

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

April 2021 – Diamond

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From the President

It is lovely to see more people coming back to the club since our re-opening. Again I would like to thank the members who have cooperated with the COVID-19 requirements without being argumentative making things difficult for those who are tasked with running the club.

Covid Requirement

We are trialling having the kitchen available for use **for food and drink preparation only** (not washing rocks). There has been some relaxing of Covid requirements, so as long as people comply with the rules, we should be safe to have it available for club member use. Paper towel will be supplied which is to be used for drying your cups as tea towels can be single use only. Ensure that you wash up, dry and put your cup away after use. Do not leave it on the sink to dry for someone else to put away.

Open Day

It was very disappointing to have to postpone the March Open Day due to the torrential rain forecast.

But we have re-scheduled it for the 22nd of May. We are incorporating Australia's Biggest Morning Tea into the Open Day and will be calling it "Campbelltown Lapidary Club's 'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea Crystal and Jewellery Market Day'". A bit of a mouthful, but something different. We will be dedicating the event to our past club members who have lost their battle with cancer in the past year, Dorothy Perkins and Nick Pastor. We will be making a donation to the cancer council as a tribute to them.

Club members had volunteered to take on specific roles for the postponed event in March, but we will need additional helpers for this event. We need assistance with the kitchen, Covid Marshalls for the gate, flyer and poster distribution and some general help preparing the club in the morning, putting out the tables and chairs etc.

We also need help in cleaning up the club on the Wednesday prior to the event. There is a list on the noticeboard where you can write down how you are able to help and if you are wanting to have a stall. Margaret is our Open Day Coordinator; you can also contact her directly if you are able to support the club in this event.

Kamilla will be taking guided tours of the club (two people at a time) so that interested potential members can see what the club is about.

We need the flyers distributed, both electronically and in person. Getting the event 'out there' will greatly help the success of the day. If people don't know about it, they can't come.

New members

On the first of May we will be having an orientation afternoon for the people who have expressed interest in joining the club. Some have been waiting since March last year. So as not to affect

existing members use of the equipment, we will be having the orientation from 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm. A number of people have volunteered to stay back and assist with this orientation day. The following month if the need is there, we will have a second orientation afternoon.

Open Day 22 May 2021

Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club
Australia's Biggest Morning Tea
Crystal & Jewellery Market Day
9.00am -2.00pm
Saturday 22nd May 2021

- *Crystals, gemstones, fossils, rough, minerals
- *Handcrafted jewellery and market stalls
- *Tasty Greek Treats
- *Readers, Reiki
- *Sausage Sizzle
- *Hot and Cold drinks

Free Entry

Lot 1 Bensley Road Macquarie Fields
 Email: ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com
 Web: campbelltownlapidary.org.au
 Phone: 0296183206

 Set your 'Sat Nav' to Hazlett Oval

 **Australia's BIGGEST MORNING TEA**



Every cup counts in the fight against cancer

Thank You

To Bob Owens and helpers for giving the Clubs 60-80 grit grinding machine a face-lift.



For Sale

25" Vibralap with stand – a flat lap for polishing large stones.

Asking price \$400 ono.

If you are interested in purchasing, submit your offer to Suzy, Margaret or any other committee member, for their consideration.



Smile Time

A Little Poem For Seniors, so true it hurts!

Another year has passed And we're all a little older.
 Last summer felt hotter And winter seems much colder.
 There was a time not long ago When life was quite a blast.
 Now I fully understand About 'Living in the Past'
 We used to go to weddings, Football games and lunches..
 Now we go to funeral homes And after-funeral brunches.
 We used to go out dining, And couldn't get our fill.
 Now we ask for doggie bags, Come home and take a pill.
 We used to often travel To places near and far.
 Now we get sore asses From riding in the car.
 We used to go to nightclubs And drink a little booze.
 Now we stay home at night And watch the evening news.
 That, my friend is how life is, And now my tale is told.
 So, enjoy each day and live it up...
 Incredible Before you're too damned old!

Did you hear about the
 mathematician who's afraid
 of negative numbers?

**He'll stop at
 nothing to avoid
 them.**

**A bear walks into a
 bar and says, "Give me
 a whiskey and...cola."**

**"Why the big pause?" asks
 the bartender. The bear
 shrugged. "I'm not sure;
 I was born with them."**

**Why do we
 tell actors to
 "break a leg?"**

**Because every play
 has a cast.**

Did you hear about the
 actor who fell through the
 floorboards?

**He was just
 going through
 a stage.**

**Why don't
 scientists trust
 atoms?**

**Because they make
 up everything.**

Did you hear about
 the claustrophobic
 astronaut?

**He just needed
 a little space.**

Talk Time

(A replay of articles from previous issues, contributed by Margaret)

PART 2 OF THE LAPIDARY SAFE LECTURE

Conducted by Bill Gordon at the Victorian GEMBOREE this year

Continuing from the G&L News article in August, 2009

IN THE WORKSHOP – Saws, Grinders and Polishers

Rock saws are wonderful things and safe enough. No, simply put, things can go wrong when least expected especially with either rock clamp or feeding mechanism. Rocks sometimes work loose from the clamp, turn sideways and seize the saw blade. On most rock saws, this stops the blade, but not the motor. In a worst case scenario the motor pulley keeps turning while the drive belt does not, generating heat and possibly starting a fire – first at the belt, then the lubricating oil, then your workshop.

Always stay where you can hear the saw so that you'll immediately know if something goes wrong. It makes good safety sense and might also save you a saw blade. Sometimes, you get a rock that just will not stay in the clamp. A sensible solution is to enclose the rock in plaster of Paris in a square mould and then clamp the cast into the saw.

Ensure your grinding wheels run no faster than the speed recommended by the manufacturer. Use dop sticks whenever possible to protect your fingers.

Don't allow "dry sanding" of cabochons. Silicosis is caused by the inhalation of fine silica dust and cannot be cured. Do not recycle the coolant water as potentially dangerous compounds can be dissolved in it from the materials that are being ground or sanded.


Do not let your wheel become water logged. Keep it running until all water has been thrown off; otherwise, it may cause a heavy spot and go out of balance. Do not turn on coolant until the wheel is up to speed. Out of balance wheels could cause the wheel to disintegrate upon starting. The floor in front of the grinder or polishing machine should ideally be of rough cement or a non-slip rubber mat to prevent falls if the surface gets wet.

Keep your grinding wheels true. They will last longer and there will be less chance of them parting while in use. (Grinding work should be done near the centre plane of the wheel and back and forth across the face to produce even wear. Do not force the work and take too heavy of a cut.

Wear appropriate eye, hand, and body protection when using dressing tools. Follow the manufacturers instructions for the dressing tool being used. Only the circumference of standard grinding wheels are designed for grinding. Never use the sides of a grinding wheel. Make sure the work rest and peripheral guard are properly installed and only adjust them when the equipment is not running.

Keep all belt pulleys and belts properly covered and belts properly tensioned ♦

April Birthdays – Diamond

Richard Jones Alison Cordova Daniel Weaver Carolina Cordova Kath O'Shannessy Jacqui Barnes Elizabeth Delcasse	Diamond Sparkling with an internal fire all its own, diamond is one of the world's most sought-after and adored gemstones. Those born in April are lucky enough to call this scintillating gem their birthstone, a symbol of clarity and strength. Diamond is so strong, in fact, that its name comes from the Greek word "adamas," which means "invincible" or "unbreakable." The timeless charm of diamond was cherished long before it became the April birthstone, and the places where diamond comes from are as fascinating as the lore that surrounds it.	
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Our love for the April birthstone started in India, where diamonds were gathered from the country's rivers and streams. Traded as early as the fourth century BCE, diamonds were coveted by royalty and the wealthy. Later, caravans brought Indian diamonds, along with other exotic merchandise, to medieval markets in Venice. By the 1400s, diamonds were becoming fashionable accessories for Europe's elite. The first diamond engagement ring on record was given by Archduke Maximilian of Austria to his betrothed, Mary of Burgundy, in 1477. Recent evidence supports the origin of the legendary 45.52 carat (ct) blue Hope diamond in India's Golconda mining area and its sale to King Louis XIV of France (then known as the French Blue diamond) in 1668.

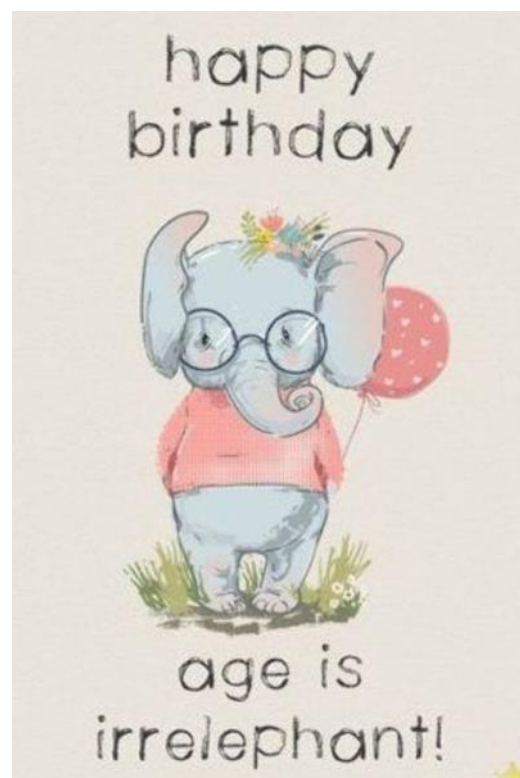
In the early 1700s, as India's diamond supplies began to decline, Brazil emerged as an important source. Diamonds were discovered when gold miners sifted through gravels on the banks of the Jequitinhonha River in Minas Gerais. Brazil dominated the diamond market for more than 150 years.

The discovery of diamonds near Kimberley, South Africa, in the late 1860s marked the beginning of the modern diamond market. Entrepreneur Cecil Rhodes established De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited in 1888, and by 1900 De Beers controlled an estimated 90 percent of the world's production of rough diamonds. The largest diamond ever found – at 3,106 ct (621 grams) – was recovered from South Africa's Premier mine in 1905. From it was cut the pear shaped 530 ct Cullinan I diamond, also known as the Great Star of Africa, which is now set in the Royal Sceptre with Cross and housed with the other Crown Jewels in the Tower of London.

An anonymous second-century poet maintained that this birthstone for April warded off the evil eye – a malevolent look believed to cause sickness, poverty and even death. The April birthstone was even believed to have healing powers. Over the centuries, the diamond birthstone was thought to be an antidote to poison and provide protection against the plague. Some claim that it is a boon for longevity, strength, beauty and happiness.

In addition to being the April birthstone, diamond is the gift of choice for the 60th and 75th wedding anniversaries. And, of course, today the diamond engagement ring has become a near-universal symbol of love and marriage.

<https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/april-birthstones>



Words of Wisdom

Don't let yesterday take up too much of today – *Will Rogers*

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.		
17 – 18 April 2021	Greater Sydney Mineral, Fossil, Gem and Crystal Expo	Venue: Hawkesbury Indoor Stadium, Drummond Street, South Windsor
1 May 2021	Blaxland Gem and Mineral Club Open Day Time: 8 am to 3pm Free Admission	Venue: 15 The Valley Rd, Valley Heights NSW 2777 Displays and Sales of lapidary work, rocks, minerals Demonstrations on cutting, grinding and polishing gemstones
1 May 2021	Central Coast Lapidary Club Rock Auction Viewing Time: commencing 9.00 am. Auction Time: commencing at 10.00 am.	Venue: 10 Ourimbah Creek Road, Ourimbah NSW 2258. There will be a short break from 12.00 noon until 12.30 pm, during which time tea and coffee will be available, and soft drinks will be for sale. Rock Auction May 2021 List
2 May, 2021	Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc Open Day Time: 9 am to 2 pm Free Admission	Venue: 51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna Club members selling Mineral Specimens, Fossils, Lapidary Materials, Jewellery & more. Morning Tea (proceeds to the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea) and Sausage Sizzle Lunch available. Great Mother's Day gifts available! Enquiries: John Ph: (02)42675618
29-30 May 2021	Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Gemcraft and Mineral Show Time: 10 am to 5 pm Sat 10 am to 4 pm Sun Entry: \$7 Adults \$12 Family \$4 Concession Free Children to Age 16	Venue: Exhibition Park (EPIC) - Mallee Pavilion Sales of Gem, Mineral, Jewellery & Lapidary dealers Minerals, fossils, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, lapidary equipment & supplies, opals, beads. Food Available. Displays of members' collections. Demonstrations of cabbing & faceting. Age of Fishes Museum – Information & Fossil Exhibits

Have fun, take care and stay safe!