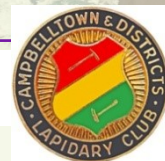


# Rockgrinders Gazette

Diamond Edition  
April 2023

## Campbelltown and Districts Lapidary Club



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## What's happening at the Club

### Grinding/Polishing Rooms - Update

Thanks to John M, Bob and Josh, new wheels have replaced the old worn/damaged ones in the following grits: 14000, 1200, 600, 240, and 60.

#### Reminder—to use the grinding wheels efficiently.

- Take extra care when using the new wheels as they will abrade your stones more quickly.
- Be sure to move your stone across the entire width of the wheel to avoid creating an uneven surface across the wheel.
- Always wash each stone thoroughly before commencing to grind, and before moving on to a finer grit wheel.
- Remember to wash the stone thoroughly if you drop it and it falls into the tray, or onto the floor. This will help prevent damage to wheels, and also importantly prevent scratches on your treasured stones.



Old wheels showing uneven wear

Always wash each stone thoroughly before commencing to grind, and before moving on to a finer grit wheel. Also, remember to wash the stone thoroughly if you drop it and it falls into the tray, or onto the floor.

## 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 to New Members

Brigid Hudson, Audrey Drum, Kylie Walker, Lucienne Walker, Luke Pendlebury, Emily Brosnan  
Shannon Brosnan, Roslyn Riley, Denise Vitellaro

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.

## Next Meeting

**Next Committee meeting** will be held Saturday 6 May at 9 am to approximately 10 am.

**Next General meeting** date TBA. All members are welcome to come along to find out what is in store for the Club, put forward your ideas, and have a say about how you think the Club should/could continue to develop.



## Office Update

Carolina has spent quite a deal of time cleaning up the office area, sorting out and organising, stationery and equipment neatly in the cupboards and on shelves. It is now much easier to find and access what you need. Thank you Carolina.

Also thanks to John C for providing and laying some new floor covering which, along with a new light globe, has really brightened up the area.



Bright office with new flooring

## Positions Vacant Update

As mentioned last month, we were looking to fill two positions currently held by previous committee holders. As the rules state a committee member can only serve 3 consecutive years, it is now necessary to fill those 2 positions. Although it looks like we have found a volunteer to take on the secretary's position, we **still need to find a new Treasurer.**

If you would like to know a bit more about the positions, click on the positions vacant link below, call in to the Club to talk about it, or email: [ctownlapidaryclub.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:ctownlapidaryclub.secretary@gmail.com).

A description of the positions can be found by clicking here. [Positions vacant](#).

*Although it looks like we have found a volunteer to take on the secretary's position, we still need to find a new Treasurer.*



## Friday & Saturday Food Fest

Members who attended on Friday evenings were treated to yummy waffle-cone ice creams, sprinkles, and chocolate sauce. Many thanks to Bob for instigating and organising the occasion.

Saturday attendees were invited to share the leftovers, and absolutely appreciated the special treat.

*Mmmmm  
delicious!!!*

8 April  
(Easter Saturday)

BB.Q.  
NEXT SAT.  
1200 START

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STEAK SAND.  
SAUSAGE ON  
ROLL

ALL WITH  
ONIONS

\$4 - \$3.50.



## Recap Open Day— Saturday 11 March

Many thanks to all those helpers who turned up early on a hot Saturday morning to lend a hand to set up the marquees and tables for the stalls, tables and chairs etc for the kitchen and barbeque. Your assistance is much appreciated.

A good spread of stalls, and a continuous supply of customers led to a successful event overall and a pleasant, though somewhat very warm, day.

Special thanks to Maddi for getting in early to take the photographs shown below.

### Raffle Results

Congratulations to all the winners of the Open Day Raffle, the proceeds of which will go towards the purchase of a new shed.

1st Prize—Clear quartz Geode won by Marieta with Blue ticket No P34

2nd Prize—Cloudy dendrite Chalcedony pendant with silver bezel won by Raeleen with Blue ticket No P01

3rd Prize—Mixed stone Bonsai Tree won by Denise with Blue ticket No P10





# Birthstone of the Month—Diamond

[Source link.](#)

A diamond - a mineral composed of pure carbon. It is the hardest naturally occurring substance known; it is also the most popular gemstone. Because of their extreme hardness, diamonds have a number of important industrial applications.



The hardness, brilliance, and sparkle of diamonds make them unsurpassed as gems. In the symbolism of gemstones, the diamond represents steadfast love and is the birthstone for April. Diamond stones are weighed in carats (1 carat = 200 milligrams) and in points (1 point = 0.01 carat). In addition to gem-quality stones, several varieties of industrial diamonds occur, and synthetic diamonds have been produced on a commercial scale since 1960.

Diamonds are found in three types of deposits: alluvial gravels, glacial tills, and kimberlite pipes. The kimberlite pipes (such as those at Kimberley, South Africa) form from intrusions of magma into the Earth's crust and deliver diamonds and other rocks and minerals from the mantle. The pipes themselves are often less than 100 million years old. However, the diamonds they carry were formed 1 to 3.3 billion years ago at depths of more than about 75 miles (120 km). Diamonds found in alluvial and glacial gravels must have been released by fluvial or glacial erosion of the kimberlite matrix and then redeposited in rivers or in glacial till.

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Diamonds vary from colourless to black, and they may be transparent, translucent, or opaque. Most diamonds used as gems are transparent and colourless or nearly so. Colourless or pale blue stones are most valued, but these are rare; most gem diamonds are tinged with yellow. A "fancy" diamond has a distinct body colour; red, blue, and green are rarest, and orange, violet, yellow, and yellowish green more common. Most industrial diamonds are grey or brown and are translucent or opaque, but better-quality industrial stones grade imperceptibly into poor quality gems. The colour of diamonds may be changed by exposure to intense radiation (as released in a nuclear reactor or by a particle accelerator) or by heat treatment.

A very high refractive power gives the diamond its extraordinary brilliance. A properly cut diamond will return a greater amount of light to the eye of the observer than will a gem of lesser refractive power and will thus appear more brilliant. The high dispersion gives diamonds their fire, which is caused by the separation of white light into the colours of the spectrum as it passes through the stone.

The scratch hardness of diamond is assigned the value of 10 on the Mohs scale of hardness; corundum, the mineral next to diamond in hardness, is rated as 9. Actually, diamond is very much harder than corundum; if the Mohs scale were linear, diamond's value would be about 42. The hardness of a diamond varies significantly in different directions, causing cutting and polishing of some faces to be easier than others. For detailed physical properties, see native element (table).



Cullinan I (530.4 carats) in the Sovereign Sceptre

The **Cullinan Diamond** is the largest gem-quality rough diamond ever found,<sup>[2]</sup> weighing 3,106 carats (621.20 g), discovered at the Premier No.2 mine in Cullinan, South Africa, on 26 January 1905. It was named after Thomas Cullinan, the owner of the mine. In April 1905, it was put on sale in London, but despite considerable interest, it was still unsold after two years. In 1907, the Transvaal Colony government bought the Cullinan and Prime Minister Louis Botha presented it to Edward VII, the British king who reigned over the territory, and it was cut by Joseph Asscher & Co. in Amsterdam.

Cullinan produced stones of various cuts and sizes, the largest of which is named Cullinan I or the Great Star of Africa, and at 530.4 carats (106.08 g) it is the largest clear cut diamond in the world. The stone is mounted in the head of the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross. The second-largest is Cullinan II or the Second Star of Africa, weighing 317.4 carats (63.48 g), mounted in the Imperial State Crown. Both are part of the Crown Jewels of the United Kingdom. Seven other major diamonds, weighing a total of 208.29 carats (41.66 g), were privately owned by Elizabeth II, who inherited them from her grandmother, Queen Mary, in 1953. The Queen also owned minor brilliants and a set of unpolished fragments. [Source link](#)

Queen Mary wearing Cullinan I and II as a brooch on her chest, III as a pendant on the Coronation Necklace, and IV in the base of her crown, below



*Happy April birthday wishes to:*

Peter Elston, Alison Cordova, Carolina Cordova, Cassie Williams, Jacqui Barnes.

## What's on elsewhere

### Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW. Gemboree 2023

**Date:** Friday 7 April to Monday 10 April 2023—Easter Weekend  
**Time:** 10 am-5 pm Friday  
9 am-5 pm Saturday & Sunday and  
9 am-1 pm Monday.  
**Location:** see Website for details: [www.gemboree2023.com.au/](http://www.gemboree2023.com.au/)



### Hawkesbury Show

**Date:** Friday 28 April to Sunday 30 April 2023  
**Times:** 9 am to 11 pm Friday and Saturday, : 9 am to 5 pm Sunday  
**Location:** Hawkesbury Showground, 40 Racecourse Road, Clarendon, NSW  
**More info:** Website: <https://www.hawkesburyshowground.com.au/show/hawkesbury-show>  
**Lapidary Competition details**  
[CRAFT Details.pdf](#)  
[2023 CRAFT – LAPIDARY.pdf](#)  
[2023 ENTRY FORM – GENERAL.pdf](#)  
or view the Lapidary Competition details online at  
[https://www.hawkesburyshowground.com.au/show/schedules#panel\\_17](https://www.hawkesburyshowground.com.au/show/schedules#panel_17)

### Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc Market Day

**Date:** Sunday 7 May  
**Time:** 9 am to 2 pm—Free Entry  
**Location:** 51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna  
**More info:** Website <https://illawarralapidaryclub.com.au> or like and follow us on  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IllawarraLC>



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.

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