



CANBERRA LAPIDARY CLUB INC.

This new Club was formed in October 2000 following the amalgamation of the Canberra Gem Society Inc. and the ACT Lapidary and Mineral Club Inc. In 2003 the previous Canberra Fossicking and Metal Detecting Club Inc. also joined the Club.

The Club has accumulated a wealth of experience and expertise to share in the many aspects of the craft. Visitors and new members are always welcome at monthly meetings, which are held on the second Thursday of each month (except January) at the Clubhouse, Tooms Place, Lyons. (The route for visitors is Launceston Street – Tarraleah Crescent – Tooms Place). At these meetings there is usually a guest speaker, discussion of Club affairs and exhibits or demonstrations. This is followed by an informal supper.

Membership of the Club is open to anyone interested in lapidary, gemstones, minerals, rock and mineral collecting, fossils, jewellery making, carving, enamelling and metal detecting.

The Club has workshops and meeting facilities at Tooms Place, Lyons where instruction courses are held on an 'as required' basis in cabochon and opal cutting, jewellery making, faceting and carving. Additional courses may be available through the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW.

Members using the workshop pay a small fee to cover the cost of consumable stores. A limited amount of rock slabbing is available to members at a reasonable rate. Special Interest Groups such as the faceting group, mineral group, silver jewellery, metal detecting and fossicking groups meet regularly to work and share experiences. All are welcome.

A newsletter is printed each month and distributed to all members. This gives advance notice of meetings, excursions, competitions, exhibitions and coming events as well as miscellaneous items of news about other clubs, workshops, hints and contributed articles written by members.

Outings are held during the warmer months. These are often day trips, but occasionally, two or three day trips are arranged to more distant collecting areas. Trips are generally made using private vehicles and can cover almost any aspect of club activity from collecting rocks, opals, minerals, fossils, gold panning, and metal detecting to visiting other clubs' exhibitions or clubrooms to talk, learn, swap and skite.

The Canberra Lapidary Club is a group member of the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW and a member of the Australian Federation of Lapidary and Allied Crafts Association.

Each member is asked to help in the work of the Club according to ability and experience. Members are encouraged to participate in Club functions and activities and to enjoy the interest, friendship and enthusiasm that the hobby evokes.

Subscription rates are, currently:

Family membership	\$40.00
Single membership	\$34.00
Country or Concession	
Family	\$20.00
Junior - single	\$18.00
Joining fee (new members only)	\$6.00

Mail enquiries:

The Secretary
Canberra Lapidary Club Inc.
PO Box 577
CURTIN ACT 2605

Telephone:

02 6281 3312 *Clubhouse* (answering machine)
02 6161 0876 *Secretary (H)*

As it not practical to have the phone continuously manned, would you please leave a short message and contact details so that we may come back to you.

New members will be made welcome. Most interests can be accommodated where there is sufficient member support. Please feel free to either turn up at the monthly meeting or leave a phone message if you would like to know more about our Club.

If you are a rockhound or a lapidary - a craftsman of the stone - or if you are a newcomer to the world of semi-precious gemstones and have casually picked up and wondered about a coloured rock or a cobble on a beach, you have knowingly or unknowingly held a key to knowledge of our ancient Earth. The stone you picked up and held in your hands was indeed a talisman. It had the power to open doors for you to enter a new and fascinating realm, and to tell you something about the ancient prehistoric world in which it had its genesis. If, as a lapidary, you cut and polished it, revealing wonders of silica-art, a new dimension was added. By pursuing the lapidary skill you have tapped into the great satisfaction known by craftsmen through the ages, when the shaping of stones was the shaping of the destiny of mankind. Knowledge and the aesthetic appreciation of the wonders of inanimate stones can bring to life and unlock the past, and illuminate the present.

