

# 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

February 2015 Amethyst 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

Open Day will be on 7th March 2015.

**See you all there!**

*Campbelltown Lapidary Club – February Amethyst 2015*

## Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary Barry and Dorothy

A very special celebration will be taking place. On the 26th of February 1954 at St Paul's Church Camden, Barry and Dorothy were married.

Barry and Dorothy met at a dancehall at Oakdale. Dorothy said Barry "really caught my eye", he was such a handsome man". Barry said "she was the best looking girl there". "She really appealed to me" He didn't think he had a chance of seeing her again, but luckily she liked him too.

They dated for 18 months and then decided to get married. Barry took Dorothy to Sydney to pick her ring.

Barry was a truck driver for 48 years and Dorothy ran the home. Barry said that Dorothy has stuck with him through some pretty hard times and has always been there for the family.

When asked what the key was to a successful long term marriage Barry said you've got to understand each other and no matter what "stick with it". Dorothy said the important thing was to talk about things, always say you're sorry and both of them said, never sleep on an argument.

Barry and Dorothy have three sons and eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren

All members of the club wish Dorothy and Barry a happy anniversary.



## Brad Smith's Bench Tips

### TAPERED REAMERS

A tool you don't see often these days is a tapered reamer. It's not a tool you'll use everyday, but they're particularly useful for making an irregular hole round or for enlarging a hole to an exact diameter. For example, the small set in the yellow pouch is for holes in the range of 0.3mm to 2.5mm. They are great for sizing a tube to fit a hinge pin. Other times when I'm drilling a hole for riveting and can't find the exact size drill, I simply drill the holes with a slightly smaller bit and enlarge them with a reamer until the wire just fits. For larger hole sizes in sheet metal up to 14 ga, I really like the reamer with the black handle. It makes quick work of sizing holes from about 3mm to 12mm. You can find them in well-equipped hardware stores. You may never use the large diameter reamers, but when sawing out some rings from 4mm thick sheet, I found they worked well for rounding and sizing the hole.



### TESTING FOR SILVER

With the price of silver as high as it is, jewelry people need to keep their scrap metals sorted. Part of that process is identifying some of those unknown "silvery" pieces in the bottom of the toolbox. Silver testing solutions can be used to distinguish high silver content alloys like Fine (.999), Sterling (.925) and Coin (.900) from alloys that have the same appearance but no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel. I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41 for \$3. With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. Procedure is simple - as you apply a small drop, look for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish. If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating. Here's the reaction I get when testing various materials:

Fine silver Red/Orange  
 Sterling silver Brick Red  
 80% silver 20% copper Dark red changing to gray  
 Brass Yellow changing to blue  
 Nickel Gray-green  
 Copper Yellow changing to blue  
 Steel Black  
 Stainless Steel No colour change

**Caution** - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate

Wear safety glasses.

Do not get any testing solution on your skin.

Always have a solution of baking soda and water handy to neutralize acid.

Wash and clean up well when you're done.

*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/>*

### February Workshop

This month's workshop will be a sterling silver chain maille bracelet.

Ron will be teaching us how to use different sized jump rings to make an intricate bracelet.

Bookings are essential as Ron has to make the jump rings prior to the workshop.

28th February 2015

**Cost \$30**



## Onyx

Amethyst is the traditional birthstone for February, but one of the alternative birthstones for February is Onyx.

Onyx is an ancient gemstone which has been used in jewellery and as an ornamental gemstone for carvings since ancient times. Onyx has traditionally been one of the most important engraving and cameo gemstones, where its most common form was a black base with a white upper layer. The alternating bands of black and white can create a highly appealing carving. Onyx is a form of chalcedony quartz. Like the other stones in the chalcedony family, onyx has a smooth, waxy lustre. It is and the crystals are too small to see.

Onyx can be found in a wide range of colours and is often layered.

The name comes from the Greek word onyx which means nail of a finger or claw. Legend says that one day while Venus was sleeping Eros cut her fingernails and left the clippings scattered on the ground. Because no part of a heavenly body can die, the gods turned them into stone which later became known as onyx.

Onyx is mined in Brazil, India, Mexico, Arizona, California and Uruguay. It has a fine texture and black colour, some onyx also displays white bands or ribbons against a black or brown background and this variety is known as sardonyx.

Most Black Onyx that is commercially available today is colour enhanced (heated and dyed) to increase its depth of colour.



### Properties

Chemical composition and name	SiO <sub>2</sub> – <a href="#">Silicon dioxide</a>
Hardness ( <a href="#">Mohs scale</a> )	6.5 - 7
<a href="#">Specific gravity</a>	2.65–2.667
<a href="#">Refractive index</a> (R.I.)	1.543–1.552 to 1.545–1.554
<a href="#">Birefringence</a>	0.009
Optic sign	Positive
Optical character	Uniaxial



### The spiritual qualities

Onyx is a powerful stone, it is regarded as a magical stone, mainly because of its associations of being grounding, centring, and enhancing the channelling of energies, thereby aiding in the wielding of magical energy. However the same qualities can be used in less classical magical ways, for instance at times of great stress or personal transformations the stone can aid in centring and grounding the individual assisting one to achieve their goals.

**Uses Include:** Banishing Grief, enhance self control, courage, strength, decision making and positive action.

### February Birthdays (Amethyst)

Kerri-Rose Spek	Brendon Thompson
Kathy Schlegl	Denise Ezzy
Emille Sassos	



## 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
14th – 15th February 2015	<b>Orange Lapidary and Mineral Club Inc. 50th Anniversary celebrations</b> 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
1/3/15	<b>Rock Swap – Stuart Park Wollongong – Illawarra Lapidary Club</b> members and tailgaters selling anything from lapidary items including rough, slabs to finished cut cabochons, faceted stones and finished items of silver and even gold jewellery. A rock scramble for children is at 11a.m. Noon and 1p.m.	Stuart Park Wollongong. The rock swap starts at 8.30 a.m through to 2.30 p.m
7/3/15	<b>Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club Open Day</b> Rough, opals, specimens, jewellery, sausage sizzle	Lot 1 Bensley Rd Macquarie Fields
21st – 22nd March 2015	<b>Canberra Lapidary Club Rock Swap</b> 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 <a href="http://www.canberralapidary.org.au">www.canberralapidary.org.au</a>
21st and 22nd March 2015	<b>24th Annual Gem And Craft Show, New England Lapidary &amp; Fossicking Club inc.</b> 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 <a href="mailto:nelfc@hotmail.com">nelfc@hotmail.com</a>
3 April 2015	<b>GEMBOREE - Victoria – The 51st National Gem &amp; Mineral Show, GEMBOREE 2015.</b>	Horsham, Victoria 3rd- 6th April 2015. <a href="http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/">http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/</a>
16th & 17th May 2015	<b>Lismore Gemfest.</b> 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 <a href="http://www.gemclublismore.org.au/wordpress/gem-fest/">http://www.gemclublismore.org.au/wordpress/gem-fest/</a>
30th and 31st May 2015	<b>Winter Gemcraft &amp; Mineral Show Canberra Lapidary Club</b> 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 <a href="http://www.canberralapidary.org.au">http://www.canberralapidary.org.au</a>

Missed out on the last newsletter?

Contact [suzybrandstater@hotmail.com](mailto:suzybrandstater@hotmail.com) and it will be emailed to you.