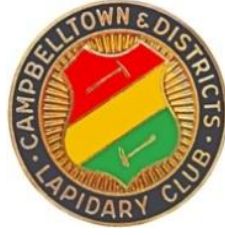


# Rockgrinders Gazette



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## Club rooms opening hours

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

May 2014 Emerald 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.

Next investment 16th May

Silver class breaks from 30th May - 26th September

Campbelltown Lapidary Club – May Emerald Edition 2014

## General Meetings

The general meeting is held at 9.30am on the **first Saturday** every 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.

## House Keeping

Just a reminder to all members that when you use something, please clean up after yourself. Also if you are one of those wonderful people who help keep the club tidy and well organised (we really appreciate you). When looking at throwing things away or giving them away, please check with the duty officer before disposing of them.

## Workshops

We missed the April workshop due to the ANZAC Day long weekend so we will be having two Saturday workshops in May.

### 10th May River of Crystal Bracelet

A bracelet inspired by Carolyn's amazing find. Faceted crystal rondelles joined into a chain to make a bracelet that flows like a river of crystal. Workshop cost \$20



### 24th May Parisian Lights beaded bracelet.

A very effective, easy to make simple but elegant bracelet that doesn't involve any metal findings. Workshop Cost \$15



## Emerald - May Birthstone.

Emerald is the most precious stone in the beryl group. By definition, emerald is any medium to dark green beryl coloured by chromium. Green beryl coloured only by vanadium is not considered to be true emerald, but rather as simply green beryl. Since the 1960s, the American jewellery industry changed the definition to include vanadium coloured beryl as 'emerald', but in the UK and Europe, they are still not recognized as such. The historical green colour of emerald is unparalleled in the world of gemstones and it is considered as one of the most 'precious four' of all gemstones, which also includes sapphire, ruby and diamond. Although emeralds are one of the most valuable gemstones available today, most are very heavily included, rendering their resistance to breakage as generally poor.



Though Colombia is the most famous source for 'deep green' emeralds, emerald deposits are mined from many locations around the world. Recent decades have seen emerald production increase as a result of newly discovered deposits in South America, Africa and across Europe. Today, Brazil and Zambia are now some of the leading producers of fine emeralds, following Colombia.

### Emerald Cut and Shape

Emeralds are most often cut in a special cut designed just for this gem; the emerald cut. The emerald-cut is a step or trap-cut featuring a rectangular or square shape with truncated corners. This cutting style maximizes the beauty and colour of the stone, whilst protecting it from mechanical strain and internal stress. Emeralds are also cut into a variety of other traditional shapes such as pear, oval and round. Lower grade materials are often cut into a cabochon or into beads. Highly transparent and clear materials are sometimes cut with brilliant-style.



### Emerald Treatment

Oiling is a common emerald treatment and in most cases, it is done right at the mining location. The term 'oiling' refers to the practice of immersing emeralds in a colourless oil or resin (most often cedar oil) in order to enhance colour, clarity and stability. This is also sometimes done using a vacuum chamber to assist penetration. These treatments dramatically improve the appearance of the gems, but necessitate special care in cleaning and setting. Steam cleaners, solvents and ultrasonic cleaners can remove the oils, making inclusions that were barely visible stand out in sharp relief. Since emeralds can be restored through re-oiling, the damage is considered to be only temporary.

Synthetic emeralds have been available since 1848. In the 1950s, synthesizing methods became commercialized and excellent quality synthetics have been made available since.

### Emerald Gemmological Properties:

<b>Species:</b>	Emerald - beryl
<b>Chemical Formula:</b>	Al <sub>2</sub> Be <sub>3</sub> Si <sub>6</sub> O <sub>18</sub> - Aluminium beryllium silicate
<b>Crystal Structure:</b>	Hexagonal; hexagonal prisms
<b>Color:</b>	Emerald green to green to slightly bluish or yellowish-green
<b>Hardness:</b>	7.50 to 8.0
<b>Refractive Index:</b>	1.565 to 1.602
<b>Density:</b>	2.67 to 2.78
<b>Cleavage:</b>	Indistinct
<b>Transparency:</b>	Transparent to opaque
<b>Double Refraction or Birefringence:</b>	-0.006
<b>Luster:</b>	Vitreous
<b>Fluorescence:</b>	Usually none

Information from Gem Select  
<http://www.gemselect.com/gem-info/emerald/emerald-info.php>

### Birthday List May (Emerald)

<b>7<sup>th</sup> Nick Pastor</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> Kyle Hokin</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Linda Jeffrey</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> Greg wood</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Alison MacBeth</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> Suzy Brandstater</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Ian Browne</b>	

### April Field Trip Report

During the April School holidays two families went to Inverell on a fossicking trip.

We were lucky with the weather, warm sunny days and cold evenings.

Our first day in Inverell was an easy one, we were tired from the big drive up there the day before. We visited the pioneer village which has an excellent collection of historical buildings, farm equipment, machinery, technology and other historical items. It also had a fossicking area. I believe that the exhibits were excellent, I didn't see them because as soon as I saw they had a fossicking area, I lost all interest in the exhibits and spent my time digging and sieving rocks. I did find some small sapphires for my efforts. Everybody else really enjoyed the village.

The following day we went to Billabong Blue Fossicking park and had a wonderful day shovelling and sieving and looking for sapphires, well ..... I didn't actually shovel, that is what sons are for. I found one quite nice sapphire which was valued at about \$300.00.

On Thursday we went to Tingha Sands planning to spend the day in front of the sieving machine grabbing quartz as it falls from the sky. Unfortunately the machine wasn't running. So, instead we had a wonderful day fossicking around the entire sand mine looking for grass stones (also known as rutilated quartz). We did finds some and quite a few nice pieces of Smokey quartz. The kids had a great time running around the sand hills, following animal tracks (emu, kangaroo etc) and exploring the area.

Good Friday the younger ones went to Green Valley farm and Don and I went exploring the area around Tingha. We found a sand dump near Old Mill which had a lot of small crystal points. We discovered an old tin mine and found a quite a lot of tin ore.

One of the highlights of the trip for me was meeting Pat Covey. She had contacted me before we went on the trip. She and her husband had been keen fossickers for many years. He has now passed away and now she needed to find a new home for some of her collection as she was selling her house. It was inspiring to meet Pat, to hear her talk about all the places she had been. She is a real role model for me.



We spent the next few days exploring other fossicking areas such as Nullamanna and had a trip to Glen Innes. We finished our trip with another day at Billabong blue, finding quite a few more sapphires.



## Brad Smith's Bench Tips

### REVOLVING SOLDER PAD

Often when we're soldering we have multiple pieces on the pad or a single piece and would like to work on several sides of it during the same heat.

One of the ways to deal with this is to put your solder pad onto a turntable. That way you can rotate each piece into position when you need to or can rotate the pad to reach another side of a larger piece.

All you need to make one of these is a piece of aluminum sheet and an inexpensive turn table assembly. A good hardware store will have both, although you can usually find the aluminum in the scrap pile of a local sheet metal shop.



In building a turntable for my 6 inch solder pad, I used a seven inch square piece of aluminum and cut out 1/2 inch notches from each corner. Then I used a bench vice to bend the sides along the dotted lines to form a tray that cradles the solder pad. I attached the tray to the turntable assembly with a couple small machine screws and nuts.

### QUENCHING

Some jewelers drop the hot piece from soldering directly into the pickle. Do you hear that little hiss? The hot piece sends small droplets of acid into the air. This can rust nearby tools and can't be all that good to breathe either. To avoid this I quench in water. A coffee cup of water at the solder station lets me cool a soldered piece before dumping it into the pickle. It's also useful for annealing metals and for cooling off tweezers.

*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/>

### Exhibition

Our annual exhibition is on 12th - 13th July at the Greg Percival Centre Ingleburn. This is one of the most important events in our club calendar. For the event to be successful we need all club members to assist in some way. We will be setting up on Friday 11th July and will need assistance getting our exhibits to the centre. On the days of the exhibition we desperately need people to do a shift in the canteen - making sandwiches, tea coffee etc. We will then need help packing up on the Sunday.

Please let us know how you can help. The exhibition is the club's main revenue raiser and we know how much the club means to one and all. Every little bit helps.

## 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
9 – 11 May 2014	<b>Hawkesbury Agricultural Society Show</b>	
17 – 18 May 2014	<b>Lismore GEMFEST</b> (24th Annual)	<a href="http://www.gemclublismore.org.au/wordpress/gem-fest/">http://www.gemclublismore.org.au/wordpress/gem-fest/</a>
7th June 9.30am	Campbelltown Lapidary club general meeting	Lot 1 Bensely Rd Macquarie Fields
7 – 8 June 2014	- <b>Canberra Lapidary Club</b> Winter Show	Moreinfo <a href="http://www.canberralapidary.org.au">www.canberralapidary.org.au</a> Phone: 02 6281 3312
Sat 31 May – Sun 1 June 10.00am to 5.00pm	<b>Winter Gemcraft &amp; Mineral Show Canberra Lapidary Club</b> 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 <a href="http://www.canberralapidary.org.au">http://www.canberralapidary.org.au</a>  EPIC – Mallee Pavilion \$5 adults, \$9 family, \$2 children/concession.
Sat 14th June 2014	<b>Parramatta Holroyd Lapidary Club Open Day</b> June 14 (10am-4pm), entry is free. Displays, sales, demonstrations, mineral sales sausage sizzle, Devonshire teas, plant sales.	73 Fullagar Road Wentworthville NSW <a href="http://www.freewebs.com/parramolroydlapidaryclub/">http://www.freewebs.com/parramolroydlapidaryclub/</a>
28 June 2014	<b>Gold Coast Gem and Craft Show</b>	80 Pacific Avenue Miami Pizzey Park Qld
5th July 9.30am	Campbelltown Lapidary club general meeting	Lot 1 Bensely Rd Macquarie Fields
12th - 13th July	<b>Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club Exhibition</b> Open 9.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 12th July and Sunday 13th July	Greg Percival Community Centre Corner of Oxford and Cumberland Rd Ingleburn <a href="mailto:ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com">ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com</a>
Fri 19 – Sun 21 September 2014	<b>The Bead Show Sydney, Spring Show 2014</b>	Marrickville Town Hall, 303 Marrickville Road, Marrickville. NSW. 2204 <a href="http://thebeadshow.com.au/the-bead-show/sydney-spring/">http://thebeadshow.com.au/the-bead-show/sydney-spring/</a>
Sat 4th – Mon 6th October 2014	<b>A World Of Gems – This is GEMKHANA 2014</b> The Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of lapidaries from all over NSW, presented by the Lapidary Council of NSW Inc	Goulburn Showground Recreation Area, Braidwood Road, Goulburn, NSW 2580 <b>Contacts:</b> Marilyn or John 02 9635 8218 or Arthur 02 4572 5812