

# **Gem & Lapidary News**

**April**

**2025**

Print Post Approved PP243352/00002  
ISSN 2208-5556

Vol 51

No. 3

**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 <a href="mailto:secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au">secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au</a>
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)
Editor	David Wilson (Canberra) <a href="mailto:editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au">editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au</a>
Webmaster	Hon Alex Maitland (Temporary Webmaster) <a href="mailto:webmaster@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au">webmaster@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au</a>
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: 23 April 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](mailto: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.

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page(s)</b>
G & L Council Information	2
Editor's Notes and Council contact information.	3
Message from the President	4
Committee Meeting Minutes—February. Gemboree	5-6
Some Mineralogy and Gemmology Basics Continued	7-9
NSW State Gem and Mineral Show GEMKHANA 2025	10-13
Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc Open Day—Christmas in July— Gem Show, Canberra Rock Swap	14
Events	16



### **Message from the President**

As Easter is fast approaching there is quite a number of the G & L Committee that will be travelling down to the GEMBOEE 2025 at Ballarat in Victoria. We are all hoping that the Victorian GEMBOREE will be an outstanding success.

There are a few of the regional shows happening shortly and the next lot of Judging is for Hawkesbury and Bathurst shows.

The education courses will recommence when everyone returns after the GEMBOREE.

If you are travelling over the Easter break please take care and have a good holiday.

Don't forget the GEMKHANA Competition schedule is 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 March 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), Port Hacking (Tony Offord), Hawkesbury (Sue & Paul Crick). **Apologies:** Blue Mountains (Kim Cooke), Goulburn (Sue & Joe O'Neil), Illawarra (Joan Zealy), Fairfield (Karen & Jim Waghorn). **Moved:** Central Coast seconded Parramatta/Holroyd those apologies be accepted.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** 26 February 2025, **moved:** Blue Mountains seconded: Western Suburbs that minutes be accepted.

**Business Arising** from last minutes:

- 1/ Purchase of anti-virus software, 365 Office & a network dongle held over
- 2/ Change of registered address for council on banking details fixed

**Correspondence: Business arising from correspondence.**

- 1/ AFLACA CM agenda submission needed to be voted on.

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

**Reports:**

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

**J&R Report:**

- 1/ Hawkesbury Show judging day 5 May 2025 – Annette Clarke to be Head judge – other judges have been allocated.
- 2/ Canberra judging costs – in hand discussions required with regional agriculture shows

**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)
- 2/ Lismore courses 1&2/3 completed, 29&30/3 cancelled, 31/5 & 1/6
- 3/ Bathurst advanced enamelling, 10 & 11 March completed
- 4/ Illawarra carving course dates 23 & 24 August
- 5/ Illawarra Jewellery course specifically to do Claw Setting – Ainsley Flynn 16 March completed
- 6/ NSW Lapidary Club – faceting course – date after GEMBOREE
- 7/ Hawkesbury faceting course – date after GEMBOREE

**Mail Person:** Printing \$37.05, Postage \$60.00 total \$97.05 Balance \$487.05**STATE GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

- 1/ Dates are 13 & 14 September 2025
- 2/ food vans booked
- 3/ Banner pole to be booked

- 4/ Ray Powell has done 2025 flyer. Thankyou Ray
- 5/ Lions club? Or replacement
- 6/ Advertising Facebook to increase from 50km to 100km
- 7/ Traylor inventory at GEMKHANA
- 8/ Permits needed from councils – Blue Mts & Penrith for road signs
- 9/ Advance booking for table & chairs done
- 10/ signs to replace stolen ones, 100 approved
- 11/ Banners cost

**Social media:** - No report

**GEMBOREE**

[1/Parkes Showground revisit 12 March, new hall not completed looking for grants. Cut off time for Gem Council is Dec 2025.](#)

2/ Trophies, to go with Robert Porter’s proposal, design decided on and approved. Flat one side 5/16 or 8mm thick. Parramatta/Holroyd, Orange, Port Hacking have offered to cut. Goulburn, CCLC, Western Suburbs have offered to polish while Goulburn and CCLC will be approached to see if they can help with polishing.

3/ Tables & chair hire, depending on venue

4/ Plan B discussed if Parkes pavilion is not completed in time – Mudgee has been contracted and pencilled in.

**That Reports be accepted Moved:** Hawkesbury seconded: Northern Districts

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1/ Discussion on clubs & their renew of membership & new member being approved regarding signing of constitution & safety rules.

2/ Discussion on the AFLCAC Agenda papers for Committee meeting was held and delegate was directed on how to vote at said meeting.

**That general Business be accepted Moved:** Western Suburbs, seconded:

Parramatta/Holroyd

Meeting closed 2.45pm,

**Meeting dates for 2025:** 23 April 2025 Parramatta/Holroyd

**Meeting dates 2025:** 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

All rocks are divided into 3 broad classifications, **IGNEOUS, SEDIMENTARY & METAMORPHIC** within each are various divisions.

### IGNEOUS:

This rock was once molten. The mobile magma can do 2 things; Force its way into existing rocks beneath the earth’s surface or be pushed up to the surface.

The former is called **INTRUSIVE** or **PLUTONIC** whilst the latter is called **EXTRUSIVE** or **VOLCANIC**.

**INTRUSIVE** rocks cool slowly and so allow the formation of large crystals – **COARSE GRAINED**.

**EXTRUSIVE** rocks cool quickly and hence a lack of obvious crystals – **FINE GRAINED** – Obsidian is extrusive.

This observation is called **TEXTURE**.

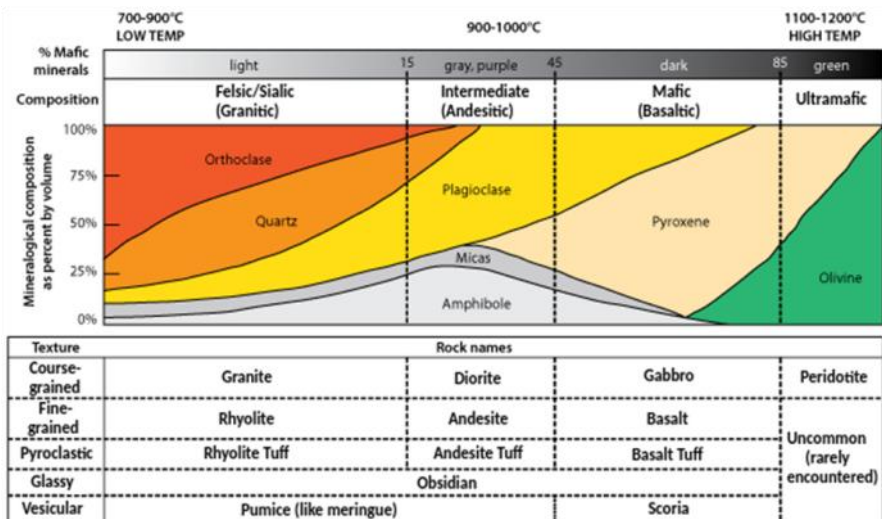
----- **But wait there is more** -----

Intrusive and extrusive rocks are classified based on their **silica (SiO<sub>2</sub>)** content.

**CHEMICAL COMPOSITION** – 2 broad classifications – **FELSIC (ACIDIC)** rich in quartz and **MAFIC (BASIC)** rich in magnesium/ iron minerals.

**Ultramafic** and **mafic** rocks have lower SiO<sub>2</sub> tend to be relatively dark in colour (e.g., basalt) ~50% SiO<sub>2</sub>, lots of Mg, Fe, and Ca, major minerals are olivine, pyroxene, and plagioclase

**Felsic**, or **silicic**, rocks have higher SiO<sub>2</sub> contents and tend to be lighter in colour (e.g., granite). >65% SiO<sub>2</sub>, more Al, Na, K, major minerals are feldspars, quartz, micas



		Composition				
		felsic	intermediate	mafic	ultramafic	
Texture	extrusive (volcanic)	glass	obsidian			
		fine-grained	rhyolite	andesite	basalt	
	intrusive (plutonic)	coarse-grained	granite	diorite	gabbro	peridotite



**GRANITE** is a common intrusive rock; a coarse grained variety is called **PEGMATITE**. Here large crystals of quartz, Topaz, Beryl, Spodumene, Tourmaline may occur.  
 FINE GRAIN: RHYOLITE, TRACHYTE, PORPHYRY  
 Other gems of igneous origin are Diamond, Zircon, Peridot, Sapphire and spinel in Australia and Thailand.  
 Eventually Granite reaches the surface (**BATHOLITH/TORS**)

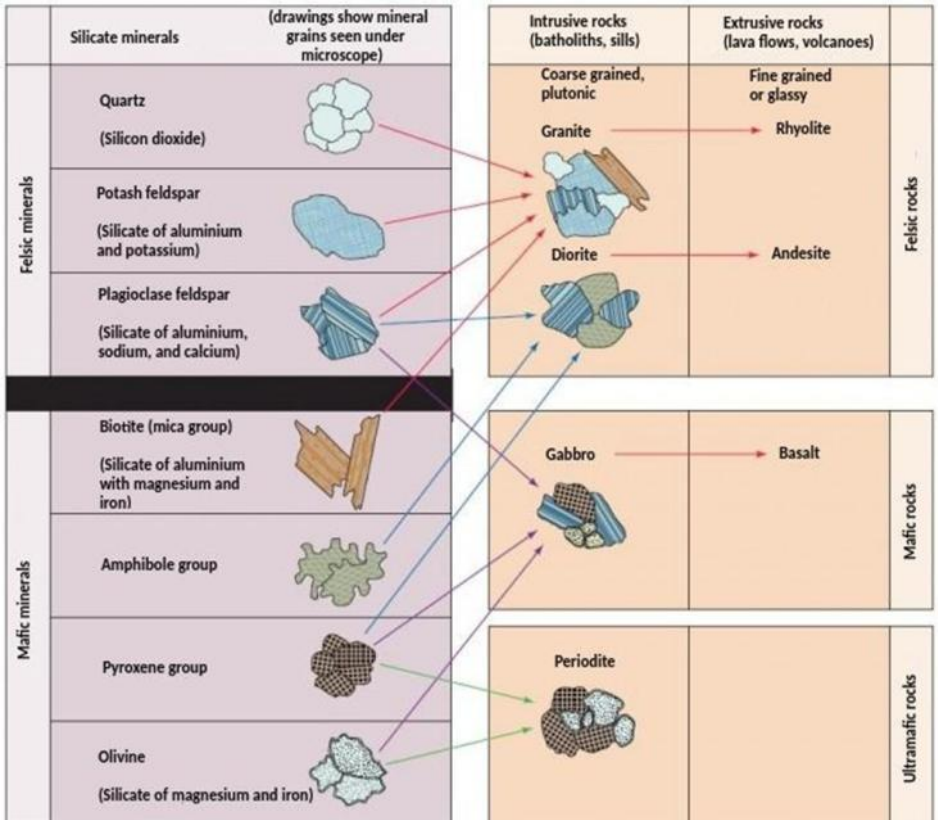


Batholith - Half Dome, a granite monolith in Yosemite National Park and part of the Sierra Nevada Batholith





Tor - The huge boulders of Rock Forest, on a private property near Bathurst, seen from a nearby road. (ABC Central West: Melanie Pearce)



## 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>)

## 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](mailto: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**

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.



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](http://www.australianlapidarysupplies.com.au)

Phone: 02 95318922 Email: [sales@australianlapidarysupplies.com.au](mailto: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

<https://www.gemcuts.com.au/>

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au) or like and follow us on  Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/illawarralapidaryclub> OR Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/illawarralapidaryclub>




**The Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc**  
*privately presents*

**THE 63<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL**  
**JEWELLERY GEMS & MINERALS FESTIVAL**

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

 **RENNER HALL, 305 PRICES HIGHWAY, DAFTO**  
 PART OF THE RIBBONWOOD CENTRE 

**\*\* Parking access from Renner Street, off Princes Road\*\***

\*Fossilising Information  
 \*Jewellery Valuations  
 \*Gemstone Faceting  
 \*Club Information  
 \*Mineral Group Display  
 \*Silver Crafts  
 \*Kids Games  
 \*Gawing Competitions

 **Lapidary Supplies\***  
 Jewellery\*  
 Minerals\*  
 Findings\*  
 Foods\*  
 Beads\*  
 Opals\*  
 Crystals\*

**Refreshments Available**  
 \$3 ADULTS – CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS FREE  
 LIGHT OODOR PRICES

visit our website: [www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au](http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au)  
 like and follow us on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/illawarralapidaryclub>  
 or Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/illawarralapidaryclub>

**See you there!**



**ILLAWARRA LAPIDARY CLUB INC** 

**OPEN DAY – CHRISTMAS MARKET**  
**SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2025**

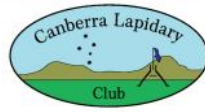
At Club House 51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna  
**9am—2pm**

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

**Morning Tea** – Home made cakes & goodies

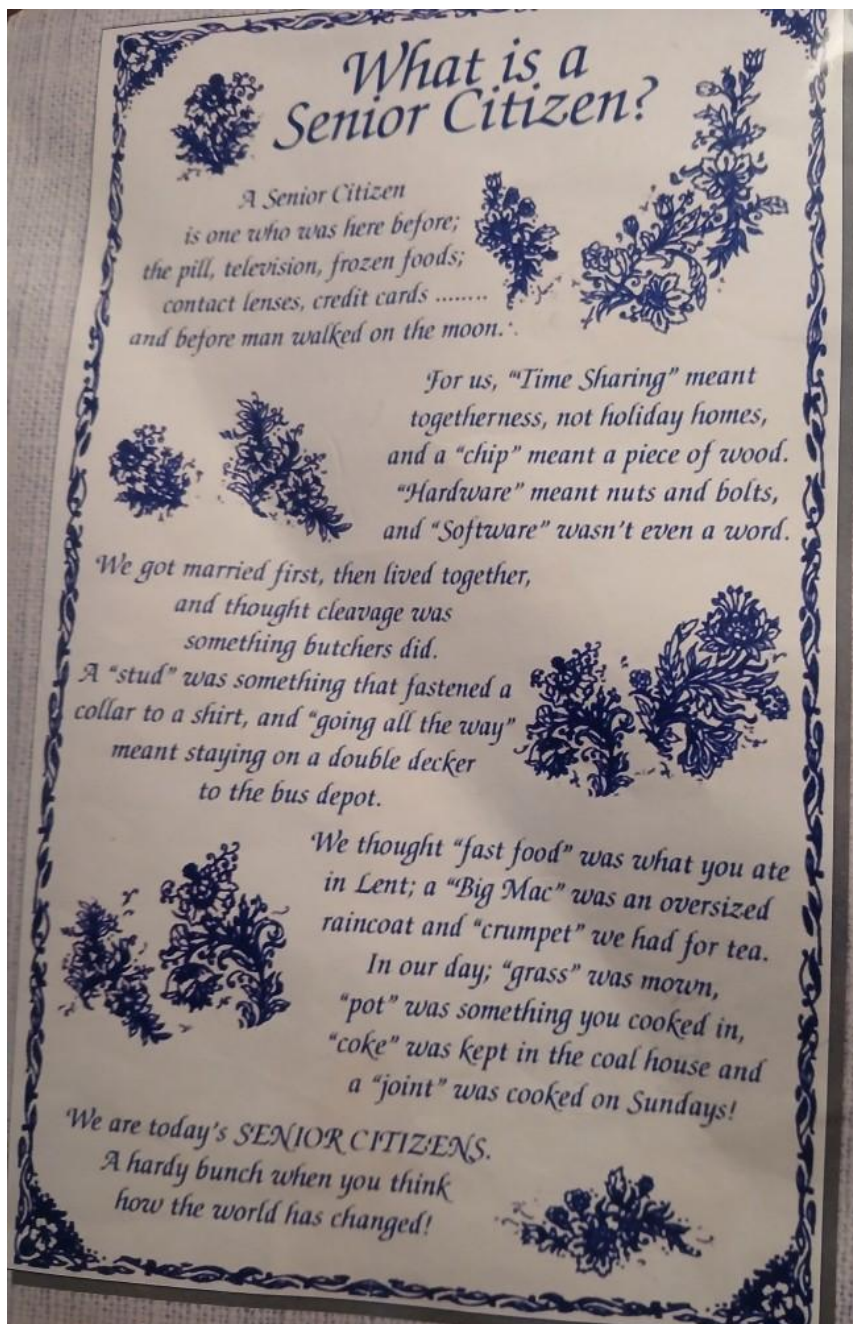
**Lunch** – Sausage sizzle and drinks available

Visit our website: [www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au](http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au)  
 or like and follow us on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/illawarralapidaryclub>  
 or Instagram  
<https://www.instagram.com/illawarralapidaryclub>

**24-25 May 2025**  
**Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Show**  
 Mallee Pavilion EPIC, Mitchell, ACT.  
 Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Show, Mallee Pavilion EPIC, Mitchell, ACT. Contact [canberalapidary@gmail.com](mailto:canberalapidary@gmail.com)- Norm Menadue on (02) 6258 6631





## 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/>

- ◇ **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 [canberralap-idary@gmail.com](mailto:canberralap-idary@gmail.com)- Norm Menadue on (02) 6258 6631
- ◇ **12 -13 July 2025** Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club Inc Exhibition
- ◇ **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, Heininger Hall, Ribbonwood Centre, 109 Princes Hwy, Dapto
- ◇ **1-2 November 2025** Canberra Lapidary Club Spring Show, Mallee Pavilion EPIC, Mitchell, ACT. contact: [canberralap-idary@gmail.com](mailto:canberralap-idary@gmail.com)- Norm Menadue on (02) 6258 6631
- ◇ **30 November 2025** Sunday, Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc, Open Day Christmas Market -51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna