



Gem & Lapidary News

February 2017

Vol. 43 No 1-2

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).

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 secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
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 Gruntar
Editor	Theresa Mason (BA hons, ADA) editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Webmaster	Lilly Murphy 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

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

CONTENTS

G&L Council News & Information	page 5
GEMBOREE® 88	page 6
Fire of Australia Opal	page 7
Club News	page 8
53rd Annual GEMBOREE	page 13
Exhibitions & Events	page 15

NB: CHANGE OF POSTAL ADDRESS FOR THE G&LC NSW

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

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, February 15, at the Clubrooms, Parramatta-Holroyd
Lapidary Club, 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville, 1pm

Please attend - you will be made very welcome ♥

DEADLINE FOR MARCH 2017 ISSUE

February 22 (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

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.

A&E METALS

ORDER ONLINE TODAY AT
aemetal.com.au



The A&E Metals branded range of silver and industrial related precious metal products is the only Australian mass produced range of silver based fabricated metal products. A&E Metals is also the exclusive Australian distributor of **Argentium®**.

A&E METALS
A PALLION COMPANY

A&E METALS HEAD OFFICE

68 Smith Street Marrickville NSW 2204 Australia
P: +61 2 8568 4200 | F: +61 2 8568 4240 | E: info@aemetal.com.au

**AUSTRALIA WIDE
1300 360 598**

aemetal.com.au



G&L COUNCIL NEWS & INFORMATION

Minutes from G&L Council Meeting, 7 January, 2017

The meeting was opened at 12.58pm by President, Barbara Try (NDLC), who welcomed delegates from the following Clubs: Mineral Society (Arthur Roffey OAM), Central Coast (Tony Try), Blaxland (Pam & Alec Gardiner), Western Suburbs (Shirley & Ainslie Flynn), Hawkesbury Valley (John Vincent), Port Hacking (Wal Dove, Colin Wright, & Bob McLean), Goulburn (Sue & Joe O'Neil), Parramatta-Holroyd (John & Marilyn Behrens), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane).

Apologies: Bankstown (Joan Ball OAM), Blue Mountains (Una King), NSW (Lilly Murphy), Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill)

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. Hawkesbury Show Judging 1st May. Australian Facetors Guild 22 & 23rd July. GEMKHANA 9th September.

G&L News: Advertising accounts sent, subscription renewals as appropriate sent.

Education Report: Flyer on tuition available to be sent with next newsletter.

GEMKHANA Report: After considerable discussion, Hawkesbury Showground was chosen as this year's venue. Bob and Regina Mclean (Port Hacking) to be Coordinators.

GEMBOREE 2017 Lithgow – Easter: Thank you to all who helped with showcase repairs. All showcases were cleaned repaired and paint work touched up. Also all electrical gear was tested and tagged. Competition entries close on February 11. Late entries will be returned. Entries should be sent by Express Mail, not Registered Mail. That way parcels can be tracked.

General Business:

- * New Dealer Contracts were finalised ready for printing.
- * Note – results of all Level 2, 3 & 4 competitions need to be sent to Peter Day AFLACA Competition Recorder.
- * Agreed to ask the AFLACA Competition Recorder to denote deceased competitors with an asterisk.
- * All items for inclusion in future annual reports must be approved by the committee.

The meeting closed at 2.58pm

Next meeting: GEMBOREE 10.30am followed by General meeting at 1pm on

**BLUEGEMS.com.au**

ABN 62669458316

54 Waratah St, Scotts Head, NSW 2447

Ph: 02 65697704

MINERAL COLLECTIONS**PURCHASED**

Gold, Silver, Jewellery Supplies

TOP SHELF MINERALS

Wednesday 22nd February at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville.

G&L Council NSW's website is gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au with links to the secretary, editor & webmaster.**AFLACA's website is www.aflaca.org.au**

REMINDER: 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. 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.

GEMBOREE 88

by Marilyn Behrens

I recently found the results of the Decathlon held during the Canberra Bicentennial GEMBOREE in 1988. It's interesting to see the Clubs that fielded teams – Enfield (SA), Redhead, Wingala, Albury, Rooty Hill and Parramatta.

The events had such fancy names as Gumboot Gazump, Boulder Bowl, Agates Away, Goldpan Gallop, Facetors' Fandango, Fossickers' Frolic, Miners' Meander, Campers' Conundrum, Prospectors' Peccadillo and Lapidary Lamington. Redhead Club won, with Rooty Hill and Wingala following closely. Although we won't have such fancy names this year, and the games aren't team oriented, we will still have some games and hopefully you will come and join in. It's fun and we have some fun prizes to be won.

See you at Lithgow, at Easter.



FIRE OF AUSTRALIA OPAL

An opal, dubbed the Fire of Australia, found on traditional lands of the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara peoples, has become a permanent part of a collection of the Museum of South Australia. At 998 grams, with almost 5000 carats, and valued at nearly \$900 000, the opal was found in 1946 by Walter Bartram at the Eight Mile field in Coober Pedy.

According to the *ABC News* story, the opal had been on loan to the museum for their opals exhibition, and the family decided to let the museum acquire it with a government grant, thus placing the heirloom in



The Fire of Australia opal

safe hands. “Mr Bartram said while he could have fetched a much higher price for the Fire of Australia at international auction, it was important to him that it remained in South Australia.”

Museum director, Brian Oldman, said the opal was rare and that “opal of this quality can only be created under certain climate conditions... When our state's inland sea evaporated millions of years ago it provided a unique silica-rich environment for the creation of precious opal.”

The Fire of Australia opal will be on display in the foyer of the Museum of South Australia until February 28th.

Info from: <http://www.atns.net.au/agreement.asp?EntityID=5442> & <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-01-20/fire-of-australia-opal-to-stay-at-south-australian-museum/8196946> & image from: http://www.thejewelleryeditor.com/media/images_thumbnails/filer_public_thumbnails/old/55461/Coober%20Pedy_loose%20opals_Fire%20of%20Australia.jpg__760x0_q75_crop-scale_subsampling-2_upscale-false.jpg



CLUB NEWS

Blaxland Lapidary Club have their Club Gem Show coming up on August 19-20th at the Glenbrook Community Hall. There will be displays of lapidary work as well as gem, mineral and crystal sales. The show is open 8am-4pm daily. Adults \$3, children \$1. Refreshments available.

Campbelltown Lapidary Club had a fabulous end of the year Christmas get-together, with a special surprise cake for Club member, Ray, whose birthday falls on Christmas Day. The Club are holding their Open Day at their Macquarie Field Clubhouse on 25th March, 9am-2pm.



Campbelltown Club members

Canberra Lapidary Club are organising and sponsoring the 2017 Royal Canberra Show Crafts Expo (Lapidary & Allied Crafts) for the Canberra Show which is on this month from 24-26th February. The Club newsletter reported a well-attended November field trip to the Muttama area, with plenty of flies to keep everyone company. The quartz crystals proved elusive, and panning for gold brought little reward. The Club are planning a Good Friday day-trip to the GEMBOREE at Lithgow which runs from 14-17th 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, and books etc, as well as have a great day out with like-minded others. A Club rock auction will be held at the Club's April social meeting, where members can provide ten items or lots, with a reserve price on two. Items can include anything associated with the gem, mineral and lapidary hobby, for example, minerals, gems, cut stones, books, jewellery, equipment, etc. The auction is limited to 100 items, and 10% of the sale goes to the Club. Members are reminded that membership renewal is due on 1st January each year.

Illawarra Lapidary Club have their Club Rock Swap on Sunday the 26th of this month at Stuart Park, North Wollongong from 8am-2pm, with a kids rock scramble at noon. Minerals, crystals, fossils, jewellery, equipment and books will be available for sale.

Inverell Lapidary Club have started cataloguing their Club's rock collection. The Club recently held a field trip to Stannifer, fossicking with some Queensland guests along Old Armidale Road for jelly beans and quartz crystals, resulting in an array of finds. Another December field trip was held to Wallangra, fossicking for tourmaline in

quartz, which was reportedly easy pickings as it was scattered all over the ground and sparkled in the sunshine. The Club had a visit from Northern Tablelands MP, Adam Marshall, who informed them of their successful grant approval, from the Community Building Partnership Grants, for Stage 2 development of the Lapidary Clubhouse. January's 'Digging the Dirt' features Chris, who has been fossicking for 30 years. His best find is a big piece of cassiterite from Elsmore, and his favourite lapidary craft is flat-facing. Chris' favourite fossicking place is in shops, and his fossicking tip is to have lots of money.



Inverell Club's successful grant application

Lismore Lapidary Club's November field trip to Tooloom Falls to camp, fossick and detect, was well attended. Although no gold was found, some ironstone, petrified wood and opalised wood was found, and slabs of the latter polished up nicely back

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 469 203

ABN 37 856 874 788

Email: 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



Lismore Lapidary Club's field trip to Tooloom Falls near Urbenville

at the Clubhouse. Stories were shared around the campfire, and Sunday saw more members join in for a lovely trip to the Lower Falls area and its inviting swimming hole. Following the successful painting of the workshop, some other areas, such as cupboards in the general workshop area, are also being painted to improve the Club's aesthetic appeal. The Club newsletter has reported they have a new Editor, with Kathryn now at the helm.

Northern Districts Lapidary Club are considering hiring a coach for a Saturday day-trip to the GEMBOREE at Lithgow. This is a great opportunity to attend the National Gem & Mineral Show and Competition, without the long drive or accommodation cost. The Club newsletter has issued a reminder to all members and visitors to sign the attendance book, located in the foyer, every time you enter the Clubrooms, without exception. This is necessary for insurance purposes. After 17 years, the Club's 'phantom cleaner' is hanging up his brushes and mops. Many appreciative thanks are extended to David for his unpaid work as he heads into retirement. The Club would warmly welcome someone to step into this now vacant role. The November working bee on the cutting room went well. Thanks to all who participated. The Club newsletter featured a lengthy write-up on the November Nundle field trip. Two members who'd arrived a few days earlier reported violent winds and a horizontal hail storm, which blew down several large trees in the park, and did some hail damage to their caravan. Several members, keen to find gold, were rewarded with some successful panning, albeit they were very small pieces.

Three members of the Blue Mountains Lapidary Club joined the group. In the river the next day, everyone found traces of gold in nearly every pan, possibly due to the recent rains bringing fresh gravel down from the surrounding hills. One member came up with an interesting find when a large leech took hold of her finger! The next day some of the group went up to the Serpentine quarry then had morning tea out at Sheba dam, followed by a visit out to Hanging Rocks Lookout and a scratch around for some quartz crystals, which were in abundance. At the end of the trip,



Club field trip to Nundle panning for gold

some had sunburn, some had hay fever, but everyone had a great time with good memories to share. Club members are reminded that membership fees are due.

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

Phone: 02 95318922 Email: sales@australianlapidarysupplies.com.au

Discount for Lapidary Clubs and Members

Simply order online and type in coupon code: **lapidary** at checkout.



Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club have a large range of regular workshop activities available to members, including cab cutting, lost wax casting, faceting, opal cutting, enamelling, metalwork, silver and jewellery work, chain making, and carving. After the last exhibition, a discussion within the Exhibition Committee determined that the Club is in serious need of a publicity officer to help promote the Club to the wider public of Sydney. The Club has a very talented membership. Please consider bringing your skills to the Exhibition Committee. Someone who can assist in promoting the Club through social sites like facebook would also be appreciated. All members are thanked for their help with the Exhibition. The Exhibition received high praise, particularly for the displays, including the fossil display, which was exceptional. Congratulations go to all the members who entered the competition to help promote the Club to the public, and special congratulations to those members who were successful in attaining an award for their effort. Plans for refurbishing the kitchen have been deferred till after the local council elections in September. This month the Club has a field trip to the Illawarra Rock Swap on the 26th, and next month on the 5th there's a trip to Kitchener for marine fossils. ♦

MINERAL SALE

Part of the collection of the late Ron Young
(on behalf of his wife)

Ron was an early member and Past President of the
Queensland Mineralogical Society

Interesting and old material, both overseas & Australian

Priced to sell

11th & 12th February, 2017 - 9am to 4pm

52 McPherson Rd, Londonderry

53RD ANNUAL GEMBOREE

14-17TH APRIL, 2017

TONI LUCHETTI SHOWGROUNDS

LITHGOW, NSW



by Marilyn Behrens

Only 10 weeks to go, and everything is falling into place nicely.

Competition entries to be judged in advance of the GEMBOREE will be judged this month. Good luck with yours.



While accommodation in town is now very limited, powered and unpowered on-site camping is still available. Generators will be allowed, in restricted times. Pets are also allowed, but must be kept under strict control. Of course, they are not allowed inside the buildings. The Alexander Hotel at Leura has vacancies, is a nice drive from Lithgow, and has been very generous in its support of recent GEMKHANAS and the GEMBOREE – donating a night & dinner as a raffle prize.

Lithgow is surrounded by gold fields, so field trips are to gold and sapphire areas. Other excursions are planned for those of you who don't want to fossick and there is plenty to see in and around Lithgow, including Newnes Junction and the glow worm tunnel, the historic goldmining town of Hill End, and Mt Tomah Botanic Garden – spectacular views along with the beautiful gardens and trees.

There will be plenty of parking for visitors, but it will be outside the gate on a football field. Parking inside the gate will be allowed for visitors with a disability – at the discretion of the gate keeper.

While there is no fancy dress event this year, there will be an Easter Bonnet competition and parade at Easter breakfast – so bring your fanciest bonnet/hat.

Information on the competition schedule, registration, and tailgating forms can be found here: www.aflaca.org.au

**COMPETITION ENTRIES CLOSE
11 FEBRUARY 2017**

Gemcuts

*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, rough 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

Saeshin - "Strong" Micro Motors

Cratex - Rubberised Abrasives

Crystalite - Diamond Laps, Crystal Pads, Poly Pads, Flexo Pads

Klingspor - Industrial Grade Sanding Sheets, Belts & Disks

GemPro - Flex Wheels, Resin Bonded Diamond Products

Jersey Instruments – Faceting Machines

36A Smith Drive
Ballina NSW 2478
Ph. 02 66811686
A/H 0427 012 014
Brian & Liz

MAIL
PHONE &
INTERNET
ORDERS

www.gemcuts.com.au



2017

February

- 24-26 Royal Canberra Show Crafts Competition, Exhibition Park, Canberra, ACT
25 Gatton Gem Show, Shire Hall, Gatton, Qld
26 Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club Gem Fair, Thornton Footy Ground, Vic
26 Illawarra Lapidary Club Rock Swap, Stuart Park, North Wollongong, NSW

March

- 4-5 North Brisbane Lapidary Club Gem and Jewellery Festival, Bracken Ridge State High School, Qld
11-12 Victorian GEMKHANA, Annual State 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
19 Blue Hills Lapidary Club Open Day, The Green Shed, Nobelius Heritage Park, Emerald, Vic
25 Campbelltown Lapidary Club Open Day, Clubhouse, Macquarie Fields, NSW

April

- 14-17 GEMBOREE 2017, 53rd National Gem & Mineral Show, Toni Luchetti Showgrounds, Lithgow, NSW
22-23 Essendon Gem and Lapidary Club Show, Clubrooms, Cross Keys Reserve, Essendon, Vic

May

- 6-7 Redcliffe Gem and Mineral, Jewellery and Craft Show, Southern Cross Catholic College, Kippa Ring
20-21 Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club GEMFEST, Lismore Showground, NSW
27 Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society Gem Show, Clubhouse, Mt. Gravatt
27-28 Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Gem Show, Mallee Pavilion, Exhibition Park, Canberra, ACT

June

- 3-4 Gunyah Lapidary Club Annual Display, Mt Coot-tha Gardens Auditorium, Qld

July

- 1 Caboolture Gem Club Gemfest, Caboolture Historical Village, Qld
1 Gold Coast Gem & Craft Show, Miami State Primary School, Mermaid Waters, Qld
8-9 Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club Annual Exhibition, Greg Percival Community Centre, Ingleburn, NSW
8-9 Hervey Bay Festival of Gems, Star of the Sea Catholic College, Hervey Bay, Qld

August

- 19-20 Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Gem Show, Glenbrook Community Hall, NSW
26-27 White Cliffs Gem Fest and Car Boot Sale, White Cliffs Community Hall, NSW

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



GEMBOREE

April 14-17

Tony Luchetti Showgrounds

Lithgow, NSW

