

# Rockgrinders Gazette



**ADDRESS:** Lot 1 Bensley Road Macquarie Fields NSW 2564  
**MAIL:** PO Box 477 Ingleburn NSW 1890  
**EMAIL:** ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com  
**WEBSITE:** campbelltownlapidary.org.au  
**PHONE:** (02) 9618 3206

## Club rooms opening hours

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

January 2014 Garnet Edition

## New members welcome

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!

If you have not paid your 2013 membership you are not covered any insurance so you are not permitted to use any of the club equipment. Please pay your fees at the club on your next visit.

### 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.

Campbelltown Lapidary Club – January Garnet Edition 2014

## 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.

## General Meetings

The general meeting is held at 9.30am on the first Saturday of the month. We would encourage all members to come along to the meeting. It is your chance to find out what is happening in the club and to support the club.

Please note that club members are **not permitted** to be working in the grinding and cutting rooms while the general meeting is taking place. If you arrive at the club and the meeting is in progress, please join us in the meeting.



## Field Trip

**Inverell 14/01/14 - 21/01/14**

In spite of my threats to spend my summer holiday laying on a beach somewhere keeping cool, my chronic case of 'Fossickitis' kicked in and I am going to enjoy the heat fossicking for sapphires at Inverell.

We will be looking for sapphires, zircons, quartz, topaz and tourmaline

If you are interested in spending a few days digging and sieving in the summer heat please contact me on 0414574057 or email me at

[suzybrandstater@hotmail.com](mailto:suzybrandstater@hotmail.com)

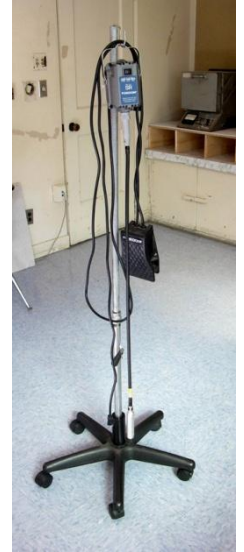
We will be staying at the Inverell Caravan Park.

***"Who said you can't fossick in the middle of January?"***

## Bench tips

### Mobile Stand

A handy mobile stand for your flexshaft can be made easily and quickly from the base of an old swivel office chair. You can find these chairs being thrown out at office buildings and schools. I just ask the custodian in my building to set one aside for me. To separate the chair from the wheeled base, simply remove the spring clip from the center bottom. I use a small screwdriver or a pair of pliers. To make the stand, you'll need two pieces of threaded galvanized steel pipe and a pipe fitting from a hardware store. The first length of pipe is 3/4 inch diameter to fit the hole in most chair bases. The second piece is a length of less expensive 1/2 inch pipe. Total length of the two pipes should be five feet. I used a two foot length of 3/4 pipe and a three foot length of 1/2 pipe. They are joined together by a pipe fitting called a 3/4 to 1/2 reducing coupler.



### Local Metals Source

Local sheet metal shops typically have barrels of scrap copper, brass and aluminium sheet that they save for recycling. Shops will usually let you go through the barrels to select the shapes and thicknesses you want. Prices vary but will generally be just a little more than the wholesale per-pound scrap value. I've found it's much cheaper to buy metal this way than ordering from a catalog. There's no shipping charges, and you'll be supporting a local small business in your community. Do remember to bring your thickness gauge and work gloves if you try this.

*More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://facebook.com/BenchTips/) or search for "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon*

### A Big thankyou from Kensington Public School

Cathy, a teacher from Kensington Public School runs a 'Rock Club' at her school. She has a very keen group of students who want to learn about rocks. She emailed many clubs enquiring as to whether we had some spare stones that we could donate to her Rock Club she ran at school. Clarice told her that we had some that she was quite welcome to have. She visited the club on the day of our December meeting. She had an enjoyable time looking through the rock pile with Ron gathering a some specimens and finding out what they were called. She is hoping to organise a visit to the club in the new year with her keen students.



Her club has become very popular, the numbers continually growing. It is good to see young children taking an interest in rocks.



January Birthdays (Garnet)			
Linda McCulloch	Greg Thompson	Robyn Taylor	Grace Hemans
Cecilia Grieshammer	Peter Callen	Betty Thompson	Don Jones
Ron Bryant	Libero Davino	Eileen Golian	Tristan Jones
Michael Shay			

## January Birthstone "Garnet"

The word Garnet is derived from the Latin word "granum" meaning "grain". This is because the stone is usually rounded which is also very like the of the seeds of the pomegranate. Garnets have been widely known for thousands of years. It is mentioned in Biblical times where Noah used a lantern from garnet to safely steer his Ark through the darkness of the night.

### Garnet colors

Although the deep saturated red colour occurs most frequently and is the known garnet colour, there are also garnets in different shades of green, pale to bright yellow, fiery orange and fine earth. Blue is the only colour that is not found in garnets.

### Colour Change Garnet

Some garnets can change colour depending on the light in which they are viewed. The stone may be greenish in daylight and red in incandescent light. The main garnets to exhibit this behaviour are Pyrope, Spessartite and Grossular garnets.



### Garnet Colours Names

- Pyrope**, red garnet, frequently with brown tint
- Rhodolite**, purplish red or rose-color garnet
- Almandine**, red garnet with violet tint
- Spessartite**, orange to red-brown garnet.
- Grossularite**, colorless, green, yellow, brown garnet
- Hydrogrossular**, dense, opaque greenish variety of grossularite
- Hessonite**, brown-red variety of garnet
- Leuco** garnet, colorless variety of grossularite
- Tsavorite**, green to emerald green garnet
- Andradite**, black, brown, yellow-brown garnet
- Demantoid**, the most valuable garnet, green to emerald green
- Melanite**, opaque black variety of andradite
- Tapazolite**, yellow to lemon yellow, topaz-like variety of andradite
- Uvarovite**, emerald green garnet that rarely occurs in gemstone quality.



### Garnet gemology

**Species:** Garnet

**Colour:** Colourless, all colours except blue (although some colour change garnets turn blue under artificial light)

**Crystal system:** (Cubic) rhombic dodecahedron, icositetrahedon

**Hardness:** 7-7.5 (Mohs scale)

**Colour of streak:** White

**Fluorescence:** Mostly none

**Chemical composition**, specific gravity, refractive index, birefringence and absorption spectrum are different for the various members of the garnet group.

### Australian Garnet Fields

In Australia mostly Pyrope and Almandine varieties are found; Pyrope, which is blood-red to black and Almandine, which is brownish-red to black. Other varieties are rarely found in Australia.

Garnet can be found in many sites throughout Australia, two of the most prolific sites are the "Harts Range" area in the Northern Territory and Fullarton River in Queensland. Small Garnets can be easily found at "Ruby Hill" Bingarra NSW. Currently, the largest source of Garnet is Africa. During December 1996, the largest exclusive garnet ever was found, measuring approximately 100 feet across. Other reliable sources of garnet include Soviet Union, USA, Brazil, and India.

### Spiritual Meanings For Garnets

The Garnet is associated with the thyroid and spleen. It helps cleanse and purify both when held over the area.

Garnets can be used to make a person popular and have self-esteem when worn as jewellery. It helps protect one on trips. Garnets bring constancy to friendships. Garnets are also known for stimulating success in business.

## Christmas Party

The annual club Christmas party was held on the 14th December. A great time was had by everybody with delicious food, good music and great company.



Many thanks to Ron and Elaine who coordinated the food and all the club members who helped set up for the event. Thank you to Margaret for sending me the photos.

## 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](mailto:ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com). We are grateful for any submissions

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
23rd Feb Sunday	Illawarra Lapidary Club Annual rock swap at	Stuart Park
Sunday 2 March 2014	<b>Newcastle Lapidary Club Rock Auction</b> The annual rock auction will be held in the club rooms at. There will be faceting rough, faceted stones, polished slabs, cabochons, opal rough, opal cabochons, and specimens. Viewing and sausage sizzle are at 12:00 noon and the auction starts at 1:00 pm. Contact details: Ray Holliday 024969 7464 or email <a href="mailto:newlap@gmail.com">newlap@gmail.com</a>	2 Dora Rd Adamstown
Sat 15 - Sun 16 March 2014 March 15, 9 am – 5 pm & March 16th 9 am – 3 pm	<b>23rd Annual Gem And Craft Show - New England Lapidary &amp; Fossicking Club Inc.</b>	Armidale Showground  Contact the Organisers on (02) 6778 5122 after hours or email <a href="mailto:nelfc@hotmail.com">nelfc@hotmail.com</a>
22nd March	<b>Campbelltown Lapidary Club Open day</b>	<b>ADDRESS:</b> Lot 1 Bensley Road Macquarie Fields NSW 2564 <b>MAIL:</b> PO Box 477 Ingleburn NSW 1890 <b>EMAIL:</b> <a href="mailto:ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com">ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com</a> <b>WEBSITE:</b> <a href="http://campbelltownlapidary.org.au">campbelltownlapidary.org.au</a> <b>PHONE:</b> (02) 9618 3206
5-6 April 2014	<b>Rock Swap - Canberra Lapidary Club</b>	More info <a href="http://www.canberralapidary.org.au">www.canberralapidary.org.au</a> Phone: 02 6281 3312
18 - 21 April 2014	<b>GEMBOREE Gatton Qld</b> Australia's 50th National Gem, Lapidary, Jewellery and Mineral Show GEMBOREE 2014 is to be held in Gatton Queensland.	Full details <a href="http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/">http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/</a>
<u>9 – 11 May 2014</u>	<b>Hawkesbury Agricultural Society Show</b>	
<u>17 – 18 May 2014</u>	<b>Lismore GEMFEST (24th Annual)</b>	<a href="http://www.gemclublismore.org.au/wordpress/gem-fest/">http://www.gemclublismore.org.au/wordpress/gem-fest/</a>
<u>7 – 8 June 2014</u>	<b>Winter Show - Canberra Lapidary Club</b>	More info <a href="http://www.canberralapidary.org.au">www.canberralapidary.org.au</a> Phone: 02 6281 3312