



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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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: November 22, 2023

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 /](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 education courses are proceeding well. Western Suburbs Lapidary Club has completed their Bone Carving course with some very excellent work that has been done. Please see the article and photo in this newsletter.

Bathurst Lapidary and Collectable Club has also had their enamelling course completed. There are still many more to be completed.

There are still a couple of Clubs shows coming up - Parramatta/Holroyd Lapidary Club are on Friday 10th Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th November. The Newcastle Gem and Jewellery Show is on 11-12 November 2023.

Barbara J Try OAM

President

Minutes of the COMMITTEE MEETING of 25 October 2023**Held at Parramatta Holroyd Club Fullagar Rd Wentworthville**

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

Confirm Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 20 September 2023. Moved Northern Districts, **seconded**, Central Coast that minutes be accepted. **Business Arising:** 1/ Letter of thanks sent to Family Hotel Katoomba

Correspondence: See attached list. **Business Arising:** 1/ Beckwith email. Reply: Yes we received your email & we understand that Tony has a loud voice and that he believes he was lied to. Moved: Northern Districts seconded: Orange. That Inward Correspondence be received, Outward Correspondence be endorsed and business arising be approved. Moved: Goulburn seconded: Fairfield

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report accepted Moved: Orange seconded: Illawarra

REPORTS**J&R Report:**

1/ All 2023 judging completed, next judging is in 2024, at Hawkesbury in April.

GEMKHANA Competition:

1/ Name spelt wrong on keeper trophy, plaque has now been redone & posted to entrant.

Webmaster: - No Report

G&L NEWS Editor: - No Report

Education Report: 1/ 14 Clubs nomination – **Bathurst**- enamelling Nov, **Central Coast**- silver 25/26 Nov, **Northern Districts**- faceting, **Orange**- minerals, **Parramatta** – scrimshaw (13&14 Jan 24), **Blue Mountains** – Wire wrapping. **Illawarra** – Cabs (20&21 Jan 24), **Bankstown** – Wire wrapping, **Port Hacking** – Enamelling, **Blaxland** – enamelling 5/6 Nov, **Fairfield** – silver beginner, **Campbelltown** – silver. 2/ Completed: **Goulburn, Western Suburbs**,

Social Media: No Report

Mail Person: Printing, stamps, envelopes, and postage, Balance \$387.40

REVIEW OF STATE GEM & MINERAL SHOW

1. 2024 Contracts given out to INDOOR & Outdoor Traders at the end of the Show
2. Received 5 INDOOR & 1 OUTDOOR Traders contacts back so far.
3. Follow up Contracts for 2024 (to be in by DEC 31st 2023 to be eligible for 2023 price
4. Thank You letter (as email) sent to all Traders.
5. 2024 Coordinator
6. For 2024 Show needs (a) Findings (L.A. Gems?) YES, b) Tools (Burfitt?) Yes, (c) Faceting roughs (BR Gems?) Yes but move him to the forint of the hall, someone selling silver.
7. 2023 Survey (how did you hear about the Show?).
8. Decisions to be made from survey
9. QUESTION: do we continue to use Hawkesbury as the venue for the State Gem & Mineral Show? -Yes
10. Any other possibilities throughout the State? : Orange, Batemans Bay, Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Wagga Wagga,? While other sites may be good and a change the workload would be greater and we would not get as many Club tables.

11. Balance sheet. Income & Expenditure
12. Need for committed "manpower" for setting up and taking down of tables / competition cases etc. Airtask? Since the show I have spoken to a couple of the Clubs that had the free tables – they are willing to give us some time after the show. We may make this a requirement?
13. Need to increase cost per metre to meet the increase in the cost of the tables – Increase of \$2.00 per meter would help?
14. 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.
15. Suggest the Club table in the Back area or wherever needed?
16. Info Desk and Raffle - in the same place – the results was three times what we made last year.

GEMBOREE 2028

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

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

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 1/ Need reports for 2022-2023 Annual Report before, if not, latest November meeting. Please.
Moved: Western Suburbs, seconded Blaxland

Meeting closed: 2.00pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 22 November, Parramatta Holroyd Club

Meeting dates for 2023: 13 December & AGM.



Jamesonite,
 $\text{Pb}_4\text{FeSb}_6\text{S}_{14}$

Specimen Locality: NOCHE BUENA MINE, MELCHOR OCAMPO MUNICIPALITY, ZACATECAS, Mexico,

Crystal System: Monoclinic



Kermesite

$\text{Sb}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}$

pseudomorphing Stibnite

Specimen Locality: Freehold Mine, Hillgrove, NSW

Crystal System: Triclinic

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



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**From Rockgrinders Gazette- Opal Edition October 2023
Campelltown and Districts Lapidary Club**

Bumblebee Jasper— Update

Thanks to readers' comments regarding last month's item on Bumblebee Jasper, it seems that sulphur in Bumblebee Jasper is not only toxic, but can contribute to tarnishing of silver jewellery settings. One member was disappointed when the gold-plated silver setting of her bumblebee jewellery started to tarnish, so she took it back to the gold plater, who couldn't explain the reason for it, so cleaned and plated the item again—only for the same tarnish to re-appear. Seems it was the sulphur leaking from the stone to the silver that was causing the problem.

So if you intend setting your Bumblebee stone in silver, consider ways to avoid the stone touching the setting or the wearer's skin. Maybe by stabilising the stone before cutting and polishing, or sealing with liquid glass/resin before setting it.

If you have any other ideas to solve the problem, feel free to let me know (Campbelltown and Districts Lapidary Club).

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Carving Class

Western Suburbs Carving class in bone was well received with all 10 completing their first project a sea turtle. I knew that a few in the group have carved before so they would not be a problem but I was surprised on how well the “have not done this before” took to it like ducks to water sorry I will rephrase that to “turtles to water”. Their second project I gave them was an idea and let their minds create something. Many different brilliant designs turned up with the main theme as the base. This second project was going to take more time than the turtles, so I have made Marcia make a promise that as they finish their second project she will send me a photo of each. So stay tuned for some wonderful bone carving photos coming this way. Kathy



Toys- your eyes only

Just received from a friend who has fallen on hard times...

Unfortunately, the cost of living has finally affected me financially.

In order to offset the extra cost of food, electricity, etc.,

I have a need to make some extra money.

It was a tough decision but it is what it is -
a guy has gotta do what a guy has gotta do.

Anyhow, here's my new venture:

I am proud to announce that I am selling ADULT TOYS.

I hope no one will feel embarrassed to ask for them.

I have all kinds, all sizes, and all styles - according to your needs.

I can send pictures and dimensions, etc. Just ask.

**Discretion is guaranteed. Everything I have
available is
listed below - scroll down to see the list:
Page 15**

Phone booth

Then

Now



PARRAMATTA HOLROYD LAPIDARY CLUB INC
61st ANNUAL EXHIBITION

FEATURING - "OPAL AND JADE"



Clubrooms, 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville
Friday - November 10th 9am to 4pm
Saturday - November 11th 9am to 4pm
Sunday - November 12th 9am to 4pm

Cabbing on the Agatemaster

Cabbing on the Agatemaster takes a little getting use to but it's really no different than cabbing on the normal vertical grinding wheels. You still dop the same as you would, which gives you better control especially on small stone or, as I prefer, by hand most of the time as I trend to do more free form cabs which can be essential when working some if not all forms of opal.

What do you use to form your cabs on you ask, I start with 100 or 240 grit metal lap that I use for ruffing in then move on to the other grits as you would normally do. Now you could use the laps that you use for faceting but you run the big risk of damaging them and making them unusable for faceting. Another reason not to use your metal lap to form your cabs, it is very, very hard not to end up with flat spots on your cabs, there's no give in metal, not like in your nova wheels.



Roughing in Lap

You can buy pre-made soft laps or the parts to make your own, there are a variety of metal, plastic and wood master laps, some are magnetic allowing you to swap out different grid laps, polishing felt or leather disk on the one master.

Or you can make your own like my father use to do. A piece of Masonite (or similar water resistant/proof material) cut to the correct lap size that you want, a piece of



Vinyl/Canvas on Masonite & Underlay

foam flooring undelay or rubber matting (you can buy the rubber laps if you prefer) and either wet and dry emery paper, some ruff vinyl or canvas or purchase the diamond impregnated plastic disks. Armed with a tin of Shelly's contact adhesive or similar (I have used shoe sole repair glue, all that was available to me at the time and had success with it) and away you go sticking them all together making up various grit laps.

Each system has its draw backs, like having to replace the wet and dry emery paper or the plastic diamond disk more often than the vinyl or canvas ones. But with vinyl or canvas laps you need to also have the various silicon carbide grit or diamond powders to keep the laps charged. The beauty about this method though, is you can either use the grits dry, with oil, water, as a paste like in faceting, in other words you control how much or how little grit/paste you use.



Wet & Dry Emery paper on wood and rubber foam

Once you have worked through your laps and have your cab ready for polish you have the choice of felt or leather laps or whatever material you would normally use, with whatever polishing product you prefer or you can use your flexi-shaft (e.g., Dremel) with the same material you would use on your laps.

You can also just rely on your flexi-shaft to do it all, but it can be harder to maintain your commercial shapes. Free form shapes are easier to do with your flexi-shaft, as it is retaining that thin layer of opal while working on the surrounding area, you cannot go past your flexi-shaft.

It all comes down to personal preference and to how much space you have and weight considerations when you are traveling around Australia.

From Page 12

**Walkers
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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/>

- ◇ **10-12 November**—Newcastle Gem & Jewellery Fair, PCYC Newcastle Cnr Young & Melbourne Sts, Broadmeadows. 02 49529611 newlap@gmail.com
- ◇ **10-12 November**—Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club, 61st Annual Exhibition, Featuring Opal and Jade, 73 Fullager Rd Wentworthville
- ◇ **26 November**—Open Day Christmas Market – Illawarra Lapidary Club, 51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna, www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au or like and follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IllawarraLC>
- ◇ **29 March-1 April 2024** GEMBOREE Willungs SA, booklet may be downloaded from AFLACA website <https://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/>