

Rockgrinders Gazette



ADDRESS: Lot 1 Bensley Road Macquarie Fields NSW 2564

MAIL: PO Box 477 Ingleburn NSW 1980

EMAIL: ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com

WEBSITE: campbelltownlapidary.org.au

PHONE: (02) 9618 3206

Club rooms opening hours

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

April 2016 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	\$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.

April Workshop - 23/4/16

Silver Earrings

This month's workshop will be taught by our master silver smith Ron Dean.

We will be making sterling silver earrings from jump rings.

Everything supplied, but bring your own tools if you have them.

Cost: \$20

Change to meeting times

A reminder that our monthly General Meeting time has been changed to 10.00am. This meeting is held on the first Saturday of each month unless altered. Our General Meeting is for all members to attend and contribute their ideas to our club and to find out what is happening.

Our Committee Meeting is now held on the same day as the General Meeting at 9.00am and only the Executive, Duty Officers and Committee are required to attend.

No work is to be carried out while our meetings are underway. If you arrive early, feel free to have a cuppa in the main room while the Committee meeting takes place in the Silver Room.

Field Trip

Inverell 11th - 18th April

I have booked a cabin at Inverell Caravan Park. They have cabins, powered and un powered camping sites. Call 02 6722 3036 if you want to book your accommodation.

Email suzybrandstater@hotmail.com or call Suzy on 0414574057 if interested

Possible activities include

- A visit to the Pioneer Village
- Transport museum
- Fossicking at Seven Oaks and Billabong Blue fossicking parks.
- Tingha Sand Mine for Quartz
- Tingha sand dumps for quartz points
- Fossicking along Frazer Creek
- Green Valley Farm (for the kids)

Open Day Raffle Winners

1st Prize - Carolyn Allen

2nd Prize - PhoJanee

3rd Prize - Denise

Stone of the Month - Aventurine

Aventurine is a variety of Quartz / Chalcedony containing small included flakes or scales that give it a glistening effect. The inclusions are usually Muscovite mica, but may also be Hematite, Fuchsite or Goethite. The metallic inclusions give aventurine quartz a unique sparkling iridescent effect, known as aventurescence. The amount of shimmering effect is determined by the size of the inclusions.

Though the colour of Aventurine is most commonly green - from light to dark green, it can also be other colours such as gray, orange, and brown.

Aventurine's colour is caused by trace elements of fuchsite in otherwise colourless quartz. Fuchsite is a chromium-rich variety of muscovite. Aventurine is technically defined as a rock and not a mineral as it is so heavily included with fuchsite. In spite of the mineral inclusions, aventurine is still classified as quartz.

Aventurine has a grainy texture in its rough state, but displays an attractive, soft and dull vitreous lustre when polished. It is used very commonly in jewellery cut into cabochons, made in to beads or carved.

Chemical Formula	SiO ₂
Colour	Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, Brown, Gray
Hardness	6.5 - 7
Crystal System	Hexagonal
Transparency	Opaque May be translucent
Lustre	Vitreous, waxy
Cleavage	Indiscernible
Mineral Class	Quartz / Chalcedony



Metaphysical Meaning

Aventurine is said to enhance all areas of creativity, and imagination, as well as to enhance intellect and mental clarity. It is said to enhance prosperity and bring career success. Being a gentle stone it gives a sense of calm and balance and promotes happiness. Its ability to bring clarity allows you to see alternatives and potentials in all situations, providing a positive outlook, courage and inner strength. It can also be used as a 'luck' stone, particularly in games of chance. Green aventurine is considered to be a stone of prosperity. It is thought to be beneficial for blood, circulatory system, balancing blood pressure, sinus problems, nausea, headaches, general health, allergies, eczema, fever, and sleep disorders.

April (Diamond) Birthdays

Jo Lo, Choon	Richard, Jones	Kath, O'Shannessy
Carolina, Cordova	Caleb, Jones	Craig, Smith
Alison, Cordova	Luisa, Kessanis	Alvaro, Soto-Ramirez
Gemma, Hoare	Graeme, Merchant	

Mothers Day Raffle

We have some lovely prizes for the Mothers Day raffle. Buy a ticket, support the club and three lucky people will win a prize. Raffle will be drawn at the general meeting on the 7th of May.

The **Biggest Morning Tea** is on all week at the club from Monday 23rd - Saturday 28th May. Cakes and yummy food welcome. Please bring a donation to the Cancer Council.

Brad Smith's Bench Tips

Gripping small drills

Drilling small holes can be a problem. With drills that are less than 1 mm (18 gauge or .040 inches), some chucks will not tighten down well enough to hold the drill securely. The problem is easily solved in either of two ways - with a chuck adapter or by buying your small drills with a 3/32 inch shank size. Either way you have a large shank to be gripped in your drill press, Freedom or Dremel, so changing bits is fast and easy.



Pre-made bezel cups

As a general rule of thumb I assume it's going to take me 15 - 20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects buying pre-made cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things. First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Fine silver is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily.



Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low side walls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they're not dependable for stones with steep side walls.

Lastly, before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are much more rounded than a bezel you would fabricate yourself. This causes a problem with stones that have a sharp edge around the bottom. Burnishing the bezel over one of these stones will place a lot of stress on the stone and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).

Brad Smith's "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon



Open Day

What a fabulous day. The weather was kind to us, although a little hot. We had a good crowd turn up and many members helped out to make the day a success.

Margaret Bryant our Open Day coordinator, due to her careful planning we were able to fit quite a number of stalls into quite a small space. Carolina Cordova, Allison Cordova and Eugenio Cordova for the club stall, we made a very healthy profit due to Carolina's hard work preparing the stock and for some of our generous club members who donated stones, jewellery and other items to sell. Special thanks to all the people who donated to the club, especially Ros and Manuel Cuevas who donated the plants and Norma Castro Orellann who also donated plants

The food crew - Leanne Muir Inez Patterson, Lisa Harley and Bob Owens, what a fantastic job. It was a hot day and Bob slaved away at a hot BBQ all day, madly cooking sausages and steaks to order.

There were a number of wonderful people who just turned up on the day and offered to do whatever was necessary. Brendan Thompson, Alex Miliambro and Tom Hopson set up gazebos, chairs and tables, the sound system and just did what ever needed doing. Sarah and Zedd Lawton spent a long time putting signs out Friday night and Brendan and Allison went out and brought them in again at the end of the day.

Clarice is always there to help, I really appreciate her wisdom. Thanks to Barry and Dorothy for their help and Scott for helping set up and pack away tables, your Macaw was a real highlight. Our new young geologist Brendan Thompson answered a number of tricky questions about the rocks that members of the public brought in. Thanks to Ray for his tireless work convincing people to buy raffle tickets.

Of course our stall holders, members of the club happily showing off their creations and members of other clubs who joined us for the day - what a great display.

It was a wonderful day and it worked, because everyone did their bit. Well done, I'm looking forward to our next Open Day in October. Thank you to anyone I have inadvertently missed thanking.



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
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 7th May 2016	Open Day at Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Activities include rocks and slabs for sale, gem cutting and polishing demonstrations, sausage sizzle.	8:30am – 3:30pm at the Progress Association Hall, The Valley Rd, Valley Heights.
Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th May 2016	Lismore GEMFEST	http://www.gemclublismore.org.au/wordpress/gem-fest/
Saturday 28 – Sunday 29 May 2016	Winter Gemcraft & Mineral Show Entry \$5 adults, \$10 family, \$2 children/concession.	10am to 5pm at Mallee Pavilion, EPIC.
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
6 & 7 August 2016	Sydney Crystal Show 9am to 5pm, 6 & 7 August 2016. Two full days of incredible natural wonders, unique gifts and treasures. \$10 adults, \$5 kids. Lucky door prizes are up for grabs, great food is available as is FREE parking onsite	Located at Fraser Park, 100 Marrickville Road, Sydney 350m from Sydenham Station. www.sydneycrystalshow.com www.facebook.com/sydneycrystalshow
20 – 21 August 2016	Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Gem Show Displays of lapidary work and gem, mineral and crystal sales. Refreshments available. Entry Adults \$3 Children \$1	Glenbrook Community Hall Great Western Highway, Glenbrook, NSW (Next to Glenbrook Theatre) Just west of Information Centre. August 20th and 21st 2016 8 am to 4 pm Daily
1-3 October 2016	GEMKHANA 2016 The Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of lapidaries from all over NSW, will be presented by the Lapidary Council of NSW Inc	Hawkesbury Showground, Racecourse Road, Clarendon NSW 2756 over the Labour Day Weekend 1-3 October 2016 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday, and 9am to midday on Monday.
8th to 9th October 2016	Gem and Mineral Festival Saturday, 8th October, 2016 from 9am to 5pm and Sunday, 9th October, 2016 from 9am to 4pm by Central Coast Lapidary Club	Mingara Club, Tumby Umbi. For further details please phone 02 4362 2246. Festival organizer is Rob Scott phone number 0405 904 881
15th October 2016	Campbelltown & District Lapidary Club Open Day Open Day on the 15th October and we will be open from 9am to 2pm.	This day will be held in our club rooms and grounds at Lot 1 Bensley Rd. Macquarie Fields

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