

# 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

June 2015 Pearl 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.

**Membership is due 1st July**

## Exhibition 2015

**Its nearly here!** The exhibition 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. Setting up on Friday afternoon and packing up on Sunday. Other jobs to do on the days of the exhibition are the children's table, 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. Canteen helpers desperately needed.

## Donations needed

If you have anything lapidary related that you can donate we would appreciate it. We are after rough, polished stones or jewellery.

## Silver Classes

Silver Casting Classes are conducted Friday evenings, but are about to go into recess. Barry and Dorothy will be happy to help you when classes resume in September.

## Cancer Council's Biggest morning Tea

Each year our club raises money for the Cancer Council. *Most of have been touched by cancer in some way. This is a small way we can help.*

*This year we raised \$51 for a raffle on Friday night and \$69.20 for the morning teas.*



*Thank you to everyone who participated.*

## Alexandrite

Alexandrite is an alternative birthstone for June. Pearl is the more commonly known birthstone for June.

Alexandrite is a very rare and relatively new gemstone. It was discovered in April 1934, the day the Tsar Alexander came of age. It was found in the Emerald mines near the Tokovaya river in the Urals. As it is found in both red and green it became the national stone of imperial Russia.

Due to its rarity it is not used much in modern jewellery, but it can be found in Antique jewellery and some Victorian English jewellery.

One of the most special features of this stone is that it changes colour when seen in different lights. It is green or bluish-green in daylight and then turns a soft shade of red, purplish-red or raspberry red in artificial light.

Alexandrite is a metamorphic stone which is basically Chrysoberyl, which is a mineral consisting of colourless or yellow transparent Chrysoberyl, It is different to other Chrysoberyls because it contains iron and titanium as well as chromium, which is a major impurity. The Chromium is the reason you get the colour change. Very occasionally vanadium may also be present.

Initially it was found in Russia, but after the Russian sources were depleted, discoveries were made in Brazil. The Brazilian stones are not as strong a green as the Russian stones, but they still have the colour changing ability. For Chrysoberyl to be called Alexandrite, it must change colour. Chatoyancy (A concentrated narrow band of reflected light across the centre of the stone, as often seen in Cat's Eye) has been found in some of the Brazilian stones



### Properties

<b>Chemical Formula</b>	BeAl <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>
<b>Colour</b>	Blue, Red, Green, Yellow, Pink, Purple, Gray, Multicolored
<b>Hardness</b>	8.5
<b>Crystal System</b>	Orthorhombic
<b>Refractive Index</b>	1.744 - 1.755
<b>SG</b>	3.5 - 3.8
<b>Transparency</b>	Transparent to nearly opaque
<b>Double Refraction</b>	.009
<b>Lustre</b>	Vitreous
<b>Cleavage</b>	1,1 ; 3,2. Often exhibits parting along twinned crystals.
<b>Mineral Class</b>	Chrysoberyl

### Spiritual Qualities

Alexandrite is said to help balance one's emotional state, to provide confidence, to increase self-esteem and to help bring about change. It is said to be a stone which brings about renewal and regeneration, openness to higher self. Brings love, joy, and luck.

### June (Pearl) Birthdays

5 Theodore Vassiliou	14 John Franks	23 Tracey Poole
5 Bev Carnegie	22 Andrew Woodley	
11 Stephen Bruce	23 Steve Greaves	

### Display cases for the exhibition

It is time to start planning your display case for the exhibition. If you don't have one, the club has a small number of cases available for use of members for the exhibition.

## Brad Smith's Bench Tips

### SMALL PARTS CONTAINERS

I'm always on the lookout for small containers to use for holding all those little parts and tools we deal with in making jewelry, especially since I'm always traveling to classes and workshops.



My latest find are some plastic vials about 15 mm in diameter and 75 mm long. Best part is they are free. The vials are used in the doctor's office to draw blood samples. They cannot be used after their expiration date, and are thrown out. On my last doctors visit, I asked the nurse if she had any expired vials. She replied "How many do you want?" and tried to give me 400 of them. (We settled on 200). The ones I have are called "Vacutainers", but there are probably many other names. They are clear plastic with a rubber stopper and a paper label all ready to write on. I find them really handy for small parts like jump rings, prong settings, small drills, nuts & bolts, faceted stones, and precious metal filings.

### TRY A TOOTHPICK

The round, stronger toothpicks have a multitude of uses on the jewelry bench. I use them for mixing epoxy resin, for applying paste solder, and with Zam for polishing in tight spots. Toothpicks are also handy for holding the stone while stone setting. Just break off the sharp tip, mold a little beeswax over it, and press it onto the table of your stone.

*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/>*

### Improvements around the club

You may have noticed some improvements have been made around the club. Members of our club come from quite diverse backgrounds and among us we have many skills. It is lovely to see people have used their areas of expertise and taken on projects to improve the club

One of the things I first noticed about the club when I joined was the old rotting dirty newspapers stuck to the windows of the saw room. Eugenio and Carolyn have spent a lot of time working in the room. The old yellowed paper is gone, the windows have been cleaned and curtains put up. It looks fresh and neat. Thank you Eugenio and Carolyn.

If you have participated in a workshop recently, you may have noticed that you can now see. Richard and Don Jones have been steadily working their way through the club and have put in extra lighting. You can now see clearly in the solver room when you working on your waxes and investment. The latest area to improve the lights in is in the grinding and polishing rooms. The additional lights make a big difference. Thanks Don and Richard.

Our computer has been dying for the past year. The graphics card didn't work anymore and the computer was beyond economical repair. Margaret has organised a new computer for us and has spent countless hours getting the new computer working. Thankyou Margaret.

One of the things I noticed when I was first given club keys, was how many there were. It took a number of keys just to open the club up each day. Ray Jones has repaired many of our difficult to use locks and keyed alike many of our locks. This makes opening up the club much easier and now I don't have to carry around a huge bunch of keys. Thanks Ray.

If you have anything you can do to make the club a better place, let us know as every little bit of help is appreciated. Small things like taking home the towels and washing them, sweeping the floor, they all make a positive difference to our club. You don't have to do something big, just help out in any way you can.

## May Workshops Report

*Due to missing workshops in April, we had two workshops in May.*

### Workshop One - Jewellery Basics

This workshop was the first in a series of workshops designed to teach members the basics of jewellery making. The skills taught at this workshop were how to wrap a wire on top of a bead to give a secure loop, how to insert a bead into a chain, how to use jump rings and how to put a clasp onto a chain.

### Workshop Two - Flat Spiral Bracelet

Our second workshop was a beading workshop. The skills taught at this workshop were learning to do the basic flat spiral stitch. Everyone made a beautiful bracelet customised to fit their wrist.



## June Workshop

### Using the Rolling Mill

We will be making pendants or cuff bracelets using the rolling mill. Everything is provided but if you have any textures such as lace, paper or cardboard cut outs, mesh etc, please bring them along.

Date Saturday 27th June 9.30am

Cost \$10



## 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
11th & 12th July 2015	<b>Annual Exhibition Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club</b> 11th & 12th July 9.30 4.00pm, Displays of lapidary work and gem, mineral and crystal sales	Greg Percival Centre. Oxford Rd Ingleburn
15th and 16th August 2015	<b>Blaxland Gem &amp; Mineral Club Gem Show.</b> Refreshments available. Entry: Adults: \$3 Children \$1 8 am to 4 pm Daily	Glenbrook Community Hall Great Western Highway, Glenbrook, NSW (Next to Glenbrook Theatre) Just west of Information Centre.
22nd – 23rd August 2015	<b>Carlingford Gem &amp; Mineral Fair</b> Entry fees are \$7 for adults and children under 18 accompanied by parents are free. Gem, mineral, jewellery & lapidary dealers Minerals, fossils, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, opals, beads & supplies. Displays of collections, cabbing, faceting and jewellery making demonstrations by the local clubs	To be held at The Roselea Community Centre, 645 Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford. (in-between The M2 and North Rocks Road) More info email peter at <a href="mailto:peter@optusnet.com.au">peter@optusnet.com.au</a>
26 and 27 September 2015	<b>BATHEX 2015 Exhibition</b> Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club Inc, 26th and 27th September 2015	
Sat 3 – Mon 5 October 2015	<b>GEMKHANA 2015</b> The Annual Gem & 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. Demonstrations, Jewellery, Gem Faceting, Gemstones, Gem Identification, Minerals, Gemstone Carving, Crystals, Fossils, Beads & Equipment. Local and interstate Gem, Jewellery and Mineral Dealers, Raffle, Children's Activities, Attractions for everyone of all ages, Refreshments,	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>
Sat 7th – Sun 8th November 2015	<b>Spring 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, cabbing, faceting and jewellery making demonstrations	Sat 7th – Sun 8th November 2015 10.00am to 5.00pm EPIC – Mallee Pavilion \$5 adults, \$10 family, \$2 children/concession More info Phone: 02 6260 5322 <a href="http://www.canberralapidary.org.au">http://www.canberralapidary.org.au</a>
13th to 15th November 2015	<b>Parramatta Holroyd Lapidary Club Annual Exhibition</b> This year's theme is Birthstones. Sales, demonstrations, displays, children's activities. Sausage sizzle and light refreshments.	November 13-15 at the clubrooms, 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville. Plenty of parking and disabled access. Free entry <a href="http://www.freewebs.com/parraholroydlapidaryclub/events2015.htm">http://www.freewebs.com/parraholroydlapidaryclub/events2015.htm</a>

Missed out on the last newsletter?

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

*Campbelltown Lapidary Club – June Pearl edition 2015*