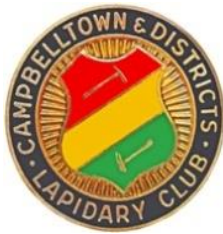


Rockgrinders Gazette



ADDRESS: Lot 1 Bensley Road Macquarie Fields NSW 2564
MAIL: PO Box 477 Ingleburn NSW 1890
EMAIL: ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com
WEBSITE: campbelltownlapidary.org.au
PHONE: (02) 9618 3206

Club rooms opening hours

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

September 2017 Sapphire 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.

Membership is due 1st July
If you are not financial, you cannot use the equipment.
Remember: No pay, no play

Silver Classes

Silver Casting Classes are about to commence again. Investment is on Friday 15th September from 6.00pm - 9.00pm Barry and Dorothy are looking forward to seeing everyone.

Editor's Final Note

Thank you for your support over the past few years. I have enjoyed writing the newsletter. I am sure my successor will find the job equally challenging and rewarding

Campbelltown Lapidary Club – September Sapphire Edition 2017

AGM

Saturday 2nd of September is our **Annual General Meeting**.

We will start proceedings at 9.00am with our regular monthly meeting. When it is finished, we will take a short break for a cuppa and then we will have our AGM. At the AGM, all positions are declared vacant and new office holders are voted in.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Field Trip - Lightning Ridge

24/9/17 - 1/10/17

We will be travelling to the Grawin Opal Fields, staying at the Glengarry Hilton Sunday 24th and Monday 25th. Then on Tuesday afternoon travelling onto Lightning Ridge. I have booked my accommodation at the Glengarry Hilton, they have very basic accommodation there or you can camp there (unpowered site). I will be staying at the Wallangulla Motel in Lightning Ridge. Book your accommodation as soon as possible as it is becoming scarce. Plenty of accommodation available if you are camping.

Some of the activities planned are: Fossicking, visiting art galleries, visiting mines, The Chamber of the Black Hand, swimming in hot springs and did I mention fossicking.

If you are interested in coming on the trip, either email Suzy at suzybrandstater@hotmail.com or call 0414574057



Stone of the Month – Selenite

Selenite, satin spar, desert rose, and gypsum flower are four varieties of the mineral gypsum; all four varieties show obvious crystalline structure. The four "crystalline" varieties of gypsum are sometimes grouped together and called selenite. There are many crystalline forms of gypsum. Sometimes they are grouped together under the name selenite. When gypsum forms clear and colourless crystals it is called selenite. When it is opaque with fibrous texture it is called satin spar. Clusters of tabulate crystals are called desert rose. Single flattened blades pick up particles of sand and are called hourglass selenite for the distinctive shape created by the sand. Gypsum flowers form from long parallel crystals often resembling ram's horns or fishtails. Another common form of this mineral is alabaster, which is often a pastel colour and is very popular as a decorative stone for sculptures.



Selenite is a very common chemical sedimentary mineral. It is an evaporate rock which is one of the three types of chemical sedimentary rocks. The other two are called Carbonate rocks, and Siliceous rocks. Evaporate rocks are formed when bodies of water evaporate leaving behind chemicals that were dissolved in them. Lakes, rivers, oceans, and ground water all have elemental chemicals dissolved in them. Selenite forms in this same way. It is a sulfate mineral with the chemical formula Calcium Sulfate dihydrate. $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. As an evaporite all forms of gypsum will dissolve in water over time. It gets its name from the ancient Greek word for moon or moon stone. It is often carved into towers, spheres, unicorn horns or other mystical shapes.

It is very soft only a 2 on the Mo's scale of hardness. That means that all forms of gypsum can be scratched with a fingernail. It is extensively used in making plaster and drywall. It is also used as a fertilizer and soil conditioner. It is actively mined around the world and is easy to split into thin sheets which is called cleavage. It can form large beds hundreds of feet thick and covering many square miles. White Sands New Mexico is one such place. Selenite can form the largest crystals in the world. In the Naica caves in Chihuahua, Mexico single crystals can reach a length of 33 feet and weigh over 55 tons.

Metaphysical Properties

Selenite is known as the Crystal of Past Lives. Selenite are high vibration crystals, that also deliver clarity of mind, by cleansing the aura of negative energy build up, both within the physical and the etheric body.

Using Selenite may help you increase or bring out psychic abilities as it has a strong vibration. This stone may act as a conduit to other dimensions, as you remember your past lives in different places.



Saturday Workshop

23/9/17

Wire wrap a tree of life onto a cabochon.

Learn the technique of wrapping wire around a cabochon to form a tree.

Everything supplied, but if you have your own tools, please bring them.

Cost \$20



Brad Smith's Bench Tips

JUST A DROP

Hobby shops and model airplane stores carry small plastic dispenser bottles that are handy for putting a drop of flux, oil, or glue just where you want it. They have a length of small metal tubing coming out the top that lets you squeeze out very small drops.

I use one with a short length of tubing for oil when I'm sawing or when drilling harder metals like steel. Another bottle I found in a plastics store has a longer length of metal tubing on it. Plastics people use them for dispensing fast drying glues to join pieces of acrylic. The long metal tube lets you reach into tight places. Either of these is handy for flux at the soldering station.

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

September (Sapphire) Birthdays

Julie Lenord
Kamilla Shepherd
Daniel Blyth

Dorothy Perkins
David Andreou
Andrea Bruce

Jeffery Belbin
Michael Rafailidis
Elaine Dean



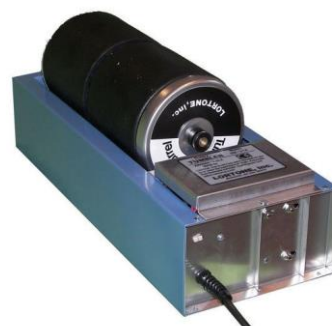
Open Day Saturday - 14th October

Our open day is fast approaching. There is a list of jobs that need doing on the white board, please put your name down to help out on the day. Carolina is after more stock for the club sales. We are quite depleted after the exhibition. She is particularly after rough, opals or handmade cabochons. But anything is good. Please consider what you can do for the club on this day.

For Sale

Used twice only: This is a Twin Barrel Lortone Rotary Rock Tumbler model 33B.
COMPLETE WITH WARRANTY & DETAILED INSTRUCTION MANUAL.

This tumbler is in original box and includes instruction booklets and manufacturer's warranty.
Lortone Tumbler - Model 33B. Has Molded Rubber Barrels comes with grit, polish & pellets.
Price \$250.00 Contact Maggie Aitken (02) 46461684 ...



Illawarra Lapidary Club is having its exhibition in November. Frank came to our exhibition and howed us the first prize in their raffle. A huge hand cast sterling silver dinosaur. I have put a photo of it here. If you want to buy tickets you can purchase them at their exhibition or you can buy them from me (Suzy). I have already bought a book of tickets. It is amazing, their other prizes are pretty good too.



What's On

Events are generally from the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW

<http://www.gemplapidarycouncilnsw.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>Sat 2nd September</u>	Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club AGM	Lot 1 Bensley Rd Macquarie Fields
<u>23rd - 24th Sept 2017</u>	Camden Crystal and Craft Festival Entry: Adults \$5, Concession \$3	A H & I Hall Camden Showground
<u>23rd September</u>	Hunter Valley Gemmology Club Gem Show and Exhibition 9.30am - 3.00pm	1 Maize St, East Maitland
<u>24th September</u>	Lightning Ridge Field Trip	Contact Suzy for details suzybrandstater@hotmail.com or text 0414574057
<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>	Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc Jewellery, Gems & Minerals Festival Times: Saturday 9.00am to 4.00pm and Sunday 9.00am to 2.30pm Admission: \$3.00; children under 12 years free.	Venue: Heininger House, Ribbonwood Centre, Princes Highway, Dapto, NSW 2530 (15km south of Wollongong),
<u>Sat 11 – Sun 12 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.	Venue: Exhibition Park in Canberra – Mallee Pavilion (indoor) http://www.canberralapidary.org.au/
<u>Sat 11 – Sun 12 Nov 2017</u>	Newcastle Lapidary Club Gem and Jewellery Fair Time: Saturday 9am to 4pm, Sunday 9am to 3pm Entry FREE, plenty of parking	Venue: Newcastle Basketball Stadium, 27 Young St Broadmeadow NSW (short walk from Broadmeadow railway station, new indoor venue.)
Saturday 2 – Sunday 3 December 2017	Sydney Crystal Show 10am – 5pm daily The leading merchants from around Australia gather for two full days of incredible natural wonders, unique gifts and treasures. An astounding variety of minerals, crystals, fossils, gemstones and jewellery are available. The event is held twice yearly in Sydney. Refreshments and meals available.	FREE ENTRY Venue: Paddo RSL, 220 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney. See our website for more info: www.sydneycrystalshow.com www.facebook.com/sydneycrystalshow www.instagram.com/sydneycrystalshow

Missed out on the last newsletter?

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