

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

November 2016 Topaz 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

Silver Casting

The last day for silver casting classes will be Friday 16th December.

October Open Day

A big congratulations to everyone involved in the Open Day. It is wonderful to see what a fantastic result we get when we all work together to get the job done. It was lovely to see so many people turn up to help with the day.

A special thank you to all the new members who not only helped on the day but also helped to get things ready before the day and also helped to pack away and clean up on the Monday.

Carolina, Eugenio and Allison deserve a great big pat on the back for ensuring that the club stall was a success (weeks and weeks of work) then there is the fun of cleaning up and putting it away for next time.

Campbelltown Lapidary Club – November Topaz Edition 2016

Thanks to the Thompson family and helpers for putting out and collecting all the signs after the event. Maggie and did a great job organizing the kitchen. Bob Owens cooked a great BBQ ably assisted by Dorothy, Barry and Sarah. All stallholders had great presentation with lots of variety and good prices. a good day enjoyed by all.

A big thank you to our club Events Coordinator Marg Bryant for coordinating another successful Open Day.

A number of people joined the club so I look forward to meeting them in the near future.

If you see a new member at the club, please make them feel welcome and help them find their way around.

50th Anniversary Celebrations!!!!

It is nearly here. This year our club is 50 years old. To celebrate, we are having a Dinner at the Grange. If you have not yet paid your \$35 or booked your seat, please let Marg Bryant, Ray Jones or Leanne Muir know ASAP as numbers must be finalised.

End of year get together

As we will be having our anniversary celebrations this year, we will not be having our usual formal Christmas party. Instead, on the last day the club will be open (17th December) we will be having an informal BBQ for all club members (no charge).

Carolyna is organising the food, she is going to be marinating steaks in her special Chilean marinade. We will also be providing sausages and salads. If you are intending to come on this day, please let Margaret or Carolyna know as they must know numbers for catering purposes.

Our grounds look so good, due to the hard work Betty puts into the gardening (the colours are lovely), so we thought if the weather is favourable we will have our BBQ outside.

Labradorite

The Birthstone for November is Topaz. This month we are going to look at Labradorite.

Labradorite was originally found on the Isle of Paulin in Labrador Canada, in 1770. Since then it has been found in a number of other countries including Finland, Madagascar and Australia.

Labradorite is a plagioclase feldspar (Plagioclase is a series of tectosilicate (framework silicate) minerals within the feldspar group) which shows labradorescence (a white or bluish light seen when turned). This optical effect is so unique to labradorite that it now has an official name for it "labradorescence". This is caused by the diffraction of light within the layers of rock. When viewed at certain angles, labradorite exhibits colours similar to the Northern Lights, this led to Inuit legends about the Northern Lights emanating from where the stone was found. The most highly valued labradorite are stones that show the full spectrum of colour in its labradorescence.



The base colour of Labradorite is grey to grey-black. Labradorescence is a result of diffraction of light in the layers of rock. Popular colours are royal blue and multicolour. Labradorite can also be colourless, orange-red and brownish.

Some Labradorite does not exhibit labradorescence. It can still be used for jewellery because of its aventurescence (a glitter caused by diffraction of light from mineral platelets).

Types of Labradorite

There are three further types of labradorite; spectrolite, andesine-labradorite and rainbow moonstone (which is sometimes referred to as "Madagascar moonstone"). Rainbow moonstone comes from Madagascar and it has an intense blue labradorescence. Spectrolite is a rare labradorite from Finland. It is known for displaying a spectral play of colour, therefore the name, "spectrolite". Andesine-labradorite is created by enhancing the colour of labradorite.

Mineral Properties

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Chemical Formula: | NaAlSi ₃ O ₈ to CaAl ₂ Si ₂ O ₈ Sodium calcium aluminium silicate |
| Crystal Structure: | Triclinic; platy, prismatic |
| Colour: | Dark grey to grey-black, with colourful iridescence. Also colourless, orange-red and brownish |
| Hardness: | 6 - 6.5 on the Moh's scale |
| Refractive Index: | 1.559 - 1.570 |
| Density: | 2.65 - 2.75 |
| Cleavage: | Perfect |
| Transparency: | Transparent to opaque |
| Double Refraction or Birefringence: | 0.008 to 0.010 |
| Lustre: | Vitreous |
| Fluorescence: | Yellow striations |

Metaphysical Properties

Wearing or carrying Labradorite allows one's innate magical powers to surface. It enhances the mental and intuitive abilities of clairvoyance, telepathy, prophecy and coincidence control, and assists in communication with higher guides and spirits in accessing Akashic records, psychic readings and past-life recall.

As a workplace stone, Labradorite brings out the best in people, making work life more congenial. It encourages courtesy and full attention to the customer, and assists part-time and temporary staff in becoming fully involved in a company.

Labradorite is said to provide quick relief from anxiety, hopelessness and depression, replacing them with enthusiasm, self-confidence and inspiration. It is said to dispel negativity and to bring clear understanding by enhancing clarity of thought and improving one's ability to cooperate with others in harmony.

Labradorite is also said to give perseverance, strength and enhanced intuition when one is experiencing times of conflict and change.

November (Topaz) Birthdays

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Trudi Segura | (Amy) Guirong Dong, | Clarice Stretch | Alex Milliambro |
| Sarah Lawton | Lynda Nichols | Tracey Hopkirk | Ann Thompson |
| Eugeno Cordova | Brandon Bourke | | |

September Workshop - Right Angle Weave Bracelet



October Workshop - Flat Spiral Bracelet



Brad Smith's Bench Tips

Templates

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of anything, I think of making a template. A template lets me easily draw the shape of an item. Art stores sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. Other sources would include cooltools.us/ and kingsleynorth.com/



For nonstandard shapes, it's easy to make your own template. Simply cut the shape out of sheet plastic or thin sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic below that lets me quickly trace the design of ginko leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.

Dental Tools

A ready source of free tools is your local dentist. Dental picks can be reworked into wax tools or straightened and sharpened to make a stylus for marking and layout. The steel in these tools is high quality, and the handles are designed for comfort.

A special note however - If you want to modify the shape of the tool, don't try to just bend it with pliers. Working this alloy of steel while it's cold will cause it to snap. Changing its shape can only be done when it's hot. I work it like a blacksmith. Prop your torch up on the bench so that you can use both hands for the work. Have a hammer and bench block ready. Heat the tip red hot, and hammer it straight or bend it with pliers.

And don't forget to ask your dentist for some of the cutting burs they throw out. These are useful for a variety of things. It's best to call a week or two before your visit and ask the dentist or hygienist to put some of these tools aside for you. It's good practice also to ask that they run them through the sterilizer for you. If that's not possible, pop them in an oven at around 250 F

See all Brad's jewelry books at Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith

November Workshop - 26/11/16



Learn to cage wire wrap a tumbled stone.

In this workshop you will learn how to cage wrap a tumbled stone. You will have time to make two pendants.

Everything provided.

Katrina has kindly offered to be the 'hands' for this workshop as I won't have recovered from shoulder surgery well enough to actually do the 'hands on' work.

Tutor: Suzy and Kat

Cost \$20

9.30am start

Home School Group

If you are at the club on Wednesdays you may have noticed some younger members working at the machines. These children are all members of a home schooling group who have been coming to the club to learn about Lapidary. They have finished their sessions now. A big thank you to Margaret who has coordinated the group and to Bob and Ron for assisting with the teaching of the children and sharing their knowledge with them. Many thanks to Anita who donated stones already dopped so the children could get onto polishing their stones more quickly.

Campbelltown Lapidary Club – November Topaz Edition 2016



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 |
|---|--|---|
| <u>Saturday 5th – Sunday 6th November 2016</u> | Illawarra Lapidary Club Exhibition – Jewellery, Gems and Mineral Festival Saturday 5th November 9am – 4pm and Sunday 6th November 9am – 2.30pm 2016 | Heininger Hall, 109 Princes Hwy Dapto \$3 admission David 02 4234 1468 http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/maj-or-events/ |
| Saturday 5th November 2016 | Annual Rock Auction – Cessnock Gem and Mineral Club Fossils, minerals, crystals, gems | Auction commences at 12.30pm, at the clubrooms, Hall Park Stephen Street Cessnock West |
| <u>11-13 November 2016</u> | Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club Exhibition | Clubhouse, Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville, NSW http://www.freewebs.com/parraholroydlapida-ryclub/ |
| <u>12th & 13th November 2016</u> | Newcastle Lapidary Club's Annual Gem Show Saturday 12th Nov (9.00am to 4.00pm) – Sunday 13th November (9.00am to 3.00pm), 2016 at the Club | 2 Dora Rd Adamstown |
| <u>26th November</u> | Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club 50th Anniversary Dinner | Put your name down at the club or contact Leanne, Ray or Margaret. |
| <u>26th & 27th November 2016</u> | Windsor Gem & Mineral Fair Saturday & Sunday the 26th & 27th November 2016 to be held at Gem, mineral, jewellery & lapidary dealers | 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. email peter at peterrare@optusnet.com.au |
| <u>3 & 4 December 2016</u> | Sydney Crystal Show 9am to 5pm, 3 & 4 December 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! | See website & Facebook page for more info: Located at Fraser Park, 100 Marrickville Road, Sydney 350m from Sydenham Station www.sydneycrystalshow.com www.facebook.com/sydneycrystalshow |
| <u>17th December 2016</u> | Free BBQ and Sausage Sizzle for members of Campbelltown Lapidary Club | Club Grounds |
| <u>18th & 19th March 2017</u> | New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club 26th Annual Gem & Craft Show 18th & 19th March 2017 See a spectacular array of Gems, Rocks, Crystals, Jewellery, Gifts, Craft, Fossils, Beads and Lapidary Books, Supplies and equipment all on sale at the show A Qualified Valuer will be on site. | Armidale Showground, Free Entry For details or to book – Contact the Organisers on (02) 6778 4931 email info@nelfc.net Website http://nelfc.net/ flyer Armidale Show Flyer 2017 |
| <u>14th – 17th April 2017</u> | GEMBOREE 2017 The 53rd National Gem & Mineral Show, GEMBOREE 2017 will be held in Lithgow, NSW 14th – 17th April 2017 | For Newsletters and full details visit http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/ |

Missed out on the last newsletter?

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