

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 2014 Aquamarine 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

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 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.

Club Open Day

Our club open day is on Saturday 22nd March. Please come along and support the club by helping set up in the morning or packing up in the afternoon, assisting with the BBQ, making teas and coffee or helping out with the club stall.

If you have anything to donate to the club stall please bring it in. If you would like to have your own stall, let us know.

Workshop Saturday 29th March

Lil's Right Angle Weave Bracelet

Learn Lil's very easy technique to make a beaded bracelet.

All materials and tools supplied (if needed), cost \$20.00



Aquamarine - March Birthstone

Aquamarine is one of the official birthstones for March. Aquamarine is a blue to green-blue type of precious beryl. The beryl group of minerals is well known for its chromium-rich, green emerald. Aquamarine is very hard and has an outstanding glass-like lustre. It can range from light blue to dark blue. The name 'Aquamarine' comes from a Latin word which meaning 'seawater'.

Although Aquamarine and emerald belong to the same family, but they are quite different. Aquamarine and emerald are both beryllium aluminium silicates. While emerald is coloured by trace amounts of chromium (and vanadium), Aquamarine's colour is the result of iron impurities within colourless beryl crystal. Aquamarine and emerald have essentially the same specific gravity and refractive index, but emerald tends to be hazy and full of inclusions, while Aquamarine has excellent transparency and clarity. Aquamarine, and other types of beryl, are quite durable and hard, ranging from 7.5 to 8 on Mohs scale of mineral hardness. A dark and deeply-saturated blue is the most desirable and valuable Aquamarine colour. Other varieties of beryl include Morganite, Goshenite, Golden Beryl (Heliodor), Green Beryl and Bixbite. It has a six-sided crystal structure.



Aquamarine Treatment

Aquamarine is often heat-treated for color enhancement, but many are untreated. Heating at low temperatures will reduce unwanted green and yellowish tones. Darker shades of aquamarine are almost always heated, as well as lower quality stones (Usually at 400-450C) in order to enhance the color into a favorable blue color. Heating at higher temperatures would result in discoloration.

March Birthdays (Aquamarine)

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

Composition of Aquamarine:

VARIETY OF: Beryl, Be₃ Al₂ Si₆ O₁₈.
CLEAVAGE: one direction, poor.
CRYSTAL SYSTEM: hexagonal
PLEOCHROIC: weak
BIRTHSTONE FOR: March
COLOR: various shades of blue to blue-green.
INDEX OF REFRACTION: 1.57 - 1.60
BIREFRINGENCE: 0.004 - 0.008
HARDNESS: 7.5 - 8
STREAK: White

Next Field Trip

Our next field trip will be to Inverell.

I will be arriving on Monday 14th of April and will be leaving on April 22nd. We will be staying at the Fossicker's Rest Caravan Park. If you are interested in coming along on the field trip it would be advisable to book accommodation as soon as possible as the trip will include Easter.

I haven't finalised the itinerary but we will be looking for sapphires, zircons, quartz and tourmaline. We will be fossicking at a number of different sites and visiting the Pioneer Village.

I haven't finished the itinerary yet, I will put it up at the club very soon.

If you are interested in coming along on this trip, please contact Suzy by phone 0414574057 or email suzybrandstater@hotmail.com



February Workshop Report

On February 22nd we had our “Ornate Gemstone Bracelet” Workshop. Eight people participated in the workshop. Two of the participants were new members and this was their first workshop with the club.

We learnt to put ballpins through beads to attach them to bead caps to make flowers, how to attach charms to jump rings and how to tie off an elastic bracelet.

Suzy Brandstater was the teacher for the workshop

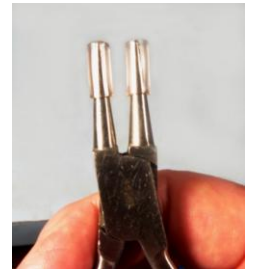


Bench tips

NO - MAR PLIERS

Pliers can often leave nicks and scratches on your work. If this is giving you a problem, first take a close look at the plier jaws. New tools can be a little rough. I typically relieve any sharp edges, sand away any tool marks and give working areas a quick polish.

If that doesn't solve the problem, you probably need to cover the jaws. Plastic electrical tape provides a quick fix but can leave messy adhesive on the jaws. Dips don't seem to last very long. A quick and easy way I've found is to slip a length of 1/8 dia vinyl tubing over each jaw. It's quick and leaves no sticky residue. Only problem is that it increases the size of the plier jaws a bit. The tubing can be found in a store that sells aquarium supplies.



PATINA RECIPIES

In a recent class we did a little work with patinas. Came across a couple web sites for those of you who'd like to explore this area, especially for copper and bronze. The first is The Science Company at <http://www.sciencecompany.com/Do-It-Yourself-Patina-Formulas-W12C672.aspx> with plenty of formulas for a variety of colors. And there's more formulas at Tim McCreight's Brynmorgen Press web site at <http://www.brynmorgen.com/resources.html>. Small quantities of chemicals for making your own patinas are available from The Science Company at <http://www.sciencecompany.com/Patina-Chemicals-C672.aspx>. If you prefer to buy the patinas already for use, one of the best sources I've come across is Sculpt Nouveau at <http://www.sculptnouveau.com/>. Don't miss all the instructional pdf's on the site and be sure to take a look at the videos showing how to use their products at <http://www.youtube.com/sculptnouveau>

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

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
Sunday 2 March 2014	Newcastle Lapidary Club Rock Auction 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 newlap@gmail.com	2 Dora Rd Adamstown
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.	Armidale Showground Contact the Organisers on (02) 6778 5122 after hours or email nelfc@hotmail.com
22nd March	Campbelltown Lapidary Club Open day	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
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/
<u>9 – 11 May 2014</u>	Hawkesbury Agricultural Society Show	
<u>17 – 18 May 2014</u>	Lismore GEMFEST (24th Annual)	http://www.gemclublismore.org.au/wordpress/gem-fest/
<u>7 – 8 June 2014</u>	Winter Show - Canberra Lapidary Club	More info www.canberralapidary.org.au Phone: 02 6281 3312