



# **Gem & Lapidary News**

February 2016

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**Gem & Lapidary News** is the official publication of the GEM AND LAPIDARY COUNCIL of NEW SOUTH WALES Inc, PO Box 163, Wentworthville, NSW, 2145. 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 Councilors: Joan Ball, Ron Beattie, Maurya Hutton, Arthur Roffey, Dot Caladine (dec), Frank Hall (dec), Marie Jenkins (dec), Dick Moppett (dec) & Bob Wright (dec).

#### **EXECUTIVE**

President	Barbara Try (Northern Districts) 0417 676435
Vice Presidents:	Colin Wright (Port Hacking) Tony Try (Central Coast)
Secretary	Marilyn Behrens (Parramatta-Holroyd) 02 96358218
Minute Secretary	Mick Lane (Blue Mountains)
Treasurer	John Behrens (Parramatta-Holroyd) 02 96358218
Assistant Treasurer	Arthur Roffey (Mineralogical Society)
Committee:	Wally Dove (Port Hacking) Sue O'Neil (Goulburn Gem Society) John Vincent (Hawkesbury Valley)

#### **Appointments**

Public Officer	John Vincent
Auditor	Christine Grunter
Editor	Theresa Mason (BA hons, ADA) editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Webmaster	Alex Maitland webmaster@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Property-Equipment Officer	John Behrens
Competition Judges:	Wally Dove & John Behrens
Education Officer	vacant
GEMBOREE Coordinator	Col Wright
GEMKHANA Coordinator	vacant
Printer	Arthur Roffey

**HOTLINE to the COUNCIL** - secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

**Website:** <http://www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/>

#### **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

EXECUTIVE - Meet monthly, fourth Wednesday of the month, 1pm, at Clubrooms, Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club, 73 Fullager Rd, Wentworthville NSW

**Visitors welcome to attend**

#### **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

Free online subscriptions (see website for details) NB: colour version available online

#### **ADVERTISING RATES per G&L News issue** (NB: printed in black & 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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## **NB: CHANGE OF POSTAL ADDRESS FOR THE G&LC NSW**

**Gem & Lapidary Council NSW, PO Box 163, Wentworthville NSW, 2145**

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## **NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday February 24th at the Clubrooms, Parramatta-Holroyd  
Lapidary Club, 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville, 1pm

Please attend - you will be made very welcome

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## **DEADLINE FOR MARCH 2016 ISSUE**

February 17 (third Wednesday of the month, plus a few days grace)

### **ATTENTION: CLUB EDITORS**

Please add me to your mailing list to receive your Club newsletters, Ed  
**CONTACT THE G&L EDITOR TO INCLUDE YOUR CLUB'S NEWS**

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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.



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# G&L COUNCIL NEWS & INFORMATION

## Minute Information from G&L Council AGM, 5 December 2015

**Election:** Joe O'Neil was Returning Officer and declared all positions vacant. The following were elected:

President	Barbara Try (Northern Districts)
Vice-Presidents:	Colin Wright (Port Hacking) Tony Try (Central Coast)
Secretary	Marilyn Behrens (Parramatta-Holroyd)
Treasurer	John Behrens (Parramatta-Holroyd)
Minute Secretary	Mick Lane (Blue Mountains)
Assistant Treasurer	Arthur Roffey (Mineralogical Society)
Committee:	Wally Dove (Port Hacking) John Vincent (Hawkesbury Valley) Sue O'Neil (Goulburn Gem Society)

### APPOINTMENTS:

Auditor	Christine Gruntar
Public Officer	John Vincent
GEMBOREE Co-ordinator	Col Wright
GEMKHANA Co-ordinator	vacant
Property-Equipment Officer	John Behrens
Editor	Theresa Mason
Webmaster	Alex Maitland
Education Officer	vacant
Printer	Arthur Roffey

**GENERAL BUSINESS:** The meeting agreed to nominate Graham McLean (QLACCA) for President of AFLACA. The meeting agreed to nominate Barbara Try (G&LC) for Senior Vice President of AFLACA. Our delegates to AFLACA will be Barbara Try (voting) and Tony Try (non-voting). Our delegates to AFLACA J&R will be Barbara Try (voting) and Arthur Roffey (non-voting). Signatories to our bank accounts will now be Barbara Try (President), John Behrens (Treasurer), Arthur Roffey (Assistant Treasurer), Colin Wright (Vice President) and Marilyn Behrens (Secretary).

NB: Next Annual General Meeting is December 14, 2016, at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

## Minutes from G&L Council Meeting, January 27, 2016

The meeting was opened at 1pm by President, Barbara Try (Northern Districts) who welcomed delegates from the following Clubs: Minsoc (Arthur Roffey OAM), Central Coast (Tony Try), Blaxland (Pam & Alec Gardiner), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane & Una King), Port Hacking (Colin Wright), and Parramatta-Holroyd (John & Marilyn Behrens and Ron Jones). **Apologies:** Western Suburbs (Shirley & Ainslie Flynn), Bankstown (J Ball OAM), Central Coast (Nelson Roberts)

**J&R Report:** The GEMBOREE 2018 competition schedule still not received as yet. To be chased up by Barbara Try. Les Sinclair has retired as a judge. Barbara is presently



organising judges needed for the Hawkesbury Show. Judging date April 11 2016. Three judging assignments sent from tutors. Two enamelling and one faceting. Submission to alter specification for trophy AT19. Existing:- Junior entrants highest aggregate score of their best entries in each of a minimum of 3 Mineral Sections, irrespective of Division – including Show Case; Suggested Specification:- Junior entrant's highest score in any of the Mineral Sections, irrespective of Division – including Show Case; As the donor, I (Arthur Roffey OAM) make this submission as of the last three GEMBOREEs there has not been sufficient entries to award the trophy, and we should keep a trophy for this section so as to attempt to encourage our juniors.

**Editor's Report:** There was some confusion about promoting Canberra Lapidary Club in our Club News section, as it is reserved for NSW Clubs. I was unaware that Canberra Club came under the umbrella of the G&LC NSW. Australia Post has increased its basic postage rate by 30cents. This will impact on our postage costs.

**Education Report:** Nothing to report

**GEMKHANA Report October 1-2-3:** The Hawkesbury Showground at Clarendon (near Richmond) has been booked. ...cont. p8



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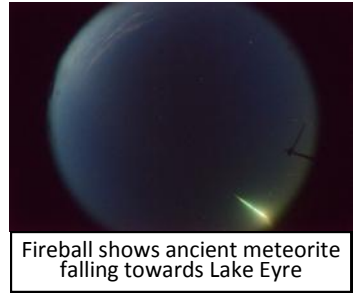
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# ANCIENT METEORITE FOUND AT LAKE EYRE

In late November last year, a meteorite was spotted falling towards Lake Eyre in the remote William Creek and Marree areas. Information from locals, and data taken from five remote cameras, helped a team from WAs Curtin University track the orbit of the meteorite. The cameras, part of a networked total of 32 observation cameras set up across WA and SA called the Desert Fireball Network, helped to narrow the search area to a 500 metre line. As reported by *ABC News*, once the trajectory was established, 'the three-day operation to find the meteorite involved an aerial spotter, a drone, two researchers on a quad bike and local Aboriginal guides Dean Stuart and Dave Strangways looking in the sticky clay.'



Fireball shows ancient meteorite falling towards Lake Eyre

The meteorite is the first result for the Desert Fireball Network. According to Curtin University team leader Professor Phil Bland, the 'meteorite is of special significance as the camera observations used to calculate the fall positions have also enabled the solar system orbit of the meteorite to be calculated, giving important contextual information for future study.' Located on New Year's Eve, the professor dug the 1.7kilogram meteorite out by hand from a 42-centimetre deep hole, just hours before the arrival of heavy rains which would have eliminated any trace of its location.



Curtin University's Robert Howie and Phil Bland at Lake Eyre with the 4.5-billion-year-old meteorite

According to the *ABC News* story, 'the meteorite is also one of only 20 worldwide with an identified orbit, allowing the team to track it back to its original asteroid.' Professor Bland said, 'it is older than the Earth itself. It's the oldest rock you'll ever hold in your hand. It came to us from beyond the orbit of Mars, so in between Mars and Jupiter.' Its composition is thought to be a chondrite, or stony meteorite, and it is estimated to be 4.5 billion years old.

The researchers have asked the local traditional owners, the Arabana people, to name the meteorite in their language after a feature of Kati Thanda - Lake Eyre.

(info from: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-01-06/ancient-meteorite-found-at-lake-eyre-by-curtin-university-team/7071952>, images from: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-01-06/lake-eyre-meteorite-filmed-by-desert-fireball-network/7072264> & <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-01-06/phil-bland-and-robert-howie-show-off-lake-eyre-meteorite/7072078>)

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The \$1,900 hire fee and booking form need to be returned. The new opening hours 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday and Sunday, and 9am to 12 noon on Monday. Tables and chairs have been booked. Desperately need coordinator to run the show and volunteers to help. Competition schedule ready to go and will be on the website soon. Fees for dealers to be the same as last year. Dealer contracts to be sent out. Tailgaters to be moved to a new location away from the carpark.

**GEMBOREE 2016: Tasmania – Easter:** 550 entries to be judged starting Saturday 30 January; 150 entries to be judged in Ulverstone.

**GEMBOREE 2017:** Lithgow – Easter. Badges have been remade and all okay. To be sold @ \$6 each. Colin Wright to look at a risk management plan for Lithgow Council. Reiterating rules for tailgaters. Clubs to tailgate must book site through the Lapidary Council. Ideas for a gate shed. Please consider for the next GEMBOREE meeting in February.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:** No shed is to be placed on Arthur's property. Ideas to be held over to next meeting. Approval was given for Colin Wright to have an Officeworks account. Council to pay a sum of \$250 per year to store the trailer at Arthur Roffey's house. To be paid in advance. Council to approve new Post Office Box No. 163 Wentworthville NSW 2145. Raffle prizes kindly donated from the late Betty Boughton's collection. The remainder of Betty's collection is to be sold on 6 and 7 February 2016 at 52 McPherson Road, Londonderry, 10am to 4pm both days. Enquiries 02 4572 5812. Vale Bob Maher of Lismore Lapidary Club passed away recently.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville. GEMBOREE meeting 11am, Ordinary meeting 1pm.

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# GEMBOREE 2016

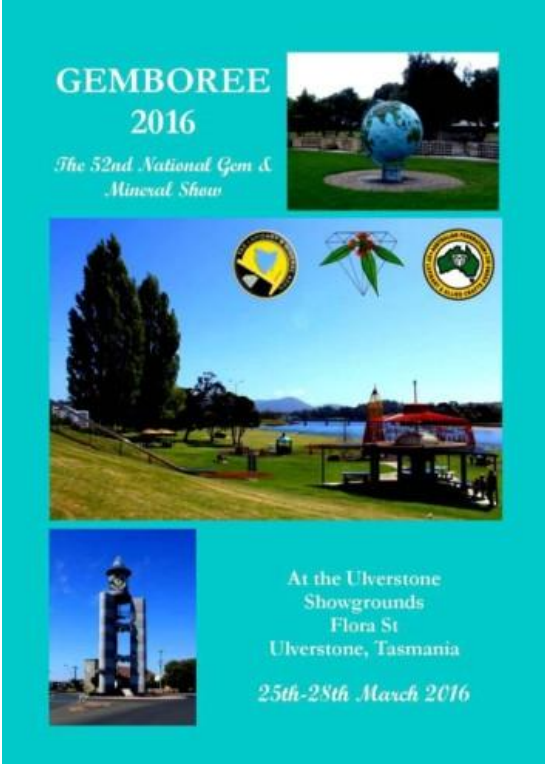
GEMBOREE is the national gem and mineral show run by the Australian Federation of Lapidary & Allied Crafts Associations Inc (AFLACA). GEMBOREE 2016 will be held in Ulverstone, Tasmania, 25-29th March.

Central Coast Mayor, Jan Bonde, says Tasmanians are fortunate to have wealth of gems and minerals within a relatively small area. 'Fossickers can comb the North-West Coast's beaches for silver and jasper, pan for gold at Doctors Rocks, and sieve for sapphires and zircons at Boat Harbour, with plenty of other opportunities scattered throughout the State.' For more information, check the AFLACA website: <http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/>

Historically, the site of GEMBOREE 2016 is on land belonging to the Tommeginne

peoples from the north central coast of Tasmania. Interestingly, in 1828 a local woman leader, named Tarenorerer (also known as WALYER), led warriors in a fight against the invaders. She was eventually caught and displaced to Gun Carriage Island where she died of influenza age 31. "She had fought on behalf of her people with bravery and tenacity in a war for which there are no memorials" (<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/tarenorerer-13212>).

(info from: <http://connection.ebscohost.com/c/reference-entries/28811964/tommeginne> & <http://aflaca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/GEMBOREE-2016-Booklet-v6.pdf>)



**GEMBOREE**  
2016  
*The 52nd National Gem & Mineral Show*

At the Ulverstone Showgrounds  
Flora St  
Ulverstone, Tasmania  
25th-28th March 2016

The graphic features a teal background with several images: a globe on a pedestal, a large outdoor showground area with a red-roofed structure, and a tall blue tower. Three circular logos are also present: a yellow one with a gemstone, a green one with a dragonfly, and a gold one with a gemstone.





## CLUB NEWS

**Campbelltown Lapidary Club** have purchased new grinding wheels and replaced a 100 grit wheel with 220 grit to satisfy demand. Users are reminded to use the whole wheel to reduce damage. The new air conditioning is working a treat. A big thanks is extended to their patron for providing it. The newsletter featured an informative story on their Friday night silver class. The Club is holding their Open Day on Saturday 12 March.

The **Canberra Lapidary Club's** annual auction was standing room only and raised a total of \$2794. A fantastic effort! The Club newsletter raised concern over irreparable damage caused to a grinding wheel from someone not using water when working their stone and also not working their stone the width of the wheel causing sustained pressure damage. The Club is about to run a cabbing course and a faceting course. Grateful thanks are extended to a member of the community for her recent donation of a box of top quality surplus minerals to the Club. Volunteers are needed for the stall at the Royal Canberra Show. Club membership renewals are now due.



Canberra Club, Field Trip 'find of the year' award: Gail's rusted anchor chain

**Fairfield & Districts Gemstone Club** have approached Bunnings with a view to holding a fundraising BBQ. The old motors on the polishing pads are going to be replaced. Rather than closing for the holidays, the Club remained open to allow younger members a chance to work through their school holidays.

**GEMBOREE 2016** is to be held at Ulverstone Showgrounds in Tasmania on March 25-29th. Check the Australian Federation of Lapidary and Allied Crafts Associations website for more info: <http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/>

Clubs should keep in mind that any Club that assists with the practical running/organising of the GEMBOREE will be allowed 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.

**GEMKHANA** is the Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of lapidaries from all over NSW, presented by the Lapidary Council of NSW Inc, at Hawkesbury

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**MINERAL COLLECTIONS**

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Showground, Clarendon NSW, over the Labour Day long weekend, 1-3 October. The Competition Schedule for GEMKHANA 2016 is now available on our website: <http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/gemkhana/>. Please note, a coordinator for the GEMKHANA is desperately needed. Support and help is available for this position. Please seriously consider stepping up and taking on this important role. Enquiries to Marilyn (Ph: 02 96358218), email: [secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au](mailto:secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au)

**Goulburn Gem Society** reported that their members had done well in competitions last year, with junior members excelling at the GEMBOREE. Members have entered stones in the upcoming GEMBOREE in Tasmania.

**Illawarra Lapidary Club** are holding a two-day workshop, run by Barbara Try, on how to cut cabochons to a judging standard. With the AGM coming up in March, members are urged to consider taking on positions.

**Inverell & District Lapidary Club** are aiming to install a library of books and journals in the Clubhouse soon. Tips from their last two 'Digging the Dirt' members' feature, include Heather's advice of 'don't tell your friends where you found your best stone', and Ron's advice of 'the more dirt you dig, the better chance of finding that elusive gem'. The Club will be holding a Car Boot Sale & Open Day at the Clubhouse on Sunday 28 February.



**Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club** are replacing their large four disk sanding unit with diamond disk individual units, with an ultimate aim to eliminate the use of silicon carbide in the workshop. The Club is now running Junior Rockhound workshops on the first Saturday of the month. They are also getting preparations ready for their upcoming GEMFEST. The Club recently lost two well-known members, Neil Wallace, who passed away on New Years Eve, and Bob Maher, who passed away in early January. Bob was one of the most helpful people that you could ever wish to meet. He always went out of his way to make Club newcomers feel welcome, and was always ready to share his accumulation of knowledge, as well as tirelessly helping with repairs, modifications, installation, and building work needed at the Club. His diverse skills are ever-apparent in the Clubhouse. Over the years, Bob achieved awards in lapidary competitions at the highest level. He will be greatly missed ♥

The 130th Hawkesbury Show is on 15-17 April, Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon NSW. Members of our G&LC member Clubs have been entering the Lapidary Competition at this show for many years. Details for interested competitors, including the schedule and entry forms, can be found at:

<http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/events/>  
& <http://www.hawkesburyshow.com.au/>

The **NSW Lapidary Club** newsletter featured some gorgeous photos of works from their exhibition day as well as an informative story on the Club's history, which was founded following a well-received radio talk in early 1953, making it the oldest lapidary Club in Australia.

The **Newcastle Lapidary Club** reported that the Club welcomed many new members last year and their involvement has been appreciated. Last year's Gem & Jewellery show was very successful. The Club has a massive rock auction coming up on Sunday March 6, with 139 items up for auction.

The **Northern Districts Lapidary Club** have finally had their kitchen upgrade plans approved with work beginning this month. The Club's 50th year celebrations are well in hand. The newsletter featured an exciting story on the Club's fossicking trip to Nundle, replete with heavy rain squalls, flash flooding, minor injuries and leaky tents. Traces of gold and quartz crystals were a welcome reward, and good times and stories abounded as members enacted the Club's motto to 'Share One's Knowledge'.

**Orange Lapidary Club** reported another good year. A new motor for the 20" saw is to be installed.

The **Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club** reported good results for their GEMKHANA lapidary competition entrants. Although the weather was hot, there was a good attendance at the GEMKHANA, and the event went very well. The newsletter featured an interesting story on fingerprinting gemstones using an ultraviolet light. It appears that each gemstone has its own unique fluorescent fingerprint of intensity and characteristics. Renovation work is now underway on the redesigned workroom.



**Wingala Lapidary Arts & Crafts Group** welcomed members back from holidays, and reminds members that their subscriptions are due. These are necessary to ensure Club users are covered by insurance. Their recent table at the local Creative Craft Market proved a huge success despite the inclement weather. They received a lot of happy, positive feedback on their items, and it generated a lot of interest in the Club, so they are preparing to secure another table at the market prior to Mothers' Day.

## **GEMKHANA CO-ORDINATOR NEEDED!**



**SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR THIS POSITION**



**GEMKHANA WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 1-3**

**AT HAWKESBURY SHOWGROUND**

**CLARENDON NSW**



**ENQUIRIES TO MARILYN 02 9635 8218**

**SECRETARY@GEMPLAPIDARYCOUNCILNSW.ORG.AU**

**NB: The GEMKHANA lapidary competition schedule is on the G&L website**

Helpers for setting up and pulling down of GEMKHANA are also required. Please consider stepping up and assisting, as events like this require a lot of helpers.



# Gemcuts

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# EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

## February

- 20 Blue Hills Lapidary Club Open Day, Nobelius Heritage Park, Emerald, Vic  
 28 Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club Gem Fair, Thornton Football Ground,  
 Thornton, Vic  
 28 Inverell & District Lapidary Club Car Boot Sale & Open Day, Clubhouse,  
 McIlveen Street, Inverell, NSW

## March

- 5-6 North Brisbane Lapidary Club Gem & Jewellery Show, Bracken Ridge High School,  
 Bracken Ridge, Qld  
 6 Newcastle Lapidary Club Rock Auction, Clubhouse, Dora Rd, Newcastle, NSW  
 11-13 Minerama Fossicking, Gem & Jewellery Show, Glen Innes, NSW  
 12 Campbelltown & District Lapidary Club Open Day, Clubhouse, Macquarie Fields, NSW  
 12 Central Coast Annual Rock Auction, Clubhouse, Ourimbah Ck Rd, Ourimbah, NSW  
 12-13 Victorian GEMKHANA Centenary Hall, Norlane, Vic  
 19-20 Hobart Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, Grandstand Hall, Hobart Showground,  
 Glenorchy, Tas  
 19-20 New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club 25th Annual Gem & Craft Show,  
 Armidale Showground, NSW  
 25-27 Warwick Rock, Antiques & Collectables Fair, Warwick Showgrounds, Qld  
 25-29 GEMBOREE 2016 Ulverstone Showgrounds, Tasmania

## April

- 15-17 Hawkesbury Show Lapidary Competition, Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon, NSW  
 16-17 Canberra Lapidary Club Rock Swap, Exhibition Park, Wagtail Way, ACT  
 16-17 Essendon Gem Show & Rock Swap, Essendon Gem Club, Vic  
 29-29 Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Gemcraft & Mineral Show, Exhibition Park,  
 Canberra, ACT  
 29-1 May, Murraylands Gem & Mineral Club Rockarama, Crystal and Craft Fair, Palmer, SA  
 30-1 May, Redcliffe Peninsula Lapidary Club Gem Show, Southern Cross Catholic College,  
 Kippa-Ring, Qld

## May

- 7-8 14-15 Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club GEMFEST, Lismore Showgrounds, NSW

## June

- 4-5 Gonyah Lapidary Club Display, Mt Coot-tha Garden Auditorium, Brisbane, Qld  
 11-12 Grafton Gem & Craft Show Grafton Showgrounds, Grafton, NSW  
 25 Gold Coast Gem & Craft Show Pizzey Park, Miami, Qld

**CONTACT THE EDITOR TO INCLUDE YOUR STATE/NATIONAL CLUB EVENTS**

**NEXT BIG EVENT  
FOR THE  
GEM & LAPIDARY COUNCIL**



**GEMBOREE**

**March 25-29**

Ulverstone Showgrounds, Tasmania

