



Gem & Lapidary News

September

2018

Print Post Approved PP243352/00002
ISSN 2208-5556

Vol 45

No.9

Gem & Lapidary News is the official publication of the GEM AND LAPIDARY COUNCIL of NEW SOUTH WALES Inc, PO Box 188 Orange 2800. 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	
Education Officer	vacant
GEMBOREE Coordinator	Bob and Reg McLean
GEMKHANA Coordinator	Barbara Try (voting) and Tony Try (non-voting)
AFLACA delegates	Barbara Try (voting) and Arthur Roffey (non-voting)
AFLACA J&R delegates	

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Visitors welcome to attend

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

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 26th September 2018

EDITOR'S NOTES

NSW Lapidary Clubs

The Gem and Lapidary Council would like all Clubs to check the council website on the link below to confirm your Club details are correct. Without this information being correct you could be missing out on potential members contacting you.

If they are not, please contact the Secretary at the Gem Council on PO BOX 188, Orange NSW 2800 or ring the Secretary on 02 6362 7917 who will ensure your information is corrected..

<http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/clubs/>

ADDRESSES for the Gem & Lapidary Council NSW

Website : [http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au /](http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/)

The website has links to the **secretary, editor & webmaster**

Online edition of the newsletter is in colour.

Post : Gem & Lapidary Council NSW, PO Box 188, Orange NSW, 2800

Meeting rooms: Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club,

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER 2018 ISSUE

19th September 2018

(third Wednesday of the month—a few days grace is allowed)

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

editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

ADVERTISING RATES

per G&L News edition

(NB: printed in black & white)

Full page - \$40 1/2 page - \$25 1/3 page - \$20

Please send payment with advertising booking and copy

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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Minutes and business

The meeting was opened at 1pm by President Barbara Try (Northern Districts) who welcomed delegates from the following clubs: Goulburn (Sue & Joe O'Neil), Minsoc (Arthur Roffey OAM), Central Coast (Tony Try), AFG (Col Wright), Blaxland (Pam & Alec Gardiner), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane & Kim Cook) Orange (Kathy Selwood) Port Hacking (Bob McLean) Parramatta Holroyd (John Behrens)

Apologies: Illawarra (Joan Zealey), Parramatta Holroyd (Marelyn Behrens) Hawkesbury (John Vincent) NSW (Lilly Murphy) Western Suburbs (Ainslie & Shirley Flynn and Marcia Hill)

Apologies. Moved Central Coast Seconded Blaxland

Minutes of the Previous Meeting (25/7/18): Moved Goulburn seconded AFG minutes be accepted.

Business Arising:

- 1 Tagging and testing to be done during GEMKHANA setup.
- 2 Medallions ordered to be delivered shortly.
- 3 Insurance awaiting info from Webster's.
- 4 Trailer registration done
- 5 G&L advertising invoices sent to suppliers adds to continue in good faith.

Business Arising:

- 1 Request from Grafton club for enamelling workshop to be arranged.
- 2 Closure of Tinhga club due to lack of members.

Treasurer's Report:

General a/c: Inc \$440 Exp \$33.00 Bal at 25/8/18.\$3,770.27

GEMKHANA a/c: Inc \$1,684 Exp \$Nil Bal at 25/8/18 \$17,512.889

GEMBOREE a/c: Inc Nil Exp Nil Bal at 25/8/18 \$2,589.29

Accounts for payment:(Trailer inspection & registration \$213.00) (Office Works 35.50 GEMHKANA flyers)

Moved Port Hacking seconded Parramatta that the report be accepted, and accounts paid.

J&R Report: Judging date for GEMHKANA to be 2ND September

Other judging organised until end of October date with Illawarra last to be judged on the 21st October.

G&L NEWS: Nil

Education Report

- 1 Byron Bay will run a carving course August 25th &26th
- 2 Illawarra has requested a wax carving and casting course Kathy to arrange date.

GEMKHANA So far only 10 indoor and five outdoor dealers have confirmed

Coordinator to follow up

An email account is to be set up for the treasurer.

GEMBOREE: Costings for both Mudgee and Orange were tabled for discussion while both were similar in cost the infrastructure at Mudgee was considered superior to Orange. So by a unanimous decision Mudgee will be the venue for the 2022 GEMBOREE.

Reports received Blue Mountains seconded Minsoc

General business moved AFG seconded Blaxland

Next meeting, Thursday 27th September during GEMKANA 2018 at 3pm.at Hawksbury Showground Clarendon.

NOTICE OF EVENTS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST AND

EVENTS BEYOND DECEMBER 2018

GEMBOREE 2022

The next NSW GEMBOREE will be held over EASTER 2022

at MUDGEE

at the Australian Rural Education Centre

The Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW Inc would like any interested party to submit a diagram of a potentially new logo that would be used for this GEMBOREE.

Please send your suggestion to the Secretary of the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW at PO Box 188, Orange NSW 2800



Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club

Open Day

Saturday 20th October 2018 9.00am - 2.00pm

Next to Hazlett Oval

- * Rocks, gemstones, fossils, rough, minerals
- * handcrafted jewellery and market stalls
- * Free family event - all ages welcome
- * Sausage sizzle and homemade cakes and slices
- * Hot and cold drinks

Lot 1 Bensley Road Macquarie Fields
Email: ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com
Web: campbelltownlapidary.org.au
Phone: 0296183206

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ALSO: For Sale by Tender

A rock collection belonging to the late Norman Donpon

Viewing dates: 1, 2, 8, 9 September 2018, Meandarra QLD

Tender closes: 30 September 2018

For further information, contact Ian: sedgley7@bigpond.com (include contact phone number when enquiring, please)

Collection is available for sale as one lot. Some equipment also available. The collection referred to is his private collection.

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GEM & JEWELLERY SHOW

29th September to 1st October

Hours: 9am to 5pm Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th September

**9am to noon Monday
1st October**

**Location: Hawkesbury District
Agricultural Grounds
at Clarendon, near
Richmond**

GEMKHANA 2018

Staged by

The Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Inc

We invite you to view the best of our craft in NSW

Adults \$5.00 Children \$3.00 Family \$12.00

Enquiries: - Bob McLean 0429 804 580

Examples will include:

- **Hand crafted Jewellery.**
- **Polished Stones. (Cabochons)**
- **Stone Carving**
- **Faceted Stones**
- **Minerals**

Traders will be offering: -

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There will also be:

**Carving, Faceting & Jewellery Demonstrations,
and Children's Activities**

CLUB NEWS

Email: editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

Illawarra Lapidary club Inc have a Jewellery Gems and Mineral Festival coming up in early November. Please see the Events page for 'where' and 'when'. The Club is contactable via their website:

<http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/>

They also have a Facebook page.

Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club are very welcoming to new members. Membership fees are due for renewal. The club had their AGM and a Father's day Raffle on 1st September . They have an Open day coming up on the 20th October. A club field trip is planned for the 30th September to 7th October, to Lightning ridge. They are planning to run a wire-wrapping workshop.

Canberra Lapidary Club Inc are looking for someone to make child-sized waterproof aprons. Details of an August field trip (or its cancellation) will be announced at their Social Meeting. The club is seeking people who might be able to give talks at their Social Meetings. Please let a member of their committee know if you know someone suitable. At their General Meeting on 9th August, demonstrations of the use of fire alarms, fire blankets and smoke alarms will be given.

Paramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club celebrated their 58th year this year. The club has their gem and Mineral show mid- September. Many volunteers of all sorts are being sought to make the day a good one.

Lismore Gem and Lapidary Club's planned August field trip was cancelled, due to the presence of fires in Tabulam, where the trip was proposed to be. Another trip is planned for October, to Emmaville on the long weekend.

(Club news, cont'd ...)

Central Coast Lapidary Club have their Annual Gem Festival coming up in October. They also have a Member's Sale Day coming up on 1st December. The sale will be of lapidary related items. They have recently run a beginner's faceting course and have purchased equipment to expand their capacity to do lost wax castings.

Bathurst stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club will be open from 9am –3pm on 23rd September for practical activities and lapidary work. The Club has its Annual General Meeting coming up on 5th November in the club rooms at 7pm.

Cessnock Gem and Mineral Club now have 'not-for-profit' status, which broadens the scope of their fundraising. The Club has a fossicking trip to Inverell planned for the 9th to 16th September. Members have been very busy working with silver wire and improving their skills with different types of stone settings.

Northern Districts Lapidary Club Inc. Have their Rock'n'Gem Show coming up in October.

Inverell and District Lapidary Club had a field trip to the Candle Crystal site. They have their Gem and Craft Show in October. They are seeking contributions for prizes for their upcoming raffle. Some members have had ill health and our best wishes go to them for their speedy recovery.

More detailed listings of what is available in the two offers on p8 are available. Both parties have more specific information regarding items that are for sale.

A Brief History of Opal Superstitions

For such a beautiful gemstone Opals have not been entirely loved throughout history, in fact they have had quite a tough time at some points. There are countless tales of bad luck & stories of superstition that have given Opals a bad name.

From the beginning of history gemstones have always had certain beliefs attributed to them. For example Diamonds are said to improve the wearer's courage & fortitude while also bringing victory & good fortune, Pearls will bring you health & long life while warding off evil & Rubies will give you peace of mind, courage & insight.

Opals on the other hand have had a mixed history. While other gemstones were prized for their positive magical qualities Opals were originally seen as an evil & bad luck gemstone, a brief list of the different beliefs is:

- White Opals are unlucky unless worn by someone born in October or with Diamonds.
- Very unlucky in an engagement ring.
- Opals will lose its shine if the owner dies.
- Renders the wearer invisible Improves eyesight.
- Will help blondes keep their hair colour longer.
- Will turn pale if in the presence of poison.
- Black Opals are lucky.
- Useless as a charm to someone who is selfish.
- If used for good, it gives the power of prophecy.

Generally Opals have had an evil superstition attached to them. Witches and sorcerers supposedly used black opals to increase their own magical powers or to focus them like laser beams on people they wanted to harm. Medieval Europeans dreaded the opal because of its resemblance to "the Evil Eye," and its superficial likeness to the optical organs of cats, toads, snakes, and other common creatures with hellish affiliations.

This fear and loathing of the opal did not discourage the development of a counter folklore which cast the stone as a symbol of hope, innocence, and purity. European writers and poets of the Middle Ages also sang the opal's praises, claiming it had curative effect on bad eyes.

While Queen Victoria helped to reverse the bad press surrounding Opals as she became a lover of Opal and was known to wear Opals throughout her reign.

During the late 18th and 19th centuries opal fell out of favour, as it was associated with pestilence, famine and the fall of monarchies. Opal was also tied to the Black Plague, an affliction that struck in the middle of the 14th Century, ultimately eradicating more than a third of Europe's population and much more in neighbouring territories. During the decimation of Europe by the Black Death, it was rumoured that an opal worn by a patient was aflame with colour right up to the point of death, and then lost its brilliance after the wearer died.

Opals Not All About Bad Luck

Opals were not considered bad luck by everyone however.

The Romans believed that Opals were a combination of the beauty of all the precious stones, and it is well documented in Roman history that Caesars gave their wives Opal for good luck.

They ranked Opal second only to emeralds, and in fact carried the gem around with them as a good luck charm or talisman, as it was believed that the gem, like the rainbow, brought its owner good fortune.

To the Romans, it was considered to be a token of hope and purity. It was also referred to as the "Cupid Stone" because it suggested the clear complexion of the god of love.

There are many reports of opal bringing people luck, including the many opal miners who have made their fortunes and have lived long and prosperous lives. Whether you believe that Opal brings you good luck or bad we can't disagree with the fact that Opal is one of the most beautiful & mysterious precious stones in the world. The colours are truly magical! Aren't I the lucky one, my birthday is in October and therefore Opal is my birthstone. To make me even luckier I love cutting and wearing the beautiful gem.

Barbara Try

Barbara's and Tony's articles highlight the broader scope of lapidary. The personal side— how the stones affect people in their day to day lives.

Do you also have a good story to tell? We'd love to hear from you.

Please consider a written contribution ... You could see your name on the winner's cup!



NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB Inc.

ASIC: Y0246003

ROCK n GEM SHOW

Friday 26 Oct. 9am – 7pm

Saturday 27 Oct. 9am – 5pm

Sunday 28 Oct. 9am – 4pm

Display and sale of Jewellery,

Minerals Slabs, Silver Chains and Bracelets

Trinkets, Books, Plants.

Kid's Fossicking Area

Light Refreshments – free tea and coffee

Entry: Adults \$5.00, children under 16 are free.

Beecroft Community Hall

Corner Beecroft Rd & Copeland Rd, Beecroft.

"The Selfish Fossicker"

We all know they are out there, and unfortunately they are in ever increasing numbers. The question is – *why*?

Is it greed or simply the fact that they are not considering anyone else and subscribe to the theory that "I am all right Jack, and bugger everyone else"?

I say this because I have recently been made aware that the Peridot fields at Chudleigh Park/Cheviot Hills are now closed to the public because of irresponsible acts by fossickers.

I am also aware of a number of other well-known fossicking spots that were on private property, which are now not accessible because people have done the wrong thing.

It would also appear that the owners of the Garnet fields at Fullerton River are not happy with the way fossickers are treating/leaving the area. Unless we are careful that area could also be closed to the public. While I do not like the idea of losing access to these fields, I can understand why the owners do it.

Access to these places was/is a privilege, and there are now less and less of them because of the unthinking acts of "The Selfish Fossicker" that ruins it for everyone else. To those relevant few, I hope that you are happy with what you have achieved.

Tony Try

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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS 2018 / 2019

September

14, 15, 16

"Everything Copper"

Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club Gem and Mineral Show

9am to 4pm in Club rooms

Free entry

29, 30 & Oct 1

GEMKHANA

Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW

Hawkesbury District Agricultural Grounds, Clarendon

For entry costs and times, please see flyer on p11 of the August newsletter

October

13—14

Annual Gem Show

Central Coast Lapidary Club

Mingara Recreational Club, Tumby Umbi

Free entry

20

Open Day

Campelltown Lapidary Club

Lot 1 Bensley Rd

Macquarie Fields

23

Goulburn Gem Society Inc. **Bunnings Barbecue**

26,27, 28

Exhibition

Northern Districts Lapidary Club 2018

November

3

Open Day

Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectible and Lapidary Club

3 & 4

Jewellery Gems and Minerals Festival

Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

Heininger Hall, Ribbonwood Centre

109 Princes Hwy, Dapto

23

Goulburn Gem Society Inc. **Bunnings Barbecue**

December

21

Goulburn Gem society Inc. **Bunnings Barbecue**