

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

April 2017 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
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.

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. Next Investment

Field Trip

Inverell 8th -15th April

We will be fossicking for sapphires, smokey quartz, citrine, jelly bean quartz 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 – April Diamond Edition 2017

Open Day

What a great day. The rain held off until the last few minutes of pack up. We were very lucky. We had a good crowd considering the poor conditions leading up to the day. A big thank you to our event organiser Leanne Muir, the day went smoothly and everything happened as it should.

Thanks to all of our wonderful helpers, Carolina, Eugenio and Allison for a well run club stall (a lot of work happens behind the scenes in the weeks previous to make this happen. The BBQ and kitchen ran like a well oiled machine thanks to David, Sarah, Elizabeth, Tina, Ray and Barry. The tedious job of putting out signs was done very effectively by Greg and Ann, with a little bit of last minute help from Tom. We have a number of new signs, sourced by Leanne and painted by Julie Tremp. Thank you Margaret for organising the free Newspaper ads and articles. I don't know if any club members actually heard me on the ABC "What's On", I was very nervous, but we got a good wrap on Sydney radio. We had a few people who came because they heard it on the radio. The Facebook ads were effective as well.

Workshop - Saturday

22nd April 9.30am

Wire wrap a gemstone sphere

Cost \$20

Everything included (a variety of spheres will be available for you to choose from. If you have your own tools bring them along.



Easter Holiday

The club will not be open on Easter Saturday or Easter Monday

Stone of the Month - Amber

Amber is the hardened resin of ancient pine trees. It is an organic gemstone. The hardening process of Amber is known as polymerization, which fossilizes the resin over many centuries and makes it hard and sturdy. Amber is formed from viscous, sticky resin and therefore commonly contains inclusions that got stuck in the Amber and remained there when it hardened. These inclusions are usually of insects or plants, with the most well-known being mosquitoes. Amber with well-preserved organisms frozen internally is highly prized.



People have been making jewellery from amber for over 10,000 years. Amber's most common colours are yellow, orange, and brown in various shades. Pieces with green, blue, or violet tints due to extreme fluorescence are rare. A blue-colour Amber is found in the Dominican Republic. The blue tinge to it caused by fluorescence, but when observed directly through strong light it will have a more typical orange-yellow colour. Dominican Amber is strongly fluorescent, both in longwave and shortwave

Amber also has a wide range of transparency. The transparent material is used almost exclusively for jewellery. Amber is often used for beads, pendants, earrings, and rings. The cloudiness in Amber is usually caused by trapped air bubbles, which are very small and dense. The more opaque material is frequently carved into artistic ornaments and inlays and practical objects such as pipe stems and umbrella handles. Amber is also burned as incense and used as an ingredient in perfumes

Amber has a very low specific gravity, and is one of the lightest of gemstones. Baltic Amber is sometimes found with sand on the beach, especially after storms.

Amber is very soft for a gemstone, and is not very durable. Its hardness on Moh's scale is 2 - 2.5. Aside from its tendency to easily scratch, it is adversely affected by chemicals and solutions, and should be kept away from alcohol, perfume, gasoline, acids, or any solvents. Amber will also burn if exposed to fire, and can crack under too much heat or pressure.

Types of Amber

Amberoid: Synonym of Pressed Amber

Baltic Amber: Amber from the vicinity of the Baltic Sea, mainly near the coastline of Latvia, Lithuania, Russia (in Kaliningrad Oblast - an isolated Russian Province in the Baltics), and northern Poland. The world's largest Amber reserves exist in this area. **Blue Amber:** Rare form of Amber from the Dominican Republic (Dominican Amber) with a characteristic blue and yellow colour that changes to all yellow when viewed directly into light.

Bony Amber: Cloudy, translucent Amber containing dense inclusions of bubbles throughout its interior.

Burmite: Amber originating from Burma (Myanmar).

Copal: Hardened resin that has partially gone through the polymerization process to harden it, but is not fully polymerized like Amber.

Dominican Amber: Amber from the Dominican Republic.

Pressed Amber: Larger pieces of Amber created by compressing resin pieces or small Amber fragments into a single mass at high temperatures.

Simetite: Amber from the island of Sicily, Italy.

Metaphysical properties

Amber is thought to relieve stress and anxiety and may also help to clear depression. It may aid the emotions, and assist emotional healing by creating a more positive outlook on life.

It affects the sacral chakra means that it this a strong stone to help you to enhance your creativity. Amber links the everyday self to the spiritual self. It is known to be one of the better natural crystals to use for protection from psychic attack. It is highly protective against any type of negativity, especially from psychic sources.

Brad Smith's Bench Tips

BEZEL PROBLEMS

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.



CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate.

An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime often found floating on the top of the pot.

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

Open Day Raffle

Winners were Theo, Leanne and Julie



Campbelltown Lapidary Club – April Diamond Edition 2017

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>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 19th – Sunday August 20th 2017</u>	Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Gem Show 8 am to 4 pm Daily 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 Just west of Information Centre, next to Glenbrook Theatre
<u>Sat 26th -Sun 27th August</u>	White Cliffs Gem Fest and Car Boot Sale	
<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
<u>Sat 4 – Sun 5 Nov 2017</u>	Canberra Lapidary Club Spring 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/

Missed out on the last newsletter?

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

April (Diamond) Birthdays

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