

# 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

July 2021 – Ruby

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

## Duty Officers' Roster

Days of month	Duty Officers
Monday	Margaret
1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	Tim
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	Kamilla
Friday - Restarts September	Ray
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	Suzy
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	Eugenio
3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	Kamilla/Ray
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Ray
5 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Suzy

## Welcome to 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 each day who will assist you. All members would also love to help you if they can.

Cherie Moulang  
Ray Moulang  
Annemarie Arends  
Mitchell Cross  
Susan Jones  
Christopher Jones

Chris Boniface  
Philip Ager  
Bradley Foster  
Belinda Foster  
Cassie Williams

## From the President

### Covid Lockdown

As everyone is aware, Greater Sydney is in lockdown until Midnight 9<sup>th</sup> July. This means that the club is closed until the lockdown is lifted. As the lockdown period draws to an end, hopefully we will be given the conditions we will have to adhere to if we wish to re-open. We will keep you updated and re-open the club as quickly after lockdown as we are able.

A big thank you to everyone who came to the club and adhered to the covid safe restrictions. At least

we were able to remain open for a few more days. This lockdown has had a serious impact on the club's finances. Without getting a regular income from daily workshop fees, we start to go backwards financially, as even though the club is closed, the bills still continue eg rent, electricity, phone internet etc. Cancelling the Exhibition has also hit us hard, but we hope to have another fantastic Open Day in October.

### Exhibition

Due to the lockdown, we have had to cancel the exhibition. Lockdown doesn't finish until midnight of the day we were going to be setting up. On Monday, we received an email from the council saying that they have cancelled our booking for the Greg Percival Community Centre. They have cancelled all bookings for the venue and will not be even looking at new bookings until after September.

This is such a huge disappointment for us. So much work has already gone into the preparation for this event. I would personally like to thank everyone who has been involved in preparing for the exhibition, there are so many jobs that need to be done to prepare for an event this size such as the club stall, cleaning and prepping display cases, publicity, sorting out equipment and many other tasks. In particular, I would like to thank Margaret for the incredible amount of work she has done to get the exhibition to this stage, only to have it cancelled with the weekend lockdown. Margaret now has the task of contacting all the dealers and telling them the bad news. Publicity also has to be taken down and cancellation notices published. For all our wonderful helpers who took posters and flyers, if you have put them out somewhere, please collect them as we don't want disappointed people turning up at the door.

### Club Equipment

#### 400 Wheel

I feel like I am always having to say this, but if you are using the club's equipment, please take care of it. If you notice a problem let us know. At the start of Saturday we noticed the hard 400 wheel had been damaged. It had two chunks



taken out of it. This is not something that would happen and not be noticed. It looks like something very sharp or hard has punctured the wheel. If something happens to the equipment, report it to the duty officer at once.

### Trim Saw

The second piece of destroyed equipment was the blade for the trim saw. It had only been replaced the week before. It looks like someone has forced a slab through it. When you use a trim saw, you let the blade take the stone, you don't force it into it to make it cut quicker. A gentle touch is required to get the best life out of the blade. This has been happening on a regular basis, so if you are using the trim saw, have a light hand and don't push the stone hard into the blade.

### Flat Laps

Some exciting news, I was very excited to try out the new flat laps. John and his team have been working on this project for quite a while. It is brilliant. I have been wanting to use this machine since I joined



the club in 2010. At the moment we have a 100 grit and a 220 grit disc for it, but as it has been successful, the club will be purchasing more discs.

If you want to use the flat laps, see the duty officer and they will show you how to use them. The discs are delicate, they must be used with water and when being removed, care must be taken. Once they are finished being used, they need to be washed and dried and given to the duty officer to put them safely away.

### Gem and Lapidary Council

I had the miserable job of contacting the Gem and Lapidary Council to ask them to take down our advertisement for the Exhibition. We received a really nice reply from Alex Maitland that I thought I would share with you:

“Yes, it’s sad and stressful, but over the long term your club has maintained networks of friendship, built skills and reduced social isolation for so many people that what you are doing is a really valued contribution to your community. Thank you for what you and your club officers and members are doing for the community. Alex”

**Gemkhana**

The Gem and Lapidary Council Gemkhana will be on September the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we have been invited to have a club table where we can sell items to raise money for the club. If you are interested in being on the team running the club stall at this event, please let us know.

**Vale Kath O’Shannessy**

On Saturday we were given the sad news that one of our long-time members, Kath O’Shannessy, had passed. Although not well enough to come to the club on a regular basis, Kath was a strong supporter of the club.

Kath and her late husband Laurie joined the club in 1994. They were keen fossickers and had a rock and mineral collection that was world class. One of the most exciting events the club ran was a field trip to Bowral to see Laurie and Kath’s collection. It was amazing.

Our most sincere condolences to Michael and family.

Suzy  
President

**From the Treasurer**

I would like to thank all our members who have paid their membership on time without being reminded.

To those members who have not paid their fees yet, (oops did it slip your mind?) your membership and insurance is now overdue. To avoid being charged the \$10 late fee please pay as soon as possible by direct bank deposit as set out below.

Only fully paid members will be allowed to use the machines and participate in club activities.

Over the last 2 years we have had to cancel three open days and two shows and exhibitions, our main source of funding, so looking forward to 2022

every little bit helps and that means maintaining our membership numbers.

Please support your club and your hard-working committee and pay your membership now.

Margaret  
Treasurer

**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](mailto: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 2 adults 1 child	\$20	+ \$5 p/p	=\$30 (2 adults)
2 adults 2 child	\$20	+ \$15	=\$35
2 adults 3 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)

## Cancelled Exhibition

Together with all our members & the public I am very disappointed that we had to Cancel our Show and Exhibition again this year, however we all must do what is required to stay safe.

I would like to thank Carolina for all her hard work preparing the club stall, also Suzy for doing a great job publicising this show and to all the members who agreed to help run our show this year, some even taking time off work to help set up on the Friday.

Thank you all

Margaret  
Event Coordinator

## For Sale

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



"I'm afraid you misunderstood. ... I said I'd like a mango."

**When you and your friends survive a bear attack and celebrate with ice cream**



## The Far Side



## Turns out it was a marble in the ashtray...

### FB Comment Joe DiCinti

Took my '92 Bonneville to the dealer because the radio wouldn't turn off. After an hour and a half, a disassembled steering wheel and dash, the service mgr came to the waiting room carrying a portable radio one of the kids in the back seat kicked under the front seat. I asked, "how much?" He said, "no charge. We're the professionals. It shouldn't have taken that long. Have a great day." A few dozen donuts were waiting for them when they arrived at work the next day. The very least I could do.

## Recipe of the Month

Found this recipe in an old *Rockgrinders Gazette* – not sure who contributed it, but it sounded interesting and appropriate, given that lockdown and a glut of citrus this season has given us the perfect opportunity to try something different. Hope you find it tasty.

### Egg-less Lemon Spread (makes 1¼ cups)

½ cup milk  
¼ cup water  
1 tbsp corn flour  
6 tbsp sugar  
6 tbsp fresh lemon juice  
1 teaspoon lemon zest  
5 tbsp unsalted butter  
pinch of salt  
optional: ⅛ teaspoon lemon extract

### Directions:

1. Dissolve the corn flour in the cold milk and water
2. Turn heat to medium-high and continuously stir the mixture.
3. Add in the butter, lemon juice and sugar and continue to stir until mixture starts to bubble and thicken.
4. Reduce heat to low and beat with a hand-held beater for about 90 seconds.
5. Transfer mixture to sterile jar, seal, & refrigerate when chilled.
6. Store in fridge and use within 2-3 weeks



## July Birthdays – Ruby

Shireen Alaboody  
 Amanda Hanson  
 Christopher Jones  
 Shane Russell  
 Gary Davies  
 Amanda Duncan  
 Janet Klepatzki  
 Rachel Barnes  
 Lil Klepser  
 Mike Robertson

### Ruby

Ruby is the July birthstone – and it’s one of the most coveted of gems. The name is derived from the Latin word “*ruber*”, meaning “red” – the colour of love and passion. Few things catch the eye like the ruby birthstone. The finest colour of the birthstone for July is a deep red with a hint of purple, called “pigeon’s blood” in the trade. A variety of the mineral corundum, ruby gets its colour from trace amounts of the element chromium. The more chromium, the stronger the red.



In ancient India, ruby was called the “king of precious stones” for its rarity, hardness (second only to diamond), beauty and seemingly mystical powers. Long associated with the life force blood, ruby was a symbol of power and youthful energy in Indian jewellery. In past centuries, some believed this birthstone for July could predict misfortune or danger, and others claimed it would cure inflammatory diseases and soothe anger. Burmese warriors believed it made them invincible in battle. Medieval Europeans maintained that rubies bestowed health, wisdom, wealth and success in love.

Rubies are often heat treated to remove purplish coloration, leaving a purer red. The process can also remove “silk” (minute needle-like inclusions) that can cause a gem to appear lighter in tone and be more opaque. The trade typically accepts heat treatment, as it is stable to normal conditions of wear and care. However, rubies may also be subjected to lattice diffusion treatment and dyeing. In lower-quality material, surface-reaching fractures and cavities may be filled with a glass to decrease their visibility so the gem appears more transparent. Some of these treatments may make the ruby more vulnerable to damage during normal wear and care.

Before you buy, always ask if your ruby has been treated and by what method. The Federal Trade Commission requires disclosure of treatments that affect a gemstone’s perceived value. A GIA Identification Report is important in identifying if a stone is natural or synthetic and whether it has been treated in any fashion.

In most cases, the July birthstone can be safely cleaned with warm soapy water and a soft brush. Ultrasonic and steam cleaners are usually safe for untreated, heat-treated and lattice diffusion-treated stones. Glass-filled or dyed stones should only be cleaned with a damp cloth.

[https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/july-birthstones#birthstone\\_2](https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/july-birthstones#birthstone_2)



### Words of Wisdom

“If I had rubies, riches and crowns, I’d buy the whole world and change things around.” – *Bob Dylan*

## 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](mailto:ctownlapidaryclub.editor@gmail.com).

Alternately, download back issues from the Club's website.

We are grateful for any and all submissions.

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
<b><i>Please note all events are subject to rules and restrictions relating to Covid-19 pandemic.</i></b>		
11 September 2021	<b>Campbelltown &amp; Districts Lapidary Club Annual General Meeting</b> Time: 9.30 am	<b>Venue:</b> Lot 1 Bensley Road, Ingleburn All members are invited to attend.
25 – 26 September 2021	<b>GEMKHANA, NSW Annual Gem and Lapidary Show</b> 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 Show Grounds, 40 Racecourse Rd, Clarendon.	<b>Venue:</b> Hawkesbury Showground, 40 Racecourse Rd, Clarendon.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand crafted Jewellery</li> <li>• Faceted Stones</li> <li>• Polished Stones (Cabochons)</li> <li>• Stone Carving</li> <li>• Minerals &amp; Fossils</li> <li>• Children's activities</li> </ul> <b>For more information:</b> Email: Bob McLean <a href="mailto:gemkhana@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au">gemkhana@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au</a> or Go to: <a href="https://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/gemkhana/">https://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/gemkhana/</a>
16 - 17 October 2021	<b>Central Coast Crystal, Gem &amp; Jewellery Show</b>  Time: Sat 9 am to 5 pm Sun 9 am to 4 pm	<b>Venue:</b> Mingara Event Centre, Wyong Road, Tumbi Umbi.
23 October 2021	<b>Campbelltown &amp; Districts Lapidary Club Open Day</b>	<b>Venue:</b> Lot 1 Bensley Road, Ingleburn
30 – 31 October 2021	<b>Canberra Lapidary Club Spring Gemcraft &amp; Mineral Show.</b> Time: Sat 10 am to 5 pm Sun 10 am to 4 pm	
30 – 31 October 2021	<b>The Northern District Lapidary Club's Bi-Annual Exhibition and Gem Show</b> Time: 9 am to 5 pm Entry: \$5.00 per person Children under 16 Free	<b>Venue:</b> Beecroft Community Centre in Beecroft, NSW 2119.  For more information: <a href="#">Flyer for 2021 NDLC Gem and Mineral Show</a>

*Have fun, take care and stay safe!*