

# Rockgrinders Gazette

**Emerald Edition**  
**May 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

Richard Klees, John Webster, and Ashlea Webster.

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 love to help you if they can.

## What's happening at the Club

### Next Committee Meeting

All committee members are invited to attend the next meeting to be held on Saturday 13 May at 9 am in the club rooms. Workshops will be open following the meeting which is expected to be around 10 am.

### Annual Exhibition Preparation

Preparations are underway for the next Annual Exhibition to be held in the Greg Percival Community Centre, Oxford Road, Ingleburn on 8 and 9 July.

This Exhibition provides an opportunity to showcase the Club, its members, and their creations to the public, and will include members and stall holders from other clubs, and lapidary related interests as well. Well patronized by the local community and other interested parties from further afield, it is also a good source of information for anyone interested in becoming a member of our club.



Part of the Club stall from 2022 Exhibition

This is the biggest event of the year for the Club, and includes setting up on the Friday before opening to the public on Saturday, clearing up and cleaning, and returning all equipment and supplies to the Club rooms before nightfall on Sunday. So please mention it to your friends, workmates, relties, etc, and keep the date free so you can show your support, - don't miss any of the action!

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workmates, relties, etc, and keep the  
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### Grinding Room Reminder

I have been asked to remind you all to make sure you ***always wash your hands and stones when moving on from the coarser grits to each of the finer grits, and polishing wheels***. It seems some of you are forgetting to do this - probably in the excitement of seeing the finished product. However, you may end up disappointed when you find unnecessary scratches appearing because you, or someone before you, didn't wash their stone before moving on.



## Saw Room Update

The re-instated small rock saw has had a few teething problems, but should be fixed soon. One problem being the mess it makes with oil splashing everywhere while in use. The saw will be fixed and new oil replaced as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you need to use that saw, please ask the Duty Officer first, and he will fill you in on other options to slice your rock.

## Beading Group

The beading group meets on Wednesday mornings, and have been recently working on a number of individual projects, including some Easter and Halloween themed earrings—a small sample of their works is shown at right. Anyone interested in coming along to learn some of the many beading techniques, will be very welcome.

In the upcoming weeks, they will be preparing and creating beaded items for display and sale at the Exhibition, as well as stocking and planning the children's activities stall.

## Faceting Group

Faceting members are having lots of fun, as well as experiencing some challenging moments moving from the old worn out faceting laps to new extra sharp laps.

If you're new to faceting, remember to take it easy when using the new laps they cut much faster than the old ones. Before putting your precious stone on the lap, it is a good idea to firstly run a flat edge piece of agate or similar hard rock to knock off any rough spots that might scratch your stone. Won't be long and the new laps will all be 'run in'.

John M, an avid facetter, is currently out and about the country looking for more gems and rocks. Hope he's having good luck and weather, and brings back some interesting finds.

Here's a sample of some gems John cut from his previous fossicking finds around the country.



Sapphires, topaz, and amethyst, found and faceted by John M over the years.





## Danisa's wedding project

When Danisa, a newish member of the Club, realised her dream was a possibility, she hit the ground running. With a definite deadline, and limited time to attend, she devoted all her energies to creating jewellery for the whole bridal party. What a wonderful effort, and personal gift for such an important occasion.

Pictured to the right are the beautiful cuff-links she made for the groom and groomsmen.

The wedding has already taken place. Keep a look out in the next newsletter for pictures of the jewellery made for the other side of the wedding party.



**Varicite**—a grounding stone associated with gaining wealth, believed to help brain-related functions, improving intellect and logic, and is said to calm the brain by relieving stress and anxiety..



**Obsidian**—thought to be ideal for balancing energy fields and releasing the ego. Its reflective nature makes it one of the first stones used in self-reflective meditation, internal growth and self-understanding.



**Citrine**—thought capable of holding sunlight, improving communication and attracting wealth.



**Jasper**—an uplifting stone thought to provide mental clarity, focus, organisation and decrease stress ..



**Tiger Iron**—believed to be a rare and potent three-fold stone. It grounds energies, protects the spirit and manifests the will.



**Aventurine**—positive stone of prosperity, diffusing negative emotions, reinforcing leadership, promoting compassion and encouraging perseverance.

## Eugenio's recent projects

Eugenio always seems to have an interesting project in the pipeline. The New Zealand jade pictured below, has been cut in the traditional Maori Hei Toki style and will in time be completed in the traditional Maori lashing. Keep a look out for the final picture ... next month?



The picture at right is of Eugenio's latest small pendant, made with Dendritic agate and carefully crafted to fit the 'image' in the stainless steel setting. A great display of stone selection, shaping, polishing, and setting skills. Thanks Eugenio.



## Friday Night/Saturday Food Fests

If, like me, you weren't at the Club last Friday night, or Saturday morning, *you've missed out on the Apple Pie—and all the trimmings!* Apple pie, with cream, ice cream, or custard—or all three!

*However, don't despair. This Friday night will be:*



### Chef Bob's Special Meat Pie Night.

**Where:** At the club 5—9 pm

**Date:** Friday 12 May

**What:** Pie Floaters - Meat pie, Mash and Mushy peas with gravy!

**Only \$3!**

# Birthstone of the Month

[Source link.](#)

## Emerald

As the birthstone for May, the emerald, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word “*smaragdus*,” means, quite literally, “green” in Greek.

Like aquamarine, emerald is a variety of beryl, a mineral that grows with six sides and up to a foot in length. Emerald colour can range from light green (though there is some argument whether these very light beryls are truly emeralds) to a deep, rich green. Emeralds are also like aquamarine in that the way the colour presents itself in jewellery depends on a good cut by a **skilled gemmologist**.

The deeper or more green an emerald is, the more valuable it is. The rarest emerald gemstones will appear to be an intense green-blue colour.

Emerald gems are found all over the world, including Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan, and Zambia. The availability of high-quality emerald is limited; consequently, treatments to improve clarity are performed regularly.

Emerald gemstones were mined in Egypt as early as 330 BC, but some estimate that the oldest emeralds are 2.97 billion years old.

Cleopatra is perhaps the most famous historical figure to cherish emerald gemstones. She even claimed ownership of all emerald mines in Egypt during her reign.

The Egyptians used emeralds both in jewellery and in their elaborate burials, often burying emerald stones with monarchs as symbols of protection.

On the other side of the world, the Muzo Indians of Colombia had well-hidden and prized emerald mines. These mines were so hidden, it took the Spanish conquistadors nearly twenty years to find them.

Today, emerald is a symbol of loyalty, new beginnings, peace, and security, making it not only a beautiful gem to wear, but also a meaningful jewellery gift to be treasured by the receiver. It is still widely prized by the rich and famous, with Elizabeth

Taylor's famous emerald pendant selling for \$6.5 million in 2011.



These, as you may have surmised, are the earrings. Bulgari, circa 1960, round and pear-shaped diamonds accenting two exceptional pair-shaped emeralds. Also: perfection. These earrings – like their late owner – are glamor incarnate.

Here's the necklace, possibly the most iconic and fabulous of this set. It's shown here without the large pendant, which is detachable. It's rather short, only 14.25 inches. The necklace is set with a graduated series of sixteen rectangular-cut and square-cut emeralds, each within a circular-cut diamond surround, spaced by graduated circular-cut, marquise-cut and pear-shaped diamond quatrefoils. It was made in 1962.



This spectacular Bulgari brooch is adorning La Liz's hair from amid that fluff of feathers in the photo at right, because she is the coolest person who ever lived. The brooch is mounted en tremblant, designed as a spray of variously-shaped diamond flower blossoms set with oval-cut emerald pistils and petals, extending baguette-cut diamond stems. It's mounted in platinum and is circa 1960.



The pendant/brooch, which could attach to the end of the necklace or be worn on its own. It features a rectangular-cut emerald within a pear-shaped diamond surround. It's very slightly older than the rest of the set, circa 1958.



**Happy May birthday wishes to:**

Leah Dickings, Linda Bosmans, Roslyn Riley, Judith Ferris, Bernard Tan, Kyle Hokin, Suzy Brandstater

# What's on elsewhere

## Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club Lismore Gemfest


**Date:** 20 – 21 May 2023  
**Time:** 8 am to 2 pm  
**Location:** Lismore Showground

## Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Show

**Date:** 20 – 21 May 2023  
**Location:** Mallee Pavilion EPIC

## Campbelltown and Districts Lapidary Club Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewellery Exhibition

**Date:** 8 - 9 July 2023  
**Time:** Saturday 9.30 am to 5.00 pm, Sunday 9.30 am to 4.00 pm  
**Location:** Greg Percival Community Centre, Ingleburn  
**Entry:** \$10, kids under 14 Free with paying adult



**Campbelltown and Districts  
Lapidary club**  
Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewellery Exhibition

Where: Greg Percival Community Centre  
When: 8th/9th July 2023  
Entry \$10 | kids under 14 Free  
with paying adult  
Sat: 9:30am-5:00pm  
Sun: 9:30am-4:00pm  
Food and Drinks available Lucky Door Prize

If you are interested in hand-made jewellery, crystals and gems, this is the exhibition to visit! we will have a variety of stalls selling rough and tumbled stones as well as Opals and Agates. If you're getting into making jewellery we will also have findings!

Phone: (02) 9618 3206  
Email: [ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com](mailto:ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com)

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.

### Contact us:

**Location:** Lot 1 Bensley Road, Hazlett Oval  
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**Website:** [Campbelltownlapidary.org.au](http://Campbelltownlapidary.org.au)  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Campbelltownlapidary>

### Opening Hours:

**Wednesday:** 9.00 am to 1.00 pm  
**Friday:** 5.00 pm to 9.00 pm  
**Saturday:** 9.00 am to 1.00 pm