

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

October 2013: Opal Edition

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 Fees are now due

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

Saturday 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.

Silver Classes

Silver Casting Classes have started up again they are conducted every Friday Evening. Barry and Dorothy will be glad to help you get started.

Do we have your correct email address?

If you would like the newsletter emailed to you please ensure that we have your correct email address. If you didn't get this newsletter by email, it means we didn't have a working address for you. If we don't have your correct email please email me at suzybrandstater@hotmail.com and I will add you to the distribution list.

General Meeting and Special Meeting

Notice is hereby given that there will be a special meeting after the general meeting to ratify some changes in the club constitution. This meeting is to be held on Saturday 12th October 2013 at the Club Rooms after the normal General Meeting. There will be a free sausage sizzle after the meeting.

Workshop Saturday 26th October

Crystal Sun Necklace

Cost \$15

9.30am start

Please put your name on the Whiteboard at the club if you would like to participate.

Contact Suzy if you need further information

suzybrandstater@hotmail.com



October Birthstone - Opal

Opal was formed millions of years ago, when a combination of silica and water flowed into cracks and spaces in the ground. This then gradually hardened and solidified to become opal. It is non-crystalline, unlike most other gemstone

BLACK OPAL



WHITE OPAL



Opals contain between 5-10% water. They are soft and can be cracked or chipped easily and are sensitive to heat. There are two varieties: precious opal, which shows flashes of colour or iridescence, depending on the angle of viewing and light; then

there is common opal which is often opaque and displays no iridescence. The iridescence of precious opal is caused by the way the structure, or regular arrangement of tiny silica spheres, diffracts light.

Black opal is usually formed on black or dark grey potch and is mainly found in the Lightning Ridge fields.

Boulder Opal is formed on iron stone and mainly found in Queensland, White opals are predominantly found in Coober Pedy and White Cliffs. Australia produces 95% of the world's opals.

BOULDER OPAL



MATRIX OPAL

Matrix opal is commonly found at Andamooka and it is limestone rock impregnated with flakes of opal (silica). To bring the opal colour out it is often chemically treated.

October Birthdays

Norma Ross	Henry Anastasi
John Dom	Leisa George
Zane Charnley	Barbara Perkins
Chris Schlegl	Darryl Slattery
Daniel Amos	Linsayann Fraser
Margaret Bryant	Rhoda O'Higgins

Editor's Note

I have had a very short turnaround time between newsletters. By the time you get this newsletter I will be on my way to Lightning Ridge. Very appropriate as October is Opal month.

If you have anything to contribute to the newsletter or suggestions for the newsletter please contact me.

This is my second newsletter so I have graduated to my Red P Plates.

Suzy



Field Trips

The October field trip to Lightning Ridge is currently underway. If you have any suggestions for future field trips please let me know. Even better, if you have knowledge of an interesting place to fossick, talk to me about it and we can organise a club trip. I would love to visit some new places with someone who has actually been there before.

Having a person who actually knows what the rock looks like in its natural state and how to find it is a real advantage. I brought home boxes of pinkish rock from my trip to Bingara. I found it at the Rhodonite mine, unfortunately what I found wasn't Rhodonite so I am steadily growing a nice pile of useless rock in my backyard. We still had a great trip though.

I am desperately after suggestions for the Christmas school holidays. If I can't find somewhere appropriate to go fossicking at I might have to go find a beach to lay on instead.

Did you know

Information about Fossicking in NSW

Fossicking is the small scale search for and collection of, minerals, gemstones or mineral bearing material from the surface (or by digging from the surface) with hand-held implements. This activity may only be undertaken for recreational, tourist or educational purposes.

Fossicking offers an opportunity to discover the beauty and diversity of this state's mineral wealth. It combines leisure, pleasure and 'treasure' all in one. Best of all, no licence is required under the Mining Act 1992.

Where can fossicking take place?

As a general rule, fossicking in accordance with the legislation can take place on any land, provided that permission is obtained from the landowner or land manager, except in National Parks where fossicking is prohibited. Note: To fossick in State forests you need permission from Forests NSW, in the form of a special purpose permit

This information is from the NSW Department of Industry and Investment. You can read the full guide to fossicking in NSW at

http://www.resources.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/363544/A-Guide-to-Fossicking-in-New-South-Wales.PDF

Introducing our new Duty Officer Eugenio Cordova

Each month in the newsletter I would like to do an article about a club member - to introduce you to them.



At the AGM Dieter asked to be replaced as Duty Officer, having served for many years, he needed a break so he could spend more time with his family. I would like to thank Dieter personally for his assistance to me in the time I've been in the club. He is patient, highly skilled, a great teacher who is very generous of his time. Eugenio bravely stepped up and volunteered to replace him as duty officer.

I was at the club on Eugenio's first Saturday on duty.

Just to get him in the swing of things I brought along a new member for him to teach how to make a cabochon. Thirteen year old Emille has not stopped talking about Eugenio since. He was very impressed with Eugenio's knowledge and stones that he had cut. Eugenio very patiently taught him how to Cab and use the machines. He did such a good job, the following week Emille cut a successful cab with the minimal of assistance from me.



Eugenio emigrated from Chile in 1984 to join his family in Australia. He worked as a toolmaker and had an adventurous life enjoying all Australia had to offer. He then went back to Chile in 1993 and brought back to Australia a beautiful young wife Carolyn. Allison was born in 1999 and the Cordova family as we know them was complete.

Eugenio wanted to have an activity that the whole family could participate in. Eugenio started to learn wood turning but the dust upset Alison and Carolyn's noses, so they had to look for a new family hobby.

They discovered the lapidary club was nearby so they joined the club as a family. All members of the family loved stones and making things so the club was the perfect place for them to be. They are a very creative family.



I asked Eugenio what activity he liked best and he said he liked polishing stones, doing silver casting, setting stones, faceting, in fact everything (I have yet to see him doing any beading, but Carolyn makes up for that). Then Eugenio told me the best thing about the club is that it is another family for them, a big extended family.

If you get the chance to see Eugenio at the club, ask him to show you his beautiful Cabochon work, it is quite impressive.

What's 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
October Sat 5 th to 7 th	GEMKHANA 2013 - Mudgee NSW State Gem Show. A Major Exhibition of Lapidary, Gems, Minerals and Artists at work. http://www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/gemkhana.html Please note that applications are open for Competitions – follow the link	Mudgee Showground
November 2 nd & 3 rd	Canberra Lapidary Club Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show www.canberralapidary.org.au	Parkes Room Exhibition Park
November 2 nd & 3 rd	Illawarra Club Annual Exhibition http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au	Ribbonwood Centre, Princes Highway, Dapto
November 8 th , 9 th & 10 th	Parramatta Holroyd Lapidary Club Annual Exhibition http://www.freewebs.com/parraholroydlapidaryclub/	Clubrooms, 73 Fullagar Road Wentworthville
November 9 th & 10 th	Annual Jewellery Show Newcastle Lapidary Club email newlap@gmail.com .	2 Dora Rd Adamstown NSW.
November 23 rd & 24 th	Windsor Gem Show Function Centre	Windsor Function Centre
Sat 15 - Sun 16 March 2014 March 15, 9 am – 5 pm & March 16th 9 am – 3 pm	23rd Annual Gem And Craft Show - New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club Inc. For details or to book - Contact the Organisers on (02) 6778 5122 after hours or email nelfc@hotmail.com	Armidale Showground
5-6 April 2014	Rock Swap - Canberra Lapidary Club More info www.canberralapidary.org.au Phone: 02 6281 3312	
18 - 21 April 2014	GEMBOREE Gatton Qld Australia's 50th National Gem, Lapidary, Jewellery and Mineral Show GEMBOREE 2014 is to be held in Gatton Queensland, Full details http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/	