



# **Gem & Lapidary News**

June 2016

Vol. 42 No 6

**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 Councillors: Joan Ball, Ron Beattie, Arthur Roffey, Frank Hall (dec), Dot Caladine (dec), Maurya Hutton (dec), Marie Jenkins (dec), Dick Moppett (dec) & Bob Wright (dec).

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Property-Equipment Officer	John Behrens
Competition Judges:	Wally Dove & John Behrens
Education Officer	vacant
GEMBOREE Coordinator	Col Wright
GEMKHANA Coordinator	vacant
Printer	Arthur Roffey

**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 June 22, 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 JULY 2016 ISSUE**

June 15 (third Wednesday of the month, plus a few days grace)

**CONTACT THE G&L EDITOR TO INCLUDE YOUR CLUB'S NEWS**

[editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au](mailto:editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au)

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### Disclaimer:

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# G&L COUNCIL NEWS & INFORMATION

## Minutes from G&L Council Meeting, May 25, 2016

The meeting was opened at 1pm by Vice President, Colin Wright, who welcomed delegates from the following Clubs: Mineral Society (Arthur Roffey OAM), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane), Port Hacking (Wally Dove), Parramatta-Holroyd (John & Marilyn Behrens and Ron Jones), Western Suburbs (Shirley & Ainslie Flynn), Hawkesbury Valley (John Vincent), NSW (Lilly Murphy), Blaxland (Pam & Alec Gardiner), Goulburn (Sue & John O'Neil). **Apologies:** Bankstown (J Ball OAM), Blue Mountains (Una King), Northern Districts (Barbara Try), Central Coast (Tony Try), Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill).

**J&R Report:** Nothing to report.

**G&L News:** A person is needed to arrange printing and to post the *G&L News*.

**Education Report:** An updated list of classes available to be tabled at next meeting.

**GEMKHANA® Report October 1-2-3:** New power leads for 3&4ft showcases have been purchased to be fitted Tuesday prior to show. **G&L Council will coordinate and run the show, but volunteers to help still needed.** Competition schedule is now on the website, closing date 19th August. Judging date September 10th. Suggestion for Clubs to coordinate and run future GEMKHANAs to be further investigated. Raffle prizes still needed, any donations will be gratefully received. The website has up-to-date GMK info, including tailgating application form. Camping fees will be \$20 a night. Entry fees to be \$5 Adult, \$2 Child & \$12 family. New hours: 9am start each day. Demonstrators also needed. Display case spaces are available, contact Marilyn Behrens. Tables are booked for delivery Wednesday 28th September.

**GEMBOREE 2017, Lithgow – Easter:** Raffle prizes still required, again any donations will be appreciated. Colin Wright has a draft risk management plan submitted and approved by Lithgow Council. Reiterating rules for tailgaters. Clubs to tailgate must book site through the Lapidary Council. Ideas for a gate shed. Lithgow Council has a 3m marquee available. Registration forms: Please, if you are committee mark your form so we know where to place you. Catering in hand, still a work in progress. Tables have been booked. A PA system to be booked. A public address person needed for announcements, etc.

**General Business:** Invitation to Cumberland State Forest later in the year to be followed up



(will be 30 Oct). Clubs are requested to encourage members to enter competitions as often as possible.

**NB:** Please note change of address for all postal mail to G&L Council:

**PO Box 163, Wentworthville 2145**

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, June 22nd, 1pm, at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville.

Meeting closed at 2.15pm.

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**NB:** When a direct payment is made to Council, please send a note, email, or phone the Secretary, so we know where it came from. Bank statements do not necessarily show who made these payments.

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## GEMBOREE 2017



GEMBOREE 2017 Coordinator,  
Colin Wright

The 53rd National Gem & Mineral Show, GEMBOREE 2017, is to be held next April in NSW at Lithgow. The GEMBOREE 2017 booklet and schedule contains the various forms for registration, commercial and non-commercial tailgating, competition, non-competitive displays and voluntary assistance.

Check the Australian Federation of Lapidary and Allied Crafts Associations (AFLACA) website for forms and further information: <http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/>

# OLDEST AXE HEAD

Research has recently determined that the oldest axe head ever found is from the Western Australia Kimberley region. The fragment was found in the 90s and recently re-examined by



an ancient technology specialist.

According to the SBS science story, “the artefact has been dated to be between 45,000 and 49,000 years old, making it the oldest evidence of such tools used anywhere in the world by more than ten thousand years... Lead author Professor Peter Hiscock from the University of Sydney says the age of the axe matches up with the oldest evidence of humans in Australia.”

(information & images from: <http://www.sbs.com.au/topics/science/humans/article/2016/05/10/oldest-axe-ever-found-was-invented-aboriginal-ancestors>)



Axe reconstruction, University of Sydney, found fragment highlighted in green

## CAMPBELLTOWN & DISTRICT LAPIDARY CLUB

### ANNUAL GEM MINERAL & JEWELLERY SHOW

**9th & 10th JULY 2016**

**Times: Sat 9.30am - 5pm Sun 9.30am - 4pm**

**Venue: Greg Percival Centre**

**Oxford Rd Ingleburn NSW 2565**

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## CLUB NEWS

**Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club** are holding their annual Gem & Mineral Club Gem Show on August 20-21st at the Glenbrook Community Hall, open 8am-4pm daily. There will be displays of lapidary work and gem, mineral and crystal sales. Refreshments available.

**Campbelltown Lapidary Club** have their annual Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show coming up on 9th & 10th July at The Greg Percival Centre, Oxford Road, Ingleburn. There's two large rooms of displays and dealers, with members' lapidary and silver work on display, and a range of dealership items, from fossils to polished gems, rough, tools and jewellery. Open 9.30am-5pm Saturday, and 9.30-4pm Sunday. Refreshments available. This is a major event for the Club. Club



Campbelltown Club members sifting for quartz points at Tingha sand mine

improvements are ongoing, with two new cabbing machines which require some benchtop conversions. Thanks were extended for the generous donations of rocks and

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display unit, which are being catalogued and fitted. The newsletter reported an eight-day-long field trip to Inverell, Glen Innes, Emmaville and Tingha, with trips to sapphire fossicking parks, a stop at Emmaville rock and gem museum, and visits to Tingha sand mine for some good quartz material. New Club members are always welcome. ♥

The **Canberra Lapidary Club** reported on a field trip to Oallen Ford on the Shoalhaven



River looking for alluvial gold. While a few specks were found, it was not enough to retire on. The Club's recent rock swap went well, with 32 campers. The Club have several courses coming up, including cabochon cutting, and faceting. Work being undertaken around the Clubhouse

includes fixing the tumblers, replacing feed rods for the big saw, tidying the dopping bench, raking leaves, and painting the workshop floor. Last month's social meeting saw members share stories of buying fake malachite in Zimbabwe, and involved going through a bucket of jelly beans from Stannifer, then looking at old finds from Kangaroo Valley. The Club issued a reminder that cash prizes are available to winners in the 2017 Royal Canberra Show Craft Competition, with registration closing in December.



**Canberra Rock Swap & (top left) a mechanised method of finding gold**

The **Casino Lapidary Club** reported that the Gemfest went off extra well with the Casino Club/Mineral society display and micro mount displays again creating a lot of interest. Also the demonstration of faceting got a lot of interest, as did operating of the sphere machine and the display and showcases. The sales stall



**Casino Club stall at Lismore Gemfest**

went well with the help from those participating, which included tour information on Flinders Island fossicking for topaz. Well done to all involved! Members are reminded that fees are due at the end of this month.

**Goulburn Gem Society** are getting stones ready for the upcoming GEMKHANA, with submissions to be posted by the start of August. The Club are running a chain-making session for interested members. Beginners classes are also being run.

The **Illawarra Lapidary Club** recent social meeting featured an interesting talk by members on their visits to the huge gem shows at Tucson, Arizona. The mineral group meeting started with a showing of specimens from the manganese mines in South Africa, and then a talk on the formation of minerals. The Club's next field trip is an afternoon viewing of a private collection. A number of Club positions need filling. The Club is considering running a coach to the 2017 GEMBOREE at Lithgow.

**Inverell & District Lapidary Club** turned 55 on the 1st of this month. From its humble beginnings meeting at the Tennis Club hall, after years of hard work, donations, grants, fundraising, and support from the community, Club members now enjoy a permanent Clubhouse to gather, learn, and share experiences and a love of all things lapidary. Happy Anniversary to members past and present! The Club's library is up and running, with members able to borrow up to five books/journals a month. An Open Day will be held later this month on Sunday 26th June, 10am-3pm. This month's 'digging the dirt' is on John, who has been seriously fossicking for the last six years. His favourite place to fossick is Bellata. He loves cabbing and polishing, wants to find a nice piece of obsidian, and his best find is a clump of agatised sticks from a forest floor that have been petrified. The Club have their annual Gem & Craft Show coming up from the 14-21st October at various locations around Inverell. The Show opens at Pioneer Village, and there are also fossicking tours, with the Clubhouse open during the week.

**Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club** reported an awesome Gemfest, saying Saturday was a huge day, with Sunday the icing on the cake. Thanks were issued to all who helped make this festival the biggest and best Gemfest around. The Club have a field trip to



**Fossicking at Lismore Gemfest & a foggy Sunday morning - pics by Kathryn Rodgers**



Stanthorpe this month, teaming

up with the Warwick Club, looking for topaz and smoky quartz, and a July field trip to Hogarth Range digging for labradorite.

The **Northern Districts Lapidary Club** are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this month. Members and their friends are invited to attend the 50th Anniversary Dinner, with tickets available from the Club. Thanks are extended to all members for their roles in preparing for the upcoming local exhibition, including working on competition entries. The Club's enamelling weekend proved fruitful, with work on copper, creating pendants, brooches and earrings, with the more experienced members working on silver-based cloisonné pieces. A few Club members went on a camping expedition to Tuena, an old gold mining town, and found a few specs, with one tiny matchhead-sized nugget being found in a sieve. It was noted that accommodation is already in short supply for next year's GEMBOREE at Lithgow.

The **Newcastle Lapidary Club** have their Gem & Jewellery Fair coming up in November. The Club is calling on donations, including pre-loved and costume jewellery, to the Club's craft section for remodelling and sale. The Club's newsletter featured a few articles on soldering.

**Orange Lapidary Club** report a new committee elected during their March AGM and a busy time since, with



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**TOP SHELF MINERALS**

numerous new members joining, some from as far as Dubbo and Mudgee, and a



**Orange Club members learn enamelling  
at a Club workshop**

generous donation from a community member of tools and equipment, which required arranging in cupboards and new shelving. A huge thanks goes to the Club's 'maintenance boys'. The Club's recent enamelling workshop was well-attended, with some amazing creations. At times you could hear a pin drop due to the

intense concentration. There were a few mishaps, but all up, the results were fantastic. Everyone enjoyed themselves and went home inspired. The newsletter reported congratulations to Kevin for doing well at GEMBOREE, and a Club member wrote a short photographic report on their trip to Tassie for the GEMBOREE, and there was a lovely story of the Club field trip to Porters Retreat chasing sapphire. They had some beginners luck, but no biggies. Plenty of spinel, some zircon, and just a couple of small sapphires. Though dirty, aching and sore, there was ample laughter and fun, and all were happy with the fossicking trip.

**Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club** would like to urge more members to attend the general meetings and help return a hum of activity to the workshops. Clubs improve through participation. The newsletter reported congratulations to Club members on their success at the GEMBOREE and the Hawkesbury Show. Members are reminded to supply an email address to be sent the Club minutes. As NSW is hosting the GEMBOREE next year at Lithgow, the Club will be assisting

with ground activities. A plan for remodelling the Club's kitchen is available for members to make recommendations on via the suggestion box. A special copper-etching class will be held this month. The workshop is running well after the renovations, with some repairs still required on machinery. Over the next few months, all Club members are asked to have input into suggestions for future Club plans. Please submit ideas via the suggestion box. The aim is to clearly formulate long-term business plans, ensuring members' needs are met and that the membership actively participates. The upcoming November annual Club exhibition has a fossil theme, with an emphasis on education and demonstrations for the members' displays. Club members were thanked for assisting with the GEMBOREE. Helpers from all Clubs are needed for the upcoming October 1-3 GEMKHANA at the Hawkesbury Showground. Sadly, the Club reported the passing of long time member, Betty Maris, who loved lapidary and fossicking, local history and painting ♦

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## MINE SITE DISCOVERY

The discovery of rare and significant 40,000-year-old Aboriginal artefacts has put the Rio Tinto Pilbara mine expansion on hold. According to ABC News, "the 43-square-metre rock shelter is on the edge of an area flagged to become an iron ore pit." Finds include an abundance of flaked stone material, faunal material including egg shell not often recovered in the Pilbara, grinding stones, and other artefacts that are about 40,000 years old, dating back to the last ice age.

Spokesman for the Wintawari Guruma Aboriginal Corporation, Tony Bevan, said due to the site's potential world heritage value, traditional owners have "asked Rio to not proceed with their application to mine or destroy that site and they've agreed to that and they're looking at whether they can redesign their mine plan."

According to the ABC, a Rio Tinto spokesman said they recognise the cultural significance of this particular site. They are "confident of finding a solution that takes account of the cultural significance of the site and our operational requirements."

The multinational conglomerate, Rio Tinto, is fraught with environmental and human rights concerns and has been criticised for greenwashing ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rio\\_Tinto\\_Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rio_Tinto_Group)). Hopefully it will act with respect in this case.

(info and pics from: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-05-19/pilbara-archeological-artefacts-heralded-as-very-significant/7428800>)



Eastern Guruma traditional owners on site at the rock shelter discovered in the Pilbara (photo supplied by Wintawari Guruma Aboriginal Corporation)



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4-5	Gunyah Lapidary Club Display, Mt Coot-tha Garden Auditorium, Brisbane, Qld	
11-12	Grafton Gem & Craft Show	Grafton Showgrounds, Grafton, NSW
18-19	Windsor Gem & Mineral Fair	Windsor Function Centre, Windsor, NSW
25	Gold Coast Gem & Craft Show	Pizzey Park, Miami, Qld
26	Inverell & District Lapidary Club Open Day, Clubhouse, Inverell, NSW	

8-9	‘Queen of Gems’ International Boulder Opal Jewellery & Fashion Design Awards, Winton Opal Tradeshow, Winton, Qld
9-10	Campbelltown & District Lapidary Club Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show, Greg Percival Community Centre, Ingleburn, NSW

5-7	Kybong Rock & Mineral Festival	Cooloola Rocks & Minerals, Kybong, Qld
6-7	Sydney Crystal Show	Fraser Park, Marrickville Road, Sydney, NSW
12-14	Anakie Gemfest, Festival of Gems	Allen King Memorial Park, Anakie, Qld
20-21	Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Gem Show, Glenbrook Community Hall,	Glenbrook, NSW
27-28	Carlingford Gem & Mineral Fair	Roselea Community Centre, Carlingford, NSW

3-4 Mildura & District Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show, Sunraysia Centre, Irymple, Vic

1	Beenleigh Lapidary Club Gem Festival, Showgrounds, Beenleigh, Qld
1-3	GEMKHANA Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon, NSW
8-9	Central Coast Gem and Mineral Festival, Mingara Club,Tumbi Umbi, NSW
15	Campbelltown & District Lapidary Club Open Day, Macquarie Fields, NSW
14-21	Inverell Gem & Craft Show Various locations around Inverell, NSW
28-30	Northern Districts Lapidary Club Gem and Lapidary Show, Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft, NSW
29-30	Canberra Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show, Mallee Pavilion, EPIC Arena, ACT

26-27	Windsor Gem & Mineral Fair	Windsor Function Centre, Windsor, NSW
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3-4	Sydney Crystal Show	Fraser Park, Marrickville Road, Sydney, NSW
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# **NEXT BIG EVENT FOR THE GEM & LAPIDARY COUNCIL**



# **GEMKHANA**

**October 1-3**

**Hawkesbury Showground, NSW**

