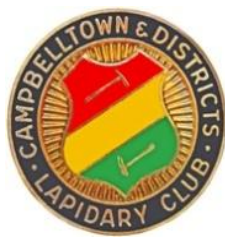


# Rockgrinders Gazette



**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

September 2014 Sapphire 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 and 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	\$4.50 per member
Workshop fees	\$2.00

**NOTE:** You must be an insured member over 12 years of age to use machinery & cutting implements

All visitors are welcome however only members can use machines or gas.

Due to an increase in our insurance charged by the G&L council broker, our personal insurance paid by members has increased from \$3.50 to \$4.50 this year.

## Silver Classes

Silver Casting Classes are conducted Friday evenings, but are in recess. Barry and Dorothy will be glad to help you get started when classes resume on 26th September

## Show Cases

The club still has a few show cases available to go to good homes. If you are interested in one, make an offer. One per member.

## Club Workshop 27th September

### Make a textured Bracelet Using a Rolling Mill

The new rolling mill is up and running. Come along and learn how to make a textured copper bracelet. Everything is supplied but if you have some lace or thick paper cutouts, bring them along and give them a try in the mill.

**Workshop cost \$10 -**

## Field Trip

The next club field trip is to Lightning Ridge. I'll be travelling to the Ridge on Monday 29th September and should arrive in the early evening. I will be staying at 'Chasin' Opal' tourist park. There is a large variety of accommodation available from simple camping, cabins to motel style.

We will be spending a few days at the Ridge, visiting a mine, fossicking and going to the Chamber of The Black Hand underground sculpture gallery. No evening at the Ridge is complete without a long soak in the hot springs. The bore bath is open 24/7 and is free.

On the Friday we will travel to the Grawin. I have booked accommodation at the Glengarry Hilton, but camping is also available there.

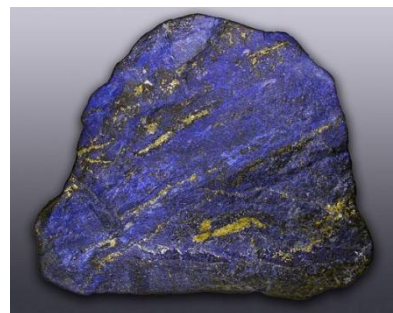
We will be fossicking on the big dumps (pictured below) and hopefully coming home with a lovely opal. We will leave Grawin on Sunday for the long trip home.



## Lapis Lazuli

While sapphire is the birthstone for September, Lapis Lazuli is an alternate Birthstone. It is also blue and is the stone for Libra which is partially in September.

In ancient times, pharaohs and kings wore a lapis lazuli stone as amulet. The eyes and eyebrows of these rulers' funeral images were inlaid with lapis lazuli. The golden sarcophagus of King Tutankhamen was richly inlaid with Lapis, as were other burial ornaments of Egyptian kings and queens. It was used extensively in scarabs, pendants and other jewellery, Cleopatra herself was said to have worn powdered lapis lazuli for her eye shadow.



Lapis lazuli is not a mineral, but a rock, produced from an aggregation of different minerals. Lazurite forms the bulk of a lapis lazuli rock, and is the cause of the gemstone's deep blue colour. Another mineral component of a lapis lazuli is another gemstone called sodalite. Pyrite, better known as fool's gold, makes the speckles of yellow on a lapis lazuli stone and the white intrusions are calcite. The word azure is derived from the name lapis lazuli, and denotes a deep blue colour as of the lapis lazuli gem. A poorer quality Lapis is lighter blue with more white than gold flecks, and is sometimes called denim Lapis.

### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Colour is brilliant blue with violet or greenish tints.
- Lustre is dull to greasy.
- Transparency: Crystals are translucent to opaque.
- Crystal System: Isometric;
- Crystal Habits: Dodecahedral crystals have been found, usually massive as a rock (lapis lazuli) forming mineral.
- Cleavage is poor, in six directions, but rarely seen.
- Fracture is uneven
- Hardness is 5 - 5.5
- Specific Gravity is 2.3 - 2.4
- Streak is bright blue.
- Index of refraction is 1.5.
- Associated Minerals are calcite, some pyroxenes and most diagnostic pyrite.
- Notable Occurrences include Kokcha River valley, Afghanistan; Ovalle, Cordillera, Chile; near Lake Baikal, Russia; Mt. Vesuvius, Italy; Cascade Canyon, San Bernardino Mountains and Ontario Peak, California and in the Sawatch Mountains, Colorado, USA.
- Best Field Indicators are the violet-blue colour, pyrite association (unlike sodalite), locality and specific gravity.



Lapis lazuli has been mined for centuries in the remote mountain valley called Kokcha, Afghanistan. First mined 6000 years ago, the rock was transported to Egypt and present day Iraq and later to Europe where it was used in jewellery and for ornamental stone. Europeans ground down the rock into an expensive powdered pigment for paints called "ultramarine". Today ultramarine is manufactured artificially. Although no longer the only source of lapis, Afghanistan still produces the finest quality material.

### Spiritual Meaning

Lapis is an excellent stone for executives, journalists, and psychologists, stimulating wisdom and good judgment in the practical world. It aids intellectual analysis in archaeologists and historians, problem solving for lawyers, and creates new ideas for inventors and writers.

It is considered to be a stone of truth, Lapis is said to encourage honesty of the spirit, and in the spoken and written word. It can be worn for all forms of deep communication. It is also a stone of friendship and brings harmony in relationships. A Lapis grid is said to bring calm and loving communication for a home with temperamental teenagers, or children with Asperger's syndrome, autism, or attention-deficit disorder

### September Birthdays Sapphire

4th Barbara Elliott	23rd Alan George
8th Kamilla Shepherd	28th Elaine Dean
15th Dorothy Perkins	28th Ron Dean
21st Rudolf Gollan	

## Workshop Report

Our August workshop went very well. As a follow on from the June workshop where we learnt to wire wrap a tumbled stone, we learnt how to wire wrap a cabochon.

There were a few frustrations but eventually we all produced a beautifully wrapped stone.

A wire wrapped cab technically should have a very even appearance. We decided that we preferred the free form look as it gave a more artisan hand crafted appearance. Each piece is unique, which makes them so much more special.



## Notice

It has been brought to the notice of the Committee that some members are NOT cleaning the machines after they have used them. It is a requirement that if you use any of the machines YOU ARE REQUIRED TO CLEAN THEM.

It is NOT the duty of the Duty Officer to clean up after members. Notices are all around the area, please take note.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE BANNED FROM USING THE MACHINES AVAILABLE, CLEAN UP AFTER YOU USE THEM.

## You Know You're A Rockhound If:

- You prefer baryte roses to real ones.
- Your dream holiday destination is Coober Pedy or Far North Queensland.
- Your garage is so full of rocks that the car won't fit in.
- You collect Interesting specimens, including the brown unknown ones, just in case they might turn out to be something special.
- You've ever sorted through a mullock heap.
- You colour co-ordinate your clothes and shoes to match your gemstone pendants.
- The sign on the side of the road says "Falling Rock" and you pull over to wait.
- You like to examine the rocks in your driveway.
- You treasure ancient, fossilised animal dung.
- You spend hours searching the ground while everyone else around you gets bored.



## 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
Saturday 6th September	<b>Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club Annual Meeting</b>	Lot 1 Bensely Rd Macquarie Fields.
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
11th October	 <b>Campbelltown Lapidary Club Open Day</b> Sausage sandwiches, jewellery stalls, gemstones	Lot 1 Bensley Rd Macquarie Fields 10.00am - 2.00pm
11th – 12th October 2014	<b>White Cliffs Gem Fest &amp; Car Boot Sale</b> Times will be 9am till 5pm Saturday and 9am till noon Sunday	 Please contact Jane Stevenson on telephone 0438790510 or email <a href="mailto:wcma2012@hotmail.com">wcma2012@hotmail.com</a> for bookings or further information.
17 – 24 October 2014	<b>Inverell Gem and Craft Show, Inverell</b>	Inverell
24th – 26th October 2014	<b>Northern Districts Lapidary Club Gem Show –</b> Gems, Jewellery and Minerals Exhibition.	Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Road Beecroft <a href="http://ndlapidary.org.au/gem-show-beecroft-nsw/">http://ndlapidary.org.au/gem-show-beecroft-nsw/</a>
25th – 26th October 2014	<b>Lapidary Club of NSW Exhibition</b>	136 Reservoir St Surry Hills
Sat 1st November 2014	<b>Cessnock Gem and Mineral Club Annual Rock Auction</b> Fossils, Minerals, Crystals, Gems and much more many interesting and rare specimens Sausage Sizzle from 11am Viewing from 12 noon Auction commences at 12.30pm	Cessnock Gem and Mineral Club Clubrooms- Lot 1 – Hall Park Stephen Street, <a href="http://lapidaryworld.com/cessnock_gem_club">http://lapidaryworld.com/cessnock_gem_club</a> or <a href="mailto:cessnockgemclub@gmail.com">cessnockgemclub@gmail.com</a>
7 – 9th November 2014	<b>Parramatta-Holroyd Annual Exhibition (10am to 4pm). Entry is free.</b> Competition, displays, sales, raffle demonstrations, mineral sales, sausage sizzle, tea/coffee and cake, sand sieve, rock heap, plant and books sales	. 73 Fullagar Road Wentworthville NSW <a href="http://www.freewebs.com/parraholroydlapidaryclub">http://www.freewebs.com/parraholroydlapidaryclub</a>
8th- 9th November, 2014	<b>Newcastle Lapidary Club's Annual Gem Show</b> Sales of gemstones, beads, silver, tools, jewellery. Displays of faceting and jewellery making. Devonshire Teas, Sausage Sizzle,	At the Club, 2 Dora Rd Adamstown From 9.00am to 4.00pm
13th December	<b>Campbelltown Lapidary Club Christmas Party</b>	