



Gem & Lapidary News

December

2023

Print Post Approved PP243352/00002
ISSN 2208-5556

Vol 49

No. 11

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 676 435
Senior Vice President	Tony Offord (Port Hacking)
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) Joe O'Neil (Goulburn) Marcia Hill (Western Suburbs)

APPOINTMENTS

Public Officer	Tony Offord
Auditor	Colin Russell
Editor	David Wilson 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	Paul Sabolta
GEMBOREE Coordinator	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 Kathy Selwood (non-voting)

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Visitors welcome to attend

AGM Wednesday 13 December 2023, 1pm, at Clubrooms, Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club, 73 Fullager Rd, Wentworthville, NSW

1st COUNCIL MEETING for 2024

January 24, 20234

EDITOR'S NOTES

The year is almost over, our next Newsletter is not till February 2024. So if you have an article, or a show you wish to advertise please send them in, as I will be keeping an eye on the emails.

Due to increased Cost for postage and printing please let the Council know if you will receive the newsletter via email only.

In the mean time please have a Safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New year.

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:

Fourth Friday 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—Liroconite from England	5-6
Malachite from China .- Gemboree 2024 Entries	7
What is a Mineral	8
Bathurst Enamelling Workshop Report	11
Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Enamelling Course	12
Bankstown Wire Wrapping Course	13-14
The Earth	15
Events	16

**Message from the President**

The end of the year is fast approaching which means a lot of the Lapidary clubs will be organising their Christmas parties and getting ready for a short break over the festive season.

The Committee of the Gem and Lapidary Council has decided to keep the annual subscription to all the clubs to remain at \$70.00. The committee will reassess this again next year and, depended on what the costs are what we will do.

The Educational courses are progressing well with Central Coast Lapidary Club enjoying their Jewellery course as I type this report. There are still eight courses outstanding, but we hope to have them all finished in the first part of next year.

Have a wonderful and safe Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Barbara J Try OAM
President



Minutes of the COMMITTEE MEETING of 22 November 2023**Held at Parramatta Holroyd Club Fullagar Rd Wentworthville**

The meeting was opened at 1:00pm by President Northern Districts (Barbara Try), who welcomed delegates from the following clubs: Central Coast (Tony Try), Tony Offord (Port Hacking) Parramatta/Holroyd (Ray Powell), AFG (Paul Sabolta), Western Suburbs (Ainslie Flynn), Orange (Kathy Selwood), Illawarra (Joan Zealey), Blaxland (Robert Kneale). Blue Mountain (Mick Lane), **Phone:** Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill), **Apologies:** Blue Mountain (Kim Cooke), Bathurst (Robert Porter). Goulburn (Joe & Sue O'Neil), Fairfield (Karen & Jim Waghorn), Hawkesbury (Peter Beckwith)

Visitor: Bill Zealey. **Moved:** Central Coast, seconded: AFG that apologies be accepted.

Confirm Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 25 October 2023. **Moved:** Northern Districts, **seconded:** Central Coast that minutes be accepted.

Business arising from previous minutes: 1/ Beckwith email was discussed at length, Tony's reply with Presidents reply to be sent. President's reply to be sent to all traders who attended State Gem & Mineral Show.

2/ Annual reports – needed please

Correspondence: See attached list. **Business arising from correspondence:** 1/ Beckwith reply to committee, see business arising from previous minutes. That Inward Correspondence be received, Outward Correspondence be endorsed and business arising be approved. **Moved:** Western Suburbs seconded: Blaxland

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report accepted **Moved:** Central Coast seconded: Illawarra

REPORTS**J&R Report:**

1/ All judging for 2023 completed.

2/ A submission to AFLACA – once the J & R Committee has approved

GEMKHANA Competition:

1/ Name spelt wrong on keeper trophy, plaque replaced and posted

Webmaster: - No Report

G&L NEWS Editor: - No Report

Education Report: 1/ To Do – **Central Coast**- silver 25/26 Nov, **Northern Districts**- faceting, **Orange**- minerals (March), **Parramatta** scrimshaw (13&14 Jan 24), **Blue Mountains** Wire wrapping. **Illawarra** – Cabs (20&21 Jan), **Port Hacking** – Enamelling (15&16 Jan), **Fairfield** – silver beginner (6&7 Feb), **Campbelltown** – silver. 2/ Completed: **Goulburn, Western Suburbs, Bathurst, Blaxland, Banks-town**

Social Media: No Report

Mail Person: No Report

REVIEW OF STATE GEM & MINERAL SHOW

1/ Follow up Contracts for 2024 (to be in by DEC 31st 2023 to be eligible for 2023 price so far 6 inside and 5 outside.

2/ 2024 Coordinator – Tony asked to stand next month AGM

3/ Cost per metre to meet the increase in the cost of the tables – As 2024 increase of \$2.00 per meter , voted and carried.

4/ Closing times for the show – Saturday 9 to 5pm Sunday 9 to 4pm for everything and everybody – no exceptions This means the competition as well.

5/ Dealers with findings – L A Gems, Preyas, Wendy Bergamin' s friend in Victoria - Need to follow up.

GEMBOREE 2028

- 1/ Parkes show ground need to visit next year on way to SA, date to be arranged
- 2/ Trophies, any ideas put your thinking caps on.

Reports to be accepted moved: Parramatta/Holroyd Seconded: Blue Mountain

GENERAL BUSINESS:

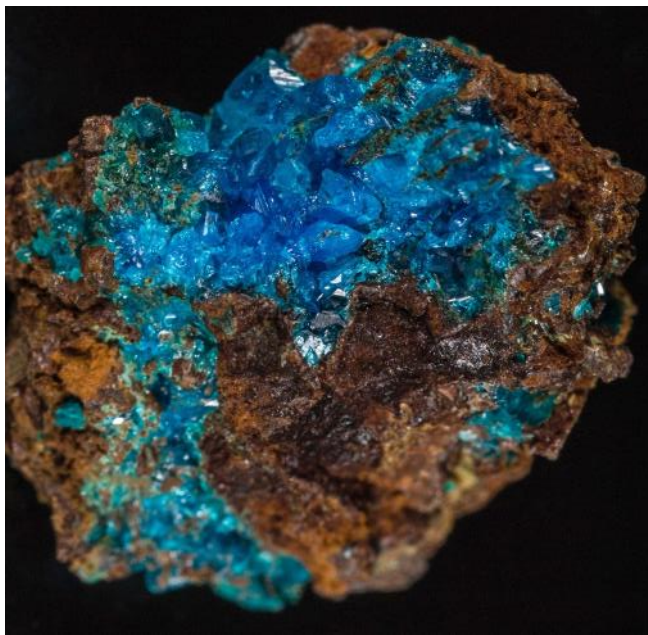
- 1/ Hawkesbury delegate letter to confirm appointment.
- 2/ To all clubs asking we send G & L News via email where possible due to increasing printing and postage costs.
- 3/ Fees to stay at \$70.00, will be reviewed again next year.
- 4/ Mailing to GEMCUTS do not use the name, use Brian or Liz as parcels are going missing in Australia Post.
- 5/ Greg Cohen (Greg's Showcase) passed away last Week.
- 6/ Nominations for Treasurer needed for AGM next week.
- 7/ Victoria Gem Club Ass. has nominated Craig Baker for J & R, VGCA.
- 8/ Does anyone have a large saw bigger than 24" to cut a large rock? Some one at Illawarra Club need help.

Moved: Orange, seconded Northern Districts

Meeting closed: 2.42pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 13 December & AGM @ Parramatta Holroyd Club

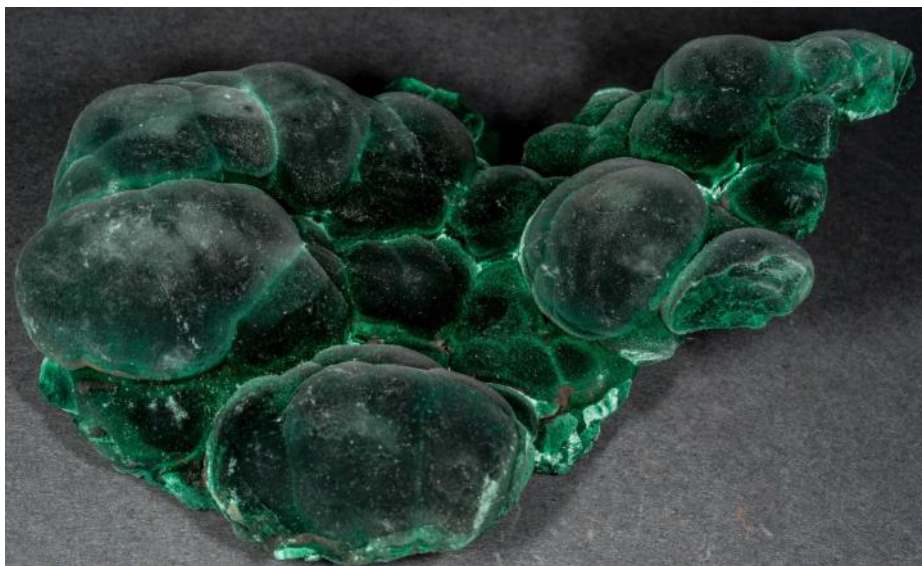
Meeting dates for 2024: 24 Jan, 28 Feb, 24 April, 22 May, 26 June, 24 July, 28 Aug, Hawkesbury 25 Sept, 23 Oct, 27 Nov, 11 Dec & AGM. Judging 7 Sept State Gem & Mineral Show

**Liroconite**

$\text{Cu}_2(+2)\text{Al}(\text{AsO}_4)(\text{OH})_4 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Specimen Locality: Wheal Gorland, St. Day, CORNWALL, England

Crystal System: Monoclinic



Malachite

$\text{Cu}^{+2}_2(\text{CO}_3)(\text{OH})_2$

Specimen Locality: Shilu Mine, Yangchun Co., Guangdong Province, China

Crystal System: Monoclinic

GEMBOREE ENTRIES
WILLUNGA 2024

Don't forget entries must reach the Committee by Monday 15 January 2024, So if you haven't started on those entries you best start now!

See <https://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/> for details



WHAT IS A MINERAL?

A mineral may be defined as a homogeneous substance produced by the processes of inorganic nature, having a chemical composition and physical properties that are constant within narrow limits. Its structure is usually crystalline.

What does this mean?

A Mineral:

- is composed of the same substance throughout (homogeneous);
- has not been produced by animal or vegetable agency, or prepared by man;
- has a composition which can be expressed by a definite chemical formula which is practically the same (except for impurities) for all specimens of the mineral;
- the physical properties are also practically the same for all specimens of the mineral.

In the great majority of cases its atoms have assumed definite and orderly crystalline structure.

As of November 2023, the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) - Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC) Master List of Minerals lists 5,988 valid minerals, including 1,159 pre-IMA minerals (grandfathered), and 96 questionable minerals.

So, which are Gemstones? – very few – possibly 100

Robilt Lapidary Supplies

167 Endeavour Drive, North Cranbourne 3977

P.O. Box 179 Doveton, Victoria 3177

Ph: (03) 5996 0750 Fax: (03) 5995 7505 Mob: 0414 469 203

ABN 37 856 874 788

Email: robiltlapidary@gmail.com

Manufacturers of Lapidary Machines for over 45 years

Tumblers – Trimsaws – Slabsaws – Grinders - Polishers

Vibro Laps – Flat Laps – Faceting & Combination Machines

Suppliers of Grits – Laps – Wheels – Blades – Dops – Discs.

Service – Repairs – Spare Parts - Rough – Cut – Polished Stones

Get a baby gate they said, it'll
keep them safe it said.... 🙅🏻 🤔



ais **australian lapidary supplies**

For 50 years we have been manufacturing and supplying quality base metal Findings and Mountings to Lapidary and Craft enthusiasts.

Shop online for a large range of:

Findings

Chains – Neck chains and Bulk chain

Mountings: Rings, Pendants, Brooches, Bracelets etc.

Snap –Tite™ Settings – Sterling Silver and Gold Filled

Discounted and close-out Specials

www.australianlapidarysupplies.com.au

Phone: 02 95318922 Email: sales@australianlapidarysupplies.com.au

Discount for Lapidary Clubs and Members

Simply order online and type in coupon code: **lapidary** at checkout.

Gemcuts

*Lapidary * Fossicking
* Jewellery Making Tools



Cabbing



Tumbling



Jewellery Tools



Carving



Sawing



Ultrasonic Cleaners

We stock an extensive range of our own diamond tools, faceting accessories, rough and products.

We are Authorised dealers for:

Diamond Pacific Tool Corp – Nova, Genie, Bigfoot, Galaxy
Barranca - MK Diamond Saw Blades

Lortone - Cabbing Machines, Saws, Rotary Tumblers

Saeshin - "Strong" Micro Motors

Cratex - Rubberised Abrasives

Crystalite - Diamond Laps, Crystal Pads, Poly Pads, Flexo Pads

Klingspor - Industrial Grade Sanding Sheets, Belts & Disks

GemPro - Flex Wheels, Resin Bonded Diamond Products

Jersey Instruments – Faceting Machines

36A Smith Drive
Ballina NSW 2478
Ph. 02 66811686
A/H 0427 012 014
Brian & Liz

MAIL
PHONE &
INTERNET
ORDERS

www.gemcuts.com.au

Bathurst Enamelling Workshop

On the weekend of the 28th and 29th October the Bathurst Lapidary and Collectors Club held a workshop at the clubrooms as part of the Gem and Lapidary Council's programme to offer skills training for member clubs

It has been many years since anyone at the club had looked at enamelling, although we did have some old donated enamel powders and a small amount of equipment

Tutors Annette Clarke and Ann Thomson from the Central Coast had the task of teaching nine complete novices, and another Bathurst member with enamelling skills doing a refresher.

Both Annette and Ann have decades of enamelling experience and are members of the Enamellers Guild. Annette also kindly loaned her kiln for the weekend, as did club member Judy Attard

Class participants learned how to prepare copper, and then go on to apply and fire glass enamel powders.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the weekend, and all came away with some interesting pieces, and enthusiasm for continuing with the craft.



Interestingly, we discovered that the sheet copper we purchased as scrap from a local manufacturer which was of an unknown composition and a thinner gauge than recommended worked extremely well. I would

like to thank club members Robert Porter and Brian Boyde for spending hours cutting, drilling and filing said copper!

It is important for clubs to continue providing a learning environment in other areas of lapidary to remain viable and increase and extend skills. This creates a vibrant club that can offer new and existing members exciting possibilities, and therefore the continuance and growth of the club.

Bathurst Lapidary club members are looking forward to continuing with enamelling, and hope to soon purchase an appropriate kiln. Looks like we will be doing a few more fundraising BBQ's!

We would like to thank the G & L for this opportunity and their support, and especially thank our tutors Annette Clark and Ann Thomson for their patience and generosity in passing on their skills.

Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Enamelling Course 4-5 November 2023

On the weekend of 4th and 5th November the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW held an Education Course in Enamelling at the Blaxland Gem and Mineral Club.

There were nine (9) participants in attendance, three of whom had some prior experience. The rest of the group were complete beginners.

The club has its own kiln, however it required some experimentation with settings, as it had not been in use for a number of years. This was supplemented by a kiln with temperature controls kindly brought along by our instructor Annette Clarke, who together with her assistant Ann Thomson, set about transferring their skills and knowledge to the group.

Even though the majority of us were inexperienced, there were some really nice pieces produced over the weekend.

Our thanks go out to Annette and Ann who ably explained the what, how and why of enamelling patiently and clearly and also to the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW for facilitating this training.

Robert Kneale
President



Bankstown Wire Wrapping Course

Bankstown and Districts Lapidary Club would like to thank the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW for providing us with a free Wire Wrapping Class. This took place as a weekend work-shop on 4th and 5th November. We had an excellent teacher in Richard Schmidt. We also want to thank Richard for his patience. Richard was friendly and his instructions were clear and easily understood. He explained the various steps in a simple and easy to follow manner as we went along. We turned out some nice pieces (thanks to the way Richard explained things), most of the class were first time wire wrappers among which there were a few new club members present. Everyone loved it and due to the friendly atmosphere, it turned out to be a fun weekend.

Thank you again to Richard and the NSW Gem and Lapidary Council.

Beverley Hodder

President

Bankstown and Districts Lapidary Club

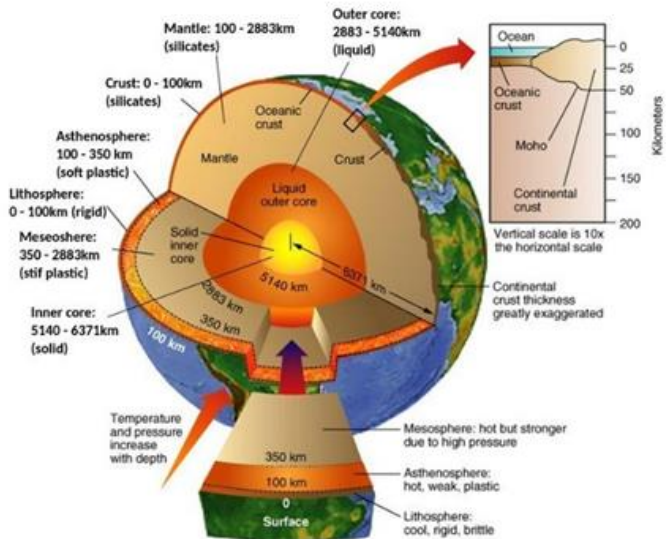


See Next
page

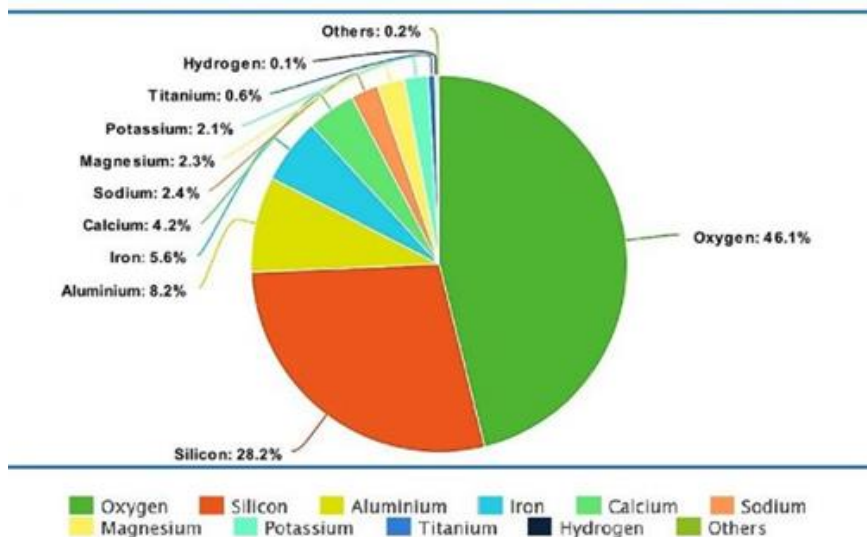


The Earth

The Earth is estimated to be 4.56 billion years old, plus or minus about 10 million years.



Major elements of the earth's crust expressed as a weight percentage
% Abundance of elements in Earth's Crust



<https://australian.museum/learn/minerals/shaping-earth/>

<https://science.nasa.gov/earth/>

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/>

- ◇ **25 February 2024** Illawarra Lapidary Club, Rock Swap - Stuart Park, North Wollongong 8am – 2pm
- ◇
- ◇ **29 March-1 April 2024** GEMBOREE Willungs SA, booklet may be downloaded from AFLACA website <https://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/>
- ◇
- ◇ **28-29 September 2024** State Gem and Mineral Show (Gemkarna Competition), Hawkesbury Agricultural Showground
- ◇