

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

September 2013: AGM and Sapphire Edition

New members welcome & Welcome to our new members

Are you interested in: Lapidary, Fossils, Gems, Crystals, Beading, Silver smithing 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 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.

Silver Classes

Silver Casting Classes conducted every Friday Evening will recommence in September 2013 – contact the club for details

AGM Report

Election Results

President:	Ron Dean
Vice President:	Suzy Brandstater
Vice President:	Dieter Klepatzki
Treasurer:	John Franks
Minutes Secretary:	Elaine Dean
Secretary:	Clarice Stretch

Committee

Eugenio Cordova, Carolina Cordova, Glen Toji, Ron Dean, Suzy Brandstater, Dieter Klepatzki, John Franks, Elaine Dean, Clarice Stretch

Newsletter Editor: - Suzy Brandstater

Public Officer:- Helen Standing

Patron: Bob Thompson

Duty Officers

Saturday	1st Bob Pullen 2nd Eugenio Cordova 3rd John Franks 4th Clarice Stretch
Monday	Bob Pullen
Wednesday	Bob Pullen
Friday	Barry Perkins
Spare	Dieter Klepatzki

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.

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2012/13

I apologise that I cannot be here today and I regret that business has taken me from you. I look to a time of retirement when I can devote my time to such good people such as you. Ron will be reading this report for me and it is to him that I want to express my heartfelt appreciation. He has been a mentor and the true President over the last year. This club has achieved much in the last 12 months and for someone who wanted to spend more time with family, Ron has certainly stepped up for every occasion and worked tirelessly as usual for this. Ron, mate, sorry that you have read this out and you cannot change a word of it.

The Committee, Ron & Elaine Dean, Clarice Stretch, John Franks, Bob Pullan, Dieter Klepatski, Glen Tozi, Linda Bosman and Suzy Brandstater deserves thanks and appreciation for their tireless commitment to the club and I am sure that they will admit that the club has given them far more in return. The Committee is now dissolved.

As a newbie to the club I can honestly say that a few members also went consistently over and beyond, and special appreciation goes to the Cordova family, a beautiful family and a pleasure to spend time with at every event. Special appreciation also to Suzy & Don who consistently dreamed up fieldtrips and kept us entertained with highly professional music and lightshow; a Christmas event that will never be surpassed.

Linda McCulloch produced the newsletter but thank you to Suzy for much of the content from her excursions which resulted in an entertaining year in print.

The articles on “Getting to know your Club” based on the club history has uncovered the amazing man who is a true Patron and founder, Bob Pullan. Bob would prefer to be quietly part of the furniture but he IS the fabric of this club. Bob please take more students and share what you know because I have learnt a great deal from you. Thank you.

Our annual exhibition was a roaring success and attendances were greater than last year and overall a very enjoyable, productive weekend. Special thanks must go to all those members who assisted in the setting up, manning the kitchen, front door, club sales and also the general running during the two days, the pulling down on Sunday afternoon. Thank you also to Linda Bosman for the flowers, they were beautiful.

To all new members, welcome, and hope to see you involved in lots of the club’s activities and remain club members for a long time.

To the tutors who gave up their time to run the various classes, impart all their knowledge and expertise, I give my heartfelt thanks and look forward to all tutors continuing with their good work.

The Duty Officers, who spent much of their time making sure that everything is running smoothly. Special thank you to Eugenio and John for the new club shield, it took pride of place at the front door of the show. As always Dieter has kept all the now aging club machinery in running order.

On the social side we had an open day at the Club Rooms and our Christmas Party was a night to remember, great food, lovely weather and good company. Music and light show that you would expect to pay for. Thank you for this great memory.

Suzy ran four field trips this year to, Lightning Ridge twice, Thunder Egg Park & Inverell. Great times and great stories from these trips.

To Bob Thompson, our Patron, many thanks for all your assistance throughout the year in all matters relating to the Council.

Steven McCulloch (President (res))

Lightning Ridge / Grawin Fossicking Trip

Saturday 28th September - Saturday 5th October

Accommodation

Opal Caravan Park Lightning Ridge 02 6829 4884

Camping or ensuite cabin accommodation available.

Peter's Glengarry Hilton 6829 3983

Glengarry - camping or backpacker style accommodation available

Draft Itinerary

Depart 7.00am Saturday - arrive Opal Caravan Park Lightning Ridge app 6.00pm

Depart Lightning Ridge 8.00am Thursday arrive Glengarry 9.30am

Depart Glengarry 7.00am Saturday morning- arrive home 7.00pm

Evenings

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 a hard day fossicking. The Artesian Bore Bath is across the road from the caravan park and entry is free.

Sunday

Lightning Ridge Markets and sightseeing around lightning Ridge.

For those who haven't been to Lightning Ridge before the Black Opal Tour or Outback Tour bus is a great way to get the feel of this unique town and to see its highlights.

Monday

Fossicking, possible visit to a mine

Tuesday

Trip to the Chambers of the Black Hand. The Chambers of the Black hand is an underground art gallery. It has chamber after chamber of amazing carvings. You can also take a tour of the mine and learn about mining operations at Lightning Ridge. No visit to Lightning Ridge would be complete without a visit to Kangaroo Hill. Gwen and Athol Jenkins have an excellent mineral, gem and memorabilia collection. Gwen is a living treasure, her stories of early life at Lightning Ridge and other places are captivating.

Wednesday

More fossicking

Thursday and Friday

We'll spend two days fossicking at the mullock heaps and the roads at The Grawin. They have recently covered the back road into The Grawin with opal dirt. There is 19kms of road to fossick along, people have been finding some good stones. If you get tired of fossicking you can visit the Sheep Yards Pub, the nearby War Memorial, or Grawin Club in the Scrub.

We will hopefully visit with Lindsay and Scott Wren (Club members). They have a mine at the Grawin and hopefully will be able to show us around.

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 most Saturdays)

Or call (02)4681 0220 or 0414 574 057

Email suzybrandstater@hotmail.com



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.

September Birthstone - Sapphire

The sapphire is birthstone for September, it is type of the mineral corundum. Red corundum is called the ruby, while all other gem quality forms of corundum are called sapphires.



Typically, sapphires appear as blue stones, ranging from very pale blue to deep indigo, due to the presence of small amounts of titanium and iron within the crystal structure.

The most valued shade of blue is the medium-deep cornflower blue. Sapphires also occur in other natural colours and tints – colourless, gray, yellow, pale pink, orange, green, violet and brown – called fancy sapphires. These different colours are caused by different kinds of impurities within the crystal. For example, yellow sapphires get their colour from ferric iron, and colourless gems have no contaminants.

Information from <http://earthsky.org>

September Birthdays

Barbara Elliott
Kamilla Shepherd
Dorothy Perkins
Rudolf Gollan
Alan George
Elaine Dean
Ron Dean

Editor's Note

I would like to thank Linda McCulloch for her hard work producing the newsletter for the past year. She has left very big shoes to fill.

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

I hope you like my first effort, please remember I have my 'L' plates on.

Suzy



Lightning Ridge Trip Report

In the July School holidays two families from the club made the trip to Lightning Ridge and the Grawin. We spent two days at the Grawin looking for opals on the big dumps, white mountain and along the road. Cameron Jones and Brendan Thompson were the most successful (you can't beat sharp young eyes). Cameron found a very nice cuttable Grawin Grey opal on the road. We had it valued at \$150.

Grawin Mullock Heap



We caught up with Scott and Lindsey Wren (from our club), they are living at The Grawin. Scott took the boys down into one of his mines and then later introduced us to White Mountain. We had a lovely picnic lunch at White Mountain, sitting in the bush eating our lunch watching kangaroos and emus casually wander past.

After that we started the luxury part of our trip - moving from 1 star accommodation at the Glengarry Hilton to the Opal Caravan Park at Lightning Ridge. After two days fossicking, the hot bore bath was amazing.

White Mountain



We went to the Chambers of the Black Hand to do the mine and carving tour. It had been over 12 months since I was last there and the artist has added a number of new chambers. We then had a fossick around the Chambers mullock heaps and found a few more opals. Unfortunately darkness overtook us and we had to stop fossicking, it is really hard to stop fossicking once opal fever takes hold of you.

The following day we spent some time scratching around some abandoned mullock heaps across the road from the Chambers of the Black Hand. We found only a few small pieces so we went back to Chamber of the Black Hand's mullock heaps and had better luck there.

We had an enchanting visit with Gwen and Athol Jenkins at Kangaroo Hill. Their mineral and Gem display is excellent.

Sumptuous lunch at Jims Fossicking area



On our final day at the ridge one of the locals, Jim Moore, took us to a friend's abandoned claim where we were able to go through his mullock heaps to find a few more opals.



Kangaroo Hill



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
August 17 th & 18 th	Blaxland Gem & Mineral Show http://blaxlandgemmineralclub.webs.com/BGMCshow.htm	Glenbrook Community Hall, Great Western Highway Glenbrook (next to NPWS)
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/parrahalroydlapidaryclub/	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 9 th & 10 th	Zeehan Lapidary Club Gem & Mineral Show - Tasmania	Basketball Stadium Zeehan Primary School
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/	