

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

December 2016 Turquoise 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. We will be having a supper. If you are coming please bring a plate and let Dorothy know you are coming.

Silver classes will resume on Friday 20th January.

Next Open Day

Our next Open Day will be Saturday 11th March. There will be a notice on the whiteboard. Please indicate how you will be able to help on the day or prior to the day.

We will need donations of rocks, finished work and jewellery to sell at the Open Day. Remember, our Open Days help support the club, please assist in any way you can.

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).

Carolina 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 Carolina 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.

Christmas Break

The last day of the year that the club will be open will be Saturday 17th December. The Club will re-open on Saturday 14th January.



Hope everybody has a great Christmas. There will not be a meeting or a newsletter in January.

January Workshop - 28/1/17

Making a copper cuff bracelet or pendant on the rolling mill. We will be using a patina to finish the piece if you wish.

Cost \$10

*All tools and equipment provided
 but bring your own tools if you
 have them.*

If you have lace or paper cutouts you would like to use, please bring them along.

Stone of the Month - Petrified Wood



Turquoise is the traditional stone for December. But this month I am going to talk about Petrified Wood.

Petrified wood is a fossil. It forms when plant material is buried by sediment and protected from decay by oxygen and organisms. Then, groundwater rich in dissolved solids flows through the sediment replacing the original plant material with silica, calcite, pyrite or another inorganic material such as opal or agate. The result is a fossil of the original woody material that often exhibits preserved details of the bark, wood and cellular structures.

Petrified Forest National Park

The most famous locality for observing petrified wood is Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona. About 225 million years ago this area was a lowland with a tropical climate and covered by a dense forest. Rivers flooded by tropical rain storms washed mud and other sediments into the lowlands. Enormous coniferous trees up to 9 feet in diameter and 200 feet tall lived and died in these lowlands. Fallen trees and broken branches were often buried by the river sediments. Nearby volcanoes erupted numerous times. These eruptions blanketed the area in volcanic ash with a high silica content.

Rapid burial allowed the plant debris to escape destruction by oxygen and insects. The soluble ash was dissolved by groundwater flowing through the sediments. The dissolved ash served as a source of silica that replaced the plant debris, creating petrified wood. Trace amounts of iron, manganese and other minerals were included in the silica and gave the petrified wood a variety of colours. These sediments, plant debris and volcanic ash became part of a rock unit known today as the Chinle Formation.

In the millions of years after the Chinle Formation was deposited the area was uplifted and the rocks deposited above the Chinle were been eroded away. The petrified wood is much harder and resistant to weathering than the mud rocks and ash deposits of the Chinle. Instead of eroding away the wood accumulated on the ground surface as the surrounding mud rocks and ash layers were eroded away.



An example of a cabochon made from petrified wood. The centre has some agate or chalcedony. This formed in a natural gap in the wood.

Physical properties of Petrified Wood

Crystal System: Trigonal

Chemical Composition: Fossil wood replaced by Chalcedony and sometimes also by Opal, Coal, Pyrite and/or Calcite.

Mineral Class: Silicates

Hardness: (6 - 7)

Colour: Brown, Black/Brown, Cream, Tan, Red, Yellow

Location: Madagascar, Australia, Germany, New Zealand, Thailand, USA

Rarity: Common

Metaphysical Information

Petrified wood is a stone that is good for grounding and stabilizing one's emotions. It is particularly useful in calming survival-based fears. It helps one be practical. It is a stone of business success. Petrified wood is a good stone for general protection. Physically, it is used in crystal healing for the bones, backaches, skin and hair.

Petrified wood encourages people to respect and look after their environment, ever finding ways to live simply, in harmony with the Spirit of the planet. Carry petrified wood with you when you feel disconnected from nature.

December (Turquoise) Birthdays

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Steven McCulloch | Eleni Vassiliou | Scott Wren |
| Dieter Klepatzki | Joanne Goodes | Leanne Muir |
| Helen Standing | Steven Bourke | Ian Bundy |
| Casey Conway | Ray Jones | Carmel Gilbert |

Brad Smith's Bench Tips

LOOSE HEADS



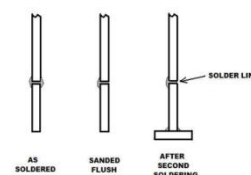
Flying off the handle is never good, particularly if it's a hammer head. The traditional way to tighten a loose hammer head is a bit of work with wedges, but if the head is basically secure, there's a fast and easy way to tighten a loose head for about 50 cents - superglue.

Simply put a couple drops in from the handle side, let it set up, and then a few drops from the top side. Be sure to get the thin super glue, not gel. It penetrates better. Packages of two superglues are usually available at the 99 cent store.

Note that this is only a safe practice if the hammer head is just a little loose but is basically secured onto the handle. Gluing is not a fix for a hammer head that has come off the handle or is at risk of coming off.

AVOIDING SOLDER LINES

After finishing a soldered joint on say a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear after you've soldered the bezel to a base plate? What's happening is that every time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature where solder flows, the liquid solder seeps a little more into the surrounding metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to re-sand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow.



To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra solder on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a paper thickness of excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all soldering.

Of course, this isn't always possible as when a soldering operation will prevent you from gaining access to an area for final sanding and polishing. Coating the finished solder joint with ochre seems to help a bit but is not a complete solution.

See all Brad's jewelry books at [Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith)

50th Anniversary Dinner

A great time was had by all. A big thanks to Margaret for all of her organisation. Thank you to Leanne for your assistance with organisation and a big thank you to Tristan Jones and Kerri-Rose Spek for the cake.



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>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>11th March</u> | Campbelltown Lapidary Club Open Day | Lot 1 Bensley rd Macquarie Fields |
| <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>Sat 18 – Sun 19 Mar 2017</u> | Canberra Lapidary Club Rock Swap Time: 8.30am to 5.00pm Cost: Free Details: Fossickers & dealers. crystals, minerals, rough & cut gemstones, opals, fossils, jewellery. Food available. Sieve for sapphires | Venue: Exhibition Park in Canberra – Wagtail Way (Camping Ground) – outdoor event http://www.canberralapidary.org.au/ |
| <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/ |
| <u>Sat 27 – Sun 28 May 2017</u> | Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Gemcraft & Mineral Show Time : 10.00am to 5.00pm Cost : \$5 adults, \$10 family, \$2 children/concession Details : Gem, Mineral, Jewellery & Lapidary dealers. Minerals, fossils, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, lapidary equipment & supplies, opals, beads & supplies. Food available. Displays of members' collections, demonstrations of cabbing, faceting & jewellery making. | Venue : Exhibition Park in Canberra – Mallee Pavilion (indoor) http://www.canberralapidary.org.au/ |
| <u>Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th July 2017</u> | Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club Annual Exhibition | Greg Percival Centre Ingleburn |

Missed out on the last newsletter?

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