



Gem & Lapidary News
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2023

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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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Senior Vice President	Tony Offord (Port Hacking)
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Webmaster	Alex Maitland (Temporary Webmaster) webmaster@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
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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, for this month only will be on Wednesday 20th September, 2pm
Clarendon Showground pavilion (**State Gem & Mineral Show**).

EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope you enjoyed this 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/>

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.

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Message from the President

The first of the Education courses was completed on the 19 & 20 August at Goulburn Gem and Lapidary Club. It was an Enameling course and everyone did very well over the weekend, even though the weather was extremely cold.

All the entries for the GEMKHANA Competition have been received and are in the process of being made ready for the Judging on 2 September 2023.

Fairfield & District Lapidary Club sent two new delegates to the Council Meeting on 23 August 2023. It was great to be able to welcome Karen and Jim Waghorn, and we look forward to seeing them on a regular basis.

The final details for the State Gem and Mineral show are organised and we look forward to seeing you all there on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24th September at the Hawkesbury Agricultural Showground, Racecourse Rd Clarendon.

Barbara J Try O.A.M.
President.

Minutes of the COMMITTEE MEETING of 23 August 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), Fairfield (Karen & Jim Waghorn). **Apologies:** Blue Mountain (Kim Cooke), Blaxland (Pam & Alec Gardiner), Bathurst (Robert Porter), **Moved:** Central Coast, **seconded** AFG that apologies be accepted.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 26 July 2023

Moved Goulburn, **seconded**, Blue Mountain that minutes be accepted.

Business Arising: Nil

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

1/ Webster Insurance Suzanne still chasing clubs.

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report accepted **Moved:** Western Suburbs seconded: Goulburn

REPORTS**J&R Report:**

1/ GEMKHANA judging 2nd September at Parramatta, BBQ lunch.

2/ 16 September Central Coast judging

GEMKHANA Competition:

1/ 220 entries in.

Webmaster: - No Report

G&L NEWS Editor: - No Report

Education Report: 1/ 14 Clubs nomination – **Bathurst**- enamelling October, **Central Coast**- silver 25/26 Nov, **Northern Districts**- faceting, **Orange**- minerals, **Western Suburbs**- Bone carving 14/15 Oct, **Goulburn** –enamelling completed 19/20 Aug, **Parramatta** – scrimshaw, **Blue Mountains** – Wire wrapping. **Illawarra** – Cabs, **Bankstown** – Wire wrapping, **Port Hacking** – Enamelling, **Blaxland** – enamelling 5/6 Nov, **Fairfield** – silver beginner, **Campbelltown** – yet to decide.

2/ Goulburn enamelling course had beautiful results see newsletter.

3/ Education courses to come out of GEMBOREE account. Moved Northern Districts seconded Orange. Motion was passed.

Social Media: Kim going well

Mail Person: Printing, stamps, envelopes, and postage, Balance \$66.05

State Gem & Mineral Show

1/ 60 Corflute signs A1 size, – waiting on printer with setup design

2/ Electronic roadside boards & corflute placement – waiting on council reply

3/ Flyers & cover letters sent to High Schools

4/ ATM2go cost listed.

5/ Tables & showground costs?

6/ Thick tomato stakes from Bunnings to be purchased

7/ Receipt book for camping fees to be purchased

8/ Tap & go to be organised - cost?

9/ Pricing for Traders, for year 2024, same as this year if they sign contract for 2024 at 2023 GEMKHANA.

Moved Northern Districts seconded Orange. Motion was passed

10/ Spacing for kid's activity table

11/Mick talked on Blue Mountains radio for 1 hour about the GEMKHANA

GEMBOREE

1/ Narrabri, Paul to investigate.

2/ Parkes show ground new pavilion almost completed.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1/ Next meeting will be at Hawkesbury showground on Wednesday 20 September at 2pm.

2/ Thicker tape needed for drapes

Moved: Port Hacking, seconded Fairfield

Meeting closed: 2.10pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 20th September at 2pm Clarendon Showground pavilion (**State Gem & Mineral Show**).

Meeting dates for 2023: 25th October Parramatta, 22nd November, 13 December & AGM.



Diopside on Plancheite,

$\text{CuSiO}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$

Specimen Locality: Kimbedi, Mindouli Dist., Pool Dept., Republic of the Congo

Crystal System: Trigonal



 **The Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.**
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JEWELLERY GEMS &
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SUN 5 November – 9am to 3pm**

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See you there!

Fluorite,

Caf2

Specimen Locality: XIANGHUAL-
ING MINE, LINWU

Co., CHENZHOU, HUNAN, China

Sepiolite inclusions

Crystal System: Isometric



Report on the Goulburn Enameling Course:

The first of the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW Education Courses took place over the weekend of the 19th & 20th August at the Club rooms of the Goulburn Gem and Lapidary Club.

It was a full course with the maximum of ten participants attending. While Goulburn does have a kiln it is very small, and it created its own challenges. The weather did not help as it was extremely cold, and the kiln lost heat every time it was opened. Regardless, the members of Goulburn Club persisted and produced some very nice, enameled pieces of jewellery. Two of the younger members were wearing their jewellery on the Sunday. My thanks go to everyone who participated, for their patience and enthusiasm along with their desire to learn a new skill.

Sue O'Neil (Secretary of Goulburn Club) has to take credit for her job which was to master the kiln and assist the members in getting their pieces fired. It was two very long days, but everyone was successful and happy in creating three pieces each.

Barbara Try





Watching and waiting for the small Kiln to catchup



Faceting and Cabbing Whilst Travelling

A number of years ago I purchased an old Agatemaster faceting machine from one of our Club auctions. As it was old and clunky and was in need of a bit of TLC no one else wanted it, so I was able to purchase it for the reserve price.

The main reason I was interested in it, was because it came with a 12 VDC motor which was controlled by a home built main to 12 VDC speed controller. The full set of 8 inch copper and type laps that it came with was another good reason to purchase it. It also took the same size dops as the Gemmasters at the Club and my old VJ that I had purchase many years ago from a friend of my mothers.

As with most ideas it took a while to iron out some of the bugs. The first thing to do though was to clean it up and see if it still functioned accurately enough to use as a faceting machine and not just as a flat lap cabbing machine.

My Current setup with led light and small wind shield



Most of the Agatemaster is made from a cast metal, and after cleaning the dust and accumulated grime from lack of use it came up pretty good. The stage for the mast was a mess, the old oil that was on it had attracted quite a lot of dust and turned it into a sticky mess. A clean with metho and light scraping with a Stanley knife blade brought it up OK, although it had some pitting on it, which I think some of this was left over from the casting and machining of the stage during manufacture.

The mast is steel and the mast base was cast material like the stage. The mast base was cleaned using the same method as for the stage and it also looked pitted like the stage. The steel mast had a small amount of surface rust on it which stopped the head unit from moving freely. I used a 1200 wet and dry with sewing machine oil to clean the rust off.



Next was the head unit and quill, I carefully strip it down enough so I could clean and lightly oil it (the quill is part of the head unit and cannot be removed like the Gemmaster quill). Once reassembled it seemed to function well and moved up and down the mast freely.

One thing with the head unit I did not like was the index wheel is held in place by a knurled nut with no form of key or locking mechanism to keep the index wheel in place. If this nut comes loose for any reason the index wheel would move thus putting your stone out of alignment to the index. The VJ is similar in that it has no key system either but at least it has three screws holding the wheel in place and it's unlikely that all three screws would come loose.



As I did not like the look of the home-made mains to 12VDC controller, I considered briefly in making a new one but opted to purchase a 12VDC variable controller from Ebay. This would allow me to run it from a 12VDC transformer which could be located well away from the water used when faceting or cabbing. This would also allow me to use it whilst travelling even if we were without a mains power.

Now to see if it all works, first thing is to set up a current meter connected to a 12 V car battery, this would allow me to see how many amps it pulled at 12VDC, as this would determine the size of the transformer I would need.

All good under 3 amps even under load (that is I simulated a load as though I was cutting something) whilst varying the rotating speed of the master lap. This is great as I had a 3 amp transformer in my junk/parts box.

If I was to take this away travelling with me I needed to reduce its size and weight, especially the weight. The faceting machine was mounted on a large piece of laminated board with a substantial metal frame with legs under it and the motor attached to this frame at the rear of the board. This enabled the motor pulley to hang below the board so that the drive belt had clearance.

OK, no problem easy enough to remove the metal frame and reduce the size of the board. The two legs at the front I was able to keep as they were separate from the rest of the heavy frame. Two wooden legs from

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from Bunnings, cut down to size for the rear legs would do fine.

Now to mount that motor, as the motor's pulley had to hang below the main board and line up with the master lap pulley, I had thoughts that I might have to reuse some of that heavy frame. Well as luck would have it a double thickness of the board would put the motor pulley in line with the master lap pulley.

Of course, the motor's shaft was not long enough to go through two thickness of board, so by cutting a notch in the main board and mounting the motor on an off-cut of the board, then attaching it to the main board we were back in business. As the belt was round it was easy to make a new belt to fit and away, we go.

Although still bulky it easily weighs a third of what it did and is smaller by half. No, I do not take the 8 inch laps away just six inch (they are heavy enough).

Now you would not use it to cut competition stones but it helps to keep your hand in while travelling. It does quite well at faceting and cabbing, although cabbing on a flat surface does take some getting used to.

[Part two to come.](#)



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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.
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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/>

- ◇ **23 –24 September** —*State Gem and Mineral Show* / GEMKHANA 2023, Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon
- ◇ **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
- ◇ **28 October**—Campbelltown and Districts Lapidary Club Open Day
- ◇ **4-5 November**—Illawarra Lapidary Club 61st Annual Exhibition, Dapto Ribbonwood Centre, Heining Hall, 109 Princes HWY, Dapto. our website www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au or like and follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IllawarraLC>
- ◇ **10-12 November**—Parramatta-Holroyd Annual Exhibition, 73 Fulager Rd Wentworthville
- ◇ **24 March-1 April 2024** GEMBOREE Willungs SA, booklet may be downloaded from AFLACA website <https://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/>