

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

June 2022 – Pearl

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Welcome to our New Member

Michael Khamas

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

Open Day/Market Day

A big thank you to everyone who helped out at the Open Day/Market Day. It is amazing how well things work when everyone jumps in and just does their bit. The weather was kind to us for our Market Day. I couldn't have asked for better weather. The grounds held up OK, not too slushy.

Orientation

We had another lapidary orientation this month. Thanks to the club members who have been helping out with the orientations. And a big welcome to our new members.

We have another orientation coming up after the exhibition.

Covid Requirements

As the government restrictions have relaxed, we have accordingly relaxed our restrictions. Masks are not mandatory, but you are welcome to wear one if you wish to. You are not required to be vaccinated to enter the club, we have been able to relax those restrictions as well. However, the government is still requiring a 1.5 m social distancing, so please follow this rule when inside the club.

Annual Exhibition

We have been notified that we have been given our special discount for the Greg Percival Community Centre, so our exhibition can go ahead.

So, now all we have to do is actually make it happen. We need help from members in the following areas: Collecting entry money at the door, having members stand around in the car park when dealers are loading in and out to provide some basic security, help with the canteen (we are going to simplify it a bit more this year), setting up tables on the Friday before and packing them away after the event, putting signs out, handing out flyers and putting up posters, transporting equipment and supplies from the club and returning it after the exhibition, setting up the club members work for the exhibition, the children's activity table plus lots of other tasks that I haven't thought of.

Attendance

We hope to see more people at the club now that restrictions have eased. Our club's continued existence is dependent on members regularly attending and supporting the club. The Exhibition is another way we can gain much needed funds for the club. So please come along, bring some friends and tell everyone you know about it.

Suzy Brandstater
President

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.

Fees and Charges Table (per year)			
Single	Family	Pensioner Family	Pensioner/Junior/Student
\$15.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00
Insurance:		\$10 per member from 1/7/22	
Workshop/Day fee:		\$5.00 per session from 1/6/22	
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			

Annual Exhibition Helpers needed

As mentioned earlier, we will be looking for members to help out with the **Annual Exhibition in July**. The Exhibition is held in the Greg Percival Community Centre in Ingleburn, so all equipment and displays will need to be transported from the Club to the Community Centre on Friday 8 July, and back again on Sunday 10 July.

A sheet will be placed on the notice board in the club rooms. Please add your name in the column beside the task you can help out with.

Remember – “Many hands make light work.”

Help will be required in the following areas:

- Setting up tables on the Friday before and packing them away after the event
- Transporting equipment and supplies from the club and returning it after the exhibition
- Putting signs out
- Handing out flyers and putting up posters
- Collecting entry money at the door
- Setting up the club members work for the exhibition
- Setting up the children’s activity table
- Having members stand around in the car park when dealers are loading in and out to provide some basic security

- Help with the canteen (we are going to simplify it a bit more this year)
- Plus lots of other tasks that I haven’t thought of.

Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club
Presents
42nd Annual, Crystal, Mineral Gem & Jewellery Show
Venue: Greg Percival Community Centre
Oxford Rd Ingleburn, NSW
9th & 10th July 2022
Times: Sat 9.30am - 5.00pm Sun 9.30am - 4.00pm
Entry Fee: \$7
Children under 14 Free with Paying Adult
Parking close by, near Ingleburn station
Refreshments  Lucky Door Prize
On Sale
Handmade Jewellery, Beads
Rough & Polished Gem Stones
Opals - Agate - Crystals
Fossils - Findings
Exhibition of Members' Work
Phone **96183206**
Web: campbelltownlapidary.org.au
Email: ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com

Reminder – Membership fees due by end of June.

Check out the table at left to see how much you need to pay. You can pay by cash at the club, or direct to the bank – details below:

Please note that insurance fees are now \$10 per member, and day fees are now \$5 per day.

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

Hints and Tips

<https://workingsilver.com/resource/how-to-choose-a-cabochon-stone-that-is-good-for-bezel-setting/>

How to Choose a Cabochon Stone That is Good for Bezel Setting

Buying cabochons for jewellery projects can be fun and exciting, but if you don't know what to look for it can be daunting, and you may end up with stones that will pose problems or that you simply can't set. I love looking through cases full of beautiful hand cut cabochons, and my mind swarms with new designs and inspiration. I'm like a kid in a candy shop when I'm shopping for stones. There is nothing worse though than sitting down at your bench and taking a closer look at a stone that you've fallen in love with, only to discover that it has a crack in it, has scratches or chips on the surface, or is just cut poorly. Hopefully, this guide will help you pick out good quality cut stones for your next jewellery project.

How to choose a Cabochon

1. **Check the shape.** If a cab is a regular shape such as round, oval or square, make sure that it is even. Once you place it in a bezel any irregularity in the shape will become much more apparent. If it's a round cab, make sure it is truly round by measuring it with calipers. Make sure each side of a square are the same length. Also **make sure the bottom is flat.** If the bottom of your cab is uneven it will not sit properly on the base plate of your bezel, and could result in rocking, wiggling and possibly cracking your stone.

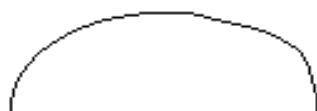


Evenly Domed

2. **Check the sides of the cab.** Look for Cabs that are cut with an even slope from the base towards the top. Straight sides are tricky to set in a bezel and may need to be glued to secure them. Avoid any stone that is narrower at the base and larger towards the top. This sort of inverted angle does not fit well into a bezel.



Correct Proportions



Incorrect

3. **Check the angle of the sides.** A well cut stone will have the same angle all the way around the stone. Hold the up stone at eye level and check all the way around. If the angles are different on each side, it will result in a bezel that doesn't fold down evenly around the stone. The bezel will accentuate these

differences and result in what looks like a poorly set stone, when in fact it is a poorly cut stone.

4. **Check the face of the stone.** Be sure to carefully check the face, or top of the cab. Make sure that it is even and level across the top with the highest point in the centre. Avoid stones with visible scratches or cracks through them. What may seem like a small flaw now, could result in a stone that ends up in pieces when you are setting it.
5. **Check the bottom edge.** A well cut stone will have an almost invisible 45 degree angle cut all the way around the bottom edge. This prevents your stone from chipping or worse breaking when you pop it into a snug fitting bezel.



6. **Don't pass up a stone just because it has irregular edges.** If you find a stone that you absolutely fall in love with but realize that it may not be suitable for a bezel setting because it has rough or irregular edges, don't despair. What some may view as a flaw can often be used as an interesting part of your design. Maybe use prongs instead of a bezel, or use half of a bezel and a couple prongs to secure the stone. Allow your imagination to run wild and be inspired by a unique stone. Sharp corners can be challenging for inexperienced setters as well, needing caution to set.

7. **Buy it now!** Chances are if you fall in love with a cabochon and take too long to think about it, someone else is going to snatch it up. There is nothing worse than having your heart set on a particular stone only to find that it's gone! If you love it, get it!



8. **Catalogue your stones.** Each stone in my 'collection' has pertinent information along with it. I keep track of where and when I bought the stone, who cut it (if that info is available) and most importantly how much I paid for it. This may seem like a silly thing to do, but without knowing how much I paid for a stone, I cannot accurately price a piece of jewellery. Even if you aren't selling your work now, you may in the future, and chances are, you will not remember where you bought a particular stone, or how much it was. So take a minute or two and keep track.

Next Meeting Dates

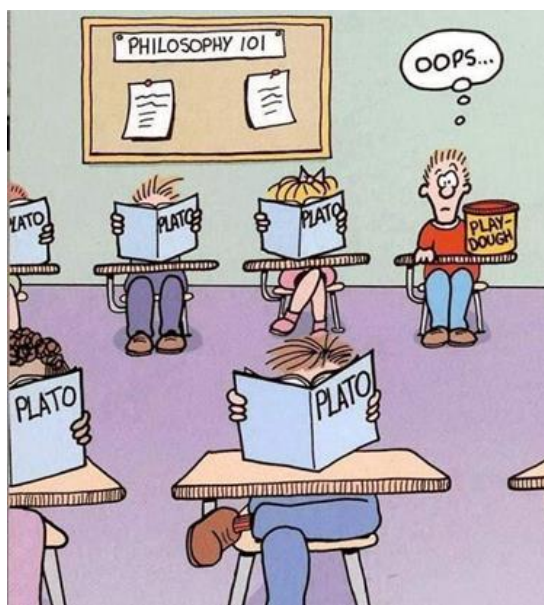
Management Committee Meeting Saturday 4 June 2022 Committee members only (workshop available from 10 am to 1pm)

General Meeting Saturday 2 July 2022 All members welcome and encouraged to attend (workshop available from 10 am to 1 pm)

Smile Time

<https://bestlifeonline.com/funniest-jokes-about-animals/>

1. What do rabbits eat for breakfast? **IHOP** (a family restaurant chain famous for its breakfasts).
2. What happens to a toad's car when it breaks down? It gets **toad away**.
3. What do cats have for breakfast? **Mice Crispies!**
4. What did one flea say to the other flea when they came out of the movies? "Should we walk home or **take a dog?!**"
5. What did the buffalo say to his son when he left for college? **Bison!**



"I was looking up cat food on the Internet, and they just appeared. I think one of them is tech-savvy."

Fossicker's Delight

Amber and Jade are out fossicking.

Amber: "Did you see that?"

Jade: "No"

Amber: "Well, there's something glinting over there in that cliff."

Jade: "Really?"

Amber: "Did you see that?"

Jade: "See what?"

Amber: "Are you blind? There was a mine shaft beside the path back there."

Jade: "Oh."

Amber: "Did you see that?"

By now, Jade is getting a bit annoyed, so she says, "Yes, I did!"

Amber: "Then why did you step in it?"

June Birthdays – Pearl



Happy Birthday to:

- Leesa Spencer
- Beverly Carnegie
- Robert Knight
- Peter Mulhall
- Theodoros Vassillou
- John Franks
- John Mainwaring
- Margaret Aitken
- Anne (Penny) Jones

Pearl

This enchanting June birthstone originates from oceans, lakes and rivers around the world. It is a timeless wardrobe staple, beloved by women of all ages. The origin of pearls fascinated our forebears. Ancients from the Middle East believed that pearls were teardrops fallen from heaven. The Chinese fancied that the June birthstone came from the brain of a dragon. Christopher Columbus and his contemporaries thought that mollusks formed pearls from dew drops.

Pearls are organic gems that grow inside the tissue of a living saltwater or freshwater mollusk (either an oyster or a mussel). Natural pearls form when the mollusk secretes a substance called nacre around an irritant such as a piece of sand or a parasite that has invaded its shell. Cultured pearls are a product of human intervention. Technicians implant a piece of mantle tissue alone (common for freshwater cultured pearls) or with a mother-of-pearl shell bead (all saltwater) into a host mollusk. The mollusk covers the irritant with nacre, just like a natural pearl. Cultured pearls are raised in pearl farms – saltwater or freshwater operations where the mollusks are cleaned, protected from predators and eventually harvested. Thousands of years of pearl fishing have decimated the natural pearl beds, so cultured pearls account for the vast majority of pearl sales today. These cultured pearl birthstones come in a dazzling array of sizes, colors and shapes.

Pearls have long been associated with purity, humility and innocence. So it may be said that the June birthstone meaning is "sweet simplicity." As such, pearls were traditionally given as a wedding gift.

The pearl birthstone was also thought to have beneficial properties. In the ancient Sanskrit text the Atharvaveda, pearls were said to bestow long life and prosperity. In Asia, pearls were believed to help alleviate indigestion and hemorrhages. Some 19th century Arab physicians maintained that pearl powder improved eyesight, quieted nervous tremors and eased depression.

One of the most famous natural pearls is the 50.56 carat (ct) [La Peregrina](#). About the size of a pigeon’s egg, the drop shaped pearl was discovered in the 1500s in the Gulf of Panama. It became a prized possession of European royalty. Richard Burton eventually gifted it to Elizabeth Taylor in 1969; Christie’s New York auctioned the Cartier necklace containing La Peregrina for \$11.8 million in 2011. [Pictured at right]



Warm waters... clear skies... dramatic scenery – it sounds like a dream beach vacation, don’t you think? It’s also an accurate description of where you’ll often find these pearl birthstones. Pearl-bearing mollusks fail to thrive in polluted waters, so pearl farms are usually located far from civilization – and often in breathtaking settings.

Saltwater cultured pearls are grown in many areas around the world. Akoya cultured pearl farms are primarily found in Japan and China, especially along the southern coasts of Guangdong and Guangxi provinces. South Sea cultured pearls are farmed from the northern coast of Australia through Indonesia to the southern coast of Southeast Asia, with large operations in the Philippines as well. The Gambier Islands and the Tuamotu Archipelago, both part of French Polynesia, are two locales where the rich black Tahitian pearls are cultured. China is the dominant source of freshwater cultured pearls.

Natural pearls have been found in the Arabian Gulf (Persian Gulf) for at least 5,000 years, while divers have been recovering the June birthstone from the Red Sea since 300 BCE. The Strait of Mannar has been providing pearls since 2000 BCE. Starting in the 16th century, during Spanish colonial rule, large quantities of pearls were recovered from the waters off Mexico, Central America and what is now Venezuela. Only small quantities of pearls are found in any of these areas today.

Pearls are 2.5 to 3.0 on the [Mohs Scale](#) of hardness, so they are a comparatively soft gem and require special care. Store them separately from other gemstones and metal jewellery to prevent scratching. Never store your pearl birthstones in a plastic bag — plastic can emit a chemical that will damage their surface. Always apply perfume, hair products and cosmetics before putting on your pearl jewellery. The best way to clean your June birthstone: Use a soft, damp cloth, ideally after each time the pearls are worn. <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/june-birthstones>

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.		
18 June 2022	<p>Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club Inc</p> <p>Club Open Day</p> <p>Time: 10 am to 3 pm</p> <p>Entry: Free</p>	<p><i>Venue:</i> 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville,</p> <p>Demonstrations of cab cutting, jewellery and chain making.</p> <p>Slabs, gemstones and jewellery for sale</p> <p>An informal day with light refreshments available</p> <p>Come along and bring your family and friends</p> <p><i>For more information:</i> Phone 9636 7843</p> <p><i>Flyer attached</i></p>
9 - 10 July 2022	<p>Campbelltown And Districts Lapidary Club</p> <p>42 Annual Crystal, Mineral, Gem, and Jewellery Show</p> <p>Time: 9.30 to 5.00 Sat 9.30 to 4.00 Sun</p> <p>Entry: \$7.00 Children under 14 Free with paying adult</p>	<p><i>Venue:</i> Greg Percival Community Centre, Oxford Road, Ingleburn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handmade jewellery • Beads, rough and polished gem stones, opals, agate, crystals, fossils, findings • Exhibition of Members' work • Refreshments • Lucky Door Prize <p><i>For more information:</i> Phone 9618 3206 or Email: ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com</p> <p><i>See Flyer on page 2</i></p>

Words of Wisdom

“The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.” – **Dolly Parton**

Have fun, take care and stay safe!

PARRAMATTA-WOLSWOOD LAPIDARY CLUB Inc
*CLUNBERRIE 73 Parkgate Rd, Werrisobrook.
Phone 9636 7947*



CLUB OPEN DAY-FREE
10 am to 3 pm
SATURDAY 18TH JUNE
**Demonstrations of cab
cutting, jewellery and chain
making.**



**Slabs, gemstones and
jewellery for sale**
**An informal day with light
refreshments available**

**Come along and bring your
family and friends**