



Gem & Lapidary News

April

2019

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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).

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	Kathy Selwood (Orange) 6362 7917 secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Minute Secretary	Mick Lane (Blue Mountains)
Treasurer	Bob McLean (Port Hacking)
Assistant Treasurer	John Vincent (Hawkesbury Valley)
Committee:	Sue O'Neil (Goulburn) Kathy Selwood (Orange) Alec Gardiner (Blaxland)

APPOINTMENTS

Public Officer	John Vincent (Hawkesbury Valley)
Auditor	Christine Gruntar
Editor	Suzanne Olesen editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Webmaster	webmaster@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Equipment Officer	
Competition Judges	
Education Officer	
GEMBOREE Coordinator	
GEMKHANA Coordinator	Bob McLean
AFLACA delegates	Barbara Try (voting) and Tony Try (non-voting)
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: May 22nd

EDITOR'S NOTES

- **REMINDER to Clubs**— have you had your AGM? If you have not already done so, please send the details of your Executive to the Secretary of the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW
- **There is no April General Meeting scheduled, due to GEMBOREE. Next general Meeting will be held on May 22nd in the club rooms in Fullagar Rd.**
- Advertising on our website is available. Organising this is generally done through the Webmaster. However, we are seeking a new person to fill the position of Webmaster. Please bear with us during the process of filling the webmaster position. Advertising and notices are still available in the newsletter.

Suzanne

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

Third Wednesday of the month—a few days grace is allowed.

ADVERTISING RATES

per *G&L News* edition

(NB: printed in black & white)

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

Please contact the editor regarding any advertising. You will then be invoiced to the agreed amount.

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 meeting was opened at 1pm by President Barbara Try (Northern Districts) who welcomed delegates from the following clubs: Goulburn (Sue & Joe O'Neil), Central Coast (Tony Try), AFG (Col Wright), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane) Orange (Kathy Selwood) Port Hacking (Bob McLean and Tony Offord) Blaxland (Pamela & Alec Gardiner) Parramatta/Holroyd (John Behrens) Western Suburbs (Ainslie & Shirley Flynn & Marcia Hill)

Apologies: Blue Mountains (Kim Cooke) Illawarra (Joan Zealey)

Apologies. Moved Orange. Seconded Goulburn

Minutes of the Previous Meeting (27th February 2019): Moved *Central Coast* seconded *Western Suburbs* that minutes be accepted.

Business Arising:

1. *Bob Mclean & Kim Cooke, Access to Website to be carried over.*
2. *Grafton's enamelling workshop to be run by Annette Clarke. Awaiting grant approval.*
3. *Gemboree Badge and trophy design to be run as a competition. Clubs please send submission asap. So far only one submitted from Goulburn*
4. *Website format problem has been resolved*
5. *Trailer registration Mick Lane to Arrange*
6. *Kathy Selwood to hold key during John Behrens absence.*

Business arising moved Blaxland seconded Blue Mountains.

Correspondence: List not attached, but available.

Moved Orange seconded AFG that Inward Correspondence be received, and Outward Correspondence be endorsed.

Business Arising:

- A Carving judges course to be run by Kathy Selwood during GEMBOREE in Rockhampton.
- A number of carving tools were donated to council to be held by Kathy Selwood for use in future Carving courses
- Kathy to send Letter of thanks to Donor

Business arising from correspondence moved Central Coast second Blaxland

Treasurer's Report:

General a/c:	Inc \$980.00	Exp \$196.95	Bal at 27/3/19 \$3,292.49
GEMKHANA a/c:	Inc \$100.00	Exp \$587.95	Bal at 27/3/19 \$10,374.04
GEMBOREE a/c:	Inc \$0.19	Exp \$Nil	Bal at 27/3/19 \$2,590.72
Accounts for payment (Nil)			

Moved Port Hacking seconded Central Coast that the report be accepted.

J&R Report:

- Judging for Hawksbury show to be 1st May schedule is on website
- Judging for following Hunter Valley 17th August
- For the GEMKHANA , 31st August.
- Central Coast 21st September,
- Parramatta /Holroyd 3rd November

Minsoc has been asked to help with supply of mineral judges Barbara to also approach the fossil club.

Webmaster. Our current Webmaster has resigned therefore a new Webmaster is urgently required anyone interested please contact Barbara Try we wish to thank Lilly for her efforts and wish her well for the future.

G&L NEWS: Nil

Education Report

1. Kathy to run a carving judges course to be run at Rockhampton.
2. Expressions of interest from clubs for this course are requested ASAP.
3. Byron Bay Carving course End of June or early July
4. Northern Districts carving course date to be arranged.

GEMKHANA

1. **Competition schedule now on website**
2. **Brochures now printed and ready for distribution.**
3. **Advertising to be addressed in all formats. Kim Cooke to arrange including face book comp.**
4. **Clubs to be offered an 8ft table to sell, demonstrate etc, a limited number of tables available**

So, first in best dressed applications to the secretary before August 2019.

- **All clubs to be asked to promote and support the competition.**

GEMBOREE: Mudgee 2022.

Badge and trophy Design to be run as a competition. Clubs to send entries to secretary. Competition Schedule is underway. Tony & Barbara's visit to Mudgee for follow up was successful, so good progress on all fronts.

Reports received Blaxland seconded Goulburn.

GENERAL BUSINESS

An invitation to attend the Cumberland show was received for the 24th & 25th August John Behrens & Mick Lane to represent Council.

General Business: Moved Northern Districts seconded Parramatta/Holroyd

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Judges Required.

Mineral, Fossil and Cabochon Judges are needed to fill vacancies that have occurred due to natural attrition.

The Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW has been asked to assist Tasmania with the judging of their GEMBOREE in 2021. We also assist other states who do not have the same number of judges as we do.

2022 is also the NSW GEMBOREE, which will be at Mudgee, and we will need as many judges as possible.

If you feel you would like to become a judge for the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW, please contact me, and if numbers are enough, courses will be organised as soon as possible.

Barbara Try, President, Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW

NSW Lapidary Clubs

Have you checked the Gem and Lapidary Council Website recently? *If not, can you please do so ?*

The web address is:

<https://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/>

If the information about your club is not accurate, please send a notice to the Secretary, Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW with the correct details, so that it can be updated.

Email: secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

The G&L Council is currently looking for a new Webmaster.

Please contact the GLC
Secretary on

secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

if you are interested in taking on
this role.

Two Clubs have had members pass away recently

Lismore Club member Janice Hodgetts “Always a willing worker for the club, and friend to all.”

and

Illawarra Club member Herb Deacon was a long term member and an accomplished photographer.

Both will be greatly missed.



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Club News

Email: editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

Lismore Gem and Lapidary Club have their next General meeting on 8th April, in their club rooms, at 7pm. At the next meeting there will be a talk on gold by one of their members. The Club had a field trip to Tyalgum in February, which was a huge success, despite wet weather and dealing with high river tides. They had 21 participants in the trip. That club has had a cabinet and collection donated to them by Rosemary Zillig-Schreier. In March two of their members went on a field trip to Hogarth Range, and found some Labradorite specimens worth faceting. There is an Easter field trip on April 19th -22nd to Inverell. Their Gemfest is coming up in May on the 18th and 19th.

Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club Inc have their next General meeting on April 27th. John and Marilyn Behrens are taking an extended trip after GEMBOREE. People wishing to join the trip are asked to contact John on 9635 8218 for further information. The Club will be having an Open day later in the year, in November. A new Silver work class began on 8th March.

Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectible and Lapidary Club have School Holiday Lapidary Workshops on Mon 15th and Tue 16th April in the old fire shed in Eglington St. 9am to 3pm each day. Numbers limited to six per workshop. Participants need to bring lunch. Minimum age 7yrs. Closed shoes, such as joggers need to be worn, also.

Northern Districts Lapidary Club held an enamelling workshop in February, with some very good results. They also had a Gem Tree workshop on 23rd March. Their next general Meeting is April 9th at 7.30pm in the Club rooms in Beecroft.

Orange Lapidary Club held their AGM on 1st March. Their Saturday classes have begun for the year. The first was rings made with wax casts, with excellent results. The second Saturday class— silver casting—was on 23rd March.

Canberra Lapidary Club Inc held their AGM on 14th March. There was a proposed field trip to Grabben Gullen Creek. The Club was represented at the recent Royal Canberra Show, where they sponsored and judged a lapidary and allied crafts competition, and gave lapidary related demonstrations. The club was also represented at the 2019 Canberra Rock Swap on 30th and 31st March.

Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc. Have their next General Meeting on 27th April, at 6.30. The club has a field trip planned to Tingha to build up a collection to encourage young Club members. They will also be holding a Chainmaille workshop on the 7th April. **The Lapidary Club NSW Inc** is affiliated with the **Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.** The Club is based in Surrey Hills, Sydney. The club's AGM was held on 12th March. They have an Open Weekend on April 13th and 14th.

Inverell & District Lapidary Club Inc held their first barbecue for the year on 22nd March. They have resumed their Cabbing and Faceting classes for the year, with good results from members, already.

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Silver Work and Gem Cutting demonstrations.

Children's Activities.

Adults \$5 Children \$3 Families \$12

Contact Bob McLean gembkhana@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

<https://www.facebook.com/GemLapidaryCouncilNSW/>

The “Triffids” are on the move.

Another GEMBOREE at Rockhampton this year: This reminds me of a Field Trip I led to the GEMBOREE at Rockhampton in 2002, which included – among other areas - a visit to Tomahawk Creek.

To me, Tomahawk Creek had always been an attraction in the same categories as Agate Creek and Hart’s Range. Finally it looked as though we were going to get there and be able to do some digging. [*I had been there once, many years before but had been flooded in and therefore had done very little digging*]

We had been advised that Tomahawk Creek and surrounding country had not had a wet season, so water would be short. We all filled up with as much water as we could carry, and a total of eight vehicles [14 people] in convoy, set out for the Tomahawk Creek fossicking area.

We met our guide [*a friend from Cairns*] at the gate to the area, and then commenced a driving adventure, which most members of our little convoy were NOT expecting. This was particularly so for the people who were towing caravans with conventional vehicles.

We blindly followed our guide along a bush track, negotiating a maze of criss-crossing tracks, so that we had very little idea of where we were going, or how to get out. The track was rough in parts with deep ruts in others, and a forest of tree that reminded me of “Triffids”. I am positive that they moved – particularly when I had the caravan part way between them !! They either jumped in front of me or moved in on either side of the

While our guide was sharing a camp with two other “Banana Benders”, they made us “Mexicans” feel very welcome and went out of their way to assist us to find “good gravel” and keep us in sieving water. In turn we were able to supply them with a good quantity of clean water for drinking and showering.

With total personnel now numbering seventeen, Happy Hours became rather long discussions about various fossicking sites and the stones found. This continued on around the campfire after the evening meal, as the paddy melons came in from the darkness to find any available food scraps.

A very enjoyable few days saw all of our group find sapphires of various sizes, colours [mostly green] and qualities.

The problem of how to get out of where we were camped had been at the back of everyone’s minds, and now, following major discussions involving alternative routes etc we decided to do battle with the same “army of Triffids” that we encountered on the way in.

Departure morning dawned, and we said our goodbyes, where appropriate; as our guide offered to lead us out to the main gate before heading into Emerald for more supplies.

This time the “Triffids” had prepared for our departure and had closed ranks. I am certain the trees had moved and were closer together than they were on our way in!!

There were many close encounters and very personal discussions with trees, stumps, branches and rocks as we inched our way out. Our guide claimed that his ears were burning all the

way, as we negotiated our way at a snail's pace, coaxing the caravans along a route that was hardly marked at all, between the trees and over the rocks.

The vehicles at the end of the convoy thought we were marking the way out by hanging pieces of black plastic on trees and branches.

Not true !!

The pieces of black plastic were being scraped off the caravans, where we had placed them over the various vents to keep the dust out until we were back on the bitumen. The "Triffids" even scraped the cover of of an outside light on the side of a caravan.

We eventually made our way to the main road where we said our goodbyes to our guide, and thanked him profusely for his assistance.

There was obvious relief on everyone's faces, now that we were on a road where we could get out of first gear and 4-wheel drive.

After regrouping and shopping at Rubyvale, we made our way to Springsure where the lone washing machine in the caravan park was worked overtime as all fossicking clothes were washed, and caravans/ vehicles were examined for the many minor repairs needed.

Do not let anyone tell you that "Triffids" do not exist !!!

[Please note that all names have been deliberately omitted to protect the guilty]

Tony Try

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EVENTS

Date	Event / Details
April	Blue Mountains Show
13th & 14th	cnr of Noble St & Great Western Highway Bullaburra.
Friday to Monday, the 19th to 22nd of April, (over Easter)	The 55th GEMBOREE Rockhampton Qld, at the Rockhampton Showgrounds
May	Hawkesbury District Agricultural Show
10th, 11th and 12th	Clarendon NSW—for details, please visit
May	Lismore Gem and Lapidary club
Sat 18th 9am—5pm and	29th Annual Gemfest Lismore Showground
Sun 19th 9am –3pm	Alexandra Avenue , Nth Lismore http://www.gemclublismore.org.au/lismore-gemfest/
June	The Yagoona Gem and Mineral Fair
Saturday 1st	Arena Sports Club,
Sunday 2nd	140 Rookwood Road, Yagoona Hosted by The Bankstown and Districts Lapidary Club and Kristallen. For more information please contact Peter at raregems@optusnet.com.au or 0412 333 150