



**Gem & Lapidary News**  
**December**  
**2020**

Print Post Approved PP243352/00002  
ISSN 2208-5556

Vol 46

No. 11

**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).

**EXECUTIVE**

President	Barbara Try (Northern Districts) 0417 676435
Senior Vice President	Colin Wright (AFG)
Vice president	Tony Try (Central Coast)
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Assistant Treasurer	Tony Offord (Port Hacking)
Committee:	Sue O'Neil (Goulburn) Joan Zealey (Illawarra) Marcia Hill (Western Suburbs)

**APPOINTMENTS**

Public Officer	John Behrens
Auditor	Colin Russell
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Webmaster	Alex Maitland (Temporary Webmaster) webmaster@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Equipment Officer	John Behrens
G&L News Mailman	Sue O'Neil
Education Officer	Vacant
GEMBOREE Coordinator	2022—Tony Offord
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: December 9th + AGM—2020 at 1pm**

EDITOR'S NOTES

**\*Just reminder that there is no**

**January edition of the GLC Newsletter\***

This will be my last newsletter. Alishya Dippel will be taking over the editorship of the newsletter from February next year.

Thank you all for your support while I have been Editor. I wish Alishya all the very best for her future endeavours with the newsletter.

Suzanne

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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

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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](mailto:editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au)**

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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

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**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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**Christmas Message**



While the year 2020 started like every other year it will certainly be remembered, but for a wide range of “not good” reasons.

With the Covid-19 Pandemic, I believe that what we considered normal will be completely changed. Every Lapidary Club in NSW shut their doors and reopened only when the Health Dept., in conjunction with the relevant Council's, gave their permission. Some have not yet opened and have indicated that they will not do so until early in 2021. The number of club members attending classes was drastically reduced due to the 4 square metre and the social distancing rules. It was great to see that many did go to a lot of trouble to reopen and follow the strict guidelines in order that members could enjoy the camaraderie that is part of being a club member.

2021” normal” will no doubt be different, but I wish that everyone will stay safe and have a pleasant Festive Season and a BETTER New Year

Barbara Try  
President  
Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Inc.

**Minutes of the COMMITTEE MEETING of 25 November 2020****held via delegate's computers and Zoom**

The meeting was opened at 1:00pm by President Barbara Try (Northern Districts) who welcomed delegates from the following clubs: Goulburn (Sue & Joe O'Neil), Central Coast (Tony Try), Orange (Kathy Selwood) Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill, Ainslie Flynn), Illawarra (Joan Zealey), Port Hacking (Tony Offord), AFG (Col Wright), Blue Mountains (Kim Cooke)

Apologies: Blaxland (Pam & Alec Gardiner), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane), Parramatta/Holroyd (John Behrens). Port Hacking (Bob McLean), Hawkesbury (Peter Beckwith)

*Apologies: Moved Western Suburbs, Seconded Central Coast*

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 28 October 2020

*Moved Orange, seconded Port Hacking, that minutes be accepted.*

Business Arising: Sue has money for postage & envelopes now.

*Business arising moved Illawarra seconded AFG*

Correspondence: Not attached, Copies available.

**Business Arising:**

Late addition Websters email to Colin about advertising.

*Moved Orange seconded Goulburn, that Inward Correspondence be received, Outward Correspondence be endorsed and business arising be approved.*

**Treasurer's Report:**

General a/c:	Inc \$0.10	Exp \$807.41	Bal at 20/10/2020 \$612.26
GEMKHANA a/c:	Inc \$129.15	Exp \$243.0	0Bal at 20/10/2020 \$6,737.98
GEMBOREE a/c:	Inc \$580.23	Exp \$0.00	Bal at 20/10/2020 \$3,234.96

Accounts for payment: Nil

*Moved Central Coast seconded Western Suburbs that the report be accepted.*

**J&R Report:**

Annual report sent to Secretary

Notice to all judges' refresher postal courses, faceting & Jewelry

**Webmaster:**

Annual report sent to Secretary

**G&L NEWS Editor:**

Annual report sent to Secretary

Replacement for editor has been found Alishya Dippel will start January 2021

**Education Report:**

The Enamelling workshop for Grafton completed.

**Facebook:**

Post out to people on what setting are needed for Council's face book. Clubs shows and new member drives please sent to Kim for including on Council face book page.

**Mail Person:**

Nunawading change of postal address

**GEMKHANA**

Table drapes to be replaced dark blue jersey or polyester, Mick reported back, \$2.50 per metre.

*Material comes in 150 wide length 30m bolt. Motion put to Council to purchase 4 bolts - passed*

**GEMBOREE: Mudgee 2022.**

- Event insurance to be arranged 2020-1
- Paperwork on web for Mudgee grants Web to be checked.
- Donations and sponsors to be acknowledged in booklet

(cont'd next page)

- Advertising email & traders prices sent
- Check forms are correct need to be finalised by end November
- Art work to booklet end of November
- Fees approved by G& L Council for GEMBOREE committee.
- Catering – Men’s shed, Cooks Gap, coffee cart, ice cream van
- Security booked
- Chair/tables booked
- Skip bins booked.
- Chasing last three trophy donors before booklet publishing

*Reports received Blue Mountains, seconded Goulburn*

(cont’d net page)

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**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- AGM 9 DEC at Parramatta starting at 1pm, bring food & drinks for yourself. AGM Annual Reports are in, except treasurer at this point.
- President asked if positions be rolled over for 2021 due to COVID, as not all clubs are back for voting -passed

*General Business Moved Orange, Seconded AFG.*

Meeting closed 1.35pm

***Next meeting: December 9 th + AGM at Parramatta Holroyd Club.***

***Meeting dates for 2020 to be set at AGM***



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## *“J” is for Jadeite*

Unfortunately, the general term “Jade” has, over the years, referred to a number of green stones that have completely different chemical compositions – many of them not related to the two prime types of Jade ie Jadeite and Nephrite. Even these two types have very different chemical compositions, which is why this article refers only to Jadeite.

Jadeite comes in a variety of colours including white, green, pink, red, orange, yellow, lilac, blue violet , black and brown. It is the material most prized by the Chinese for their carvings, and is mainly found in Upper Burma, although smaller quantities are also found in Japan, California and Guatemala. Polished specimens are often characterised by the mottling of the surface due to the uneven polishing of the granules that make up the stone. The most highly prized colour of Jadeite is a rich emerald green of great translucency, containing chromium, called Imperial Jade.

Thanks partially to Chinese demand, rare Imperial green Jade, a translucent stone that has been compared to fine emerald, is the most expensive gem in the world, worth more per gram than diamonds. Today, the vast majority of jadeite is dipped in wax as a final finishing step. This is considered a normal trade practice. All other enhancements are considered abnormal and adversely affect value.

China’s affinity for the smooth stone goes back a long way - to about 3400BC in fact, when tribes were digging up deposits in the Yangtze River Delta to fashion into everything from weapons to cooking implements. Probably initially prized for its hardness and resilience, its beauty soon saw the stone take on a more ceremonial role. Worship of the stone arguably reached its apex in “jade” burial suits: odd, robotic-looking contraptions comprising panels that were wired together to house the bodies of particularly wealthy Han noblemen. The suits were based on the by-then widespread belief that “jade” didn’t just look good, but boasted magical abilities to ward off decay and disease. Its virtues were extolled by sages such as Confucius, who claimed it embodied wisdom, energy and truth to such an extent that it was as precious as the Tao itself. However, Royals far preferred Jadeite, which China began importing from Myanmar (Burma) in the early 19th century.

The much-vaunted substance appeared everywhere, from the mouths of opium pipes (to prolong the longevity of the smoker) to dining implements (to transfer energy to the food) and the palms of politicians (“jade” talismans were said to help the holder through tricky negotiations). While “jade” liquor is no longer in fashion and few people cram “jade” pieces into the mouths of corpses any more, a healthy respect for the stone remains. “Jade” bracelets, which are believed to be effective in combatting rheumatism, are worn by many people to this day. This includes the very expensive pieces made from Jadeite.

Tony Try

[Information taken from a number of sources including Gemmology Texts]

## CLUB NEWS

**Email: [editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au](mailto:editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au)**

**Bathurst Lapidary & Collectors Club Inc** will be having their Club Christmas party on December 6th. The Club's last workshop is on 13th Dec, and their breakup lunch is on the 16th.

**Canberra Lapidary Club** will have their Annual Peter Blythe Auction on Thursday November 12. It will be held in the Scout Hall (next to our premises), Tooms Place, Lyons. Doors open at 7pm, Auction starts at 8:00pm.

**Bribie Island Gem & Fossicking Club Inc.** will have their Christmas Party at their Club Rooms on Saturday 12th December 2020 at 5:30pm start in D Shed circular open area Buffett. The Club will supply catering, cold salad, prawns etc and entertainment music. Members free. Non-members \$10. The Club will close on Thursday 17th December 2020 & re-open 8:00am Monday 11th January 2021.

**Lismore Lapidary Gem & Lapidary Club Inc** have begun planning for Gemfest 2021. The Club had a field trip to Cooper's creek, where they found chalcedony, jasper and agate. There is another field trip planned for November 13,14 and 15 to prospect for gold.

**Illawarra Lapidary Club** are hoping to have a Christmas 'do' on the lawns of the Club's premises on 10th December. They have a field trip planned for early 2021 to Tambar Springs .

**Tea Tree Gully Gem And Mineral Club** newsletters can be accessed on the club website. Clicking/tap on...TTGGMC Website then click/tap on the 'Newsletters' tag—scroll the picture up to view the newsletter list below, and then click/tap on the newsletter title you wish to view (click/tap on download first if you intend to print the newsletter).

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**EVENTS**

**General information on which events are going ahead and which have been cancelled, can be found on the following link:**

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

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**Illawarra Lapidary club inc**

**28th February 2021**

Rock Swap – Stuart Park

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**Canberra Lapidary Club**

**13th & 14th March 2021**

New dates for Rock Swap next year.

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**AFLACA (<https://aflaca.org.au/>)**

**GEMBOREE 2021 Tasmania**

To be held at Hobart Show Grounds,

Glenorchy from 2nd to 5th April 2021.

Full details can be found on the AFLACA GEMBOREE website:

<https://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/>

**GEMBOREE information booklets are available through this link.**