

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

May 2013 EMERALD

Save the date and spread the word

Early Notice
2013 Gem & Lapidary Show
July 13th & 14th @ the Greg
Percival Centre, Ingleburn
Volunteers needed to help out

Wide range of Lapidary, Fossils, Gems, Crystals, and Beaded Jewellery for sale

New members welcome & Welcome to our new members

Interested in: Lapidary, Fossils, Gems, Crystals, Beading, Silversmithing or Lost wax casting in a relaxed friendly environment. Pop in and have a chat

To all new members, we trust you will enjoy your experiences with us & benefit from our classes. If you have any questions there is a duty officer who will assist you. All Members would also love to help you if they can.

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 conducted every Friday Evening and this series will be finishing on Friday 31st May – 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

Bead Weaving - Beaded Bracelet
 Web Silver by Lil Klepser

25th May @0930hrs

Please place your name on the Notice Board
 Cost \$30 per person, includes cost of materials and remainder donated to the club.

Places are limited



Workshop News

There have been two workshops, March & April, producing fun and beautiful jewellery – great work by all

March Workshop:

By Suzy Brandstater who repeated the workshop by Lil, Flat Spiral Bracelet



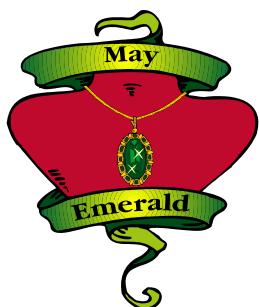
April Workshop:

By Linda McCulloch, Multi strand chain necklace. The trick to this was the math; how to keep those lengths no more than 3mm apart



May Birthdays

Ralph Ross
Nick Pastor
Linda Bosmans
Julie Willis
Ian Browne
Kyle Hokin
Suzy Brandstater



Emeralds

Emerald is the green variety of the mineral beryl. Other gemstone colour varieties that belong to beryl include aquamarine, morganite, and



heliodor. Other colours of beryl are simply referred to by their colour, such as red beryl.

The wonderful green colour of emerald is unparalleled in the gem kingdom. Emerald's precious green colour is caused by small amounts of chromium and enhanced by traces of iron. Unlike other beryls, emeralds often contain inclusions and other flaws. These flaws are not looked on as negative aspects for emerald like they would be for other gemstones. Indeed, these flaws are considered part of the character of the stone and are used to assure the purchaser of a natural stone.

Ref: Minerals Ebook by Mr. Le Hong Tan

Members Notice Board

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

Mother's Day Raffle

Necklace & Earring set – Guess the Stone

\$2 for 3 tickets available at the Club

Drawn: Saturday 8th May



Biggest Morning Tea
Wednesday 22nd May at the Club

Bring a cake/ slice

Field Trips

Inverell Fossicking Trip: April 2013

We had a pleasant trip up to Inverell, leaving at 6.00am. It was interesting on the way up. Don had been given a new Nav Man as an anniversary present and was looking forward to trying it out. His old one was 10 years old and had been having a few breakdowns (it couldn't get us out of Lismore last trip). So he set up both Nav Mans on the wind shield. They argued quite a lot about the route to take, contradicted each other and had an hour's difference in arrival time. Eventually, despite the Nav Mans, we got there.

We stayed at Copeton Waters State Park. It was a beautiful place to stay and if we weren't so busy looking at rocks we could have enjoyed the scenery and facilities the park had to offer. It was a little more than the 15 minutes out of Inverell that I had been told by their booking officer (maybe by jet plane).

Tingha Sands



The first day we went to Tingha Sands to look for quartz. We dropped the kids off at Green Valley Farm which is an amusement park with water slides, rides, animals and a museum. I had promised them that I wouldn't make them look for rocks every day. They had a great day.

It cost \$10 a head to fossick at Tingha Sands. You could walk around the dumps or stand at

the washing machine and wait for the quartz to come to you. We spent the morning on the dumps and then in the afternoon at the washing machine. You have to be very careful as the rocks come down pretty hard, one the men who was fossicking there showed me a badly healed broken wrist. You have to stand there with a long handled shovel and if you see a piece of quartz you grab it. You need one person on the shovel and one person as spotter. Brendan was an excellent spotter. It was pretty competitive as there were a number of people at the washer. Some of them had been there for days. However we did get a few nice pieces of Smokey quartz. You can get some nice pieces from there, some with rutile inclusions.

The second day we went to Seven Oaks Sapphires. We had a lovely day getting absolutely filthy. There is no way to cleanly look for Sapphires at Seven Oaks. You get your bucket of dirt and then wash it in a drum. You then flip your sieve over onto a sack on another drum. If you have sieved and washed it correctly, you will immediately see sapphires sitting on top of the other rocks. But in case you missed any, you check carefully through the rest of the sieve load of stones looking for any other sapphires. We found sapphires, clear Zircons and red Zircons and a lot of tiny pieces of quartz.

It costs \$20 a head at Seven Oaks or \$50 for a family. The harder you work, the more chance you have of finding a sapphire. There are picnic facilities and clean drinking water. We stopped for a short lunch as we wanted to get our money's worth out of the day. The toilet was very special, an authentic pit toilet perched on the side of a hill. It was quite challenging to use it as it sloped backwards. It was also rather aromatic.

Staggy Creek

Day three dawned and we were all rather sore and sorry from our labours the previous day so after a late start we decided to have a look at Staggy Creek. It was hot and dry. We tried out Greg's dry sieve shaker and also his "Panner's

Mate” which is a device designed to separate heavy minerals from its host material. We didn’t find much there but had a lovely day resting in the bush enjoying a picnic lunch away from the rest of the world. One of my sons very quickly tired of fossicking and spent most of the day shooting his new bow and arrow at targets in the bush, something you can’t do at home. The find of the day was a thumb sized piece of black tourmaline.



Refreshed from our ‘easy’ day and desperately wanting to find more sapphires we went out to Seven Oaks again to try our luck. We worked hard and found a few small sapphires. Some we will be sending to Thailand to get faceted as they are a bit small for any of us to facet.

One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to an Engineering and Gem and Mineral shop. We met Dave who was very passionate about his stones. He had a large variety of rocks for sale and quite a lot that weren’t for sale but were fascinating to look at. Stepping into the shop was like going through a time machine back to the eighties. One of the great things about our fossicking trips are the interesting characters you meet. It is well worth going to the shop if you visit Inverell. It is on Ring St in the industrial area. Dave also makes industrial strength tumblers.

It was a fun trip. We didn’t find our fortunes but we had a lot of fun trying. Travelling round fossicking for rocks helps you appreciate what you find. You develop a sense of camaraderie with your fellow club members. Sitting around a camp fire at night after a hard day’s

fossicking can be more enjoyable than sitting at a fancy holiday resort. When you have dug up the rock, polished the rock and then set the rock in jewellery, you get a great sense of satisfaction.



By: Suzy Brandstater

Trip Attendees: Suzy Brandstater, Don, Tristan and Cammeron Jones. Ann, Greg and Brendan Thompson



Field trip - Lightning Ridge

Suzy is also making tentative plans for a trip to Lightning Ridge in 1st week July. Please contact her if you might be interested in tagging along. on 0414574057 or 46810220
Email suzybrandstater@hotmail.com

Moments from Time: getting to know your club

Members decided on October 4th 1978 to buy a faceting machine for \$190 from Novac's Lapidary of Ashfield. It was to be held at the home of Bob Pullan and he was to provide tuition. Bob soon realised the machine had several problems and it was not worth repairing. The club subsequently sold it.

The minutes of a meeting on October 1987 refers to the purchase of a 14 inch slab saw and a 24 inch Vibralap from the estate of Wally Waluga. These items are still in use.

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
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 – save the date
July 19 th – 21 st	Yowah Opal Festival – Tailgaters welcome Enquiries Danny 0417639311 or Glen 0488542175	Yowah
August 17 th & 18 th	Blaxland Gem & Mineral Show	Glenbrook Community Hall, Great Western Highway Glenbrook (next to NPWS)
August 23 rd – 25 th	Sydney Bead & Gem Show	West Leagues Club Campbelltown – we will be participating
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