

# Rockgrinders Gazette



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## Opening Hours

Club Closed until further notice  
due to Covid-19 restrictions.

October 2020 – Opal - Tourmaline

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## Good News!

Did you ever think you would hear some? Maybe you've already heard it, but here it is anyway.  
*Every tomorrow brings us one day closer to our goal - the Club reopening.*

Read on to see if you can find some more good news.

## From the President

As the year slowly drags to a close, I think back to when the Covid-19 restrictions came in. I thought it would be over in a month and life would get back to normal. I didn't think we would be cancelling the exhibition and certainly didn't think we would cancel the October Open Day.

But each time I think we might be able to re-open; we get another outbreak. We are at just as much risk from the virus as we were in March and unfortunately the majority of our membership is in the high-risk category.

I miss the comradeship of club members, creating my own my, watching others create theirs. For so many of us, going to the club was our main social outlet.

So ..... we are going to have a Covid-safe social outing ... a picnic.

## Club Picnic Invitation

The plan is to meet up at Ingleburn Reserve for a socially distancing picnic.

**Place:** Ingleburn Reserve Picnic Grove  
off Bensley Rd

267 Bensley Rd, Ingleburn

**Date:** Wednesday 4 November

**Time:** 10.00 am– 12.00 pm

Bring a picnic morning tea/lunch.

There is seating available, or you can bring your own picnic table and chairs.

Plenty of parking.

There are trees and a unisex toilet.

If you feel the need for exercise, there is a bush walking track there.

No need to RSVP. Just turn up with your food and drink.

Hope to see some very missed faces again.

Suzy Brandstater  
President



Ingleburn Reserve Picnic Grove - 267 Bensley Rd, Ingleburn

## Reminder from the Treasurer

**Annual Membership Fees were due by 30 June 2020.**

**Note:**

- All members are required to pay \$5.00 pa insurance
- Life members pay insurance only, per person
- To help with your payment please check the Fees Table in next column.
- Only paid up members will be allowed into the Club when it reopens.

### How to Pay your Membership Fees and insurance

As the club is still closed please pay your Annual Fees by **direct deposit** (see details in next column) and **include the initial of your first name and your surname eg FSmith**, as your reference.

**Note:**

If you are unable to use direct debit please pay by cheque or money order to our Post Office Box:

Treasurer  
Campbelltown Lapidary Club  
PO Box 477  
INGLEBURN NSW 1890

If you have a problem please contact Margaret, (the Treasurer) at **ctownlapidarytreas@gmail.com**

Hopefully we will be able to rock on together soon.

Take Care  
Margaret

### Membership Fee Table

	Fee	Insurance	Total Cost
1 single adult	\$15	+ \$5	=\$20
1 single pensioner	\$10	+ \$5	=\$15 (adults)
1 single fulltime Student	\$10	+ \$5	=\$15
1 family	\$20	+ \$5 p/p	=\$30 (2 adults)
2 adults 1 child	\$20	+ \$15	=\$35
2 adults 2 child	\$20	+ \$20	=\$40
2 adults 3 child	\$20	+ \$25	=\$45
1 pensioner family	\$15	+ \$5 p/p	=\$25 (2 adults)
Mix pay family			
1 adult	\$20	+ \$5 p/p	=\$30 (2 adults)
1 pensioner			

### BANK TRANSFER DETAILS

Campbelltown & District Lapidary Club Inc.

**BSB** 062 517

**Account:** 00905282

**Bank:** Commonwealth

**Branch:** Campbelltown

**Reference:** Your first initial and Surname  
**eg** FSmith



## Smile Time

A rockhound arrives at O'Brien's Creek to dig for topaz. He has only three days left of his holiday and he puts in a pretty fair effort to make the most of his time. He has enough finds to encourage him to keep up the pace.

When his time is up, he staggers into Cairns airport to fly back to Perth. He staggers not so much from the weight of topaz he has found, but more from the effects of the sore muscles stirred up by his digging. He's looking forward to sleeping all the way to Perth.

On the aircraft he finds he is surrounded by five Americans and they explain they used to be Government Advisors Specialising in Economic Matters (hereafter abbreviated to GASEMs. Actually it should be unGASEMs - they are former advisors). They have formed a rock band and are touring Australia. One of the unGASEMs leans over and asks if he would like to play a fun game. The rockhound just wants to take a nap, so he politely declines and rolls over to the window to catch a few winks.

The unGASEM persists and explains that the game is real easy and a lot of fun. He explains, "I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me \$5. Then you ask me a question, and if I don't know the answer, I'll pay you \$5."

Again, the rockhound politely declines and tries to get to sleep. The unGASEM now somewhat agitated, says, "OK, if you don't know the answer you pay me \$5, and if I don't know the answer, I'll pay you \$50!"

This catches the rockhound's attention, and he sees no end to this torment unless he plays, so he agrees to the game.

The unGASEM asks the first question. "How do you calculate the net worth of a country?" The rockhound doesn't say a word, but reaches into his wallet, pulls out a five dollar bill and hands it to the unGASEM.

Now, it's the rockhound's turn. He asks the unGASEM, "What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down on four?" The unGASEM looks up at him with a puzzled look. He turns to the other

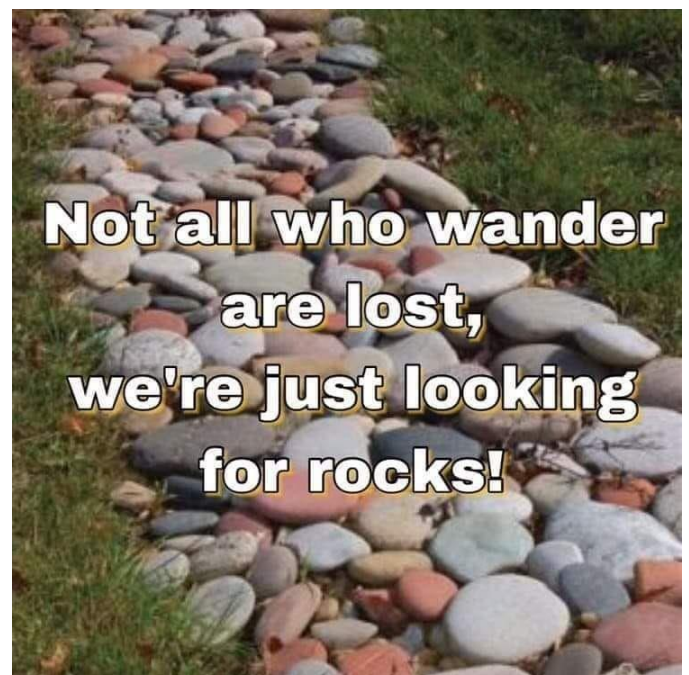
unGASEMs and asks for help. They take out their laptop computers and search all of the references. They tap into the Airphone with their modems and search the net and the Library of Congress. Frustrated, they send e-mails to their former co-workers -- all to no avail.

After about an hour, they wake the rockhound and hand him \$50. The rockhound politely takes the \$50 and turns away to try to get back to sleep. The unGASEMs are more than a little miffed. They shake the rockhound and ask, "Well, so what's the answer?"

Without a word, the rockhound reaches into his wallet, hands the unGASEMs \$5, and turns away to get back to sleep.

<http://ashworths.com.au/DoorToLapidary.php?addr=http://ashworths.com.au/Jokes.html>

**YES, I DO HAVE  
ROCKS  
IN MY PURSE.**



## Trivia Quiz

Answers at end of newsletter.

1. Which two precious gems are only different colours of the same mineral, corundum?

a) Sapphire and Emerald  
b) Amethyst and Tourmaline  
c) Ruby and Citrine  
d) Ruby and Sapphire

2. What is the term for the gemstone formed when two different coloured quartz crystals, yellow and purple, grow together to form one stone?

a) Citryst  
b) Ametrine  
c) Amerillion  
d) Lavanadrite

3. Which of these common gemstone cuts, Oval, Marquise, Princess, Pear or Trillion, is flat-sided?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ (one word)

4. Diamonds are almost always naturally white or colourless, commonly with yellow, orange or brownish tint. However, diamonds occur naturally in many other colours. In which of the following colours do diamonds NOT naturally occur?

a) Purple  
b) Black  
c) none of these  
d) Blue

5. What is the only birthstone which is the direct product of a living organism?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ (one word)

6. Beryl, which in its pure form is white, becomes the green Emerald when Chromium or Vanadium impurities are introduced into its crystal structure. What coloured gemstone occurs when iron impurities are present?

a) Garnet  
b) Red Beryl  
c) Heliodor  
d) Aquamarine

7. What is the term for the 'Cat's Eye' effect common in many Chrysoberyl stones, resulting from tiny, parallel, fibrous inclusions in the stone?

a) Asterism  
b) Colour Banding  
c) Rutilation  
d) Chatoyancy

8. What pearly stone is the only natural gemstone to display 'color play', which is a flashing of different colour within each gemstone?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ (one word)


9. The red variety of this mineral closely resembles Ruby. In fact, the Black Prince's Ruby, (the huge 'Ruby' centerpiece of the royal crown of England,) was actually determined to be this mineral. What mineral is it?

a) Spinel  
b) Tourmaline  
c) Garnet  
d) Diamond

10. What stone in the Chrysoberyl family displays a dramatic color change between natural and artificial light?

a) Chrysolite  
b) Almandine  
c) Cymophane  
d) Alexandrite

## October Birthdays (Opal - Tourmaline)

Norma Castro Orellann	<b>Opal</b>	
Rita Raman	The three basic types of precious opal are boulder, black and white.	
John Dom	<b>Boulder Opal</b> forms in ironstone boulders in Queensland. This type of opal is often cut with the ironstone left on the back, as the opal seam is usually quite thin. Leaving the ironstone on the back means that boulder opal can be very dark and beautiful in colour. The opal forms within the cavities of the boulders in both vertical and horizontal cracks. Boulders vary in shape and size, from as small as a pea, to as big as a family car. Boulder Opal has a tendency to cleave; when cleaved the "split" leaves two faces of opal, with a naturally polished face.	
Ruth Valasini		
Chris Schlegl		
Bryant Margaret		
Sarah Malis		
Jeanine Ball		

**Black Opal** is characterised by a dark body tone causing brightness of colour which is unmatched by lighter opals. Black Opals are usually mined in Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, and are the most famous, and sought-after type of opal. The term 'black opal' does not mean that the stone is completely black (a common mistake), it simply means the stone has a dark body tone in comparison to a white opal.

**White Opal** is also known as 'milky opal', white opal features light white body tones, and is mined in South Australia. White opal is more common and because of its body tone, generally does not show the colour as well as black opal. Nevertheless, white opals can still be absolutely magnificent in colour if a good quality stone is found. <https://www.healingwithcrystals.net.au/opal.html>

### Healing properties of Opal

In the metaphysical world, Opal acts as a prism within the aura, bringing a full spectrum of Light energy to the system, soothing and clearing the emotional body, and boosting the will to live and the joy of one's earthly existence. It enkindles optimism, enthusiasm and creativity, and allows for the release of inhibitions inspiring love and passion. Opal enhances cosmic consciousness and stimulates flashes of intuition and insight, yet is a protective stone for deep inner work, meditations, and lower world shamanic journeys.

<https://www.crystalvaults.com/crystal-encyclopedia/opal>

### Tourmaline

Tourmaline belongs to a complex family of aluminium borosilicate's mixed with iron, magnesium, or other various metals that, depending on the proportions of its components, may form as red, pink, yellow, brown, black, green, blue or violet. Its prismatic, vertically striated crystals may be long and slender, or thick and columnar, and are uniquely triangular in cross-section. They often vary in coloration within a single specimen, lengthwise or in cross sections, and may be transparent or opaque.

One of Tourmaline's most distinguishing properties is its ability to become electrically charged simply by heating or rubbing it. When charged, one end becomes positive and the other negative, allowing it to attract particles of dust or bits of paper. This property of pyroelectricity (from heat) or piezoelectricity (from pressure or rubbing) was well-known to the Dutch traders of the 1700s who used Tourmaline to pull ash from their Meerscham pipes, calling the stone *Aschentrekker*, or "ash puller." [Simmons, 406]



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## Healing properties of Tourmaline

A favourite among the Tourmalines is a variety known as Watermelon Tourmaline, named for its pink centre surrounded by an outer green "rind." This combination is considered a super activator of the Heart Chakra. While Pink Tourmaline is associated with the emotions, Green Tourmaline is beneficial in one's physical being. Together they link to the higher self, and are believed to bring true joy to one's life and relationships. <https://www.crystalvaults.com/crystal-encyclopedia/pink-tourmaline>

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## Words of Wisdom

Better over the hill than under it. *Louise Myers*

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On your Birthday I would  
like to give YOU some  
WORDS of WISDOM!

SMILE WHILE YOU  
STILL HAVE TEETH.

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

all-greatquotes.com



## What's On .... Or Not ??

Events are generally from the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW <http://www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/events/>  
 Other contributions or back issue requests may be made to [ctownlapidaryclub.editor@gmail.com](mailto:ctownlapidaryclub.editor@gmail.com).  
 Alternately, download back issues from the Club's website.  
 We are grateful for any and all submissions.

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
<b><i>Please note</i></b> all events are subject to rules and restrictions relating to Covid-19 pandemic.		
Wednesday 4 November	<b>Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club</b>  <b>Club Picnic</b>  <b>Time:</b> 10.00 am– 12.00 pm	<b>Venue:</b> Ingleburn Reserve Picnic Grove off Bensley Rd  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring a picnic morning tea/lunch.</li> <li>• There is seating available, or you can bring your own picnic table and chairs.</li> <li>• Plenty of parking.</li> <li>• There are trees and a unisex toilet.</li> <li>• If you feel the need for exercise, there is a bush walking track there.</li> </ul> No need to RSVP. Just turn up with your food and drink.
Saturday 7 – Sunday 8 November 2020	<b>Canberra Lapidary Club Inc</b> <b>Gemcraft &amp; Mineral Show</b>  <b>Time:</b> 10 am to 5 pm Sat 10 am to 4 pm Sun  <b>Entry:</b> \$6 Adults \$10 Family Free Under 12 \$3 Concession & Ages 12 to 16	<b>Venue:</b> Exhibition Park (EPIC) – Mallee Pavilion  <b>Sales:</b> Gem, Mineral, Jewellery & Lapidary dealers Minerals, fossils, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, lapidary equipment & supplies, opals, beads. Food available  <b>Other:</b> Displays of members' collections. Demonstrations of cabbing & faceting. Age of Fishes Museum – Information & Fossil Exhibits  Click on link to view <a href="#">Flyer</a> Email: <a href="mailto:canberrallapidary@gmail.com">canberrallapidary@gmail.com</a> or Phone: 02 6260 5322 (Workshop)
13 – 14 March 2021	<b>Canberra 2021 Rock Swap</b>	<b>TBA</b>
2 to 5 April 2021	<b>Gemboree 2021</b>	<b>Venue:</b> HOBART Show Grounds, Glenorchy  <b>Further details:</b> <a href="https://aflaca.org.au/">https://aflaca.org.au/</a>

*Have fun, take care and stay safe!*

Trivia Answers - Ruby and Sapphire, 2 Ametrine, 3 Princess, 4 None of these, 5 pearl, 6 Aquamarine, 7 Aquamarine, 8 opal, 9 Spinel, 10 Alexandrite