



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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Social Meeting

The social night for 17th August was a talk by Joan Zealey. Starting with Joan and Bill's visit to the salt mines in Austria where salt has been mined since Neolithic times and continues today. From archaeological finds in the area it is obvious that even in those distant times there was a vast trading in salt. Artefacts being found that came from the Baltic (Amber) and Ancient Egypt's glass beads. No longer the use of antler or copper picks in today's modern world, water is used to dissolve the salt into a brine solution that is then pumped up to and refined on the surface. Following the salt mines and off to the museum where vast rooms contained large display cabinets of mineral specimens and cut gems. Some very nice specimen beryl, tourmaline and quartz. From the museum and off to China and a short video and still photographs of a factory making cloisonné vases and plates. Beautiful and expensive as its all made by hand.

Next month the social night is the annual display. For those not previously entered, there are two sections, lapidary and specimen. The lapidary item being any item a member has created, for example cabochons. The specimens are any specimen in the members collection. These must be displayed within a 40cm x 40cm square not using stands or display cabinets. Prizes are awarded for the best in each section and there is an overall prize. Come along and have a look and vote on what you think is the best on show.

Mineral Group Meeting

Eleven members attended and reports given by Noel: sixteen members attended Lorraine & Keith's house last Saturday to inspect their collection and enjoyed morning tea. Peter reported rain at agate creek that made it difficult to fossick. Workshops coming up : 22nd August 1.30 - 4pm to sort and box specimens. Please bring red, black pen and scissors. 19th September - time to be confirmed. Possibly 24th October. Eleven specimens were tabled for identification. The result for the ID was average. The minerals were: epidote, gypsum, dravite x2, galena/rhodonite, calcite, fluorite/calcite, barite, garnet, microcline (feldspar group) and pyromorphite. Noel conducted a workshop on mineral photographs and display competition. Labelling seems to be improving but our photo's still need more work. Specimens displayed on the night were mostly good. We all learnt a great deal more about photographs and display specimens. It is now up to us to do something about it! Freebies supplied by Ann & Noel. Next month's meeting starts at 6pm DVD Night, bring finger food.

Fossicking Trips 2016

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

- Aug - 24th Sunday Social walk from Minnamurra to Bombo or Kiama cancelled at last moment because Kiama Council closed the track everyone was going to walk. Maybe better luck next time.
- Sep - 17/18th Weekend trip to Muttama for quartz crystal
- Oct - 15/21st Inverell. Inverell club are running their annual exhibition and fossicking trips. Trips are tag along to local fossicking areas for quartz jelly beans, sapphire, rhodonite and possibly other items of interest. Each trip involves a small fee to the Inverell club, previously \$10 per person.
- Dec - Christmas Party

Club Competition Entries

September general meeting is closing date for entries. There are more categories this year and some prize vouchers donated by Gemcuts for winning entries. Entry forms can be obtained from club supervisors or downloaded from the club website:- <http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/forms/> Judging of the competition entries will be on Saturday 22nd October. Volunteers will be needed on that day for scorers and catering.

Exhibition

The exhibition is getting closer and we have a raffle again this year. Tickets for the raffle are available in books for members to sell. They are currently in the club hall - please see the class supervisor to take a book or books away to sell to the public. Money raised and unused books or portions of books returned to class supervisors please. The prizes have all kindly been donated by club members. Photographs of the prizes are on our website and Facebook page very soon. Flyers advertising the exhibition are now available in the club hall.

General Business Meeting

Business arising from July Meeting: Rebecca Keough requested on Sunday 16th October, 2016 a talk to bright kids about lapidary work. Rather than a member or members give a talk it was suggested they be invited to our Exhibition in November, Open Day or Stuart Park, which may be more interesting for them.

1. John has managed to negotiate a better AGL discount than they were originally prepared to give - well done John.
2. Submission to made to WCC for creek fencing.
3. An offer has been made for the club to purchase a faceting machine for \$3500. The Gem master machine is in good condition with extras. It will replace the old machines which will be sold.
4. Mineral Group - next meeting 6PM Wednesday 24th August, 2016 - bring finger food. Noel showing DVD & cleaning minerals & where they occur. Working Bee Monday 22nd August, at club rooms, between 1- 4pm, bring blue/black & red pen plus scissors.
5. Names in book for bus trip to Lithgow next Easter- Gemboree 2017.
6. September meeting last day to submit competition entries for exhibition.
7. Raffle books available for exhibition. Flyers also printed for exhibition - on table. New fridge installed last Monday. Some work needed on rear door.

Dates to Remember

24 Aug	6 pm Mineral Group
21 Sep	7 pm General Business meeting
	8 pm Social - Annual Display
28 Sep	6 30 pm Mineral Group
22 Oct	Judges visit for competition items

Dates to Remember - Other Clubs

27/28 Aug	Carlingford Gem & Mineral Fair
2/4 Sep	Gem & Bead show Castle Hill Showgrounds 10am-4pm \$5 entry
1/3 Oct	Gemkana - Hawsbury Showground, Clarendon
14/21 Oct	Inverell Gem & Craft Show
15 Oct	Campbelltown & District Lapidary Club Open Day
5/6 Nov	Annual Jewellery Gems and Minerals Festival - Ribbonwood Centre, Dapto