

but they can be found in a wide range of colours including green and gold and a combination of colours.

You could also encounter other gems such as zircon, black spinel, garnet, quartz, topaz, tourmaline... The gems could be found in the sides of creeks as well as in the creek itself.

Dig down through the topsoil until you find the gem "wash." This wash is a stony gravel which could vary in depth from place to place. If possible, try sieving the gravel in the creek itself.

How to fossick: Place the coarse sieve on top, fine on the bottom, and shovel some of the wash into the top sieve. Wash this thoroughly in the creek water, then check all the large stones for a glossy appearance in the top sieve before throwing away those not required.

Now wash the contents of the fine sieve separately, removing all debris and silt.

Up-end the contents of the sieve onto a cloth or hessian bag on the bank and closely inspect for gems.

"Specking" gems by walking around and looking keenly at the ground or at rejected heaps can also be rewarding.

Equipment hire

- Fossicking equipment can be hired by guests at most caravan parks and is also available at some fossicking locations.
- It can also be hired from Schmidts Jewellers, Grey Street, (opposite Town Hall), for \$10 a day.

Guided field tours

TAKE A WEE BREK

- Guided sapphire [vehicle] tag-a-long and includes:
- Sapphire find assured, minimum value \$100.
- Entry to working mine.
- Morning tea/coffee.
- Total cost per couple \$220.

BAPTIST CHURCH FOSSICKING CLUB

- Group visits to private land sites most Wednesdays – visitors welcome.
- Group leaves at 9am from Baptist Church, New England Highway (Church street) and travels in convoy.
- Small charge per person



Picking out the gems.

