

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

June 2021 – Pearl/Alexandrite/Moonstone

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On the 5th June we have our next orientation session for new members. We are running these sessions after normal club hours so that it doesn't interfere with club members' use of the machines. Last month's orientation was very successful and enjoyed by everyone.

Our exhibition is coming up very quickly, normally we have a much longer lead up time between the Open Day and the Exhibition. As a result, we need a lot of help. If there is anything you can do to help, please let Margaret know as there is much to be done.

The exhibition is our club's biggest fund raisers, and it takes a team to successfully put the event together.

I look forward to seeing names going up on the notice board indicating how you can assist the club on this very exciting event.

Suzy

Ray and Graham working the BBQ



From the President

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who was involved in making the Biggest Morning Tea Market Day a success. Margaret will talk about it in more detail in this newsletter.

But I would like to put a huge thank you out to Margaret Bryant who organised the Market Day so efficiently. Margaret coordinated all the teams of people working in their own areas of expertise and as a result the day ran like clockwork.

Our Open Days are a great way for us to interact with the community, to gain new members and for existing members to show off their achievements.

New members are welcome

Are you interested in: Lapidary, Fossils, Gems, Crystals, Beading, Silver Smithing or Lost wax casting in a relaxed and friendly environment? Pop in and have a chat.

Duty Officers' Roster

Days of month	Duty Officers
Monday	Margaret
1 st , 2 nd , 4 th Wednesday	Tim
3 rd Wednesday	Kamilla
Friday 4 & 11 June	Ray
1 st Saturday	Suzy
2 nd Saturday	Eugenio
3 rd Saturday	Kamilla/Ray
4 th Saturday	Ray
5 th Saturday	Suzy

Annual Membership Fees due by 30 June 2021.

Note:

- All members are required to pay insurance
- Life members pay insurance only, per person
- To help with your payment please check the Fees Table at right.

How to Pay your Membership Fees and insurance

Method 1: In person when attending the Club

Method 2: cheque or money order mailed to:

*Treasurer
Campbelltown Lapidary Club
PO Box 477
INGLEBURN NSW 1890*

Method 3: direct deposit (see details below).

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

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

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	\$20	+ \$5 p/p	=\$30 (2 adults)
1 adult			
1 pensioner			

From the Treasurer

Biggest Morning Tea Crystal & Jewellery Market Day - Saturday 22 May 2021

Thank you to everyone that attended and helped to make our show a success. Special Mention to:

- Judy, and Maggie, for helping out at the food stall and to Sarah who made a multitude of cakes and cookies. Also thank you to all those who donated cakes, scones, and other edible goodies
- Ray and his friend, Graham, who kept the BBQ running all day.
- Carolina and Eugenio for running the club stall so well and achieved the best result ever.
- John Colless and his helpers who supervised the covid entry point.
- Joshua, Dane and Tim who were always there to help and
- Kamila for organising clean-up day and our club tours so well.
- And not to forget our dealers who make our day and
- Suzy who organised the publicity.

Thank you everyone for making our day a success.

We raised \$432.15 with further donations being received online via the Biggest Morning Tea page, which will remain open for donations until the end of June. So thank you and **Congratulations everyone!**

If you haven't yet made a donation but still wish to, you can do so using the instructions below.

Margaret
Event Organiser

How to Donate Online

All profits from the BBQ, raffle proceeds and any donations collected on the day will be donated to the Cancer Council who then uses the funds towards vital cancer research, support services, prevention programs, and advocacy.

If you were unable to attend the Market Day, but still wish to support the Clubs Biggest Morning Tea you can use your phone's camera to scan the QR Code below (this will take you to the Club's donation page at the Cancer Council) then follow the prompts to make a donation.

If your phone does not have a QR code app, you could click on the link below, or type it into your internet browser search bar, and then follow the prompts.

All donations are much appreciated, and donated to the Cancer Council in honour of former Club members, Nick Pastor and Dorothy Perkins, who both passed away in the past year.

Link:

<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/funders/campbelltowndistrictslapidaryclub/nsw>

QR Code for Biggest Morning Tea



Open Day Raffle Results

First Prize (Salt Lamp)
to Danissa ticket # A07

Second Prize (Sphere)
to Olga ticket # A42

Third Prize (Foldable seat)
to Michael ticket # A08

Fourth Prize (Pendant)
to Hans Ticket # G64





Silver Casting

The next silver casting workshop will be a pour on Friday 4 June. The following Friday 11 June will be the final workshop before the winter break.

Silver workshops will recommence on the first Friday in September (ie 3rd September).

If you're interested in silver casting, come along and check it out. The Club has quite a large number of wax moulds available, and members happy to help show you how it's done.

2021 Exhibition – Help Needed

This year's Exhibition will be held on 10 and 11 July. See details on the attached flyer at end of newsletter.

To make the Exhibition a success this year, we are asking for helpers for the following days/tasks:

Friday 9 July

- Transport of items
- Setting up

Saturday and Sunday 10 and 11 July

- Kitchen workers
- Covid checkpoint crew
- Cleaning crew
- Transporting items back to Club

If you are able to lend a hand for any of these tasks, please add your name to the list on the club's white-board, or phone Margaret to let her know or to ask for more information about what the tasks involve.

For Sale

25" Vibralap with stand – a flat lap for polishing large stones. Asking price \$400 ono. See picture in next column.

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

The items below can be found in the display cabinets in the Club rooms. If you are interested in having a closer look, or buying anything displayed, see the Duty Officer of the day.



Smile Time

Grandma and Grandpa were visiting their kids overnight.

When Grandpa found a bottle of Viagra in **his son's medicine cabinet, he asked about using one of the pills.**

The son said, "I don't think you should **take one Dad; they're very strong and very expensive.**"

"How much?" asked Grandpa.

"\$10.00 a pill," Answered the son.

"I don't care," said Grandpa, "I'd still like to **try one, and before we leave in the morning, I'll put the money under the pillow.**"

Later the next morning, the son found **\$110 under the pillow. He called Grandpa and said, "I told you each pill was \$10, not \$110.**

"I know," said Grandpa. "The **hundred is from Grandma!"**

It's for the birds

Two special gentlemen were standing on top of a cliff with their arms outstretched. One had some budgies lined up on each arm and the other had parrots lined up on his arms.

After a couple of minutes, they both leapt off the cliff and fell to the ground.

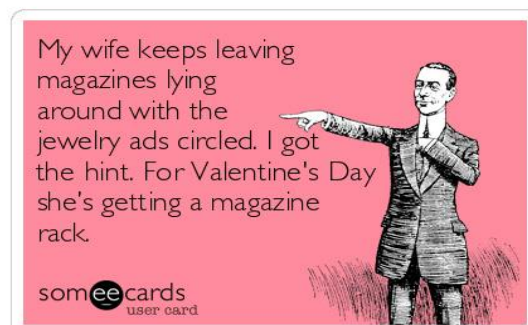
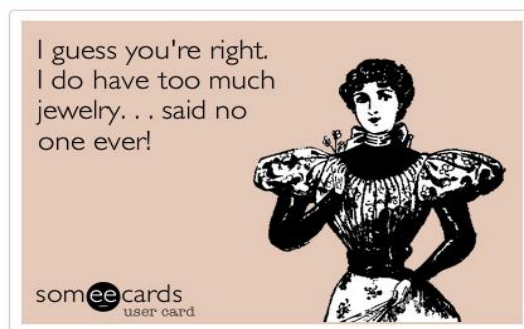
Lying next to each other in intensive care at the hospital, one gentleman says to the other, "I don't think much of this budgie jumping."

The other replies, "Yeah, I'm not too keen on this paragliding either."



JEWELRY JOKES

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Talk Time

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

Crinoidea

Description: Stalked or stalkless organisms with a crown composed of a calyx, five or multiple arms, an anal cone, and a mouth pointing upward.

Animal Classification: Crinoidea (Sea lilies and feather stars)

Phylum: Echinodermata: Other echinoderms include starfish & sea urchins

Class: Crinoidea

Crinoids are a living lineage of echinoderms more than 500 million years old. The first crinoids were stalked forms (the sea lilies), whose probable ancestors are the extinct rhombiferans or the extinct edrioasteroid echinoderms.

The first fossil record dates from the Lower Ordovician (510 million years ago [mya]). During the Paleozoic era (550–245 mya), there were at least two major expansions and declines in crinoid diversity. In the early Carboniferous (360 mya) crinoid diversity reached its zenith, exceeding the total diversity of all other echinoderm taxa.

During the Permo-Triassic extinction (240 mya), the crinoids suffered a catastrophic decline and only one lineage survived, which gave rise to the earliest subclass, Articulata.

Throughout the Mesozoic era, this lineage had begun to diversify and, about the time of the early Jurassic (210 mya), the order Comatulida (stalkless crinoids, the feather stars) appeared.

The disappearance of stalked crinoids from shallow waters and their restriction to deeper sites coincides with the Mesozoic radiation of predatory bony fishes. About 6,000 species of crinoids have lived and died out in past geological ages.

Crinoidea (Feather Stars and Sea Lilies)

In the crinoids (feather stars and sea lilies) the basic five-rayed form has developed by branching into ten or more feather-like arms.

These echinoderms are common in both temperate and tropical waters but, due to their cryptic habits, often pass unnoticed. Some inhabit rocky reefs, being abundant on open coasts to depths exceeding 75 m. Others live attached to algae or seagrasses (often being cryptically coloured to match their host), or attached to bryozoans, sponges or coral, often in deeper water (Shepherd et al. 1982). They also have an important fossil record.

Crinoids are suspension feeders, consuming minute crustaceans such as amphipods and copepods, larvae of marine animals, protozoans and detrital matter.

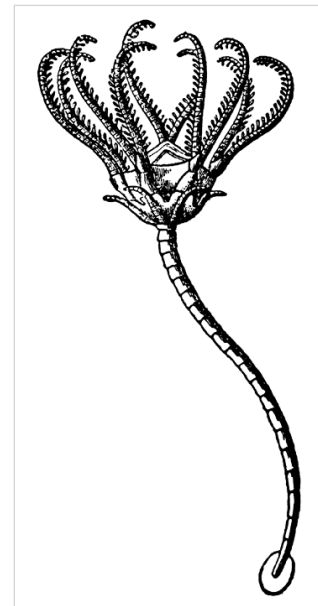
There are about 600 species worldwide, and more than 130 species belonging to 58 genera in 16 families have been described from Australian waters (Rowe and Gates 1995).

Sea Lilies are so interesting to the lapidary world because they are so old & they look just like a plant BUT they are animals with a skeleton & a mouth & they reproduce by releasing sperm directly from the testes into seawater. Females of most species also spawn freely into seawater. BUT they have a calyx, stem & a “root” system that anchors them to the sea bottom, just like a plant.

We probably like them because they are so old & have fused into the rocks that surround them & this makes it possible for us to etch them (limestone can be etched away to display the sea lily) & we can cut & polish them into display items & jewellery.

Crinoids can be found in hard rock such as marble that polishes to a very high shine & makes a great display piece.

A marble crinoid sea lily has been found at Bungonia NSW (near Goulburn, originally under the ocean).



Want to know more? Take a look into our library: The Hamlyn Guide to Minerals, Rocks & Fossils, Fossils a guide to prehistoric life, Australian Fossils An Australian Pocket Guide & Fossils Simon & Schuster's Guide. The latter has great full colour photographs but is indexed in highly technical terms & I found it easier to flip through the pictures rather than use the index. Try the web at answers.com or tolweb.org as I found these helpful when putting together this sheet.

Enjoy - Margaret

May Birthdays – Pearl/Alexandrite/Moonstone

Leesa Spencer
Beverly Carnegie
Robert Knight
Peter Mulhall
Theodoros Vassillou
Glen Bannon
John Franks
Inez Patterson
John Mainwaring
Chris Clark
Margaret Aitken
Norman Abboud
Anne (Penny) Jones
David Ral

Pearl

This enchanting June birthstone originates from oceans, lakes and rivers around the world. It is a timeless wardrobe staple, beloved by women of all ages. The origin of pearls fascinated our forebears.

Ancients from the Middle East believed that pearls were teardrops fallen from heaven. The Chinese fancied that the June birthstone came from the brain of a dragon. Christopher Columbus and his contemporaries thought that molluscs formed pearls from dew drops.

Pearls have long been associated with purity, humility and innocence. So it may be said that the June birthstone meaning is "sweet simplicity." As such, pearls were traditionally given as a wedding gift.



The pearl birthstone was also thought to have beneficial properties. In the ancient Sanskrit text the Atharvaveda, pearls were said to bestow long life and prosperity. In Asia, pearls were believed to help alleviate indigestion and haemorrhages. Some 19th century Arab physicians maintained that pearl powder improved eyesight, quieted nervous tremors and eased depression.

Pearls are 2.5 to 3.0 on the [Mohs Scale](#) of hardness, so they are a comparatively soft gem and require special care. Store them separately from other gemstones and metal jewellery to prevent scratching. Never store your pearl birthstones in a plastic bag — plastic can emit a chemical that will damage their surface. Always apply perfume, hair products and cosmetics before putting on your pearl jewellery. The best way to clean your June birthstone: Use a soft, damp cloth, ideally after each time the pearls are worn.

Alexandrite

Alexandrite is the rare variety of the mineral chrysoberyl that changes colour in different lighting. Most prized are those alexandrite birthstones that show a vivid green to bluish green in daylight or fluorescent light, and an intense red to purplish red in incandescent light. Major alexandrite deposits were first discovered in 1830 in Russia's Ural Mountains. The gem was named after the young Alexander II (1818–1881), heir apparent to the throne. Alexandrite caught the country's attention because its red and green colours mirrored the national military colours of imperial Russia.

When certain types of long, thin inclusions are oriented parallel to each other in this June birthstone, they can create another phenomenon, called chatoyancy or the cat's-eye effect. Few gems are as fascinating – or as stunning – as cat's-eye alexandrite.

The spectacular Ural Mountain deposits were eventually mined out, and now most alexandrite comes from Brazil, Sri Lanka and East Africa. The newer deposits contain some fine-quality stones, but many display less-precise colour change and muddier hues than the 19th century Russian alexandrites. Because of its scarcity, especially in larger sizes, fine-quality alexandrite is one of the more expensive coloured gems.

This June birthstone is relatively hard—8.5 on the Mohs scale. It has excellent toughness and no cleavage, which is a tendency to break when struck. This makes it a good choice for rings and other mountings subject to daily wear. An alexandrite engagement ring would be a unique gift for a bride-to-be born in June. Although it is best to clean your June birthstone in warm, soapy water, ultrasonic and steam cleaners are usually safe as well.

Moonstone

Moonstone is the best-known gem of the feldspar group of minerals. It is renowned for its adularescence, the light that appears to billow across a gemstone, giving it a special glow. The finest moonstones show a blue sheen against a colourless background. This June birthstone has been associated with both the Roman and Greek lunar deities. Hindu mythology claims that it is made of solidified moonbeams.

Moonstone is often associated with love, passion and fertility; it is believed to bring great luck.

Moonstone can be found in a wide variety of places. This includes parts of the United States, such as New Mexico, North Carolina and Virginia. The most important world locations for the moonstone birthstone are

India and Sri Lanka, but sources also include Brazil, India, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Myanmar and Tanzania.

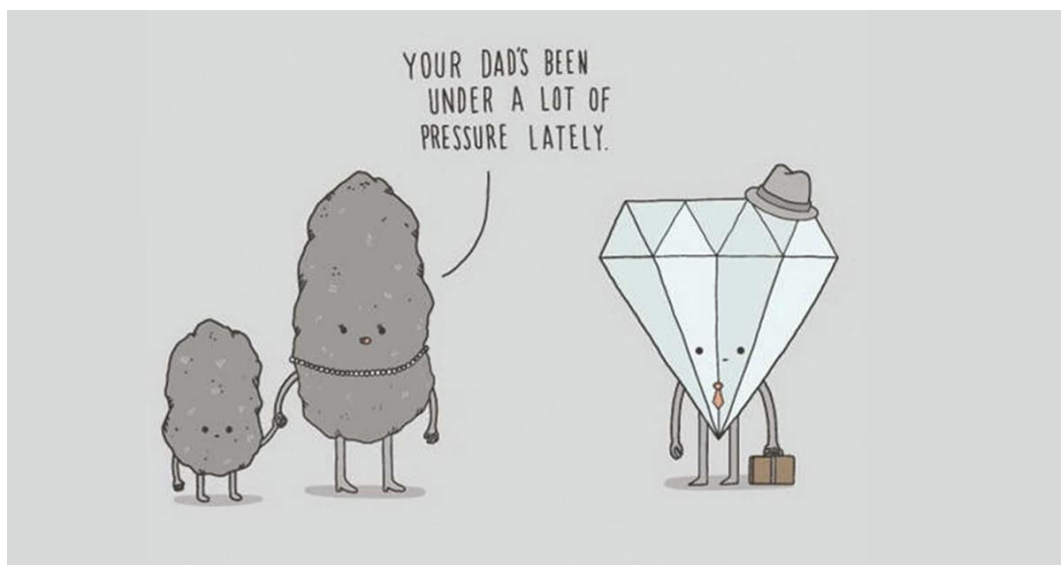
Moonstone is a 6–6.5 on the Mohs scale of hardness and has poor toughness. It may crack when exposed to high heat. Therefore, ultrasonic and steam cleaners should not be used on your moonstone. The best option for cleaning is warm, soapy water with a soft brush.

https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/june-birthstones#birthstone_2



Words of Wisdom

"Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans." -*John Lennon*



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.		
5 and 6 June 2021	Bankstown & Districts Lapidary Club. <i>Bankstown Gem & Mineral Expo</i> Time: Saturday 9.30 am – 5 pm Sunday 9.30 am – 4 pm Entry: \$7 per adult children under 16 Free with paying adult.	Venue: Arena Sports Club, 140 Rookwood Rd Yagoona. Displays and demonstrations showing off club members' work and skills Over 15 traders from around the country bringing you their goodies to show off. Something for everyone. Lucky door prize as well as the kids' quiz For more information: See: https://agamexpos.com.au/services/ .
10 and 11 July 2021	Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club 42nd Annual Crystal, Mineral, Gem and Jewellery Show Time: Saturday 9.30 am – 5 pm Sunday 9.30 am – 4 pm Entry: \$5.00 per adult Children under 12 Free with paying adult	Venue: Greg Percival Centre, Oxford Road, Ingleburn Exhibition of members' works For Sale: Handmade jewellery Rough and polished gemstones Opals, Agate, Crystals, Beads, Fossils, Findings For more information: See flyer attached:
25 – 26 September 2021	GEMKHANA, NSW Annual Gem and Lapidary Show	Venue: Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon For more information: See: https://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/gemkhana/

Have fun, take care and stay safe!

Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club
Presents

42nd Annual, Crystal, Mineral Gem & Jewellery Show

Venue: Greg Percival Community Centre
Oxford Rd Ingleburn, NSW

 **10th & 11th July 2021**

Times: Sat 9.30am - 5.00pm Sun 9.30am - 4.00pm

Entry Fee: \$5
Children under 12 Free with Paying Adult

On Sale

Handmade Jewellery
Rough & Polished Gem Stones
Opals - Agate - Crystals - Beads
Fossils - Findings



Exhibition of Members' Work

Phone **96183206**
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