



Gem & Lapidary News

August

2025

Print Post Approved PP243352/00002
ISSN 2208-5556

Vol 51

No. 7

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: 27 August 2025 12:30 start

EDITOR'S NOTES

We are still in Yowah QLD enjoying the warmer days.

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

Don't forget the GEMKHANA Competition entries are due on the 15th of August 2025 with the Judging taking place on the 30th of August.

The GEMKHANA Competition will be on display at the State Gem and Mineral Show which is on 13th & 14th September 2025 at Hawkesbury District Agricultural Showground, 40 Racecourse Road, Clarendon.

For those who will be attending the Show there is plenty of FREE parking available at the venue.

Also, if you do not wish to drive there is the option to travel by train to Clarendon, with a short easy walk to the showground.

There is more information about the show by using the link below.

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

Barbara J Try OAM
President

Minutes of the COMMITTEE MEETING of 23rd July 2025**Held at Parramatta Holroyd Club Fullagar Rd Wentworthville**

The meeting was opened at 1:00pm by President Barbara Try (Northern Districts) who welcomed delegates from the following clubs: Central Coast (Tony Try), Port Hacking (Tony Offord), Blue Mountain (Mick Lane), AFG (Paul Sabolta), Goulburn (Sue & Joe O Neil) Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill & Ainsley Flynn) Orange (Kathy Selwood) attend by phone & Visitor for Parramatta/Holroyd (Martin Stoeckl); **Apologies:** Blue Mountains (Kim Cooke), Bathurst (Robert Porter), Paramatta/Holroyd (Ray Powell.) Illawarra (Joan Zealey) & Robert Kneale (Blaxland); **Moved:** Central Coast seconded Western Suburbs that apologies be accepted.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 25th June 2025; Moved AFG *seconded*, Goulburn that minutes be accepted.

Business Arising:

1 Purchase of anti-virus software ,365 Office & network dongle held over until August.

Business arising from minutes: **moved** Blue Mountains seconded Port Hacking

Correspondence: See attached list.

Business Arising from correspondence

1/Nil

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

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Moved Northern Districts seconded Central Coast that the report be accepted

J&R Report:

1/Central Coast judging day 11th October

2/ Illawarra Judging day 28th September

3/Judging for State Gem & Mineral show 30 August – Entries Close of 15 August 2025. BBQ Lunch to be provided by Mick and Test Tagging will be available. Request for purchase of tags approved by Committee.

Webmaster: No report

G&L NEWS Editor: No Report

Education Report:

1/ Orange Minerals Delayed

2/ Illawarra carving course 23&24 August.

3/NSW Lapidary Club faceting course 4 dates have been given to the club - waiting for their response.

4/ Hawksbury Valley - postponed as no machines available.

Social media: Advertising for State Gem & Mineral Show (GEMKHANA) already underway.

Mail Person: Postage \$34.80 plus .57 surcharge total \$35.37 and has a balance of \$152.07

State Gem & Mineral Show (GEMKHANA)

1/ Banner pole at Clarendon Tentatively Booked

2/ All traders to have paid by 31st August

3/ 17 Traders info sent to Facebook

4/ Permits needed for signage from Blue Mountains & Penrith Councils

5/ Community Radio @ Blue Mts Closer to Date

6/ Approx 14 club tables required

7/ Dealers Hungry boards need to be considered during hall layout

GEMBOREE 2028

1/Parkes Showground was revisited hall not completed still looking for grants Cut off time for Gem Council June/ December2025

- 2/ Trophies, cutting and polishing underway.
- 3/ Table & Chair hire depending on Venue chosen.
- 4/ Plan B discussed if Parkes pavilion is not completed in time Mudgee has been contracted and pencilled in
- 5/ Plan C - Wagga Wagga has been contracted will be visited 28th October.
- 6/ Schedule being worked on.
- 7/ End of October look at feasibility of other venues and decide

Reports to be accepted **moved** Western Suburbs. Seconded Goulburn

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 1/ Have received inquiry re- working with children with parent in attendance parents should be club members and abide by club rules and instructors should hold working with children certificate
- 2/ Competitions tumbled stones only 3 stones required per entry

General Business **Moved** Blue Mts Seconded AFG

Meeting closed 1.55pm

Next meeting: 27th August at Parramatta/Holroyd rooms Fullagar Rd Wentworthville.

Meeting dates for 2025: 25th September, 23th October, 27th November, 11 December & AGM.

Natures art Yowah-Koroit and Black Gate Opal Fields -S.W. QLD

Eddie Maguire had another wonderful display at the Yowah Opal Festival. His and Tanya's collection, along with an opal display by Yowah Opal Hut and jewellery by Linda George were inspiring to say the least.

Eddie's artistry goes into not only the exquisitely worked opal but also his hand made wooden stands all sourced from local timber, his ikebana vases also made from local timber and his tea caddies and other pottery made from local clay. The following picture do not do justice to the items on display.



Eddie Maguire next to one of his cabinets

The art of Suiseki (Japan) or Spirit Stone (China) – stones are collected for many reasons... They may represent mountains for example... They are small, naturally occurring stones which are appreciated for their beauty and power to evoke a natural scene or object....



ikebana vase wood and pottery



Part of Ed and Tanya Maguire's Collection

Continued Page 10

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

- Package up your entries to cushion them from damage whilst in transit – also see SC3.
- Fill out an official entry form – see page 13 of this Schedule.
- If you want acknowledgement of receipt of your entries, include a stamped, selfaddressed envelope.
- 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.
- 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

- Send your **Entry Form and All Entry Fees to arrive by Friday 15th August 2025** to: ******NOTE CHANGE IN ADDRESS******

**Kathy Selwood
P.O. Box 188 Orange
NSW 2800**



- 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**

- 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

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



The pictures in the background are 200x magnified photos talked of some of the opal

Continued page 11

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***

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

FEATURING:

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

**CONTACT:
TONY OFFORD**

<https://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/GemLapidaryCouncilNSW/>

Note: [The Katoomba Family Hotel](#) is donating a meal for two and overnight accommodation as prize for our Raffle at the 2025 State Gem and Mineral Show. We thank them very much. The Gem Council appreciates the support we receive from The Katoomba Family Hotel.

GEM SHOW
Blue Mountains Lapidary Club




4th, 5th and 6th October 2025
Saturday 9am-4pm
Sunday 9am-4pm
Monday 9am-3pm

**Gemstone and Mineral Dealers
Jewellery
Slabs ~ Fossils
Lucky Dips ~ Raffles
Gold & Sapphire Panning
Plus more**

Bullaburra Progress Hall
Cnr Noble Street &
Great Western Highway
Bullaburra NSW 2784
Entry fee \$5 Children under 16 free

My kidnappers returning me
after having to hear about
the Gemfields for 4 hours.

End The Matrix



The exact moment young Colonel Sanders
conceived his secret recipe for fried chicken.

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 PRICES HIGHWAY, DAFTO
PART OF THE RIBBONWOOD CENTRE

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

***Forswicking Information
*Jewellery Valuations
*Gemstone Faceting
*Club Information
*Mineral Group Display
*Silver Crafts
*Kids Games
*Gemsing Competitions**

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\$2 ADMISSION – CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS FREE
(EXCEPT DOOR PRIZES)**

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<https://www.facebook.com/illawarralapidaryclub>
or Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/illawarralapidaryclub>

See you there!

August 2025



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-
ralapidary@gmail.com](mailto:canber-
ralapidary@gmail.com) - Norm
Menadue on (02) 6258 6631

G&L News

2025 CLUB EXHIBITION

Free Entry
Gems Minerals Jewellery For Sale

TREASURES FROM THE SUBCONTINENT

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

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

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

Facebook: [illawarralapidaryclub](https://www.facebook.com/illawarralapidaryclub)
Instagram: [illawarralapidaryclub](https://www.instagram.com/illawarralapidaryclub)

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://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/events/>

- ◇ **13-14th September 2025** NSW State Gem and Mineral Show, GEMKHANA 2025 - Hawkesbury District Agricultural Showground, Clarendon
- ◇ **4-6 October 2025**, Blue Mountains Lapidary Club Gem Show Bullaburra Progress Hall, Cnr Noble St & Great Western HWY Bullaburra
- ◇ **10-12th 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: canberralapidity@gmail.com - Norm Menadue on (02) 6258 6631
- ◇ **7-8 November 2025**, 2025 Club Exhibition, Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club Inc 72 Fullagar Road Wentworthville NSW. Fee entry 9am-4pm
- ◇ **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, GEMBOREE 2026—Nambour, Sunshine Coast, Queensland. Venue: Nambour Show Grounds, Coronation Avenue Nambour, Queensland. <https://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/>