

# 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 2022 – Turquoise Edition

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Current Opening Hours and Duty Officers Roster 2022-2023		
Day of Week/Month	Duty Officer	Workshop Hours
Monday	Cassie Williams	9 am to 1 pm
Wednesday	Tim Twomey Bob Owens/John Collace (back up)	9 am to 1 pm
Friday	Eugenio Cordova Josh Smith	5 pm to 9 pm
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	Suzy Brandstater	9 am to 1 pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	Eugenio Cordova	9 am to 1 pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	Josh Smith	9 am to 1 pm
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Josh Smith	9 am to 1 pm
5 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Suzy Brandstater	9 am to 1 pm

## 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 Mondays, Wednesdays or Saturdays (9 am – 1 pm), or Friday (5pm – 9 pm) and someone can show you around and answer your questions.

Looking forward to meeting some new members soon.



Rock display in club rooms: Thunder Eggs, Mt Hay Qld, Zebra stone Kununurra WA, Mookaite, Carnarvon WA

## Next General Meeting – 3 December

The next **General Meeting** will be held on **Saturday 3 December**. Keeping in mind this is only one week before the postponed Open Day, all members are invited to attend and encouraged to submit items for the Agenda to the Secretary a few days before the meeting date.

You can do this by emailing the secretary at: [ctownlapidaryclub.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:ctownlapidaryclub.secretary@gmail.com), or write them on the notice board in the Club rooms.

## General Meetings

A community club is only as strong as its members' enjoyment and participation in the club. Including: activities and input of ideas for organisation and preservation of that club.

Organisational positions in our club eg, President, Secretary, Treasurer, Duty Officers etc, are performed voluntarily by members, who do their best to provide an environment and opportunity for you to share equipment, resources, knowledge, learn new skills, talk, socialise, make new friends, and have fun while being creative.

Meetings are a means of gathering as well as distributing information about the clubs activities etc. They are also an opportunity for members to come together, with like-minded people who attend on different days, put forward your ideas and/or concerns regarding the club's activities or organisation, and help make the club a vibrant and enjoyable experience for all.

The more members that attend a meeting, the more creative ideas and discussion that follows. This helps to keep the Club vibrant, and adaptive to changes. So, if you would like to see some changes, eg: fossicking trips; new activities or workshops; opening/closing times; meeting times eg evening, lunch time; come along to the meeting, or email your ideas to the [Secretary](#) who can add them to the Agenda (the list of items for discussion).

We love hearing from our club members and aim to make your experiences at the club interesting and enjoyable - something that's only possible with members input.

**As such, all members are encouraged to attend the next General Meeting, on 3 December 2022.**

## Reminder - Open Day/Crystal Market Day – Now On 10 December

Time is running out, only a few weeks before our next Open Day.

I'd like to remind those of you who wrote your names on the board as helpers for the Open Day proposed for 22 October, which was postponed to 10 December .... **your names are still on the board as helpers**. If you can no longer help out due to the change in date, or other reason, can you please erase your name from the board, or let someone (eg Duty Officer, Josh, or Cassie) know, so we can look for replacements. Thank you.

We still need more helpers, especially on the day to help set up and put up the signs. So if you can, please let someone know, or put your name on the board when next at the Club. We will also welcome members who can just turn up on the day and lend a helping hand. We start setting up around 7:30 am, with the day open to the public from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Then help will be needed cleaning up afterwards.

## Open Day Raffle



Above are the prizes in the Open Day Raffle. Tickets are currently available at the Club for \$2 each or 3 for \$5, or can be purchased on Open Day.

- First Prize:** Sterling Silver Turquoise pendant
- Second Prize:** Amethyst cluster
- Third Prize:** Prehnite slab
- Fourth Prize:** Christmas Décor Kit.

## Helpers Wanted

**Campbelltown Districts Lapidary Club**

# Crystal Market Day

9.00am - 3.00pm

## Saturday 10th December 2022

- \*Crystals, gemstones, fossils, rough, minerals
- \*Handcrafted jewellery and market stalls
- \*Cold drinks and Sausage Sizzle
- \*Club Tours

**Free Entry**

**WE'RE COVID SAFE**

If you are interested in Lapidary, Crystals jewellery making or faceting, check out our club.  
Come along, meet the club members, pick up a bargain.

**Lot 1 Bensley Road Macquarie Fields**

Email: [ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com](mailto:ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com)  
Web: [campbelltownlapidary.org.au](http://campbelltownlapidary.org.au)  
Phone: 0296183206

**f Weather Dependant**

**CAMPBELLTOWN & DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB**

Type Campbelltown Lapidary Club in Google Maps

## Club Holiday Break

Please note 17 December will be the last workshop for 2022. The Club will close after the Christmas Party for a holiday break and reopen on a date yet to be set and advised.



## Smile Time

### Corny Christmas Cracker Jokes

- What happened to the man who stole an Advent calendar? He got 25 days
- Who hides in a bakery at Christmas? A mince spy.
- What's the best Christmas present? A broken drum – you just can't
- u eat Christmas decorations? Tinselitis
- What do you call a blind reindeer? A no-eye deer.

## Club Christmas Party – 17 December

Fingers crossed, nothing will happen to dampen our spirits for this year's Party, which is to be held following the usual workshops. on Saturday 17 December, commencing around 12 noon.

Further details of the will be advised in the coming weeks.



## December Birthdays – Turquoise

### Happy birthday to:

*Dieter Klepatzki*

*Ian Bundy*

*Orlando Williams*

*Cherie Moulang*

*Stuart Spencer*

*Kaye Allen*

*Leanne Muir*

### Turquoise

Believed to be a balancing stone, a protective stone, and a love charm, turquoise has a history as unique and interesting as the stone itself! December's birthstone, turquoise, is one of the most ancient gemstones known to man.

Turquoise is an opaque stone that ranges in colour from the bright blue of its name to green. It typically has a veined appearance, which is created by the remnants of the rock in which it formed. These veins can range from black to silver, tan, and even gold shades.



Among geologists, turquoise is referred to as “copper aluminum phosphate.” It's most often found near water tables in semiarid and arid regions where rock contains copper-bearing minerals. Turquoise forms when chemicals leach out of surrounding rock via rain and groundwater to create these blue and green crystals. In fact, it is copper that gives turquoise its famed sky blue shade. Iron is what gives green turquoise its colour.

Of all stones, December birthstone turquoise has a particularly long history. In fact, it is one of the earliest stones known to be used in jewellery. The Aztecs believed it sacred, using it to make masks and other ceremonial objects, and Native Americans from many other cultures have used this stone in jewellery and ornamental pieces for thousands of years. One Native American name for turquoise is *chal-cui-hui-tal*, which means “the highest and most valued thing in the world.”

Turquoise was most widely used among American Southwestern groups including the Zuni, Hopi, Pueblo, and Navajo Indians. Among these cultures, blue turquoise represented the heavens while green represented the earth. Medicine men would use these stones to make charms, and the Navajo thought that tossing turquoise into a river while praying to the rain god would bring rain.

In ancient Egypt, pharaohs and rulers used turquoise in jewellery. One tomb excavated in 1900 revealed the remains of Queen Zer, a ruler from 5500 B.C.E. She was wearing four turquoise bracelets. Beads dating to 5000 B.C.E. have been found in Mesopotamia (today's Iraq), and turquoise decorates King Tut's mask, which is more than 3,000 years old. Persians regarded turquoise as the national gemstone, using it to decorate their thrones, weapons, horse tack, cups and bowls, and more, and from China, there are turquoise carvings dating back more than 3,000 years.

Royals in more modern times have used turquoise, too. The Duchess of Windsor, Wallace Simpson (1896-1986), who King Edward VIII famously gave up his throne for, wore a turquoise and amethyst Cartier necklace. (Pictured at right)

And what about the name? Historians aren't entirely sure how “turquoise” came to be the name of this stone, but some think it may come from the French *Pierre turquoise*, which translates to “Turkish stone.” This idea stems from the fact that turquoise came to Europe via Venetian merchants who bought it at Turkish bazaars. [Internet source](#)

Turquoise is a porous gem with a 5 to 6 on the [Mohs hardness scale](#). Thus, this December birthstone can be treated with resin or acrylic epoxy. This treatment improves turquoise's strength and colour. Turquoise can also be treated with a metal-loaded epoxy to fill any cracks. This process creates an effect similar to turquoise's marbling.

Turquoise is typically not affected by light. However, the gemstone can discolour when repeatedly exposed to high heat. Clean your stone only with warm water and gentle soap. This will allow you to enjoy your turquoise jewellery for many years to come. [Internet source](#)



## Tips and Tricks

### What is the Moh's Scale? [Source - Working Silver](#)

To put it in very basic terms, the Mohs scale of hardness is a relative scale of “scratchability.” Basically the higher the number on the scale the harder the stone. A stone rated at an 8 can be scratched or damaged by a stone rated at a 9, but not one rated at a 7.

MOHS SCALE OF HARDNESS	
HARDNESS IN MOHS UNITS	SAMPLE MINERALS
10	Diamond
9	Corundum
8	Topaz
7	Quartz
6	Orthoclase Feldspar
5	Apatite
4	Fluorite
3	Calcite
2	Gypsum
1	Talc

So all of this information is great, but how helpful is it really? What on earth is corundum? or Feldspar? These are the names given to certain groups of stones. Sapphires and Rubies are both part of the Corundum family of stones.

This scale is very helpful in determining how much abuse a gem can take. There are sometimes special exceptions, but as a general rule gemstones of a

hardness of 8.0 or higher are considered to be durable. Intermediate stones are over 6.0 and up to 8.0, softer and more delicate stones are 6.0 and under. Gems that are 6.0 and under should be handled and cleaned with more care, and not exposed to chemicals or solvents.

One exception to the rule is the Emerald. Although it's tough at 7.5 – 8.0, it should be treated with some care. There are almost no perfect Emeralds found, they have numerous inclusions (flaws), so their resistance to breaking is lower than what its hardness level would imply.

No matter how hard a stone may be on the chart, the quality of the stone also determines its hardness. For example, a flawed diamond will be softer and more brittle than one that is absolutely perfect. The same is true for all other stones and organic gems as well.

Below are some of the most common stones and gems used in jewellery making with their hardness. As a general rule of thumb if you are putting jewellery with gemstones in a tumbler for a final polish, use caution and avoid stones below a 7 or 8 as well as any stones with visible inclusions or cracks. Generally, any stones below a 7 need extra care when setting as the steel tools used to set the stones can accidentally scratch or break the stone. Your fingernail rates at a 2.5 on the scale, a solid copper penny is a 3.5, a glass plate or pen knife is a 5.5, while a steel nail is a 6.5 and a masonry drill bit is an 8.5.

Agate	7.0	Alexandrite	8.5	Amber*	2.5	Amethyst	7.0
Ametrine	7.0	Apatite	5.0	Aquamarine	7.5	Aventurine	7.0
Azurite	3.5	Beryl	7.5	Bloodstone	7.0	Blue Chalcedony	7.0
Carnelian	7.0	Chrysoprase	7.0	Citrine	7.0	Coral*	3.5
Diamond	10.0	Emerald	7.5	Fluorite	4.0	Garnet –	6.5-7.5
Hematite	6.5	Howlite	3.5	Iolite 0	7.0	Ivory*	2.5
Jade	6.5-7.0	Jasper	7.0	Jet*	2.5	Kunzite	7.0
Kyanite	7.0/5/0	Labradorite	6.0	Lapiz Lazuli	5.5	Malachite	4.0
Moonstone	6.0	Morganite	7.5	Obsidian	5.0	Onyx	7.0
Opal	6.0-6.5	Pearl*	3.0	Peridot	6.5	Rhodochrostone	4.0
Rhodonite	6.0	Ruby	9.0	Sapphire	9.0	Sardonyx	7.0
Serpentine	2.5-5.0	Quartz	7.0	Sodalite	5.5	Spectrolite	6.0
Spinel	8.0	Sunstone	6.0	Tanzanite	6.5	Tigers's eye	7.0
Topaz	8.0	Tourmaline	7.5	Turquoise (Stabalized)	6.0	Zircon	7.5
Cubic Zirconia	8-8.5						

## 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. <http://www.campbelltownlapidary.org.au/>.  
 We are grateful for any and all submissions.

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE/DETAILS
<b><i>Please note</i></b> all events are subject to rules and restrictions relating to Covid-19 pandemic.		
3 December 2022	<b>CAMPBELLTOWN &amp; DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB</b> <b>General Meeting</b> <b>Time: 9.00 am</b>	<b>Venue:</b> Lot 1 Bensley Road, Macquarie Fields  All members invited to attend.
10 December 2022	<b>CAMPBELLTOWN &amp; DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB</b> <b>Open Day</b> <b>Time: 9 am – 2 pm</b> <b>Entry: Free</b>	<b>Venue:</b> Lot 1 Bensley Road, Macquarie Fields <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crystals, gems, roughs, minerals</li> <li>• Handcrafted jewellery, and market stalls,</li> <li>• Readers, Reiki,</li> <li>• Homemade cakes and slices, cold drinks,</li> </ul>
17 December 2022	<b>CAMPBELLTOWN &amp; DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB</b> <b>Christmas Party</b> <b>Time: 12 noon</b>	<b>Venue:</b> Lot 1 Bensley Road, Macquarie Fields All members invited to attend More details TBA
17 December 2022	<b>CAMPBELLTOWN &amp; DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB</b>  <b>Closing for holiday break</b>  <b>Time: Following Christmas Party</b>	Re-opening date TBA



**Merry Christmas Everyone !!!**  
**Have fun, take care and stay safe!**