



Gem & Lapidary News

June

2021

Print Post Approved PP243352/00002
ISSN 2208-5556

Vol 47

No. 5

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)
Secretary	Kathy Selwood (Orange) 6362 7917 secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Minutes Secretary	Mick Lane (Blue Mountains)
Treasurer	Bob McLean (Port Hacking)
Assistant Treasurer	Tony Offord (Port Hacking)
Committee:	Sue O'Neil (Goulburn) Joan Zealey (Illawarra) Marcia Hill (Western Suburbs)

APPOINTMENTS

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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: April 28th 2021 at 1pm

EDITOR'S NOTES

Please make sure you send through any newsletters before the deadlines so I can get any club news in.

Thank you!

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 GEMKHANA is top priority with the closing date for the Competition entries on 20 August 2021. Another call for Clubs to take advantage of the free table has been made.

The GEMBOREE 2022 in Mudgee is very fast approaching and the committee are working very hard to make this event a great success. Another visit to Mudgee is planned for this month to finalise arrangements.

A Cabochon Judging Course will take place on 31 July and 1 August at Northern Districts Lapidary Club.

The Jewellery Judging Course will take place later in the year. If you are interested in any of the judging courses please contact me.

Barbara Try, President

Minutes of the COMMITTEE MEETING of 26 May 2021

held at Parramatta Holroyd Club

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) Parramatta/Holroyd (John Behrens & Ray Powell), Port Hacking (Bob McLean, Tony Offord), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane, Kim Cooke), Blaxland (Pam & Alec Gardiner), Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill & Brian Beauchamp), Illawarra (Joan Zealey

Apologies: Western Suburbs (Ainslie & Shirley Flynn), AFG (Col Wright).

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

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 28 April 2021

Moved Western Suburbs, *seconded*, Goulburn that minutes be accepted.

Business Arising:

1/ Storage bill for trailer completed

2/ Trailer rego completed

Business arising from minutes: moved Blue Mountains seconded Port Hacking

Correspondence: See attached list.

Business Arising:

1/ State Library missing March issue

2/ Desmond Best 10" Diamond Saw blade \$100 each

3/ email regarding kids classes referred to nearest club.

4/ Mineral Store Australia closing and Australian Rock & Minerals taking business

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

Treasurer's Report:

General a/c: Inc \$140.00 Exp \$1,000.00 Bal at 23/05/2021 \$1,729.78

GEMKHANA a/c: Inc \$1,584.00 Exp \$280.00 Bal at 23/05/2021 \$4,302.23

GEMBOREE a/c: Inc \$1,026.00 Exp \$289.20 Bal at 23/05/2021 \$3,672.47

Accounts for payment:

1/ \$289.20 post for GEMBOREE books

2/ \$280 for printing

3/ \$500.00 posting newsletters

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

J&R Report:

- 1/ 29 August GEMKHANA judges 10-12
- 2/ 18 September Central Coast judges -6
- 3/ 17 October Northern Districts judges-6
- 4/ request for people who would like to be judges for cabs -6 31 July & 1Aug, jewellery-3, faceting & minerals.

Facebook: Posts just put up for GEMKHANA

Mail Person: Getting a few bounce backs on emails

GEMKHANA

- 1/ Flyer – entry prices, Adults \$10 Children U16 free
- 2/ Free table to clubs (8' -2.4m), Canberra, Western Suburbs & NDLC have booked
- 3/ QR code & event can use current Showgrounds with modifications
- 4/ camping \$20 per night per site payable to showground
- 5/ Competition entries close 20 August

GEMBOREE: Mudgee 2022.

Event insurance to be arranged 2021

Paperwork on web for Mudgee grants Quarter 2 open 1st July closes 12 August – Kathy, Bob & Col

Club Trophy – Ray Powell needs to be extended

Catering – second, coffee cart needed

Age of Fishers display free space have said yes

Dinosaurs display to be asked – free space – Barb to ring

Mudgee meeting date 15 & 16 June

Flyer & posters quotes needed

Flyer info - Adult \$10 concession/students with cards \$5 U16 free over 16 \$10

Flyer opening times Friday 10-5 Saturday & Sunday 9-5 Monday 9-1 with competition section closing at 12 noon

QR code & Covid Plan for events - can we use A.R.E.C. current plan - will ask.

Presentation dinner 6:30pm \$35pp

Bus – book 6 months before

Reports to be accepted moved: Illawarra Seconded: Blue Mountains

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1/ Emails received from business newsletters, if in our newsletters (paid ad) can sent to clubs if not no distributions.

2/ Trailer break away, braking needs to be installed, & brakes on all wheels 2 ton and over

General Business Moved Orange, Seconded Northern Districts.

Meeting closed 2.23pm

Next meeting: 23 June Parramatta/Holroyd rooms

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

2021 NSW GEMKHANA

25th & 26th September 2021

Hawkesbury Showground, 40 Racecourse Rd,
Clarendon.

ATTENTION ALL CLUBS

If you wish to have a 2.4 metre table at the GEMKHANA at no charge please notify the G & L Secretary as soon as possible.

(PO Box 188, Orange 2800 or email
secretary@gemplapidarycouncilnsw.org.au)

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“O” is for Opal

Opal was rare and very valuable in antiquity; In Europe, it was a gem prized by royalty. Until the opening of vast deposits in Australia in the 19th century the only known source was Červenica beyond the Roman frontier in Slovakia.

Opal is the national gemstone of Australia.

Australia's **Opal** fields lie in the three states of Queensland, New South Wales, and South Australia, along the site of the ancient Great Inland Sea, or Great Artesian Basin. . White, or Milky **Opal**, is found in South Australia; Black **Opal** is found in Lightning Ridge, NSW, and Boulder **Opal** is found in Queensland.

Opal is formed from a solution of silicon dioxide and water. As water runs down through the earth, it picks up silica from sandstone, and carries this silica-rich solution into cracks and voids , caused by natural faults or decomposing fossils. As the water evaporates, it leaves behind a silica deposit.

The chemical conditions responsible for producing **Opal** are still being researched, however some maintain that there must be acidic conditions at some stage during the process to form silica spheres, possibly created by microbes.

While volcanic-hosted and other types of precious opal are found in Australia, virtually all economic production comes from sediment-hosted deposits associated with the Great Australian Basin.

The boulder **Opal** found in Queensland forms in a slightly different method to other types of **Opal**, forming inside an ironstone concretion. As opposed to other sedimentary precious **Opal**, boulder **Opal** is attached to the ironstone, and stones are usually cut with the natural ironstone backing intact. Solid **Opals** may be cut from the ironstone material where the opal is of sufficient thickness.

Colour is the first thing that you will notice about an Opal. Red is the rarest and most sought out colour. In order of value, the most valuable colour is red, then orange, green, blue and purple. However, **Opal** is usually never a single colour.

While there are a variety of different “**Opals**” found in many other parts of the world, Australia produces approximately 80% of the world's gem quality **Opal**.

Tony Try

Information taken from a wide variety of sources



Northern Districts Lapidary Club

GEM and MINERAL SHOW

**Sale of Minerals, Slabs, Silver Jewellery,
Books, Plants and Lapidary Equipment.**

plus

Displays of the Club Member's Work.

Tea / Coffee and Cookies available

a gold coin donation can be made if you wish.

Enquire about Club membership and check out our Cutting Room.

**Saturday and Sunday, 30th and 31st of October 2021,
both days 9 am to 5 pm.**

Entry: \$5.00 per person, children under 16 free

**At the Beecroft Community Centre, Corner Beecroft Road
& Copeland Road, Beecroft 2119**

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GEMKHANA 2021



9am - 5pm Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th September

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Hawkesbury District Agricultural Show Grounds
40 Racecourse Rd, Clarendon.
Children's Activities.

Adults \$10 Children under 16 Free

Contact Bob McLean gemkhana@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
<https://www.facebook.com/GemLapidaryCouncilNSW/>

GEMBOREE 2022 MUDGEE



Presentation Dinner Saturday 16th April 2022 at 6.30pm in the Small Pavilion

A 3 Course Dinner @ \$35.00 per person

Surname:**Given Names:**

Address:

State:**Postcode:****Phone:**

Your Club:.....**Number of persons attending:**.....

Email:

Please ensure this form arrives prior to 12 February 2022, all cheques are to be made to the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Inc. Send to PO Box 188, Orange NSW 2800.

Please tick if using EFT – to GEMBOREE Acc - BSB 032-270 Account No. 264133. **Quote Surname, Initial and Dinner in the reference field for EFT**

Any Queries please contact Marcia Hill - Mobile 0477 770 441 or email snoopy39@bigpond.com

The future of lapidary clubs.

In a world where there are so many other distractions, it would be easy to think that lapidary would be a diminishing craft. Not so! If anything, it is gathering momentum, but how do we reach new prospective members?

Whilst many people outside of the hobby are unfamiliar with the true term lapidary, they are super interested in the craftsmanship of hand made items. Particularly, jewellery or items that add to the aesthetic of the modern living space. They crave a story behind the piece. They value the individuality of a piece that isn't massed produced and they would love to make it themselves, but don't know how. (This is where we come in).

What does this mean for lapidary clubs that wish to future-proof themselves against attrition? It means there is a whole, untapped demographic out there who could be involved in lapidary if only they knew what it offered.

With a little bit of tweaking, clubs can continue with their core skills and activities and appeal to a whole new audience that will ensure that lapidary stays strong into the future.

* Make a plan. What are your club's expectations and goals for the next year, 5 years, 10 years.....?

* Marketing. Where is the audience that you wish to engage with? Where do they access their information? How can your club be seen by them? You're going to need to venture into their world in order to invite them into yours.

* Media, of the social kind. It's not everyone's cup of tea, but the fact is, it is what people use to communicate, share ideas and information, and seek inspiration. It is also a way to reach out and let people know about your club. Beyond that, it's a great way to see what is trending, what people are interested in and what is fashionable. One look at Etsy or Pinterest will open up a whole world of inspiration that can be adapted into lapidary.

* Make yourself visible. The previous 2 points are invaluable, but nothing beats good old fashioned face to face contact. Your enthusiasm for lapidary is the key to getting new members, so put on shows, book your club's stand at GEMKHANA and the GEMBOREE and show new people what is possible at your club.

* Make things happen. Ask new members, and prospective members for that matter, what it is they would like from a lapidary club. Do they want field trips? What would they like to learn? If your club doesn't have the skillset or the ability to cater for certain activities, can you bring someone in who can?

So, there you have it. By no means is this quick guide the complete answer to future proofing your club, but hopefully there are some practical, yet simple ideas to expand on to help reach a whole new demographic.

Kim Cooke

Social Media Specialist



ILLAWARRA LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

It is with deep regret that we inform you of the passing of
Illawarra Lapidary Club Life Member **Joan May Sheppard**



Joan passed away peacefully on Friday 21st May, 2021 aged 90 years.

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CLUB NEWS

Email: editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

- Northern Districts Lapidary Club are holding a Working Bee this month to clean the clubrooms in preparation for their Exhibition at the End of October. One member was heard to say, this will be a easy job as the Club is the cleanest it has ever been due to Covid requirements.
- Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club will be holding another casting session in September.
- A number of Lapidary Club's have held "Australia's Biggest Morning Tea" with great success

A HOLE LOT OF TROUBLE

We were camping out at a shearing shed just out of Condo, and it was raining. My mate Sticks asked the boss cocky if he had a job to fill the day. The boss said, "You can grab a shovel and dig out the rabbits at the back of the sheep yards if you like".

Ten minutes later, the boss see Sticks sitting outside. "It didn't take you long to dig them out," he said.

"Bugger them," said Sticks. "There are enough holes there—they can get out themselves."

(Taken from R.M Williams OUTBACK—Dec/Jan 2020)

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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/>

-
- ◇ **Sat 24th-Sun 25th September** GEMKHANA, Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon
 - ◇ **Sat 2nd to Mon 4th October** The 43rd Annual Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia Seminar, Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club in Ryedale Rd, West Ryde. The theme is “43 Shades of Silver” George Laking bglaking@tech2u.com.au more info will be published as it comes to hand www.minsocnsw.org.au
 - ◇ **Sat 16th & Sun 17th October** Central Coast Crystal, Gem & Jewellery Show, Mingara Event Centre, Wyong Rd Tumbi Umbi. Open Sat 9am to 5pm & Sun 9am to 4pm.
 - ◇ **Sat 30th & Sun 31st October** Northern Districts Lapidary Club’s Exhibition at Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Rd, Beecroft—Open 9am to 5pm both days.
 - ◇ **Sat 30th & Sun 31st October** Canberra Spring Gem Show. EPIC Canberra Act—For further info contact Convener Norm Menadue (02) 6258 6631