



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).

EXECUTIVE

President	Barbara Try O.A.M. (Northern Districts) 0417 676435
Senior Vice President	Colin Wright (AFG)
Vice president	Tony Try (Central Coast)
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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

Public Officer	John Behrens
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Editor	Vacant editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
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 8—2021 at 1pm

EDITOR'S NOTES

Please we need an editor for this newsletter if you can help it would be much appreciated. It is not an arduous task. Please contact Barbara Try on 0417676435.

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.

Contents

Page(s)

G & L Council Information	2
Editor's Notes and Council contact information.	3
Message from the President	4
Committee Meeting Minutes	5, 6,
GEMBOREE 2022 Information	7
Mineral Oddities	8
'U' is for Unakite by Tony Try	9
Club News	10
Events	12



Message from the President

Well things are slowly getting back to what is the new normal with Covid and Health rules.

The arrangements for the Mudgee GEMBOREE 2022 are progressing very well.

The second Cabochon Judging Course took place on 6 & 7 November 2021 with two candidates from regional NSW, both candidates were successful and they are Joe O'Neil from Goulburn Gem and Lapidary Club and Sue Porter from Bathurst Lapidary and Collectors Club.

As the year ends I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Stay safe and stay well.

Barbara J Try O.A.M.

President

Minutes of the COMMITTEE MEETING of 24 November 2021

At Parramatta Holroyd Club

The meeting was opened at 1:00pm by President Barbara Try (Northern Districts) who welcomed delegates from the following clubs: Central Coast (Tony Try), Orange (Kathy Selwood) Port Hacking (Bob McLean, Tony Offord) Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill, Ainslie & Shirley Flynn), Illawarra (Joan Zealey), Goulburn (Sue & Joe O'Neil), Parramatta/Holroyd (John Behrens, Ray Powell),

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

Moved: Parramatta/Holroyd, **Seconded:** Central Coast that apologies be accepted.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 27 October 2021

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

Business Arising:

- 1/ Trailer break away braking system completed
- 2/ Webster's trailer contents insurance completed

Moved Port Hacking **seconded:** Parramatta/Holroyd that Business arising from minutes be approved.

Correspondence: See attached list.

Business Arising from Correspondence:

- 1/ \$2,000.00 from Event assistance grant
- 2/ Age of Fishes cannot make GEMBOREE

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

Treasurer's Report:

General a/c: Inc \$1,200.00 Exp \$2,423.47 Bal at 24/11/2021 \$770.35
GEMKHANA a/c: Inc \$00.00 Exp \$1,200.00 Bal at 24/11/2021 \$3,292.73
GEMBOREE a/c: Inc \$1,026.00 Exp \$2,527.00 Bal at 24/11/2021 \$5,777.27

Accounts for payment:

Tony Offord deposit to AREC - Paid

Moved Port Hacking **seconded**, Illawarra that the report be accepted.

J&R Report:

- 1/ Judging course for cabs, 5 new cab judges
- 2/ Jewellery, mineral and faceting judges needed
- 3/ 19th & 20th February 2022 for GEMBOREE 2022 Judging at Parramatta/Holroyd Lapidary Club.
- 4/ 26th & 27th February 2022 for GEMBOREE 2022 Judging at Central Coast.
- 5/ 3rd or 4th September 2022 for GEMKHANA Judging at Parramatta/Holroyd Lapidary Club (4th is Fathers' Day preference is the 3rd but we need to wait for confirmation from Parra/Holroyd)

Webmaster: No report.

G&L NEWS Editor: Still need an Editor

Education Report: Bathurst carving course 8 January

Social Media: No report

Mail Person: 45 newsletters & minutes posted.

GEMKHANA No report.

GEMBOREE: Mudgee 2022.

- Event insurance to be arranged 2022
- Mudgee events assistance grants – completed will receive \$2,000.00
- GEMBOREE trophy's slowly being put together
- Club Champion Trophy – PT-04 Ray Powell is putting it back together
- Budget for Multi Media Publicity & other standard Publicity \$500 allocated
- Working Bee on contents of the trailer 21 Nov - done
- NSW clubs & tourist centres to receive Flyers & posters being distributed
- Trailer transport to Mudgee, weekend before storage at AREC
- Alan McRae trophy sponsors notes on – Illawarra & Western Suburbs to help
- Fossicking sites being arranged

Reports to be accepted moved: Goulburn Seconded: Parramatta/Holroyd

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 1/ Reports needed by end of November please for AGM – 8 December
- 2/ Invoices to clubs to be sent December/January

General Business: moved: Western Suburbs Seconded: Central Coast

Meeting closed: 2.03pm

**58th GEMBOREE 2022**

***At Mudgee's Australian Rural Education Centre, 267
Ulan Road, Bombira***

Easter 15th to 18th April 2022

COMPETITION ENTRIES ARE DUE

5TH FEBRUARY 2022

Just a reminder that the closing date for your entries is fast approaching. This means from the beginning of December you have ***9 weeks*** left to finish your prize winning entries. It is also very important that you read the schedule and the Competitor & Judging Manual to ensure you are aware of what is required for you to enter. A copy of the schedule is on the AFLACA—GEMBOREE page on the website.

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

For any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via email
twotrys@bigpond.net.au or by phone 0417676435

Barbara Try, Competition Chairperson

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Mineral Oddities



Thick Blades of Rhodochrosite

“Wutong Princess”



Bladed Wulfenite from China

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“U” is for Unakite

Unakite is often thought of as a Jasper, but this is incorrect.

Unakite is the name used for a coarse-grained granitic rock that, after metamorphism, contains abundant pink orthoclase and pistachio-green epidote. These colours have helped it become a popular lapidary material. It is easily cut and polished to produce beads, cabochons, small sculptures, and other ornamental items. It is also a popular material for producing tumbled stones. **Unakite** is attractive, abundant, inexpensive, and frequently seen in the craft jewellery marketplace.

Unakite is not seen in fine jewellery, seldom seen in commercial jewellery, but is a common stone used in craft jewellery. Unweathered, fine-grained **Unakite** with mineral crystals less than a few millimetres in size is relatively easy to work. It is suitable for cutting by a person who has a small amount of lapidary experience. The hardness's of the primary minerals (epidote = 6 to 7; and, orthoclase = 6) are close enough that severe undercutting or overcutting usually does not occur. It is only when the grain size is larger, or the piece being cut is very small, that differences in hardness will make cutting difficult.

Unakite is found in the deformed rocks of convergent plate boundaries where deeply-formed granites have been metamorphosed and exposed by weathering and erosion. It occurs where nearby fractures have delivered the hydrothermal fluids that altered the granite

I have been to a fossicking area just North of Alice Springs which is easily accessible and is well known for its supply of **Unakite**. I have no doubt there are many more sites that are known to the various local lapidary clubs around Australia

Tony Try

[Information taken from a number of sources]



CLUB NEWS

Email: editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

- Campbelltown & District Lapidary Club will be holding their End Of Year BBQ on 11 December 2021 at Lot 1 Bensley Road Ingleburn.
- Northern Districts Lapidary Club held their belated AGM on 20 November with 24 members attending in person and another 9 attended via Zoom.
- Central Coast Lapidary Club will not be having a Christmas gathering in the Club building this year. They are instead organising a picnic morning, to be held (weather permitting from 10.00am until 1.00pm on Friday 10 December 2021 at the Long Jetty foreshore.
- Parramatta/Holroyd Lapidary Club are holding their Christmas Afternoon on 4th December 2021 between 1.00 & 3.00pm.
- Lismore Gem Lapidary Club are holding their AGM and Christmas Lunch on Sunday 5th December 2021.
- NSW Mineralogical Society will be having their Christmas Gathering on 5th December at Parramatta/Holroyd Lapidary Club rooms from 11.00 to 3.00pm
- Bathurst Lapidary and Collectors Club are holding their Member's Family Christmas Party on the 6th December and on 15th December is the Lapidary Breakup Lunch at 12 noon after conclusion of normal lapidary session. This is the last workshop day for 2021.

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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/>

- ◇ **25th - 28th February** 'Bathurst and District Re-members World War 2 Exhibition 2022' - Bathurst Showground
- ◇ **8th—14 March 2022** - Canberra Lapidary Club Rock Swap (Parrot Park, EPIC)
- ◇ **15th—18th April 2022—GEMBOREE 2022**, Venue: AREC at Mudgee.
- ◇ **15 & 16 May 2022—30th Lismore GEMFEST**
Lismore Showground
- ◇ **20—22 May 2022—Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Show—Mallee Pavilion**
- ◇ **24th & 25th September 2022—GEMKHANA—**
Hawkesbury Showground