



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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President	Barbara Try (Northern Districts) 0417 676435
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Vice president	Tony Try (Central Coast)
Secretary	Kathy Selwood (Orange) 6362 7917 secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
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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
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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: March 24th 2021 at 1pm

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you all for your patience while we had a few issues with the last issue!

Fingers crossed the news to come is on time.

Thanks!

Alishya

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

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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Message from the President

The last newsletter was a little late due to technology problems and we hope in the near future these bugs will be sort out.

February has been very busy for all the NSW judges. NSW has judge the GEMBOREE entries for Tasmania. This involved two full weekends of judging firstly at the Parramatta/Holroyd Lapidary clubrooms and then again at the Central Coast Lapidary clubrooms. This mammoth task was completed and I would like to thank everyone that was involved. Without you this would not have happen.

The GEMKHANA schedule is on the council’s website if anyone is interested in entering please check it out.

Soon after the Hobart GEMBOREE I will be looking for potential judges to take part in some training courses.

Barbara Try
President

Minutes of the COMMITTEE MEETING of 24 February 2021

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 & Shirley Flynn), Port Hacking (Tony Offord), Parramatta/Holroyd (John Behrens, Ray Powell), Illawarra (Joan Zealey).

Apologies: Blue Mountains (Kim Cooke), AFG (Col Wright), Port Hacking (Bob McLean), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane), Blaxland (Pam & Alec Gardiner),

Moved: Goulburn, Seconded Central Coast that apologies be accepted.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 27 January 2021

Moved Western Suburbs, *seconded*, Parramatta/Holroyd that minutes be accepted.

Business Arising:

- 1/ Storage & insurance bills for trailer
- 2/ Mick’s testing & tag machine cost

Business arising from minutes: moved Port Hacking seconded Goulburn

Correspondence: See attached list.

Business Arising: nil

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

Treasurer’s Report:

General a/c:	Inc \$1,050.00	Exp \$600.00	Bal at 15/02/2021 \$2,924.78
GEMKHANA a/c:	Inc \$0.00	Exp \$400.00	Bal at 15/02/2021 \$6,438.23
GEMBOREE a/c:	Inc \$0.00	Exp \$0.00	Bal at 15/02/2021 \$4,034.72

Accounts for payment:

- 1/ P.O. Box 188 - paid
- 2/ Sue \$47 judging expenses
- 3/ P.O. Box for GEMBOREE \$136.00
- 4/ check trailer storage & insurance

Moved Port Hacking seconded Parramatta/Holroyd that the report be accepted.

Webmaster: No report

G&L NEWS Editor: No report

Education Report: No report

Facebook: No report

Mail Person: Feb newsletter to go out

GEMKHANA

1/ Drapes will be cut into 4 sizes

GEMBOREE: Mudgee 2022.

Event insurance to be arranged 2021

Paperwork on web for Mudgee grants Web to be checked.

Field Trips maybe maps meeting needed on fossicking

Trophies splitting, facing & shaping continuing

Catering – Men’s shed, Cooks Gap, coffee cart (2), ice cream van

Welcome page from GEMBOREE Co-Ordinator for April GEMBOREE Newsletter

Age of Fishers display to be asked

Dinosaurs display to be asked

Reports to be accepted moved: Central Coast Seconded: Goulburn

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1/ Voting on AFLACA submissions.

2/ Illawarra rock swap ON

General Business Moved Western Suburbs, Seconded Parramatta/Holroyd.

Meeting closed 1.09pm

Next meeting: 24 March via zoom

Meeting dates for 2020: 28 April, 26 May, 23 June, 25 August, 22 September (GEMKHANA), 27 October, 24 November, 8 December & AGM

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

2021 NSW GEMKHANA

THIS IS A CHALLENGE TO ALL NSW CLUBS

The competition schedule is now out on the Council's website, and available for download and we ask for your support to encourage your members to compete in the competition. "Interstate Clubs are also welcome to enter

Entries close on the 21st August 2021.

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 SURPRIZED AND WIN A PRIZE.

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The first newsletter for the 58th GEMBOREE 2022 National Gem & Mineral Show to be held at Mudgee, New South Wales over Easter 2022. is now out.

If you wish to receive this series of newsletters containing articles about minerals and fossils, the history around Mudgee and district, gold, mining from the old days and lots more, then just contact me on my email amcrae@lisp.com.au

Alan McRae, FAIHA, GEMBOREE 2022 Publicity Manager and Newsletter Editor.



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“L” is for Labradorite

Labradorite was first discovered in Canada during the 1700s . As well as being used by the Inuit people of Canada it was used as a semi-precious gemstone in Europe during 1700-1800s.

Labradorite is a feldspar, which is the most plentiful mineral on earth, and is a mixture of silica and aluminum, which makes up more than half of the Earth's crust.

There are few gemstones that display the 'play-of-colour' phenomenon better than **Labradorite** ie reds, blues, purples, yellows and more dance before your eyes as it turns in your hand.

The Schiller effect, labradorescence, light interference and lattice distortions are some of the scientific explanations for flashes of colour in **Labradorite** gemstones. But perhaps the Inuit people of Labrador in Canada explain it best by saying that the Northern Lights or Aurora Borealis were trapped within **Labradorite** rocks.

It may come as a surprise that the various colours displayed in high quality **Labradorite** are not really present in the gemstone or as a result of mineral impurities. **Labradorite** is made up of thin layers of different minerals and as light travels through these layers it breaks up the white light into all the colours of the rainbow, which then bounce back, get deflected, get absorbed and flash.

This is not a very common phenomenon and there are a few different names given to it, such as Labradorescence, adularescence and adventurescence. However as these words were considered difficult to say someone came up with the “Schiller” effect from an old German word meaning sparkle, twinkle or play-of-colour.

Most **Labradorite** has a dark base colour with blue, green, yellow or red being the most likely colours to show. Gold, purple, teal and orange can also show and examples with a strong colour showing are the most sought after.

As it is basically an opaque gemstone, **Labradorite** is usually cut into rounded or domed shapes – called cabochons in the gems trade. Cutting a **Labradorite** gemstone to capture this display at its best is a real challenge.

In Australia, an unusual type of transparent, yellow **Labradorite** feldspar occurs in the Hogarth Range, New South Wales, and the Springsure area, Queensland. Large, clear gemstones can be faceted from this material but care is needed when cutting and handling because of its two directions of perfect cleavage.

It has been said that finding this gemstone in both of these areas is very easy, requiring only a sieve, or as one person has said a “Pooper-Scooper”

Tony Try

Information has been taken from a number of sources

CLUB NEWS

Email: editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

Hawkesbury Show 2021

For those wishing to enter the Hawkesbury show in the ‘Craft’ section please take note of the following dates:

Entry Closing Date (Post) – Tuesday 6th April, 4pm

Entry Closing Date (Online) – Monday 12th April, 4pm

Delivery Date – Friday 16th April 10am -4pm & Saturday 17th April 10am-4pm

Further entry information can be found on the G & L Website.

Order of Australia Medal

For those who didn't already know, the lovely Barbara Try was awarded the Order of Australia Medal on Australia Day for ‘Service to the Creative Arts, particularly to Lapidary’.

I'm sure we can all agree this is well deserved. Congratulations Barbara!



We want to hear from you!

We want to hear from you, the Gem and Lapidary News reader!

Weather it be an unbelievable story of something that’s left a lasting memory, someone who is doing something amazing who deserves some recognition, an amazing find from when lady luck was on your side or even just a story about when your misfortune provided a comical story for others... Lets hear it!

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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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- ◇ **Fri 19th-Sun 21st Wollongong** Crystal, Craft and Jewellery Festival Wollongong, New South Wales, City Diggers, Wollongong.
- ◇ **Sat 20th– Sun 21st March** New England Lapidary and Fossicking Club Inc 2021 30th Annual Gem and Craft Show, Armidale Show Ground.
- ◇ **Sat 27th- Sun 28th March** Jewellery, Gem & Mineral Fair, East Devonport School Gymnasium
- ◇ **Fri 2nd- Mon 5th April 2021 GEMBOREE 2021** will be held at Hobart Show Grounds, Glenorchy

Full details can be found on the AFLACA GEMBOREE website:

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

- ◇ **Sat 17th - Sun 18th April** Greater Sydney Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Crystal Expo, South Windsor, western Sydney, NSW. The show venue is the Hawkesbury Indoor Stadium, Drummond St, South Windsor.
- ◇ **Sat 29th-Sun 29th May** Winter Gem Show, EPIC, Canberra, ACT.
- ◇ **Saturday 24th-Sunday 25th** Gemkhana, Hawkesbury Showground, Clarenden