Pockgrinders 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

September 2022 - Sapphire

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Welcome to New Members

Luke Gannon Leanne Gannon Nikita Gannon Alinta Gannon

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.

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), or Friday (5 pm - 9 pm) and someone can show you around and answer your questions.

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				

From the President

This is my last monthly President's report before the AGM on the 10 th of September. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the AGM and very much looking forward to us gaining a new committee. As I mentioned last month, all positions will be declared vacant as all the office bearers have served their maximum three years in their positions.

Machines

It is wonderful to be at the club and see all of our machines being used, the grinding and polishing rooms have been very busy. We must look after our equipment.

Courtesy

Just a courtesy reminder: If you are polishing more than one stone, you must not stay on the same machine to work on additional stones if there is someone waiting to use the machine. It is a good idea to have stones in various stages of polish so that if someone else is waiting to use the machine, you can move on to another machine while they

polish their stone (then you can come back and start your next one when the machine is free).

Obviously, if no one is waiting you are welcome to work on as many stones as you would like to. If you are waiting to use a machine, politely let the person working on the machine know that you are waiting, otherwise they may be so engrossed in their work they may not notice you standing there and go onto their next stone.

Cleaning

It is not the duty officer's job to clean the machine after you. Regularly clean the machine tray, if too much silt builds up it can clog the drain tubes. When you finish in an area, mop the floor.

Water Supply

The water containers need regular topping up. Some of us are too short to do it, but if you are tall enough, please help the club to keep running smoothly by topping up the containers. If you don't know how to, ask the duty officer.

Wheel damage

Unfortunately, we have had some of our wheels damaged recently. The hard wheels in the polishing room have been incorrectly used. You will be able to see in the photo that someone as been using the wheel in only one place instead of constantly moving their stone backwards and forwards across

the entire surface of the wheel. Never leave your stone in one place – keep the stone moving. By doing this, you are keeping the surface of the wheel flat which is absolutely critical when working on flats and larger pieces. Similar wear is also apparent on the Opal Wheels.

The second thing we have noticed is that these wheels and our opal machine wheels may have been used without sufficient water. If you do this, you quickly destroy a wheel that is very expensive, you may also damage your stone. Keep the water up to the wheels.



Suzy Brandstater President.

Fossil Dig Report – by Suzy Brandstater

Although this was not an official Lapidary Club Trip, I thought I would tell you about it. For anyone who loves rocks and fossils, this is an experience you shouldn't miss.

Don and I made our way up to Lightning Ridge on August 14th for a Fossil Dig with the Australian Opal Centre and Museum at Lightning Ridge.

We had no idea what is was going to be like, but as far as I am concerned, any excuse to go to Lightning Ridge is a good one. There were 21 people in the group and we were so excited to be there.

We started our first day with some lessons about fossils and Geology. We had some Palaeontologists and some Palaeontology students from the university who were doing their doctorates. Plus some very experienced opal centre volunteers.

We were then put in groups on tables and given a big tub of material to sort through to see if we could sort into plant fossil, animal fossil, opal potch, opal colour and rocks. Then our table leader looked at our results and talked about the pieces that we had selected, teaching us how to identify each type of item. We wore Jeweller's Loupes for this task.



When we were confident on those items, they gave us another bowl to work on.

After that we were given a big bag of tailings from a mine that was digging up fossils. We had to take out any colour or fossils and then pass the leftovers to another member of the table group for them to check. Once they had been checked a second time, the Palaeontology students went through our left overs to make sure we didn't miss anything. It is really exciting when you find a fossil.

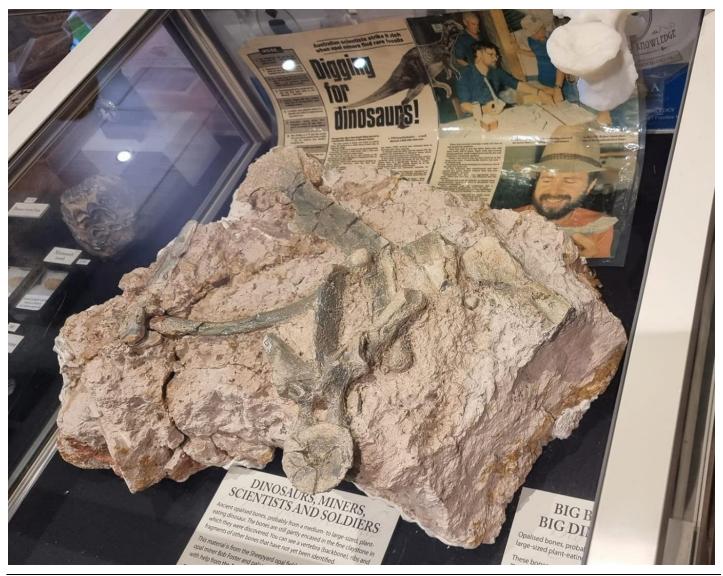


The thing they really hoped we would find over the course of the week was a dinosaur tooth. In the last 10 minutes of the last day, someone found a plesiosaur tooth. So we achieved that.

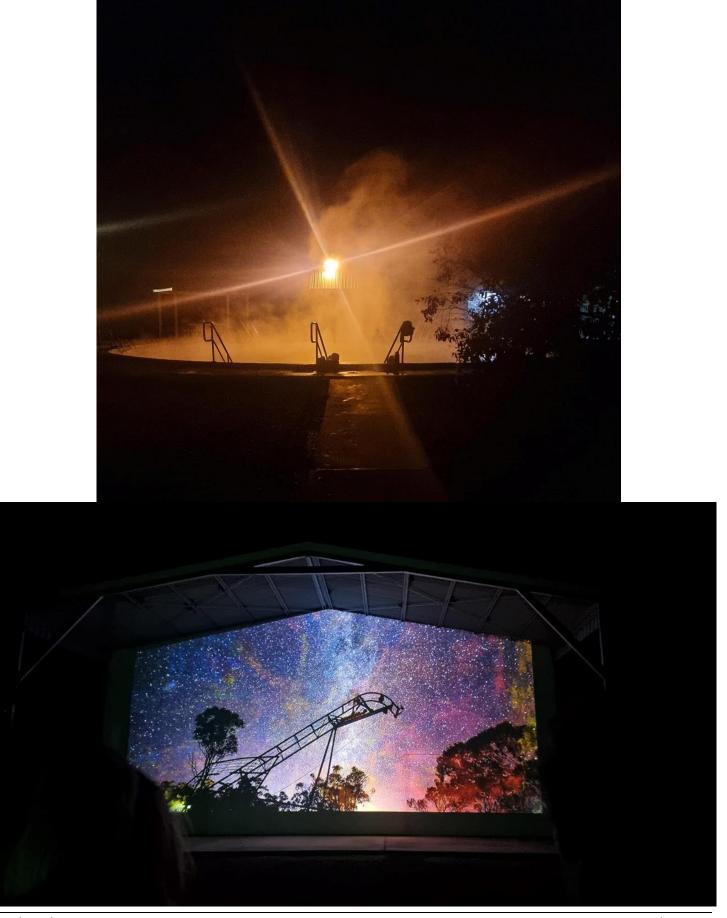
Our first evening we had a lovely wine and cheese viewing of the Lightning Ridge Sunset at 'First Shaft'



Tuesday started at the Australian Opal Centre where we were introduced to some amazing fossils from around the Ridge including Fostoria dhimbangunmal. From there we were taken to the old open cut to look at the site for the future Australian Opal Museum, then we got to sort through some tailings from a different mine.



Each evening there was a different activity, from dinner at the bowling club, a presentation by Tim talking about his adventures all over the world looking for fossils, a trivia night and a movie night under the stars to watch 'Spark' a special film made about Lightning Ridge Opals and the people. We finished each night at the hot artesian bore baths.





We were taken on field trips to mines where we were given the opportunity to speck for opal and/or fossils.

Unfortunately I didn't attain my goal of finding a complete T Rex Skeleton, - something about they weren't in Australia, but it was a fantastic week. Don and I have signed up again for next year.

Next Meeting Dates

Next General Meeting commences 9 am on 10/9/2022, and will be followed by the Annual General Meeting.

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **10 August 2022**

commencing directly after the General Meeting (see above) at approximately **10 am**.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Please give a thought to nominating for one of the management and committee positions, as the stipulated three year standing period is now up and all positions will be declared vacant and 'up for grabs'.

A short description of the main duties/responsibilities of each of the positions is provided below. If interested, you can obtain more information from the current position holders (shown below in bold type)

President -

mainly responsible for chairing meetings, representing the Club at official functions and meetings, managing issues within the Club, supporting and guidine the Committee– position currently held by **Suzy Brandstater**

Vice President – mainly responsible for assisting the President when and where necessary currently held by Bob Owens

Secretary - mainly responsible for recording proceedings of meetings, maintaining member database, attending to incoming/outgoing mail, email and correspondence - currently held by John

Treasurer – mainly responsible for managing financial affairs of the Club, receipt/banking monies, paying bills, preparing financial reports - currently held by Margaret.

Club Constitution

For member's information, a copy of club's constitution is available for reading on the front counter behind members forms.

Father's Day Raffle

Only **one week** till Father's Day! Don't forget to get your tickets in the Father's Day Raffle soon.

Father's Day Raffle

Tickets are still available from the Club at a cost of

\$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

Prizes pictured below:

First Prize: Capsule Coffee

Machine with Milk

Frother

Second Prize:

Third Prize: Rhodonite slice

Raffle will be **drawn** at the Club on **Saturday 3 September 2022**



Members Projects – Faceting

A faceting machine can look quite complex and a little daunting to the untrained novice, however they are essential in developing the skill needed in the art of cutting facets (faces) onto the rough gemstone, to create a brilliant sparkling gem, fit for setting into a fine piece of jewellery. The skill can take some time to perfect, but once you start to learn, you can quickly become hooked.

It is usual at the Club for members to use a glass marble as their first faceting project. You will be amazed at the finished product – your very own brilliant sparkling 'gem'.



New member, Chase, has been working on his first faceting project – turning a green glass marble into a sparkling 'brilliant round' gem cut. Chase said he is pleased to have had the chance to practice the art of faceting, and with the help and support of Tim, has learned many skills, tips and tricks, in the process.

Chase believes that developing new skills involves learning from mistakes, and the more mistakes you make in the early stages, the more you learn, and you become more confident and competent in avoiding and/or correcting them.

He is looking forward to taking what he has learnt into his next challenging stone, and can hardly wait to work on a real gem.



If you or anyone you know is interested in learning the art of faceting, Tim is usually at the Club on Wednesday mornings and available to give instruction and advice on the art of faceting, so come along and get started.

Hints and Tips

How to drill holes into rocks

https://www.rockseeker.com/how-to-drill-holes-in-rocks/

There are some steps that will be the same no matter what tool is used when drilling holes in rock. I want to list them here so that they will not be repeated. Your eyes will thank me later.

Working with water

In the steps listed below, you will note that I mention shallow containers that will be used to hold water. I use these containers to help keep the rock submerged as it is drilled, and the shallow sides allow access for my hands without awkward angles

Using water keeps both the drill bits and the rock cool while drilling. This will help to extend the life of diamond-tipped bits. It will also prevent the rock that you're drilling holes in from cracking due to heat expansion.

I try to keep materials that I am working on about one centimeter below the water surface. That keeps water flowing into the hole as I drill while preventing the chuck or tip of the drill from making contact with the water.

This is important, especially if you are using an electric rotary tool. It is worth stating the obvious here; water and electricity do not mix well together. Exercise caution when using water near your electric-powered tools.

Use Proper Drill Bits When Drilling Holes in Rock

Diamond-tipped drill bits are what is used to make holes in rocks. The diamond material provides a hardness that metal alone cannot provide. Smaller bits will encounter less resistance during drilling but they are also more prone to breaking than bits with larger diameters.

There are two choices when it comes to diamond-tipped bits. There are diamond-coated twist bits as well as diamond-coated core bits. Twist bits have a solid shaft with a traditional corkscrew-shaped edge that helps to bore out a hole, while the core bits have a hollow shaft with a straight edge that cuts a plug out of the rock.

I would suggest trying out both types to discover which one that you prefer. These bits come in a variety of sizes, so my suggestion would be to grab a few different ones for particular jobs or rock sizes.

Drilling From One or Both Sides of the Rock

Deciding to drill from one or both sides of the rock for jewellery should be decided before work begins. If the jewellery piece will only display from one side, you may want to consider drilling from the outer side completely through. The backside will likely blow out but it will not matter as that side will not be seen.

If both sides will be visible on the piece you will need to drill from both sides in order to prevent blow out damage on the faces. I use two pieces of string, one crossing horizontally and one vertically, in order to mark both sides for drilling. By lining the string up so that they cross at the same location on both faces I can mark points that will meet up when I drill.

Be Safe as You Work

Nothing will end your work session of drilling holes in rock faster than an injury caused by your tools. I always recommend using proper safety gear and procedures when making jewellery, especially with tasks like drilling into small rocks.

If you are going to use an electric rotary tool, make sure that you follow all operating and safety instructions that the manufacturer offers. These instructions will keep you safe and prevent possible damage to your power tools.

You will want to wear safety glasses when drilling with electric or hand-powered drills. Even small fragments that break away during drilling can cause eye damage. I also suggest using a mask to prevent dust particles from entering your lungs as you breathe.

Keep your work area clear from clutter, and make sure to wipe up any water between drilling sessions. I also recommend that you use a drill press vice or similar fixture to hold the rock during drilling. This keeps your hands clear of a drill bit that may slip as well as keeping both hands free (which is mandatory with hand-powered tools).

Drilling Holes In Small Rocks With A Rotary Tool

Drilling holes with a Dremel tool

Dremel is a popular brand of hand-held power tools. The company has a rotary tool product line that includes single speed, two speed, and variable speed models. You should be able to use the following information for drilling into small rocks, no matter which Dremel rotary tool you use.

What you will need:

- The rock that you are going to be working on.
- Basic pen or pencil to mark the point where the drill bit will cut.
- A base to hold and support the rock as it is being drilled.
- The Dremel rotary tool.
- An adjustable chuck, like the Dremel multi-chuck, that can securely hold smaller drill bits.
- The drill bits that will be used to make the hole into the rock.
- A shallow container or dish that can hold water.
- A towel for cleaning up water and debris.
- Safety glasses and a mask for blocking dust.

How to drill into small rocks

- 1 Begin by setting up your work area. This should include clearing away any clutter and making sure that you have enough light to work by.
- 2 Next, set up your container by placing it on your work surface. Make sure that you can reach into the tray comfortably. Fill the container with water, with the level reaching to about one centimetre above the top of the rock being worked on.
- 3 Place the rock, along with the vice or other device you plan to use for securing it, into the dish.
- 4 Put on any safety gear that you are going to use. I also like to take the time to roll up long sleeves if I am wearing them as well as put on an apron to protect my clothing.
- 5 Select the drill bit that will be used and insert it into the chuck. Make sure that it is secure before turning on the Dremel.
- Adjust the speed setting, making sure that the rotary motor is running on the lowest setting. This will be about 5,000 RPMs for most Dremel models.
- 7 Use a pen or pencil to mark the spot you wish to drill. Mark both sides of the rock if it will be drilled from both sides.
- 8 Turn the Dremel on and begin drilling by placing the bit at a 45-degree angle from the surface. This angle will begin to dig into the rock while limiting the possibility of slipping during use.

- 9 Once the hole has begun, adjust the angle of the bit by slowly bringing it to a 90-degree angle from the surface of the rock. Allow the bit to do the work; only apply minimal pressure to keep the bit in place. Move the bit up and down as you drill in order to allow water to flow into the hole at the point of contact.
- 10 Allow the bit to work through the rock and out the other side if you are not worried about the condition of the opposite face. If the rock is to be drilled from both sides, drill to the desired depth before flipping the rock over. Secure it in place and begin the drilling process described above again, drilling until the bit meets up with the hole from the other side.

Using other brands of rotary tools

Other types of rotary tools, such as the Foredom models, use a flex shaft attachment connected to a motor for drilling on rocks. The materials needed are the same as for Dremel type tools and the procedures for the operation will remain nearly the same as those listed above. Any small differences will be addressed in the operating manual of the product that is used.



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.

September Birthdays - Sapphire

Happy Birthday to:
Brent Thomas
Ray Moulang
Kamilla Shepherd
Luke Gannon
Walter Weskin
Mario Desillas

Sapphire

It is most desired in its rich and pure blue color. But its pink, green, and yellow varieties are also just as desirable.

Throughout the Middle Ages, Sapphire was believed to protect people from harm. It was also revered as a symbol of trust and loyalty.



The September birthstone, similar to Taurus birthstone, is a precious stone of nobility, faithfulness, and wisdom. Focussing the mind, promoting self-discipline, and carrying higher powers are other properties.

When people say Sapphire, they often refer to the royal blue variety of this gemstone. Although it also occurs in all colours of the rainbow, except for red.

The lovely Sapphire gives people who are born in September a full spectrum of choice when selecting the colour that best represents them.

Although Sapphire usually refers to the rich blue variety of the corundum mineral, this royal gemstone actually occurs in a rainbow of colours.

Sapphires come in all colours except red. Red Sapphires are classified as Rubies.

Trace elements like magnesium, copper, chromium, titanium, and iron give naturally colourless corundum a hint of green, orange, purple, yellow, or blue. Sapphires that are not color blue are referred to as fancies.

Pink Sapphires tow a fine line between Sapphire and Ruby. This is because they must meet a required colour saturation before they can be considered a Ruby.

There are pinkish-orange Sapphires that are called *padparadscha*. They can actually command higher prices than some blue Sapphires.

The name 'Sapphire' is from the Latin word *sapphirus* and from the Greek word *sappheiros*, which means 'blue stone'.

Some also believe that it originated from the Sanskrit sanipriya, which means 'dear to Saturn'.

Sapphires originate from North America, Africa, Brazil, Australia, China, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Thailand, and Myanmar. Their origin can affect their value as much as carat, clarity, cut, and colour.

Because of the extraordinary hardness of Sapphires, they are not just valuable in making fine jewellery but also in industrial applications.

They are often part of building scientific instruments, electronics, watches, and high-durability windows.

Sapphires represent integrity, sincerity, nobility, and loyalty. They are responsible for focusing the mind, maintaining self-discipline, and directing higher powers.

The September birthstone has been famous since the Middle Ages. Back then, the blue colour of the Sapphire represented heaven and invited wise judgment and divine favor.

Ancient Greeks wore Sapphire for guidance when searching for answers from the oracle.

Buddhists believed it encouraged spiritual enlightenment, and Hindus made use of it during worship.

Early Christian kings valued Sapphire's protective powers by putting it in ecclesiastical rings.

Ancient Hebrews believed that it was on Sapphire tablets that the Ten Commandments were engraved. Although now historians say that it might have been Lapis Lazuli stones.

Violet-blue Sapphires historically came from India's Kashmir region in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The most expensive Sapphire was a Kashmir Sapphire. It sold at \$242,000 per carat at an auction in 2015.

Australia was also a significant source of Sapphires until the discovery of deposits in Madagascar in the 1990s. Today, Madagascar is the leading Sapphire producer in the world.

In 1902, a process that produces synthetic Sapphire was developed by French chemist Auguste Verneuil.

The bounty of synthetic Sapphire introduced industrial applications, covering integrated circuits, scientific instruments, high-durability windows, and satellite communication systems.

Sapphire became a symbol of royal love in 1981 when Lady Diana was given a 12-carat Blue Sapphire engagement ring (pictured at right) by Britain's Prince Charles. Prince William also later gave this ring when he proposed in 2010 to Catherine Middleton.

Blue Sapphire continues to be one of the world's most beautiful and rarest gemstones.



Reminder to Members from the Secretary

If you have recently paid your membership fees, please check and collect your receipt and membership card, next time you are at the Club. You should find them on the front counter.

Smile Time



Tech Support: "I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop".

Customer: "OK".

Tech Support: "Did you get a pop-up menu?".

Customer: "No".

Tech Support "OK. Right-Click again. Do you see a pop-up

menu?"

Customer: "No".

Tech Support: "OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up

until this point?".

Customer: "Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote

'click'".

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				
<u>Please note</u> all e	<u>Please note</u> all events are subject to rules and restrictions relating to Covid-19 pandemic.					
24-25 September 2022	NSW's Annual Gem and Lapidary Show	Venue: Hawkesbury District Agricultural Showgrounds				
	GEMKANA	Jewellery, Gems, Crystals and Minerals				
	Time: 9 am to 5 pm	Featuring Desert Fire Designs				
	Entry: \$10 Adults, Children under 16 Free	See flyer attached				
15-16 October 2022	CRYSTAL, GEM & JEWELLERY SHOW Time: Sat 9 am to 5 pm Sun 9 am to 4 pm Entry: \$5 Adults, Children under 18 Free	Venue: Mingara Events Centre, Wyong Rd, Tumbi Umbi 2261 Exhibitors and sellers of crystals, gemstones, minerals, fossils, jewellery, beads and more. For more information: P: 02 4362 2246 Email: secretary@cclcinc.org facebook.com/centralcoastlapidaryclub See Flyer attached				
29 – 30 October 2022	Northern Districts Lapidary Club GEM AND MINERAL SHOW	Venue: Beecroft Community Centre Corner Beecroft Road & Copeland Road, Beecroft, NSW 2119				
	Time: 9 am to 5 pm (both days)	Sale of minerals, slabs, jewellery (incl. sterling silver), books and lapidary equipment plus displays of the club members' creations.				
	Entry: \$5.00 children under 16 free	Flyer: NDLC Exhibition flyer 29-30-Oct-2022 Website: https://ndlapidary.org.au/gem-show-beecroft-nsw/				

Words of Wisdom

"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds, cannot change anything" – George Bernard Shaw

Have fun, take care and stay safe!







