

*Next Big Event for Gem and Lapidary  
Council.*



*GEMKHANA 2015*

*OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND*

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

*HAWKESBURY SHOWGROUND.*

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*We need a new editor*

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



Gem and Lapidary

News

July 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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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

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.**

When	What	Where
<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	Caboolture Historical Village, <b>Qld</b>
11-12	Hervey Bay Festival of Gems	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 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 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 Canberra Lapidary Club	EPIC – Mallee Pavilion
" "	Illawarra Annual Gem and Mineral Exhibition	Ribbonwood Centre <b>Dapto</b>

**CERIUM - Ce**

Cerium, discovered by Swedish chemists Jons Jacob Berzelius & William von Hisinger in 1803, was named after Ceres an asteroid discovered in 1801. Cerium was independently discovered by Martin Heinrich Klaproth. The most abundant of the *Rare Earth* elements, Cerium makes up about 45 thousandth of ONE percent of the Earth's crust.

Today, most cerium is obtained through an ion exchange process from Monazite sand ((Ce,La,Th,Nd,Y)PO<sub>4</sub>) a material rich in rare earth elements. It is found in minerals including allandite (*orthite*), monazite, bastanite, cerite, and samarskite.

Pure cerium will ignite if scratched with a sharp object, but can be safely used if combined with other materials, using this property, cerium is a component of Misch metal, the material used to make flints for cigarette lighters. The motion picture industry uses cerium in carbon-arc lights for studio lighting and projectors, it then doubles up for duty in the petroleum industry as a catalyst to refine petroleum and as an alloying agent for special metals.

Cerium Oxide Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and CeO<sub>2</sub>, is the material we use in lapidary and is also used to polish glass. The oxide form is used to make the incandescent lantern mantle as well as being used in the walls of "self-cleaning" ovens. Other cerium compounds are used to make glass and remove the colour from glass.

Pronunciation: *Ser-i-em*. Atomic Number: 58. The molecule is square and solid at room temperature and decomposes when added to cold water. 99.9% pure cerium costs \$AU112.0/kg♦

**AUSTRALIA'S UPS AND DOWNS**

by B E Phipps

About 150 million years ago, Australia was bordered by a deep trench, a subduction zone to the east, where the plate plunges into the Earth's mantle. The sinking plate pulled the eastern edge of Australia with it. Then about 90 million years ago the entire eastern half of Australia sank about 1000 feet below sea level.

About 20 million years ago, the downward pull on the continent diminished as it passed eastward towards Indonesia. As a result Australia popped up again. Today, Australia lies north of its former site, being pushed there by tectonic activity that began about 45 million years ago. Today, much of Australia is contaminated by the cargo of salt it inherited when submerged.

Today, Indonesia is a vast submerged continent; only its highest peaks protrude above sea level.

Thanks to *Rockafella* for this article

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**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

**Wednesday July 22nd** 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**  
July, 2015 issue \*  
Friday July 24<sup>th</sup> 2015

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

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*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 Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Editor's Report: Please keep in mind that a new editor will be needed next year. As Sandra has moved, Clubs are asked to send her info for the magazine by email if possible, please.

### GEMKHANA Report October 3-4-5

1. Tables are ordered, but we need partitions and they are more costly than previously. Colin offered to look into some options.

Some dealers have already paid their fees.

Arthur has purchased the plastic sleeves for badges for dealers and committee members.

The Show Society will give us a complete set of keys for the event.

Will put more details on the website.

6. John Vincent has reported on his plans for promotion, including local radio and 2CH, motels, schools and scouts. He will also put up a facebook site for the GMK. There are poles in the area where banners could be displayed (poles need to be booked early, \$17 fee + \$40 key deposit and erect it/them ourselves). May we have another banner made, yes, to \$250 – it will need to have peel off "Hawkesbury" in front of the "Showground". John B suggested asking to borrow Peter Beckwith's sandwich boards. Hawkesbury Valley Club will participate in the Hawkesbury Hobby Show on July 4-5 and will promote the GMK. The long banner will be put on the showground fence, facing the railway line.

7. Today, Arthur gave us 600 small dodgers and will print more if required – some for the Hobby show. John V to give us a quote for printing coloured dodgers he would like to use.

John V can supply a mobile cabbing unit for demonstration. Now need demonstrators.

9. John V has some children's activities in mind. Marilyn has makings for gemstone cards. Other activities include beading and sand sieving (help at the show is always appreciated).

10. Re the raffle: We recognise that some lapidaries wouldn't buy tickets because they thought the proceeds should go to Council. Nevertheless, raffle takings exceeded other years by a long way. Therefore, it has been agreed that the takings will be donated to a worthy cause, preferably in the Windsor area, although another suggestion was to the Children's Hospital Burns Unit. See what Hawkesbury Club members consider.

Re displays offered: Arthur, Pam & Alex, Una – 2 showcases. Anyone else?

Mineral judges at shows, such as a GEMBOREE, are governed by a rigid set of rules that endeavours to allow specimens to be judged impartially, regardless of value or rarity. So what makes for an excellent specimen when factored for competition purposes may, perhaps, appear insignificant, even ordinary, to many collectors. Points are awarded for labelling, proper identification and crystal perfection, etc, but the fact remains that nice clean quartz crystal that could be purchased for \$5, may conceivably beat a proustite crystal valued at \$500 that has a damaged prism face. I know which I would prefer in my collection! But from a mineral judges point of view, the quartz was a better specimen, ie it fits the judging criteria to a better degree.

So, discounting the "I found it" factor, and the rigid set of mineral judging rules, what do we look for? Price is a good indicator, and with dealers having to be competitive to survive commercially you will find some specimens are dearer than others for a specific reason. This could be: size, rarity of type, colour, perfection of crystallisation, lack of damage, famous or rare location, and also "aesthetic appeal". A good rule of thumb is the more specimens you look at, the better you will become at identifying those that stand out from the pack. As I said, price on a dealers stand is a good indicator, but not always so. For instance, many times you will come across a dealer selling a flat of some type specimens, all of similar size and all priced exactly the same. This is probably because the dealer bought them at a bulk price and, although knowing them to vary in quality, is willing to sell them at a set price just to recoup his outlay plus profit with no extra work required pricing them separately.

This, then, is where you get to exercise your "aesthetic" choice, and take into account those other points mentioned. Let's say you have chosen the specimen type you wish to add to your collection, and there are a number to choose from. Don't immediately choose the biggest – big is not always best in minerals! Carefully look the specimen over for damage, chipped terminations especially can devalue a crystal specimen. Check that the specimen is not glued or repaired (or, in fact, fraudulently constructed, as has been the case with some amethyst and calcite geodes and cassiterite specimens). Are the crystals of unusual habit, or do they exhibition features such as twinning or have inclusions? Is the colour, lustre or transparency of one specimen better than others. Are the crystals separate, or are they still attached to the host matrix, as these are usually more desirable. Finally, look at the actual arrangement of the crystals on their matrix. Are they just a lump, or do they create a striking visual effect?

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### MINERAL COLLECTIONS PURCHASED

Gold, Silver, Jewellery Supplies

### TOP SHELF MINERALS

GEMBOREE 2017: Lithgow – Easter

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

The first meeting of the committee will be held on August 26 at 11am (before the regular monthly meeting).

Letters of interest have been sent out and only 2 have yet to respond. Contracts will be sent out by the end of September.

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. J&R Manuals are now available at a cost of \$6 per copy, plus \$3.50 per copy postage. Orders of multiple copies will be invoiced when the cost of postage is known).
2. Booklets for next year's GEMBOREE (Ulverston, Tas) are also available. While the booklet is free, postage is \$2.50/copy.  
*The booklet is on the AFLACA website, where you can download the sections you need.*
3. Mick showed how the new lights will fit into the showcases.

The meeting closed at 2.10pm Next meeting: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

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### WHAT MAKES A GOOD MINERAL SPECIMEN? *by Tony Forsyth*

Many collectors starting out ask this question wanting a simple answer. It's easy, you might think. You just "know" a good specimen when you see one, don't you? Trying to express in words what makes a good specimen is more difficult. It really depends upon your point of view, and your ultimate goals as a collector. We all, at some time or other, return from a fossicking trip with our prized finds which we then spend hours cleaning and trimming to bring out their best features. Because we have found these specimens ourselves, they immediately take on a special significance to us as collectors. We are willing to dismiss many of the specimen's shortcomings in allowance of the fact they that they are "ours", and we rightly elevate them in rank in our collections. Cont pge 14

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### ***Coming Up in July***

11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Campbelltown Districts Annual Exhibition	Greg Percival Centre. Oxford Rd <b>Ingleburn</b>
11	Caboolture Gemfest	Caboolture Historical Village, <b>Qld</b>
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18-20	Yowah Opal Festival	Opal Hut, Yowah, <b>Qld</b>
25-26	Cairns Gem Festival	Clubrooms, Cairns, <b>Qld</b>

## **For your Club's noticeboard**

**GEMKHANA 2015**

**October 3-4-5**

### **Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon**

A short walk from Clarendon Railway Station  
 (between Windsor & Richmond Stations)

Camping is available on the Showground, at \$15 per night.

We are pleased to tell you Colin Wright of Port Hacking Club has taken on the role of competition organiser, and he already has a couple of entries. 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.

There is lots of room in the pavilion this year so, if you'd like to display some of your work or collection, please let me know. It will be a real shame if we have EMPTY space. Hawkesbury Historical Society has offered a display and the Hawkesbury Valley and Blue Mountains Clubs have too. Maybe your Club would like some space.

Hawkesbury Club has also offered to organise children's activities.

The space also allows us the opportunity to have lots of demonstrations – they are always a big attraction. Are you will to spend a couple of hours, even half a day, demonstrating your skills?

Visitors love to win hand crafted prizes in the raffle. Would you like to offer a prize?

Please let me know where you can help,

Marilyn Behrens  
 GMK 2015 Co-ordinator  
 9635 8218

***Special Note: Novice faceting competition diagrams have changed. Please see website for new diagrams.***

## HAWKESBURY AGRICULTURAL SHOW RESULTS

### LAPIDARY SECTIONS

#### Junior Section (16 years & under)

Best Exhibit – Sponsored by A Murray  
Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Trophy

**Declan Burges**

Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club Trophy for  
highest point score by a member **Declan Burges**

**Declan Burges**

Highest Point Score in Jewellery  
donated by D Galea **Renee Taylor**  
Encouragement Award  
Sponsored by Bellsridge Cottage **A Beazley**

Best Exhibit in Open Lapidary

Sponsored by D Galea **Marilyn Behrens**  
Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Trophy

Highest Point Score 401-413 **Marilyn Behrens**  
Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club Trophy for Highest point score by a member **Robert Palmer**

Highest Point Score in Cabochon Classes

Sponsor Richmond Surf & Sports **John Behrens**  
Highest Point Score in Opal Classes

Sponsored Richmond Surf & Sports **M Freeman**

Highest Point Score in Faceted Classes  
Sponsored by Richmond Mall Pharmacy

**G Blount**

Highest Point Score in Classes 421-427

Sponsored by Kitchen N Things **Robert Palmer**

Highest Point Score in Classes 428-430

Sponsored by Bakers Delight **Robert Palmer**

### MARINE SHELLCRAFT SECTIONS

#### Junior Sections:

Best Exhibit—Sponsored by Bellsridge Cottage

**Anthony Mehic**

Highest Point Score – donated by Ms J Murray

**A Facchin**

**It's a shame to see the number of entries dropping off. This is great opportunity for us to acquaint to the public with lapidary and what it is and what we, as amateurs, can do.**

For Detailed Results see Gem and Lapidary Council Website.

and down the creek. After several hours of very pleasant fossicking, I headed back to where Theresa was working to find her sitting in about 30cm of water, covered in mud and dirt with a big smile on her face. Theresa had found one nice amethyst specimen, and a number of small smoky quartz points and partial points.

### EMERALD MINE CLOSURE

According to information from one of the stallholders at GEMFEST who was selling Torrington emeralds, while we were celebrating GEMFEST, the Torrington emerald mine



was filled in due to it being deemed a safety issue. It was lucky for some of our Club members that our Club held a field trip to Emmaville over Easter, as they were, perhaps, the last to experience the internal workings of this once highly productive mine.

Located 50 kilometres north of Glen Innes, the Torrington emerald mine was operated as underground workings, open cut mining, shafts, adit mining (horizontal) and pits from 1980s to the 1990s. Emeralds from the deposit contain cassiterite inclusions. Pictured are some of our Club members in the emerald mineshaft, and

two natural Torrington emeralds bought at GEMFEST.



### Social Meeting (Illawarra Club)

The club open day on Sunday 31 st May resulted in a good turnout of club members and members of the public. Several members of the public used the opportunity to apply for club membership.

It was also our annual Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea and thanks to the sterling efforts of those that ran the kitchen and those who donated goodies, it was a great success. In all \$336.70 was raised for the Cancer Council. The club also ran a club table, raffles and sausage sizzle which raised over \$900 for club funds.

### EWINGAR STATE FOREST TRIP

by Phil Young (Lismore Club)

Early May saw up to 250mm of rainfall in the Northern Rivers' region. We were keen to go fossicking for smoky quartz, as heavy rain usually meant new deposits of smoky quartz would be exposed and/or washed from the creek banks into the main creek bed. We were hoping that not too many other fossickers got there before us and took all the 'good' stuff! We arrived at Ewingar State Forest around midday amid overcast conditions with the forecast for clearing weather with sunny days ahead. We headed for our favorite spot – Rorys Road. This spot has a 400m walk to the creek which often deters many people, and thus is usually not as picked over as the more easily accessed sites.

Upon arrival at the creek, we noticed footprints leading downstream. The lack of good quality smoky quartz in the creek bed suggested to us that any good stuff had already been picked. It looked as though we would have to work for our treasure. My preferred method of fossicking is 'specking', walking along the creek and picking up anything 'shiny'. Theresa however, prefers to setup a small mining operation, and had done just that at a bend in the creek. My specking paid off though, and I found a few good quality smoky quartz points, and a nice amethyst point. Theresa had also unearthed a number of good specimens, and



sunlit bend in the creek, whilst I continued specking and digging up

by day's end we had collected a nice haul of booty. With sun getting low, we headed to the Forestry huts where we would spend the night.

The weather cleared, the temperature plummeted, the moon rose, and the night sky was stunning.

Day two, and a late start in perfect weather. We headed back to Rorys Road – this time heading upstream from yesterdays diggings. Theresa set up her mining operation in a nice

### Hawaiian Social (Lapis)



All would agree our Hawaiian social was a great success, the decorations, music, quizzes and food, not to mention so many Hawaiian shirts to brighten the event.

Thank you to the organisers, it was a credit to all who contributed.

### FIELD TRIP REPORTS (Canberra Club)

CLUB FIELD TRIP REPORT SUNDAY 10 May 2015 (one day)

#### JONES CREEK, NEAR GUNDAGAI



Eleven people attended the field excursion to Jones Creek, near Gundagai. The morning was spent chasing pyrophyllite, which is extracted from numerous rocky outcrops located on top of a steep hill.

Everyone was able to

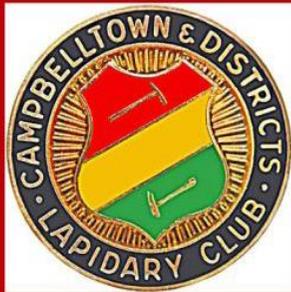
procure a specimen or two of this mineral before the rain came around 11.30am and set in for the remainder of the day. Please note, the area visited is on private property and permission must be obtained from the owner before entry.

**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

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