



Gem & Lapidary News

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Gem & Lapidary News is the official publication of the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW 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 (dec), Ron Beattie, Arthur Roffey (dec), Frank Hall (dec), Dot Caladine (dec), Maurya Hutton (dec), Marie Jenkins (dec), Dick Moppett (dec) & Bob Wright (dec).

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GEMKHANA Coordinator	Bob McLean with Tony Offord
AFLACA delegates	Barbara Try (voting) and Tony Try (non-voting)
AFLACA J&R delegates	Barbara Try (voting) and Colin Wright (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: June 24th 2020 at 1pm

EDITOR'S NOTES

The format of the newsletter has changed slightly this month. Due to the current situation regarding the Corona Virus, there was no face to face general meeting held in April.

Results of the discussions held via Zoom can be seen on pages 6 and 7 of the newsletter

ADDRESSES

for the Gem & Lapidary Council NSW

Website : <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.

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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GEMKHANA COMPETITION 2020

Attention all Members, the committee has approved to run the 2020 GEMKHANA competition no matter what the outcome of the lockdown/restrictions cause by Covid-19.

To all those members that are fortunate to have their own machinery, this is a great opportunity to fill in those long days of isolation/lockdown and complete those entries and support the competition.

Unfortunately, those entries that were required to be delivered to the venue on Friday 25 September 2020, will not be eligible (Sections: 5, 16, 17, 29, 32, & 34)

Entries close 14th August (schedule available on the web site)

Hope you can support the competition.

Colin Wright
Competition Co-ordinator



GEM & LAPIDARY COUNCIL OF N.S.W.INC.

2020 NSW GEMKHANA

After a record number of Traders, Visitors and competition entries last year we have decided to hold the event again at the Hawkesbury Showground on the **26th & 27th September 2020.**

THIS IS A CHALLENGE TO ALL NSW CLUBS to support this event and encourage your members to compete in the competition.

Interstate Clubs are also welcome to enter

The Competition schedule is available to download from the G&L Council's website. [Entries close on the 14th August 2020.](#)

In the competition, there are various levels of achievements and skill sets to enter, so you do not necessarily have to compete against the "best of the best". It's now time to prepare, support and encourage your members to achieve the next step with their craft.

So be proud of what YOU have done regardless of your perception of your skill level and enter.

YOU MAY BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AND WIN A PRIZE.

POSITIVES FROM NEGATIVES

The big negative is that the GEMBOREE, which was to take place at Albury over the Easter break this year [2020] was cancelled. This meant that the “Lapidary Family” could not get together as we all look forward to doing, every year. This was very disappointing for me, as I know it was for many others.

This also meant that the obligatory meetings that we normally have at the GEMBOREES could not be held. BUT – with new technology, and a lot of telephone calls to organise them, these meetings were held via ZOOM.

ZOOM allows conference calls for up to 40 minutes free. During these calls everyone can see one another and talk together as though they are in a normal meeting, so facial expressions can say a thousand words, even if the words are not uttered !!

The AFLACA Committee Meeting was the first one, which took just over an hour and was held on Easter Monday [13/4/20]. Fortunately we were granted additional time at no extra cost. Part of this extra time was because Committee members were coming to grips with the ZOOM technology in their first meeting.

The AFLACA J & R Meeting was held on Saturday 18/4/20 and was considerably longer with some lively debate. This meant that after the first 40 minutes everyone logged off - got a coffee and some morning tea - before logging back on again for another 40 minute session. Overall this meeting took three 40 minute sessions to complete.

The AFLACA AGM was accomplished much quicker and only took one 40 minute session. This was held on Sunday 19/4/20.

The positive from all of this is that the meetings could still be held, and a lot of business was discussed, Another negative with the GEMBOREE being cancelled is the fact that competitors could not see their entries displayed in the normal fashion. However, the positive is that the Competition Committee has taken the trouble to photograph all winning entries, which have now been placed on the AFLACA website for all to see.

Congratulations to all those people.

Link to the photos - <https://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/gemboree-2020/>

All entries and trophies are being posted back to the respective entrants, so if you have not already received them, you should do so soon.

Booklets for GEMBOREE 2021 in Tasmania, are currently being posted to all State organizations for distribution to clubs and competitors. The booklet – including the competition schedule - for that event is now listed on the AFLACA website.

I hope to see you all there.

Barbara Try

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CHANGES TO THE COMPETITOR & JUDGING MANUAL:

ISSUE NO. 8 – APRIL 2015

The following changes to the Manual were approved at the AFLACA J & R Meeting held on **Saturday 18th April 2020** via Video Conference (Zoom)

The first two changes will come into effect from the GEMBOREE 2022, the third and fourth changes are effective immediately.

First:

FREE FORM

Submission – Re: To include Heart shape free forms with an inside curve by adding a few words to Part D6.1.1 . Page 32

As shown in the Manual Page 32 Paragraph D6.1.1, D6.1.2, & D6.1.3

- D6.1.1 Stones with relief or incised pattern are not eligible in Free Form - they are Carving, Cameo or Intaglio. **However, a Heart shape with an inside curve is acceptable.**
- D6.1.2 There is some overlap in definition of Free Form and Carving. Accordingly, entries will be accepted if they fit the definition of the Section in which entered.

Second:

Adding – Degree of Effort to Carving and Scrimshaw

To introduce on the Carving/Scrimshaw judging sheet – **Degree of Effort** (refer to page 21 – Degree of Effort: relates to the number of TECHNIQUES and SKILLS used, not how well they have been executed) and reduce the amount of points given to **Craftsmanship** (refer to page 20 – Craftsmanship: this relates to the degree of skilful finish apparent in the various aspects involved in production of the article) or simply put how well the techniques and skills are executed. **The points are to be halved and Degree of Effort allocated 15 and Craftsmanship allocated 15 for Carving. For Scrimshaw Degree of effort allocated 15 points and Craftsmanship allocated 10 points.**

Third:

Submission to add additional wording – relating to how to measure Specified Size cuts

The following words are to be added: “as measured across the shortest axis of outline shape” after from Specified Size,

On Page 43 D.11.2:

- P . **Specified Size:** For every 0.1mm or part thereof away from Specified Size, **as measured across the shortest axis of outline shape**, 1 point will be deducted from the maximum for this feature. *However* a tolerance of up to and including 0.1mm above or below Specified Size, as measured by the Judge, will be allowed before any points deduction.

Fourth:

Submission to changing the light recommendations for Judging

The following wording was agreed upon to be added add on page 8 B5.12 after energy saving

Halogen globe “or the equivalent 470 lumens – 3000 kelvin globe.”

The following is how it should read:

- B5.12 Entries will be judged under the lighting conditions given with Section Definitions and Conditions. **Sections 1 - 28 to be judged under 40 Watt maximum incandescent lamp or 28W energy saving halogen globe or the equivalent 470 lumens – 3000 kelvins globe.**

RIP JOYCE BEAVAN

Sadly, we report the passing of Joyce on 1st April, in her 97th year. Her funeral on the 9th was attended by only her Sydney family due to the social distancing of the Coronavirus.

Joyce will be kindly remembered for her flamboyant attitude to life and her jewellery and enamelling skills. Joyce was an accomplished designer, worker, teacher and judge in jewellery and enamelling and, as with such accomplished people, she was involved in many other non-lapidary arts and crafts which she approached with the same gusto.

A lovely, inspiring lady, who was always willing to impart her skills and inspiration.

Joyce had been a long-time member of the Greenwich Club, a member of the Northern Districts Club for a short time and finally, the Parramatta-Holroyd Club. She was a Gem & Lapidary Council and AFLACA judge.

Our sympathies to her family and friends.

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“D” is for Diamond

Diamonds are probably one of the best known gemstones in the world. They have been around for many years and there are many stories/myths related to them.

The Greek people believed that diamonds were either the tears of Gods or splinters from the stars. Diamonds were once used by Jewish high priests to determine the innocence or guilt of someone convicted of a crime. It was believed that a guilty person would turn a diamond dull and dark. But if the diamond was placed in the hand of an innocent person, it would glow with increased brilliance. Meanwhile, Persian culture had a different view of diamonds. They believed that God had no use for gems including diamonds and precious metals such as gold. Satan, however, had noticed that Eve was attracted to the brightly coloured flowers in the Garden of Eden, so he created gemstones of similar colours to tempt humans.

Although diamond is now our most popular gemstone it has not always been the case. Only in the last century did diamonds become readily available. Prior to that, ruby and Sapphire were the most popular gemstones – especially for engagement rings. Diamonds ascended in the public imagination primarily due to the De Beers Corporation. While we have much to learn about the Earth’s interior, our current knowledge of gem formation indicates that diamonds are likely the most common gem in nature.

They set up the first large-scale diamond mines in South Africa. Then, they began one of the most successful advertising campaigns in history, convincing consumers that engagement rings should always have a diamond. They were also involved with the very successful promotion of the Champagne and Cognac coloured diamonds.

Prior to this these brown diamonds were considered to be not valuable and were crushed up to help in the manufacture of various types of abrasive equipment

Diamond is the birthstone for the month of April. Diamonds soon became a top status symbol for the rich and famous. This peaked perhaps with Marilyn Monroe's performance of the song, Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend, in the 1953 film, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes. In the last two decades of the 20th century, things began to change.

Satellite technology, originally designed to find likely oil reserves, also showed the geology likely to hold diamonds. As a result, new discoveries began to multiply. For example, Australia became one of the first developed nations to discover major diamond resources. De Beers made a deal with them to distribute all the rough, except for the very rare pink diamonds. In 1996, Australia ended its arrangement with De Beers.

Diamonds are the hardest material found on earth. They resist scratching better than anything else. Other than that, they hold no unique distinctions. All gem-quality materials are rare. They compose just a tiny fraction of the Earth. However, diamonds actually number among the most common gems. Ask yourself this: "How many people do you know who own at least one diamond?" Now, ask this question about other gems, like rubies, sapphires, or emeralds.

While we have much to learn about the Earth's interior, our current knowledge of gem formation indicates that diamonds are likely the most common gem in nature.

Outside the confines of the Earth, diamonds are still common. A recent discovery indicates that some stars collapse on them-selves, creating giant diamond crystals. In the constellation Centaurus, there lies a white dwarf that has crystallized into a diamond about 2,500 miles in diameter and weighing 10 billion, trillion, trillion carats.

Tony Try

{Most of this information is from articles by Seth I. Rosen}

In amongst all the gloom and doom, there
is always a bright spot ...

With the cancellations of Club activities
and functions, comes an opportunity to
blow your own trumpet and relive your

“Glory Days”

We would all love to hear all about your
past field trips, lapidary successes, or
even ‘the one that got away’

Make us laugh! Make us cry!

Inspire your fellow lapidary enthusiasts
to bigger and better things.

At the end of the year,

at GEMKHANA,

there is a trophy awarded for the best
article of the year

CLUB NEWS

Email: editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au .

In compliance with government directives regarding the Corona Virus, most clubs have announced the suspension of activities until further notice.

Lismore Gem and Lapidary Club have some positive news in amongst the grim stuff. Many stallholders have elected to not have the Gemfest fees refunded, but have credit for next year. The club kindly lent a van to a couple who were stranded here during their mandatory isolation period.

Inverell and District Lapidary Club are hoping to have their scheduled Gem and Craft Show on 9th , 10 h , 11th, through to the 16th of October 2020. Their car boot sale might held in November.



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EVENT

November 2020

Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc. – Jewellery Gems and Minerals Festival

Sat 7th

9am – 4pm

Heining Hall, Ribbonwood Centre, 109 Princes Hwy, Dapto
Featuring Gemstone Faceting, Cabochon Cutting, Silvercrafts,
Jewellery Making and Valuations, Mineral Group displays, Club
and Fossicking Information, Refreshments, Raffle, Lucky Door
Prizes and Kid’s Games.

Sun 8th

9am to 2.30pm

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Sat 7th

Newcastle Gem & Jewellery Fair

9am to 3pm

At PCYC Newcastle , Cnr of Young and Melbourne Sts Broad-
meadow NSW.

Sun 8th

9am to 3pm

All welcome.

For more info:-
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Newcastle-
Lapidary-Club/616736661717997](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Newcastle-Lapidary-Club/616736661717997)

Sat 7th

Gemcraft & Mineral Show, Canberra Lapidary Club Inc.

Sun 8 th

Exhibition Park (EPIC) –
Mallee Pavilion Flyer
<http://www.canberralapidary.org.au/>

Sunday 29th

Open Day Christmas Market – Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc

9am to 2pm

51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna 2518
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