

Rockgrinders Gazette



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June 2017 Pearl Edition

Club rooms opening hours

Monday	9am till 1pm
Wednesday	9am till 1pm
Friday	6pm till 9pm
Saturday	9am till 1pm

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

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

Annual Exhibition

The exhibition is fast approaching. We need your help. We need people to help with publicity, with packing, transporting and setting up the exhibition. We desperately need help in the kitchen.

What can you do? Give us a few hours of your time to make the exhibition a success. We have flyers that need distributing, you can get some from the sign on book or a digital one from a committee member. Remember every person through the door is another \$5 to the club. The more people through the door, the happier our dealers will be, we really want our top class dealers back again next year.

If you can help, put your name down on the list on the whiteboard at the club.

Silver Classes

Are in recess and will be reopening in September.

No Workshop in June

We won't be having a Saturday workshop in June. Watch this space for news about the July workshop.

Mother's Day Raffle Winners

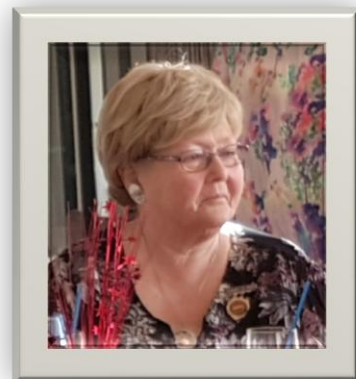
1st Alison ticket A26

2nd Ann ticket D89

3rd Robyn ticket D97

Vale Helen Standing

Helen Standing, 78 has passed due to complications from a long standing battle with diabetes. She and her husband Ray had been strong members and very active when their health was better. Ray passed away very many years ago now. Helen has, in the last couple of years, been active at meetings and given us guidance. She was a former president and public officer in the club. She was a very kind and thoughtful member. She is survived by two daughters from her marriage with Ray and a daughter from a previous marriage.



Another loss

Condolences to another of our members Kathy O'Shaunessy. Kathy lost her husband last year and has now lost her son John. Our thoughts go out to you at this sad and difficult time.

Stone of the month Septarian Dragon Stone

This stone has a few different names, Dragon stone, Septarian Geode, Septarian Concretion, to name a few. It is an interesting stone as it is a combination of different minerals. The name Septarian is derived from the Latin name, Septem, meaning seven. This relates to the fact that the mud balls cracked with 7 points in every direction, thereby creating the beautiful design.

Septarians are composed of Calcite (The Yellow Centres), Aragonite (The Brown Lines) and the Outer Grey Rock is Limestone. Occasionally the fossil or some of the fossils which started the formation of the rock is noticeable in the rock.



Septarians were formed during the Cretaceous period, 50 to 70 million years ago when the Gulf of Mexico reached what is now Southern Utah. Decomposing sea life killed by volcanic eruptions, had a chemical attraction for the sediment around them, forming mud balls and as the ocean receded, the balls were left to dry and crack. Because of their bentonite content they also shrank at the same time trapping the cracks inside. As decomposed calcite from the shells was carried down into the cracks in the mud balls, calcite crystals formed. A thin wall of calcite was transformed into aragonite separating the bentonite heavy clay exteriors from the calcite centres. Because of this, the nodules are called Septarians.

Concretions

Septarian concretions are a special type of concretion. Concretions are masses of mineral matter formed when minerals in water are deposited about a nucleus (such as a leaf or shell or other particle) forming a rounded mass whose composition or cement is usually different from the surrounding rock. This can occur at the time of deposition, shortly thereafter, or after the sediment has hardened.



Generally, concretions are harder than the rocks around them; therefore, over time the concretions can weather out of the surrounding rocks. Concretions in Kansas are formed from any of a number of minerals, including calcite, limonite, barite, pyrite, or silica. They vary widely in shape and size, with the huge spherical concretions at Rock City in Ottawa County and Mushroom Rock State Park in Ellsworth County measuring up to 27 feet in diameter.



Septarian stone also makes very good cabochons. Here is a geode I cut in half and then polished. I will eventually turn them into pendants, setting them in silver.

Metaphysical Information

Septarian is a geode that is a combination of yellow calcite, brown aragonite, grey limestone and white/clear barite, thus it has properties of each of its component minerals as well as its own.

Septarian is said to bring calming energies which have a nurturing feel to them, and can bring feelings of joy and spiritual uplifting. Septarian is used to enhance and nurture communication with groups, making it much easier to speak clearly and kindly in group settings. Septarian is also used to assist with communication with Mother Earth. It is said to bring unconscious foreknowledge needed by the user to help him or her always be prepared for what is coming up. In crystal healing folklore, Septarian is used for the blood and kidneys. Septarian is related to the lower chakras, root, sacral and solar plexus.



April Field Trip

A large group of intrepid fossickers from the club set off on an adventure to Inverell for a week of fun filled fossicking.



To ease us into the fossicking experience we went to the New England Wood Turner at Gilgai where we saw some fabulous hand made wood craft and were treated to a performance by Rob on some very unusual didgeridoos. We then went to the and dumps near Tingha and had our first of many picnic lunches. We fossicked for tiny clear, citrine and smokey quartz crystals. Many were found and we got thoroughly dusty. I tried out the sieving machine I bought from Ron and it worked wonderfully. I was able to get through quite a lot of material very quickly, thanks Ron.



We spent a fun day at Tingha Sands, exploring the property and looking for quartz. Many pieces were found including some lovely 'grass quartz' pieces. These are clear quartz pieces with golden threads of rutile going through them. This was Maggie's first trip and she didn't know what to expect, but she was the first to lose blood on the trip. I got out my macro lens and was able to photograph her injury. But Maggie bravely soldiered on to find many more lovely crystals. Ann made a surprise discovery, she found some lovely Olivine crystals on some basalt that was on the ground in one area of the mine. An unexpected bonus to the trip.



You will have to look very closely

We went to our first fossicking park Billabong Blue and found a few sapphires. It was a really good place to take a beginner and everything is provided for you and it is much easier work.



The following day we went to Glenn Innes to "Aussie Sapphire" to make a few purchases. We had a lovely lunch at the strawberry farm and then went on to the Emmerville Mineral Museum. The museum is amazing, a wonderful collection of gems and minerals to rival anything you would see in a big city. After much talking about the minerals and fossicking to the geologist on duty, Steve Cohen, he mentioned that he owned the Emmerville Tin Mine and welcomed fossickers. We immediately changed our plan for the last day

of our trip and booked ourselves into his tin mine. The by product of the tin mine was emeralds and we would be able to fossick amongst the tailings for emerald and fluorite.

One of the nice things about fossicking trips is that you get to get out of your comfort zone, do something physical and spend time with like minded people. Each night we would meet up at the camp kitchen, cook some dinner, sip a few drinks and chat about rocks and another things that were nearly as important.

The following day we went to 7 Oaks fossicking park and had a fantastic day there. I finally had a the chance to play with the mechanical



shaker. It takes 20 buckets of gravel and with a hose you wash it down and at the end, you have a small bucket filled with

sapphires and zircons. A lot less work than individually spinning and sifting sieves one at a time. The downside is you have to dig and carry 20 buckets of gravel. A big thank you to my wonderful son Cameron, he did it for me. We all found sapphire and zircons on the day, some quite nice. You know you have had a fun day when you finish up dirty and muddy.

No trip to Inverell would be complete without a dinner at the Inverell Chinese Restaurant. Nothing better than a Chinese banquet after a hard day fossicking.



Our final day was a the very exciting trip to Emmerville Tin Mine. We met up with Steve at his shed where he showed us samples and told us about the area. He has set up an old shearing shed as a museum/geology centre. He took us up the hill to the mine and proceeded to teach us how to fossick for emeralds, topaz, quartz and fluorite.

Bob thought that he would stay in one spot and dig down as deep as he could. We were worried he was going to dig down to the old mine. His strategy worked and he found some lovely crystals. We found lots of lovely things and had a great day

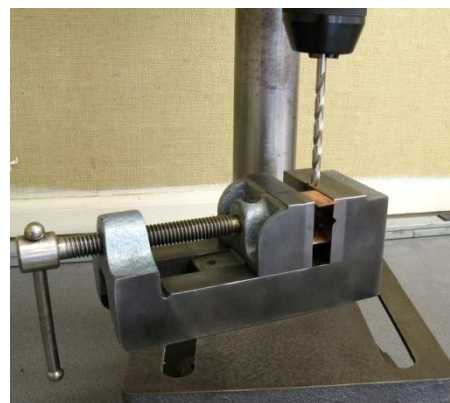


Our next field trip is to Lightning Ridge in October.

Brad Smith's Bench Tips

DRILL PRESS VISE

A drill press vise is a versatile tool to hold a workpiece securely and in precise alignment. It reduces the risks of working with high power motors, use of larger drill bits, and higher heat generated in the operation. The vise can be clamped to the drill press table if needed and is quite handy for use at the bench to hold things for sawing or riveting.



You can find them at stores that carry machine tool supplies. My feeling is that the best ones are made from steel. In particular, I like the ones with V grooves cut into the jaw plates. That lets me hold a punch straight upright or hold a rod horizontal. To find a supplier, search on "drill press vise" at sites like micromark.com mscdirect.com/enco smallparts.com grizzly.com sears.com

DENTAL GOLD

You might think that a couple pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem. Sending it to a refiner is expensive for small amounts of metal.

I made the mistake of thinking I could melt it and roll out my own sheet. However, the trace metals that dental gold contains make it a good material in your mouth cause it to crack if you try to forge it or roll it out as a sheet. It ruined my whole ingot.

So what to do with a couple gold crowns? A reasonable alternative is to try incorporating the metal into your jewelry. If you have enough material to do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold. If you're not into casting, try melting it on a solder pad and while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick. Then re-flow each piece to make little gold balls for use as accents on your designs. The balls can also be planished a bit to make small discs or struck with a design stamp to add texture.

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

June (Pearl) Birthdays

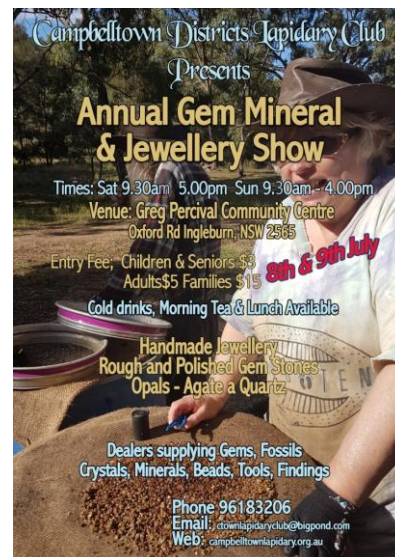
Ron Dean	Beverly Carnegie	Andrew Woodley
John Franks	Penny Jones	Belinda Gunn
Theo Vassiliou	Tracey Poole	Glen Bannon
Zedd Lawton	Angelo Kessanis	John Mainwaring
Steve Greaves	Stephen Bruce	Inez Patterson
Stephen Bruce	Marie Hoare	Sharon Lahiff
Andrew Woodley		

Donations needed

If you have anything lapidary related that you can donate for club sales, we would appreciate it. We are after rough, polished stones or jewellery. This is our biggest chance to raise money for the club, we are happy for anything.

Showcases for the exhibition

If you would like to use one of the club's showcases or have a showcase of your own that you would like to exhibit at the exhibition, please put your name down on the list on the white board



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 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
Sat 26th -Sun 27th August	White Cliffs Gem Fest and Car Boot Sale	
<u>Sat 30 Sep – Mon 2 Oct 2017</u>	GEMKHANA 2017 The annual NSW state gem and lapidary show	Venue: Hawkesbury District Agricultural Showgrounds Clarendon NSW
<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 28 – Sun 29 October 2017</u>	Lapidary Club of NSW Inc Annual Show The Club's annual exhibition of members' lapidary work, with books, jewellery, mineral specimens, rough and polished gems, fossils and crystals available for sale.	At Lapidary House, 136 Reservoir St Surry Hills
<u>Sat 4 – Sun 5 Nov 2017</u>	Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc Jewellery, Gems & Minerals Festival Times: Saturday 9.00am to 4.00pm and Sunday 9.00am to 2.30pm	Venue: Heininger House, Ribbonwood Centre, Princes Highway, Dapto, NSW 2530 (15km south of Wollongong),
<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.