. Clays are easily moulded into a form that they retain when dry, and they become hard and lose their plasticity when subjected to heat.

Clays are divided into two classes:

1. Residual clay – found in the place of origin
2. Transported clay, also known as sedimentary clay, removed from the place of origin by an agent of erosion and deposited in a new and possibly distant position.

Residual clays are most commonly formed by surface weathering, which gives rise to clay in three ways:

1. Chemical decomposition of rocks, such as granite, containing silica and alumina
2. Solution of rocks, such as limestone, containing clayey impurities, which, being insoluble, are deposited as clay
3. Disintegration and solution of shale.

Clay rocks can be identified by their very fine grain size of 0.002 mm, and have different properties depending on which particular clay minerals they contain.



There are three main groups of clay minerals, each with its own particular properties:

1. Kaolinite
2. Illite
3. Montmorillonite

Clay rocks June contain a mixture of these minerals, so they have very variable properties, giving rise to a number of different uses. The most abundant use of clay is in brick making.

Granite is made up of quartz, mica and feldspar. As quartz is resistant to chemical weathering, it June be removed only as mineral grains of quartz. Feldspars and micas are susceptible to chemical weathering and break down to form clay minerals.

Some of the original elements contained in the micas and feldspars are carried away in solution as ions ( $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{Ca}^+$ , and  $\text{K}^+$ ), and so the clays formed are relatively enriched in aluminium and silicon.

The main group of clay minerals are kaolinite, illite and montmorillonite. The layers in kaolinite are held together by fairly weak bonds, whereas there is strong bonding in illite and montmorillonite because of the presence of positively charged metal ions; potassium in the case of illite, and calcium and sodium in the case of montmorillonite.

Generally, potassium feldspar breaks down to form kaolinite; micas weather to give illite, and ferromagnesian minerals break down to form montmorillonite.

### Clay uses

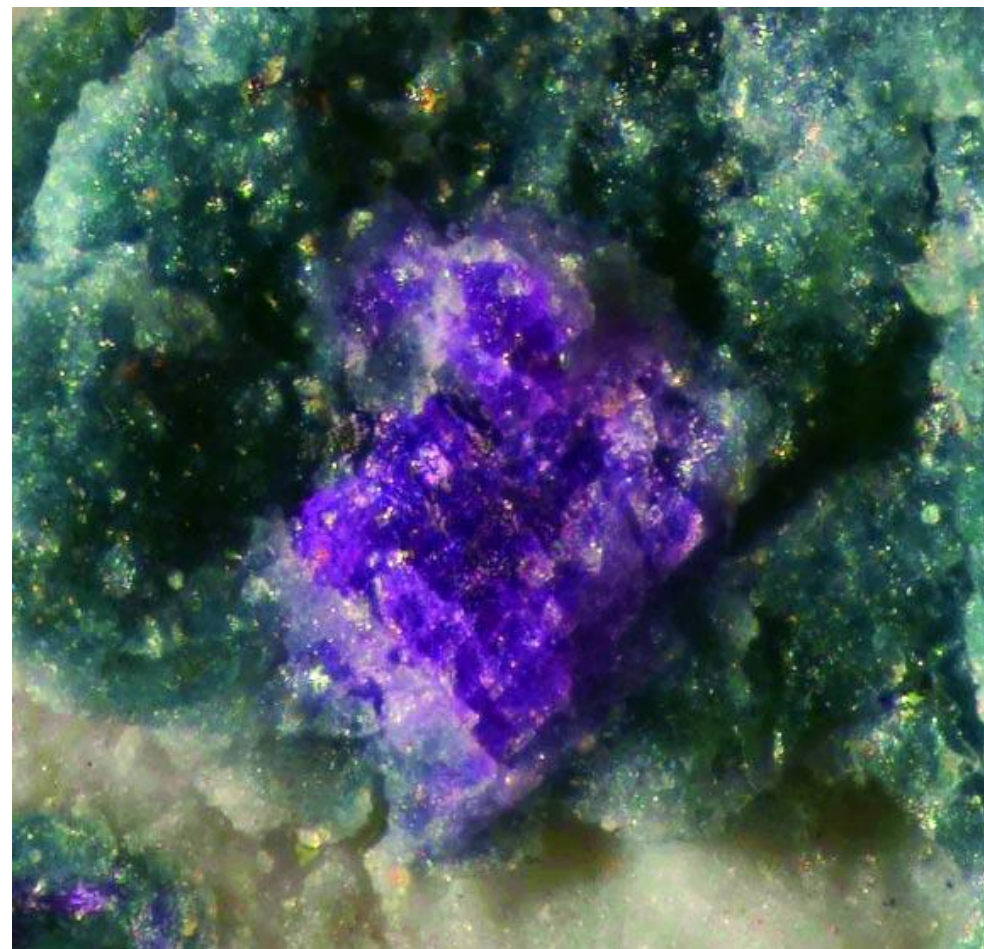
Clay has been used since the very beginnings of civilisation, for making cooking pots, bricks, porcelain, and also drainage pipes. Both brick clays and other clays are used for other purposes, such as the manufacture of clay pipes, and for floor and wall tiles. Fireclays are used for more refractory purposes such as heat-resistant tiles or bricks. Ball clays are used for ceramics. China clay, predominantly kaolinite, is used in ceramics, as a filler and in drug manufacture. Expanded clays are used as a lightweight aggregate in the manufacture of expanded clay blocks used for insulation. However, the major use of clay, after brick manufacture, is in the manufacture of cement.

Highly absorbent, bentonite is much used in foundry work for facing the moulds and preparing the moulding sands for casting metals. The less absorbent bentonites are used chiefly in the oil industry, e.g., as filtering and deodorizing agents in the refining of petroleum and, mixed with other materials, as drilling muds to protect the cutting bit while drilling. Other uses are in the making of fillers, sizings, and dressings in construction, in clarifying water and wine, in purifying sewage, and in the paper, ceramics, plastics, and rubber industries.

Apr 22, 2014 by [Natali Anderson](http://www.sci-news.com/geology/science-putnisite-new-mineral-australia-01869.html) <http://www.sci-news.com/geology/science-putnisite-new-mineral-australia-01869.html> Reprinted with permission.

### New Mineral

**A multinational group of scientists led by Dr Peter Elliott of South Australian Museum and the University of Adelaide has described a new mineral from the Polar Bear peninsula, Southern Lake Cowan, Australia.**



Crystals of putnisite (purple) . Image credit: P. Elliott et al.

The new mineral is named putnisite after Drs Christine and Andrew Putnis from the University of Münster, Germany, for their outstanding contributions to mineralogy.

[Putnisite](#) occurs as isolated pseudocubic crystals, up to 0.5 mm in diameter, and is associated with quartz and a near amorphous Cr silicate.

It is translucent, with a pink streak and vitreous lustre. It is brittle and shows one excellent and two good cleavages parallel to {100}, {010} and {001}.

“What defines a mineral is its chemistry and crystallography. By x-raying a single crystal of mineral you are able to determine its crystal structure and this, in conjunction with chemical analysis, tells you everything you need to know about the mineral,” explained Dr Elliott, who, along with colleagues, described [putnisite in the Mineralogical Magazine](#).

“Most minerals belong to a family or small group of related minerals, or if they aren’t related to other minerals they often are to a synthetic compound – but putnisite is completely unique and unrelated to anything.”

Putnisite combines the elements strontium, calcium, chromium, sulfur, carbon, oxygen and hydrogen:



The mineral has a Mohs hardness of 1.5–2, a measured density of 2.20 g/cm<sup>3</sup> and a calculated density of 2.23 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. It was discovered during prospecting by a mining company in Western Australia.

“Nature seems to be far cleverer at dreaming up new chemicals than any researcher in a laboratory,” Dr Elliott concluded.

P. Elliott et al. 2014. Putnisite,  $\text{SrCa}_4\text{Cr}_8^{3+}(\text{CO}_3)_8\text{SO}_4(\text{OH})_{16}\cdot 25\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , a new mineral from Western Australia: description and crystal structure.

*Mineralogical Magazine*, vol. 78, no. 1, pp. 131-144; doi:

10.1180/minmag.2014.078.1.10

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

## 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**

### ***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>***

# **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.

## JUNIOR GEMBOREE WINNER – CONGRATULATIONS.

*One of the Northern District Lapidary Club juniors, **Jared Lim**, won the freeform craftsmanship first prize. Well Done. I understand he wants to try for a Duke of Edinburgh Award and is keen to incorporate lapidary skills in his achievements for qualification. WE wish him all the best towards his attainment of that goal. (from Lapis)*

*New Judge.*

*Congratulations also to Robert (Bob) Webb of the Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc has successfully completed the faceting judges course and he is now a qualified judge in that area. Congratulations! Bob. Nelson Robertson will present his certificate at next meeting.*

*Congratulations also to Theresa, new editor Lismore Newsletter, on her in depth report of Gemfest.*

# \*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)



## Ediacara Fossils

Today Australia is a hot, dry continent but hundreds of millions of years ago the landscape was very different – most of eastern Australia lay under shallow, warm seas.

Between 570 and 540 million years ago (long before dinosaurs roamed the Earth) these warm seas were inhabited by soft bodied organisms, similar to jellyfish.



Some of these organisms became trapped in fine silt in tidal flats and were fossilised as the silt turned to stone. As sea levels changed, the seafloor became part of what we today know as the Flinders Ranges in South Australia, and the fossils found there formed part of a period known today as the Ediacaran Period.

Examples of these unusual and fragile fossils, including Dickinsonia and Spriggina can be seen at the South Australian Museum.

In 1946, while exploring for minerals, geologist Reginald Sprigg discovered fossil imprints in rocks around the low hills of the western Flinders Ranges at the old Ediacara minefield.

Sprigg's discovery was extremely important as it was the first time the fossilised remains of an entire community of soft bodied creatures had been found in such abundance anywhere in the world. Sprigg's discovery was so significant that fossils were named after him and the Ediacaran Period was named after the location where the fossils were found.

The fossils preserved in the ancient seafloor at Ediacara record the first known multicellular animal life on Earth that predates the Cambrian. This diverse and exquisitely preserved community of ancient organisms represents a significant snapshot of our geological heritage.

## Ediacara Fossils cont.

Up until their discovery scientists believed that only organisms with hard parts, such as shells or skeletons, could be preserved in the fossil record.

This discovery gave scientists a new understanding of the evolution of life on earth, as well as a better understanding of how fossils of organisms with soft tissue can become preserved in the fossil record.

Some scientists believe many of the organisms found at Ediacara June represent early algae, lichens or even multicellular 'experiments', which bear little resemblance to organisms existing anywhere in the world today. There are many questions surrounding these ancient organisms; how they lived, how they evolved and what creatures alive today are their descendants.

The fossils of this period resemble the flatworms, soft corals and jellyfish we know today and range in size from a few centimetres up to a metre long. This diverse array of fossil specimens includes anemones, annelid worms, crustaceans, echinoderms and possible ancestors of trilobites. Other forms resemble modern sea-pens and worms.

Impressions of the largest early known animals, Dickinsonia rex, have also been recorded at Ediacara, as well as fossils of what June be the earliest known ancestor of animals with backbones (vertebrates). Dickinsonia is interpreted as a worm-like creature, and fossils of these organisms consist of a flat impression, circular to ribbon-shaped with fine segmentation.

The Ediacaran Period is the first geological period to be declared in 120 years and the first to be named after a location in the Southern Hemisphere. Covering an interval of around 88 million years from 630 to 542 million years ago, the start of the Ediacaran Period corresponds to the end of a worldwide glaciation known as 'Snowball Earth' as well as significant changes in carbon levels.

The rapid increase in abundance, size, complexity and diversity of life forms during this time shows that the earth underwent a period of major evolutionary change. Around 30 other Ediacara localities are now known globally including sites in Namibia, Russia,

Newfoundland, Canada, UK and Siberia. Some of the greatest examples of this ancient biodiversity are found in Australia and Russia. Ediacara Fossil Site – Nilpena,

When	What	Where
<b>June</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	Grafton Gem and Craft Show	Grafton Showground
9 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup>	Tamworth Lapidary Club <b>50yrs Celebration- all welcome</b>	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>
11	Caboolture Gemfest Hervey Bay Festival of Gems	Caboolture Historical Village, <b>Qld</b> 11-12 Star of the Sea Catholic School, Hervey Bay, <b>Qld</b>
18-19	Townsville Gem & Mineral Show	Clubrooms, Gulliver, <b>Qld</b>
18-20	Yowah Opal Festival	Opal Hut, Yowah, <b>Qld</b>
25-26	Cairns Gem Festival	Clubrooms, Cairns, <b>Qld</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</b> <b>NSW</b>
<b>September</b>		
26 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	Bathex 2015 exhibition & Bathurst bicentenary	<b>Bathurst</b>
"	"White Cliffs Gemfest	Community Hall <b>White Cliffs.</b>
<b>Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup></b>		
	<b>Gemkhana</b>	<b>Hawkesbury Showground</b> <b>Clarendon.</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Beenleigh Gem Show	Beenleigh Showgrounds, <b>Qld</b>
10-11	Central Coast Lapidary Show	Mingara Sport & Recreation Club, Tumbi Umbi, <b>Qld</b>
<b>Nov</b>		
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show	EPIC – Mallee Pavilion Canberra Lapidary Club
" "	Illawarra Annual Gem and Mineral Exhibition	Ribbonwood Centre <b>Dapto</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	Parramatta Holroyd Annual Exhibition	73 Fullagar Rd Wentworthville

## *Next Big Event for Gem and Lapidary Council.*



*GEMKHANA 2015*

*OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND*

*3<sup>RD</sup> -5<sup>TH</sup>*

*HAWKESBURY SHOWGROUND.*

-----

*We need a new editor. Please  
contact secretary if you can  
take on this position.*

