

Rockgrinders Gazette

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Club rooms opening hours

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

FEBRUARY 2013– AMETHYST EDITION

Email Address

We are still seeking 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

To cover the rising cost of silver prices. We regret to advise that all silver products will rise from \$1.10/gram to \$1.30/gram from January 2013

Membership

Single	\$15.00
Family	\$20.00
Pensioner Family	\$15.00
Pensioner / Student	\$10.00
Insurance	\$3.50 per member
Workshop fees	\$2.00

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

Ron Dean will be conducting silversmith classes on Wednesdays at the club rooms. Costs of materials are calculated per project.

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.

Notice of workshop will be posted on the notice board in the club rooms & we are currently seeking volunteers to share their skills for the workshops

Welcome to our 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.

February Birthdays

Dave Meani
Kathy Schlegl
Rosemary McKenzie
Brendon Thompson
Judy Morgan
Damian Flauagan
Denise Wood
Renato Dilucca
Susan Hedges





Amethyst is the purple variety of quartz and is a popular gemstone. If it were not for its widespread availability, amethyst would be very expensive. The name "amethyst" comes from the Greek and means "not drunken." This was maybe due to a belief that amethyst would ward off the effects of alcohol, but most likely the Greeks were referring to the almost wine-like colour of some stones that they may have encountered. Its colour is unparalleled, and even other, more expensive purple gemstones are often compared to its colour and beauty. Although it must always be purple to be amethyst, it can and does have a wide range of purple shades.

Amethyst can occur as long prismatic crystals that have a six sided pyramid at either end or can form as druzes that are crystalline crusts that only show the pointed terminations. As a mineral specimen, amethyst is popular for its colour and nice crystal shapes that produce a handsome, purple, sparkling cluster.

However, amethyst is not the same everywhere. Different localities can produce a unique amethyst to that particular region or even to that particular mine. Experts can often identify the source mine that a particular amethyst came from. The key to this is the specimen's colour, shape of crystal, inclusions, associations and character of formation.

Often cut gems of amethyst are graded using the terms: Siberian, Uruguayan or Bahain; to represent high medium and low grade respectively, regardless of the actual source. Because of the patchiness of the colour distribution in the crystals, Amethyst is often cut as brilliant round cuts to maximize the colour. Other cuts can be used when the colour is better distributed.

The colour purple is traditionally the colour of royalty and amethyst has been used since the dawn of history to adorn the rich and powerful monarchs and rulers. Today, amethyst is a lovely and affordable gemstone that is fortunately available in a wide variety of cut and uncut stones that we can all possess and admire.

GEMOLOGY:

- * Variety of: Quartz , SiO₂
- * Uses: Gemstones and ornamental stones.
- * Birthstone for: February
- * Colour: various shades of purple.
- * Index of refraction: 1.544-1.553
- * Birefringence: 0.009
- * Hardness: 7
- * Cleavage: none
- * Crystal system: trigonal
- * Pleochroic: no

Amethyst are the February Birthstone.

Ref Minerals Ebook by Mr. Le Hong Tan

Campbelltown Lapidary Club – Amethyst Edition 2013



Tomato Jam

Does anyone remember Tomato Jam? I have been thinking of interesting things to do with the abundance of Tomatoes currently in season and I usually stew them and freeze for future recipes. But the Tomato Jam adds a new layer of excitement to Chilli Prawns, Pastas etc. Just add a teaspoon or so as it is sweet.

Ingredients

2kg Tomatoes
3 lemons
3 tbs preserved ginger
1.75 kg sugar

Method

Wash tomatoes & cut into pieces
Peel lemons thinly and cut the peel into thin shreds
Squeeze lemons
Grate or chop ginger
Bung all in together in the saucepan & stir until boiling
Simmer until jam will set when tested (about 1 1/2 hours).

(to test place a small teaspoon of jam on a cold plate, place in the fridge for a minute and you know it has reached jam stage when you run your finger through and it does not run)

Beware that the jam does not burn at the bottom, stir frequently – bottle in warm sterilised jars

Members Notice Board

Members are welcome to post notices by emailing details to our club email
ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com

FOR SALE

No notices have been posted for the February Edition; however please do not hesitate to post in the future

Plan Your Year 2013

Events are generally from the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW. Contributions can be made via email to the club. We are grateful for any submissions

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
February 24 th	Illawarra Lapidary Club Rock & Mineral Fair	Stuart Park, North Wollongong
March 16 th	Campbelltown Lapidary Club Open Day &	Club Rooms
March 16 th	New England Lapidary Club Annual Gem &	Armidale Showground
March 16 th & 17 th	The Lapidary club of Tasmania Gem Mineral & Fossil Show	The Grandstand Hall, Hobart Showground, Glenorchy Tasmania
March 23 rd & 24 th	East Devonport Jewellery Gem & Mineral	East Devonport Primary School
March 29 th to 2 nd April	Gemboree Australian National Gem, Lapidary, Jewellery & Mineral Show	Murray Bridge Showgrounds. Murray Bridge South Australia
April 13 th & 14 th	Canberra Lapidary Club Rock Swap	Wagtail Way EPIC
May 18 th & 19 th	Lismore lapidary Club Gemfest	Lismore showground
June 1 st & 2 nd	Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Gemcraft & Mineral Show	Parkes Room, Exhibition Park
July 13 th & 14 th	Campbelltown Lapidary Club Annual Gem & Lapidary Show	Greg Percival Centre Ingleburn
November 2 nd & 3 rd	Canberra Lapidary Club Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show	Parkes Room Exhibition Park
November 9 th & 10 th	Zeehan Lapidary Club Gem & Mineral Show	Basketball Stadium Zeehan Primary School



We enjoyed the company of our Club Patron, Bob Thompson, and special appreciation to the Cordova family for their help and to Suzy & Don for supplying the exceptional music and lighting.