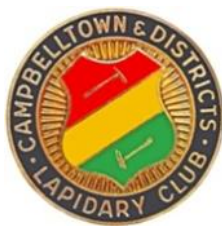


Rockgrinders Gazette



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

May 2022 – Emerald

What's in the newsletter?

What's in the newsletter?	1
From the President	1
Open Day/Market Day	1
Orientation	1
Covid Requirements	1
Attendance	1
New members are welcome	2
Members creations	2
Lapidary Items Stolen	3
Hints and Tips	6
Which Pliers Should I Use?	6
Smile Time	7
May Birthdays – Emerald	8
What's On Or Not ?	9

Welcome to New Members

Walter Weskin
Michael Whittaker
Brent Thomas

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

Things are looking good for our club market day. The ground is not looking too bad. The weather is forecast to be sunny.

As always, we always need help on the day. Especially in the morning setting up and in the afternoon packing up.

Orientation

We had a very successful lapidary orientation last Friday evening. I thank Josh for his help. We now have three new members who have cabbed their first stone.

We have another orientation coming up soon.

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 1.5m social distancing, so please follow this rule when inside the club.

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 Market Day 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

Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club

Crystal & Jewellery Market Day

Saturday 7th May 2022

9.00am - 2.00pm

Weather Permitting

- *Rocks, crystals, gemstones, fossils, rough,
- *Handcrafted jewellery and market stalls
- *Free family event - all ages welcome
- *Sausage sizzle and homemade cakes and slices
- *Hot and cold drinks

Set your 'Sat Nav' to Hazlett Oval

Lot 1 Bensley Road Macquarie Fields
Email: ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com
Web: campbelltownlapidary.org.au
Phone: 0296183206



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:		\$5.00 per member increasing to \$10 per member from 1/7/22	
Workshop/Day fee:		\$3.00 per session, increasing to \$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			

Members creations



OPEN DAY

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!

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.

Lapidary Items Stolen

Please read the following email recently received from Rockhampton Lapidary Club.

"Dear Lapidary Club Members and Traders,

Should you come across any of these items, please contact the Lightning Ridge Police with report number E88511268 and reply to this email.

On the morning (2AM) of 13th April, my car was broken into at Lightning Ridge and various Lapidary items stolen. Another car and two houses were broken into that same night.

These items were mainly competition entries (Mineral Specimens) of our club junior members for the GEMBOREE at Mudgee over Easter. They also contained displays of Cabochons, Wire Wrapped jewellery, Opal work and faceting.

Attached are some images of some of the stolen items and some that were recovered.

Mineral Specimens shows the Minerals being prepared for competition. Things to note:

- A large specimen of Malachite in a Sistema display box measuring 25 x 17 mm approx.*
- Blue Aragonite in a 50mm display box*
- Gold nuggets in round display boxes*
- Each box contained a yellow sticker on front and back with the item index number. This number can be cross matched with the attached lists.*
- Most containers were 25.. cube or 50mm cube with some dome shaped.*

Cabochons.

- Some have unique shapes*
- One is half Black jade and half Rose Quartz.*
- Display cases have glass fronts*
- Opals are Boulder, matrix and doublets, one piece triangle of Opalized palm.*

Faceted Stones (Not shown in photos) all in round

- Faceted square chrysoprase about 8mm*
- Teardrop Larimar*
- Square Amethyst internal fracture*
- Square Ametrine internal fracture*
- Gamma Brilliant (round) Topaz with internal fractures*
- ALL in 30mm display boxes with round labels on back describing cut, material and size.*
- Labels are 25mm and either white, yellow or half green/half white.*

If someone tries to sell you any of these items, tell them you need to consult your partner. Get a photo of the item (to show to your partner) and name and contact phone number of the seller. A photo of the seller would also help. Advise as per above.

Thank you for your assistance."

Images of the stolen items





If you do happen to come across any of these items, please follow the advice set out in the email.

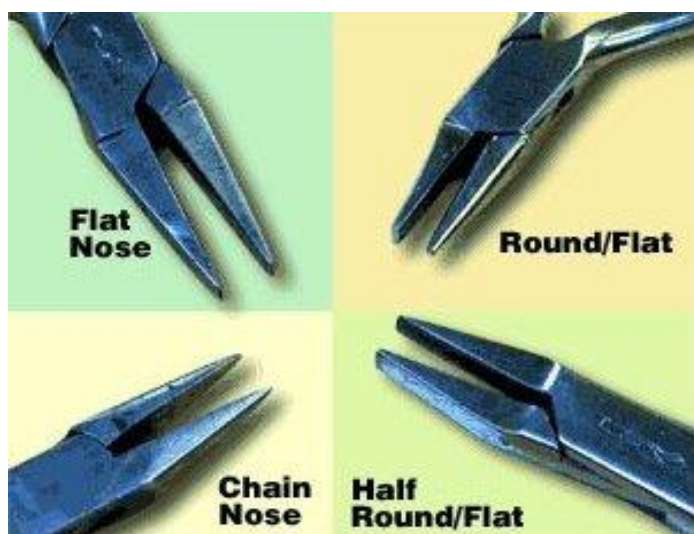
Hints and Tips

<https://workingsilver.com/which-pliers-should-i-use/>

Which Pliers Should I Use?

Pliers are one of the most used tools on any jeweller's bench. I have several different pair that I use constantly for a wide variety of techniques. For those of you that find the variety of pliers a little bewildering, here is a guide to the ones most often used. There are probably more types of pliers being invented right this minute, (and I'm sure I need all of them!) but for this article, we will stick to the basics.

When choosing pliers there are several things to consider, including; the job you need to pliers to perform, the quality of the pliers, the cost, and the size. Make sure the pliers you choose fit your hands. If they are too small, the handles can uncomfortably press into your palms, making them difficult to work with for any length of time. Also, the handles should be coated with a material that provides you the comfort and grip you need to get the job done without causing hand fatigue.



CHAIN NOSE: The chain nose have half-round jaws that taper to a point. These versatile pliers are used for holding small pieces close to the edge, making sharp bends and many other purposes. I use a pair in each hand to open and close jump rings. Make sure that the flat surface of the jaws are smooth or you will end up with little dents in your metal.

FLAT NOSE: Flat nose pliers have jaws that are the same width all the way down. They come in a variety of widths that are great for holding bigger pieces where you need a firmer grip than chain nose pliers can give you. These can also be used for opening and closing jump rings, and putting sharp bends in metal as well as putting tension into ring shanks in preparation for soldering. As with the chain nose pliers, make sure that the jaws are smooth so you don't leave dents in your metal.

ROUND NOSE: Round nose pliers are essential for making loops in wire. They have conical, tapered jaws, so you can make many different sizes of loops. If you want to make your loops all the same size, make a mark on the jaws with a Sharpie or some tape so it's easy to find the right spot on the jaws for the size that you want.

1/2 ROUND/FLAT (RING

BENDING) These bending pliers are a must for shaping rings or forming anything into a round shape. These have one flat jaw and one jaw that is curved on the inside. The curved side is held against the surface being curved and the flat jaw grips the outside of the piece as you bend. These pliers are a must when forming ring shanks in preparation for soldering.



MULTI-HEAD LOOPING: Another option for consistent loops are the multi-head looping pliers. These pliers have stepped jaws with three different circumferences on each jaw for a total of six different sizes. I use these for making ear wires and S clasps so that I get the same size every time. These are one of my favorite and often used pliers.



NYLON JAW: Pliers with nylon jaws are great for forming without leaving marks. They are similar to flat nose pliers but much gentler on the metal. These can be used for all sorts of forming and shaping before or after texturing, and the nylon will not ruin your hard work or give you dents in the metal to fix!



PARALLEL: Parallel pliers are excellent for getting a firm grip on things with... you guessed it, parallel edges. They are really heavy-duty as well so are good for really big pieces.



TUBE CUTTING: Tube cutting pliers are awesome! They have different sized notches in the jaws and a slit down the centre. You just need to mark the length you want on your tubing and put it in the appropriate sized notch with the mark lined up with the slit. You can saw through the slit without your tubing rolling or moving. If you do tube setting, these are a must. They will definitely help you retain your sanity.



WIRE TWISTING: Wire twisting pliers do exactly what their name says- twist wire. Twisted wire is a nice accent around a bezel or for making a bunch of stacking rings, and these pliers will help you create a nice even twist the whole length of the wire. Adding interesting elements to your pieces – like twisted wire – give your designs that little something extra – and it's SO easy!.



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.

Smile Time



May Birthdays – Emerald

Happy Birthday to:

Leah Dicks

Linda Bosmans

Judy Ferris

Belinda Foster

Kyle Hokin

Suzy Brandstater

Emerald

Emerald, the birthstone for May, has been beloved for millennia, evoking rebirth and renewal. Widely regarded as the definition of green, emerald is the perfect colour for spring. From the poetic description of Ireland as “the Emerald Isle” to the vibrant green of the famed gemstone itself—the May birthstone emerald has captured hearts and minds through the ages.

Variations of this rich green colour suggest soothing, lush gardens. Legend has it that emerald has the power to make its wearer more intelligent and quick-witted, and it was once believed to cure diseases like cholera and malaria.



From Egyptian pharaohs to Inca emperors, emerald has enchanted royalty. Cleopatra was known to have a passion for emerald and used it in her royal adornments. The legendary Crown of the Andes, fashioned in colonial South America, is one example of how the Spanish revered the May birthstone. According to lore, its largest stone—now called the Atahualpa emerald—was taken from the last Inca emperor, Atahualpa, by conquistador Francisco Pizarro. The emerald and gold treasures recovered from the sunken 17th century Spanish galleon *Nuestra Señora de Atocha* represent a small fraction of the colonial riches sent to Spain from the New World.

The word “emerald” comes from *smaragdus*, ancient Greek for a green gem. Roman author Pliny the Elder, who died in the 79 CE eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, wrote in his encyclopedic *Natural History* that “nothing greens greener.” He also stated that the May birthstone had therapeutic properties that helped gem cutters: “(they) have no better method of restoring their eyes than by looking at the emerald, its soft, green color comforting and removing their weariness and lassitude.” Science now proves this belief: The color green relieves stress and eye strain.

The green birthstone was also thought to have magical powers. By placing it under the tongue, one could see into the future. Some believed it made one an eloquent speaker and exposed lovers who made false promises.

Emerald is a 7.5 to 8 on the Mohs scale of hardness, so it is more susceptible to scratching than a diamond, which ranks 10 on the scale. The May birthstone is often treated to improve its colour or clarity. Common treatment methods include:

1. Dyeing: Paler emeralds with multiple fractures may be dyed green to enhance their colour.
2. Fracture Filling: Oils, waxes, and artificial resins are often used to fill surface-reaching fractures in emeralds. The goal is to reduce the visibility of the fractures and improve the apparent clarity. The volume of filler material present can range from minor to significant; the different substances have varying degrees of stability.

The emerald birthstone requires some special care: Avoid exposure to heat, changes in air pressure (such as in an airline cabin) and harsh chemicals. Never put an emerald in an ultrasonic cleaner, as the vibrations and heat can cause the filler to sweat out of fractures. Filled emeralds can also be damaged by exposure to hot water used for washing dishes. The safest way to clean emeralds is to gently scrub them with a soft brush and warm, soapy water.

<https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/may-birthstones>



An emerald cross and gold rosary recovered from the *Nuestra Señora de Atocha*

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.		
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, • Homemade cakes and slices, cold drinks, devonshire teas
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

Words of Wisdom

"When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." – **Elbert Hubbard**

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