

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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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 Kathy Selwood (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: August 23, 2023

EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope you enjoyed the last newsletter. If you have an article that you wish to submit please do so. We only receive a few Newsletters via email from our NSW Clubs, if your Club does not have a newsletter or you can't send it to us electronically you can still email the Secretary and Editor with your show dates, that way we can include them in the Events page in this newsletter and on the Councils Web page.

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

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—Erythrite from QLD	5-6
Gold from PNG— Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club	7
BT 50—Opal Festival Yowah	8-10
Yowah Nuts	10-11
Important Gemkhana Entries	12
Faceting Judges Course	13
State Gem and Mineral Flyer	15
Events	16



Message from the President

The gem council has now approved courses for fourteen clubs. Due to the number of available tutors these courses will not all be completed until next year. The next few months are very busy with Judging and club competitions. Also, the State Gem and Mineral show will be in full swing.

We have several Clubs taking advantage of the free table inside the hall to sell Club wares and prompt their club. If your Club would like a table, please contact the secretary immediately

Entries are already arriving for the GEMKHANA Competition and will be judged on the 2nd September 2023 at the Parramatta/Holroyd Club rooms.

A very important message to all Clubs. Please notify the Secretary of the Gem and Lapidary Council immediately after your AGM who your executive of your Club is, even if there has been no change. Our current records in some cases are over five years old and therefore your club may not be up to date with the current happenings.

Barbara J Try O.A.M.
President.

Minutes of the COMMITTEE MEETING of 26 July 2023**Held at Parramatta Holroyd Club Fullagar Rd Wentworthville**

The meeting was opened at 1:00pm by President Barbara Try (Northern Districts) who welcomed delegates from the following clubs: Central Coast Tony Try), Parramatta/Holroyd (Ray Powell), AFG (Paul Sabolta), Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill, Ainslie Flynn), Port Hacking (Tony Offord), Orange (Kathy Selwood), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane), Illawarra (Joan Zealy), Goulburn (Joe & Sue O'Neil),

Apologies: Blue Mountain (Kim Cooke), Blaxland (Pam & Alec Gardiner), Bathurst (Robert Porter),

Moved: Illawarra, **seconded** Western Suburbs that apologies be accepted.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 28 June 2023 with amendment 60 conflate signs. **Moved** Blue Mountain, **seconded**, Parramatta/Holroyd that minutes be accepted.

Business Arising:

1/ change of signatures & tap & go -Done

2/ State Library hard copy of G & L News - Done

Correspondence: See attached list. **Business Arising:**

1/Fairfield – to be discussed in the Education Report

2/ Insurance + courses – Bathurst, Blaxland & Bankstown -done

3/ Campbelltown - to be discussed in the Education Report

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report accepted Moved: Central Coast seconded: Port Hacking

REPORTS

J&R Report: 1/ All judges have been allocated for GEMKHANA, Central Coast, Illawarra and Parramatta/Holroyd.

GEMKHANA Competition: 1/ Second entry in, more faceting stones

Webmaster: - No Report

G&L NEWS Editor: 1/ David first edition of G & L News went well

Education Report: 1/ Education/teaching course for Member Clubs – max numbers 10, Tutors selected, Courses outline – tutors to speak to club.

14 Clubs nomination so far – **Bathurst**- enamelling, **Central Coast**- silver, **Northern Districts**- faceting, **Orange**- minerals, **Western Suburbs**- Bone carving, **Goulburn** –enamelling, **Parramatta** – scrimshaw, **Blue Mountains** – Wire wrapping. **Illawarra** – Cabs, **Bankstown** – Wire wrapping, **Port Hacking** – Enamelling, **Blaxland** – enamelling, **Fairfield** - accepted, **Campbelltown** – accepted.

2/ Pro former to be sent to both Clubs and Instructors

3/ instructors to be given Club details and details of allowable expenditure.

Social Media: Kim has started her campaign.

Mail Person: Printing \$70.91, stamps \$96.00, Balance 160.05

State Gem & Mineral Show

1/ 60 Conflate signs A1 size, & Garden stakes to be purchased – in hand

2/ Electronic roadside boards – where to put them & council permission

3/ Advertising local papers quarter page costs in.

4/Where did you hear about GEMKHANA? Survey completed – add in - Why did you come & what was missing.

- 5/ PA system booked
- 6/ Blue Mountains radio to run/plug show all week before
- 7/ Booking of ATM 2 GO. Confirm booking
- 8/ Camping fees/cost \$25.00per night
- 9/ Club asked to put flyer up on their media and in their newsletters.
- 10/ Tap & go at entrance gazebo

GEMBOREE

- 1/ Narrabri to be checked.
- 2/ Parkes show ground is looking good with new pavilion almost completed.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS: Nil

Meeting closed: 2.01pm

Next meeting: 23rd August, at Parramatta/Holroyd rooms Fullagar Rd Wentworthville.

Meeting dates for 2023: 20th September at **State Gem & Mineral Show**, 25th October, 22nd November, 13 December & AGM.



Erythrite

$\text{Co}_3(\text{AsO}_4)_2 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Specimen Locality: Mount Cobalt Mine, Selwyn Dist.,
Cloncurry Shire, Queensland

Crystal System: Monoclinic



Gold

Au

Specimen Locality: Mt
Kare, Enga Prov., Papua
New Guinea

Crystal System: Isometric

**Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club
Annual Gem Show 2023**

Sat & Sun 19-20 August
8:30am - 4pm Daily

Glenbrook Cinema Hall,
Ross Street, Glenbrook
Adjoining Glenbrook Theatre

Displays and Sales of
Lapidary work, gems,
rocks, minerals, opals
and jewelry

Entry: Adults \$3 Children \$1
Family \$5

See for details of Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club

Over 100 years ago 2
brothers announced they
could fly.

Turns out they were
Wright.....

A big pack of toilet paper
fell on me at the store.

I suffered soft tissue
damage

BT50

For those who own a BT50, the one based on the Ford Ranger this variant ended in 2020. My BT50 was manufactured in 2014 and like all these models it has many questionable features that draw power from the battery. So, they are notorious for flattening batteries.

One of these features is that when you unlock and open a door the parkers, interior lights and computer come on and stay on as long as the door is open. The interior light is nice to have come on automatically sometimes but it is easier to turn off or on by using the light switch on the roof console.

With the parkers, Mazda don't tell you how to defeat this one all they say is it cannot be turned off in the computer. Well, researching on the internet, I came across a couple of fixes, flash the high beam twice, it plays a little tune and turns off the parkers, the other way is to open your door before you turn off the ignition.

The one that cannot be defeated is the computer and some indication lights staying on as long as the door is open and stay on for 10 to 15 minutes after you have locked the car and walked away. There would be many other electronic features that would stay active even when the car has shut down.

Another stupid feature, in my view, is the cigarette light sockets (sorry power sockets) and the USB port stay active all the time so if you leave something plugged in them, it will definitely flatten your battery, as we also found out one time. But now we make sure everything is unplugged before we leave the car overnight.

Where is all this leading? Well, I am now on my third battery for the BT50. On Saturday morning 3 July we were preparing to go and tailgate at the Yowah Saturday markets from 10 till 12 as we usually do. I went to start the car and nothing, nothing was left plugged in and it was only parked for about 3 days.

Because of our previous experiences with the BT50 I had invested in a lithium jump starter from Jaycar a number of years ago. So, no problems, but I also noticed that the fridge in the BT50 was not on. Now this is strange as the second battery (lithium) is behind a Redarc battery isolator and also connected to a solar panel, so was the battery isolator faulty? I got it going and it started fine after the market. As we had plans to head from Yowah into Cunnamulla (about 2 hours' drive) a few days later, I disconnected the second battery from the battery Isolator (by this time the solar panel was charging the second battery) so I put the main battery on a mains charger. All good, the car started first go when we set for Cunnamulla.

The battery was getting old by the date stamp on it. It was put in the BT50 in July 2017, so six years is not a bad run, considering Canberra's cold winters and the fact that the original factory fitted battery only lasted about 2 years. So, it may be time

to get a new one or do I wait till I get home?

We had to head over to St George on 10 July for a Vet appointment for our dog Barney so I thought it could wait till then at least. Well, you guessed it a cold morning and the BT50 would not start, so out with the jump starter again and off we go. This was the decider and a new battery was in store.

After the vet, I looked around St George for a new battery, came across a super charge battery that look as though it should do the trick at \$250. As we left the caravan in Yowah and were staying the night at the Pelicans Rest Caravan Park in a cabin (they allow pets for an extra \$30 and its just across the Highway from the Vet), better play it safe and do a bit of research before I bought it. All looked good and was supposed to fit the BT50 and the terminal orientation was correct. So next morning after having done some shopping, topped up with fuel and bought a new battery (to be fitted when we get back to Yowah).

As we had no problems starting the BT50 in St George I thought I would wait till after the Yowah Opal festival to swap batteries.

Friday 14 July, I loaded up the tables, more items to sell and headed up to setup for the festival (this year we were allowed to trade after setting up). No problems, BT50 started first go, set up, traded till 15:30 packed up our goods and left the gazebo up for the next day. Unfortunately, the car didn't want to start. The jump starter was back the Caravan as I was charging it up and left it there. The walk to the caravan and back to the BT50 was 10 min round trip. Although the car was reluctant to start initially, I eventually got it going.

Back at the camp I started the job to swap out the battery. The terminal clamps were very hard to get off the lug. Old battery out new battery in! Oh no – the positive cable(s) were too short and would not go over the battery terminal. The terminals on the old battery were ½ inch lower than on the new battery. I traced the positive cables, they are held by 3 cable ties, OK cutting these gave me some more length, will it be enough? The new battery went in for the 4th time, just enough length to get the terminal clamp over the positive battery post, yeh success!

Now to put the battery strap/clamp back on, you guessed it, it will not fit. I decided the battery was firm enough for running up and back to the festival, worry about it after.

On Sunday, we packed up the goods and gazebo by 13:30. Back at the camp, after unloading, I started work on making a new strap for the battery. I decided to have a look at Bunnings to see if I could find something to use for the strap (Bunnings here is the local tip, someone found a broken bunnings chalk board sign and hung it in a tree at the tip, current special is rusty nails), took the old battery out as well.

I found a few bits and pieced which could possibly help, so I returned to the camp. Unfortunately, none turned out to be helpful so I had to use a strip of aluminium which was to be used on another project. I bent it to shape and put a bracket at one end to sit against one side of the battery, now to fit it, dam, treaded hook that goes from strap to the base of battery is too short.

I thought about a small sized tent peg, a friend thinks he may have a die in his tool box so we could cut a thread on it. I rummaged through my collection of tent pegs and found a threaded battery hook amongst them (left over from when I replaced a rusted battery carrier in an FJ55 Landcruiser I used to have). Well, the hook end fits in the required hole and it is actually too long, that's fine its easier to trim than to add, now for a nut, well well, some standards were not changed by Mazda, the nut fits my old Landcruiser hook.

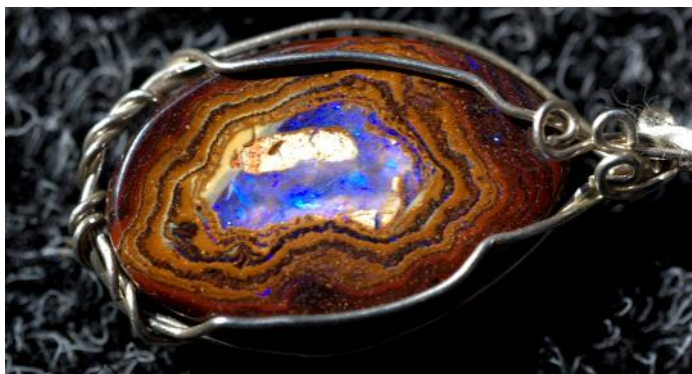
With the strap in place, I added a few cable ties to tidy things up and the job is finally done. In hind sight I should have gone to the RACQ it would have cost more but I would not have had the hassles of fitting it.



Yowah Opal Festival



Yowah Nut
jewellery.
Sterling Silver
Wire wrapping
done by Ellie
Wilson



Uncut/Cracked
Yowah
Nuts



STATE GEM AND MINERAL SHOW GEMKHAHA COMPETITION 2023 COMPETITION ENTRIES

IMPORTANT PLEASE SEE GEMKHANA 2023—COMPETITION SCHEDULE AND CONDITIONS

<https://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FULL-SCHEDULE-with-diagrams-2023-01-24.pdf>

NOTE: Entry fees and entry forms for all entries must be received by the **18 August** if sending by post. If hand delivered by you have till the **23 August 2023**.

Please: refer to the Competition Schedule and conditions for exact detail for your entries as some entries have to be received on these dates also.



**Finalising
those entries
LAST CHANCE**



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FACETING JUDGES COURSE

Paul Sabolta will be conducting a Faceting Judges course on 30 –31 August 2023 at Narrabri. It will be held prior to the AFG Muster which is on 2-3 September 2023.

This is a great chance for anyone who wishes to become a faceting judge. It is very rewarding pastime and the benefits are many. It also means that you will be giving back to your hobby in very important manner.

Please consider and ring Paul on 0415 211 478 or email him on atlobas53@yahoo.com.au



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State Gem and Mineral Show (GEMKHANA)

Below is the flyer for the State Gem and Mineral Show, 2023.

It will be held at the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Show Grounds, 40 Racecourse Rd, Clarendon on 23rd and 24th of September 2023.

You may have noticed that the show has had a name change to State Gem and Mineral Show. The competition however, will still be the GEMKHANA Competition, Level 3.

If you are entering the GEMKHANA competition (which everyone is encouraged to do) **postal entries are due on the 18th of August. Hand delivered entries are due on the 23rd August by 1pm.** More information can be found at the following link: <https://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/gemkhana/>.

2023 State **GEM** and Mineral Show



Formerly known as the GEMKHANA Run by the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW

9am - 5pm Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th September

Featuring



- Hand crafted Jewellery.
- Faceted Stones.
- Polished Stones.(Cabochons)
- Stone Carving.
- Minerals & Fossils.



Free Parking and ATM on Site.

Camping is also available on site.

Hawkesbury District Agricultural Show Grounds

40 Racecourse Rd, Clarendon.

Traders will be offering:- Jewellery, Crystals, Minerals, Cut

Stones, Lapidary Equipment, Faceting Rough and Slabs.

Gem Cutting Demonstrations.

Adults \$10 Children under 16 Free

Contact Bob McLean gemkhana@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

<https://www.facebook.com/GemLapidaryCouncilNSW/>

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/>

- ◇ **23 –24 September — *State Gem and Mineral Show*** / GEMKHANA 2023, Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon
- ◇ **19—20 August** — Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Annual Gem Show. Glenbrook Cinema Hall, Ross St, Glenbrook
- ◇ **13—20th October** -Open House—Inverell and District Lapidary Club, Inverell Lapidary Centre, McIlveen St, Inverell
- ◇ **14 –15 October** —Central Coast Lapidary, Crystal, Gem and Jewellery Colour Show—Mingara Events Centre Wyong Road Tumby Umbi
- ◇ **4-5 November**—Illawarra Lapidary Club 61st Annual Exhibition, Dapto Ribbonwood Centre, Heininger Hall, 109 Princes HWY, Dapto
- ◇ **24 March-1 April 2024** GEMBOREE Willunga SA, booklet may be downloaded from AFLACA website <https://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/>