Gem & Lapidary News

November

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
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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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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 November 2025 1.00 pm start

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Year is almost gone, Christmas is just around the corner.

It only seems like yesterday that I put my hand up to do the Council's Newsletter but its July 2023 I started, just over 2 years ago.

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.

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

As we are fast approaching the end of our year there is still a lot to do before we take a well-earned break.

The Committee are still in the process of finding a suitable venue for our GEMBOREE 2028. That does not mean we can sit back and rest on our laurels and wait for this to fall in our lap. A small group of the committee were out and about last week looking at a future venue. The schedule for the GEMBOREE 2028 is now waiting for the final touches before it is sent out to the other associations for approval at the Nambour GEMBOREE 2026. The next thing is to find and fill all the positions for the GEMBOREE 2028 Committee. If anyone is interested in assisting, please let us know as we will need all the help we can get.

We also need judges and hope to run a Cabochon and Jewellery judging courses next year. If you are interested, please contact me and we will put your name on the list.

Barbara J Try OAM
President

Minutes of the COMMITTEE MEETING 22 October 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), AFG (Paul Sabolta), Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill & Ainsley Flynn) Orange (Kathy Selwood), Parramatta/Holroyd (Martin Stoeckl), Illawarra (Joan Zealey), Bathurst (Robert Porter), Blue Mountain (Mick Lane); **Apologies**: Blue Mountains (Kim Cooke), Goulburn (Sue & Joe O Neil), Paramatta/Holroyd (Ray Powell), Blaxland (Robert Kneale); **Moved**: Central Coast seconded Western Suburbs that apologies be accepted.
Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 24 September 2025 with amendment Business arising from minutes: moved Blue Mountains should read Orange seconded Port Hacking should read AFG
Moved Parramatta/Holroyd seconded, AFG that minutes be accepted.
Business Arising:

1/ Purchase of anti-virus software ,365 Office & network dongle sort out between President and Secretary.

Business arising from minutes: moved Illawarra seconded Blue Mountains

Correspondence: See attached list.
Business Arising from correspondence –

1/ Parkes showground secretary reply to email. Will be delt with in GEMBOREE report

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

Treasurer's Report: Moved Western Suburbs seconded Parramatta/Holroyd that the report be accepted

Reports

J&R Report:

1/ CCLC Judging day 11 October, completed
2/ Illawarra Judging day 28th September, completed
3/ Closing date for club competition must be 2 weeks before judging date, so judges can be organised.
4/ Message to all competitors to be sent out to all clubs
5/ Wire wrapping to all competitors & judges to be sent out to all clubs
6/ Combined jewellery to all competitors & judges to be sent out to all clubs (when completed)
7/ AFLACA tumble stones reduced to max 3 stones not 6 in competitions.
8/ AFLACA enamelling, jewellery & carving degree of effort notes to be sent to judges.

Webmaster: No report

G&L NEWS Editor: No Report

Social media: No Report

Mail Person: Printing $39.30 Postage $34.00 envelopes $8.50, total $81.80 and has a balance of $345.42

Education Report:

1/ Orange minerals (next year)
2/ NSW Lapidary Club – faceting course – dates waiting for their response.
3/ Hawkesbury faceting course – postponed
4/ Nepean – wire wrapping 22-23 November 2025
5/ Central Coast wire wrapping Jan 26 TBA
6/ Nepean faceting course 8-9 November 2025

GEMKHANA Competition:

1/ Entrants to email competition secretary of them sending their entry and phone number
2/ Two entrants that did not get their entries judged has been judged
3/ Orange Post reply to not delivered parcel, wrong entry into PO computer system.

State Gem & Mineral Show

1/Evaluation forms received from traders & sent to council committee
2/ Lap clubs 1 free table 1.8m each
3/ Table rental pricing set for inside traders.
4/ Magazine advertising listed what we will keep and what will be dropped.
5/ wording for drapes - required or not on hall tables in contracts
6/ Secretary has drafted a letter (email) to show ground committee for confirmation of date next year 26 & 27 September (Barb & Tony O to have input), notification of other users, & use of CWS hall
7/ Dates for 2026 finalised.
8/ Number of Indoor traders limited to 35.
8/ Position of outdoor traders.
9/ Facebook to expand
10/ Design of 2026 flyer & printing?
11/ Ask clubs to volunteer to do part of the organizing for GEMKHANA 2026?
12/ Club volunteer 2028 GEMBOREE?

GEMBOREE 2028

1/Parkes Showground grant not obtained so far. No goer.
2/ Trophies, first batch finished
3/Table & Chair hire depending on Venue chosen.
4/ Plan B discussed Mudgee.
5/ Plan C - Wagga Wagga visit 28th October. (Barb, Tony O, Kathy, Robert) 12:30 -1pm Tuesday.
6/Schedule currently in draft form, J & R committee to check for mistakes.
7/ Westpac cheques written after 30 June 2028 will not be valid, cheques written before this will be processed until 29 September 2029
8/ GEMBOREE booklet editor – Dave Wilson accepted.

Reports to be accepted moved Bathurst Seconded Illawarra

GENERAL BUSINESS –

1/ New Judging manual, green cover, 10 years adjustment almost completed. Hope to be ready to go to Nambour for distribution after final approval.

Meeting closed 2.23pm
Next meeting: 26th November at Parramatta/Holroyd rooms Fullagar Rd Wentworthville.
Meeting dates for 2025: 10 December & AGM.

Message to all Competitors & Judges Re Wire Wrapping

At the AFLACA J & R Meeting in Ballarat there was a discussion on Wire Wrapping, and there appears to be some confusion as to what is wire wrapping and what materials can be used to wrap said lapidary, fossil or mineral items.

In 2002 Wire Wrapping was introduced to the Lapidary Clubs of Australia and was approved to be included in the Competitor & Judging Manual. This was to assist members who could not solder but still wished to wear their cut gemstones. Please do not assume that wire wrapping involves merely wrapping wire around a stone. This is not the case as it still includes a range of techniques, including sawing, filing, annealing, sanding & polishing.

Over the years there have been a few changes to what is allowed. To clarify what is and is not allowed please read the explanations that follow.

- There are only three sections that relate to wire wrapping. They are 18E, 18F and 24G, these are listed on page 66 and page 76 of the current manual.
- Section 18E is Wire Wrapped jewellery with Lapidary, Fossil or Mineral Item/s prepared and set by entrant.
- Section 18F is Wire Wrapped Jewellery with Commercial Lapidary Item/s set by entrant.
- Section 24G is Enamelled Jewellery in Wire Wrapped Setting.

If a competitor submits a wire wrapped bracelet that does not contains any lapidary items – it is NOT eligible as it is missing the most important item i.e. the natural lapidary material, natural organic material, fossil, mineral or enamelled item.

The second most important thing is what wire is used to wrap the Lapidary item, DO NOT use **Jewellery wire**. This is an alloy and is coated and your entry will be disqualified. Use gold, silver, copper, brass or gold-filled wire.

Beads that are Natural lapidary material or Natural Organic material are allowed as long as they purely complement the main item(s) and must NOT dominate. This also means that silver beads are not allowed. To stop getting into trouble with this rule keep the beads as small as possible, and do not use too many.

Barbara J Try OAM

President

Gem and lapidary Council of NSW Inc.

Some Mineralogy and Gemmology Basics Continued

Geology – Rock Types - Chemical Deposition

Continued from July Newsletter

Subclass	Rock Type	Composition
Clastic (composed of rock and/or mineral fragments)	Sandstone	Cemented sand grains
	Siltstone	Cemented silt particles
	Conglomerate	Sandstone containing pebbles of hard rock
	Mudstone	Silt and clay, with some sand
	Claystone	Clay
	Shale	Clay, breaking easily into flat flakes and plates
Chemically precipitated (formed by chemical precipitaion from sea water or salty inland lakes)	Limestone	Calcium carbonates, formed by precipitation on sea or lake floors
	Dolomite	Magnesium and calcium carbonate, similar to limestone
	Chert	Silica, a microcrystalline form of quartz
	Evaporites	Minerals formed by evaporation of salty solutions in shallow inland lakes or coastal lagoons
Organic (formed from organic material)	Coal	Rocks formed from peat or other organic deposits; may be burned as a mineral fuel
	Petroleun (mineral fuel)	Liquid hydrocarbon found in sedimentary deposits; not a true rock but a mineral fuel
	Natural gas (mineral fuel)	Gaseous hydrocarbon found in sedimentary deposits; not a true rock but mineral fuel

STEP 1 *Determine makeup*	STEP 2 *Determine Grain Size*	STEP 3 *Rock Description*	STEP 4 *Rock Name*
CLASTIC *Composed of pieces of rocks and minerals*	Granule (> 2 mm)	Rounded rock or mineral fragments; usually poorly sorted.	Conglomerate
		Angular rock or mineral fragments; usually poorly sorted.	Breccia
	Sand (0.06 mm to 2 mm)	Mostly quartz grains; sorting and rounding variable.	Quartz Sandstone
		Mostly quartz with at least 25% feldspar; rock fragments common; usually poorly sorted with angular graines.	Arkose
		Clay, quartz, feldspars, and rock fragments; usually poorly sorted with angular grains; often dark colour.	Graywacke
	Silt (<0.06 mm)	Silt-sized particles are too fine to identify; no layering making it not fissile.	Siltstone
		Silt and clay-sized particles are too small to identify; layering makes rocks break in planes making it fissile.	Shale
	Clay (< 0.004 mm)	Clay-sized particles are too small to see.	Claystone

STEP 1 Determine makeup	STEP 2 Composition	STEP 3 Rock Description		STEP 4 Rock Name
CHEMICAL, BIOCHEMICAL & ORGANIC *Made of minerals that have crystallized together, or biological fragments of shells or plants.*	Calcite	All fizz with acid	Abundant fossils. Possibly in micrite.	Fossilliferous Limestone
			Abundant ooids - coarse, sand-sized spheres with concentric internal layers.	Oolitic Limestone
			Microcrystalline*; breaks with conchoidal fracture.	Micrite
			Shell fragments loosely cemented with a high porosity.	Coqina
			Microscopic fossil fragments; chalky; white colour; soft.	Chalk
			Microcrystalline*; colour banding of browns, greys, whites, and blacks.	Travertine
			Coarse crystals easily visible.	Crystalline Limestone
	Dolomite	Fizzes with acid only when powdered; fine to coarsely crystalline; may contain fossils.		Dolostone
	Microcrystalline Quartz	Microcrystalline*; conchoidal fracture; hardness of 7 so steel nail leaves a metal streak on the chert surface; shape edges used for pre-historic spearheads and knives; synonymous with flint.		Chert
	Gypsum	Crystalline; very soft with hardness < 2, white, grey, or pink colour.		Rock Gypsum
	Halite	Crystalline; salty taste, white or grey colour; fairly soft hardness of 2.5.		Rock Salt
	Plant Material	Plant fragments; low density; brown to black colour; often crumbly.		Bituminous Coal

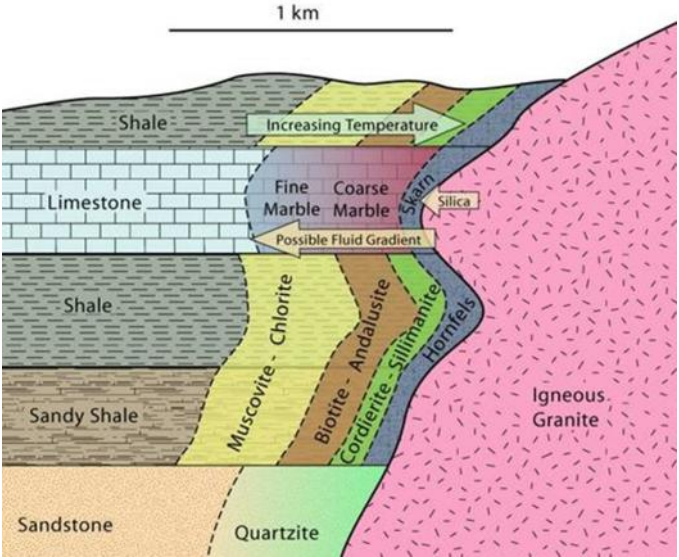
*Microcrystalline - crystals that are visible only through a high-powered microscope.

METAMORPHIC:

"changed form" – Occurs beneath the earth surface. 2 types

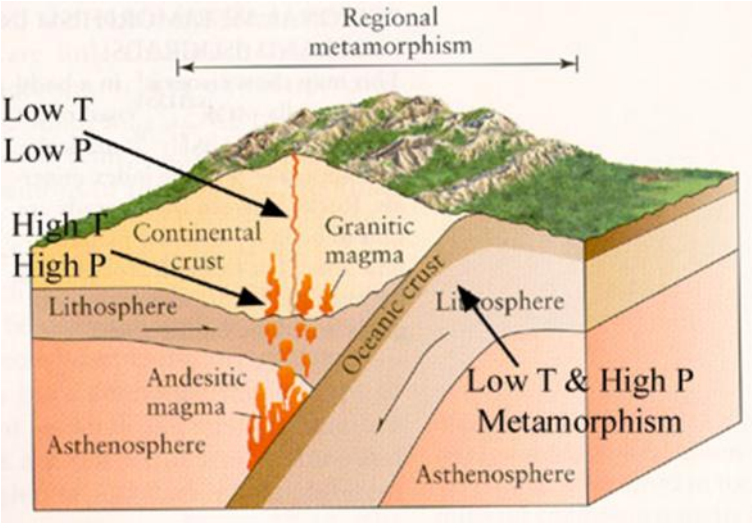
a/ CONTACT or THERMAL

Intrusion of magma into country rock. **The rocks do not melt, but elements rear-range to form new minerals.**



Contact metamorphism and associated minerals for different types of country rock. Aluminium-rich shale will form indicator minerals such as cordierite and sillimanite. Impure limestone may host indicator minerals such as olivine. Where there are significant volumes of fluid present, skarns may form. (Image: Wolf 2010.)

b/ REGIONAL- Pressure and heat – folding, buckling, shearing – mountain building etc



ORIGINAL

LIMESTONE	➡	MARBLE				
SANDSTONE	➡	QUARTZITE				
SHALE	➡	SLATE	➡	PHYLLITE	➡ SCHIST ➡	GNEISS
BASALT	➡	SCHIST	➡	AMPHIBOLITE		
GRANITE	➡	GNEISS				
(COAL) PEAT	➡	LIGNITE	➡	BITUMINOUS	➡ ANTHRACITE	

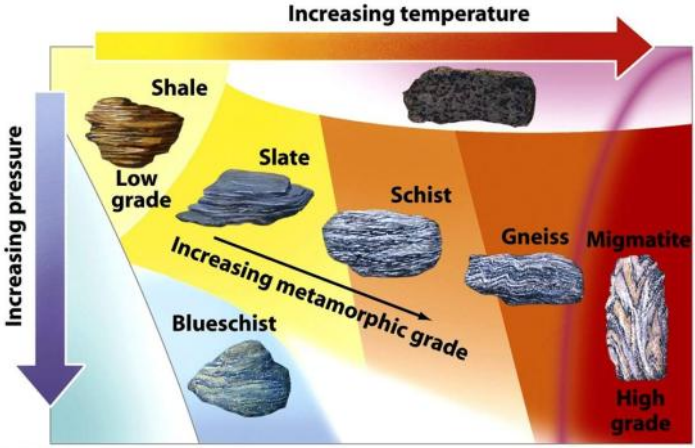
CONTACT

Paddy's River Iron Mine – SKARN – igneous magma intrusion in to limestone

High Grade	Ruby, Sapphire, Spinel (Burma)	HARTS RANGE
	Staurolite, Kyanite	
Medium	Almandine Garnet, Epidote, Iolite	
Low	Chlorite	

REGIONAL

	Serpentine	
	Tremolite/Actinolite ➡	Nephrite Jade
	Talc, Jadeite, Zoisite (Tanzanite)	



Page 250c Earth: Portrait of a Planet 3/e
Original artwork by Gary Hincks

Metamorphic Rock		Texture	Comments	Parent Rock
Slate	Foliated		Composed of tiny chorite and mica flakes, breaks in flat slabs called slaty cleavage, smooth dull surfaces	Shale, mudstone, or siltstone
Phyllite	Foliated		Fine-grained, glossy sheen, breaks along wavy surfaces	Shale, mudstone, or siltstone
Schist	Foliated		Medium - to coarse-grained, scaly foliation, micas dominate	Shale, mudstone, or siltstone
Gneiss	Foliated		Coarse-grained, compositional banding due to segregation of light and dark coloured material	Shale, granite, or volcanic rocks
Marble	Nonfoliated		Medium to coarse-grained, relatively soft (3 on the Mohs scale), interlocking calcite or dolomite grains	Limestone, dolostone
Quartzite	Nonfoliated		Medium to coarse-grained, very hard, massive, fused quartz grains	Quartz sandstone
Hornfels	Nonfoliated		Very fine-grained often exceedingly tough and durable, usually dark coloured	Often shale, but can have any composiition

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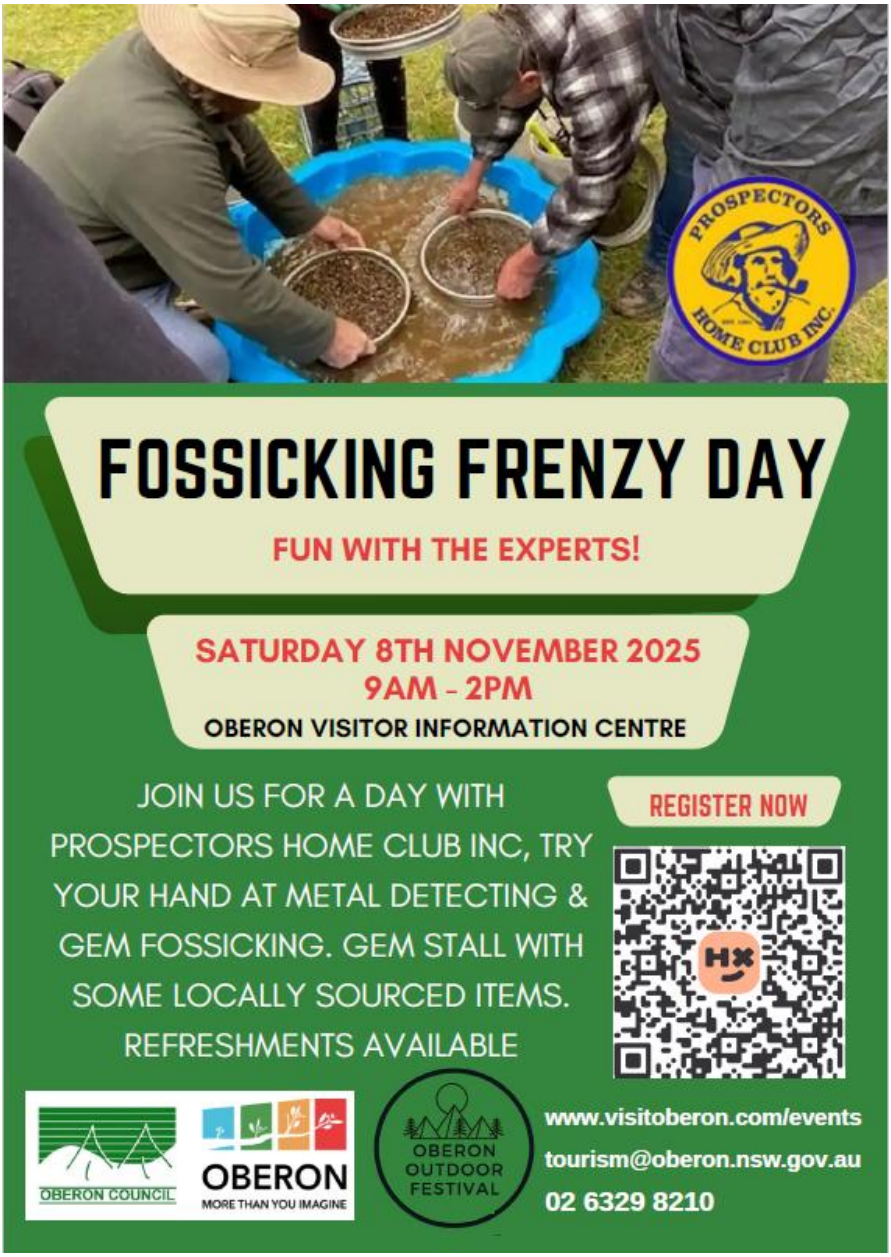
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SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2025
9AM - 2PM
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- Crystals
- Precious stones
- Jewellery tools and supplies

NewcastleLapidaryClub newlap@gmail.com

Sat 8th (9-4pm)
Sun 9th (9-3pm)
November

PCYC - Broadmeadow
Free ENTRY & Parking
Cnr Young & Melbourne st

Food & Drink / Raffles
Kids Activities (sun)

2025 CLUB EXHIBITION

PARRAMATTA-HOLROYD LAPIDARY CLUB INC

TREASURES FROM THE SUBCONTINENT

Free Entry

Gems
Minerals
Jewellery
For Sale

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

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

Whats on:
Demonstrations
Childrens 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

GEMBOREE 2026

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

Easter Weekend
3 April – 6 April 2026

Nambour Showgrounds

62ND NATIONAL GEMBOREE 2026 NAMBOUR, SUNSHINE COAST QLD

GEMBOREE 2026
PO Box 163
Nambour QLD 4560

Staged by Queensland Gem Clubs Association Inc.
Under the auspices of AFLMCA 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/

- ◊ **7-9 November 2025**, 2025 Club Exhibition, Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club Inc 72 Fullagar Road Wentworthville NSW. Fee entry 9am-4pm
- ◊ **8 November 2025** Fossicking Frenzy Day at Oberon. See flyer. We will be using the Noodling patch next to the Oberon Visitors Ctr again, but if you want to play with the metal detectors you'll need to book online: E: secretary@goldclub.au Prospectors Home Club Inc www.prospectorshomeclubinc.org.au N.B. There is a $5 fee only to maintain the Noodling Patch at the Ctr. Onlookers welcome, but they won't play with the gear.
- ◊ **8-9 November** Newcastle Jewellery Fair 2025, Newcastle Lapidary Clubs annual event, At PCYC Newcastle cnr Young and Melbourne Streets Broadmeadow, Facebook page Newlap_show2025
- ◊ **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/