

# Rockgrinders Gazette



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## Club rooms opening hours

Monday	9am till 2pm
Wednesday	9am till 2pm
Friday	6pm till 9pm
Saturday	9am till 1pm

July 2014 Ruby Edition

## New members welcome

Interested in: Lapidary, Fossils, Gems, Crystals, Beading, Silversmithing or Lost wax casting in a relaxed friendly environment? Pop in and have a chat.

To all new members, we trust you will enjoy your experiences with us and benefit from our classes. If you have any questions there is a duty officer who will assist you. All members would also love to help you if they can.

### Membership

Single	\$15.00
Family	\$20.00
Pensioner Family	\$15.00
Pensioner / Student	\$10.00
Insurance	\$3.50 per member
Workshop fees	\$2.00

**NOTE:** You must be an insured member over 12 years of age to use machinery & cutting implements

## Saturday Workshops

Commence at 9.30 on the fourth Saturday of the month unless otherwise notified. If you wish to use precious metals for larger items (eg bracelet) please book & pay a non-refundable deposit of \$30 towards the purchase of your materials. The final cost will be calculated on the day.

Workshop activities require *member only* use of mechanical tools including the kiln.

## Silver Classes

Silver Casting Classes are conducted Friday evenings, but are in recess. Barry and Dorothy will be glad to help you get started when classes resume on 26th September

## General Meetings

The general meeting is held at 9.30am on the **first Saturday** every month. We would encourage all members to come along to the meeting. It is your chance to find out what is happening in the club and to support the club.

## Workshop 26th July

### Dichroic Glass

This month Linda will be guiding us through the procedure of making dichroic glass. This glass can be used in jewellery making projects or it just looks beautiful on its own.

**Workshop cost \$20 - Tutor Linda**

## Exhibition

Our annual exhibition is on 12th - 13th July at the Greg Percival Centre Ingleburn. This is one of the most important events in our club calendar. For the event to be successful we need all club members to assist in some way.

We will be setting up on Friday 11th July and will need assistance getting our exhibits to the centre. On the days of the exhibition we desperately need people to do a shift in the canteen - making sandwiches, tea coffee etc. We will then need help packing up on the Sunday. We are also looking for people to help out at the children's gem activity table.

There is a **job sheet** on the club whiteboard, please put your name down if you can help out with one of the many jobs needing to be done.

Please let us know how you can help. The exhibition is the club's main revenue raiser and we know how much our club means to one and all. Every little bit helps.

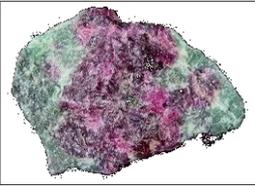


### Ruby - July Birthstone.

Ruby is the red variety of the mineral Corundum. Sapphire is the other gem form of corundum and encompasses every other colour except red. Good quality rubies are transparent and are faceted to show their true brilliance.

The ruby's colour ranges from bright red to reddish brown. Very high quality ruby is one of the most valuable of gems; a stone of the deep red called "pigeon's blood" may bring many hundreds of thousands of dollars per carat.

Rubies can be heat treated to improve their colour and remove small flows caused by inclusions.



Opaque Rubies are usually made into cabochons and beads. Opaque Rubies with green Zoisite (mainly found in Tanzania) are often carved into figurines or made into beads.

#### Technical Information

Chemical Formula	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Colour	Red
Hardness	9
Crystal System	Hexagonal
Refractive Index	1.76 - 1.77
Transparency	Transparent to opaque
Double Refraction	.0008
Lustre	Vitreous to adamantine
Cleavage	None, but may exhibit parting
Mineral Class	Corundum

#### Location

Rubies are found mainly in Burma, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The most prolific places in Burma is near Mogok, 150km north of Mandalay. The stones are found in the soil resulting from the decay of a metamorphosed limestone. Sometimes the stones are found enveloped in the limestone.



#### Spiritual Meaning

The ruby is considered to be a stone of nobility and also the stone of love, energy, passion, power, and a zest for life. The Ruby is the symbol for powerful feelings. The other important element of Ruby besides fire is blood, and Ruby is said to restore vital life forces and increase energy and vigour. Ruby is also known as the stone of courage, and legend tells us that a person possessing a ruby can walk through life without fear of evil or misfortune.



### July "Ruby" Birthdays



14<sup>th</sup> Janet Klepatzki  
15<sup>th</sup> Hideaki Toji

17<sup>th</sup> Jedda Mlecsko  
20<sup>th</sup> Lil Klepser



#### Mineral Identification

On Saturday 2nd of August after the meeting I will be bringing in a variety of rocks that I have accumulated over the years. Bob has kindly agreed to help me identify them. If you are interested please stay after the meeting and help us identify the rocks.



## Brad Smith's Bench Tips

### SAWING SMALL TUBING

When making a hinged bracelet, I needed to cut 16 pieces of small diameter silver tubing. These were to be just approximate lengths and trimmed to final size after soldering. Not having a tube cutter, I had trouble holding the tubing on the bench pin while trying to saw through it.

So here's what I did. I drilled a hole in the side of the bench pin just large enough for the tubing to slide into and almost as deep as the length of cut tubing I wanted. Sawing became quick and easy. With my free hand, I inserted the tubing and held it from rotating while sawing off each length.



### SECRET INGREDIENT

Those of us who use paste solders sometimes find an old tube has dried out. There should be some way to recondition it, but what to use? Calling tech support at the suppliers didn't work for me. Either they don't know what the ingredient is or won't tell you the secret.



None of us likes to waste an expensive material, especially at \$16 - 20 a tube, so I've often experimented with ways to rejuvenate it. Mixing in a liquid flux doesn't work. When the liquid starts to boil off, it spatters the solder in all directions.

But after several failed experiments I finally found a way that does work. My secret ingredient is Vaseline petroleum jelly. Mix in just enough to restore the consistency to something that's usable. If you use too much, the lump of solder will flow over a wide area as soon as the torch starts heating it.

If your solder is in a syringe, it can be a little difficult to get the plunger out. I find the easiest way is to poke a hole through the solder from the tip to the rubber plunger (a bur shaft was the right size for my tube). The hole allows air to enter between the solder and the plunger, allowing the plunger to be slowly withdrawn. Once the solder is out of tube, you can easily add the Vaseline, mix it up, and spoon it back into the syringe.

*Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon*

*You can also look online at his book at <http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>*

## June Workshop



**WIRE WRAPPING A TUMBLED STONE**

## What's On

Events are generally from the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW

<http://www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/events.html>

Other contributions can be made via email to the club [ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com](mailto:ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com).

We are grateful for any submissions

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
5th July 9.30am	Campbelltown Lapidary club monthly meeting	Lot 1 Bensely Rd Macquarie Fields
12th - 13th July	 <b>Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club Exhibition</b> Open 9.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 12th July and Sunday 13th July	 Greg Percival Community Centre Corner of Oxford and Cumberland Rd Ingleburn <a href="mailto:ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com">ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com</a>
August 16th and 17th 2014	<b>Blaxland Gem &amp; Mineral Club Gem Show</b>	Glenbrook Community HalGreat Western Highway, Glenbrook, NSW <a href="http://blaxlandgemmineralclub.webs.com/BGM_Cshow.htm">http://blaxlandgemmineralclub.webs.com/BGM_Cshow.htm</a>
Fri 19 – Sun 21 September 2014	<b>The Bead Show Sydney, Spring Show 2014</b>	Marrickville Town Hall, 303 Marrickville Road, Marrickville. NSW. 2204 <a href="http://thebeadshow.com.au/the-bead-show/sydney-spring/">http://thebeadshow.com.au/the-bead-show/sydney-spring/</a>
Sat 4th – Mon 6th October 2014	<b>A World Of Gems – This is GEMKHANA 2014</b> The Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of lapidaries from all over NSW, presented by the Lapidary Council of NSW Inc	Goulburn Showground Recreation Area, Braidwood Road, Goulburn, NSW 2580 <b>Contacts:</b> Marilyn or John 02 9635 8218 or Arthur 02 4572 5812
11th – 12th October 2014	White Cliffs Gem Fest & Car Boot Sale <b>Times will be 9am till 5pm Saturday and 9am till noon Sunday</b>	Please contact Jane Stevenson on telephone 0438790510 or email <a href="mailto:wcm2012@hotmail.com">wcm2012@hotmail.com</a> for bookings or further information.
24th – 26th October 2014	<b>Northern Districts Lapidary Club Gem Show –</b> Gems, Jewellery and Minerals Exhibition.	Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Road Beecroft <a href="http://ndlapidary.org.au/gem-show-beecroft-nsw/">http://ndlapidary.org.au/gem-show-beecroft-nsw/</a>
Sat 1st November 2014	<b>Cessnock Gem and Mineral Club Annual Rock Auction</b> Fossils, Minerals, Crystals, Gems and much more many interesting and rare specimens Sausage Sizzle from 11am Viewing from 12 noon Auction commences at 12.30pm	Cessnock Gem and Mineral Club Clubrooms- Lot 1 – Hall Park Stephen Street, <a href="http://lapidaryworld.com/cessnock_gem_club">http://lapidaryworld.com/cessnock_gem_club</a> or <a href="mailto:cessnockgemclub@gmail.com">cessnockgemclub@gmail.com</a>
7 – 9th November 2014	<b>Parramatta-Holroyd Annual Exhibition (10am to 4pm). Entry is free.</b> Competition, displays, sales, raffle demonstrations, mineral sales, sausage sizzle, tea/coffee and cake, sand sieve, rock heap, plant and books sales	. 73 Fullagar Road Wentworthville NSW <a href="http://www.freewebs.com/parraholroydlapidaryclub">http://www.freewebs.com/parraholroydlapidaryclub</a>
8th- 9th November, 2014	<b>Newcastle Lapidary Club's Annual Gem Show</b> Sales of gemstones, beads, silver, tools, jewellery. Displays of faceting and jewellery making. Devonshire Teas, Sausage Sizzle, Tea, Coffee and drinks.	At the Club, 2 Dora Rd Adamstown From 9.00am to 4.00pm