



GAA

Gemmological Association of Australia

New South Wales Division

33rd Annual General Meeting Gemmological Association Australia (NSW Division) – 25th May 2024

President's Report

In the last year we have returned to some resemblance of normal after covid had seriously restricted our ability to run the Diploma and our short courses at their normal enrolment levels or in the case of short courses at a normal level of frequency.

It is pleasing to report that Gem1 students in 2024 number 36 students and Gem2 16 students a return to more normal levels. As a result of these enrolments a major upgrade of the Diamond lab to a fully equipped Gemmological laboratory is in progress with new equipment being purchased and installed over the past few months and will be completed by mid-year. In terms of short courses Deb and Jan with Amy's help some new offerings and a comprehensive schedule of courses has been compiled. Well, done to you all. Thank you to all the teachers for their time and energy in doing the best for our students.

In 2023 we ran the Federal annual meeting with the education sessions as well as the meeting schedule. Friday was spent having many of the formal meetings.

Friday night was the Conference dinner and presentation night for graduates a great night was had by all and thanks to Linda Evenhuis who did much of the organising. In the raffle a first prize of a ruby which was donated by Peter Gerrard thanks Peter, many other prizes were donated by members including Bill Sechos who not only did a formal stone identification certificate for the ruby but donated several other certificates as prizes as well. Our guest speaker from France Boris Chauviré presented many of the awards. It should be noted with pride to our students and teachers that our students won both Federal prizes for best theory and practical papers.

The education component was in two sections first was a tour to Broken Bay pearls which was enjoyed by both delegates and members who came along as well on the Saturday afternoon. They visited the leases where the pearls are grown had a demonstration on seeding a spectacular session viewing and appreciating both local and West Australian pearls both cultured by Broken Bay Pearls. Followed by an oyster and special gin Special tasting. Thanks to Celeste Boonaerts and the staff for organising this special tour and for presenting each state with a collection of shells and books. Dinner was held at the local Mooney club.





GAA

Gemmological Association of Australia

New South Wales Division

Sunday's education session was on Opals and was addressed by the keynote speaker Boris Chauviré from France and was followed by Paul Thomas and Tony Smallwood. Thanks to Terry Coldham who organised for Boris to be guest speaker and Tony for organising Paul and his talk and tying the different aspects spoken on together.

Thanks to Deb Hudson for organising the various meals that we offered to the delegates for lunch and breakfast and to Cheryl and Lisa their band of helpers who set it all out and then cleaned up after, my special thanks to you all.

The week after the conference a field trip to the opal fields was conducted thanks to Terry and Tony for organising and leading this trip. One of our visitors from France found a nice opal and the owner of the lease allowed her to keep it.

Our Financial position is strong despite a small loss for the year we know here it was incurred mainly depreciation and the payout for the discontinuation of the ESO role being made redundant. A new role has been replaced by a Business Development and Course Administrator position was created that has been ably filled by Jan Vlazny in this new role. Jan's report is also included in Vice Presidents for the AGM and you can see where she has made initial progress to filling this new role and expanding our offering to members and the trade in general. With this focus on bespoke courses and expanded short course offerings we will see significant increase in income from these offerings. Thanks to Michael for all your work as treasurer.

On a big thank you to Cheryl and Lisa who continue to catalogue and sort our stone collection and get the library functional. See Cheryl's report on the visit to Tucson to buy stones for our teaching and short courses.

A personal thanks to all the members of the committee who work in various capacities. Whether attending monthly meetings working on specific tasks and helping out where they can it would not be possible to run the organisation without your help.

Thank you all!

Leo hyde
President
NSW Division

