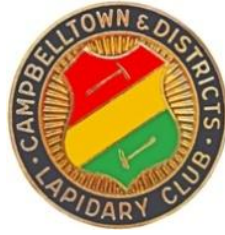


# Rockgrinders Gazette



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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 2015 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 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.

## Exhibition 2015

Our annual exhibition is drawing nearer. It will be held at the Greg Percival Centre Ingleburn on the weekend of the 11th and 12th of July. There are many jobs to be done to make this a successful exhibition. We set up on Friday the 10th and pack up on the afternoon of the 12th. We will need helpers for both these tasks. Other jobs to do on the days of the exhibition are the children's table, the kitchen, the canteen general security - to name a few. Please put your name down at the club for a job you might be able to help with.

**See you all there!**

## Silver Classes

Silver Casting Classes are conducted Friday evenings. Barry and Dorothy will be glad to help you get started.

## April Field Trip - Inverell

Our field trip to Inverell was an outstanding success. There will be a full article about the trip in our next issue.



## Slab Saws

It has come to the attention of the management committee that some people are using the slab saws and not paying their cutting fee.

The template for working out the cost of the cut is found hanging near the cabochon templates.

When you are preparing to cut a slab, put the grid over the stone to work out how many square inches you will be cutting. When you have worked out how much to pay, write it in the sign on book under the column 'cutting fees'. On the other hand, rather than paying a fee, you can donate a good slab from the rock you are cutting to the club. This way both you and the club benefits.

## Brad Smith's Bench Tips

### DIVIDERS

A set of dividers is a tool I find very useful in laying out the geometry of a piece I'm making. It has two needle-like tips with an adjustment to set the spacing between them. They can be used to transfer a measurement. Let's say you need a 7mm wide strip of sheet metal. Set the spacing between the divider tips to 7mm on the ruler. Then lay the sheet on the bench, put one tip against the edge, and run the dividers down the edge scribing a line parallel to the edge.

Dividers can be used to mark equal segments of a line or arc. For instance assume a line between A and B that might be straight or curved, and you want to divide it into 5 equal lengths. Set the dividers to an estimate of the distance. Starting at Point A, use the dividers to mark off five lengths along the line. If you end up short of Point B lengthen the distance on the dividers. If you end up overshooting Point B, shorten the length of your dividers. After a few tries, the length on the dividers will be the exact distance you need to mark the 5 segments. Dividers can let you quickly find the center of a circular disk. With one tip of the dividers at the edge of the disk, set the other tip to an estimate of where the center might be. Fix one tip of the dividers at the 3 o'clock position and scribe an arc with the other tip near the center. Do this again from the 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock, and 12 o'clock positions. The arcs at the center will form a small four-sided box. The center of the box is at the center of the disk.

### PIECE OF LEATHER

Leather has a multitude of uses in the shop. I often use a scrap of it to avoid scratching the back of a piece of jewelry while setting stones. It's also great for times when you need to clamp one of your tools in a vise, for instance a drawplate.

*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/>*

## April Workshops

Due to Easter and ANZAC Day, we won't be having a workshop in April. But instead, we will be having two workshops in May.

### Saturday 9th May - "Jewellery Making Basics"

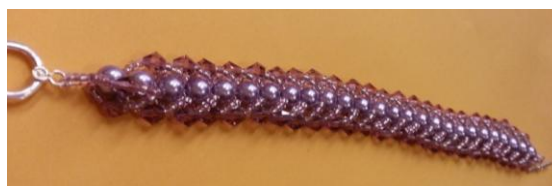
"How to put a bead into a chain". We will be learning to insert beads into chain and learning how to assemble a necklace. You will learn how to put a catch on a chain using jump rings and how to make little bicone 'dangles'.

Cost \$15

### Saturday 23rd May - "Flat Spiral Bracelet"

If you would like to learn some basic beading skills and make a bracelet that has endless possibilities once you master the basic pattern, this is the workshop for you. It looks really complicated, but once you get the hang of the stitch it is quite easy.

Cost \$15



## Topaz

The traditional birthstone for April is diamond, but clear Topaz is also associated with April



Topaz is a silicate mineral most often found in igneous rocks of felsic - *an igneous rock that contains a group of light-coloured silicate minerals, including feldspar, quartz, and muscovite*, composition. It is also found in some hydrothermal veins and the hydrothermally altered rocks that surround them. It is a common mineral of pegmatites - *a coarsely crystalline granite or other high-silica rock occurring in veins or dikes*, and also found in the cavities of rhyolite and granite. Very rarely, topaz is found in metamorphic rocks such as schist or quartzite.

Compared to other minerals, topaz is relatively resistant to weathering and stream abrasion. These characteristics enable it to be found in the stream sediments derived from the weathering of topaz-bearing rocks.

Topaz is a common gemstone that has been used for centuries in jewellery. It's golden brown to yellow colour is classic but is confused with the less

Physical Properties of Topaz	
<b>Chemical Classification</b>	silicate
<b>Colour</b>	colorless, white, yellow, amber, pink, blue, green, gray
<b>Streak</b>	colorless - harder than the streak plate
<b>Lustre</b>	normally vitreous
<b>Diaphaneity</b>	transparent to translucent
<b>Cleavage</b>	perfect basal cleavage
<b>Mohs Hardness</b>	8
<b>Specific Gravity</b>	3.4 to 3.6
<b>Diagnostic Properties</b>	hardness, prismatic crystals, sometimes striated, cleavage, specific gravity
<b>Chemical Comp</b>	$Al_2SiO_4(F,OH)_2$
<b>Crystal System</b>	orthorhombic
<b>Uses</b>	gemstone



valuable citrine, which is sometimes sold under the name topaz. The blue topaz that is often confused with aquamarine is rarely natural and is produced by irradiating and then heating clear crystals.

Topaz is the hardest silicate mineral and one of the hardest minerals in nature and it has a perfect cleavage. Topaz crystals can reach the incredible size of several hundred pounds. Topaz can make very attractive mineral specimens due to their high lustre, nice colours and

well formed and multifaceted crystals.

### Spiritual Properties

Topaz is said to be a crystal of Truth and forgiving. A symbol of chastity, happiness, true friendship and hope. It is said to help you to find your true purpose and destiny. The topaz crystal is said to be able to make us more aware of our thoughts, feelings and actions, and any of their karmic effects. It can help to activate Cosmic awareness by removing the stagnant energies and directing the body energy to the places where it is needed most. The topaz healing abilities are connected to spiritual and physical rejuvenation. It releases tension and promotes feelings of joy and happiness.



Physically, topaz is said in crystal healing, to aid with gout, blood disorders, haemorrhages, poor appetite, tissue regeneration, tuberculosis, aging (reverses), endocrine system.

### April (Diamond Birthdays)

Craig Smith	Kath O'Shannessy
Richard Jones	Caleb Jones
Alison Cordova	Jo Lo Choon
Carolina Cordova	

## 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
16th & 17th May 2015	<p><b>Lismore Gemfest.</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Lismore Showground  <a href="http://www.gemclublismore.org.au/wordpress/gem-fest/">http://www.gemclublismore.org.au/wordpress/gem-fest/</a></p>
30th and 31st May 2015	<p><b>Winter Gemcraft &amp; Mineral Show Canberra Lapidary Club</b></p> <p>30th and 31st May 2015 10.00am to 5.00pm \$5 adults, \$9 family, \$2 children/concession. Gem, mineral, jewellery &amp; lapidary dealers Minerals, fossils, jewellery, rough &amp; cut gemstones, lapidary equipment &amp; supplies, opals, beads &amp; supplies. Displays of members' collections, free sessions on fossicking &amp; gold detecting, cabbing, faceting and jewellery making demonstrations</p>	<p>EPIC – Mallee Pavilion            More info Phone: 02 6260 5322  <a href="http://www.canberralapidary.org.au">http://www.canberralapidary.org.au</a></p>
11th & 12th July 2015	<p><b>Annual Exhibition Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club</b></p> <p>11th &amp; 12th July 9.30 4.00pm,            Displays of lapidary work and gem, mineral and crystal sales</p>	<p>Greg Percival Centre. Oxford Rd            Ingleburn</p>
15th and 16th August 2015	<p><b>Blaxland Gem &amp; Mineral Club Gem Show.</b></p> <p>Refreshments available.            Entry: Adults: \$3 Children \$1            8 am to 4 pm Daily</p>	<p>Glenbrook Community Hall            Great Western Highway, Glenbrook,            NSW            (Next to Glenbrook Theatre) Just west of            Information Centre.</p>
26 and 27 September 2015	<p><b>BATHEX 2015 Exhibition</b></p> <p>Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club Inc, 26th and 27th September 2015</p>	
Sat 3 – Mon 5 October 2015	<p><b>GEMKHANA 2015</b></p> <p>The Annual Gem &amp; Mineral Show and Competition of lapidaries from all over NSW, will be presented by the Lapidary Council of NSW Inc, at 2756 over the Labour Day Weekend.</p> <p>Demonstrations, Jewellery, Gem Faceting, Gemstones, Gem Identification, Minerals, Gemstone Carving, Crystals, Fossils, Beads &amp; Equipment. Local and interstate Gem, Jewellery and Mineral Dealers, Raffle, Children's Activities, Attractions for everyone of all ages, Refreshments,</p>	<p>Saturday October 3 – 10am to 5pm,            Sunday October 4 – 10am to 5pm,            Monday October 5 – 9am to 12 noon. Sales and Displays, Plenty of parking.            Hawkesbury Showground, Racecourse Road, Clarendon NSW            Contacts: <a href="http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/gemkhana/">http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/gemkhana/</a></p>

Missed out on the last newsletter?

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

*Campbelltown Lapidary Club – April Diamond edition 2015*