

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

November 2021 – Topaz/Citrine

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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?

Give us a call on 9618 3206 and leave your details. Someone will get back to you after lockdown, which should be ending in the very near future.

Looking forward to meeting some new members soon.

From the President

The club is now open to all double vaccinated, financial members. If you would like to come to the club, please book through our secretary John Collace email: ctownlapidaryclub.secretary@gmail.com.

We are still limited in the amount of people we can have in the club and each room. As restrictions ease, we will dispense with the extra precautions, but the NSW government has not relaxed the rules yet.

If you are at the club, please abide by the regulations whether you agree with them or not. The club didn't invent the rules, the government did.

We still need volunteers to assist as Covid Marshalls for the foreseeable future, if you able to help out with that, it will help us keep the club open. It is not a very hard task and it takes the pressure off the duty officer. The Covid Marshal job entails opening the door to people when they arrive, using the thermometer to check whether they have a fever, assisting them with sign in (you can use a QR code or fill in a form) and generally supervising that Covid rules are followed.

It was so lovely to be able to walk back into the club again on Saturday. Hopefully this will be the last time we ever have to close down again.

Bob Owens and his team have done some amazing work in our storage shed (storeroom). It is so neat and tidy and everything is really well organised. Thank you, guys, for all the work you have been doing to make the club better for all of us

I have mentioned this before, but it is worth repeating. A huge thank you to the club members who have worked through the lockdown to keep our club running smoothly, even though there wasn't anyone there.

Suzy Brandstater
President

How to make a booking

Please contact John, the Club Secretary by email:
ctownlapidaryclub.secretary@gmail.com

When you attend your booking, you can make a new booking for the next week, using the booking sheet referred to earlier.

Monday, Wednesday & Saturday – 9 am -1 pm Grinding/Polishing Rooms:

- These are the only two rooms affected by 2-hour time slots.
- Cabochon Grinding/Polishing rooms (including Opal Only machine): Max 2 members per area at any one time. Cabochon Grinding/Polishing rooms (including Opal Only machine).

This area has been divided into 2 sessions of 2 hours duration each, 9 am-11 am and 11 am -1 pm.

It is best to have 2 projects on the go, one for grinding and one for polishing. So that if one area is booked out, there may be a vacancy in the other.

Faceting corner

Due to rain leakage in the ceiling of the faceting area, use of the faceting machines will be temporarily unavailable until the electrical fixtures have been checked and verified safe for use. The area can be used for other tasks not requiring electrical connection, eg beading, silver work etc.

Masks

Masks will be required inside the club rooms. If you forget to bring your mask, they will be available for purchase from the club @ \$1 per mask.

Silver Casting:

The club will remain closed on Friday evenings until further notice, with silver casting/smithing workshops planned to recommence in the new year.

From the Treasurer

We are now open to double vaccinated, and fully paid members, so if you forgot in all this madness and you have not paid your membership yet, here are our fees and bank details.

If you would like more details, please contact Margaret 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			
1 adult, 1 pensioner	\$20	\$5 p/p	\$30 (2 adults)

How to Pay your Membership Fees and insurance by Direct Deposit

Bank Transfer Details

Campbelltown & District Lapidary Club Inc.

BSB 062 517 Account: 00905282

Bank: Commonwealth Branch: Campbelltown

Reference: Your first initial and Surname

eg F.Smith

Next meeting dates

Annual General Meeting postponed until next year date to be advised.

Management meeting:

13 November at 9 am in the club rooms.

General meeting and last day of Club for the year:

11 December at 9 am in Club rooms

followed by **BBQ Christmas lunch!!**

Wanted

Garden Shed

2 m x 1 m x 2 m

If you have one you no longer need and want to dispose of it, the Club would be happy to take it off your hands.

Will pick up!

Contact Bob or leave a phone message for him at the Club 9618 3206.

Duty Officers

Duty Officers' Roster

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

Duty officers are a vital part of the club - without them, the club would not be able to function. They are a team of dedicated club members who volunteer their time to help other members get the most out of their club experience. This includes activities related to opening and closing the club on workshop days, ensuring members and equipment and tools are working safely, and reporting need for supplies, maintenance etc, managing the sign on book, and among other things, they are able to provide assistance, guidance and tips to members to help the smooth running of the day's activities.

Members can assist duty officers by following the safety guidelines, reporting any items of equipment or supplies that need attention and cleaning/wiping down work stations when finished using them. The grinding/polishing wheel stations have spatulas for removing the excess water from the trays, and sponges to soak up the remainder, as well as a mop for wiping up splashes from the floor.

Covid Marshalls

Another way to get involved and help out at the club is to volunteer to be a Covid Marshall - a task that involves taking temperatures as members arrive, ensuring they are double-vaccinated, sign in using the QR code or the book supplied, wear a mask inside, and follow the covid safe rules as required.

Antibacterial wipes, sprays and paper towels are available for use by members to help prevent the spread of Covid-19

Masks are available from the club, for those who forget to bring them.

If you would like to become more involved with club activities, you might be interested in volunteering as a Covid Marshall, or assisting a Duty Officer with a view to becoming one yourself. If so, please contact Suzy or the duty officer of the day to discuss.



Club library

You might be surprised to know there is a variety of interesting books and magazines about rocks, gems, minerals, lapidary techniques, tools and tips, etc available in the club library. Now that the club is open for business again, you might like to come in and check it out.

The library is housed in one of the metal cupboards at the back of the main club room. There is also a number of books, magazines, newsletters etc housed in the black bookshelf just in front of the kitchen counter. These books are for purchase. As well as the books, there is a number of back copies of magazines which you can take for FREE.

A magazine display rack on the wall above the kitchen counter, and just inside the door to the main room houses the current subscription magazines, as well as recent newsletters from other clubs and organisations. These can be read while at the club, and returned to the rack before leaving, so other members have access to them.

Come in and have a look – you might find something to inspire your next project.



Our Human Gems and Fossils

This month our featured member is Julie Tresp. Thank you Julie, for your interesting contributions, and accompanying photos.



Julie Tresp joined us five years ago shortly after visiting our annual show at Ingleburn when she saw the street signs whilst out doing her weekly grocery shopping. Now retired, Julie has a lifetime professional background in various areas of the visual and performing arts including; theatrical costume and fashion design and manufacture, dance performance, choreography and tuition, freelance magazine and article writer, graphic arts and painting in oil acrylic and watercolour.

She has always had a passion for jewellery and learning to do lost wax casting and making fine jewellery from her own designs was a prominent item on her bucket list. Once she discovered the club was only a few blocks from her home and that it offered all the facilities needed to create to her heart's content it was simply a matter of her making some 'me' time.

Prior to attending the club's annual show she had little awareness of gemstones outside of precious stones, (her favourite is the emerald), and says that her discovery of colourful semi-precious stones she'd never seen before, (such as Bumble Bee Jasper, Mexican Fire Opal, Azurite, Zebra Stone etc), became an inspiration for both jewellery items and her paintings.

Her interest in wax carving and casting in precious metal extended to all facets of metal working, stone cutting, polishing and setting. Whilst she has created a variety of pieces for herself and others, she is also mindful that she is still only at the beginning of her

learning journey and looks forward for many enjoyable years to come.

Born in Adelaide, she has lived and worked in Perth, Brisbane, Sydney as well as Tokyo and various Japanese cities, Singapore, Malaysia, Borneo, Jakarta, London, Hollywood, Anaheim, San Diego, Milano, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Dusseldorf and Essen.

Julie is one of those lucky people who has made a lifetime career doing the things she loves most so her 'hobbies' have usually been work related. Outside of her artistic pursuits she enjoys coastal holidays and fishing, finding bargains at garage sales and loves gourmet cooking.

Show and Tell

Who's doing what – at home?

Julie Tresp

The bulk of my time has been spent finishing writing the book I started just before the pandemic. Titled 'More Than Meets The Eye' it's a selection of bizarre memoirs of my life as a professional dancer and a wedding dance teacher. It's currently with an editor as the first part of the publishing process and I'm really excited about it.

I had originally thought to use time away from the club facilities practicing wire weaving and got geared up with a batch of supplies purchased online.

Because I spent so much time writing I didn't get around to making any jewellery but my organising to get started would be worthy of a Sunday paper comic strip.

I was planning to make some ear cuffs and thought it would be nice to have life size ear model to work with so started to make a mold of my own ear with air drying clay. I'd not discussed the project with my partner and when he saw me slapping clay onto the side of my head, pushing it around over my ear and muttering to myself in the process he was naturally puzzled and very curious. "I might have something you can use that will work perfectly", he said and came back from his shed with a life size hairdressers training model head with hair cut down to about a 1cm buzz cut. It was pretty ugly but it had ears and was actually perfect for the job. I put it on top of a box on the dining table until I found space in my workroom.

I woke around 3 in the morning to get a drink from the fridge. As I closed the door and glanced through the lounge room door, I nearly wet myself when I saw a man's shadow in the room. I ran on tip toes back to the bedroom to wake my partner, freaking out that there was someone in the house and only just came to my senses in time to stop myself dialling for the police. You guessed it, I'd seen the lifelike model head in the dark and just panicked!

Next day I put the head in my workroom on top of a mid-height cupboard, laughing to myself about the previous night's incident. But my laugh was on the other side of my face that night when I scared myself momentarily again in the middle of the night!

There was no cupboard room for this sized item in my workroom so in disgust I threw it under the spare bed in the guest room and as I'd since moved onto another project, promptly forgot it was there – until I had an overnight interstate visitor.

We'd both had a stressful month and really enjoyed our girl time together; a yummy home cooked dinner, hours of girl talk, chocolates and a soppy chick flick before retiring for the night feeling refreshed and peaceful – until my friend gave a jump and little moan of distress and ran into my room asking why the F there was a HUMAN HEAD under her bed !!!



1 Julie's first finished work from a block of wax to a completed piece of jewellery. Carved in wax, cast in silver and gold plated and proudly worn by her musician partner.



2 One of Julie's gemstone-inspired abstract paintings in oil and gold leaf on canvas. Part of series of paintings inspired by gemstones - no prize for guessing which one.



3 One of Julie's early projects, a pendant and earring set that was an exercise in creating texture and depth in wax, practicing 2 methods of stone setting and combining irregular and mismatched stones, (Indian emeralds, Aussie opals and sapphires).

November Birthdays – Topaz/Citrine

Pau, Malili

Shona,
MacFarlane

Clarice, Stretch

Patrick, Werne

Ryan, Cichonski

Michael, Jackson

Ann, Thompson

Eugenio, Cordova

Brandon, Bourke

Thomas, Spencer

Topaz

The variety of topaz hues includes colourless, light blue, yellow, orange, pink, violet, brown and, very rarely, red. The vast majority of blue permanent result of treating colourless topaz with irradiation and heating. The rainbow effect seen in “Mystic Topaz” is created by coating colourless topaz with a thin artificial film. Some believe the word “topaz” comes from the Sanskrit word *tapas*, which means “fire.” Others trace it back to the Greek *topazos*.

This November birthstone was long thought to have many benefits. The ancient Greeks believed that topaz gave them strength. From the 1300s to 1600s, Europeans thought it could thwart magic spells and dispel anger. For centuries, many people in India believed that topaz worn above the heart assures long life, beauty and intelligence.



Minas Gerais, a state in Brazil, is one of the most important sources for high-quality topaz, which has been mined there for more than two centuries. Yellow to orange, red, pink, violet and blends of red with orange or purple are some of the colours unearthed here. The nearby town of Ouro Preto is a fitting companion. In this UNESCO world heritage site, majestic colonial churches checker the skyline and quaint cobblestone streets crisscross the city.

Northwestern Pakistan is known for producing pink topaz. Ghundao Hill, close to the small town of Katlang, has been mined since 1972. The most sought-after shade of pink topaz from Katlang has a tinge of violet, which some in the gem trade call cyclamen pink. But even at Ghundao Hill, only rarely is this fine pink November birthstone found.

Today, other major sources of this November birthstone include Namibia, Nigeria, Madagascar, Mexico, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and the United States, as well as the historic Russian localities.

Topaz is an 8 on the Mohs scale of hardness, but it has poor toughness, so care is required to avoid chipping or cracking. To clean this November birthstone, do not use steam cleaning or ultrasonic cleaners. Warm, soapy water works best. High heat or sudden temperature changes can cause internal breaks in topaz. The birthstone’s colour is generally stable to light, but prolonged exposure to heat or sunlight might cause fading in some yellow-to-brown gems. Topaz may be affected slightly by some chemicals.

The coating on Mystic Topaz can withstand normal wear, but abrasive cleaners or buffing wheels will remove it. Only use a mild soap solution to clean a topaz birthstone treated in this manner.

Citrine

This November birthstone is the transparent yellow to brownish orange variety of quartz. It has been used in jewellery for thousands of years. Citrine has been a popular gemstone since ancient times and shared a history of mistaken identities with the other November birthstone, topaz. As a result, people thought citrine had the same powers as topaz. They believed citrine could soothe tempers and calm the wearer.

Ancient Greeks carved rock crystal ornaments that glistened like permafrost. Roman pontiffs wore rings set with massive purple amethysts, and citrine has been reported in Roman jewellery. It was particularly popular in colourful Scottish jewellery from the Victorian era. Citrine, believed to derive from the French word for “lemon” (*citron*), is given for the thirteenth wedding anniversary.

Today, most of the citrine in the marketplace results from the heat treatment of amethyst. With its ready availability in a broad range of sizes, citrine birthstone is one of the most affordable and desired yellow gemstones. The top sources for this November birthstone are Bolivia, Spain, Madagascar, Mexico and Uruguay. Amethyst that's typically heat treated to a citrine colour is mined mostly in Brazil.

Deep in the world's largest freshwater wetland lies Bolivia's Anahí mine, an important source for natural, unheated citrine. Fields of wildflowers, brightly plumed birds, kaleidoscopes of butterflies, Howler monkeys and jaguars are some of the actors on this vast stage. The story of the mine is worthy of the setting. Discovered by a Spanish conquistador in the 1600s, it was given to him as dowry when he married Anahí, a princess from the Ayoreos tribe of Paraguay. The mine was lost for three centuries until it was rediscovered in the 1960s.

At 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness with good toughness, your citrine birthstone is usually durable enough for normal wear and care. It can be safely cleaned with warm, soapy water. While it is usually okay to clean your November birthstone in an ultrasonic machine, steam cleaning is risky since high heat could cause the stone to crack. <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/november-birthstones>



Thousands of crystals with both purple amethyst and yellow citrine have been recovered from the Anahí mine in Bolivia. Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA



Faceting of the Anahí mine crystals produces citrine, amethyst and ametrine gems. Photo: GIA & Tino Hammid

What's On Or Not ?

Hopefully will have come out of “lock down” and be free of travel restrictions by the scheduled time.

Events info from the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW <http://www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/events/>

You can download back issues from the Club's website. <http://www.campbelltownlapidary.org.au/>

We are grateful for any and all submissions, of interest to members, eg articles, photos, stories, fossicking tips and locations etc, please email to: ctownlapidaryclub.editor@gmail.com by the last week of the month.

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
<i>Please note</i> all events are subject to rules and restrictions relating to Covid-19 pandemic.		
2022 TBA	Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club <i>Annual General Meeting</i> Time: 9.30 am	<i>Venue:</i> Lot 1 Bensley Road, Ingleburn Further details to be advised
13 November 2021	CDLC <i>Management Meeting</i>	<i>Venue:</i> Lot 1 Bensley Road, Ingleburn
11 December 2021	CDLC <i>General Meeting</i> Time: 9.30 am	<i>Venue:</i> Lot 1 Bensley Road, Ingleburn All <u>vaccinated financial members</u> are welcome to attend.
11 December 2021	CDLC <i>End of Year BBQ lunch</i> Time: at conclusion of the General Meeting	<i>Venue:</i> Lot 1 Bensley Road, Ingleburn Further details to be advised All <u>vaccinated financial members</u> are welcome to attend.
13 – 14 November 2021	<i>Hornsby Crystal, Mineral, Fossil & Craft Festival</i> Entry: \$7 – no concessions Kids under 12 FREE	<i>Venue:</i> Hornsby Memorial Hall For information: Email crystalfestivalsaustralia@gmail.com or Call 0405904881.
27 – 28 November 2021	<i>Carlingford Gem & Mineral Expo.</i>	<i>Venue:</i> Roselea Community Centre 645 Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford
Fri 15 April to Mon 18 April 2022	GEMBOREE 2022 <i>The 58th National Gem & Mineral Show</i>	<i>Venue:</i> Australian Rural Education Centre (AREC) 267 Ulan Road Bombira NSW 2850 (located 2.5 kms north of MUDGEE township). Flyer attached:
14-15 May 2022	30th Lismore GEMFEST	<i>Venue:</i> Lismore Showground

Words of Wisdom



Dean Martin

Don't forget to submit your contributions to:
ctownlapidaryclub.editor@gmail.com

Have fun, take care and stay safe!