

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

December 2014 Turquoise 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. Barry and Dorothy will be glad to help you get started. Our final silver class for the year is on the 19th December and we resume classes on Friday 16th January.

Open Day 2014

The first Open Day will be on 7th March 2015.

Campbelltown Lapidary Club – December Turquoise Edition 2014

We Won!

Best Lapidary Club Newsletter for 2014 was awarded to Campbelltown Lapidary Club.



Look After our Equipment

The club equipment is there for all club members to use. But it must be used correctly!

When you use a grinding wheel you must move your stone from side to side to ensure even wear on all surfaces of the wheel. If you just use the centre you end up with a deep groove in the wheel and as you see in the picture eventually you get a hole in the surface. This wheel would have lasted for years but now it is not really usable because someone is using it incorrectly.

This is your club, please use our grinding wheels appropriately. If you are unsure, please ask a duty officer for help.



Brad Smith's Bench Tips

TAKE BETTER PHOTOS

Most digital cameras these days have the ability to take a good picture of your small jewelry items, but set-up is important. There are four major items to control - background, lighting, camera motion and focus control.

Lightly coloured papers from an art store make reasonable starter backgrounds. Try experimenting with other products later like glass or colored plastics. Avoid fabrics because the weave can often be distracting at high magnification.

Outside lighting is the easiest. In fact for close-ups, flash never works well. Turn off your camera's flash. Choose a bright but overcast day or a lightly shaded area when the sun is full. For inside use, two gooseneck desk lamps can be used with 75 watt bulbs. Whatever you use, be sure to set the camera to match the type of lighting you use or else the colour will be off.

You'll be shooting up close, so turn on the Macro mode. Now at this range, if the camera moves even a little bit during the shot, the picture will be blurry, so it's essential to use a tripod. Used ones are available inexpensively from eBay, yard sales or some camera shops. And even with a tripod, I put the camera on the self-timer mode so that any vibration from when you click the button settles down before the camera takes a picture.

In order to get the largest part of your jewelry in focus, you have to close the lens down to the minimum aperture (highest F-Stop number). This is done by taking the camera off of "Auto" mode and selecting Aperture Priority, usually denoted by "Av" and then setting the aperture to the largest number, which is F-8 on my camera. You'll probably have to get out the book or go back to the store to ask about this, but it's really worth it.

That's it. In recap, here are the camera settings I use:

- Set the lens to Macro for a close-up shot.
- Move the camera in close enough for the item to cover at least ¾ of the frame.
- Look for adverse reflections from the jewellery surface.
- Try to minimize reflections with changes of light position, camera angle or white background paper.
- Carefully check for any fingerprints or dust that might be on the piece.
- Make any final tweaks with light and arrangement.
- Turn the camera's flash off. Select "Av" for aperture priority mode.
- Set the lens opening to the highest number for max depth of field.
- Set the lighting to match what you're using (daylight, overcast, lightbulb, fluorescent, etc).
- Set the timer to delayed shooting, either 2 seconds or 10 seconds, to avoid camera movement. The delay also gives you time to hold up a piece of white paper to reduce any final reflections.
- Take the shot.

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

November Club Workshop – Wire Wrapped Tumbled Stone

We had a lovely time wire wrapping tumbled stones. Next workshop is in January and will be making texturised metal jewellery using the rolling mill.



Tanzanite

Tanzanite is one of the alternative birthstones for December. It was discovered in the late 60s so it is a relatively new gemstone. It is a calcium aluminium silicate, and forms in prismatic, usually striated crystals. It was originally named Blue Zoisite but Tiffany's named it Tanzanite as it came from Tanzania and it is currently the only one place in the world where it is found.

Because Tanzanite is highly 'pleochroic' it displays different colour saturation when viewed at different angles. This means that when faceting the gemstone careful planning has to be taken to ensure a bright blue stone rather than a grey blue stone as a final product. It is a relatively soft gemstone so care has to be taken when faceting and when wearing the stone as it can chip. The stone has perfect cleavage in one direction so a piece can be easily chipped off. The stone has a low resistance to ultrasound so it should not be cleaned with an ultrasonic cleaner as this may cause it to crack.

A large percentage of Tanzanite purchased has been heat treated. Natural Tanzanites have a more dull gray, greenish, or brownish colour, and heating to above 430 Celsius will produce the deep blue to violet colour and remove impurities.



Chemical Formula	Ca ₂ Al ₃ (SiO ₄) ₃ (OH)
Color	Blue, Purple
Hardness	6 - 6.5
Crystal System	Orthorhombic
Refractive Index	1.69 - 1.70
SG	3.2 - 3.4
Transparency	Transparent to translucent
Double Refraction	.009
Luster	Vitreous
Cleavage	1,1
Mineral Class	Zoisite

Spiritual Meaning

The Crystal Vault web page tells us that Tanzanite is called a "stone of magic" that helps with spiritual awareness and psychic insight. It is also sometimes called the "workaholic's stone". This is because it helps you slow down and take it easy. This in turn, brings success in more areas of life. It relieves stress and depression, and enhances composure, poise, and harmony. Tanzanite is also said to transmute negativity. Physically it is said in healing folklore and crystal healing to be beneficial for stress related illnesses and high blood pressure in particular. <http://meanings.crystalsandjewelry.com/tanzanite/>



December Birthdays Turquoise

4 Steven McCulloch	17 Eleni Vassiliou
5 Dieter Klepatzki	17 Steve Bourke
8 Helen Standing	25 Raymond Jones
12 Casey Conway	

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
13th December	Campbelltown Lapidary Club Christmas Party Cost \$20	Lot 1 Bensley Rd Macquarie Fields
14th – 15th February 2015	Orange Lapidary and Mineral Club Inc. 50th Anniversary celebrations The event will showcase all our efforts over the years and will focus on “Mining and Prospecting in Orange & surrounding districts”. We also hope to have exhibitions from Cadia Mines, The Historical Society and also The Age of Fishes.	Senior Citizens Building Kite Street, Orange
7/3/15	Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club Open Day	Lot 1 Bensley Rd Macquarie Fields
21st – 22nd March 2015	Canberra Lapidary Club Rock Swap 8.30am to 5.00pm Fossickers & dealers, Crystals, minerals, rough & cut gemstones, opals, fossils, jewellery. Food available Sieve for sapphires	Wagtail Way, EPIC (Exhibition Park in Canberra) More info www.canberralapidary.org.au
21st March 2015	24th Annual Gem And Craft Show, New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club inc. 9 am – 5 pm 22nd March 9 am – 3 pm free entry. See a spectacular array of gems, rocks, crystals, jewellery, gifts, craft, beads and lapidary books/supplies/equipment and much more – all on sale at the show .	Armidale showground, Contact the organisers on (02) 6778 5122 after hours email nelfc@hotmail.com
3 April 2015	GEMBOREE Victoria – The 51st National Gem & Mineral Show, GEMBOREE 2015.	Horsham, Victoria 3rd- 6th April 2015. http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/
16th & 17th May 2015	Lismore Gemfest. Now in its “Silver Jubilee” year it is the largest annual show purely dedicated to lapidary and allied crafts. A large number of dealers and tailgaters provide minerals, fossils, cutting material, cut stones, jewellery findings, tools, machinery and finished jewellery. There are also club displays and children's activities such as gem sieving.	Lismore Showground http://www.gemclublismore.org.au/wordpress/gem-fest/
30th and 31st May 2015	Winter Gemcraft & Mineral Show Canberra Lapidary Club 30th and 31st May 2015 10.00am to 5.00pm \$5 adults, \$9 family, \$2 children/concession. 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	EPIC – Mallee Pavilion More info Phone: 02 6260 5322 http://www.canberralapidary.org.au

Missed out on the last newsletter?

Contact suzybrandstater@hotmail.com and it will be emailed to you.