

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

April 2014 Diamond 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.

Vale Millie Singleton

31/3/1944 - 24/3/2014

The club received the sad news of the passing of one of our long term members Millie Singleton. Millie had not been to the club much over the past few years as she was looking after her mother in Tasmania, but she always made an effort to come to our club events. She was one of our regular helpers in the kitchen at both open days and exhibitions. I was lucky enough to get the opportunity to talk to her at our open day. She spent the day making cups of tea and serving cake.

On a personal note I will miss Millie greatly, she was a gentle lady who always had a kind word to say and was happy to help other members. She took me under her wing when I first started at the club and assisted me in starting my lapidary journey.

Millie was looking forward to coming back to the club full time once she had her mother's estate settled.

It was lovely to see a large group of club members attending the funeral to say their final goodbyes to Millie.



Diamond - April Birthstone

Diamonds have a hardness of ten on the Moh's Scale. That is as high as the Moh's scale goes. Diamond is the hardest natural substance. Diamonds are so hard that the only tool that can be used to cut a diamond must be made from another diamond.



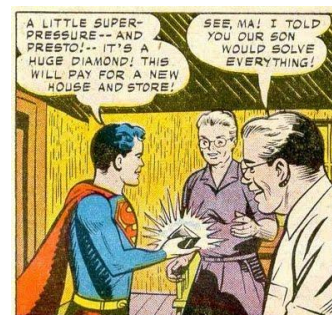
Diamonds were discovered in India at least 2400 years ago and India was the first commercial producer of diamonds. The country dominated commercial diamond production until South American discoveries in the 1730's.

A small number of natural diamonds fall outside of the typical white-yellow-brown colour range. They can be pink, blue, purple, red, orange or any color. When they are a pleasing shade they can be extremely valuable and are given the name "fancy" diamonds

As in other gemstones, colour variants in diamond can be caused by impurities, heat or irradiation. Nitrogen in the stone causes a yellow color. Irradiation can produce greens. Irradiation followed by heating can produce almost any colour.

Diamonds are a high-temperature and high- pressure mineral. They do not form naturally at Earth's surface or at shallow depths. The conditions where they can form are in Earth's mantle at a depth of about 100 miles below the surface.

If you were a keen reader of Superman comics you would know that diamonds can be formed by heat and pressure. Superman could do it by squeezing a lump of coal and using his heat vision. The rest of the world has to use a factory to manufacture them.. Diamonds have been manufactured since the 1950's. At first the cost was very high. Now, over 100 tons of diamonds are manufactured every year. Most of these diamonds are used to make cutting tools and abrasives..



People have successfully made gem-quality diamonds for use in fine jewellery. The stones are said to be indistinguishable from natural stones in a direct observation by experienced gemmologists. They can be identified by laboratory tests.



Diamonds have been found in some meteorites and the impact of meteorites with Earth is thought to produce enough heat and pressure to transform carbon into diamonds.

To show the true brilliance of a diamond it needs to be faceted. The shape of the stone is taken into consideration and a suitable cut is selected. It might be a round 'brilliant' cut or a rectangular 'emerald' cut.

Birthday List

April (Diamond)
4 Jai Simons
4 Marianne Amos
5 Graig Smith
6 Richard Jones
6 Jack Pakulski
8 Graeme Merchant
8 Alison Cordova

10 Brian Holmes
10 Carolina Cordova
14 Wayne White
15 Kathy O'Shannessy
22 Jo Lo Choon
23 Jenny Shay
24 Maria Soldo

April Field Trip

Our next field trip will be to Inverell.

I will be arriving on the evening of 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.

We will be fossicking for Sapphires at Billabong Blue, Smokey Quartz and rutilated quartz at Tingha Sands and small quartz and citrine crystals at the sand dumps. We will also be doing a few touristy type things such as visiting the pioneer village and having a look around the local area. Possibly a trip to Glenn Innes to visit Aussie Sapphire.



We have been invited to visit a lady in Warialda to have a look at a rock collection and to purchase at a very reasonable price anything that takes our fancy. She has said we can fossick around in her yard where many different types of rocks have been thrown over the years.

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

March Workshop Report

On March 29th four club members participated in a beading workshop. We made Lil's Right Angle Weave bracelet. Workshop participants learnt how to use two needles which simplified the process greatly. Some members chose to experiment with triangular beads as a focus bead on top.

Suzy Brandstater was the teacher for the workshop



Workshop Saturday 10th May

"River of Crystal" Bracelet

Due to the club being closed for the ANZAC Day long weekend our April workshop has been rescheduled for **Saturday 10th May**.

All materials and tools supplied (but if you have tools please bring them along), cost \$20.00



Brad Smith's Bench Tips

POLISHING WHEELS

In the finishing sequence there's a step called pre-polishing, between sanding and buffing, and one of the most effective tools I've found to help here is the little silicone wheels used in a Foredom or Dremel. They come in several different abrasive levels and several different shapes. The wheels are color coded to denote their abrasive level. Different shapes (coin, knife, cylinder, point, etc) are available to match the geometry of the area being cleaned up.

For a starter, I'd suggest a medium, a fine and an extra fine wheel in both the coin shape and the knife-edge shape. The thicker coin shapes are particularly handy. Be sure to get a few extra mandrels so you'll have one of each wheel shape mounted and ready to go.

Cylinder shapes are nice for doing the inside of rings. Knife-edge shapes clean up the base of bezels quickly. Most jewelry catalogs carry these wheels, but often the color codes don't match between different manufacturers.

RESHAPING SILICONE WHEELS

Silicone polishing wheels in the Dremel or Foredom are a great time saver, but after using them a bit they often need to be reshaped. This is particularly true with the knife-edge wheels.

The natural thought is to grab one of your files and hold it up against the rotating wheel to reshape it. But this gives you a problem. The grinding grit in the silicone wheel is much harder than steel, meaning that you end up grinding down the teeth of your file.

The best way to reshape your polishing wheels is to use a diamond file. If you don't have one and must use a steel file, I sacrifice the area of the file that is closest to the handle. That's an area which is not used in normal benchwork.

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

You can also look online at his book at <http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>



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
Sat 5th-Sun 6th April 2014	Rock Swap - Canberra Lapidary Club	More info www.canberrallapidary.org.au Phone: 02 6281 3312
Sunday 6th April	Autumn Bead Show Sydney	Marrickville Town Hall, 303 Marrickville Road, Marrickville. NSW. 2204 http://thebeadshow.com.au/the-bead-show/sydney/
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/
9 - 11 May 2014	Hawkesbury Agricultural Society Show	
17 - 18 May 2014	Lismore GEMFEST (24th Annual)	http://www.gemclublismore.org.au/wordpress/gem-fest/
7 - 8 June 2014	- Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Show	More info www.canberrallapidary.org.au Phone: 02 6281 3312
Sat 31 May - Sun 1 June 10.00am to 5.00pm	Winter Gemcraft & Mineral Show Canberra Lapidary Club Gem, mineral, jewellery & lapidary dealers Minerals, fossils, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, lapidary equipment & supplies, opals, beads & supplies. Displays of members' collections, free sessions on fossicking & gold detecting, cabbing, faceting and jewellery making demonstrations	More info Phone: 02 6260 5322 http://www.canberrallapidary.org.au EPIC - Mallee Pavilion \$5 adults, \$9 family, \$2 children/concession.
Sat 14th June 2014	Parramatta Holroyd Lapidary Club Open Day June 14 (10am-4pm), entry is free. Displays, sales, demonstrations, mineral sales sausage sizzle, Devonshire teas, plant sales.	73 Fullagar Road Wentworthville NSW http://www.freewebs.com/parraholroydlapidaryclub/
12th - 13th July	Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club Exhibition Open 9.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 12th July and Sunday 13th July	Greg Percival Community Centre Corner of Oxford and Cumberland Rd Ingleburn ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com