



Gem & Lapidary News

May 2017

Vol. 43 No 5

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	Bob and Reg McLean

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

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1/3 page - \$20

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CONTENTS

G&L Council News & Information	page 5
Club News	page 8
GEMBOREE® Report	page 10
GEMBOREE Raffle Winners	page 13
Exhibitions & Events	page 15

Gem & Lapidary Council NSW's website is gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au with links to the **secretary, editor & webmaster**

AFLACA's website is: www.aflaca.org.au

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

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

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, June 28 at the Clubrooms, Parramatta-Holroyd
Lapidary Club, 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville, 1pm

(NB: No May meeting)

Please attend - you will be made very welcome ♥

DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2017 ISSUE

May 17 (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:

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G&L COUNCIL NEWS & INFORMATION

Minutes from G&L Council Meeting, 22 February, 2017

The meeting was opened at 1.30pm by President, Barbara Try (Northern Districts Lapidary Club), who welcomed everyone, noting everyone was in one piece and somewhat recovered from the GEMBOREE, and offered a BIG THANK YOU for all their work and effort. From all accounts, it was a very, very successful show. Delegates were from the following Clubs: Mineral Society (Arthur Roffey OAM), Hawkesbury Valley (John Vincent), Blaxland (Alec & Pam Gardiner), Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill, Shirley & Ainslie Flynn), NSW (Lilly Murphy), Goulburn (Sue & Joe O'Neil), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane), Port Hacking (Colin Wright), Parramatta-Holroyd (John & Marilyn Behrens), and Bob McLean (GEMKHANA Co-ordinator).

Apologies: Bankstown (Joan Ball OAM), Blue Mountains (Una King), Central Coast (Tony Try), Port Hacking (Wally Dove), Bathurst (Alan McRae & Ernst Holland).

J&R Report: Judging for Hawkesbury Show is 9.30 next Monday (1 May). Our submissions to AFLACA J&R were successful.

G&L News: nil

Education Report: nil

GEMKHANA® Report: Traders has become the term we use, rather than dealers. Today, it was decided to drop Tailgater, and adopt INDOOR TRADER and OUTDOOR TRADER. The competition schedule, including faceting diagrams, is to go into the *G&L News*, even though it is expected to take 14 pages. Further the results from last year haven't been published, nor has the flyer advertising this year's show. It is probably too late now to publish last year's results, but this year's will be published. Bob reported emails have been sent to the traders who have that facility (he noted only three don't) and others were approached at Minerama. Others still were approached at the GEMBOREE. Letters of interest should go out ASAP, with a reply requested by (give date - about a month hence). The contract is then sent giving costs. Costs are worked out on the amount of space requested and the amount able to be offered.

GEMBOREE 2017 Lithgow – Easter:

- Visitors: 4000. Traders: 21. Tailgaters: 69 (five didn't show).
- Received good reports from Lithgow City Council and the Police. It seems plenty of people were keeping an eye on our situation, day and night, over the weekend.
- \$8 entry fee was problematic. Couldn't keep up with the \$2 for change.



Recommend \$10 next time.

- All signs need to be replaced. Simpler, clear printing and some bigger.
- Opening times caused confusion. Can 9am opening each day be planned for the future.
- TV ads were really good.
- Volunteers: Not enough.
- As some trophies were not used, today they were given to the Clubs as a mark of appreciation for those whose personnel worked at the show.
- A certificate of appreciation is being sent to Lithgow City Council and Tourist Office, and all the other companies whose contributions helped make the show so successful.
- Col noted there were many compliments on the monthly e-newsletters and the daily newsletters, and asked that they be bound and added to the archives.
- Can we have a new raffle sign. The post to hold up the sign disappeared.

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Servicing Your Lapidary Needs



- More NO PETS ALLOWED signs were needed for additionally opened doors.
- 2018 booklets are here, please add your name to the list and note how many you take for your Club.
- As Hall Manager, Arthur thanked all the helpers in the hall. Everything was quickly and smoothly done and the tables were quickly unloaded and loaded. A certificate of thanks being sent to the hire company.
- Thank you Joe for lending the extra trolley, really made a difference.
- Each section of the GEMBOREE is compiling a comprehensive report that will be stored as an aid for future GEMBOREES.

General Business:

- There will be no meeting next month – too many delegates will be away. The next meeting will be in June. Anyone needing urgent attention from the Secretary or Treasurer can contact them on 0411680949 or by email mbehrens@optusnet.com.au. They will be back for the June meeting.
- The trailer registration is due May 26, will be renewed early next week.
- Arthur is no longer a delegate for the Mineral Society and so resigned all positions today, after 41 years on Council, and thanked everybody for their support. Barbara accepted Arthur's decision with regret and wished him well and thanked him for his untiring support of Council. He will give the Secretary his written resignation, keys, badge, etc in a few days. Marilyn noted, that as a Life Councillor, we hope to have Arthur attend meetings from time to time.

The meeting closed at 2.20pm

Next meeting: 1pm on Wednesday 28 June, at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville

NB: there is no meeting in May

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



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



CLUB NEWS

Bathurst Lapidary Club helped out at the recent GEMBOREE (SEE the Club Editor's full report on p10). Members reported the



show was an outstanding success, with lots of support from the public, and plenty to do there. According to the Club newsletter, the show 'created a fair amount of interest in the hobby as our Club had new faces at our first workshop day afterwards with two families joining on the spot and two others taking away membership forms.' The GEMBOREE committee were congratulated 'on the organisation of the event, their commitment and the promotion of our hobby.'

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.

Canberra Lapidary Club have their Winter Gemcraft & Mineral Show this month from 27-28th at the Mallee Pavilion from 10am-5pm. There will be gem, mineral,

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jewellery and lapidary dealers, as well as fossils, rough and cut gemstones, lapidary equipment and supplies, opals and beads. Members' collections are on display, with demonstrations of cabbing, faceting and jewellery making. Refreshments available:)

Goulburn Gem Society report a busy few months testing and tagging electrical equipment, running courses, and working toward finalising the Club's move into a former stores building at Goulburn Council's Bourke St Works. Club member, Ian, has introduced members to skin polishing, with a homemade wooden burr made from dowel and grit mixed with oil. This is a useful method to retain the natural bumps in a rock. Some Club members recently joined Parramatta Holroyd Club for a spot of gold fossicking at Oallen Ford. According to the newsletter, 'it was a beautiful autumn day just right for soaking up some beauty. Whilst we did manage to find a few flecks they were so small I couldn't even see mine when I got home. But gold isn't everything and I enjoyed watching the young yabbies coming to check out my hand in the water. Laura had a beetle land on her hand, specked a lovely blue.'



Polishing a sapphire bomb with wooden dowel



Inverell & District Lapidary Club members recently laid a cement slab for a new shed. Their field trip to Bellata was well attended and yielded a lot of vertebra, and carnelian, agate and petrified wood were found by all. 'Great weather and company made for a great weekend.' Their next field trip is to Koloona looking for petrified wood. Last month's BBQ at Big W raised \$200, and another BBQ fundraiser is being held there again this month. Club member, Chris, was congratulated for his high score entry in the recent GEMBOREE.

Lismore Lapidary Club have their annual GEMFEST on this month from 20-21st at the Lismore Showgrounds, with plenty of dealers and tailgaters selling their wares. This is the Club's major fundraiser. There will be lapidary demonstrations, spot raffles, a cent auction, displays, Club sales, and sand sieving and gem fossicking for the kids. All Club members are urged to assist in any way they can. GEMFEST open 9am-5pm Saturday and 9am-3pm Sunday, refreshments available. Come along! Eight members attended the recent GEMBOREE, with congratulations extended to Cav & Val for their prize-winning entries.



Arlene & Belle at the gem fossicking activity during last year's Lismore GEMFEST

Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club have their annual Club Exhibition Show coming up on 18-20th August. The Club are planning to make the Exhibition fun, with interactive activities for school children. This month some Club members are undertaking a 5-6 week long field trip to western Queensland to Yowah, Quilpie, Winton, and possibly Mt Isa and Charters Towers. Member, Barbara, was congratulated and presented with a certificate on qualifying as an AFLACA judge. All Club members are urged to consider entering items into the October GEMKHAHA lapidary competition. Entries due 18/8/17 ♦



GEMBOREE REPORT

by Alan McRae, from *Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club Newsletter* [NB: edited for length]

The morning fog snaked lazily into the Lithgow Valley and Colin Wright was already on the go as the first of the committee arrived to begin the task of setting up for the GEMBOREE 2017, the 53rd National Gem & Mineral Show. The mammoth event was staged by the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Inc. under the auspices of the Australian Federation of Lapidary & Allied Crafts Association Inc. The event was attracting a great amount of interest in Lithgow. Some of the various gem and lapidary clubs from around New South Wales assisted with organising and co-ordinating the various aspects of this mammoth event that was set to draw a large crowd of lapidaries and hobbyists, as well as the general public. The Show was the culmination of some three years of planning, meetings, deadlines, negotiations, bookings, phonecalls and emails, judging, travelling numerous times to Lithgow and many other jobs.

To see the empty halls transform into all the setting up, dealers laying out their displays, the near one thousand competition items laid out in their illuminated display cases after being judged, was the realisation that the GEMBOREE 2017 had finally commenced. Many of the public commented that they did not realise the variety of items that could be produced in lapidary work.

The unique trophies for the 53rd Gem and Mineral Show were commenced early and proved to be a somewhat complicated and time consuming job, but very worthwhile. After the GEMBOREE 2011 held at Bathurst, which received almost 1300 competitive entries, the 2017 committee decided that it would start early on trophies and try to make them distinctly something relevant to New South Wales as had been suggested in 2011, but it was too late to implement the plan then. At the time the pinkish to red Rhodonite was suggested. The 2017 Competition Committee wisely got onto the design and manufacture early.



Nelson Robertson
demonstrating lapidary skills
at the GEMBOREE

After approaching a supplier of Rhodonite to no avail the NSW Gem and Lapidary Council decided to use the skills and resources within the various NSW lapidary clubs. Sourcing suitable Rhodonite initially was a problem until a substantial donation of the material from the Northern Districts Lapidary Club Committee was forthcoming. This was later polished on a vibralap, taking some weeks, working 24 hours a day. As polished pieces were completed, Nelson Robertson etched and coloured the outline of the map of NSW onto the Rhodonite. Then the slabs went back to have slots cut in its base as each Rhodonite slab was a slightly different size. Finally forty Rhodonite trophies were produced, thanks to a lot of work by a lot of people and clubs over a long time.

The Mayor of Lithgow, Ald Stephen Lesslie, admired the quantity, quality and varied nature of the competitive entries. He was also impressed with the sheer size



of the event and the number of people who had come to Lithgow and the Show. The Official Opening took place on the front steps of the main hall at 10am on Good Friday where the Mayor complimented the 2017 Committee on the event before opening the 53rd National Gem & Mineral Show.

Like all events, such as the GEMBOREE 2017, a great deal goes on basically unnoticed. As happens at all large occasions at the Lithgow Showground, parking is an issue and nearby sportsfields are turned in car parks. This means volunteers to do car parking and directing the public to the front entrance gate with more volunteers to collect the entry fees. Council barricades had been moved into place to control the flow of pedestrians and cars, the latter being restricted within the grounds, except to those with Mobility Parking Scheme card. Those who had pre-registered to attend had a nominated parking spot on the grounds. As soon as the gates opened on Good Friday the public flowed in with over 4000 visiting. The volunteers on the gate were kept on their toes most of the day.



On the Saturday six busloads of lapidarists and other interested hobbyists and collectors arrived. It was a great idea to make the driving easy and relaxing as one travelled to Lithgow by bus. The Illawarra Lapidary Club, Bankstown Lapidary Club and the Northern District Lapidary Club members enjoyed the day looking around and picking up the items and specimens they required. The other three buses were from Canberra. There was another busload that arrived on Sunday looking for beads and jewellery making items.

The professional dealers numbered twenty in the main hall with all putting on a great display of material and showing the general public what is being found around Australia and the world at this time. With just a quarter of the various sellers indoors, the rest were outdoors and spread around the football sporting oval behind the main hall.

It was up early each morning to travel to Lithgow for the Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club members who had volunteered to assist with the tailgating setup and management over the four days. With 65 marked out tailgating spaces on the oval, the tailgating proved to be quite popular with the public.

There was a good variety of material concentrated along the internal track of the football oval. From blocks of rocks and minerals and plenty of slabs from all over Australia, those into lapidary were stocking up. There were some great fossils that had been found along the shoreline in Victoria and South Australia and others from around the world. The Broken Hill mines were well represented as were the various opals and gemstones. The local lapidarists were also there to sell their excess and to pick up something more unusual for themselves.

There was not too much spare time for Warren Keedle, the manager of the Age of Fishes Museum in Canowindra, who travelled to Lithgow for the long weekend. He put on a special display of the fossilised ancient fish of the Devonian era found near their town which had a museum set up in 1998. Warren also had several models of the fish

themselves, along with casts of some of the 360-370 million year old fossil deposits. These fish appeared long before the dinosaurs when strange freshwater ancient fish with armour shells, others with lungs, teamed in the mighty rivers and creeks of the Central West. Other enormous killers, with jaws like crocodiles, were also located at Canowindra. Many children were intrigued with the models of the various fish species and how different they look to current fish species.

The Jack Taylor Memorial Lecture was given by accustomed guest speaker Gary Sutherland and took place on Saturday morning at 11am in the Meeting Room. A good crowd was on hand to hear Gary's topic of "Why I collect Minerals - A 45 year Journey" which he illustrated profusely with magnificent and impressive specimens from his own collection.

The various GEMBOREE 2017 Princesses had been judged by the Presentation Evening to give out the trophies and perpetual shields. The Princess winners were Tiny Tots Princess Jessica Mace, the Junior Princess Annabelle Vazquez and Senior Princess Jasmine Flavel, and all three were wearing their various 'gem' tiaras. The latest tiara was only completed weeks beforehand and is called the New South Wales Gem Council Tiara.

Barbara Try compared the Presentation Evening on the Saturday night assisted by Anette Clarke. In summing up Barbara said that the quality of the entries was very high and in a number of cases the points between entrants was extremely close. One to take out a major prize was Dave Radke, winner of the Tom Jenkins Perpetual Trophy for Open Champion Lapidary.

There were bus excursions to the glow-worm tunnel at Newnes Junction on Good Friday, to historic Hill End and History Hill, and to the Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens, a 28-hectare public botanic cool-climate garden located in the Blue Mountains. Some sightseers saw the famous 'dinosaur tree', the other name for the Wollemi pine, once thought extinct. The tree was discovered in 1994, deep in a gorge in the Wollemi National Park. The bus outing on Easter Monday visited Abercrombie House in Bathurst, returning to Lithgow via Sofala, Ilford and Capertee.

The Field Trips were successful with some reasonable finds. The Saturday trip saw participants using their gold panning skills, or lack of them, on the famous Turon River at Sofala. Sunday saw another convoy which headed for Oberon in search of sapphires.

Easter Sunday saw many on the showground enjoying a complimentary breakfast with the Lithgow Lions Club feeding the throng. It was also the day that the chocolate Easter eggs were given away. The GEMBOREE Easter Bilby made her annual appearance at the Sunday breakfast. Carrying a basketful of Easter eggs



Dave Radke, winner of the Tom Jenkins Perpetual Trophy for Open Champion Lapidary, with Gemboree Princesses, Jasmine and Annabelle



meant she was keenly sought after. The Easter Bonnet parade added to the atmosphere of the special Sunday breakfast.

Two stalwarts in the lapidary field in New South Wales and of the various GEMBOREES and the GEMKHANAS are Kathy Selwood from Orange and Nelson Robertson. Both were again on hand doing assorted demonstrations almost continuously. Both are keen to show other lapidary members and the general public their artistic ability and the methods to create something to be proud of.

The Raffle started off with about seven prizes and ended up having over twenty-one. It was a great success with many appreciative winners. The Committee is very grateful to all who donated the many prizes, showing the great variety that is available in lapidary circles. The raffle was drawn on the Monday just before the GEMBOREE 2017 closed.

Without adequate volunteers to assist, the success of future GEMBOREES and GEMKHANAS could be in jeopardy!



G&LC's Marilyn Behrens sporting a bonnet

GEMBOREE RAFFLE WINNERS

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes to the raffle. The crowd waiting for the draw was excited at every call and all the winners were thrilled with their prizes.

- 1st Chester Robertson - Russian Topaz/sterling pendant
- 2nd Des Thomsen - chrysoprase-sterling bracelet
- 3rd Joe O'Neil - Dinner and night at Alexandra Hotel, Leura
- 4th Eddie Wearden - Adamite specimen
- 5th J Foodey - enamelled bowl
- 6th J Foodey - polished jasper
- 7th G Healsey - sterling-agate pendant
- 8th Sue O'Neil - jade & opal pendant
- 9th Holly - Windellama chert pendant
- 10th T&L Pickering - opal pendant
- 11th J Cullen - cut-polished thunder egg
- 12th Joan - silver & garnet/ruby gem tree
- 13th Smith - silver-enamelled pendant
- 14th M Rixon - cut-polished thunder egg
- 15th Jed Young - polished face agate
- 16th Marcia Hill - native copper deGrussa Mine, Meekatharra
- 17th Tamatha - Tiger eye brooch
- 18th Gabriela Maron - snake chain bracelet
- 19th Ryan Delony - snake chain bracelet
- 20th Julie Thien - cast silver-enamelled pendant
- 21st Annette Clarke - 'Firemen' axe



The Easter bilby, Kim Cowper, with G&LC's Barbara Try



Lithgow Lions Club member cooking breakfast



The New South Wales Gem Council Tiara, worn by the Senior GEMBOREE Princess during the awards ceremony

NB: GEMBOREE 2017 pics from Bathurst Club Newsletter

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May

- 5-7 Murraylands Gem & Mineral Club Rockarama Crystal & Craft Fair, Palmer Oval, Palmers, SA
- 6-7 Redcliffe Gem and Mineral, Jewellery and Craft Show, Southern Cross Catholic College, Kippa Ring
- 6-7 Diamond Valley Gem Club Annual Exhibition, Masonic Hall, Greensborough, Vic
- 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
- 7-9 Clarence River Arts, Crafts & Quilt Exhibition, Maclean Showgrounds, NSW
- 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
- 18-19 Townsville Gem & Mineral Show, Club Rooms, Gulliver, Qld
- 25-26 Cairns Gem Festival Club Rooms, Cairns, Qld

August

- 5 Innisfail Club Show Club Rooms, Innisfail, Qld
- 6 Atherton Club Show Club Rooms, Toga, Qld
- 18-20 Parramatta-Holroyd Annual Exhibition, Clubrooms, Wentworthville NSW
- 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

September

- 2 Ipswich & District Lapidary Club Show, Silkstone state Primary School
- 9-10 Bribie Island Gem Festival Lapidary Club Show, Sunderland Dr, Banksia Beach, Qld
- 23-24 Caloundra Gem Show, Caloundra State School, George Street, Qld
- 23-24 Waverley Gem Club Exhibition, Brandon Park Community Centre, Waverley, NSW
- 30-Oct 3 GEMKHANA, Hawkesbury District Showgrounds, Clarendon, NSW

October

- 6-8 National Gem & Mineral Show, North Shore Events Centre, Wairau Valley, Auckland, NZ
- 14 Campbelltown Lapidary Club Open Day, Clubhouse, Macquarie Fields, NSW



NEXT BIG EVENT FOR THE GEM & LAPIDARY COUNCIL NSW



GEMKHANA

September 30-October 3

Hawkesbury Showground

Clarendon, NSW

