



Gem & Lapidary News

June

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)
Secretary	Kathy Selwood (Orange) 6362 7917 secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
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) editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
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: 28 May 2025 12:30 start

EDITOR'S NOTES

We are Currently at the Northern Rivers Gem & Minerals Festival before heading to Yowah QLD. 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

The preparations for the State Gem and Mineral Show are in full swing. The response from Clubs for a table at the show has been well received.

The educational courses are back on the agenda with Lismore having a carving weekend. Faceting course have been organized.

If any Club has any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the council.

Barbara J Try OAM
President

Minutes of the COMMITTEE MEETING of 28 May 2025

Starting time: 1:00pm

Location: Parramatta Holroyd Club

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), Western Suburbs (Ainsley Flynn, Marcia Hill) Orange (Kathy Selwood), Blue Mountains (Mick Lane), Blaxland (Robert Kneale), Goulburn (Sue & Joe O'Neil), Illawarra (Joan Zeaely), AFG (Paul Sabolta), Phone connection: Northern Districts (Barbara Try), Central Coast (Tony Try). **Apologies:** Blue Mountains (Kim Cooke), Bathurst (Robert Porter), Hawkesbury (Sue & Paul Crick). **Moved:** AFG seconded Blue Mountains those apologies be accepted.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 23 April 2025, **moved:** Blaxland seconded: Parramatta/Holroyd that minutes be accepted, with one correction Zeaely not Zealy.

Business Arising from last minutes:

- 1/ Purchase of anti-virus software, 365 Office & a network dongle held over

Correspondence: See attached list

Business arising from correspondence.

- 1/ Glen Innes table GEMKHANA, Tony will explain in State Gem & Mineral show. Currently 12 clubs have nominated for free tables.

Moved Western Suburbs seconded Goulburn that Inward Correspondence be received, Outward Correspondence be endorsed, and business arising be approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: **Moved** Illawarra seconded Port Hacking that the report be accepted and accounts for payment be paid.

J&R Report:

- 1/ Hawkesbury Show judging day 5 May 2025 – completed
- 2/ Canberra judging costs – in hand with regional agriculture shows
- 3/ CCLC Judging day 11 October

GEMKHANA Competition:

- 1/ schedule for 2025, on Web
- 2/ judging will be 30 August 2025
- 3/ entries closing date is 15 August 2025
- 4/ test tagging will be available on 30 August and a BBQ
- 5/ Dave Wilson to change postage to new ruling for paid signature for all competition items in G & L News.

Webmaster: Flyer for Campbelltown up.

G&L NEWS Editor: No report

Education Report:

- 1/ Orange minerals (delayed)
- 2/ Lismore courses 31/5 & 1/6, wax carving & scrimshaw.
- 3/ Illawarra carving course dates 23 & 24 August
- 4/ NSW Lapidary Club – faceting course – still to setup dates
- 5/ Hawkesbury faceting course – still to setup dates

Mail Person: Printing \$44.90, Stamps \$60.00 total 104.90 Balance \$285.10

STATE GEM & MINERAL SHOW

- 1/ Dates are 13 & 14 September 2025
- 2/ All traders to have paid for table space by 31 August.
- 3/ Banner pole to be booked, need to set up account with Windsor council.
- 4/ Parramatta Newsletter to add State Gem & mineral Show flyer to their edition.
- 5/ Flyers posted to clubs and traders
- 6/ Advertising Facebook increase to 100km, list of traders sent for inclusion in Facebook

- 7/ Trailer inventory at GEMKHANA
- 8/ Permits needed from councils & RMS – Blue Mts & Penrith for road signs
- 9/ Community Radio @ Blue Mts
- 10/ signs to replace stolen ones, 100 approved
- 11/ Magazine advertising & looks up – what's on in Sydney
- 12/ Destination NSW sent electronic copy of flyer
- 13/ Promotional material needed from traders for Facebook
- 14/ Glenn Innes to be contacted for more information by Tony O

Social media: - request for traders' information

GEMBOREE

- 1/ Parkes Showground has been revisited, new hall not completed looking for grants. Cut off time for Gem Council is June/Dec 2025.
- 2/ Trophies, 10mm thick. Parramatta/Holroyd, Orange, Port Hacking (cut 41), Blaxland and NDLC have offered to cut. Goulburn (5), Western Suburbs (doing 36), have offered to polish. Col W has agreed to do wooden bases. Thankyou Col.
- 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.
- 5/ Plan C Wagga Wagga being accessed.
- 6/ Schedule being worked on.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS:

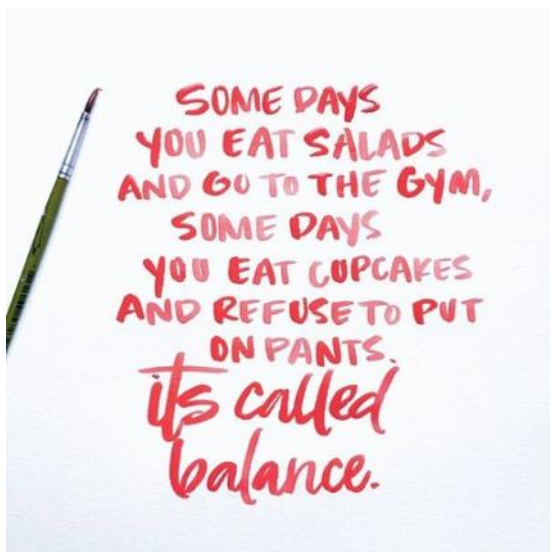
- 1/ Illawarra Xmas market is on 20th July.
- 2/ Illawarra exhibition 1 & 2 November, judges needed date to be arranged, entries close September 19.

That general Business be accepted **Moved:** Blue Mountains, seconded: AFG

Meeting closed 1.39pm,

Meeting dates for 2025: 25 June 2025 Parramatta/Holroyd

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



GAA Certificate in Opal Studies—Editor's Views on the Opal Course

In late January I received an email from GAA NSW re a new online course on Opal that had just been officially launched. After thinking about it for a few days and discussing it with the Boss (wife), I decided to try the course. You can do the course at your own pace as you have six months to complete it. I started it on the 28 January and completed it on the 20 February. I found it interesting and informative.

I knew a bit about opal or so I thought, and that this would just be reinforcement of what I knew. In some respects, that's what happened. One of the main things with the course was the new international opal classification and description system that has been released by CIBJO (the World Jewellery Confederation) and developed in consultation with the GAA and Australian opal industry. This is a big expansion on the original Australian system developed in 1997.

The course is quite comprehensive dealing with all forms of Opal from around the world. The course touches on the ethical sourcing, trading, mining, formation of opal, opalised fossils, classification of, handling, storage and value factors.

I found that the detailed pictures and videos help greatly to understand the new definitions system and value factors affecting the pricing and value of world opal.

My only criticisms would be that it would be nice to have access to the information supplied on line beyond the 12-month period. It would have been good also to have more information on the mining of Queensland opal as it covers a large area of the state, for example the levels at which Yowah Nut were formed/found?

Although the course may not suit everyone, I would recommend it to anyone wanting to know more about the opal they are selling and or playing with. You can find out more at the GAA site <https://www.gem.org.au/courses/opal-studies/>

David Wilson FGAA



Wire wrapped Yowah nut pendant
approximately 2cm tall



Yowah Moon - avocado sized Yowah
Nut—Currently on display at Geoscience
Australia in Canberra

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

Kathy Selwood

*****NOTE CHANGE IN ADDRESS*****

P.O. Box 188

Orange NSW 2800

Phone enquiries to Kathy Selwood: 0437 917 074 or Barbara Try 0417 676 435

5. Maximum number of entries allowed is two (2) per person per section except for Show-case 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.

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, selfaddressed 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 ******NOTE CHANGE IN ADDRESS******

Kathy Selwood
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:

Kathy Selwood
P.O. Box 188 Orange
NSW 2800

******NOTE CHANGE IN ADDRESS******

- 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](#)



Robilt Lapidary Supplies

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2025 STATE GEM AND MINERAL SHOW



FREE PARKING AND ATM ON SITE

ADULTS \$10 CHILDREN UNDER 16 FREE

SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER - 9AM - 5PM
SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER - 9AM - 4PM

CAMPING SITES ALSO AVAILABLE

HAWKESBURY DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SHOWGROUND
40 RACECOURSE ROAD
CLARENDON

TRADERS WILL BE OFFERING:
JEWELLERY, CRYSTALS, CUT STONES,
LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT,
FACETING AND SLABS

FEATURING:

- HANDCRAFTED JEWELLERY
- FACETED STONES
- POLISHED STONES (CABOCHONS)
- STONE CARVING
- MINERALS & FOSSILS

CONTACT:
TONY OFFORD

<https://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/>
<https://www.facebook.com/GemLapidaryCouncilNSW/>

STATE GEM AND MINERAL SHOW FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE GEMKHANA RUN BY THE GEM AND LAPIDARY COUNCIL OF NSW



The Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.



OPEN DAY
CHRISTMAS IN JULY MARKET

SUNDAY 20 JULY 2025

At the Clubhouse: 51 Meadow Street,
Tarrawanna, 2518
9am—2pm

- ✦ **Stalls selling:** Gemstones, crystals, fossils, rough, minerals, books and beautiful handcrafted jewellery.
- ✦ **Morning Tea:** Homemade cakes and goodies.
- ✦ **Lunch:** Pies, sausage rolls and drinks available.

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




Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club

2025

45TH ANNUAL GEM SHOW & EXHIBITION

SAT 12 JULY 2025
9.30AM - 5 PM &
SUN 13 JULY 2025
9.30AM - 4PM

Greg Percival Community Centre
Oxford Street, Ingleburn NSW




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

HEININGER HALL, 305 PRINCES HIGHWAY, DAPTO
PART OF THE RIBBONWOOD CENTRE

**** Parking access from Heininger Street, off Fowles Road ****

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

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or follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/illawarralapidaryclub>
or Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/illawarralapidaryclub/>

See you there!




1-2 November 2025 Canberra Lapidary Club Spring Show

Mallee Pavilion EPIC, Mitchell,
ACT.

Canberra Lapidary Club Winter
Show, Mallee Pavilion EPIC,
Mitchell, ACT. Contact canber-lapidity@gmail.com - Norm
Menadue on (02) 6258 6631

2025 CLUB EXHIBITION









TREASURES FROM THE SUBCONTINENT

Where:
73 Fullagar Road
Wentworthville
7th - 9th November

When:
Friday: 9am - 4pm
Saturday: 9am - 4pm
Sunday: 9am - 4pm

Free Entry

Gems Minerals Jewellery For Sale

What's on:
Demonstrations
Children's Craft
Novelty
Lucky Dip
Refreshments
Halal BBQ
Market Stalls



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

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GEMBOREE 2026

62nd National Gem, Fossil, Mineral, Crystal and Jewellery Show

Easter Weekend
3 April – 6 April 2026

Nambour Showgrounds





GEMBOREE 2026
PO Box 574
Nambour QLD 4560

Organised by Queensland Gem Clubs Association Inc.
Under the auspices of AFLCA Inc.



EVENTS

General information on which events are going ahead and which have been cancelled, can be found on the following link:

<https://gemplapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/events/>

- ◇ **12 -13 July 2025** 45TH Annual Gem Show & Exhibition 2025, Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club, Greg Percival Community Centre Oxford Street, Ingleburn NSW
- ◇ **20 July 2025 Sunday**, Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc, Open Day Christmas in July 9am to 2pm - 51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna
- ◇ **13-14th September 2025** NSW State Gem and Mineral Show, GEMKHANA 2025 - Hawkesbury District Agricultural Showground, Clarendon
- ◇ **10-17th October 2025**, Inverell & District Lapidary Club Gem & Craft Show. 02 6721 4563.
- ◇ **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: 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
- ◇ **2026**
- ◇ **3-6 April 2026** - 62nd National Gem & Mineral Show, GEM-BOREE 2026—Nambour, Sunshine Coast, Queensland. Venue: Nambour Show Grounds, Coronation Avenue Nambour, Queensland. <https://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/>