

Rockgrinders Gazette



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February 2016 Amethyst Edition

Club rooms opening hours

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

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.

Silver Classes

Silver Casting Classes have resumed Barry and Dorothy will be happy to help you learn to cast sterling silver jewellery.

February Workshop - 27/2/16

Wire wrap a cabochon

All tools, wire and cabochons provided but bring your own tools if you have them.

Cost: \$20



Field Trip

Tentative plans for a field trip to Inverell 11th April. More details next newsletter. If interested, talk to Suzy

Tips for using the machines

As mentioned in earlier newsletters, it is very important to continually move the stone back and forwards across the wheel when grinding. This ensures even wear on the wheel.

How much water to use.

You don't need to use a lot of water when you are grinding. Just enough to keep the wheel wet. If a large puddle of water is growing on the floor around you, you are using way too much water. If that happens, mop up the floor and then turn the water flow down. If more than a bucket of waste water is collected over the day at the club, too much water is being used. It is a sensible idea to check how much water is in the bucket before you start a stone and then check it afterwards. If the bucket is three quarters full, empty it before it becomes too messy and too heavy to carry.

Polishing

Most of the time you do not need to add more cerium or tin oxide to the polishing pad. Just add water. A very common beginners mistake is to automatically add cerium or tin oxide to the pad. Too much cerium or tin oxide will mean a poorer finish on your stone. If you see cerium or tin oxide splashing off the wheel onto the wall or tray, you have used too much. Clean the wall and tray and don't use any more powder

Clean up

In between machines, wash your stone and your hands thoroughly in the bathroom before moving onto the next machine. If you have used too much water or powder, make sure you clean it up immediately. Finally, don't forget, clean up your machine as soon as you have finished using it.

Tektites

Tektites are small, pebble-like glassy objects of Earth material that have been melted by meteorite impact, splashed up into our atmosphere, and fallen to Earth again under gravity. They usually have a rough pitted surface. They often develop aerodynamic shapes when they partially melt on their return journey back to earth. Their name comes from the Greek word 'tekton', meaning 'molten'



Tektites do not contain any water and they can be mistaken for obsidian (black volcanic glasses) which do contain some water. Some Tektites have a hardness of 6-7 on Moh's scale, which means they can easily scratch window glass. Tektite shapes

The streamlined shapes of many tektites are thought to be caused by rapid movement through the atmosphere under low gravity conditions, with melting early in their formation. They start out as a molten blob projected through our atmosphere, then 'freeze' into a shape as they solidify.

Their shape depends on whether the initial molten blob was rotating, and the speed of rotation. The spherical and button types (common in Australites - tektites found in Australia) had no or very little rotation with a fairly steady flight path direction. Their rear surfaces were more protected from heat, but the front surface, facing the flight direction, melted and was pushed towards the rear, piling up to form ridges and a rim or flange.

Tektites are found sometimes as irregular blobs and angular fragments, but often they are clearly a splash form of one type or another. These splash forms include, spheres, discs, rods, teardrops, dumbbells, and varieties of all these with bending and slumping.

After falling back to Earth as showers of glass, many tektites lay exposed to weathering and erosion at the surface or shallow depth. Many thousands of Australites have been washed into shallow lakes or depressions and are now found on claypans, and shallow drainage depressions. Emus have been known to swallow Australites for gizzard stones which help grind up their food

Effects of high temperatures, wind, rainfall and chemical attack have produced various types of surface etching or corrosion - pits, furrows, grooves or 'saw-cuts'.

Moldavites are mainly found in the Czech Republic, but they can be found as far away as Austria. They are thought to be 14.7 million years old.

Moldavites are highly collectable and valued for jewellery making. They are usually green in colour. The exterior surface textures are delicately etched and as a result are rarely faceted before being made into jewellery



Metaphysical Properties

Tektites are considered to be a very useful stone for meditation, they are said to be beneficial in enhancing psychic powers. They are also considered to be a good luck stone.

January (Garnet) and February (Amethyst) Birthdays



Linda McCulloch	Julie Tremp	Robert Owens
Robyn Taylor	Don Jones	Denise Ezzy
Ceceilia Greisshammer	Tristan Jones	Brendon Thompson
Ron Bryant	Katrina Pearce	Travis Belbin
Glenn Thompson	Betty Thompson	Grace Hemans
Kathy Schegl	Amelia Smifs	



Christmas Party



The Christmas party was a great success, good food, good company - what more could you ask for?

Open Day

Our open day is a month away. Have you let us know what you will be doing to help support the club. There is a list on the whiteboard, please put your name on the list to let us know how you can help. If you can't stay all day, that is ok, a few hours during the day setting up or packing away are a great help.

A good use for quartz

While on a cruise recently I went on a tour of the ship's spa suite. They provided many different treatments such as massage, teeth whitening, Botox, body wraps etc. If you paid a lot extra for your massage, you could have it on the quartz bed. I was pretty excited to see the quartz bed. You know when you are sieving sapphires and you throw away lots of gravel, well that gravel sized quartz is what the surface of the quartz bed consisted of (but if you sifted it you wouldn't find any sapphires). So I was very happy to find a use for all of that gravelly quartz that I usually throw away.

Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club

Open Day

9.00am - 2.00pm

Saturday 12th March 2016

- *Rocks, gemstones, fossils, rough, minerals
- *handcrafted jewellery and market stalls
- *Opal cutting displays
- *Sausage sizzle and homemade cakes and slices
- *Hot and cold drinks

If you are interested in Lapidary, jewellery making or silver work, check out our club and work rooms. Come along, have a look at the club and join us for a cuppa.

Lot 1 Bensley Road Macquarie Fields

Email: ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com
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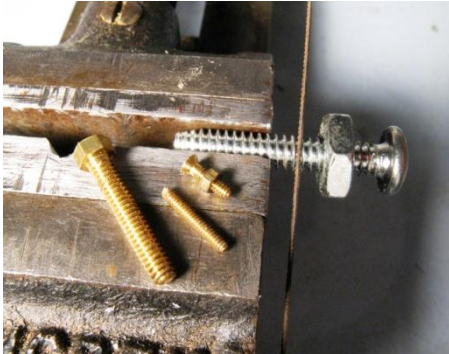
Brad Smith's Bench Tips

DEPTH GAUGE FOR DRILLING

Sometimes you need to drill a number of holes all to the same depth. One quick and easy way to do this is to wind some tape around the drill bit so that the tape just touches the part surface when the hole is deep enough. You can set the depth either by measuring from the tip of the drill to the tape or by drilling to the correct depth, leaving the bit in the hole, and wrapping tape around the bit at the surface level. Note that a little extra tape left free on the end will blow away debris from the drilling.



CUTTING A BOLT



Whenever you have to cut a threaded bolt shorter, it's often difficult to get the nut to thread back onto it. And the smaller the bolt, the more difficult it is to restore any distorted threads. The problem is easily solved with the use of a nut. Here's how I do it. First, screw a nut onto the bolt before cutting it. Grip the bolt by the threaded section that is to be sawed off. Then saw the bolt to the desired length, taper the end with sandpaper or file, and unscrew the nut from the bolt. Unscrewing the nut over the freshly cut end of the bolt will straighten out any damage that sawing and filing did to the threads. Gripping the bolt by the piece to be sawed off localizes any crushing damage to the piece that will be thrown away.

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon

January Workshop

A good time was had by everybody learning to use the rolling mill to make textured copper cuff



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
Sun 28th February 2016	Illwarrawa Lapidary Club Rock Swap	Stuart Park Wollongong
Sun 28th February 2016	Inverell & District Lapidary Club Car Boot Sale & Open Day,	Clubhouse, McIlveen Street, Inverell, NSW
Sun 6th March 2016	Newcastle Lapidary Club Rock Auction	Clubhouse, Dora Rd, Newcastle, NSW
11-13th March 2016	Minerama Fossicking, Gem & Jewellery Show	Glen Innes, NSW http://www.minerama.com.au/
Saturday 12th March 2015	Campbelltown Lapidary Club Open Day	Lot 1 Bensley Rd Macquarie Fields
Sat 19 March – Sun 20 March 2016	25th Annual Gem And Craft Show at Armidale Showground by New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club Inc. 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. Great prizes. B.B.Q Breakfast & Lunch/Light Refreshments Available	For details or to book – contact the organisers on (02) 6778 4931 email nelfc@hotmail.com 19th March, 2016 9 am – 5 pm 20th March, 2016 9 am – 3 pm.
25 March 2016	GEMBOREE The 52nd National Gem & Mineral Show, GEMBOREE 2016 will be held in Ulverstone, Tasmania 25th – 29th March 2016	Full Details at http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/
Sat 16th – Sun 17 April 2016	Rock Swap Canberra Saturday 16 – Sunday 17 April from 8.30am to 5.00pm at	Wagtail Way, EPIC. Free entry.
Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th May 2016	Lismore GEMFEST	http://www.gemclublismore.org.au/wordpress/gem-fest/
11-12th June 2016	Grafton Gem & Craft Show	Grafton Showgrounds, Grafton, NSW
9-10 July 2016	Campbelltown & District Lapidary Club Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show	Greg Percival Community Centre, Ingleburn, NSW

Want the newsletter emailed to you. Email me at suzybrandstater@hotmail.com and I will put you on the distribution list.