

Rockgrinders Gazette



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Club Rooms Opening Hours

Monday	9 am till 1 pm
Wednesday	9 am till 1 pm
Friday	5 pm till 9 pm
Saturday	9 am till 1 pm

January 2021 – Garnet

**Happy New Year
Good News!!!**

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Message from the President

Club Opening

The Committee is planning to re-open the Club in early February 2021.

However, to do that we have to put in place a number of conditions. We will need assistance co-operation from members to re-open the Club.

Due to the conditions the Club must comply with to open, we will need a Covid Marshall. This role **cannot** be fulfilled by the Duty Officer as part of their responsibilities. So we need volunteers to be Covid Marshall for each time the Club is open. We would like to open again with our normal hours and if we don't have a Covid Marshall, we simply cannot open.

The Covid Marshal job entails opening the door to Members when they arrive, using the thermometer to check that their temperature is less than 37.5 Degrees Celsius, assisting them with sign in (they can use a QR code or fill in a form) and generally supervising that Covid rules are followed.

This Saturday 23rd January, we will be having a meeting for Duty Officers and potential Covid Marshals starting at 9.00am in the Club Rooms. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at suzybrandstater@hotmail.com.

We are only allowed to open if we follow the Covid Safe conditions as are required by NSW State Government.

We will be emailing club members once we have finalised our procedures.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation, understanding and assistance in these difficult times.

In Our Thoughts

Dorothy

Our thoughts are with Barry and Dorothy at the moment. Dorothy is unwell and has been having some tests. We hope with all our hearts for a positive outcome.

Linda

We hope that Linda will be back on her feet and with us again soon. Fingers crossed for a speedy recovery.

All the best
Suzy Brandstater
President

January Bench Tips

Brad's "How To" Books Make a Nice Holiday Gift
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Templates

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of a sheet metal component, I think of making a template. Templates let me easily draw the shape of an item to cut out.

Art stores or online sources like cooltools.us/ and kingsleynorth.com/ sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. but for nonstandard shapes, I make my own out of a scrap of sheet plastic or sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.



One example is the brass template in the pic below that lets me quickly trace the design of ginkgo leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.

OCHRE APPLICATOR



Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.

Smile Time

Teens have their texting codes (LOL, OMG, TTYL, etc.).

Not to be outdone, now, finally the long-suffering seniors have their own texting codes!

Texting for Seniors as follows:

ATD	At the Doctor's
BFF	Best Friend's Funeral
BTW	Bring the Wheelchair
BYOT	Bring your own teeth
CBM	Covered by Medicare
CUATSC	See You at the Senior Centre
FWIW	Forgot Where I Was
FYI	Found Your Insulin
GGPBL	Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
GHA	Got Heartburn Again
IMHO	Is My Hearing-Aid On?
LMDO	Laughing My Dentures Out
LOL	Living on Lipitor
OMMR	On My Massage Recliner
ROFL..CGU	Rolling on the Floor Laughing...Can't get Up!
TOT	Texting on Toilet
TTYL	Talk to You Louder
WTP	Where are the Prunes
WWNO	Walker Wheels Need Oil
GGLKI	Gotta Go, Laxative Kicking In

Hope these help!

Happy Texting!!!

Talk Time

Gemstones & Minerals

Gemstones & Minerals can be beautiful clear crystals, they can have optical effects such as dichroic caused by colour, double refraction & light. They can be translucent or opaque, waxy or pearly. Metallic or resinous the choice is only limited to availability. I have endeavoured to make a short list of the types of Gemstones & minerals that can be found in Australia. Hardness is only a guide and can vary within a single stone. Local refers to areas that can be reached on a day trip from Campbelltown NSW & although these finds have occurred in the listed areas they may not be there now or may not be of gem quality. After all, the trip is all about the experience & the magical find when it occurs.

Gemstone/Mineral	Details	Hardness	Location
Agate	Striped or banded. Chalcedony. Thunder eggs. Agate nodule	6.5 - 7	All states of Australia Local: Stanwell Park, Garie Beach, Kiama, Mittagong, Coalcliff.
Amethyst	Lilac or purple. Quartz	7	VIC, NSW, QLD, WA & TAS
Aquamarine	Pale Blue – Pale Green. Beryl group of minerals	7.5-8	NT, WA, NSW, QLD
Beryl	Many colours with their own name	7.5 - 8	NSW, WA
Carnelian	Bright orange-red with waxy lustre. Chalcedony / quartz	7	TAS, QLD, NSW
Chalcedony	All colours usually translucent to opaque. Crypto-crystalline variety of Quartz	7	NSW, VIC, WA, SA, TAS, QLD. Local: Wollongong.
Chert	White, grey, pink, red, green, black, orange & brown. Accumulation of siliceous sediments may contain quartz crystals. Quartz group	7	NSW, TAS, WA, QLD
Chrysoprase	Greens to white with waxy appearance. Quartz	7 – 7.8	NSW, WA, QLD Local: Kiama
Conglomerate	Varied colours, pebbles & grained matrix often cemented by silica or calcite. May include quartz, chert.	Depends on mix	Most states.
Emerald	Brilliant green. Beryl	7.5 - 8	NSW & WA
Garnet	Red, Brown, Black, white, yellow & green.	6.5 – 7.5	VIC, QLD, WA, TAS, NT, NSW. Local:Wingecarribee River
Jade (includes jadeite & nephrite)	Mainly shades of green plus white to blue & yellow. Include greenstone from Temora	6 - 7	NSW
Jasper	Pink, yellow, orange, red, green, brown, black. Chalcedony	7	NSW, VIC, QLD, WA, LORD HOWE ISLAND, TAS. Local: Shoalhaven
Lapis-lazuli (Lazurite)	Rich blue shades with speckles & veins of gold pyrite & speckles of white calcite.	5 – 5.5	SA Murray Scrub
Malachite	Green patterns. Associated with copper deposits.	3.5 – 4	QLD, SA, NT, WA
Moonstone	White, colourless, can be clear. Feldspar	6 – 6.5	VIC, NSW, QLD, SA: Kangaroo Island

Gemstone/Mineral	Details	Hardness	Location
Opal	All colours & many types including Opalite from WA & Opalised wood. Potch is the name given to opal without colour flashes.	5.5 – 6.5	NSW, QLD, SA, WA, TAS (opalised wood)
Peridot (Olivine)	Green, yellow, brown. Found in volcanic scoria & meteorites. When olivine takes up water it changes to serpentine.	6.5 – 7	SA, QLD, TAS, VIC.
Petrified Wood	Wood colours & grains, sometimes agate can be seen between timber patterns.	7	NSW, TAS, QLD, WA, SA. Local: Kangaroo Valley, Wollongong, Corrimal
Prase	Pale green to Brown, dense & opaque type of chalcedony. Quartz	7	NSW, WA
Prehnite	Colours vary yellow to dark blue. Associated with calcite & zeolites.	6 – 6.5	NSW, WA. Local: Prospect
Quartz	All colours including smoky quartz, White Milky quartz, Citrine (yellow) & Rose Pink Quartz. Jasper is a mix of minerals mainly made up of quartz. Quartz Cat's eye.	7	NSW, QLD, TAS, VIC. Local: Bathurst to Oberon
Rhodonite	Red, Pink & white with black manganese markings. Manganese silicate.	5 - 7	WA, NSW, TAS, QLD
Ribbon stone	Patterns of Cream, pink, red, yellow, orange, beige & brown. Silicified or agatized sediments.	7	QLD, NT
Ruby	Red & dichroic. Corundum	9	TAS, QLD, VIC, NSW, NT
Sapphire	Blue, Green, yellow, purple, colourless & white star. Corundum	9	NSW, SA, QLD, WA, VIC, TAS Local: Mittagong, Berrima, Oberon
Topaz	Colourless, yellow, pale blue, pale green. Formed in pegmatite environments of granite.	8	NSW, VIC, QLD, Kangaroo Island SA, WA, TAS. Local: Bathurst
Tourmaline	Red, blue, yellow, green, violet, parti-coloured. Strongly dichroic & will show different colours when turned. Gem quality hard to find in Australia.	7 – 7.5	SA, NSW, WA, TAS, VIC, NT. Local: Native Dog Creek Oberon.
Turquoise	Blue, green, green-yellow. Australian turquoise paler than other countries. Hydrous phosphate of aluminium coloured by copper phosphate & iron.	6	NSW, QLD, VIC, TAS.
Zircon	Green, red, colourless, yellow, brown, grey. Radioactive properties. Colours will change with heat.	6.5 – 7.5	QLD, NT, TAS, SA, VIC, WA, NSW. Local: Wingecarribee River, Native Dog Creek Oberon, Mittagong, and Crookwell.

Want to know more? Check out our Library books include: How to find Australian Gemstones, The Hamlyn guide to Minerals, Rocks & Fossils, Australian Gemstones & Australian Gemstones in Colour.

Contribution from Margaret.

Trivia Quiz

Answers at end of newsletter.

A Geological Tour of Australia

1 **The Bay of Fires in Tasmania took my breath away. These orange coloured rocks are composed of granite but what gives them their brilliant hue?**

- a Rust
- b Molten lava
- c Presence of quartz crystals
- d Lichen



2 **The Twelve Apostles is a rock formation found along the Great Ocean Road in Victoria. What type of geological landform is it?**

- a Cliff
- b Spit
- c Reef
- d Stack



3 **The somewhat surprisingly named Walls of China are found within Mungo National Park in New South Wales. Did glaciation play a part in their formation?**

- a Yes
- b No



4 **A popular tourist attraction in South Australia is the Sunken Garden. What kind of feature was this originally?**

- a Mountain
- b Cave
- c Glacier
- d River



5 **The otherworldly landscape of the Pinnacles in Western Australia was caused by which geological process?**

- a Volcanism
- b Glaciation
- c Weathering
- d Plate tectonics



6 **Hamelin Pool, in the Shark Bay Heritage Area of Western Australia, is one of the only places in the world to have living marine stromatolites. Fossils of stromatolites can be found in which type of rocks?**

- a Intrusive igneous
- b Metamorphic
- c Extrusive igneous
- d Sedimentary



7 **The Bungle Bungle Range is in what unique shape?**

- a Beehive
- b Needle
- c Hexaagon
- d Rhombic



8 **Western Australia is home to a unique natural formation called the Horizontal Falls. Are these the only ones of their kind in the world?**

- a Yes
- b No



9 **Which of these geological formations would you be able to see at Undara in Northern Queensland?**

- a Fjords
- b Karst topography
- c Lava tubes
- d Blowholes



10 **No quiz on Australia's natural wonders would be complete without Uluru. What rock is the stunning feature composed of?**

- a Limestone
- b Basalt
- c Marble
- d Sandstone



January Birthdays - Garnet

Caitlin McManus
 Ron Bryant
 Greg Thompson
 Julie Tremp
 Betty Thompson
 Don Jones
 Tim (Rowan) Twomey

Garnet

Those born in January are lucky to have the beautiful and diverse garnet as their birthstone. Garnets are commonly red but also come in an extraordinary range of beautiful colours, including orange, yellow, purple and vibrant green. There are even garnets that change colour from blue to purple in different lighting. Some believe the true value of the garnet birthstone is its power to bring the wearer good health, wealth and happiness.



The name “garnet” originates from the medieval Latin granatus, meaning “pomegranate,” in reference to the similarity of the red colour. Garnets have been used since the Bronze Age as gemstones and abrasives. Necklaces studded with red garnets adorned the pharaohs of ancient Egypt. Signet rings in ancient Rome featured garnet intaglios that were used to stamp the wax that secured important documents. The clergy and nobility of the Middle Ages had a preference for red garnets.

Garnet is actually a group of several minerals. Five of these – pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular and andradite – are important as gems. Pyrope and almandine range from purple to red. Spessartine is found in exciting oranges and yellows, while andradite is mostly yellow to green (the gem variety demantoid). Grossular may have the widest range, from colourless through yellow to reddish orange and orangy red, as well as a strong vibrant green called tsavorite. <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/january-birthstones>

Healing Properties of Garnet

Curious about your garnet birthstone’s reputed health benefits? According to Indian astrology, garnet helps eliminate negative feelings (depression, guilt) and instill greater self-confidence and mental clarity to promote creative thinking and peace of mind. In ancient and medieval times, gems like garnet were also thought to be remedies for inflammatory diseases and to soothe the angry heart. <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/january-birthstones>



Special Happy Birthday and Congratulations
 to

Betty

on celebrating her

90th Birthday



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.
 Alternately, download back issues from the Club's website.
 We are grateful for any and all submissions.

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
<i>Please note</i> all events are subject to rules and restrictions relating to Covid-19 pandemic.		
28 February, 2021	Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc – Rock Swap Time: 8 am – 2 pm	Venue: Stuart Park, George Hanley Drive, North Wollongong. See Flyer attached
13 – 14 March 2021	Canberra 2021 Rock Swap	Venue: Exhibition Park, Acton Arena (Camping Ground) See Flyer attached
20 - 21 March 2021	New England Lapidary and Fossicking Club Inc 2021	Venue: Armidale Show Ground See Flyer attached
2 – 5 April 2021	Gemboree 2021	Venue: HOBART Show Grounds, Glenorchy Details of GEMBOREE 2021 will be posted on the AFLACA on Sunday 12th April 2020 https://aflaca.org.au/

Words of Wisdom

Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid. *Albert Einstein*



We all get heavier as we get older because there's a lot more information in our heads. So I'm not fat, I'm just really intelligent and my head couldn't hold any more so it started filling up the rest of me!

That's my story and I'm sticking to it!

Trivia Answers – 1 Lichen, 2 stack, 3 yes, 4 cave, 5 weathering, 6 sedimentary, 7 beehive, 8 yes, 9 lava tubes, 10 sandstone.

Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.



Rock Swap



Sunday 28th February, 2021
Stuart Park, North Wollongong
8 am to 2 pm



Stalls selling
 Crystals, Minerals, Fossils,
 and Jewellery
 Equipment and Books
 Information: John Maley 42675618

Canberra
2021 Gem Shows
Canberra Lapidary Club Inc.
 Web : www.canberralapidary.org.au
 Email : canberralapidary@gmail.com
 Ph : 02 6260 5322 (Workshop)

Rock Swap

Date	Sat 13 - Sun 14 March 2021	
Venue	Exhibition Park (EPIC) – Acton Arena (Camping Ground)	
Entry	Free	
Sales	Fossickers & dealers selling : Minerals, crystals, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, opals, fossils. Food Available	
Other	* <i>Sieve for Sapphires</i> * <i>Pan for Gold</i>	

**Winter & Spring
 Gemcraft & Mineral Shows**

Winter Show :	Sat 29 May	10am to 5pm
	Sun 30 May	10am to 4pm
Spring Show :	Sat 30 Oct	10am to 5pm
	Sun 31 Oct	10am to 4pm

Venue	Exhibition Park (EPIC) - Mallee Pavilion	
Entry	\$7 Adults \$12 Family \$4 Concession Free Children to Age 16	
Sales	Gem, Mineral, Jewellery & Lapidary dealers Minerals, fossils, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, lapidary equipment & supplies, opals, beads. Food available	
Other	Displays of members' collections. Demonstrations of capping & faceting. <i>Age of Fishes Museum – Information & Fossil Exhibits</i>	

2022 Show Dates

Rock Swap :	TBA
Winter Gem Show :	TBA
Spring Gem Show :	TBA

Rev : A3

New England Lapidary
 and
Fossicking Club inc.
 *** 2021 ***
30th Annual Gem and Craft Show
 20th March-- 9am - 5pm
 21st March-- 9am - 3pm
Armidale Show Ground

See a spectacular array of:
Gems, Rocks, Crystals, Jewellery, Crafts
Beads & Lapidary Books/Supplies/Equipment
and much more
All on sale at the show

Raffle Tickets \$1.00 Great prizes
 B.B.Q Breakfast & Lunch/Light Refreshments Available

FREE ENTRY

For Details - Contact the Organisers
 on (02) 67722161 after hours..email: info@nellc.net

Have fun, take care and stay safe!
Happy New Year!