

# **Gem & Lapidary News**

## **February**

## **2022**

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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
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Vice president	Tony Try (Central Coast)
Secretary	Kathy Selwood (Orange) 6362 7917 secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Minutes Secretary	Mick Lane (Blue Mountains)
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Assistant Treasurer	Tony Offord (Port Hacking)
Committee:	Sue O'Neil (Goulburn) Joe O'Neil (Goulburn) Marcia Hill (Western Suburbs)

### APPOINTMENTS

Public Officer	Tony Offord
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Editor	Vacant editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Webmaster	Alex Maitland (Temporary Webmaster) webmaster@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Equipment Officer	Mick Lane
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: February 23—2022 at 1pm**

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Please we desperately 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.

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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.

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page(s)</b>
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
Beautiful Agates	8
'V' is for Varisite by Tony Try	9
"Mudgee Mud"	10 & 11
GEMBOREE FLYER	12
Club News	13 & 14
Events	16



### **Message from the President**

Welcome to the new Year - I trust everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Covid has started the year with a bang but it appears we can, and will, weather this storm as long as everyone follows the rules.

The priority now is to tie up all the loose ends for the GEMBOREE and ensure that we have not forgotten anything. With now less than 3 months to this event it is our main focus. Clubs, if you can help in any way it would be greatly appreciated.

For those who are going please complete the necessary forms that are on the AFLACA website.

Stay safe and stay well.

Barbara J Try O.A.M.

President

**Minutes from G & L Council Meeting, 19 January 2022**

At Parramatta/Holroyd Lapidary 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) Parramatta/Holroyd (Ray Powell), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane), AFG (Col Wright), Illawarra (Joan Zealey),

**Apologies:** Blaxland (Pam & Alec Gardiner), Blue Mountains (Kim Cooke), Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill, Ainslie & Shirley Flynn), Goulburn (Sue & Joe O'Neil),

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 08 December 2021**

Moved Central Coast, *seconded*, Port Hacking that the minutes be accepted.

**Business Arising:**

1/ Invoices to clubs to be sent December - completed

**Correspondence:** See attached list.

**Business Arising from Correspondence:**

1/ Coffs Harbour needs another copy of their invoice

**J&R Report:**

1/ Letter from Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association – Re judging for their show on Monday 2 May 2022, yes plus two trophies.

2/ Canberra Lapidary Club - Royal Canberra Show Judging.

3/ SA 2024 GEMBOREE schedule for comment from J & R committee

**Webmaster:** No report.

**G&L NEWS Editor:** Still Need an Editor

**Education Report:** Bathurst carving class went well with 11 students

**Social Media:** Facebook has given out 1<sup>st</sup> family pass – won by T Roche for the GEMBOREE

**Mail Person:** No report.

**GEMKHANA**

1/ Schedule released to Web - soon

**GEMBOREE: Mudgee 2022.**

Event insurance to be arranged 2022, Col to follow up.

GEMBOREE trophy's almost finished—last 9 to complete

Ray Powell - Club Champion Trophy –Ray has put it back together

Trailer transport to Mudgee, weekend before, storage at AREC arranged

Alan McRae trophy sponsors notes on – – Illawarra & Western Suburbs to help – no further action

Fossicking sites getting there – sorting out days and to what sites

Bus trips Saturday and Sunday times, locations – Sofala, Gulgong & Windeyer pub for lunch

Inside traders to feature on Facebook to lead up

Reminder – that camping sites behind outside tailgating are powered sites - NO water

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1/ AFLACA Agenda items – Motion AFLACA take over ownership & maintenance for all four perpetual trophies.

If perpetual trophy is awarded that the state holding that GEMBOREE is responsible for the plate to be engraved with winner and date. Moved Barbara Try second-ed Bob McLean

2/ Ray Powell has revamped the 3 Perpetual Trophies that are VGCA's responsibility. If there is any cost, it will be forwarded to VGCA.

3/ AFLACA historian to be contacted for any photos of the perpetual trophies being award at the official presentations.

4/ Secretary to get another key cut for the trailer.

**Meeting closed:** 2.24pm

**Next meeting:** 23 February 2022



**REMINDER:** Clubs should keep in mind that any Club that assists with the practical running/organising of the GEMBOREE can have FREE tailgating space at the GEMBOREE for the duration of the event.

Keep in mind that material sold at the free tailgating stall **MUST** be Club Material—that is , it is not to be owned by an individual. It is aimed to benefit the Club as a whole.



**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**

By the time you read this notice—if you have not got your entries in the mail it will be too late.

On the other hand the GEMKHANA Schedule is now on the Gem Council website so you can continue to cut for Competitions.

Please do not forget to get your registration forms completed and sent to the Illawarra Lapidary Club to ensure your camping site. If you are staying in Mudgee I would make your booking ASAP, as a lot is happening in Mudgee over Easter.

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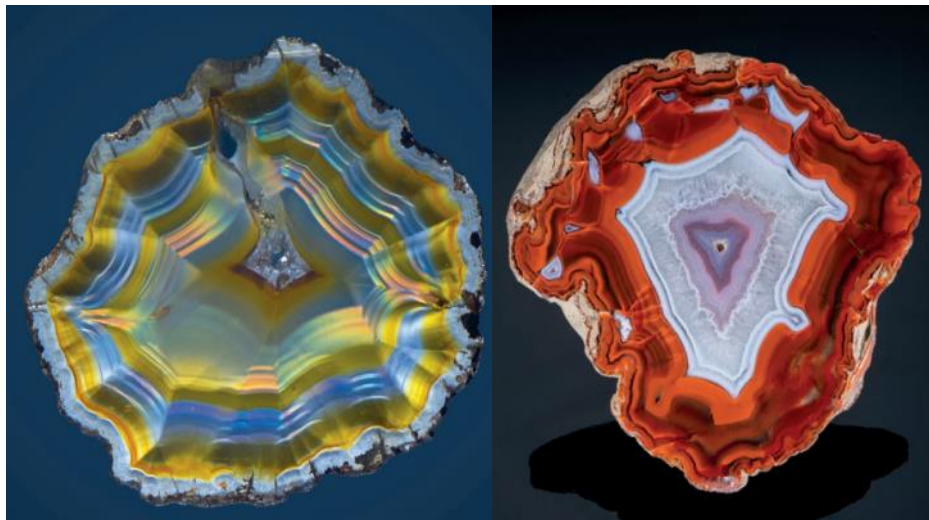
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# AGATES



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**“V” is for Variscite**

**Variscite** is a hydrated aluminium Phosphate.

**Variscite** is an opaque gemstone with interesting colour splotches and veins. It is usually a light or minty-green with whitish patterns. While **Variscite** is relatively rare, it occurs in many localities across the globe, however almost all **Variscite** gemstones originate from Utah, and for this reason it may also be called Utahlite.

A significant **Variscite** discovery was made in 2003 in Western Australia by Glenn Archer and David Vaughan from the Australian Outback Mining company. This new deposit is producing an exciting range of colours, ranging from delicate lime greens to darker material close to the colour of top grade chrysoprase, and through to a deep translucent emerald green.

The most unusual feature of this **Variscite** is its association with gold. Gold is unevenly distributed in the **Variscite** specimens, and ranges from discrete fine grains, to visible concentrations in the **Variscite**. There are larger single grains of gold in the rock matrix. Assays of up to 17g/t Au have been returned from some samples.

Much of this mined Variscite is also webbed. This is an added bonus as “**spiderweb Variscite**” is a highly sought after material for cutting cabochons’

People have created jewellery from **Variscites** since Neolithic times, more than 6,000 years ago. Neolithic beads carved from **Variscite** discovered in Brittany, France were called callaïs or callaina (callainite), after a gemstone described by the Classical Roman scholar Pliny the Elder. Although first believed to be turquoise from China, it became evident this material wasn't turquoise but **Variscite**. However, the name callaïs for these beads remains in use in art history and archeology.

While not proof of Neolithic trade between Europe and China, researchers have determined that some of these **Variscites** came from Sarrabus on the island of Sardinia (Italy). Thus, these artefacts still point towards a large prehistoric gem trade network in Europe.

**Variscite** is said to be a stone with a lovely vibration that will kindle joyous feelings and bring peace and harmony to your heart. It is excellent to aid anyone with stress or anxiety.

It enhances life by generating feelings of inner peace, love and compassion. It helps you to find solutions to problems.

*Obviously a great stone to have had during the Covid crisis !!*

Tony Try

{Information taken from a number of different sources}

## **The final NSW GEMBOREE Committee trip to Mudgee “Mudgee Mud”**

As everyone is aware, the NSW GEMBOREE next Easter is being held at Mudgee. Members of the GEMBOREE Committee have been making trips to Mudgee to organise this event for the last three years. A trip to Mudgee to finalise some last minute details was held on Thursday 13 January. A total of eight Committee members attended. While some members stayed overnight, others were only there for the day. It was a very busy time with visits to the Honey Haven; the Council; the Information Centre; The police station; the Club Mudgee to obtain \$2.20 special membership application forms and of course a lot of time out at AREC. Unfortunately, because of COVID, several other appointments had to be cancelled because they were no longer operating.

For those of you that know Mudgee well, you will be aware that there is a local beer called “Mudgee Mud”. However, the above title has nothing to do with that product.

Because of the number of appointments we had in a limited time the Committee split up. Kathy came down from Orange in her 4x4 in order to do a check on the various Field Trip destinations proposed for the those attending the GEMBOREE. We were not to meet her until later in the afternoon at Club Mudgee.

As you know Kathy has a reputation for doing things well. We received a telephone call from her to say that she would be late, because she had become well and truly bogged, but we were not to worry because she had contacted a local friend who was coming out to rescue her. Another phone call from Kathy an hour later said he had not arrived and she was still bogged. *[It turned out that the friend had not shown up because he had also become bogged !]*. However, two of the other Committee members also had four wheel drives and we told her that both vehicles were were coming out to get her,

The Committee members found her and pulled her out of where she had broken through a “crust” on the road and sunk into a wet “quick sand” type soil. But, because it was a narrow track Kathy had to move back again so

that they could turn around. She lived up to her reputation and got bogged again. !!! Ultimately they made their way out of the area and back to Club Mudgee where a number of cold liquids were badly needed because they had been digging her out in a 34C temperature. The friend from Mudgee that had also become bogged got himself out and also met us at the Club. I asked Kathy why she did not do any fossicking in the soils where she was bogged, while she waited, and got a very short answer!! As it was now getting late it was a quick scramble to organise the evening meal for the nine of us..

Again because of Kathy's "sinking" and holding us up it was time to split up again, with Kathy and the Porters heading for home, while the rest of us overnighted because of more appointments the next day.

This caused another drama. Tony "O" could not find his car keys. Club Mudgee staff were questioned because they were conscientiously cleaning tables etc as everyone left. They did not see the keys. Kathy had left so we rang her and asked her to check her bags etc in case she had accidentally picked them up. Tony 'O' went back to his room to make sure that he had not left them in there. On the way past his car it was found to be not locked. The first reaction was that whoever had the keys had opened the car and gone through it, but nothing was missing. By this time every one was getting really worried and trying to think of the best possible next steps.

While trying to discuss the various options down in the car-park we had a yell from Greg Cook who was up on the balcony of his accommodation at the motel, to say that he had found them in his pocket. In the scramble for the evening meal he had picked up his own keys as well as Tony's by mistake.

A sigh of relief from all of us.

Hence the heading "Mudgee Mud" – Maybe a better title would be "*Kathy's Mud*"

Tony Try

**PS *I was once told that "facts" should never get in the way of a good story***



# **GEMBOREE 2022**

incorporating the  
**58TH NATIONAL GEM &  
MINERAL SHOW**



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

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CLUB NEWS

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Rock Swap		
Date	Sat 12 - Sun 13 -Mon 14 March 2022	
Venue	Exhibition Park (EPIC) – Parrot Park	
Entry	Free	
Sales	Fossickers & dealers selling : Minerals, crystals, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, opals, fossils. Food Available	
Other	* Sieve for Sapphires * Pan for Gold	
Winter & Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Shows		
Winter Show :	Sat 21 May Sun 22 May	10am to 5pm 10am to 4pm
Spring Show :	Sat 29 Oct Sun 30 Oct	10am to 5pm 10am to 4pm
Venue	Exhibition Park (EPIC) - Mallee Pavilion	
Entry	\$7 Adults \$12 Family \$4 Concession Free Children to Age 16	
Sales	Gem, Mineral, Jewellery & Lapidary dealers Minerals, fossils, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, crystals, opals, beads. Food available	
Other	Displays of members' collections. Demonstrations of cabbing & faceting. Age of Fishes Museum – Information & Fossil Exhibits	
2023 Show Dates		
Rock Swap :	Sat 18 – Sun 19 Mar 2023	
Winter Gem Show :	Sat 20 – Sun 21 May 2023	
Spring Gem Show :	Sat 28 – Sun 29 Oct 2023	

Rev : A



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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://gemplapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/events/>

- ◇ **25th - 28th February** 'Bathurst and District Remembers World War 2 Exhibition 2022' - Bathurst Showground
- ◇ **12th—14 March 2022** - Canberra Lapidary Club Rock Swap (Parrot Park, EPIC)
- ◇ **19th & 20th March 2022**—New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club Inc. 31st Annual Gem & Craft Show at Armidale Showground
- ◇ **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