



# **Gem & Lapidary News**

December 2016

Vol. 42 No 12

**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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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, December 7, 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 FEBRUARY 2017 ISSUE**

January 18 (third Wednesday of the month, plus a few days grace)

## **NB: THERE IS NO JANUARY ISSUE (ON HOLIDAY:)**

**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, 23 November, 2016

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

**Apologies:** Bankstown (Joan Ball OAM), Blue Mountains (Una King), Port Hacking (Colin Wright)

**J&R Report:** Judging for GEMBOREE is 18th and 19th February at Parramatta-Holroyd Clubrooms, and the 25th and 26th February at Central Coast Clubrooms. Entries must be received by February 11th. Letter to be sent to Illawarra re judging items without guidelines.

**G&L News:** GEMBOREE Flyer to be included with *G&L News*.

**Editor's Report:** Readers and advertisers are reminded there is NO January issue of the *G&L News*. Please enjoy an awesome rock-loving nature-filled holiday period. Next issue will be February 2017 (deadline 18th January). NB: Clubs that produce a digital version of their Club Newsletter can send it directly to the editor at [editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au](mailto:editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au).

**Education Report:** nothing to report

**GEMKHANA Report:** After considerable discussion, it was agreed to hold a GEMKHANA next year, ie 2017, on the motion of Port Hacking, seconded Western Suburbs. Many of the people who have worked for years won't be involved in planning, but will still support the show. Venues being considered are Queanbeyan, Gundagai, Goulburn, Wyong and Cessnock. Delegates have been asked to investigate the feasibility of the venues near them. As soon as the venue is decided, an entry will go into the *G&L News* and on the website. Sue O'Neil furnished a proposal from Goulburn for consideration.

**GEMBOREE 2017 Lithgow – Easter:** Temporary fencing to be star pickets and orange plastic fencing. Mick Lane to organise. Electrical extension cords to be tested and tagged at the same time as showcase renovations in January. Marilyn to purchase materials for showcase repairs. Send a flyer to VGCA for *Pointer* Editor and to QLACCA for Editor of *QLACCA News*. Competition entries close on February 11th. Late entries will be returned. Entries should be sent by Express Mail, not Registered Mail. That way parcels can be tracked.



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**General Business:**

- \* Reminder that annual reports are needed as soon as possible, please.
- \* Nomination forms are needed for the election next month. Only one received to date.
- \* Need to consider submissions and nominations for AFLACA meetings.
- \* Lilly Murphy has agreed to become the new webmaster. Thank you, Alex Maitland, for your many wonderful years of dedicated hard work:)

The meeting closed at 1.45pm

**Next meeting:** AGM, Wednesday 7th December 2016 at 1pm, 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

G&L Council NSW's website is [gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au](http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au) with links to the secretary, editor & webmaster.

**AFLACA's website is [www.aflaca.org.au](http://www.aflaca.org.au)**



**REMINDER:** Clubs should keep in mind that any Club that assists with the practical running/organising of the GEMBOREE can have 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.



## LAPIDARY THEFT IN WAGGA WAGGA

Most of you will be familiar with the work of Lou Karas of the Wagga Wagga Lapidary Club. Some time last month, thieves broke into his house and took everything that Lou has produced over his long career in Lapidary, including faceted topaz, sapphires, garnets, rubies, spinel, opal, quartz, and every type of cabbed stone imaginable. Hundreds of items were stolen along with a quantity of unmelted silver. The thieves took meticulous care in removing glass panels from his display cases to get at the stones. As you can imagine, Lou is completely gutted. Police are investigating. Please be on the lookout for anyone offering large or small quantities of quality lapidary material for sale or mounting. If you have any information about this theft, please contact the Police.

## AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST JEWELLERY

An Indigenous piece of jewellery, unearthed in the Kimberly region of northern Australia, has been recognised the 'earliest hard evidence that Australia's first inhabitants were using bone to make tools and ornaments.'



The bone was dug up at Carpenter's Gap, a large rock shelter in Windjana Gorge National Park. Historically, 'the area is of great cultural importance to the local Bunuba people who once lived there, and was the base for Jandamurra, the Indigenous outlaw who led an armed rebellion against European settlers in the 1890s.'

According to the ANU (Australian National University), 'the ornament, a pointed kangaroo bone worn through the nose, has been dated at more than 46,000-years-old.'

Info from: <http://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/australia%E2%80%99s-oldest-ornament-found-in-kimberley-region> & [http://www.australiasnorthwest.com/Destinations/The\\_Kimberley/Windjana\\_Gorge\\_and\\_Tunnel\\_Creek\\_National\\_Parks](http://www.australiasnorthwest.com/Destinations/The_Kimberley/Windjana_Gorge_and_Tunnel_Creek_National_Parks)

## GEMKHANA RAFFLE RESULTS

Saturday: 1st Wal Dove, 2nd Jennifer Wood, 3rd Steve Resnick, 4th A Keith, 5th Garry, 6th Regina

Sunday: 1st Bec King, 2nd Shirley Harris, 3rd Leesa, 4th Val, 5th N Stolk, 6th R Baker

Monday: 1st Trish Deen, 2nd Col Wright, 3rd Rolf, 4th Judy

All prizes have been collected or delivered.



# CLUB NEWS

## Campbelltown Lapidary Club

reported that their October Open Day went well with many people turning up to help prior, during, and after the event. The Club's stall was a success, and the stallholders had lots of variety and good prices. A good day was enjoyed by all. A number of people joined the Club so if you



Campbelltown Club's right angle weave bracelet workshop

see a new member at the Club, please make them feel welcome and help them find their way around. Children from a home schooling group have been coming to the Club on Wednesdays to learn about lapidary. They have now completed their study sessions. Thanks to everyone who assisted and donated stones for their use. The Club is holding an end of the year get-together for members, with a free informal BBQ on the 17th of this month. If the weather is favourable, dining will be alfresco.

**Canberra Lapidary Club** are planning a Good Friday day-trip to the 2017 GEMBOREE at Lithgow which runs from Friday 14 to Monday 17 April. This field trip will provide members with a chance to view and purchase a wide range of minerals, gemstones, fossils, jewellery, lapidary equipment/supplies, books etc, as well as have a great day out with like-minded others. Last month there was a field trip to the old Muttama reef gold mine site looking for gold and quartz crystal. The Club invites entries for the 2017 Royal Canberra Show Crafts Expo (Lapidary & Allied Crafts), which the Club are organising and sponsoring. The Canberra Show dates are 24-26th February 2017. The Club's Spring Gem Show has just wound up for



Club members enjoying a lunch at the Club:)

another year and thanks extended to all the members and non-members who gave up their time to make the show successful, including those who donated delicious cakes and slices for the canteen. Without everyone's help, the Club could not hold these shows. The newsletter reported that seven people attended the field excursion to the Paddy River area to visit the various geological sites and mines in the area. The



weather was great and a fair amount of walking was undertaken visiting the various sites, including a look at the newly completed Cotter Dam, which has water spilling over its top following a very wet winter. Members are reminded that Club membership renewals are due on or before the 1st January each year.

**Goulburn Gem Society** have welcomed several new members to their Club over the past few months. Members are working on stones for the upcoming GEMBOREE competition. Members are congratulated on producing competition stones, as although they are a small Club competing against many bigger Clubs, they continue to bring home placings from all the competitions. The Club newsletter issued a thank you to Bill for his donations of gold fossicking pans and diamond wheels for our portable grinder, and to Graham for a donation of a large faceted amethyst which will be displayed at the Club. Bearings have been replaced on the big saw, and new cutting blades have been ordered. In September, the Club had a field trip down to Coal Cliff near Wollongong. It was a wonderful day for a drive and was even warm enough for the children to have a short swim. The adults lazed on the pebbly beach, sporadically moving arms over the rocks and easily turning up beautiful and



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interesting stones. It was a fantastic jumbled mix of colours and types – petrified wood, agate, jasper and much more. Everyone seemed to get something from the day. All members are reminded that membership renewals were due by August 19th.

**Inverell Lapidary Club** have two field trips planned for this month, one to a property on Old Armidale Rd looking for jelly beans and crystals, and the other to Wallangra looking for tourmaline in quartz. The Club are holding their Christmas party this month, then in January, cataloguing will begin on the Club's rock collection. Last month the Club had a three-day field trip to Specimen Hill, Burnt Hut Mine, Emerald Mine, Arsenic Ottery, Butter Mine, Wild Kate Mine, and The Mica Mine. Finds included emerald, tin, mica, fluorite, beryl, wolfram crystal, smoky and clear quartz. Year 9's Earth Science class from Danthonia, had a recent excursion to the Clubhouse learning about lapidary, and also accompanying Club members on a field trip to Specimen Hill near Emmaville. This month's 'Digging the Dirt' features Betty, who has been fossicking for 53 years. Her favourite place to fossick is the New England district, and her best find is a piece of beryl crystal she found in the 60s, from which three faceted stones were cut. Betty's tips for fossickers are having a strong back and plenty of spit.



**Betty loves fossicking ♥**

**Lismore Lapidary Club** have their Christmas Dinner coming up this month. The Club will be closed over Christmas with equipment stored away to enable the outer rooms to be used for the showgrounds New Year's event. A working bee to upgrade the Clubrooms will be held on January 7th. The Club's sanding machines have been modified to a slower speed, the workshop has



**Lone, Arlene & Belle paint the workshop**

been painted, and cupboards rearranged for practicality. Plans are in place to move the lighting frames and switches for more efficient usage. Club members, Ian and Kathryn, had seen a flyer for the Broken Hill Gem Show, and dropped in on their way back from Victoria. Although the

weather had turned cold and wet, they wore their Club badges and received a warm and friendly welcome from stallholders. They took part in two organised field trips, firstly to a copper mine with a quartz outcrop where they found some green rock and quartz with epidote crystals which will polish nicely for cabbing, and then to an old garnet mine.

**Newcastle Lapidary Club** supports the John Hunter Hospital Kid's Club and have provided eleven pieces of jewellery for the charity's raffle throughout the year to help toward the purchase of specialised breathing equipment. The Club recently put on an excellent display of lapidary, jewellery and faceting samples at the Charlestown Library, with Club brochures and flyers readily available. This approach usually attracts a few new members. Thanks are extended to the families of the late members, Bill and Colin, for their generous donations of machinery and rocks. A workshop to make a silver rose will be held in January, and members can learn enamelling at the Clubhouse on Saturdays.

The **Northern Districts Lapidary Club** reported a successful Gem & Lapidary Show, with around forty people helping with the set-up and pack-down of the Show, and

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good numbers of attendees and impressive quality of items on display and for sale. Thanks are issued to all Club members for their assistance. Competition results are printed in the Club newsletter, with many awards being presented for various sections. Club members are invited to help mind the Club's tailgating stall for the 14-



**Vale, John Weatherburn**

15th April at next year's upcoming GEMBOREE. Members using the grinding wheels are reminded that water or lubricant is a must at all times, to use correct pressure on your stone (gently does it), and to work across the entire surface of the wheel. Sadly, the newsletter reported the passing of life member, John Weatherburn. As one of the Club's two electricians, John has given endless hours to lighting and power sources for the machines, as well as taking an interest in the cutting room, instructing on Thursday nights,

taking new members under his wing, and greeting everyone with his radiant grin. He enthusiastically took part in every event that the Lapidary Club held, and will be remembered for dancing on the tables in his loud Hawaiian shirt. John will be sorely missed and remembered with pride by those who were blessed to have known him.

**Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club** have a week-long trip from 14-21st January to Tingha and Inverell, looking for corundum and quartz. Members who cannot come for the entire week are able to attend the days they can. Some fossicking equipment is available to be borrowed from the Club. The newsletter issued thanks to all the Club's committees and members who contributed their time and energy this year, including partaking in the annual Exhibition, which was again very successful. Congratulations were issued to all members who gained awards at the recent GEMKHANA. The Club are currently getting a quote, ready for kitchen and tabletop renovations. Recent Club acquisitions include brass wire, grinding wheels, two gazebos, a



**One of the Club's fossil showcases**

large collections of beads, a mineral collection, and a supply of faceting dop-sticks is currently being made by a member. Due to members assisting with the upcoming GEMBOREE, the Club will have a tailgating stall for free for sale of Club material. ♦



**53RD ANNUAL GEMBOREE  
14-17TH APRIL, 2017  
TONI LUCHETTI SHOWGROUNDS  
LITHGOW, NSW**



by Marilyn Behrens

We're thrilled to have a display by the Age of Fishes Museum, Canowindra, this year. Have you visited the Museum? Perhaps you will when you leave the GEMBOREE.



Tailgating forms are on AFLACA's website. There are now two forms:

Commercial and Non-Commercial. Remember, everyone now needs their own Public Liability insurance. Council is no longer able to offer it at a daily rate. If you don't already have your own policy, Webster Hyde Heath is offering a policy for \$130 per year to cover you at gem shows anywhere in Australia. Contact Tracey at [TraceyP@whhib.com.au](mailto:TraceyP@whhib.com.au) or 08 8362 5553. There's also another form for Clubs to use.

A copy of the GEMBOREE booklet has been sent to all that requested a copy. If you don't have a copy, it is available on the AFLACA website, as are copies of all the forms. If you don't have access to the internet, phone the GEMBOREE Chairman, Col Wright, and he will send a copy of whatever you need: 02 9521 2688 or 0418 286 003.

Clubs taking up this offer of tailgating should complete and send a copy of the Tailgating Form to Ernst Holland, the Tailgating Chairman, along with a certificate of currency of its own Public Liability insurance policy. Council's policy won't cover them.

The GEMBOREE Promotions/Publicity Officer, Alan McRae, issues a monthly newsletter available by email. If you would like a copy, just ask Alan, at [amcrae@lisp.com.au](mailto:amcrae@lisp.com.au), to add you to the mailing list.

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## December

3-4 Sydney Crystal Show Fraser Park, Marrickville Road, Sydney, NSW

## 2017

## January

21-22 Warragul & District :Lapidary Club Gem Show, Yarragon Hall, Vic



## February

24-26 Royal Canberra Show Crafts Competition, Exhibition Park, Canberra, ACT

26 Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club Gem Fair, Thornton Footy Ground, Vic

## March

11-12 Victorian GEMKHANA, Gem & Mineral Show, Kialla Raceway, Vic

18-19 Canberra Lapidary Club Rock Swap, Wagtail Way, Exhibition Park, Canberra, ACT

18-19 New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club 26th Annual Gem & Craft Show, Armidale Showground, NSW

## April

14-17 GEMBOREE 2017, 53rd National Gem & Mineral Show, Toni Luchetti Showgrounds, Lithgow, NSW

## May

20-21 Lismore GEMFEST Lismore Showground, NSW

27-28 Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Gem Show, Mallee Pavilion, Exhibition Park, Canberra, ACT

## October

5-8 National Gem & Mineral Show, North Shore Events Centre, Wairau Valley, Auckland, NZ

## November

4-5 Canberra Lapidary Club Spring Gem Show, Mallee Pavilion, Exhibition Park, Canberra, ACT





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



# **GEMBOREE**

**April 14-17**

**Tony Luchetti Showgrounds**

**Lithgow, NSW**

