

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

February 2017 Amethyst 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

Silver classes are now in full swing. If you are interested in learning how to cast sterling silver, this is the time to start. Barry and Dorothy will be happy to help you.

Field Trip

Inverell 8th -15th April

We will be fossicking for sapphires, smokey quartz, citrine and zircons.

I have booked my accommodation at the Fossicker's Rest Caravan Park Inverell

Ph: (02) 6722 2261

If you want to book a cabin, I suggest you book ASAP as there only a few still available for this time

For further information contact Suzy at

suzybrandstater@hotmail.com

Campbelltown Lapidary Club – March Aquamarine Edition 2017

Next Open Day

Our next Open Day will be **Saturday 25th March**. There is 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. Our Open Days are a collaborative effort and working together to put an event together is something that makes our club more united.



Workshop

We won't be having a workshop this month as our workshop week is the same week as the Open Day

Open Day Raffle

Open Day raffle tickets are now on sale. \$2 each or three for \$5.

Polishing your silver

We have three different types of shot for our vibratory tumblers. If you want to use burnishing powder or fine cut compound, you should use the plastic or ceramic shot - definitely not the steel shot. The steel shot should be bright and shiny. Some of our members are using the wrong polishing compound in the steel shot and then only giving it a quick rinse when they finish. It takes quite a lot of time to get it clean enough for the next person to use. If you are not sure what to use, please ask a your duty officer. The steel shot was cleaned last Saturday and on Friday night it was found too dirty to use again.

Stone of the Month

Hawk's Eye

Hawk's eye is a rare blue-gray to blue-green form of fibrous quartz. Actually, hawk's eye is a pseudomorph of quartz which began its life as another mineral - blue crocidolite. Over time, chalcedony quartz slowly replaced the original blue crocidolite mineral (a fibrous blue mineral belonging to the riebeckite family of amphibole silicates. It is considered to be one of the several forms of asbestos.) while retaining its fibrous form and some of its blue colour. This depends on the level of oxidization during its formation. Hawk's eye is also closely related to tiger's eye (Tiger's Eye occurs when there has been a high level of oxidation) and Pietersite. Hawk's eye is typically multicoloured with golden stripes or wavy patterns and is famed for its chatoyancy, (also known as the cat's eye effect)



These days, the term Pietersite may be used to describe any brecciated form of hawk's eye or tiger's eye. Hawk's eye can be identified by a combination of its distinct composition, colour and chatoyancy. Like all quartz, it has a silicon dioxide composition and relatively good hardness and durability (6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale).

Hawk's Eye; Origin and Sources

Hawk's eye can be found in many locations around the world. Some of the most notable deposits and sources include Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Korea, Myanmar (Burma), Namibia, South Africa, Spain and the United States (mostly Arizona and California). Thailand and the Northern Cape province of South Africa are the largest commercial suppliers of hawk's eye.

Metaphysical uses

Hawk's Eye has a number of metaphysical uses. It is thought to alleviate fear of flying, particularly for children. It is thought to help with prosperity and finances. It can expand your horizons both at work and at home. It can help bring new opportunities at work or the possibility of transfer to a new location. In terms of health and healing it is used for eye problems especially those involving focus. Good for sinus congestion. Helps relieve spine and neck problems. IT is a good protection stone often used by healers to protect against the negative energy of others. Protective when travelling in hill country or mountains.

Hawk's eye is the best stone for astral travel, clairvoyance and remote viewing. It Is the stone of: air travellers.



March (Aquamarine) Birthdays

Kylie Walker	Cameron Jones	Robert Adamson
Glen Toji	Greg Wood	Philip Taylor
Max O'Connor	Leon Douangdar	Matthew Thompson
Adam Ralh	Lisa Harley	

Brad Smith's Bench Tips

BENCH SHEARS

When cutting sheet metal, it's quicker and easier to use a set of shop shears as compared with using a hand saw. The cut is not as precise, but many times you don't need that. Shears will easily cut up to 24 gauge sheet, and some will cut 22 or even 20 gauge. Current prices for shears run from \$13 - \$22 in jewelry catalogs, and the Joyce Chen scissors recommended on some jewelry blogs run more than \$20. But we found a cheaper alternative at the 99 Cent Store - some gardening utility scissors that were only \$1.07

I buy a half dozen of them at a time for use in my jewelry classes. They're great for cutting bezels, trimming around a bezel cup and cutting a piece off a larger sheet.



BEZEL CLOSER

A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of pushing the metal down over a round stone and burnishing it. The working end is a concave cavity that fits over your bezel or prong setting and is pushed and twisted to capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are expensive and contain many sizes you will probably never use. If all you need is one or two sizes, here's how you can make them yourself.

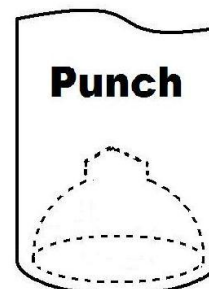
Find a good quality, round steel rod a little larger in diameter than your bezel cup or prong setting. Cut a 5 inch length. File both ends flat. Locate the center of one end, center punch a divot, and drill a small pilot hole about 5 mm deep. Remember to use a little oil as lubricant when cutting steel.

Select a ball bur a bit smaller than the steel rod but slightly larger than the bezel. Enlarge the pilot hole to a full hemispherical cavity. Test for proper fit with your bezel. Bezel should first contact the cavity about a third of the way in. When the size is correct, polish the cavity using Zam on a length of chopstick in your flexshaft. If the tool is not polished, it will leave scratches on your bezel or prongs.



When using the tool, the first step is to capture the stone correctly. I usually work by hand and push the punch straight down over the bezel or prongs. This causes the metal to start bending over the stone. Next I inspect with a lens to be sure the stone is staying level. This is repeated until the stone is seated on its bearing and can't move anymore.

Next you want to force the metal down onto the stone uniformly all the way around. While this can be done by hand, I often gently tap the punch with a hammer. Finally, burnish the bezel by twisting the punch around.



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

Club Donations

Do you have anything you can donate to the club? Our raffle prizes and our club stalls make up a big part of our club's income. Rock specimens, slabs and tumble rough sell very well for us. We also love finished products such as cabochons, silver and jewellery. Carolina works very hard to ensure a good sale table at our club events but she cannot do it if she doesn't have donated product. Have a look around at home through your rock collections to see if you have anything you donate to the club.

One of our most recent donations is a beautiful clock and pen set handcrafted and donated by Tim for our Exhibition raffle. Theo and Ron have also donated some beautiful sterling silver jewellery. Every little bit helps.

Club Maintenance

A lot of work goes into making the club run smoothly. Duty officers look after the members on their duty days and make sure everything is ready to go. But further behind the scenes, there is a lot more work that goes on. The machines need regular maintenance and repairs. Eugenio spent much of his holidays cleaning and repairing the big saws. He has been regularly maintaining the grinders as well. Bob Owens has been working with him on these projects, plus a few other people who have helped out. When you turn your saw or grinder on and it works smoothly, remember to thank Eugenio and his team. Carolina spends a lot of time cleaning and tidying the club, making things look nice.

The second bench for the polishing discs is about to go in. Don and Richard have been working to get it and the new benches ready. Our polishing room is going to look really nice once the work has been completed. The new wheels are working well and it is wonderful to have a number of finer grit wheels to work with, they really put a lovely polish on your stones.

Other jobs that often go unnoticed is the administration work that has to happen for the club to function. The club executive often spend their mornings at the club doing paper work instead of polishing rocks. I really appreciate the effort they put in.



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>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>25th March</u>	Campbelltown Lapidary Club Open Day Gemstones, jewellery, rough Come into the club and have a look around Sausage sizzle, cakes, slices and Greek delights on sale	Lot 1 Bensley rd Macquarie Fields 9.00am - 2.00pm
<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>20-21 May 2017</u>	Lismore GEMFEST	Lismore Showground, NSW http://www.gemclublismore.org.au/wordpress/gem-fest/
<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 Two huge rooms filled with gemstones, rough and jewellery. Free children's' activity	Greg Percival Community Centre Ingleburn Cnr of Oxford Rd and Cumberland Rd, Ingleburn NSW 2565
<u>Saturday 14th October</u>	Campbelltown Lapidary Club Open Day Gemstones, jewellery, rough Come into the club and have a look around Sausage sizzle, cakes, slices and Greek delights on sale	Lot 1 Bensley rd Macquarie Fields

Missed out on the last newsletter?

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