

# 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

January 2023 – Garnet and Holiday Break Edition

## ***Happy New Year Everyone!!!***

Due to the holiday break, you will find this edition of the newsletter somewhat condensed, containing just the following regular features.

- Opening hours for 2023 commencing from Saturday 14 January.
- Birthday wishes to members born in January
- What's on up to end February.

A more thorough edition will be circulated in February including pictures and raffle results from the Open Day on 10 December, and pictures from the Christmas Party on 17 December.

## **Club Re-opens – Saturday 14 January**

The current Duty Officer Roster below gives details of days, hours and Officer on duty.

**Please Note:** The Club will be closed on Mondays as we do not yet have a replacement Duty Officer available.

<b>Current Opening Hours and Duty Officers Roster 2023</b>		
<b>Day of Week/Month</b>	<b>Duty Officer</b>	<b>Workshop Hours</b>
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

## January Birthdays – Garnet

### Happy birthday to:

Michael Whittaker  
Susan Jones  
Julie Tremp  
Don Jones  
Arianna Pinkus  
Philip Ager  
Mitchell Thomson  
Rowan (Tim) Twomey

### Garnet

Those born in January are lucky to have the beautiful and diverse garnet as their birthstone. Garnets are commonly red but also come in an extraordinary range of beautiful colours, including orange, yellow, purple and vibrant green. There are even garnets that change colour from blue to purple in different lighting. Some believe the true value of the garnet birthstone is its power to bring the wearer good health, wealth and happiness.



The name “garnet” originates from the medieval Latin *granatus*, meaning “pomegranate,” in reference to the similarity of the red colour. Garnets have been used since the Bronze Age as gemstones and abrasives. Necklaces studded with red garnets adorned the pharaohs of ancient Egypt. Signet rings in ancient Rome featured garnet intaglios that were used to stamp the wax that secured important documents. The clergy and nobility of the Middle Ages had a preference for red garnets.

Garnet is actually a group of several minerals. Five of these – pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular and andradite – are important as gems. Pyrope and almandine range from purple to red. Spessartine is found in exciting oranges and yellows, while andradite is mostly yellow to green (the gem variety demantoid). Grossular may have the widest range, from colourless through yellow to reddish orange and orangy red, as well as a strong vibrant green called tsavorite.

The Smithsonian’s antique pyrope hair comb is one of the most [famous pieces of garnet jewellery](#) (pyrope is from the Greek *pyrōpos*, which means “fiery-eyed”). A large rose-cut garnet sits at the crest, much like a queen serenely surveying her court. The pyrope garnets that decorate this tiara-like jewel came from the historic mines in Bohemia (now part of the Czech Republic), and these rich red beauties were extremely popular during the Victorian era (1837–1901), when this piece was fashioned.



Curious about your garnet birthstone’s reputed health benefits? According to Indian astrology, garnet helps eliminate negative feelings (depression, guilt) and instill greater self-confidence and mental clarity to promote creative thinking and peace of mind. In ancient and medieval times, gems like garnet were also thought to be remedies for inflammatory diseases and to soothe the angry heart.

**Care and Cleaning:** The different types of garnet range between 6.5 and 7.5 on the [Mohs scale of hardness](#). This means that this birthstone is more susceptible to damage than rubies, sapphires and diamonds. So while not all garnets are good candidates for daily wear, they are ideal for earrings, brooches and pendants. Give thought to how you store your garnet jewelry. If you let it rub against harder gems – again, think diamonds, rubies and sapphires – it can be scratched. And in turn garnet can scratch softer gems, such as opals or pearls.

Most garnets are not treated. Rarely, however, some garnets might be fracture filled, whereby treaters try to improve the apparent clarity of the gem by filling surface-reaching breaks with a glass-like substance. Such treated stones require special care. Regardless, use of a soft brush with warm soapy water is always safe for cleaning garnets. Ultrasonic cleaners are usually safe, except for stones that have fractures or have been fracture filled. Steam cleaning is not recommended.

Best wishes to you all for a happy birthday and a wonderful year ahead!

## 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
<i>Please note</i> all events are subject to rules and restrictions relating to Covid-19 pandemic.		
According to the Gem Lapidary Council of NSW, there are no events listed for 2023 until April, but I will check again before the next (February) newsletter.		

*See you back at the Club next weekend!*

*Have fun, take care and stay safe!*