



Gem & Lapidary News
March
2025

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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 676 435
Senior Vice President	Tony Offord (Port Hacking)
Vice president	Tony Try (Central Coast)
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Minutes Secretary	Mick Lane (Blue Mountains)
Treasurer	Vacant
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
Committee:	Sue O'Neil (Goulburn) Joe O'Neil (Goulburn) Marcia Hill (Western Suburbs)

APPOINTMENTS

Public Officer	Paul Sabolta (AFG)
Auditor	Colin Russell (Port Hacking)
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Webmaster	Hon Alex Maitland (Temporary Webmaster) webmaster@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Equipment Officer	Mick Lane (Blue Mountains)
G&L News Mailman	Sue O'Neil (Goulburn)
Education Officer	Paul Sabolta (AFG)
GEMBOREE Coordinator	Tony Offord (Port Hacking) 2028
State Gem & Mineral Show Coordinator	Tony Offord (Port Hacking) with Robert Porter (Bathurst)
AFLACA delegates	Barbara Try (voting) and Kathy Selwood (non-voting)
Social Media Officer	Kim Cooke (Blue Mountains & Carolyn Farbrother (Central Coast))
AFLACA J&R delegates	Barbara Try (voting) and Kathy Selwood (non-voting)
Archivist	Barbara Try

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Visitors welcome to attend

Executive - meet Monthly, fourth Wednesday of the month, 1pm, at Clubrooms, Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club, 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville, NSW

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 26 March 2025 12:30 start

EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope you enjoy this newsletter.

If you have an article, or a show you wish to advertise in future newsletters, please send them in.

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

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:

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 1/4 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

We have started to get very busy with the Educational courses that are on the books. Kathy is in Lismore as we speak conducting a Jewellery course for them.

Last week an advanced enamelling course was completed at Port Hacking and next week Bathurst will have the same course.

On the 16th March Ainslie Flynn will be conducting a setting course for the Illawarra Club.

The first lot of judging for this year was at Canberra – with two judges going down to help with these entries.

A reminder that the GEMKHANA Competition which is held in conjunction with the State Gem and Mineral Show. The schedule is now up on the Gem and Lapidary Council website.

<https://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/state-gem-and-mineral-show/>

Barbara J Try OAM
President

Minutes of the COMMITTEE MEETING of 26 February 2025

Starting time: 1:00pm

Location: Parramatta Holroyd 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), Parramatta/Holroyd (Ray Powell), AFG (Paul Sabolta), Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill & Ainsley Flynn) Orange (Kathy Selwood), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane), Bathurst (Robert Porter), Blaxland (Robert Kneale), Illawarra (Joan Zealy), Fairfield (Karen & Jim Waghorn) Port Hacking (Tony Offord), **Apologies:** Blue Mountains (Kim Cooke), Nepean (Nicholas Mecsery), Goulburn (Sue & Joe O'Neil), **Visitor:** Terry Vanhoff, **Moved:** Parramatta/Holroyd seconded Central Coast those apologies be accepted.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 22 January 2025 Moved: Bathurst seconded: Western Suburbs that minutes be accepted.

Business Arising from last minutes:

- 1/ Purchase of anti-virus software, 365 Office & a network dongle still required.
- 2/ Canberra Judging 16 February 1-6pm completed. Moved Orange and seconded NDLC That a minimum of 30 entries for judging is required before judges be sent to Canberra, if that number is less, then the entries are to be posted to Council for judging.

Correspondence: See attached list

Business arising from correspondence.

- 1/ AFLACA agenda items
- 2/ Campbelltown training courses, the Education Officer has sent an email explaining what is required.

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

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Moved Blaxland seconded Fairfield that the report be accepted and accounts for payment be paid.

J&R Report:

- 1/ Change to 2025 schedule Vic – Busby trophy needs to be 3 entries not 1. fixed
- 2/ Discussion on 3D wax printing in casting section of judging manual – this is considered as commercial waxes to be bought up at GEMBOREE to be sent to AFLACA. done
- 3/ Hawkesbury Show judging day 5 May 2025 – Annette Clarke to be Head judge – other judges to be allocated soon.

GEMKHANA Competition:

- 1/ [schedule for 2025](#), on Web
- 2/ judging will be judged on Saturday 30 August 2025
- 3/ entries closing date is 15 August 2025
- 4/ test tagging will be available on 30 August and a BBQ

Webmaster: No report

G&L NEWS Editor: No report

Education Report:

- 1/ Orange minerals (delayed) to be arranged
- 2/ Lismore courses 1&2/3, 29&30/3, 31/5 & 1/6
- 3/ Port Hacking advanced enamelling 24 & 25 February completed
- 4/ Bathurst advanced Enamelling, 10 & 11 March
- 5/ Illawarra carving course dates 23 & 24 August
- 6/ Illawarra Jewellery course specifically to do Claw Setting – Ainsley Flynn 16 March 1 day \$150 @ Concord
- 7/ NSW Lapidary Club – faceting course – dates to be confirmed

8/ Hawkesbury faceting course – dates to be organised

Mail Person: Printing \$38.00, Postage \$60.00 total \$98.00 Balance \$84.10

STATE GEM & MINERAL SHOW

- 1/ Dates are 13 & 14 September 2025
- 2/ food vans booked
- 3/ Banner pole to be booked
- 4/ Indoor & outdoor contracts arriving in
- 5/ Lions club? Or replacement
- 6/ Advertising Facebook to increase from 50km to 100km
- 7/ Tractor inventory at GEMKHANA
- 8/ Permits needed from councils – Blue Mts & Penrith for road signs
- 9/ lockable chair seating to stop outside chairs going missing
- 10/ more signs to replace stolen ones
- 11/ Banners cost

Social media: - No report

GEMBOREE

- 1/ Parkes Showground revisit 12 March, 10am-12, costing required
 - 2/ Trophies, to go with Robert proposal need to design & samples
 - 3/ Tables & chair hire
- That Reports be accepted Moved: AFG seconded: Fairfield

GENERAL BUSINESS:

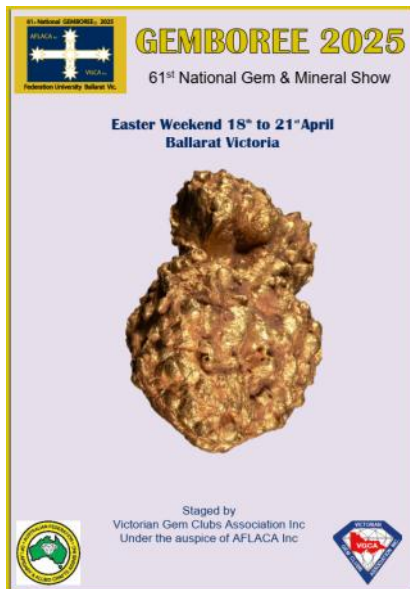
1/ More clubs need to be encouraged to send a delegate to council meetings

That general Business be accepted **Moved:** Illawarra, seconded: NDLC

Meeting closed 1.55pm,

Meeting dates for 2025: 26 March 2025 Parramatta/Holroyd

Meeting dates 2025: 23 April, 28 May, 25 June, 23 July, 27 August, 24 September
22 October, 26 November, 10 Dec & AGM.



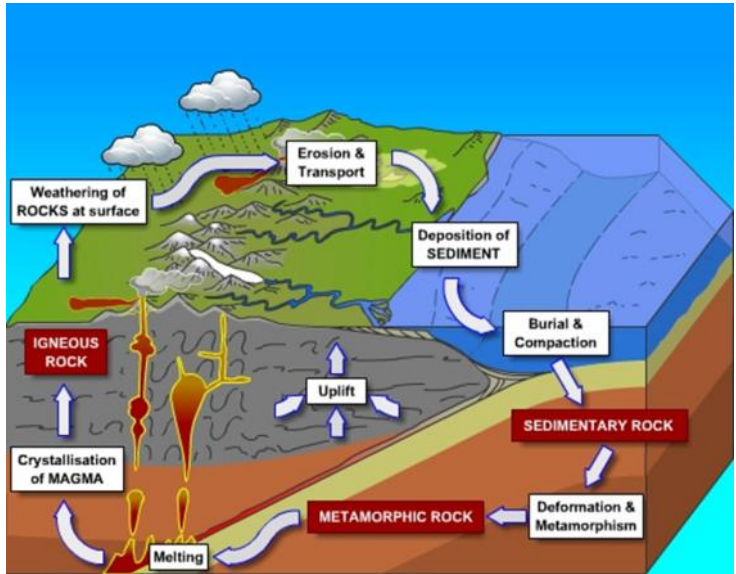
Some Mineralogy and Gemmology Basics Continued

Geology – Rock Types

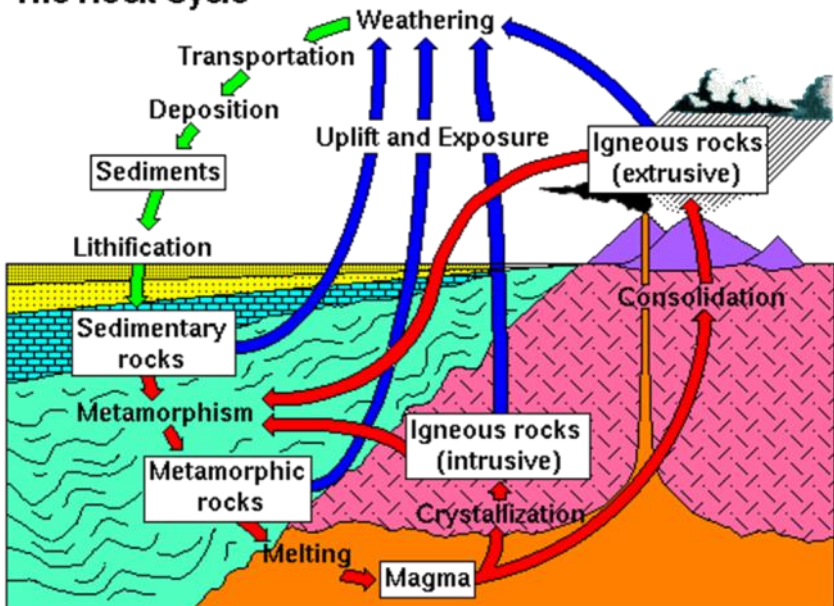
The Rock Cycle

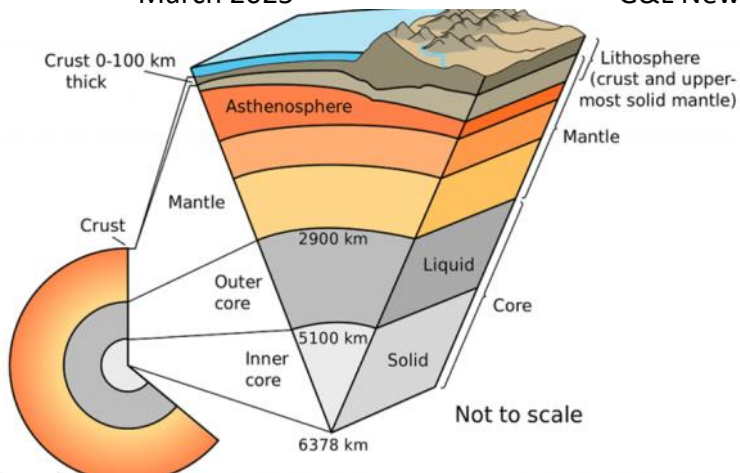
Most rocks were once other rocks.

The earth is a dynamic state with constant change, though this is not too obvious in Australia, with the odd flood and dust storm.



The Rock Cycle





The solid Layer we live on is called the CRUST and averages around 35km thick, whilst the molten Layer below is called the MANTLE 35-2900km, much further in we have the CORE

(outer core molten inner core solid) 2900-6370Km.

WHAT IS A ROCK?

A rock is a naturally occurring aggregate of minerals and/or other rock fragments.

ROCK FORMING MINERALS – With more than 5000 known minerals, there is only about 20 that are very common, and **only 9 of these constitute 95% of the crust.** These 9 minerals are all silicates, and are also called the **rock forming minerals.**

The following are the common rock forming minerals. These are of great importance being the primary minerals that make up the different types of rocks found in the Earth’s crust.

FELDSPAR



potassium feldspar $KAlSi_3O_8$ - potassium (chemical symbol K) and are often a pink-ish colour



plagioclase feldspar - $NaAlSi_3O_8$ sodium (chemical symbol Na) and/or $CaAlSi_2O_8$ calcium (chemical symbol Ca) instead of potassium



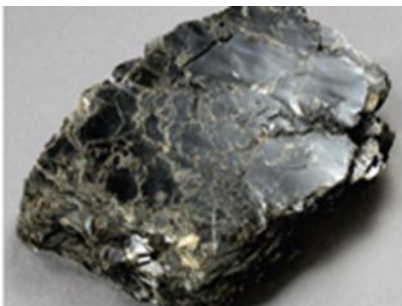
QUARTZ SiO_2



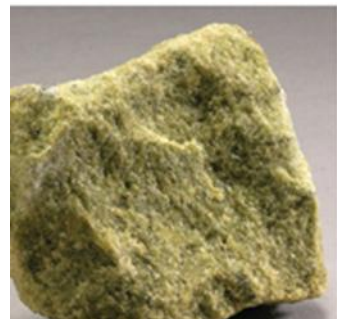
PYROXENE—Complex silicates of Ca, Mg, Fe, Al. (Augite, Enstatite, Diopside).



AMPHIBOLE—Complex hydrous silicates of Ca, Mg, Fe, Al. (Hornblende).



MICA—Muscovite $\text{KAl}_3\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$ & Biotite $\text{K}(\text{Fe}, \text{Mg})_3\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_{10}(\text{F}, \text{OH})_2$



OLIVINE - $(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe})_2\text{SiO}_4$



CALCITE - CaCO_3

NSW State Gem and Mineral Show GEMKHANA 2025

The State Gem and Mineral Show, GEMKHANA 2025, will be held on Saturday **13th September and Sunday 14th September 2025** at Hawkesbury District Agricultural Showground, Clarendon.



GEMKHANA 2025 – COMPETITION SCHEDULE AND CONDITIONS GENERAL CONDITIONS



1. This is a Level 3 Competition and will be judged in accordance with the rules and definitions of the ***Competitor & Judging Manual for Lapidary and Allied Competitions Issue no. 8 April 2015***. (referred to in this Schedule as the Manual), unless otherwise stated in this Schedule.
2. All competitors are advised to familiarise themselves with all the “Conditions for Competitors” in the Manual (particularly pages 5 to 13)
3. Competitors should be aware of, or check their eligibility to enter a Novice or Intermediate Division either by: -
 - Reading Section B4 of the manual (pages 6 & 7) relating to Competition Divisions, or by
 - checking the updated results list on the AFLACA website (<http://aflaca.org.au>)

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4. Enquiries, correspondence and ALL POSTAL ENTRIES relating to this Competition should be directed to:

GEMKHANA Competition Committee 2025

P.O. Box 188

Orange NSW 2800

Phone enquiries to Kathy Selwood: 0437 917 074

5. Maximum number of entries allowed is two (2) per person per section except for Showcase Sections where only one entry per person is allowed.

6. It is the Competitor's responsibility to ensure that their entries are entered in the correct section and that the sections are correctly marked on the Entry Form. If in doubt ring the Competition Committee.

However, the Competition Committee may transfer an entry into another section if they are of the opinion that it has obviously been entered in the incorrect section.

7. Entry Fees: - \$1.00 per entry for the first 10 entries, thereafter free.

(Payable by cheque or money order to Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Inc)

8. All entries not being collected in person at the GEMKHANA must be accompanied by the **cost of return** post or **pre-paid post bag** included with the entry form (see Page 13).

9. While every care will be taken, the GEMKHANA 2025 Committee will not accept any responsibility for the loss or damage of any entries or exhibits that may occur in transit or whilst in the possession of the GEMKHANA 2025 committee.



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10. Competitors and exhibitors are responsible for the insurance of their entries or exhibits while in transit, and whilst in the possession of the GEMKHANA 2025 Committee.

11. How to enter the Competition – Sections 1 to 4, 8 to 13 and 18 to 26

- a. Package up your entries to cushion them from damage whilst in transit – also see SC3.
- b. Fill out an official entry form – see page 13 of this Schedule.
- c. If you want acknowledgement of receipt of your entries, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
- d. Organise a cheque or money order payable to the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Inc for the entry fees (and return express postage if you are not collecting the entries in person at the GEMKHANA.
- e. Submit your Entries + Entry Form + All fees to the Competition Committee. This

can either be: -

- By Express post to

**GEMKHANA 2025 Committee
P.O. Box 188 Orange
NSW 2800**

They must be received by Friday 15th August 2025

NOTE that late entries will not be eligible for competition and will be returned.

12. How to Enter the Competition – Sections 5, 16, 17, 29, 32, 34 and showcases

- a. Send your **Entry Form and All Entry Fees to arrive by Friday 15th August 2025** to:

**GEMKHANA 2025 Competition Committee
P.O. Box 188 Orange
NSW 2800**

- b. Hand deliver the entries to the Competition committee in the Competition Hall at the **GEMKHANA 2025 VENUE** between **1pm and 5pm on Friday 12th September 2025**
- c. Note that entries in Sections 29, 32 & 34 must be set up and ready in the Exhibition Hall by **5.00pm Friday 12th September 2024**

13. Judging, Judging Sheets and Entry Pickup

- a. Entries in Sections 1 to 4, 8 to 13, 18 to 26 will be judged prior to the GEMKHANA.
- b. Entries in Sections 5, 16, 17, 29, 32, and 34 will be judged at the GEMKHANA.
- c. Judging Sheets may be collected from the Competition Office between **10am and 12 noon on Sunday 14th September 2025**
- d. Entries may be collected between **6pm and 7pm on Sunday 14th September 2025**
- e. Entries not collected will be returned to the competitor in the manner specified on the entry form together with the applicable judging sheets.

Competition Schedule for GEMKHANA 2025 is now available on our [State Gem and Mineral Show page](#)



 **The Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.**

OPEN DAY

SUNDAY 4th May, 2025

At our Club House
51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna
9am—2pm

Stalls selling – Gemstones, fossils, rough, minerals, handcrafted jewellery, books and more.

Morning Tea – Homemade cakes and goodies. Tea and coffee also available.

Lunch – Sausage sizzle and drinks available

Proceeds of the Morning Tea go to the
CANCER COUNCIL'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA 

You can find us at our website www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au or like and follow us on  Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/illawarral> OR Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/illawarral>




The Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc
proudly presents

THE 63rd ANNUAL JEWELLERY GEMS & MINERALS FESTIVAL

SAT 1 November – 9am to 4pm
SUN 2 November – 9am to 3pm

MEMORIAL HALL, 305 PRINCES HIGHWAY, DAFTO
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- *Gemstone Faceting
- *Club Information
- *Mineral Group Display
- *Silver Crafts
- *Kub Games
- *Gawning Competitions

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<https://www.facebook.com/illawarral>
OR Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/illawarral>

See you there!



ILLAWARRA LAPIDARY CLUB INC 

OPEN DAY – CHRISTMAS MARKET

SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER, 2025

At Club House 51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna
9am—2pm

Stalls selling – Gemstones, crystals, fossils, rough, minerals, handcrafted jewellery and books

Morning Tea – Home made cakes & goodies

Lunch – Sausage sizzle and drinks available



Visit our website: www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au
or
 like and follow us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/illawarral>
OR Instagram
<https://www.instagram.com/illawarral>




Canberra Lapidary Club— Rock Swap

The 2025 Canberra Rock Swap will be held from 9am to 5.00pm on Saturday 22; and 9am to 4.00pm on Sunday 23 March.

Location: Parrot Park, EPIC (Exhibition Park off the Federal Highway), Canberra.

Entry fee: nil.

Tailgaters and campers on site will be selling rocks, mineral specimens, crystals, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, opals, and fossils.

The event is entirely outdoors in a camping area, with both campers and day sellers on site.

Food and drinks will be available for purchase.



New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club Inc.

34th ANNUAL GEM AND CRAFT SHOW **ARMIDALE SHOWGROUND**

Saturday March 15th 2025 9am to 5pm

Sunday March 16th 2025 9am to 3pm

See a spectacular array of:

**Gems, Rocks, Crystals, Jewellery, Crafts
Beads & Lapidary Books/Supplies/Equipment
and much more**

All on sale at the show

Raffle Tickets \$1.00 Great prizes

B.B.Q Breakfast & Lunch/Light Refreshments Available

FREE ENTRY

Phone Kerry: 0407 308 620

Phone Mick: 0474 726 441

email: nelfc@hotmail.com



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/>

- ◇ **8 March 2025** Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club Inc Open Day 9 am—3 pm Bensley Road, Macquarie Fields
- ◇ **15-16 March 2025** New England Lapidary Club, Annual Gem & Craft Show, Armidale Showground, Armidale, NSW. Contact Mick 6778 5122 or Kerry 0407 308 620, Mick 0474 726 441, email: nelfc@hotmail.com
- ◇ **22 March 2025** Saturday, Macleay Gem and Mineral Club, Nambucca-Macleay Annual Auction, 9am viewing for 10am start- Macksville Showgrounds, 111 Rodeo Dr, North Macksville NSW. Contact - macleaygemandlapidaryclub@gmail.com
- ◇ **20-23 March 2025** Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday - Sydney Stamp & Coin Expo 2025 , Wentworth Park Sporting Complex very close to the Sydney CBD
- ◇ **22-23 March 2025 Canberra Rock Swap**, Parrot Park, EPIC (Exhibition Park) off the Federal Highway), Mitchell, ACT. Contact canberralapidary@gmail.com - Norm Menadue on (02) 6258 6631
- ◇ **18-21 April 2025**. Gemboree, Ballarat, St Helens Campus of the Federation University, Victoria. [2025 GEMBOREE Booklet](#)
- ◇ **4 May 2025** Sunday, Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc, Open Day - 51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna
- ◇ **24-25 May 2025** Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Show, Mallee Pavilion EPIC, Mitchell, ACT. Contact canberralapidary@gmail.com- Norm Menadue on (02) 6258 6631
- ◇ **20 July 2025 Sunday**, Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc, Open Day Christmas in July - 51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna
- ◇ **13-14th September 2025** NSW State Gem and Mineral Show, GEMKHANA 2025 - Hawkesbury District Agricultural Showground, Clarendon
- ◇ **1-2 November 2025**, Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc, Jewellery Gems and Minerals Festival – 63rd Anniversary, Heining Hall, Ribbonwood Centre, 109 Princes Hwy, Dapto
- ◇ **1-2 November 2025** Canberra Lapidary Club Spring Show, Mallee Pavilion EPIC, Mitchell, ACT. contact: canberralapidary@gmail.com- Norm Menadue on (02) 6258 6631
- ◇ **30 November 2025** Sunday, Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc, Open Day Christmas Market -51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna