

Rockgrinders Gazette



ADDRESS: Lot 1 Bensley Road, Hazlett Oval
Macquarie Fields NSW 2564
MAIL: PO Box 477, Ingleburn NSW 1890
EMAIL: ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com
WEBSITE: campbelltownlapidary.org.au
PHONE: (02) 9618 3206

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

August 2021 – Peridot

What's in the newsletter?

What's in the newsletter?	1
New members are welcome	1
From the President	1
From the Treasurer	1
How to Pay your Membership Fees and insurance	2
Handy Tips	2
Smile Time	4
Call for newsletter items	5
Recipe of the Month	5
August Birthdays – Peridot	6
What's On Or Not ?	7

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 so someone can get back to you once the current lockdown is over.

From the President

I hope that everyone is staying safe during the lockdown. Hopefully most members are still able to do some creative activities during this time. I have been doing a lot of wire wrapping and wire weaving to pass the time.

We still do not know when the lockdown will be lifted, but it is not looking likely this month. As soon as lockdown is over, will be opening as soon as practicable.

I look forward to seeing everyone when this lockdown ends.

Due to Covid and lockdown, the August meeting will not be taking place.

AGM

As it is very doubtful that the club will be fully open by the 4th September. We will be postponing our AGM until it is safe for us to have a proper AGM meeting.

We have asked our existing club executive and committee members to retain their positions until we can actually have an election.

Hopefully we will be able to have our AGM soon.

Suzy Brandstater
President

From the Treasurer

I would just like to thank all our members who have paid their membership, without members we have no club. A special thanks to the members who also donated a little extra to our funds when paying their membership every little bit helps.

As you are aware we have missed out on our biggest fundraiser two years in a row and we still have to pay our bills even though we are closed. Our Annual Insurance bills are due soon and we have to pay them even if our membership is lower than their minimum number, reducing our bank balance even further.

If things go to plan we should be able to look forward to a fully operational 2022 without regular lockdowns and too many restrictions. To have a fully operational club we need to have money in the bank to pay for utilities, rent, repairs, maintenance and upgrades and this means we need to maintain our membership.

The small amount we ask for Annual Fees helps enormously so if you are able to pay directly from

your bank to our bank please do so. The summary and full payment details are included below.

If you would like more details please contact me at ctownlapidarytreas@gmail.com.

In the meantime,
Rock on
Margaret – Club Treasurer.

Handy Tips

Soldering Station Set Up

<https://workingsilver.com/soldering-station-set/>



Ideally, we would have a separate well-ventilated studio with big windows letting in natural light with little bunnies and fawns frolicking just outside in our personal forest, near enough to touch.

However, we live in reality where most of us carve out a little work space wherever we can. When my son was born 5 years ago, a need for him to have a bedroom took precedence over studio space. So, my studio space was reduced to a corner of my living room, sandwiched between the storage unit, now housing most of my things, and the patio door. It's not ideal, but I make it work, and I do have a little wildlife if you count the cats and the fish swimming in the background behind my desk.

Many people including myself are a little nervous soldering at home, but we cook on a stove, bbq and have fire places, all which require the use of safety practices, proper set up and common sense, and the same goes for soldering. Many jeweller's studios are set up in private residences, homes, garages, apartments, and mixed commercial spaces without burning the place down, so you can do it too. I would however recommend checking your building's by-laws (if you live in a strata) before moving forward.

When choosing to set up a soldering station there are a few things to consider, location, ventilation, fire proofing, safety and the tools required. (Please see the blog on torches for help in selecting the right torch for the job and your specific space.)

If you have a jeweller's bench where you do all of your hand work, you can also fireproof a small area of this bench and solder there, but it's best if you can set up a separate area close by specifically for soldering. All of your hand work can be accomplished almost anywhere, even a closed in closet space, but soldering requires good ventilation. Choose an area where you can attach a fume hood or at least open a window and blow the fumes outside with a small fan. For this

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

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

reason, I don't often solder at home during the winter months because I detest being cold, and moving next to the stove for the use of the fume hood takes up a lot of valuable kitchen counter real estate. Too bad I require a stove to feed myself and the children, or I could be rid of the stove all together and set up shop there. I'll keep this brilliant idea in mind for future reference....



For now, this is my own little oasis for soldering at home. In the near future instead of using baking sheets, I will be covering the entire length of the table in metal sheet, and adding many more fire bricks to the surface and sides. Not seen in this photo is the open patio door and fan propped up on a chair to provide required ventilation. However, this space is rarely used as I much prefer to solder at the Workingsilver studio which is free from hazardous flammables, and has concrete floors, great fume hoods, metal benches, tiles under the siliquar soldering bricks, and is free from roaming cats and children. We use old pennies to lift the brick up slightly from the tile to minimize the heat transfer into the tile.



Four soldering stations at Workingsilver teaching studio. See our Pinterest board [here](#) to see more images of soldering setups.

Once you have found a well-ventilated area, the next thing to consider is how to fireproof it. The best way to keep your area fire proofed is to simply keep your flame within the designated area. Only point the flame at what you are soldering, or towards fireproofed materials, and turn the torch off when not in use. Keep your soldering station free from any flammables, such as work notes and sketch books. Look all around, are there carpet or curtains, or anything else that can easily catch fire and spread? Be rid of them or cover with heat buffers such as ceramic tiles, sheet metal, concrete or Hardie-backer cement board. The same goes for the desk that you will be using, proper jeweller's benches are made out of wood, but we certainly protect that surface before soldering at the bench. And don't forget to fireproof yourself as well! Make sure your body is clothed in snug fitting cotton, no long loose sleeves scarves or ties, and wear an apron of cotton or leather along with closed toe shoes, hot metal falling onto bare skin or toes, especially with a lit torch in hand will not make for a good day. Remember to always keep your hair tied back including bangs, there are much easier ways of acquiring a new hair style. Have a large glass of water handy more for putting out any smouldering rather than for your own hydration, which is important too, so, make it two glasses. Keeping a small fire extinguisher and fire blanket close by may be over kill, but it defiantly tames the nerves and helps your spouse or flatmates feel a whole lot better as well.

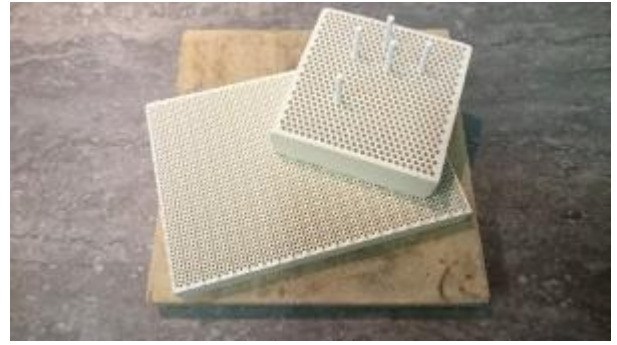


Once your space and surface are fireproofed, you will need something else to do the actual soldering on. The soldering brick used to place your pieces to be soldered upon, is a different medium than fire proofing materials. There are many different options each with its own pluses and minuses, and you many find yourself using a different medium for different jobs.



Ceramic silquar solder board

- Easy to clean surface
- Hard and long lasting
- Non-combustible Silquar™ ceramic surface reflects heat to the work; withstands temperatures up to 2,000°F (1,093°C).



Honeycomb brick

- Lightweight
 - Reflects heat
 - Holes can be used to place pins into, some even come with specialty fitting ceramic pins.
- HAPPY SOLDERING!!



Magnesia block

- Lightweight yet durable, similar to kiln bricks
- Easy to press pins into or carve out as needed
- Withstands temperatures up to 2000 F

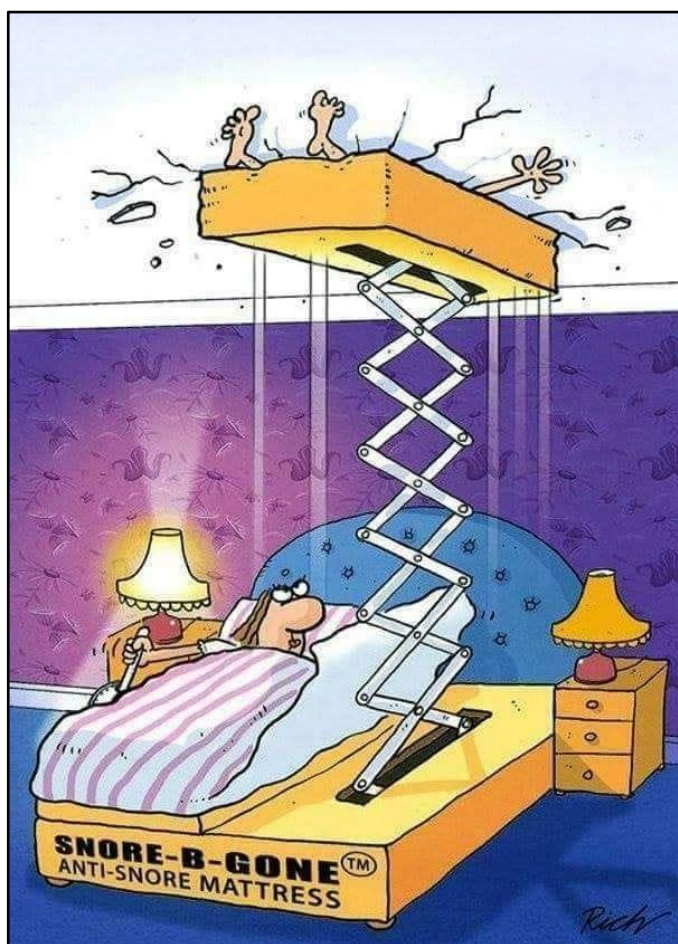


Hard, or compressed charcoal brick

- Retains and reflects heat, requiring less heat to solder a piece
- Reduces firescale because creates reducing atmosphere
- Able to place pins into it and carve it out as needed
- Soft charcoal bricks also have these qualities but burn and crack easily

Smile Time





Call for newsletter items

With Covid lockdowns prohibiting our usual face-to-face contact at the Club, we are missing out on seeing and discussing each other's latest creations, techniques, inventions, adventures, and life in general. All part of the great fabric of belonging to the Club.

If you would like to share something of interest with fellow members, eg photos/diagrams of your latest creations, tips or handy hints, or information on something you have seen, learned, discovered or the like, please [email](#) or post it to me and I'll add it to the next newsletter.

On the other hand, if you need help with or advice on something lapidary related, please email or post it in - I'll add it to the newsletter, and hopefully someone out there will be able to help.

You could also share any of your contributions or questions to the [Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club Facebook page](#), where you might get a quicker response.

Finally, I would truly welcome any suggestions or your ideas on how the newsletter could become more relevant, interesting and appealing to readers

so please [email](#) or post your thoughts to: [Editor, CDLC, PO Box 477, Ingleburn 1890.](#)

Cheers

Ed.

Recipe of the Month

There is still an abundance of citrus fruits around at the moment, so thought this one (one of my favourite desserts) would be appropriate. Though I haven't tried the variation with coconut cream, I've been assured it is indeed delicious.

Hope you find it delicious!

Lemon Delicious Pudding

A self-saucing pudding

Ingredients

- 1 tbs butter
- 2 eggs - separated
- ⅓ cup castor sugar
- 1 ¼ cup milk
- 2 tbs plain flour
- 1 large lemon – juice and rind
- 1 tbs castor sugar




Method

1. Separate egg yolks from whites.
2. Beat butter and sugar together in a small mixer bowl until light and creamy.
3. Add egg yolks one at a time and beat to combine.
4. Add milk, lemon juice and rind, and fold in sifted flour.
5. In a clean bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Add extra sugar and beat until dissolved.
6. Fold into lemon mixture and pour into a greased casserole dish.
7. Stand dish in a shallow pan of cold water and bake in a moderate oven for 50-60 minutes.
8. Remove from oven – let stand for 5-10 minutes.
9. Serve with cream or ice cream.

Note: Pudding is just as delicious cold the next day If you double the recipe only use 2 cups, **not** 2 ½ cups of milk.

Variation: Replace the milk with coconut cream.

August Birthdays – Peridot

<p>John Colless Marieta McNaught Robyn Gill Mitchell Cross Zhimin (Jimmy) Liu Sinan Shamkhi Anita Allen Barry Perkins Bradley Foster Elise Campbell AnneMarie Arends</p>	<p>Peridot</p> <p>Peridot is the yellowish green to greenish yellow gem variety of the mineral olivine. Throughout history, peridot has often been confused with other gems such as topaz and emerald. The Red Sea island of Topazios, a purported source of the name “topaz,” actually produced peridot. The Shrine of the Three Holy Kings in Germany’s Cologne Cathedral is decorated with 200 carats of gems that were believed to be emeralds but are, in fact, the August birthstone peridot. Some historians even speculate that Cleopatra’s famous emerald collection may have been comprised of peridot.</p>	
--	--	---

The word “peridot” comes from the Arabic faridat, meaning gem. Valued in many ancient and medieval cultures, it appeared in priests’ jewellery as early as the second century BCE and later in the chalices and churches of medieval Europe. The peridot birthstone has also been used for centuries as a protective talisman, shielding the owner from evil spirits and “terrors of the night.”

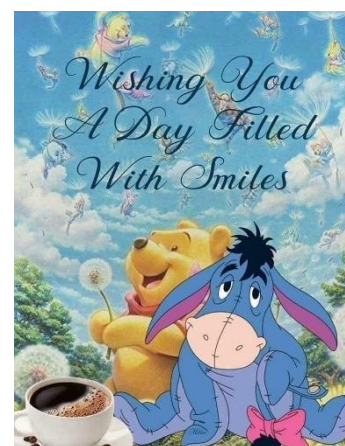
Peridot has an amazing story. Although most of the peridot seen in jewellery today comes from sources such as China, Myanmar, Pakistan, Tanzania, Vietnam and the United States, some journeyed to Earth on meteorites while others are found in exotic locales like Peridot Beach, Hawaii, where the sands shimmer a luminous green.

The Egyptian island of Zabargad (the name now given to Topazios) is the oldest recorded source of this August birthstone. Mining may have begun around 340–279 BCE. Although the island produced beautiful peridot, its harsh conditions earned it ominous names like Island of Death and Ophiodes (“snake island”). Peridot from Zabargad has been prized for centuries and is still highly desirable. The finest specimens of this birthstone for August can be found in prestigious museums around the world.

Myanmar (formerly Burma) is another important source of the peridot birthstone. On the northern slope of Kyaukpon, a mountainous region near the gem city of Mogok, loose peridot crystals can sometimes be found in crevices. The finest-quality peridot from this locality has deep colour and superb transparency. Arizona is the main source of this August birthstone in the United States. Massive volcanic eruptions many thousands of years ago sent rivers of lava spilling across the desert landscape of what is today the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, where some Apache families have worked the mines for decades.

With a hardness of 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale of harness, peridot is softer than many gems and cannot take hard wear, so it is not recommended for daily use in a ring. This August birthstone can also be damaged by some acids and even by long-term exposure to acidic perspiration. Cleaning peridot is a delicate process. Never use a steam or ultrasonic cleaner, as your peridot birthstone is vulnerable to thermal shock. It is safest to use a soft-bristle brush with a mild dish soap in warm water. Peridot should be stored with care to avoid scratching by gems with greater hardness.

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



What's On Or Not ?

Hopefully will have come out of "lock down" and are free of travel restrictions by the scheduled time.

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 all events are subject to rules and restrictions relating to Covid-19 pandemic.</i>		
4 - 5 September 2021	Blue Mountains Crystal, Mineral & Craft Festival	Venue: Blackheath Community Centre
TBA As it is very doubtful that the club will be fully open by the 4 th September. We will be postponing our AGM until it is safe for us to have a proper AGM meeting.	Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club Annual General Meeting Time: 9.30 am	Venue: Lot 1 Bensley Road, Ingleburn All members are invited to attend
11 - 12 September 2021	National Opal and Crystal Festival Time: 9 am to 4 pm Entry: \$7.00 per adult kids under 12 Free	Venue: Albert Hall Canberra.
25 September 2021	Camden Crystal and Craft Festival Time: 9 am to 4 pm Entry: \$7.00 per adult for 2 days No Concession kids under 12 Free	Venue: Camden AH & I Hall, 193-195 Argyle Street, Camden
25 – 26 September 2021	GEMKHANA, NSW Annual Gem and Lapidary Show Time: 9 am to 5 pm Entry: \$10 Adults Children under 16 Free Free Parking and ATM on Site. Camping is also available on site: Hawkesbury District Agricultural Showground	Venue: Hawkesbury Showground, 40 Racecourse Rd, Clarendon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand crafted Jewellery • Faceted Stones • Polished Stones (Cabochons) • Stone Carving • Minerals & Fossils • Children's activities For more information: <u>Email:</u> Bob McLean gemkhana@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au or Go to: https://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/gemkhana/ or See Flyer attached.

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
16 - 17 October 2021	Central Coast Crystal, Gem & Jewellery Show Time: Sat 9 am to 5 pm Sun 9 am to 4 pm	Venue: Mingara Event Centre, Wyong Road, Tumbi Umbi.
23 October 2021	Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club Open Day	Venue: Lot 1 Bensley Road, Ingleburn
30 – 31 October 2021	Canberra Lapidary Club Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show. Time: Sat 10 am to 5 pm Sun 10 am to 4 pm	TBA
30 – 31 October 2021	The Northern District Lapidary Club Bi-Annual Exhibition and Gem Show Time: 9 am to 5 pm Entry: \$5.00 per person Children under 16 Free	Venue: Beecroft Community Centre in Beecroft, NSW 2119. For more information: Flyer for 2021 NDLC Gem and Mineral Show

Words of Wisdom

Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of human change. - Bob Kerry

"Have you heard of Murphy's law?"

"Yeah."

"What is it?"

"If something can go wrong, it will go wrong."

"Right. Have you heard of Cole's Law?"

"No, what is it?"

"Thinly sliced cabbage."

Have fun, take care and stay safe!

JEWELLERY, GEMS



Crystals & Minerals

GEMKHANA 2021

9am - 5pm Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th September

Featuring Desert Fire Designs



Tiger eye brioche
Desert Fire Designs



'Golden dagger' apatite
gold in quartz



Turquoise bar in 23kt malver
crushed gold



- ➔ Hand crafted Jewellery.
- ➔ Faceted Stones.
- ➔ Polished Stones (Cabochons)
- ➔ Stone Carving.
- ➔ Minerals & Fossils.



Free Parking and ATM on Site.

Camping is also available on site

Hawkesbury District Agricultural Show Grounds

40 Racecourse Rd, Clarendon.

Children's Activities.

Adults \$10 Children under 16 Free

Contact Bob McLean gemkhana@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

<https://www.facebook.com/GemLapidaryCouncilNSW/>