

Gem & Lapidary News

December

2018

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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).

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AFLACA J&R delegates	Barbara Try (voting) and Tony Try (non-voting)

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: 12th December 2018

Christmas Message



To all the readers of the Gem & Lapidary News, I wish you and your family a safe and happy Festive Season and may the year 2019 be all you would wish for.

Barbara Try
President

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,
73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville, NSW

DEADLINES:

Traditionally, there is no January issue. The next issue published will be the February Issue. The usual “third Wednesday of the month—a few days grace is allowed” will apply to January. February will contain news from December and January.

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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The Gem & Lapidary Council Meeting which was scheduled for Wednesday 28 November 2018 was cancelled.

This was due to the weather incident which has affected all of Sydney and the surrounding regions.

With heavy rain and flooded roads with winds forecasted in the 75kms it was decided, for the safety of the members who must travel long distances, to postpone this meeting. The meeting will now be held on 12 December 2018 commencing at 12 Noon, in conjunction with the AGM, which is also planned to be held on that date.

GEMKHANA NEWS

The GEMKHANA 2019 Schedule is now available on the Gem Council website.

The GEMKHANA will once again be held at the Hawkesbury Showground on the weekend 28 & 29 September 2019. Please note this is NOT the long weekend but the weekend before, so it will only be a two day show. This change is just one of the suggestions that were recommended by many of the participants, which are being made in order improve attendance.

If you do not have access to the Gem Council website, and/or would like more information concerning the Competition Schedule please contact the competition organiser, Mr Colin Wright on telephone number 0418 286 003 or email: coldel1@hotmail.com

Ron White, from Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectible and Lapidary Club Passed away on Saturday November 24th 2018.

A graveside funeral service was held at Bathurst Cemetery on Thursday November 29th at 11am.

Ron was a very active member, and a founding member of the lapidary section of the club. He was well known for his work with cabochons and faceting.

He will be greatly missed.

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Byron Bay and Illawarra Carving classes

Byron Bay 25 & 26 August and again 7,10,13 & 14 October.

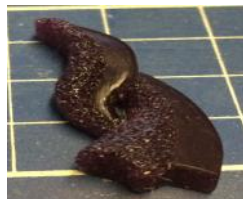
Byron Bay Lapidary Club welcomed us and made us feel right at home at both teaching sessions, the weather came to the party as well - it was raining. The 25 & 26 August carving session saw a group of interested and keen students. Some had done a bit of carving others had done none. Saturday was Eco block with bear templates and a ton of fun. Sunday was bone carving with some interesting designs.

October's teaching session was helping Margaret with wire wrapping and silver smithing teaching. We all had a heap of fun and learnt a lot all round. It was fun to take people out of their comfort zone and try new techniques and tools.



Illawarra Lapidary Club Wax Carving class 27 & 28 October.

A fine sunny day greeted a very keen class of students to the Illawarra Lapidary club, of which two thirds had beaten the teacher and host to class. After explaining all the tools and what we hoped to create, it was all in to attack the wax. The first exercise was to create a ring where the back has to be carved out and the top replaced back on, this was to get the students to use a variety of tools. The pendant was an exercise in carving out the back without going through to the front of the design and adding some texture to wax.



Thanks to both Clubs for asking the Gem and Lapidary Council for classes. Thank you to my hosts and the students in both clubs that attended the classes it was fun.

Kathy Selwood

CLUB NEWS

Email: editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club have their Christmas lunch on 15th December, from midday onwards. \$5 entry - prepaid. Their next Open Day is in March 2019, with stallholders, lapidary dealers, light refreshments and a barbecue. After their AGM, they have new Office Bearers.

Canberra Lapidary Club Inc have their last social meeting for the year on December 13th. There will be a barbecue, with meat, tea and coffee supplied. a Secret Santa has also been arranged for the evening. field trips are expected to recommence in February. The Club closes December 22nd and reopens on January 3rd. Day trips are held on the Sunday following the monthly social evening (on the second Thursday of the month). The Club's Spring Gem Show in November was a success. The Club has a folding display case, a saw and polishing equipment for sale.

Paramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club have their Club Christmas party on 8th December. The Club will be closed from 8th December to 29th January. They have a trip planned to Tingha, near Inverell, from January 13th to 19th. A further trip is currently planned, after Easter 'in Qld, somewhere'. Next General meeting is 23rd February.

Lismore Gem and Lapidary Club had their Club Christmas party on 2nd December. There will be no General meeting in December. They are considering holding meetings every two months, rather than monthly. Preparations for Gemfest are ongoing. During November there was a field trip to Ewngar State forest. a group of nine members had a lovely day.

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Central Coast Lapidary Club prepared beading items for a stall at Mingara Show. Their efforts raised \$1300. Many members also won First Place in competitions at the event. The Club has welcomed several new members recently. They will hold their Christmas Party on 15th December. The Club will the reopen on 15ht January. However, the club will be holding silver work classes during January. Their AGM will be held on the 16th February.

Orange Lapidary and Mineral Club have their last get together for the year on 12th December. This is their Presentation Night. The club reopens on Wednesday, 6ht January at 9am.they currently have a display at the Orange Regional Museum. It will be there til 4th February.

Illawarra Lapidary Club had their Open Day at the Club-house on 25th November. Thier Christmas Party is on16th December, at Illawarra Leagues Club.On 16th January, they have a social meetingand a get together at Stuart Park on the 24th February. The Club's Gem and Mierals Festival was a great success.

Northern Districts Lapidary Club had their Club Christmas party on 1st December. The highlight of their recent Exhibition was the mineral stall, which also yielded the highest sales. To increase the general safety of the Club and the

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premises, an Attendance Book will be put in place in the New Year. During November, a weekend enamelling workshop was held by the Club. Eight ladies attended the weekend, as well as a new , young member on Sunday. The next enamelling workshop is on February 9th and 10th.

The Mineral Society of Queensland are having their Christmas party on the 8th December at Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society club rooms. The Redcliffe Gem Show was on December 1st. Sadly, two of their members have recently passed away. Their receptionist, Glenys Sinclair and long term member John Brady. Both will be greatly missed



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CLUB NEWS

The Mineralogical Society of NSW Inc had their Christmas Social Swap'n'Sell for members and guests on 7th December. There will be no general meeting in January. Their next meeting is on the 1st of February at the Club rooms in Fullager Rd Wentworthville. Meetings are on the first Friday of the month, except just before a long weekend. In this case the meeting is put back a week. During the February meeting there will be a sale of donated items to raise funds for 'Kids with Cancer' - an annual event – and a lecture by Glen Cathers on The Sepon Copper mine, Laos.

GEMBOREE Entry forms, fees and pre-judged entries— with return postage —***must be received by January 25th 2019***

PLEASANT MEMORIES

[Part 2]

There are many stories – both true and false – that surround the finding of gold and valuable gemstones. Some have good outcomes and others not so good and unfortunately highlight the greed of man.

The Northern Districts Lapidary Club Inc field trip to which I referred in an earlier article saw both sides of human nature. Fortunately this was mostly good as we met a lot of nice people from different walks of life and backgrounds. However, there is one particular incident/story, which highlighted the “not so good” side of the human race.

Again, it was on the sapphire fields at Washpool in Queensland. As a group we had been digging in various locations for a few days with very little success. The ground was hard and dry, which meant that we had to carry in our wash and rinse water every day. It was hard work, but we were all younger and fitter and keen to find – not our fortunes – but some cutters, as most of the group were facetors.



Happy Hours were spent discussing whether we should change to a different hole or area while we anaesthetised aching muscles with a range of “medicinal” beverages.

It was during one such Happy Hour that we met Wal Shadforth, who was living in a dilapidated caravan in the caravan park. He was a typical Aussie battler trying to make a living from finding sapphires. He was a very nice and trusting guy. Although he had only just met us he chose to show us his one and only find of any value.

This was a beautiful yellow/orange oval cut sapphire weighing 30.25 carats and at that time conservatively valued at \$300,000. *[Its uncut weight was 103.5 carats.]* This appeared to be such a contradictory situation. Here we had a man basically living on sickness benefits in a broken down old caravan surrounded by a few head of poultry that he was feeding with stale bread, while owning a very rare/valuable sapphire. *[I have never seen another one the same colour, let alone that size]*

The photo on the following page was taken by David Bragg and featured in an article by Liz Johnston in the New Idea magazine in 1994.



While the sight of this beautiful sapphire gave us all renewed energy, our efforts were not rewarded with anything nearly like what we had seen.

My understanding is that it was this “trust” that ultimately was Wal’s undoing. I have been told that it was a “trust” and handshake agreement that led Wal to give the stone to a person who was to sell it for him in the USA.

The last I heard was that it has not been “recovered”.

It takes all kinds !!!

Tony Try

Interstate Events

February

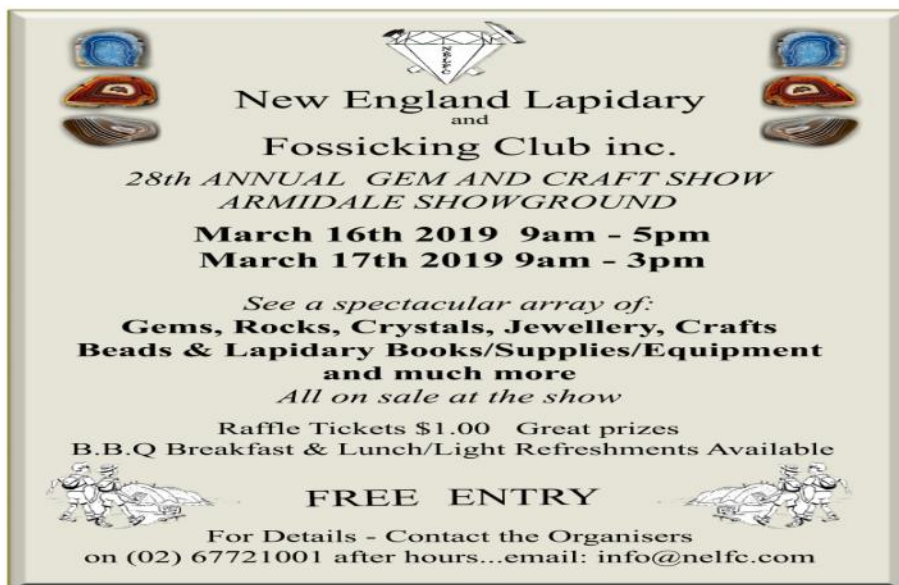
- 1-4** Victorian Facetors Group Traralgon Workshop
Contact Graham Young
9363 1803 or 0487 283 598
- 24** Alexandra, Eildon and District Lapidary Club fair
and sales – bookings welcome
Thornton Football grounds
Taggerly Rd Thornton
Call Ross 4019 362 514

May




- 17– 20** Victorian Facetors Group Shepparton Work
shop
Contact Graham Young
9363 1803 or 0487 283 598

April

- 19—22** GEMBOREE Rockhampton



The advertisement is for the 28th Annual Gem and Craft Show organized by the New England Lapidary and Fossicking Club inc. It features a central text area with decorative gemstone images at the top corners and cartoon illustrations of people fossicking at the bottom corners. The text provides the dates, times, location, and details about the show, including a raffle, food, and free entry.

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and
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FREE ENTRY

For Details - Contact the Organisers
on (02) 67721001 after hours...email: info@nelfc.com

2019 VIC Event

March 9th and 10th

Combined Gem Clubs Show

— GEMKANA —

Hosted by Warragul and Districts

Lapidary Club

Logan Park

Howitt St. Warragul, Victoria

9.30 am to 4.30 pm

Contact Carol Kirby

0411 055 297

GEMBOREE—beyond 2019

- 2020 — 10th to 15th April,
Albury showgrounds,
Albury NSW
- 2021 — 2nd to 5th April
Hobart, Tasmania
- 2022 — 15th to 19th April, Mudgee, NSW