

# 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

August 2016 Peridot 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
Joining Fee	\$10.00

**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 are not financial, you cannot use the equipment.**  
**Remember: No pay, no play**

## Silver Classes

Silver Casting Classes are now in recess. Barry and Dorothy will be happy to help you when classes resume in September.

## Field Trip - Lightning Ridge

**26/9/16 - 2/10/16**

We will be travelling to the Grawin Opal Fields, staying at the Glengarry Hilton and then onto Lightning Ridge. Contact Suzy If you are interested in coming along on our Opal Fields fossicking trip.

[suzybrandstater@hotmail.com](mailto:suzybrandstater@hotmail.com) or 0414574057

## AGM

Saturday 3rd of September is our **Annual General Meeting**.

We will start proceedings at 9.00am with our regular monthly meeting. When it is finished, we will take a short break for a cuppa and then we will have our AGM. At the conclusion of the AGM, we will be putting on a free **sausage sizzle** for club members. This will give us a chance to relax and socialise and catch up with each other.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

## Changes to the polishing room

Our new bench has been installed in the polishing room. There was a bit of delay due to the floods, but the project is now well underway. Don and Richard installed the new bench and three polishing machines will be set up on the new bench. It will be a little bit squishy in the grinding room with the Nova machine in there temporarily, but soon it will be moving onto its new bench.

## August Workshop - 9.30am 27/8/16

### Wire Wrap a Cabochon. Cost \$20

We will be learning to wire wrap and decorate a cabochon. This is a good technique for setting non-standard shape and sized cabs.

*Everything provided including cabochons, but bring your jewellery hand tools if you have any.*



## Bob Thompson

I'd like to introduce you to our club patron Bob Thompson, he has been our club Patron since 1991. Bob has been a councillor for the Campbelltown Council since 1991. As part of his duties as a councillor he is currently involved with

- Community Services Committee
- Planning and Environment Committee
- Campbelltown Arts Centre Sub Committee (Deputy Chairperson)
- Heritage Protection Sub Committee (Deputy Chairperson)
- Sports Liaison Sub Committee (Chairperson)
- MACROC (delegate)

But more importantly to us, Bob is our Club Patron. He looks after the club needs at council. Over the years he has supported us by ensuring our clubhouse and grounds are well maintained. He organised the air conditioning for us, which is something that has made a huge difference to our ability to work in the grinding rooms both in winter and summer. The upgrade to the bathroom was commissioned at Bob's insistence, for those who were not here before we were upgraded, the improvement to our bathroom has made the space much more workable. Whenever there has been a need for assistance with council, Bob has intervened for us and helped sort out any issues. Our club is on a prime piece of real estate, we pay a minimal rent for the premises and the council maintains it. We need to assist Bob in maintaining his position on council. He has looked after our interests very well and if re-elected will be in a position to continue looking after our interests. Bob comes to our functions, opens our exhibition and is generally an all round nice guy.

It is now our turn to help him. On 10th September council elections will be taking place. He desperately needs volunteers to hand out how to vote flyers. You don't have to commit to a whole day, an hour or two would help. With a club membership of over 100 members, it would be a fair way of us supporting Bob, by helping staff one voting centre. A few hours of your time, is not a big commitment to ensure our club continues.

There will be a sheet put up on the club whiteboard. Please indicate on it when you would be able to help with handing out flyers. Remember, if Bob isn't elected, we lose our voice in council.



## Good News

A big thank you to Margaret for her hard work putting together a grant application to the council. We were successful in gaining a grant to purchase a new Wax Injection Machine. We use a Wax Injection Machine for making the waxes for silver casting. Our old one had worn out and we desperately needed a new one.



July  
work  
shop

## Brad Smith's Bench Tips

### SHEET & WIRE STORAGE

The more you work with jewelry, the more problems you have finding the piece of metal you need. My pieces of sheet were generally stored in various plastic bags, and the wire was in separate coils. Few were marked, so it often took me a while to locate that piece of 26 ga fine sheet I bought last year, especially since I usually take my supplies back and forth to classes.



A tip from a friend helped me organize everything. I bought an expanding file folder from the office supplies store (the kind that has 13 slots and a folding cover) and marked the tabs for each gauge of metal I use. Then I marked all my pieces of sheet with their gauge, put them in plastic bags, marked the gauge on the bag, and popped them into the folder. I usually store coils of wire loose in the folder, but they can also be bagged if you prefer. I use one tab for bezel wire and one for the odd, miscellaneous items.

The resulting folder is really convenient when I want to take my metal out to a class or workshop, and it's colorful enough for me to easily find in the clutter of the shop !

### LITTLE BALLS



I often use little balls of silver and gold as accent pieces on my designs. They can be made as needed from pieces of scrap. Cut the scrap into little pieces, put them on a solder pad and melt them with a torch. Then throw the balls into a small cup of pickle.

If you need to make all the balls the same size, you need the same amount of metal to melt each time. The best way to do that is to clip equal lengths of wire.

But there's an easier way to get a good supply of balls. Some casting grain comes in near perfect ball form. Just grab your tweezers and pick out the ones you need. When you need larger quantities of balls, pour the casting grain out onto a baking pan, tilt the pan a bit, and let all the round pieces roll to the bottom. Bag the good ones, and pour the rest back into your bag for casting. Balls can be sorted into different sizes using multiple screens.



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

Frankie Chan  
Caroline Dawson  
Marieta McNaught  
Jessica Symons

### August (Peridot) Birthdays

Anita Allen  
Barry Perkins  
Elise Campbell  
Beverly McKenzie



Rob Wallbank  
Adam Fitzgerald  
Darrin Toohey

### Club 50th Anniversary

Our club is turning 50 this year. We are planning on have a special 50th anniversary dinner on the 26th November. This dinner will be in place of the Christmas party. Please put your name down on the list on the whiteboard if you intending to participate. We will need to know numbers by the August meeting as we have to book a venue.

### Exhibition Raffle Winners

**1st Prize** Bob Owens

**2nd Prize** Byron

**3rd Prize** John Welsh

**4th Prize** Ashly

### Lucky Door Prize

**Saturday** - Colin McConigal

**Sunday** - Keely Jones



## Nephrite Jade

Peridot is the birthstone for August. This month I would like to talk about another green stone, Nephrite Jade.



There are two main types of Jade, Nephrite Jade and Jadeite. Jadeite has a wider range of colours than nephrite jade. Jadeite is found in pink, blue, red, orange, and in fact every colour. Nephrite jade is found in darker shades of green that are almost black. Jadeite and nephrite have distinctly different mineral compositions. Jadeite is an aluminium-rich pyroxene, while nephrite is a magnesium-rich amphibole. However, the two minerals have very similar physical properties in the eye of the average person. Only trained observers with significant experience are able to reliably differentiate them without mineral testing equipment. This is why jadeite and nephrite were not properly distinguished by scientists until 1863.

Nephrite is, a calcium-magnesium silicate that varies from translucent to opaque, and from shades of green, through browns and yellows to greys and near whites as it varies in the proportion of the amphibole minerals in its makeup. The darker pieces are mostly made up of iron rich (up to 5% iron content) actinolites, the lighter pieces contain more of the magnesium rich tremolites. Pieces may be mottled or banded in colour, and black inclusions are common. Nephrite jade with deep and solid green colour is considered to be the most valuable.



Nephrite jade typically occurs opaque in clarity, although fine materials can form with good translucency. Translucent materials are the most highly valued. When cut and polished, nephrite jade can have a vitreous lustre, but in most cases, it exhibits a dull to resinous or greasy lustre.

Nephrite is not treated as often as Jadeite is. This is due to the compact structure of the crystals. It is mostly cut into cabochons and is used for jewellery and quite often carved into statues and ornaments.

### Mineral Information

<b>Chemical Formula:</b>	$\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{2+})_5[\text{OH} \text{Si}_4\text{O}_{11}]_2$ ; Basic calcium magnesium aluminium silicate
<b>Crystal Structure:</b>	Monoclinic; intergrown fine fibrous aggregate
<b>Colour:</b>	Light to dark-green, black, yellow to brown, pink, white and other colours.
<b>Hardness:</b>	6 to 6.5 on the Mohs scale
<b>Refractive Index:</b>	1.600 to 1.627
<b>Density:</b>	2.90 to 3.03
<b>Cleavage:</b>	None
<b>Transparency:</b>	Translucent to opaque
<b>Double Refraction or Birefringence:</b>	-0.027; often none
<b>Luster:</b>	Vitreous, dull to greasy
<b>Fluorescence:</b>	None

### Metaphysical Meaning

Nephrite jade is a type of jade which is considered to be good for emotional balance and stability. Nephrite jade is related to the heart chakra and has a beneficial effect on all heart chakra related issues, and all love relationships. Jade of all kinds is a very protective stone and is particularly good protection for children, against illness, and for psychic protection. It has energetic clearing properties, and is useful to keep with other stones. Physically, nephrite jade is used in the crystal healing of the physical heart, and kidney problems.



## The Exhibition

What a fabulous event. A big thank you to everyone who helped out at the exhibition. It is a huge job putting on an event of this size but with everyone doing their bit and a group of wonderful people who stepped up and took charge of particular areas, the whole event ran smoothly and professionally under the direction of our exhibition coordinator Margaret Bryant. Our club sales team produced a fabulous array of items for sale under the leadership of Carolyn and the Cordova family. Leanne and her team ran the canteen smoothly and efficiently. The children's table was flat out, with children digging for gemstones and identifying under the eyes of Ann and Clarice. Lil's bracelet making activity had a steady stream of creative children throughout the weekend. Adam's opal cutting demonstration impressed people. The signage was excellent thanks to the efforts of the Thompsons covering the town in signs (thanks Julie for sprucing up some of our tired old signs). Our regular door crew under Ray's leadership made people feel welcome and we had a record number of responses to the information sheets. Bob Owens looked after our logistics of getting everything from the club to the venue and back again. A big thank you to those who put together showcases to show the work we do at the club.

I hope I haven't missed anyone, apologies if I have. So many club members contributed to the event, from people donating product to sell, to those who came along and assisted with the event. Thank you everybody, we have a fantastic team.



A Picture  
tells a  
thousand  
words





## 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
<b>6 &amp; 7 August 2016</b>	<b>Sydney Crystal Show</b> 9am to 5pm, 6 & 7 August 2016. Two full days of incredible natural wonders, unique gifts and treasures. \$10 adults, \$5 kids.	Located at Fraser Park, 100 Marrickville Road, Sydney 350m from Sydenham Station. <a href="http://www.sydneycrystalshow.com">www.sydneycrystalshow.com</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/sydneycrystalshow">www.facebook.com/sydneycrystalshow</a>
<b>20 – 21 August 2016</b>	<b>Blaxland Gem &amp; Mineral Club Gem Show</b> 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. 8 am to 4 pm Daily
<b>3rd September</b>	<b>Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club AGM</b> Come along to our annual general meeting. After the meeting there will be a free <b>sausage sizzle</b> . This is a good chance to catch up with old friends. 9.00am will be our monthly meeting. After a short tea and coffee break we will commence the AGM	Lot 1 Bensley Rd Macquarie Fields
<b>1-3 October 2016</b>	<b>GEMKHANA 2016</b> 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.
<b>8th to 9th October 2016</b>	<b>Gem and Mineral Festival</b> 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
<b>15th October 2016</b>	<b>Campbelltown &amp; District Lapidary Club Open Day</b> 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
<b>Friday 28 to Sunday 30 October 2016</b>	<b>Gem and Lapidary Exhibition Beecroft.</b> Northern Districts Lapidary Club Gem Show –	Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft <a href="http://ndlapidary.org.au/gem-show-at-beecroft/">http://ndlapidary.org.au/gem-show-at-beecroft/</a>
<b>Saturday 29 – Sunday 30 October 2016</b>	<b>Spring Gemcraft &amp; Mineral Show</b>	Saturday 29 – Sunday 30 October from 10am to 5pm at Mallee Pavilion, EPIC. Entry \$5 adults, \$10 family, \$2 children/concession. <a href="#">2016 Events Flyer Canberra</a>
<b><u>Saturday 29 – Sunday 30 October 2016</u></b>	<b>Come Fossick!</b> The Lapidary Club of NSW in Surry Hills is holding an exhibition day on Saturday the 29th and Sunday the 30th of October from 10am to 4pm. The title of the exhibition is 'Come Fossick!'	Location is 136 Reservoir St, Surry Hills.

Missed out on the last newsletter?

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