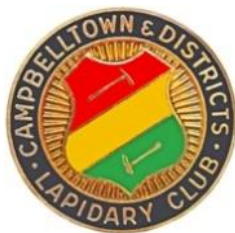


Rockgrinders Gazette

Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club Inc.

ADDRESS: Lot 1 Bensley Road Macquarie Fields NSW 2564
MAIL: PO Box 477 Ingleburn NSW 1890
EMAIL: ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com
WEBSITE: campbelltownlapidary.cjb.net
PHONE: (02) 9618 3206



Club rooms opening hours

Monday	9am till 2pm
Wednesday	9am till 2pm
Friday	6pm till 9pm
Saturday	9am till 1pm

NOVEMBER 2012 – TOPAZ EDITION

Email Address

We need your email address – please send your email details or update the sheet on the table at the club.

We will send you the newsletter and any hot items.

You are also welcome to post notices on the Members Notice Board – email details to ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com

Workshop fee has increased to \$2 from 1st November 2012

Membership

Single	\$15.00
Family	\$20.00
Pensioner Family	\$15.00
Pensioner / Student	\$10.00
Insurance	\$3.50 per member

NOTE: You must be an insured member over 12 years of age to use machinery & cutting implements

All visitors are welcome however only members can use machines or gas.

ARE YOU A FINANCIAL MEMBER?

Workshops

Silver Casting

Classes are conducted every Friday evening – please inquire at the Club for future classes

Saturday Workshop

Commence at 9.30 on the fourth Saturday of the month unless otherwise notified. If you wish to use precious metals for larger items (eg bracelet) please book & pay a non-refundable deposit of \$30 towards the purchase of your materials. The final cost will be calculated on the day. Workshop activities require *member only* use of mechanical tools including the kiln.

Next Workshop:

Saturday 24th November 2012

Seed Beading a Bezel – bring your own cab or crystal to bezel.
 Tips to achieve a tight Peyote Stitch Bezel every time

Booking by placing name on the Notice Board - Limit 5 members.
 \$5 material

Welcome to a New Members

To all new members, we trust you will enjoy your experiences with us & if you have any questions just ask our members would love to help you if they can.

Welcome - Ian Browne

Ian has joined us and he would like to fulfil a goal to polish the Agate found by his Brother in the 1960's in Agate Creek, Queensland. His brother was a member of the Townsville Lapidary Club. Welcome Ian and we will endeavour to help you in any way possible.



can be used, with appropriate care (should be protected from hard knocks), in any jewellery application.

Topaz comes in many colours, including clear, brown, yellow, orange, red, pink and blue. The blue topaz, with a pale to medium blue colour created by irradiation, can be found in very large sizes at affordable prices. The fine golden-yellow variety, known as Imperial Topaz, is relatively scarce. Topaz colours are rarely vivid. The most common colour is yellow with a red tint; the most valuable is pink to reddish. The colouring agents are iron and chromium.

The name topaz is most probably derived from an island in the Red Sea, "Topazos", today called Zabargad, the ancient source of peridot. In former times all golden-brown and sometimes also green gemstones were called topaz, which caused sufficient confusion such that today real topaz is referred to as **precious** topaz.

Topaz is the birthstone for those who are born in the month of November

<http://www.gemselect.com/gem-info/topaz/topaz-info.php>

Also welcome to Steve Bourke

November Birthdays

Topaz

Clarice Stretch
Marion Harpur
Ann Thompson
Bob Pullan
Eugene Cordova
Steve Bourke



Topaz of any type is a good jewellery stone and it is historically one of the most important gemstones. With its relatively high refractive index and hardness of eight (Mohs scale), with no special sensitivity to chemicals it

Recipe : Bush Cooking

Snaggers chutney chops

8 Lamb Chops
1 x small jar of fruit chutney
2 tsp curry powder
Oil

Combine chutney with curry powder. Add a dash of oil and mix well. Dip lamb chops into chutney mix then BBQ on heated grill or BBQ plate.

Ref: Australian Bush Cooking by Cathy Savage, 2009

Mudgee Gemkhana 2012



11



Mudgee is always great – it is my born & bred home town so you won't hear anything bad from me about Mudgee. The wine is much better than the Hunter. Go on - I challenge you to dispute!

"My Opinion – but – at Gemkhana - for the Lapidary types - the best deals were to be found outside" Linda Mc

Members Creations



Working on that elusive but oh so lovely Opal (Member identity protected)...

Excursion News

SAVE THE DATE: THUNDER EGG PARK



Suzy Brandstater is now organising an Excursion for the second half of January 2013. It will be to Thunder Egg Park, Gold Coast Queensland. Please let Suzy know if you are interested. More details in the next edition.

Feature Article: Lightning Ridge Trip

by Suzy Brandstater

Seven club members made the trek to Lightning Ridge.

Our first stop was for two days at Grawin where we stayed at the Glengarry Hilton. It was a great place to stay, our accommodation was in 'Dongas' although you could camp if you wanted to. The Glengarry Hilton has long drop toilets and showers. The only hitch with the showers is that they are BYO water. The food was great and the locals were very entertaining. We met some of the famous local characters such as Smurf. They had interesting stories to tell about living and working on the Glengarry Opal fields.

We fossicked on the mullock heaps and alongside the road. We found a few stones but not a lot. The regular fossickers beside us were not having much luck either. But I now have a fantastic collection of potch.

After two fun filled days of fossicking at the Grawin we travelled to Lightning Ridge. We tried the new caravan park. My boys were impressed with the park; they thought it much better than the one we stayed in last time. The cabin had 8 power points and free internet. The park also had a pool and its own mullock heap. The other advantage of this park was that it was across the road from the hot bore bath. It was just what we needed after a hard day of fossicking.

Our first day at the Ridge we met up with Jim and Darryl. Jim is an opal dealer and Darryl is a miner. They took us to Darryl's mine at the Corcoran opal fields (somewhere between Lightning Ridge and Grawin. The more intrepid members of our group braved the ladder and climbed 20 metres down into the mine. Amongst the group they found a few 'Nobbies' (lumps of stone containing opal).

The following day we went to the Chambers of the Black Hand. It is an amazing place. You are taken on a tour of the mine and the process of opal mining is explained to you. But, the best part is when you go up into the sandstone level where the miner has filled chamber after chamber with carvings. There is an Egyptian chamber, a political chamber, jungle chamber and a dragon's lair, to name a few.

When we finished at the Chamber of the Black Hand we fossicked on the old mullock heaps near there where we found a few small stones.

No trip to Lightning Ridge is complete without a visit to Kangaroo Hill. It is like a tourist attraction

Campbelltown Lapidary Club – Topaz Edition Nov. 2012



straight out of the 70s. It has an extensive collection of rocks and minerals and historical memorabilia. But the highlight of the visit is talking to Gwen. She has travelled all over Australia fossicking and is an absolute fountain of knowledge. Every time you visit there you learn something new. It was my visit to her the first time I went to the Ridge that inspired me to join our lapidary club.

We were supposed to go home the following day but that night we took Darryl out to dinner and he invited us to come and have a dig in his other mine. So, some phone calls were made and we stayed another day. We had a lovely day at Darryl's second mine. It was 40 degrees in the shade and I chose to spend the day on a white mullock heap in the sun, some people might think I'm crazy but, when opal fever hits you.

Cameron found some nice stones in the mine and enjoyed spending the day being an apprentice miner.

The trip was a nice break and I found it very therapeutic sitting on a mullock heap all day sifting through rocks.



Members Notice Board

This is a new section and Members are welcome to post notices by emailing details to our club email ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com

FOR SALE	DETAILS	CONTACT
Willing to Buy & Sell new & retro games at an affordable price, Includes Nintendo 64, Gameboy, Gameboy advanced, Nintendo Series & Wii. Plushie & > 4 decks of Pokemon cards	Currently 14 games for sale	Alison Cordova at the Club

CHRISTMAS Dinner Arrangements

Come & join us for Spit Roast Beef & Turkey, Ham and side dishes to please everyone. Desserts included.

Date: 8th December 2012

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Club Premises

Cost: \$15/person.



Please register on the sheet on the notice board at the club.

Dates to Remember

are generally from the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW. Contributions can be made via email or regular Post to the Editor. We are grateful for any submissions

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Nov 2 nd -4 th	Paper Craft Festival	Penrith
Nov 1 st – 11 th	Fisher's Ghost Festival	Campbelltown
Nov 3 rd -4 th	Canberra Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show 10am – 5pm www.canberralapidary.org.au/	Parkes Room, Exhibition Park
Nov 3 rd – 4 th	Mineral & Gem Festival Illawarra Lapidary Club Annual Exhibition	Ribbonwood Cntr Dapto
Nov 9 th , 10 th & 11 th	Parramatta Holroyd Annual Exhibition Clubrooms	73 Fullagar Road Wentworthville
Nov 24 th – 25 th	Windsor Beading, Gem and Mineral Show, Windsor Function Centre,	Cnr Dwight & Macquarie Sts, Windsor.
Dec 8 th	 Campbelltown Lapidary Club Xmas Dinner	Club
March 27, 2013	GEMBOREE South Australia	

Don't Forget the Fishers Ghost Festival



Festival of Fisher's Ghost 2012	
Event	Date
Carnival	Friday 2 and 9 November Saturday 3 and 10 November Sunday 4 and 11 November
Craft Exhibition	Friday 2 to Friday 9 November
Fireworks	Saturday 3 and 10 November
Art Award	Saturday 27 October to 29 November
Street Parade	Saturday 3 November
Fisher's Gig	Saturday 3 November
Fisher's Kids	Sunday 4 November
Street Fair	Saturday 10 November
Fisher's Ghost Extreme	Saturday 10 November
Fun Run	Sunday 11 November

Moments from Time: getting to know your club

By Bob Pullan

Following an advertisement in a Liverpool newspaper, 22 people turned up to a meeting held on February 21st 1966 to form a lapidary club.

The club was to be known as Macquarie Fields & Districts Lapidary club and all 22 people joined.

Doreen Aiton was elected as President, Sylvia Martyn as Secretary and Jim Tully as the Treasurer. Eric Dory who was a jeweller in Campbelltown, was elected as the patron. Eric made the Campbelltown Mayoral collar and Harry Baker cut the cabochons for it. This collar was later stolen and never recovered.