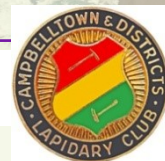


Rockgrinders Gazette

Aquamarine Edition
March 2023

Campbelltown and Districts Lapidary Club



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Visitors are Welcome

Anyone interested in: Lapidary, Fossils, Gems, Crystals, Beading, is welcome to call into the Club rooms during opening hours. Members will be happy to chat with you, have a 'cuppa', show you around, and answer your questions. When you do call in, please ask the Duty Officer/or a member to sign you in—the Visitors Book will be located on the front counter near the kitchen.

Welcome New members

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 look newsletter

Thank you to all those members who commented on the new newsletter format. It is much appreciated and great to have some confirmation that some of you do actually read it.

As I've said before, all comments are welcomed, as are any contributions eg articles, or submissions for publication, eg pictures of your works, projects etc. You can send them by email, or bring them in to the Club. I'm usually there Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

What's happening at the Club

Next general meeting

The general meeting set down for Saturday 4 March, has been **POSTPONED**. Date to be advised later. In the interim an informal discussion will held to ensure all aspects for our Open Day on 11/3/2023 are covered

Library Update

The recent donations by two separate families of a number of lapidary related books, prompted a rethink of the Club's library, and its location and accessibility.

As such, the library is now located on the bookshelves on the wall of the main room. Many thanks go to Bob, John and John who moved the shelves and attached them securely to the wall.

Also, a big thank you to Carolina who thoughtfully sorted the many books already in the office, as well as those recently donated, and then re-homing them so everyone can see, and easily access them. As well as this, Carolina has set up a book to record members' borrowing/return details.

There are books on all sorts of lapidary subjects: from carving, fossicking, cutting, polishing, rocks, gems/mineral identification, to silver, beading, jewellery making, and more.

Faceting books and references are housed in a separate unit, constructed by Tim, Bob, and John. This is located in this faceting area where it is easily accessible to anyone using the faceting machines. Many thanks to Time, Bob and John.

Feel free to take a look when you next come to the Club. If you wish to borrow from the library, you need to write in the book provided and have the Duty Officer sign.



Carolina and the library



Faceting books

Saw Room Update

Our Saw Room is now up and running properly with 5 Rock Saws and 3 Trim Saws all working.

A big thanks to John and his team who finally got our Small Rock Saw working safely. This is the saw that you use when you are cutting small geodes or chunks of rock too small for the bigger rock saws.

In the past members have used the trim saws for cutting geodes and chunks and this has resulted in our blades being worn out too quickly or broken, and a bit of a line up to use the Trim Saws, as they are very slow when used for bigger pieces.



Three Trim Saws

Trim saws are only meant to be used to trim off the excess on your slab before starting to grind it into shape. They save time, as it is quicker to trim off the excess than grind it down, and also save cost to the club, as the grinding wheels don't get worn out as quickly.

As in any of our saws, don't try to push the stone through the blade as hard as possible, let the blade take up the stone and just keep a gentle pressure on it.

If you try to force it, the blade overheats and the diamond or cutting surface comes off and you end up with a blunt blade.

To address this problem, last year the club decided to get the small Rock Saw working as we needed an intermediary step between a Trim Saw and a bigger Rock Saw that involved clamping the rocks in. This new small Rock Saw is so much faster.

When using the Small Rock Saw, ensure that you use the plastic splash guards, as it can get very messy.

When you have finished your cutting, please pay your \$1 per cut and place it in the sign on book.

The diamond blade for this saw and our other Rock Saws are quite expensive.



Small Rock Saw



Big Rock Saws

If you have not used the bigger rock saws before, please check with the duty officer to get some assistance.

In other exciting news, the team have been cleaning up the **Monster Rock Saw** in the shed and are planning on running a tutorial on how to use it. Please sign up on the sheet on the club whiteboard. Date for the training to be advised later.

Next Open Day— Saturday 11 March

Thanks to Maddie for her 'flyer flair'- the Open Day flyers are now available at the Club, and it would be great if you could pick some up and distribute in your local area—eg family/friends/neighbours and other interested connections, or local businesses, and/or sharing on your Facebook page (if you have one). This would be a big help to our efforts to get the message out to local and other communities.

As mentioned last month, we are asking for helpers to:

- ♦ clean up beforehand (during the Friday evening workshop)
- ♦ help with setting up early on the day
- ♦ help with putting out the street signs
- ♦ donating food items eg: cookies, slices, cakes etc for the kitchen stall.
- ♦ help with cleaning up afterwards
- ♦ generally help out where needed

A list of tasks will be placed on the notice board in the Club, so you can add your names, or you can email, or phone to let someone know—otherwise, if you can—just turn up early on the day to lend a hand generally.

Petrified Wood Art — by John Mainwaring



John at the club

John Mainwaring enjoys his lapidary activities, fossicking, shaping, grinding and polishing his finds, then turning them into beautiful jewellery. Recently an abundance of petrified wood gave John the inspiration to turn his talents to something different.

The result, shown in the pictures at right and below, feature characteristic 'logs' of petrified wood. The first one with a serpentine axe head with wooden handle, and the second with cross-saw and petrified wood handles. More of various sizes and stones are in the pipeline.



Petrified wood log, and cross-saw with petrified wood handles

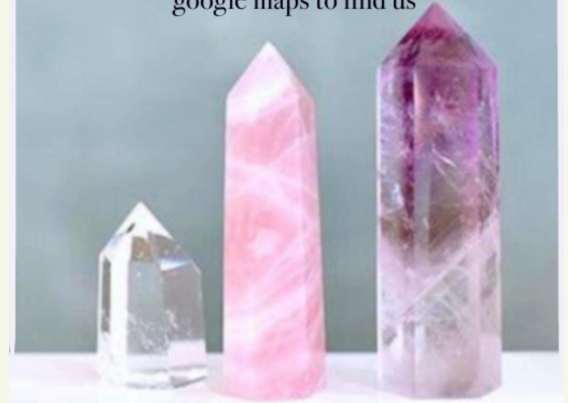
John also has a collection of beautiful polished stones, gems, and jewellery, etc he has made which will be on display and for sale at the club's Open Day on 11 March. Why not come along and see for yourself the beautiful items he has on display.

Campbelltown and District Lapidary Club

Open day: 11th March 2023
9 AM - 3 PM

Rocks, Crystals, Gemstones, Fossils
Handcrafted Jewellery and Market Stalls
BBQ, Cakes and Slices
Cold & Hot drinks

Search 'Campbelltown Lapidary Club' on google maps to find us



Phone: (02) 96183206

Email: ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com

Lot 1 Bensley Road, Macquarie Fields



Petrified wood 'log' with serpentine axe head, wooden handle.

Call in to the club's Open Day on 11 March, to see more of John's creations, beautiful jewellery and polished rocks.

Birthstone of the Month

[Source link.](#)

Aquamarine

Aquamarine is the birthstone for the month of March. The seawater colour of aquamarine has given this gemstone its name as the name "aquamarine" is derived from the Latin word for seawater. The specific term "aquamarine" was apparently used in an important gemmological work by Anselmus de Boodt in his *Gemmarum et Lapidum Historiia*, published in 1609. Aquamarine is a valued gem of ancient lineage. In the 19th century, sea green varieties of the stone were the most popular, but today, the more blue the colour, the more valuable the stone. In 1910, the largest ever aquamarine was found in Brazil, weighing 243 pounds. It was then cut into smaller stones, yielding over 200,000 carats.

The Dom Pedro aquamarine is the world's largest cut aquamarine gem. It was cut from a crystal originally weighing approximately 100 pounds (45 kg) and measuring more than 3 feet (0.91 m) in length.

The stone was mined in Pedra Azul, in the state of Minas Gerais in Brazil around 1980, and named after the Brazilian emperors Pedro I and Pedro II. The blue-green gemstone was cut by Bernd Munsteiner into an obelisk form weighing 10,363 carats. [Source link.](#)

The finished dimensions measure 14 inches (36 cm) tall by 4 inches (10 cm) wide. The jewel was donated to the Smithsonian Institution by Jane Mitchell and Jeffery Bland. It is housed in the National Museum of Natural History's Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology.



Aquamarine is commonly found in cavities, granite pegmatite, alluvial deposits of gravel and sometimes stream gravels. Beryl crystals in some pegmatite grow to very large sizes, even up to 30 feet. Aquamarine crystals of up to 3 feet are actually not uncommon. The best quality stones are from Brazil, where crystals weighing several kilos have been found. Other places aquamarine is found are the Soviet Union, Madagascar (where a dark blue variety is found), the United States, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nigeria.

The most common cut for an aquamarine is the emerald type, followed by oval or pear shaped cuts. It is a relatively easy stone to cut and is often found in innovative shapes, as cutters experiment with new forms. It rates a 7.5 to 8 on the hardness scale, making it quite a durable stone to wear. Large aquamarine stones, ranging from several carats to more than ten carats are relatively common. Rich blue stones that are several carats in weight are extremely valuable. Occasionally, aquamarines are found in large enough places to yield finished gemstones in the 1000 plus carat range. What is great about the gemstone is that the wide price range makes it available to almost anyone. [Source link.](#)



Caring for your Aquamarine Jewellery

The best way to clean your aquamarine jewellery is with plain, warm soapy water (using mild liquid soap) and an old tooth brush. Once you have washed the stone, make sure you rinse it off well with plain water. Be careful to use warm water instead of hot water, to reduce the dangers of thermal shock. Enzyme cleaners and detergent should be avoided for they can cause allergic reactions. It is also not advisable to clean aquamarine in an ultrasonic tank. Avoid sudden temperature changes, steaming, and contact with cosmetics, hairspray, perfume or household chemicals.

Happy March birthday wishes to:

Margaret Thomas, Maria Whiteacre, and Tom Hopson.

Apologies to all the members with February birthdays

Seems I printed the wrong list of birthday names in last month's newsletter, so I sincerely apologise. To all those members listed below, a *belated Happy February Birthday*.

Kerri-Rose Jones, Kathy Schlegl, Chase Baldwin, Robert Owens, Vesna Eleninovski, Hans Bleeker, Adrian Pinkus, Peter Van Oploo.

What's on elsewhere in March

Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc. Rock Swap

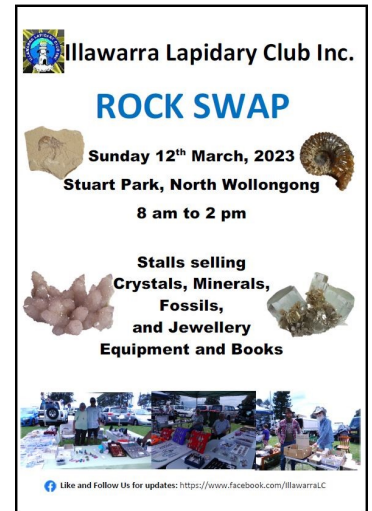
Date: Sunday 12 March 2023

Time: 8 am to 2 pm

Location: Stuart Park, North Wollongong

- Stalls selling Crystals, Minerals, Fossils and Jewellery Equipment and Book
- Covid-19 Plan will be in place

see Website for details <https://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/>



Canberra Lapidary Club Rock Swap

Date: 18 & 19 March 2023

Location: At Parrot Park EPIC

New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club Show

Date: 18 & 19 March 2023

Location: Armidale Showground

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.

Contact us:

Location: Lot 1 Bensley Road, Hazlett Oval

Macquarie Fields NSW 2564

Phone: (02) 9618 3206

Email: Ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com

Website: Campbelltownlapidary.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Campbelltownlapidary>