

# Rockgrinders Gazette

Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club Inc.

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**Club rooms opening hours**  
Monday 9am till 2pm  
Wednesday 9am till 2pm  
Friday 6pm till 9pm  
Saturday 9am till 1pm

OCTOBER 2012 – EARLY OPAL EDITION

## The Annual General Meeting Edition

Did you write down our new email address?

[ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com](mailto:ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com)

## We are going green & need your email address

We need your email address to keep you informed. Please email us with any updated contact details, inclusive of your email address, and we will send you the **newsletter plus any hot items as they occur**. SOME printed copies will be available at the club and only mailed on special request. Alternately, a sheet will be available at the club to update your details.

**Workshop Costs will increase to \$2 from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012**

### AGM Report

The AGM was held on Saturday Sept 1<sup>st</sup> with good attendance and Committee positions were declared vacant.

### 2012 Committee Members

President	Steven McCulloch
Vice President	Ron Dean
Vice President	Suzy Brandstater
Secretary - Minute	Clarice Stretch
Secretary - Corres	Clarice Stretch
Treasurer	John Franks
Committee Member	Linda Bosmans
Committee Member	Glen Toji
Committee Member	Elaine Dean

### Position Holders

Public Officer	Helen Standing
Patron	Bob Thompson
Magazine Editor	Linda McCulloch
Publicity officer	Linda McCulloch

### Duty Officers

1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	Bob Pullen
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	Dieter Klepatzki
3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	John Franks
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Clarice Stetch
5 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Steven McCulloch
Friday Night	Barry Perkins
Spare	Ron Dean

Welcome to the incoming Committee and once again we give our thanks to the outgoing committee members and a special thanks to Ron Dean for his outstanding leadership and service as President over the last six years. And to Margaret Bryant who has decided not to continue in the role of Newsletter Editor, thank you for keeping us well informed and the club buzzing with news.

### 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?**

**WELCOME:** 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.

## Workshops

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.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2012**  
Wire wrapping a cabochon  
(bring your own cab)

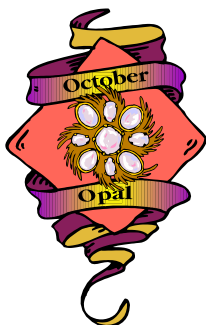
## Silver Casting

Classes started in September and continue every Friday evening and it is not too late to sign up

## October Birthdays

Chris Schlegl  
Darryl Slattery  
Margaret Bryant  
Lindsay Ann Fraser  
Zane Charnley

## Opal



## Recipe



## Date Scones by Elaine Dean

Makes 12

- 1 cup chopped dates
- 300ml cream
- 4 cups self raising flour (plus extra for rolling)
- 375ml can ginger ale

Preheat oven to 200° C. Sift flour into bowl, add remaining ingredients and stir until combined. Place on floured surface and pat into a round shape about an inch thick. Cut with a scone cutter, arrange closely on a backing tray and bake for 12-15 minutes or until golden brown.

Can be frozen or for a smaller quantity, simply halve the ingredients.

**Hint:** When making scones you can add 2tbs Corn flour and a generous squeeze of lemon juice. The corn flour will make the scones lighter and the lemon juice will keep them fresher for longer.

## Black Opal Patterns

Black opals come in a variety of patterns. Some of the commonly seen patterns are listed below:

Blue flash shows areas of violet, indigo or intense blue within the opal

Scotch plaid refers to a greenish-blue tinge in the opal

Harlequin is an opal wherein the play of colours from light is visible from all angles and usually has a squarish shape

Night stone – the opal's colour can be seen even in low light. This occurs in high quality opals

Pinfire refers to the presence of pinprick sized spots of colour

Exploding flash contains single prominent blaze of colour that seems to burst outwards when the stone is seen at various angles.

Most opals show a number of patterns in a single stone. The colours and the patterns change when the viewing angle changes.

<http://opalmine.com/unset-opals/black-opals/>

## Members Creations

### Celtic Bracelet by Ron Dean

Ron explains some of the techniques of making this beautiful sterling silver bracelet. He used a series of jump rings, some soldered, some not. The wire used is a mixture of ½ round and round silver wire. The half round is wound on edge, soldered together and folded over and joining up with small jump rings makes the complete bracelet. The soldering is only on the back. Ron has taught this class before and with some arm twisting has agree to teach it for us again. We will schedule him for early in the New Year, however a few classes will be required to finish this piece. Cost will around \$50 in Silver. We will advertise well.



### Faceted Quartz by Suzy Brandstater



**Taught  
By  
Bob Pullan**



This is Suzy's first faceted stone and it is a piece of optical grade quartz. Suzy explains that it is an ideal stone to start to learn faceting as it is hard and if you make a mistake you have not lost a diamond. She said that "Bob was an amazing teacher and he was there for me all the way; an amazing mentor and very reassuring". Suzy goes on describe the experience as challenging, takes patience but when you finally get that amazing shine it was the most amazing feeling. She said that her first stone took each Saturday for 3 months, but she will never again feel such an amazing sense of achievement. She really liked that she fossicked for the stone, polished it and then made something wearable and it is so satisfying having a piece of jewellery that you have created from something you found. She has made 3 now and is now learning silver castings to make settings for these stones, with a design for a silver necklace and matching earrings in mind. Suzie likes to dabble, and does not think she will ever settle on one thing. She has now discovered beading from Lil and is very excited about making more creations to wear.





## 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](mailto:ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com)

FOR SALE	DETAILS	CONTACT
Private sale of Lapidary including Fossils, minerals, Opals, Equipment etc (Cash Only)	13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 10am to 4pm, 10 Tulong Ave, Oatlands 2117	Helen Thompson 96380594

## New Feature – a gemstone will be featured each month

### Opal:

Chemistry: SiO<sub>2</sub> - nH<sub>2</sub>O; Hydrated Silicon Dioxide.

- \* Class: Mineraloids
- \* Group: Some minerologists place Opal in the Quartz Group.
- \* Uses: As a gemstone and ornamental stone.

Opal has been a popular gem for many centuries and has a very interesting structure. Opal is considered a mineraloid because this structure is not truly crystalline. The chemistry of Opal is primarily SiO<sub>2</sub> and varying amounts of water. The amount of water varies from 5 -10% and greater. This water can help geologists determine the temperature of the host rock at the time the opal formed.

Although there is no crystal structure, (meaning a regular arrangement of atoms) opal does possess a structure nonetheless. Random chains of silicon and oxygen are packed into extraordinarily tiny spheres. These spheres in most Opals are irregular in size and inconsistent in concentration. Yet in Precious Opal, the variety used most often in jewellery, there are many organized pockets of the spheres. These pockets contain spheres of approximately equal size and have a regular concentration, or structure, of the spheres. This has the effect of diffracting light at various wavelengths, creating colours. Each pocket produces a different colour, with a different intensity depending on the angle from which a viewer sees it. The multicoloured flashes of light that Opal emits gives it a truly beautiful and valuable look.

The name opal probably is derived from the Sanskrit name for precious stone; upala. It has been mined for centuries, at least since Roman times when they extracted the opal from areas now within the Czech Republic. The Aztecs made use of local Mexican sources as did the Spaniards when they exported the material back to Europe. Today most precious opal comes from Australia with significant sources from Mexico and the Western United States.


Not all opal is so precious however. Common opal lacks opalescence, colour or luster and is after all common. Opal is often imitated, forged and "enhanced". Fluorescence, while somewhat unreliable is a good method to determine authenticity.

### Physical characteristics:

- \* Colour is white, colourless, pale yellow, pale red, gray or black when impurities are common. Diffraction can cause flashes of any colour of the rainbow (opalescent).
- \* Luster is vitreous to pearly.
- \* Transparency: Specimens are transparent to translucent.
- \* Cleavage is absent.
- \* Fracture is conchoidal.
- \* Hardness is 5.5 - 6
- \* Specific Gravity is approximately 2 - 2.5 (light)
- \* Streak is white.
- \* Other Characteristics: Most specimens will fluoresce white or pale green, some phosphoresce and all specimens can be very sensitive to impacts and low temperatures.
- \* Associated rocks are chert (a form of microcrystalline quartz), volcanic rocks and many others.
- \* Notable Occurrences include many Western USA localities; Mexico; Australia; England; Czech Republic and many other localities around the world.
- \* **Ref: Minerals Ebook by Mr. Le Hong Tam: 2005**

## 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
Sept 29 <sup>th</sup> – Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	GEMKHANA	Mudgee
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Campbelltown Lapidary Club General Meeting	Club Rooms
Oct 13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	Central Coast Lapidary Club Annual Gem Festival	Mingara Recreation Club, Mingara Drive, off Wyong Road, Tumbi Umbi
Oct 26 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Northern districts lapidary club –Biennial gem show	Community Centre Beecroft Rd Beecroft
Oct 27 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup>	Lapidary Cub of NSW Annual Exhibition	136 Reservoir St. Surry Hills
Oct 28 <sup>th</sup>	Grandparents Day <a href="http://www.raisinggrandchildren.com.au">www.raisinggrandchildren.com.au</a>	NSW
Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>	Paper Craft Festival	Penrith
Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	Fisher's Ghost Festival. Entries to the Craft Jewellery section 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct – 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Campbelltown
Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>	Canberra Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show 10am – 5pm <a href="http://www.canberralapidary.org.au/">www.canberralapidary.org.au/</a>	Parkes Room, Exhibition Park
Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	Mineral & Gem Festival Illawarra Lapidary Club Annual Exhibition	Ribbonwood Cntr Dapto
Nov 9 <sup>th</sup> ,10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup>	Parramatta Holroyd Annual Exhibition	Clubrooms
Nov 24 <sup>th</sup> –25 <sup>th</sup>	Windsor Beading, Gem and Mineral Show, Windsor Function Centre,	Cnr Dwight & Macquarie Sts, Windsor.
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	 Campbelltown Lapidary Club Xmas Dinner	Club
March 27, 2013	GEMBOREE South Australia	

## Field Trip – arranged by Suzy Brandstater

### Lightning Ridge/Grawin Fossicking Trip

Monday 1st October - Saturday 6th October

Monday 1st October - Wednesday 3rd October Grawin

Wednesday evening 3rd October - Saturday 6th October Lightning Ridge

### Accommodation

**Peter's Glengarry Hilton** 6829 3983

Grawin - camping or backpacker style accommodation available

**Opal Caravan Park** Lightning Ridge 02 6829 4884

Camping or ensuite cabin accommodation available.

We'll spend two days fossicking at the mullock heaps at the Grawin. If you get tired of fossicking you can visit the Sheepyards Pub in the scrub or visit the war memorial.

On Wednesday afternoon we'll head to Lightning Ridge. Lightning Ridge has the best Thermal Pool in Australia (well, the best I've been in) It will be nice to soak aching muscles and back in after two days fossicking.

For those who haven't been to Lightning Ridge before the Black Opal Tour is great way to see the highlights of the town. Apart from fossicking, there is a lot to do in Lightning Ridge. Bring your camera, the sunsets are beautiful.

For more information talk to **Suzy Brandstater** (I'm at the club on Saturdays)

Or call 46810220 or 0414574057





## Jewellery Competition

We encourage you to enter your fine work in the jewellery section –Details and entry form are available from the website <http://www.fishersghost.com.au/Assets/3455/1/2012FGCraftExhibitionEntryForm.pdf> and on the notice board in the Club room.

Note entries close 1pm 13<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Festival of Fisher's Ghost 2012	
<i>Event</i>	<b>Date</b>
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

**The Campbelltown Lapidary Club was formed on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1966 following an Add posted in the Liverpool Newspaper. 22 people responded to the Add and all joined. The club was 1<sup>st</sup> known as the Macquarie Fields & Districts Lapidary Club.**