

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

April 2022 – Diamond

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Welcome to New Members

Vesna Eleninovski

Vesna, 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.

From the President

Another month has passed and we have had a few more trials and tribulations. Our ground was much too mushy to hold our Open Day/Market Day, it was too wet to mow for starters and vehicles and foot traffic would have turned the grounds into a quagmire, a huge safety concern. Then on the day itself it rained, so I was happy about the decision to postpone till May.

We have set a new date for the Open Day/Market Day. It will be on the 7th May, the day before Mothers' Day. We have a contingency plan this time. If the ground is still too boggy (as I am concerned about the damage this latest burst of rain has done), we are negotiating to use the asphalt car park at Bensley Sportsground (across the

road). So once again, if you are able to help with this event, please let us know.

As the Covid restrictions have eased, we have been able to ease our restrictions as well. So enjoy your tea and coffee at the tables in the club house – but don't forget to put your money in the pig! If you use one of our mugs, please wash and dry it after use and put it back into the cupboard. Use paper towel for wiping up as tea towels are a bit risky still. We were very disappointed to see cups left on the sink last week.

We are starting our orientation program for new club members on Friday nights. This means that new members can learn how to polish their cabs without tying up the machines for existing members. If you are competent at cabbing and would like to assist with this Friday night program, please let us know.

The club will be closed over the Easter break, but it is open all other Wednesdays and Saturdays.

I look forward to seeing more club members return to the club as our restrictions have eased.

Suzy Brandstater
President

Next General Meeting

All members are welcome to attend the next general meeting to be held on 30 April 2022 in the Club rooms, from 9 am.

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?

Call into the Club on Wednesdays or Saturdays (9 am – 1 pm), and someone can show you around and answer

your questions. Alternatively, you could give us a call on 9618 3206 and leave your details. Someone will get back to you in the very near future.

Looking forward to meeting some new members soon.

Annual Fees and Charges Table			
Single	Family	Pensioner Family	Pensioner/Junior/Student
\$15.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00
Insurance: \$5.00 per member			
Workshop/Day fee: \$3.00 per session			
Joining fee: \$10.00 (once only on joining club)			
NOTE: You must be an insured member over 12 years of age to use machinery & cutting implements			

OPEN DAY NOW ON Saturday 7 May 2022

Open day is important to our club as it allows the public to find out about us, allows members to sell their items and provides money for our club equipment so please help.

We have a list of jobs that we need help with on the club notice board, **please add your name to the list.** If more information is needed please ask the Duty Officer.

Volunteers required from 7.30 am

We need volunteers for:

- 🔍 Cleaning prior to day
- 🔍 Club Stall help setting up & putting away
- 🔍 Canteen helpers including donations of cakes/slices for sale
- 🔍 Cleaning at end of day
- 🔍 General Setting Up & spreading the word.

Please help!

Smile Time



First time prospecting for Gold

Submitted by Kathy

G'day, I have not been out and about for a few years now, but I have a long anticipated visitor that wants to hunt for gold. *MY Sister!* So, after years of waiting on my newly purchased caravan to be fixed (another story) we decided to not wait any longer, got out the duck tape and off we went.

We have three people in this adventure, not one of us has experience. Our first contact was to our dear friend Rudolph. Rudolph usually hunts in W.A. but he gave us some valuable information.

"It is nice to hear from you. That is good that you and your family are all well. I am very happy, that you bought the caravan and you are doing what we like

doing. As you know, most of my prospecting is done in WA. But, many years ago, (when we were younger.....), I did quite a lot of dredging, (with motor and pump, suction hose etc.) and panning for gold in the place called Sofala on the Turon river. It used to be very rich gold area. It is about 50 km to the right from the highway before Bathurst. (Most probably you been there before...). From Sofala you drive on the dirt track, upstream on the river from Sofala, you have the river on your left. Anywhere there in the river you get gold. It goes for about 5-6 km (you go through 3 crossings)".

I was extremely happy to get Rudy's message but we did not go to Sofala, it didn't have what seemed to be a good caravan park for us and our border collies. That is an important part of our needs. So we searched the web and our caravan book and found Bushland Caravan Park in Windeyere .



Fig 1. Map of Windeyer



Fig. 2. Pub Front – Important: No Optus, sketchy Internet, Telstra box available

Study the photos! I am not being sarcastic, just want you to know that the online description that was read out to me didn't include this information. [Ed. The map above is difficult to 'study', so I have included a couple of links here to supplement Kathy's contribution: [Sofala - Mudgee - Windeyer region map](#) and <https://www.petfriendly.com.au/page/bushlands-tourist-park>]

We stayed three nights. It was the very first time we set up our annex and it was fine, but time consuming. Our second day we picked up a few things in Mudgee. Mudgee is very close, 30- 40 minute drive from the park. It is a relatively big place, has everything you would want however eating spots close at 4-5 pm. There is a very nice fish & chip shop that stays open until 8 pm. Lovely window shopping and an Art gallery/Tourist Visitor info Centre 90 Market St, Mudgee NSW 2850. Remember, there are two roads to Mudgee and the second is much longer and rough. (See map) <http://www.visitmudgeeregion.com.au/>

We went back to the caravan park. I must mention at reception they have very limited supplies. I had forgotten hand soap of all things and they had that. (I suggest make a list fellow lapidarians).

By the time we returned to the caravan park there was no time for searching for a spot because it was later in the afternoon. I am guessing. Just a thought, this is a big caravan park, good facilities and good spots. It had about ten caravans already set up. With several rental cabins. It appeared quiet, but it was just before Easter holidays. I expected more (shop wise) for their patrons but not everything. They did have bread. And must say

the lady running the park, Rhoda, was so sweet and she did help us as much as possible.

The next day we spoke to several of the neighbouring fossickers at the park for a nearby place to try out our gear. We left the Bushlands Caravan Park on Windeyer Road

(<https://www.bushlandstouristpark.com.au/>)

following Merroo Creek past the cemetery. (Long Creek is near the Park, interesting but no idea if it is a good spot).

We chose to check out the creek at the 3.3 km mark because we could see from the bridge above, however it looked promising. But, after an hour of metal detecting we found nothing but rubbish apparently from the new bridge above. It showed evidence of the flooding, but we found nothing of value.

Just fyi we were not alone, we joined a young grey nomad that was working with just a pan and a shovel and told us that he had fair luck in this area and the information about how the floods have given all of us the problems with the rubbish. You could [see he was working hard](#) because of the mounds of dirt in his pan. "Enricho, but we could call him "Henry", was a very nice man and hard worker, grey beard, nice hat. [He has](#)

[had luck there](#). A pleasant afternoon. (Please remember this was not a place for disabled workers. There is a lot to think about.)

Because it was so hard for me to dig we decided to cut things short about 4 pm. Remember daylight saving and the rainclouds were not helping. "C'est la vie", (C'est la vie literally means "this is the life" in French, taken as "that's life.")

So, again back to the caravan park where we decided it was time to head back to Campbelltown and back, of course to our favourite people. Just to say the rains came next, our annex had to be undone, the annex, argh ... what can you say? Leave time for these things.

I will never forget how Rudy, Dorothy and Barry helped myself and other new members whenever they could ...thank you!

Please write to suggest where to go next! That's what clubs are for.

A big Thank You to Kathy for sharing your interesting fossicking/camping experience.



Fig. 3. Jackson and Cooper our Border Collies

Note: As mentioned previously, all members are invited to submit any interesting or lapidary related items, and/or photos, for publication in upcoming newspapers. If you have something to contribute, please feel free share by email to: ctownlapidaryclub.editor@gmail.com, before the last week of the month, and we'll publish your article in the next newsletter.

Hints and Tips

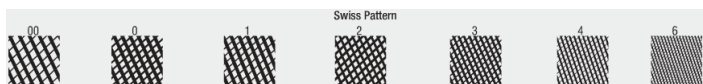
(<https://workingsilver.com/resource/files/>)

Files

There are many different cuts, shapes and varieties of files; some files are designed to meet very specific needs. When searching for the perfect files for your bench, consider the material you will be working with, the level of detail you'll need to achieve, and the style of jewellery you'll be making. For example, it's not good technique to use a flat hand file to smooth the inside of a ring, nor would you get a good result attempting to take off a lot of material with a fine needle file. Choosing the right file will save you time and money.

Cuts

File cuts range from coarse, #00, to fine, #8. The lower numbered files have fewer teeth per inch and will take off more material. The higher numbered files have more teeth per inch, and take off less material, leaving a finer finish. The frustrating thing about files is that the cut number, which should represent a standardized number of teeth per inch, actually varies depending on the maker. Teeth per inch range from 30 to 295, but because the cut numbers vary from maker to maker, it's impossible to give a universal definition for any particular cut. For example: a #00 file from one maker may have 30 teeth per inch, while the #00 file from another maker may have #41 teeth per inch. Fortunately, many manufacturers clarify their cut numbers with charts that you can find online.



Shapes and Sizes



File sets that include a barrette, a square, a half-round and a flat file are easy to find, but you may not need all of those shapes – or you may need them in different sizes. If you are a beginner, you may only need a half-

round, flat hand file, plus a few needle files in other shapes.

Hand files are about 4-10 inches long, and can be used on a wide variety of jewellery making materials. Needle files are often 4-8 inches long and are best used for refining detail. Hand and needle files both come in the same shapes, but often needle files will be made only in finer cuts

Some common files are listed below:

Barrette – This popular file has teeth on one flat side. The back side of the file is smooth and tapered to decrease the chance that you will mar another part of the jewellery as you file. Our Suggestion: #4 or #6 needle file



Flat (also called Hand Files)

files are just that, Flat. The flat surfaces are used to file large flat areas, straight edges, outside curves, etc. This file can leave a very clean, level edge on your material. In needle files, the shape of a flat file has made variations, including warding, equalling, round-edged pillar, and crochet files. Our Suggestion: #2 cut hand file



Half-round – a half round file has one flat side and one rounded side. The rounded side is used for inside curves such as the inner part of a ring shank.



Cleaning

Cleaning your files keeps them in better condition for a longer time. Tap the file to knock the big debris out of the teeth after using it. Then use a file card to clean out the remaining debris by running the card across the file at the same angle as the teeth. For very stubborn spots use a small sheet of solder and flick out the metal in the direction of the teeth. You should always clean your files when you switch material, and especially after using copper. And NEVER use your jewellery files on any ferrous (containing iron) metals. This will cause contamination and create all types of problems later on.

Technique

The purpose of filing is to remove excess metal. Proper filing can eliminate a lot of work in the later stages and can also extend the life of your files dramatically. Files are designed to cut on the forward movement.

Downward pressure is exerted on the forward stroke to give the teeth maximum cut into the metal. Do not file on the back stroke. (No see-saw like filing!!!) Lift the file slightly on the back stroke to avoid unnecessary wear on the file.

Use the largest file you can for the job, depending on the surface. Using small files on large surfaces leaves grooves across the piece. Use a #2 cut file for removing large amounts of metal and a #4 cut for fine trimming and shaping.

For flat surfaces, use the flat file or the flat surface of the half-round file. Lay the file against the closest edge of the piece, bracing the piece on your bench pin and push down, forward, and across the edge. Maximum pressure is not necessary, but you do need to press down into the metal.

For a curved surface (like the outside of a ring shank), use the flat side, brace the ring on your bench pin and push down and forward, at the same time rolling the file around the shape of the ring to ensure even filing with no flat spots.

For inside curves, use the rounded side of your half-round file in a forward and downward motion, rolling the file away from you as you go across the piece.

Large files are most effectively used with handles. Installing a handle on each file prevents the possibility of injuring the hand or wrist with the tang and allows full use of the cutting surface.



With practice, you will develop your own style of filing. PRACTICE (and lots of it) MAKES PERFECT!


Files are a big investment, but an integral part of any jewellers bench, so be sure to buy the ones that meet your needs.

Note: If you need help or advice, or have any questions regarding hints and tips, or techniques for current or potential lapidary related projects, feel free to email ctownlapidaryclub.editor@gmail.com, and we'll endeavour to find answers to your queries, and print them in the next newsletter for all members to see.

Words of Wisdom

"If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough." - **Oprah Winfrey**

April Birthdays – Diamond

Happy Birthday to:	Diamond
Alison Cordova	<p>Sparkling with an internal fire all its own, diamond is one of the world's most sought-after and adored gemstones. Those born in April are lucky enough to call this scintillating gem their birthstone, a symbol of clarity and strength. Diamond is so strong, in fact, that its name comes from the Greek word "adamas," which means "invincible" or "unbreakable." The timeless charm of diamond was cherished long before it became the April birthstone, and the places where diamond comes from are as fascinating as the lore that surrounds it.</p> 
Carolina Cordova	
Cassie Williams	
Jacqui Barnes	

An anonymous second-century poet maintained that this birthstone for April warded off the evil eye – a malevolent look believed to cause sickness, poverty and even death. The April birthstone was even believed to have healing powers. Over the centuries, the diamond birthstone was thought to be an antidote to poison and provide protection against the plague. Some claim that it is a boon for longevity, strength, beauty and happiness.

In addition to being the April birthstone, diamond is the gift of choice for the 60th and 75th wedding anniversaries. And, of course, today the diamond engagement ring has become a near-universal symbol of love and marriage.

The birthstone for April is now mined around the world. By the early 2000s, South Africa had been joined by other African nations as major producers of rough diamonds. These include the Democratic Republic of the Congo (previously known as Zaire) and Botswana. The former Soviet Union opened its first major mine in 1960, and Russia is now one of the top producers by both volume and value. Diamond mining expanded dramatically with the opening of the Argyle mine in Australia in 1983 and the discovery of several diamond deposits in northern Canada in the 1990s.

Diamond mining in Russia's eastern Siberia reads like an adventure novel. The setting: tundra, frigid temperatures and short days. The props: jet engines and explosives used to heat and soften the ice covering the kimberlite pipes – vertical, carrot shaped masses of igneous rock that can be a primary source for diamonds. The storyline: In 2013, Alrosa, Russia's main diamond mining company, estimated that there were 970 million carats still waiting to be found in the frozen tundra.

Diamonds in Botswana lie in the typically hot, semi-arid eastern region of the country. These prolific mines have

brought a boom to the economy, creating a growing middle class. The country is also a diamond hub, where approximately 40 percent of the world's supply of rough diamonds are sorted and valued.

Diamond (10 on the Mohs hardness scale) is usually durable enough to be placed in an ultrasonic cleaner. However, if your diamond birthstone has many inclusions or has been treated, it is best to clean it with a lint-free cloth, or use warm water, mild soap, and a soft toothbrush or a commercial jewellery cleaning solution. Also, have your diamond birthstone jewellery periodically cleaned and its setting examined by a professional jeweller to maintain its beauty and integrity over time. <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/april-birthstones>.



Diavik diamond mine summer A154 dike and open pit. To safely open-pit mine its ore bodies, extinct volcanoes located just offshore under the lake waters, dikes were built. Courtesy: Copyright © 2016 Rio Tinto.

<https://www.riotinto.com/en/operations/canada/diavik>

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.

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

We are grateful for any and all submissions.

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
<i>Please note</i> all events are subject to rules and restrictions relating to Covid-19 pandemic.		
Fri 15 April to Mon 18 April 2022	GEMBOREE 2022 - MUDGEE The 58th National Gem & Mineral Show	Venue: Australian Rural Education Centre (AREC) 267 Ulan Road Bombira NSW 2850 (located 2.5 kms north of MUDGEE township). Details https://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/ See Flyer attached
1 May 2022	ILLAWARRA LAPIDARY CLUB INC Open Day Time: 9 am - 2 pm	Venue: At our Club House 51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna Stalls selling : Gemstones, fossils, rough, minerals, handcrafted jewellery, books & more Morning Tea – Home made cakes & goodies – all the proceeds from morning tea go to the Cancer Council Lunch – Sausages sizzle and drinks available Proceeds of Morning Tea go to the Cancer Council's Big Morning Tea Website http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/ Facebook https://www.facebook.com/IllawarraLC/
7 May 2022	CAMPBELLTOWN DISTRICT LAPIDARY CLUB Open Day Time: 9 am – 2 pm Entry: Free	Venue: Lot 1 Bensley Road, Macquarie Fields <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crystals, gems, roughs, minerals• Handcrafted jewellery, and market stalls,• Readers, Reiki,• Tasty Greek treats, cold drinks
7 May 2022	BLAXLAND GEM AND MINERAL CLUB	Venue: 15 The Valley Road, Valley Heights 2777 See flyer attached
6 – 8 May 2022	HAWKESBURY SHOW	Venue: Hawkesbury Showground Clarendon
21 – 22 May 2022	CANBERRA LAPIDARY CLUB Winter Show Time: 10 am – 5 pm Sat 10 am – 4 pm Sun Entry: \$7 Adults \$12 Family \$4 Concession Children to age 16 Free	Venue: Exhibition Park (EPIC) Mallee Pavilion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sales• Gem, Mineral, Jewellery & Lapidary dealers• Minerals, fossils, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, crystals, opals, beads.• Food available• Other Displays of members' collections.• Demonstrations of cabbing & faceting.• Age of Fishes Museum Information & Fossil Exhibition

Have fun, take care and stay safe!



Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club



Open Day Saturday 7th May 2022

8:30am to 3:30pm daily

Free Admission

Displays and Sales of lapidary work, rocks, minerals

Demonstrations on cutting, grinding and polishing gemstones

15 The Valley Rd, Valley Heights NSW 2777



Covid Safe Requirements Apply.