

Rockgrinders Gazette



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Club rooms opening hours

Monday 9am till 1pm
 Wednesday 9am till 1pm
 Friday 6pm till 9pm
 Saturday 9am till 1pm

September 2015 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	\$5.00 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

If you haven't paid by September, you will need to re-join the club and pay a \$10 joining fee.

Silver Classes

Silver Casting Classes are resuming on 18th September. Barry and Dorothy will be happy to help you learn to cast sterling silver jewellery.

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is on this Saturday 5th September. Come along, have a coffee and cake and meet everyone.

Campbelltown Lapidary Club – September Sapphire edition 2015

September Workshop - 19/9/15

10.00am start

Make a decorative necklace with bell caps.

Everything provided, but if you do have your own tools bring them along.

Tutor: Suzy

Cost \$15



Fossicking Trip - Lightning Ridge 21st - 28th September

We start at the Grawin Opal Fields 21st and 22nd September. We are staying at the Glengarry Hilton. We then move on to Lightning Ridge 23rd - 28th September I am staying at the Wallangulla Hotel.

If you are planning on coming on this trip book your accommodation as soon as possible as a number of places have already been booked out.

Some of the activities planned are: Fossicking, visiting art galleries, visiting mines, The Chamber of the Black Hand, swimming in hot springs and did I mention fossicking.

If you are interested in coming on the trip, either email Suzy at suzybrandstater@hotmail.com or call 0414574057





Moonstone

Moonstone is composed of alternate layers of orthoclase feldspar and a variety of plagioclase albite and sheet mica, which makes it look like it is glowing from within. It ranges from transparent to opaque. It is called a moonstone because it has a bluish white shimmer that reminds people of the moon. This shimmering effect is called adularescence.

Adularescence is a result of moonstone's unique structural pattern. It contains very small inclusions of albite, which is a sodium aluminium silicate, intermixed with layers of orthoclase, a potassium aluminium silicate. The alternating layers of different feldspars form a lamellar (scaly) structure which causes the interference of light as it enters the stone. Thin layers of alternating silicates refract more attractive and colourful sheens than thicker layers. As light enters the stone, it is refracted and scattered, producing an extremely unique and attractive play of both colour and light. With moonstone, the aura of light actually appears to glow from deep within the surface of the stone.

Labradorite has a similar effect, though not quite as impressive. Labradorite is actually plagioclase (Plagioclase is a series of tectosilicate minerals within the feldspar family) feldspar, whereas moonstone is by composition a potassium feldspar.

Some moonstones can exhibit 'chatoyancy' (the ability to change colour like a cat's eye). These are known as 'cat's eye moonstone'. Other rare varieties of moonstone can occur with 'asterism' effects. These are known as 'star moonstone'. Cat's eye and star moonstones are exceptionally rare and highly prized.



Moonstone is usually colourless, but it can be found in a wide range of colours such as including gray, brown, yellow, orange, green, pink, blue and white. The most common colour is most a white to bluish-white sheen, but other sheens can occur such as silvery and blue-orange.

Moonstone can be found in a number of countries usually where there are granite and feldspar rich granite deposits and syenitic pegmatites. The biggest moonstone deposits are from Sri Lanka and India.

Moonstone is most commonly made into an oval cabochon. This best shows off the qualities of the stone.

Mineral Information

Chemical Formula:	KAlSi ₃ O ₈ , Potassium aluminum silicate
Crystal Structure:	Monoclinic, prismatic
Colour:	Colorless, yellow, pale sheen
Hardness:	6 to 6.5 on the Mohs scale
Refractive Index:	1.518 to 1.526
Density:	2.56 to 2.59
Cleavage:	Perfect
Transparency:	Transparent to translucent
Double Refraction or Birefringence:	-0.008
Luster:	Vitreous to pearly
Fluorescence:	Weak; bluish, orange

Metaphysical Properties

Moonstone is associated with the moon and it was the stone for the Goddess Diana.

Moonstone is said to help calm responses and stress, and help to avoid overreaction. It can bring hope, enhance feminine energies, sensitivity, intuition, and psychic abilities. It is also said to bring strong energies of abundance to one's life.

Moonstone is a stone of protection, especially during childbirth, pregnancy, and travel at sea. It is said to be a stone of calm and relief from emotional stress. It is also associated with love of all kinds.

Physically moonstone is used in crystal healing to aid the pituitary gland and digestive system, obesity, water retention, hormonal problems, menstrual problems.

Brad Smith's Bench Tips

SMOOTHING EARWIRES

Any time you make your own ear wires, the hardest part for me is to sand and polish the end that's inserted into the ear. Any sharp edge there is no fun. I've tried using sanding sticks, cup burs, and silicone polishing wheels. I've tried buffing on a Zam wheel, and I've tried spinning the wire in the Freedom to polish the tip. While all of these techniques do the job, none are very easy, and none are as fast as I'd like. Then it occurred to me - I could melt the wire smooth. One quick touch in the flame of the propane/oxygen Little Torch does the trick - not enough to form a bead on the wire but just enough to round off the tip. I find it's worth practicing the maneuver a couple times on some scrap wire before trying it on completed earrings.



BALL BURS

I use ball burs quite a bit for carving and for cleaning up bits of solder that need to be removed. The ball shape seems to be more controllable than other cutting burs. They're less apt to grab and walk over your piece. As to sizes I've found that 8 mm is a very useful size for carving while a half mm or smaller at high speed works great for signing your name on the back of your work.



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/>

August Workshop Report

This month's workshop was wire wrapping. We learnt how to make a wire setting for a cabochon. It was quite a challenging project but we ended up with some beautifully wrapped cabochons.



Wire wrapping workshop
August 2015

Open Day 17th October 2015

Our next major club event is the our Open Day. This is a very important day for our club as it allows us to show our club off to the community. We get new members from our Open Days and we also raise vitally needed funds for the club.

To successfully host an Open Day we need club members to assist. You may not be able to spend the entire day there but a few hours of your time is a big help. We will need help with distributing flyers, putting out signs, running the canteen, cooking the BBQ, food prep, club sales and probably a few other jobs I haven't thought of.

Another thing we need lots of, is product to sell. Donations of rocks and finished product for our club stall are very much appreciated. If you are unable to help on the day, please make a donation to club sales, every little bit helps.

If you are planning to have a stall at the open day you must put your name on the list or contact Margaret Bryant to let her know you are coming so that she can allocate you a stall space.

September (Sapphire) Birthdays

Kamilla Shepherd	Rudolf Golian	Elaine Dean
Dorothy Perkins	David Andreou	Ron Dean
Jeff Belbin	Andrea Bruce	



Lock in the date!!!



Our club Christmas party will be held on Saturday 12th December. This is our chance to socialise, eat some good food and generally celebrate in good company the end of a productive year at the Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club.

Club Sales

I mentioned earlier in the newsletter about the need for donations to the club of items for sale on our club table. We have three major events each year that allow us to raise money for the club, two open days and our annual exhibition. We are after any lapidary related items such as specimen stones, slabs, polished cabochons, tumbled stones and jewellery. Carolyn and her team work very hard to raise money for the club by organising a wonderful array of products each time we have an event. Unfortunately, Carolyn does such a great job of selling things and raising money for the club, that we run out of things to sell. So, help us out, look around at home and see what you can find to donate.

Looking after the club

This is just a reminder to all club members that we need to look after our equipment. It is very expensive and if it is damaged or broken, everyone is affected.

Wheels

Our 100 grit wheel is still being damaged by a someone who doesn't **move** their stone from one side of the wheel to the other. If you leave your stone in one place it will wear a groove in the middle of the wheel, this makes it impossible to do some types of shaping.

Trim Saws

The trim saws are only to be used to trim slabs. One blade has been worn out and the other one is just about gone. If you cut large pieces of rock on the trim saw you will wear the diamond off the blade, then they can't cut anything. If you press the rock hard into the blade, the same thing will happen. Be gentle and let the saw do the work (don't push it) and only trim cut slabs. Its name says it all "Trim Saw".

Clean up

When you have finished working on a machine, clean it up. The floor may need mopping as well as the machines do splash. Remember, your mum doesn't work here!

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
5th September	Campbelltown Lapidary Club AGM	Lot 1 Bensley Rd Macquarie Fields
26 and 27 September 2015	BATHEX 2015 Exhibition Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club Inc, 26th and 27th September 2015	Bathurst Showground Kendall Avenue Bathurst
Sat 3 – Mon 5 October 2015	GEMKHANA 2015 The Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of lapidaries from all over NSW, will be presented by the Lapidary Council of NSW Inc 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,	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: http://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/gemkhana/
Sat 17th October 2015	Campbelltown Lapidary Club Open Day Displays, jewellery and gemstone stalls, sausage sizzle	Lot 1 Bensley Rd Macquarie Fields 9618 3206
Sat 7th – Sun 8th November 2015	Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show Canberra Lapidary Club . 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 http://www.canberralapidary.org.au
13th to 15th November 2015	Parramatta Holroyd Lapidary Club Annual Exhibition 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. Free entry http://www.freewebs.com/parraholroydlapidaryclub/events2015.htm
Saturday 14th – Sunday 15th November, 2015	Newcastle Lapidary Club's Annual Gem Show. Sales of gemstones, beads, silver, tools, jewellery and displays of faceting and jewellery making. Devonshire Teas, Sausage Sizzle, Tea, Coffee and drinks.	9.00am to 4.00pm at the Club, 2 Dora Rd Adamstown Free entry and parking.
22nd November 2015	Illawarra Lapidary Club Exhibition	http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/
28th & 29th November 2015	Windsor Gem & Mineral Fair Gem, mineral, jewellery & lapidary dealers Minerals, fossils, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, opals, beads & supplies. Kids quiz, Lucky door prize as well as the club raffle held by Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club Displays of members' collections, cabbing, faceting and jewellery making demonstrations	The Windsor Function Centre, on the corner of George & Dight Streets Windsor. Entry fees are \$7 for adults and children under 18 accompanied by parents are free. More info email peter at peter@optusnet.com.au
Sat 12th December 2015	Campbelltown Lapidary Club Christmas Party	Lot 1 Bensley Rd Macquarie Fields

Missed out on the last newsletter?

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