

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

December 2021 – Turquoise/Tanzanite/Zircon

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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?

If so, you're welcome to call in for a look around and a chat during opening hours, or give us a call on 9618 3206 and leave your details, so someone can get back to you.

Looking forward to meeting you soon.

From the President

This is the last Newsletter for the year. So, a big thank you to everyone who has kept the club going throughout the year including the long drawn-out lockdown period.

Our last day at the club will be the 11th of December. We will be having a general meeting commencing at 9.00 am which should last an hour and then workshops will be open for use.

At midday, we will be having a sausage sizzle, with meat, onions and bread supplied by the club. Please bring a plate of nibbles or dessert if you are attending. All double vaccinated club members are welcome to attend.

At this stage we expect that the government restrictions on unvaccinated club members will be relaxed on the 15th of December, so we are hoping all members will be able to attend the club again. The restrictions are regularly changing so we will keep you updated.

The club will be re-opening on the 15th January 2022. I am really hoping for a much better new year.

Thank you to everyone who has remained positive and continued working for the club and participating in our activities. It has been a very challenging year again this year. I hope everyone has a great Christmas and new year and look forward to catching up with everyone either at our Christmas BBQ or in the new year.

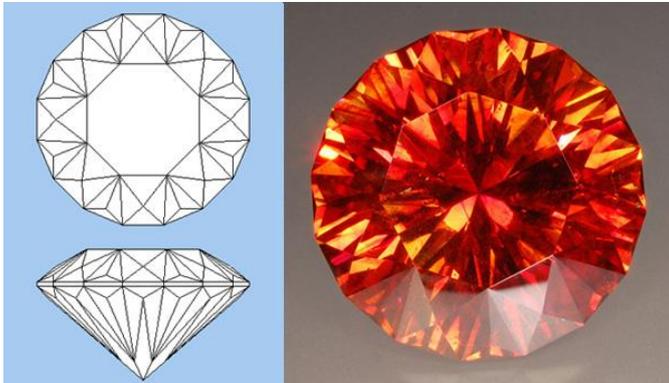
Suzy Brandstater
President

Get-well wishes for Ray

As many of you may be aware, our Vice President Ray Jones is not in good health, and we wish Ray and Penny much love and good wishes for his recovery during what is a very difficult time for them both.

Faceting Corner now open!

Hooray! You will be pleased to know the roof has been repaired and the electrical work completed so we can use the faceting area again.



Silver Casting:

As mentioned last month, the club will remain closed on Friday evenings until further notice, with silver casting/smithing workshops planned to recommence in the new year. Dates to be advised.



Next meeting dates

General meeting

When: 11 December at 9 am

Where: Club grounds

Annual General meeting – date TBA

Last Workshops for the year

Last workshops for the year will be **11 December**, from around 10 am, following the general meeting.

End of Year BBQ

It would be very helpful for organisers to know how many people will attend, so they can provide meat etc for the BBQ, so please put your name on the list on the notice board, or phone the Club to let someone know if you are planning to be there.

Campbelltown and Districts Lapidary Club

Invite you to the End-of-Year BBQ !!!

The Club will provide:

*barbecued meat
onions and
bread rolls.*

Note: If you wish to bring an additional plate of something for yourselves, please do so.

Date: 11 December 2021
Time: approximately midday

Note: In compliance with Covid-19 safe rules, the Club workshops, meeting and BBQ are open for doubled vaccinated members

Grinding Wheel For Sale

600 grit grinding wheel - \$20.00.

Recently installed in the club rooms. Unfortunately it was misused and accidentally damaged, as shown in the pictures. Please ask for help if you are unsure which wheel should be used for your project. If you are interested in purchasing this wheel, please see the Duty Officer of the day, or phone 9618 3206 or email ctownlapidarytreas@gmail.com.



Position Vacant

Events Organiser/Co-ordinator

To organise and co-ordinate events in 2022 for Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club.

Event 1 – Open Day to be held Saturday 9 March in the Club's grounds.

Event 2 – Annual Exhibition to be held Friday 8 July to Sunday 10 July 2022, at Greg Percival Community Centre, Cnr Oxford and Cumberland Roads, Ingleburn

Event 3 – Open Day – Spring – Date TBA to be held in the Club's grounds organised the same as Event 1.

If you are (or you know someone else who is) interested in organising and coordinating events, please:

Phone Margaret at **(02) 9618 3206**, or email: ctownlapidarytreas@gmail.com for more information.

Lost and Found

Since opening after lockdown, two pairs of glasses have been found in the Club rooms. Possibly left behind before lockdown, so they may have been missing for some time. If they belong to you, or you know who they belong to, please call in, or contact the Club during opening hours, to let us know, or collect them.



Handy Tips – From the Library

Wireworking Techniques – Making a Wrapped Loop

Trim the wire 32 mm above the object.

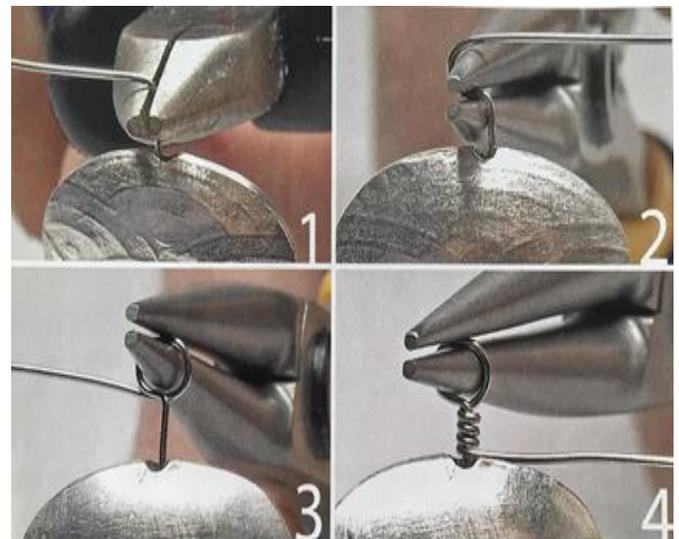
Use the tips of your chain-nose pliers to grasp the wire directly above the object. Bend the wire into a right angle [1].

Using round-nose pliers, grasp the horizontal portion of the wire near the bend, and then bend the wire over the top jaw of the pliers [2].

Reposition the lower jaw of the pliers in this half loop. Curve the wire around the bottom jaw of the pliers [3].

Wrap the tail around the wire stem p[4].

Trim the excess wire. Use chain-nose pliers to press the cut end close to the wrap.



December Birthdays – Turquoise/Tanzanite/Zircon

Happy Birthday!

Dieter Klepatzki
 Ian Bundy
 Orlando Williams
 Cherie Moulang
 Stuart Spencer
 Raymond Jones
 Kaye Allen
 Leanne Muir

If you had to pick one December birthstone, which would it be: tanzanite, turquoise or zircon? From the blue to bluish purple of tanzanite, to the intense blue and green of turquoise, to the rainbow varieties of zircon – there's a colour for everyone. If blue is what you're looking for, all three December birthstones have their own unique take on this favourite hue.



Turquoise

Turquoise is a semi-translucent to opaque gem that ranges from blue to green and often has veins of matrix (remnants of the rock in which it formed) running through it. This December birthstone has been cherished for millennia. The pharaohs and other rulers of ancient Egypt adorned themselves with it. Chinese artisans carved it more than 3,000 years ago.

The turquoise birthstone was thought to possess many beneficial powers, like guaranteeing health and good fortune. From the 13th century on, it was believed to protect the wearer from falling (especially off horses), and would break into several pieces at the approach of disaster. Hindu mystics maintained that seeing a turquoise after beholding the new moon ensured fantastic wealth.

This turquoise birthstone also played an important role in the lives of Native Americans. The Apache thought turquoise could be found by following a rainbow to its end. They also believed that attaching the December birthstone to a bow or firearm made one's aim more accurate. The Pueblo maintained that turquoise got its colour from the sky, while the Hopi thought the gem was produced by lizards scurrying over the earth.

This December birthstone adorns the funerary mask of King Tut, who ruled Egypt more than 3,000 years ago. It also appears in jewellery belonging to more modern royalty: Wallace Simpson (1896–1986), Duchess of Windsor (the woman for whom King Edward VIII gave up his throne), wore a famous amethyst and turquoise necklace made by Cartier. *(pictured at right)*



In European tradition, the gift of a turquoise ring means “forget me not.” Turquoise is considered a national treasure in Tibet, where it is believed to grant health, good fortune and protection from evil. December's birthstone also imparts peace to those who wear it.

Turquoise birthstone care & cleaning - Some turquoise is treated to improve its durability (it has a Mohs hardness of 5 to 6), appearance and polish. Turquoise can be dyed or chemically enhanced by adding an epoxy or acrylic resin for greater hardness or better colour. Also seen are cavities filled with a metal-loaded epoxy to imitate pyrite inclusions.

Turquoise is generally stable to light, but high heat can cause discoloration and breakage. Your turquoise birthstone can be damaged by acids, and it can be discoloured by certain chemicals, cosmetics and even skin oils or perspiration. It's safe to clean turquoise jewellery with warm, soapy water, but this December birthstone should never be cleaned with steam or ultrasonic cleaners. Heat or solvents can damage the treated surfaces on some turquoise.



Tanzanite

Tanzanite may be a relative newcomer to the world of coloured stones, but it was one of the most exciting gem discoveries of the 20th century. Blue stones emerging from Tanzania were identified as the mineral zoisite in 1962. Not until 1967, though, did prospectors locate the primary source for this December birthstone: the Merelani Hills. It was eventually named tanzanite in honour of its country of origin. The

tanzanite birthstone is often described as “velvety,” mostly because of its deep and saturated colour, which ranges from a pure rich blue to violet, with the blue considered most valuable.

Tiffany & Co. believed that tanzanite had international appeal and became its main distributor. In 1968, Tiffany launched a major advertising campaign to promote it. With its vivid colours, high clarity and potential for large cut stones, tanzanite quickly became a sensation. The picture to the right is a 5.59 carat (ct) oval tanzanite surrounded by 28 tapered baguettes and 12 round brilliant cut diamonds. Courtesy: EraGem.com



Tanzanite birthstone care & cleaning - This December birthstone (6 to 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness) is resistant to the effects of normal heat, light and common chemicals. Still, the December birthstone may crack if exposed to very high temperatures or sudden temperature changes, and it abrades easily. It can be attacked by hydrochloric and hydrofluoric acids.

Most tanzanite begins as brownish zoisite that is heat treated to produce the blue to violet hues that characterize this December birthstones. The resulting colour is permanent, and there are no additional durability concerns.

Your tanzanite birthstone is best set in earrings or pendants. While not recommended for daily wear in a ring, with a protective mounting and some care this December birthstone can be an attractive special-occasion jewel.

Warm, soapy water is the best way to clean this December birthstone. Ultrasonic and steam cleaners are never recommended for tanzanite.



Zircon

The origins of the word “zircon” have elicited colourful debate. Some scholars believe it comes from the Arabic word zarkun, meaning “cinnabar” or “vermillion.” Others think the source is the Persian word zargun, or “gold coloured.” Considering the broad colour palette for this December birthstone – red, orange, yellow, brown, green and blue – either derivation seems possible. Colourless zircon is known for its brilliance and flashes of multi-coloured light, called fire, which has resulted in centuries of confusion with diamond.

During the Middle Ages, this December birthstone was thought to lull one into a deep sleep and scare off evil spirits. In the Hindu religion, zircon alternates with hessonite garnet as one of the nine gems of the navaratna. When worn together, the nine gems protect the wearer and bring wealth, wisdom and good health. Victorians had a fondness for blue zircon. Fine specimens can be found in English estate jewellery from the 1880s.

Zircon birthstone care & cleaning - Zircon ranges from 6 to 7.5 on the Mohs scale of hardness. It is commonly heat treated to produce blue and colourless varieties, as well as orange, yellow and red. The gem is generally stable when exposed to light, but some heat-treated stones may revert to their original colours (usually light brown) after prolonged exposure to bright light. Exposure to heat can alter the colour of some zircon. This December birthstone is stable when exposed to chemicals. Because zircon tends to abrade, it is best to avoid wearing it in rough conditions, such as while gardening, playing sports or doing dishes. Clean your zircon using a soft brush and mild soap in warm water. Ultrasonic and steam cleaners are not recommended for this December birthstone. <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/december-birthstones>

What's On Or Not ?

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.		
11 December 2021	Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club <i>General Meeting</i> Time: 9.30 am	<i>Venue:</i> Lot 1 Bensley Road, Ingleburn All fully vaccinated members are welcome to attend.
11 December 2021	Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club <i>End of Year BBQ lunch</i> Time: Midday	<i>Venue:</i> Lot 1 Bensley Road, Ingleburn BBQ'd meat, onions, and rolls supplied by the Club. If you wish to bring an additional plate of food for yourselves, please feel welcome to do so. All fully vaccinated members are welcome to attend.
8 - 14 March 2022	Canberra Lapidary Club <i>Rock Swap</i>	<i>Venue:</i> (Parrot Park, EPIC)
19 March 2022	Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club <i>Open Day</i>	<i>Venue:</i> Lot 1 Bensley Road, Ingleburn Further details to be advised Organiser/Coordinator Required – contact Margaret 9618 3206, or email: ctownlapidarytreas@gmail.com if you are interested.
15 - 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).

Words of Wisdom

The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing. -*Walt Disney*



Have fun, take care and stay safe - Happy Holidays!

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