



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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Social Meeting

Social meeting for 20th April was a talk by Terry and Lynne on their visits to Tucson. Terry started the talk with a brief history of the show from its very beginnings back in 1955 as a club show in a school hall that was open to the public. Now it is "the show" in the world that showcases gems, mineral specimens and virtually anything else that can be thought of in regards to lapidary. It includes displays from all round the world, including those from famous museums and private collections, and dealers selling items from \$1 to millions of dollars per item. No longer a single show it has spread out throughout the city to include halls, tents and even hotel rooms as show and sales areas. The logistics of bringing the show together and moving items in and out of the city is massive.

Terry, with the help of Lynne controlling the computer, gave a slide show of photographs of the city, show venues, some of the displays and local wildlife. The city is in a fairly flat bottomed valley surrounded by mountains. No trees but lots of scrub and cactus and often covered with snow at that time of year even though Tucson is not far North of the Mexican border. Some of the venues were tents big enough to fit our annual exhibition many times over. The items on display were a sight to be seen. Massive aquamarine, tourmaline, rhodochrosite, topaz of various colours and specimens with price tags in the multi thousands of USD. Of the nearly 300 photographs the first here shows probably one tenth of one show area selling jewellery. The second shows a display case of items from Australia and the last some of the amethyst cathedrals, Lynne may not be tall but these cathedrals certainly are!

For those with a computer <http://www.visittucson.org/events/gem-show/> will give details on the 2017 show and a few photographs of great specimens.

For the photos that should appear here see the Word document titled:- Tucson Pictures

The print system allows these photos to be placed into the document but the resulting file is too large to send via email or be placed into the website.

Mineral Group Meeting

Twelve members attended and reports given by Peter & Vicki. The night started with a great DVD shown by Noel on Dallas 2015 - minerals from manganese mines in South Africa showing some brilliant specimens. The ID exercise identified the following minerals: corundum/ rutilite, quartz/stellerite, rhodochrosite, barite, topaz, prehnite, fluorite/sphalerite and gypsum. Noel explained what is needed and what to look for when selecting a specimen for the mineral competition. Noel asked members to bring a specimen to the July meeting, with a label, which they think is worth 20% /60% in the judging for aesthetic appeal and quality. Also bring a photo of your mineral which you think is a good photo. Noel explained how minerals form from the Earth's crust & the minerals are formed by solidification, condensation from gas, precipitation from solution & metamorphic rocks. A working bee on 23rd April 8.30am to finish cleaning the specimens in the front cabinet. Freebies of desert rose from Arizona USA, supplied by Ann & Noel

Fossicking Trips 2016

Those wishing to go on any of the fossicking trips must put their name into the folder at the entrance to the club hall.

- May - Day trip to Grabben Gullen for sapphire date 21st May
- Jun - open for any member to organise
- Jul - Afternoon visit to Bob and Betty Hanson collection
- Aug - 24th Sunday Social walk from Minnamurra to Bombo or Kiama
- Sep - 17/18 th Weekend trip to Muttama for quartz crystal
- Oct - Emmerville or Inverell
- Dec - Christmas Party

General

There are a number of club positions still vacant and a change to report. First the change Dorothy has resigned as junior vice president and Bob Hanson is now filling that position and additionally as a catering officer. Mick Derrington is now the hall booking officer. We still need volunteers for assistant to the secretary, treasurer, program secretary and publicity officer. Assistant to the treasurer is particularly urgent as Eva is flying overseas for ten weeks in June. Still vacant are publicity, safety and property officer are vital to the smooth running of the club. Following the recent fossicking trip to Tambar Springs the usual contributions by the fossickers given to the landowners was not enough to cover all the landowners. Peter Stanley requested a donation by the club of \$70 to give to the landowner. It pays to keep landowners happy so we can fossick there in the future. While on the subject a recent email was received indicating a requirement for club members to consider sending individual submissions in regard to:- NPWS has been reviewing its Fossicking Policy following the Government's response to the 2014 Legislative Council's Inquiry into Tourism in Local Communities. A new draft policy open for public comment until 5th May, 2016 so comment on it if you can. <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/policies/fossicking-policy.htm> Draft NPWS Fossicking in Parks Policy | NSW Environment ... www.environment.nsw.gov.au

The Hunter Valley Gemmology Club are holding an auction for items on Saturday 30th April details on <http://www.hvgc.asn.au/> including sales catalog.

General Business Meeting

The minutes of the meeting are found in the silver room. Some items include:-

1. Working Bee on 6th May - carpets for exhibition, signs. Please note the club is running short on items for the lucky dip. treasure hunt etc. All donations of stones etc gratefully received.
2. Cakes and slices (uncut) donations are needed for May 29th Club Open Day. It's the Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea and we have been able to donate hundreds of dollars to the Cancer Council in previous years.
3. A raffle will be held at the Open Day for one of the pictures on the wall to the right as you enter the hall.
4. A donation of \$500 to Barry to help pay for the electricity he uses in the year (and in lots of other years) to tumble all the stones that are used at the exhibition treasure hunt and lucky dip.
5. There is a yellow book on the table next to the door for volunteers to be rostered on at the exhibition. Lots of volunteers are needed its our biggest fundraiser for the year.'
6. Michael Derrington is our new Hall Booking officer but there are other positions that still need to be filled as indicated earlier.
7. A suggestion has been made to run a coach trip to Lithgow gem show.

One new member was inducted into the club - Marlene Popovic (She likes to be called Ila) - welcome to the club Ila and enjoy all the facilities that the club has to offer.

Club Open Day

The club will have its open day on the 29th May in the club hall. Contributions of cakes and slices (uncut) would be most appreciated. It's for a good cause ie Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea. Probably everyone knows someone that has suffered and perhaps died of cancer. Every cent helps along the way to finding cures. There will be tables with members selling lots of great bargain lapidary items.

Dates to Remember

27 Apl	6.30 pm Mineral Group
6 May	Working Bee
18 May	7 pm General Business meeting
	8 pm Social "Pick of the table"
	bring along a \$5 item to participate
21 May	Fossicking Graben Gullen
25 May	6.30 pm Mineral Group
15 June	7 pm General Business meeting
	8 pm Social getting to know each other

Dates to Remember - Other Clubs

7 May	Open Day at Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club
14/15 May	Lismore GEMFEST
28/29 May	Winter Gemcraft & Mineral Show Canberra