

Gem & Lapidary News

April

2026

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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
Vice President	Marcia Hill (Western Suburbs)
Vice president	Robert Porter (Bathurst)
Secretary	Kathy Selwood (Orange) 6362 7917 secretary@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
Minutes Secretary	Mick Lane (Blue Mountains)
Treasurer	Vacant
Assistant Treasurer	Robert Kneale (Blaxland)
Committee:	Sue O'Neil (Goulburn) Joe O'Neil (Goulburn) Paul Sabolta (AFG)

APPOINTMENTS

Public Officer	Paul Sabolta (AFG)
Auditor	Colin Russell (Port Hacking)
Editor	David Wilson (Canberra) editor@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au
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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	Vacant 2028
State Gem & Mineral Show Coordinator	G&L Committee Assistant: Vacant
AFLACA delegates	Barbara Try (voting) and Kathy Selwood (non-voting)
Social Media & Multimedia Officers	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: 29 April 2026 - 1.00 pm start

EDITOR'S NOTES

Hope you enjoy the April Newsletter.

We are currently on the way to the Gemboree in Nambour. We decided to risk it with the fuel situation, as it is looking more unlikely that we will be heading north for winter, but you never know!

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

The State Gem and Mineral Show preparations are in full swing. The flyer is at the Printers and will be available at the end of April. The traders for the hall is just about at the limit, but there are plenty of spaces still available for outside traders.

GEMBOREE 2028 is finalized with another visit to Wagga Wagga, which is planned for mid-May.

Still looking for any cabochon cutters that would like to become a judge, please contact me for further information.

**Barbara J Try OAM
President**

Minutes of the COMMITTEE MEETING of 25 March 2026**Held at Parramatta Holroyd Club Fullagar Rd Wentworthville**

The meeting was opened at 1:05 pm by President Barbara Try (Northern Districts) who welcomed delegates from the following clubs: Central Coast (Tony Try), Orange (Kathy Selwood), Blue Mountain (Mick Lane), AFG (Paul Sabolta), Western Suburbs (Marcia Hill & Ainslie Flynn) Parramatta/Holroyd (Martin Stoeckl), Blaxland (Robert Neale); **Apologies:** Illawarra (Joan Zealey), Bathurst (Robert Porter), Goulburn (Sue & Joe O Neil), Port Hacking (Tony Offord), Hawkesbury (Sue & Paul Crick); **Apologies Moved:** Central Coast seconded Parramatta/Holroyd that apologies be accepted

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 25 February 2026. Moved AFG seconded Blue Mountain that minutes be accepted.

Business arising from minutes: none

Correspondence: See attached list.

Business Arising from correspondence

1/ Question on using Silver or gold-filled wire

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

Reports:

Treasurer: Moved Orange seconded Parramatta/Holroyd that the report be accepted - Carried

J&R Report:

1/ [new judging manual](#) club numbers needed they will cost \$8.00 per copy available

April meeting

2/ Hawkesbury Show – judging date 20 April

3/ AFLACA J & R Agenda received J & R Committee to assess.

4/ "Note: Transfers (decals) are NOT permitted for all enamelling sections.

Webmaster: No Report

G&L NEWS Editor: No Report

Social media: waiting on flyer

Mail Person: printing \$30.95 stamps \$76.50 total \$107.45 balance minus-\$15.57

Education Report:

1/ [Orange minerals \(delayed\)](#)

2/ NSW Lapidary Club faceting course 7/8th March completed

3/ Illawarra cabbing course 16 & 17 May

4/ Illawarra faceting course not necessary

GEMKHANA Competition:

1/ [changes to faceting diagram on web – have been fixed Section O.11.1 Crown point 10 should read 58 fixed](#)

2/ GEMKHANA medallions Action Badges quoted. Second quote obtained from BJ Burtons - Do we continue with them-Yes. Second quote approved.

STATE GEM & MINERAL SHOW

1/Design of this year's flyer done – vote - yellow

2/Replacement signage to be purchased. Mick Lane to follow up with Tony Offord re numbers and sizes.

3/ Banner to be purchased.

4/Trader contracts 32 signed for indoor and 11 outside already received.

5/Table and chair hire company and Atm people have been advised.

6/Food vendors/caterers all contacted. (new Ice Cream vendor approached - Morty's ice cream van)

7/ 2000 flyers have been quoted on. - Approved

8/ Send Multimedia flyer design

GEMBOREE 2028

- 1/ 2028 is Wagga Wagga
- 2/ Wagga Wagga Showground meeting 19 & 20 May 11am
- 3/ Table & Chair hire to be contacted
- 4/ Banner needed for Tasmania. Paul to follow up
- 5/ Schedule being checked by J&R state committees.
- 6/ Wagga Wagga Council & info centre meeting 19 May
- 7/ Wagga Wagga Lapidary Club meeting after 5pm 19 May
- 8/ Contact Wagga Wagga showground for deposit – email sent

Reports to be accepted moved Central Coast Seconded Blue Mountain

GENERAL BUSINESS

None

Meeting closed 2.05pm

Next meeting: 29th April, at Parramatta/Holroyd rooms Fullagar Rd Wentworthville.

Meeting dates for 2026 27th May, 24th June, 22nd July, 26th August, 23rd September at GEMKHANA show, 28th October, 25th November, 16th December & AGM.

NSW State Gem and Mineral Show

GEMKHANA 2026

26-27 September



The State Gem and Mineral Show, GEMKHANA 2026, will be held on **Saturday 26th September and Sunday 27th** September 2026 at Hawkesbury District Agricultural Showground, Clarendon. The show will feature handcrafted jewellery, faceted stones, polished stones (cabochons), stone carving, minerals, fossils and crystals. Traders will be on site selling jewellery, crystals, cut stones, lapidary equipment, faceting and slabs.

Schedule: [GEMKHANA 2026 Full Schedule With Diagrams](#)

April 2026

G&L News

NSW State Gem and Mineral Show GEMKHANA 2026

The State Gem and Mineral Show, GEMKHANA 2026, will be held on Saturday **26th September and Sunday 27th September 2026** at Hawkesbury

District Agricultural Showground, Clarendon.



GEMKHANA 2026 – 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. 9, April 2026. (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

P.O. Box 188, Orange NSW 2800

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

Emails kathrynselwood@bigpond.com or twotrys@bigpond.net.au

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 into 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 NSWInc)
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). Please ensure sufficient funds to cover additional paperwork and possible medallions.
9. While every care will be taken, the GEMKHANA 2026 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 2026 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 2026 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, please provide a valid email address. If there is no email, please include a stamped, self-addressed 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

Kathy Selwood

P.O. Box 188 Orange NSW 2800

If you are sending your entries by mail, please send an email to Kathy or Barbara so that we are aware that a parcel is coming.

**They must be received by Friday 21st August 2026 or
by hand at the Gem and Lapidary Council meeting**

26th August 2026 at Parramatta/Holroyd Lapidary Club by 2pm.

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

12. How to Enter the Competition – Sections 16, 17, 29, 32, 34 and showcases
- Send your Entry Form and All Entry Fees to **arrive by Friday 21st August 2026** to:- **Kathy Selwood P.O. Box 188, Orange NSW 2800**
 - Hand deliver the entries to the Competition committee in the Competition Hall **at the GEMKHANA 2026 VENUE between 1pm and 5pm on Friday 25th September 2026**
 - Note that entries in Sections 29, 32 & 34 must be set up and ready in the Exhibition Hall by **5.00pm Friday 25th September 2026**

13. Judging, Judging Sheets and Entry Pickup

- a. Entries in Sections 1 to 5, 8 to 13, 18 to 26 will be judged prior to the GEMKHANA.
- b. Entries in Sections 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 27th September 2026
- d. Entries may be collected between 6pm and 7pm on Sunday 27th September 2026
- e. Entries not collected will be returned to the competitor in the manner specified on the entry form together with the applicable judging sheets .

14 SPECIAL CONDITIONS (SC)**SCI – Sizes and Tolerances**

Where an entry does not conform to the size conditions in this Schedule or the Manual it will be ruled ineligible and not judged. Refer to section definitions in the Schedule and the Manual for allowable tolerances.

SC2 – Carving (Section 5)

Each entry must have a label which best describes the exhibit for the viewer's interest including the material used. These labels will not be judged.

SC3 - Facet Entries (Section 8 to 11)

- a. All chosen designs have either been previously used in competitions or have been successfully test cut using instructions given
- b. b. ALL Facets are FLAT, any entry with Concave or Curved facets (except Section 8A continuous girdle) will be disqualified and will NOT be judged.
- c. c. Minimum size is 6mm measured across shortest axis of outline shape at the girdle, or as indicated on design sheet.
- d. d. Each faceted stone must be entered in a display box and this box must contain a label which contains only the following details:
 - Section Number
 - Material used
 - Colour of material
 - Size

SC4 – Tumbled Stones (Section 12A)

Please read page 19 (D2.2) and page 55 (D12.1) of the Manual for definition of this section.

SC5 – Jewellery (Sections 18 – 26)

Competitors should carefully read Part E of the Manual in relation to all Jewellery Sections.

Please note there has been a change to the faceting design page 19 of the Schedule Section: O-11.1 Ying - Yang Frost

Step 10 on the Crown should read index 10 - 58

Warning Scam Emails

Please be aware that scammers are using G & L Council members and executive name to ask for money / voucher etc.

Gem & Lapidary will not ask anyone for money/vouchers.

Please check email address of sender it is not us.

Regards Kathy Selwood Secretary G & L Council of NSW

AGATE SALE

Considerable Variations & Sundry Items Available



Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club Inc
73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville, NSW 2145
Sunday 26th April 2026
10am until 2pm
Refreshments for Sale
Open to all Lapidary Clubs and Members

My neighbor's cat, got our cat pregnant. I was joking with him that they would have to pay Child-Support. When I opened the door this morning; this is what I saw..



GEMBOREE 2026

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

Easter Weekend

3 April – 6 April 2026

Nambour Showgrounds



GEMBOREE 2026
PO Box 251
Nambour QLD 4560

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



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

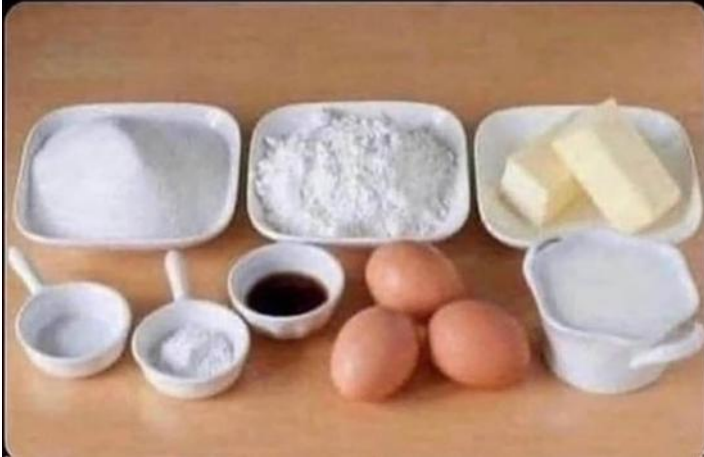
Jersey Instruments – Faceting Machines

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/>

The manager at the local IKEA is retiring,
so I sent him a cake.



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The Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.
OPEN DAY

Sunday 3rd May, 2026
 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 – Lunch 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/illawarralapidaryclub>
 OR Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/illawarralapidaryclub/>

WAMBURRA MACLEAY GEM & MINERAL CLUB

Invite you to attend our annual
Rock Auction

GEMS, MINERALS, FOSSILS & LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT
Sat 9 May 2026
10:00AM
 Macksville Showground
 111 Rodeo Dr, Macksville

An itemised list will available prior to the auction
 Viewing from 9:00am Cash or Card
 email: macleaygemandmineralslab@gmail.com
 facebook: [macleaygemandmineralsclub](https://www.facebook.com/macleaygemandmineralsclub)



Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club Inc.

2026

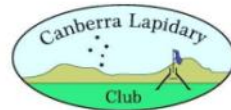
46TH ANNUAL GEM SHOW & EXHIBITION

SAT 18 JULY 2026
 9.30AM - 5 PM &
SUN 19 JULY 2026
 9.30AM - 4PM
 *ENTRY \$10 PER PERSON
 & CHILDREN U/16 FREE



Greg Percival Community Centre
 Oxford Road, Ingleburn NSW

Canberra Show Dates
 2026 to 2028



Open Days

Event	2026	2027	2028
Rock Swap (Parrot Park, EPIC)	21 - 22 March Sat - Sun	13 - 14 March Sat - Sun	1 - 2 April Sat - Sun
Winter Gem Show (Mallee Pavilion, EPIC)	30 - 31 May Sat - Sun	29 - 30 May Sat - Sun	27 - 28 May Sat - Sun
Spring Gem Show (Mallee Pavilion, EPIC)	17 - 18 October Sat - Sun	30 - 31 October Sat - Sun	28 - 29 October Sat - Sun

Note :

Rock Swap is an Open Air event only (EPIC Parrot Park)
 Trades/Campers start arriving from Tue before the weekend
 Open to the Public Sat & Sun only

Winter & Spring Gem Shows are indoor only
 Sat : 10am to 5pm
 Sun : 10am to 4pm



The Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.



OPEN DAY
CHRISTMAS IN JULY MARKET

SUNDAY 19 JULY 2026

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:** Lunch and drinks available.



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
privately presents

THE 64th ANNUAL
JEWELLERY GEMS & MINERALS FESTIVAL

SAT 7 November – 9am to 4pm
SUN 8 November – 9am to 3pm

HEININGER HALL, 109 PRINCES HIGHWAY, DAPTO
PART OF THE RIBBONWOOD CENTRE

**** Parking across from Heininger Street, off Fowler's Road ****

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



- Lapidary Supplies*
- Jewellery*
- Minerals*
- Fossils*
- Beads*
- Opals*
- Crystals*

Refreshments available
\$1 ADULTS - CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS FREE
LUCKY DOOR PRIZES

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

See you there!



ILLAWARRA LAPIDARY CLUB INC

OPEN DAY – CHRISTMAS MARKET

SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER, 2026

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 – Lunch 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/>



This would be funny except there's no punch line...



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/>

- ◇ **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/>
- ◇ **3 May 2026-Open Day Market – Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc**, 51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna 2518, – 9am to 2pm – FREE ENTRY
- ◇ **9 May 2026** - Annual Rock Auction, Nambucca-Macleay Gem & Mineral Club, Macks-ville Showground 111 Rodeo Drive Macksville NSW, Viewing from 9:00 am. Auction commences 10:00 am. Cash or Card Contact/enquiries: 0407 457042 email mac-leaygemandmineralclub@gmail.com
- ◇ **16-17 May 2026** - 34th Annual Show - Lismore GEMFEST, Lismore Showground, Lismore NSW, <http://www.gemclublismore.org.au>
- ◇ **30-31 May 2026** Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Show, Mallee Pavilion EPIC, Mitchell, ACT. Contact canberrallapidary@gmail.com- Norm Menadue on (02) 6258 6631
- ◇ **18-19 July 2026**– 46th Annual Gem Show & Exhibition, Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club Inc, Greg Percival Community Centre, Oxford Road Ingleburn
- ◇ **19 July 2026-“Open Day” Christmas in July Market – Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc**, 51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna – 9am to 2pm – FREE ENTRY
- ◇ **26-27 September 2026**-The State Gem and Mineral Show, GEMKHANA 2026- at Hawkesbury District Agricultural Showground, Clarendon.
- ◇ **9-14 October 2026** - Gem & Craft Show, Inverell & District Lapidary Club Inc. Ross— (02) 6721 4563
- ◇ **17-18 October 2026** Canberra Lapidary Club Spring Show, Mallee Pavilion EPIC, Mitchell, ACT. contact: canberrallapidary@gmail.com- Norm Menadue on (02) 6258 6631
- ◇ **7-8 November 2026**—Jewellery Gems and Minerals Festival – Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc, At Heininger Hall, Ribbonwood Centre, 109 Princes Hwy, Dapto. You can find us at our website www.illawarrallapidaryclub.com.au or like and follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IllawarraLC> or Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/illawarralc/>
- ◇ **29 November 2026**-“Open Day” Christmas Market – Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc, 51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna 2518 NSW