

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

MARCH 2013– AQUAMARINE 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

Reminder that silver is \$1.30/gram

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?

Members Notice Board

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

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.

Next Workshop

Beadwork - Flat Spiral Bracelet

23rd March 2013 at 0930hrs

(Repeat of class taught by Lil Klepser last year)

Cost: **\$15 for materials**

Teacher: Suzy Brandstater

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.

March Birthdays

Grace Pakulski
Robert Pakulski
Stan Soldo
Matthew Thompson
Greg Wood
Cameron Jones
Glen Tosi
Mille Singleton



AQUAMARINE

Aquamarine Information



Aquamarine gemstones are blue beryl. It is the presence of iron that can turn beryl into aquamarine. The name "aquamarine" means "sea water: in Latin, alluding to its colour. Most natural-colour Aquamarine is light bluish-green. Prior to the 1900's, this was the preferred colour for aquamarine. Today it's routinely heat-treated to remove the green component, thereby producing a permanently coloured blue stone. The more intense the blue colour the more valuable the stone. Aquamarines usually have a high transparency and clarity, even under magnification. They are also very durable and their colour is evenly distributed. Brazil, Madagascar, Mozambique, Ukraine, Nigeria, Pakistan and Zambia are all major sources (Newman, p.84 2003)

Birthstone for March...

RI: 1.57-1.60	SG: 2.67-2.80	Hardness: 7.5-8	Toughness: Poor to Good depending on clarity
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Treatments: Heated

Care Tips: Ultrasonic cleaners are usually safe for stones of good clarity

Value: Fine quality stones over a carat retails from \$200 to \$1000 USD per carat. (Newman, 2006)

From:

http://www.qualitygemstones.com.au/Aquamarine_Information.htm

Australia Day Celebrations

Our Nomination for Citizen of the Year in the Campbelltown Australia Day Awards - Bob Pullen

Bob Pullen is one of the clubs longest serving members of the Campbelltown and Districts Lapidary Club.

From the start he was more than just a member. He took responsibility to get jobs done, and in 1977 he was a signee for the first Bensley Rd clubhouse lease. He has served in the club in many ways, including as Vice President and President. Today he is still a committee member and Duty Officer.



If you think a duty officer just goes to the club and plays with their favourite stones, how wrong you are. A duty officer has little chance of doing their own work, as they are busy helping others. Every Monday and the 1st Saturday of each month Bob is on duty helping people with their Lapidary work. He is patient, an excellent teacher, and willing to help anyone. Bob also fills in for any other duty officer unable to make their duty day, and so can be seen on duty on Wednesdays and the other Saturdays in the month. He is the person who makes sure the club keeps running if other people can't make it.

Our club has some 80 members. While the majority of long term ones are senior citizens, we have a number people who attend as families. Bob is wonderful with the young members that join. Although an absolute perfectionist with his own work, he is tolerant of others not being so particular. One of his common questions when you show him a piece of work is. "Are you happy with it? If you are that is fine, but if I were doing it I would do". In this way he encourages learners to

improve their work as he teaches the finer points of cutting cabochons or free form grinding and polishing stones.

Bob has the most incredible knowledge about rocks. We've never been able to show him a rock that he couldn't identify. He not only identifies them but can tell you what country they came from. For example when shown a piece of agate he said it is was a specimen of Mexican agate, not Peruvian agate – and he is as right. Another lovely thing about seeing Bob identifying rocks is interacting with young children. No matter how boring the piece of rock a child brings in to show him and ask about he takes the time to look at it carefully and explain how it probably got to where it was found, explain its properties and industrial or jewellery uses.

Bob is a member of the Faceting Guild of Australia, an organisation dedicated to the Art of faceting in natural and synthetic materials. When our current vice president had been a member for some time and wanted to learn faceting she was referred to Bob. Bob however said was too old to take on any more students. But week later Bob called her and said "Do you still want to learn to facet?" What had changed was that during the week Bob's cataracts had been removed and he could see again! Bob organised early start times on Saturdays for 12 months to do this training, and pass on wonderful skills, along with incidental knowledge about rocks, geology and life in general.

Bob served with the Australian forces in the Vietnam War and took the attitude of community service into his life after that. He is a quiet achiever, and never expects any reward for what he does. Because of his efforts for over 45 years with the Campbelltown Lapidary Club many people now have access to a constructive and rewarding activity. For many of our members the club is a major focus in their life. They may attend four days a week pursuing different aspects of lapidary and jewellery making, and Bob is the person that helps to make this possible.

He doesn't know about this nomination.

He just knows that someone has to do a job and his name is someone.

Article & Nomination was written by Suzy Brandstater who has finally confessed to Bob that she was the nominee. But from the rest of us we share and applaud all the above sentiments. Thank you Bob.

Excursion News

Look what Suzy found on her recent trip to Thunder Bird Park in January 2013



Next Excursion – Fossicking for Sapphires All welcome

Tentative for 15th – 19th April 2013

Staying at: Copeton Waters State Park

Booking own accommodation at

<http://copeton.com.au/>

Contact Suzy Brandstater via email

suzybrandstater@hotmail.com or Mobile

0414574057 if you are interested

Campbelltown Lapidary Club Procedures

Endorsed by the Committee 2nd March 2013

<p>Club Fees</p> <p>Membership Fees are due each financial year</p> <p>Sign in and pay \$2 workshop fees</p> <p>Cost of beverage is posted on the wall and all beverages are to be paid for at the time of consumption</p> <p>Slab cutting is available at 20c/ square inch – measure with the Perspex sheet located above the phone – see the Duty Officer</p> <p>The trim must saw must not be used to cut slabs</p>	<p>Environment</p> <p>Club premises are to be kept tidy, chairs are to be stacked.</p> <p>Please wash up your cups/ dishes and wipe the kitchen benches</p> <p>Milk - if you open a new cartoon please write the date on it</p> <p>Shopping list is on the fridge please make a note when you notice items running low</p> <p>Feel free to take home towels and tea towels to wash and return</p> <p>Feel free to change the hand towels when necessary</p> <p>Toilet - please clean the bowl after use</p>
<p>Equipment</p> <p>Equipment, including tools, are for the use of members at the club and should not be removed from the premises</p> <p>Exception to this are the library books and these must be signed out in the book and signed in when returned. Duty officer must consign borrowing</p> <p>Equipment used within the club must be cleaned after use and returned to their respective storage areas</p> <p>There is a box of books near the sign in area. Members may take these at any time and you don't need to return</p> <p>If workshop consumables need to be purchased, please enter details in the re-order book on the notice board.</p> <p>If equipment needs to be purchased it must go through the Committee for approval</p>	<p>Silver</p> <p>Will be locked up at all times. The Duty Officer will record the dispensing of silver by item and weight. Cost will be calculated according to the advertised club costs per gram – see page 1 of the Campbelltown Lapidary Club Newsletter</p> <p>Safety - Please look after yourself and your fellow members.</p> <p>There are safety signs posted in each area and you must abide by these. Firm reminders will be given to all members.</p> <p>Closed shoes must be worn whilst working on machines or with hot metals</p> <p>Eye and Ear protection must be worn when indicated by the signs. Wipe personal protective equipment with soap & water after use and return to respective storage area.</p>

Whats On

Events are generally from the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW <http://www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/events.html>
Other contributions can be made via email to the club ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com. We are grateful for any submissions

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
March 3 rd	Newcastle Lapidary Club Rock Auction – starts at 1.00pm	Club rooms at 2 Dora Rd Adamstown.
March 9 -10 th	Victorian Gemkhana	Albury Showgrounds, Albury NSW
March 16 th	Campbelltown Lapidary Club Open Day & BBQ	Club Rooms
March 16 th	New England Lapidary Club Annual Gem & Craft Show	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 Fair	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 See www.canberralapidary.org.au for details – not applications for a stall and camping site closes on March 13th	Wagtail Way EPIC
May 18 th & 19 th	Lismore lapidary Club Gemfest Visit www.gemclublismore.org.au for details	Lismore showground
June 1 st & 2 nd	Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Gemcraft & Mineral Show www.canberralapidary.org.au	Parkes Room, Exhibition Park
July 13 th & 14 th	Campbelltown Lapidary Club Annual Gem & Lapidary Show	Greg Percival Centre Ingleburn
July 19 th – 21 st	Yowah Opal Festival – Tailgaters welcome Enquiries Danny 0417639311 or Glen 0488542175	Yowah
November 2 nd & 3 rd	Canberra Lapidary Club Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show www.canberralapidary.org.au	Parkes Room Exhibition Park
November 9 th & 10 th	Zeehan Lapidary Club Gem & Mineral Show	Basketball Stadium Zeehan Primary School

