



# Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

PO Box 15, Wollongong NSW 2520 Clubrooms – Tarrawanna Hall, 51 Meadow St, Tarrawanna

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## February 2014

President: Eva Auerbach

Secretary: Dorothy McGonigle

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### **VERY IMPORTANT**

Next meeting is the Annual General Meeting (AGM) when ALL positions become vacant. If positions are not filled especially President, Secretary and Treasurer then there is a genuine possibility that the club will **NO LONGER BE ABLE TO FUNCTION!**

Nomination forms are available in the club hall on the table immediately on the left as one walks into the hall. All nominations should be in the hands of the secretary prior to the AGM which will take place at 8 p. m. Wednesday 19th March. To date only two nomination forms have been delivered. All members should consider what they can do to help with the administration of the club - ALL positions become vacant at the AGM.

### **Past Activities**

February 19th Social Night annual talk by Noel Kennon was very well attended by members. This year the talk was on diamonds. Noel spoke about the origin of the stones deep in the earth at high pressure and heat. The locations where diamonds are found are also areas where the continental plates meet. They are brought to the surface in volcanic eruptions but as the carbon (graphite) is combustible at too high a heat the conditions have to be just right for diamonds to survive in the two types of host rock. Noel explained that the hardness of diamonds at 10 on the Mohs scale is due to the very tight bond of the molecules. An entirely different bond exist in the molecules in graphite which has a hardness of only 1 to 2 on the Mohs scale yet diamonds and graphite are the same chemically. To finish off the talk Noel showed photographs of some of the largest and most expensive diamonds ever found along with stories of their history. To the regret of many members, no freebies this time but Noel did have a model of one of the large diamonds to be viewed.

### **Mineral Group**

Fourteen members attended the first meeting of the year and Aaron, Geoff and Noel gave reports of recent purchases and visits. The identification exercise was conducted by Ann and the four minerals identified were; kyanite, calcite, hematite and quartz. Remember only FOUR specimens each month for ID. There is a working bee on Monday 10th February, 8.30am to sort rocks in the shed. John presented an item of interest about the possibility that Antarctica may not only have ice but diamonds as well. Diamonds could be found in rocks known as kimberlites. However, mining in Antarctica is banned for 50 yrs. from 1991. Geoff Irwin presented apatite as the mineral of the month. According to Fleischer there is no such mineral as apatite but there are three separate minerals; chlorapatite  $\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{Cl}$ , fluorapatite  $\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{F}$  and hydroxylapatite  $\text{Ca}(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH}$ . The apatites are members of the apatite group which includes pyromorphite (phosphate), mimetite (arsenate) and vanadinite (vanadinate). Noel introduced the families of minerals 1 as the topic of the month. Noel spoke about the various groups of minerals which Fleischer lists at the rear of the book. There are a great number. The three we will be concentrating on are the zeolites, garnets and micas. Noel also outlined the basic points necessary to prepare a power point presentation. Freebies of scolecite from Arkaroola supplied by Ann and Noel.

### **Notice to all Supervisors**

The site induction checklist form for new members, which is mandatory (WCC) and must be available on request, is not being returned to the secretary. Only three completed forms have been received so far.

Supervisors please attend to this matter on the attendance of a new member - it does not matter which class the new member attends - and please return to the secretary at your earliest convenience. If you need more forms, please do not hesitate to let the secretary know. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Secretary.

### **Workshop Safety**

The workshop safety officer has noted that some members are not observing the rules that are set down in the workshop safety document which is available in both the cutting and silver rooms.

The rules are written for the welfare and safety of members and state that :- ***NO open shoes are to be worn i.e. thongs or open sandals and eye protection (Glasses) should be worn when using equipment.***

If you are not sure of the requirements please read the rules which are given to members on the day of induction or read the rules that are available in the club.

Thank you

### Executive & Committee of Management Meetings

Any member who is on the committee of management is entitled to attend the executive meetings which are held on the second Friday of each month.

Representatives of the maintenance officers, grounds officers and exhibition officers attend and any other member eg sales, lapidary, publicity officers and librarian etc. are also welcome.

The club is run as transparently as possible and any input the committee of management can give is welcome.

Executive committee

### Use of the big saw

It has come to the notice of the executive that some members who are authorised to use the big saw are not observing the most important issue by NOT being in attendance when the stone is at the end of being cut. This is causing a problem with the saw blade.

It is imperative when you start to cut a stone, you do not leave the saw for a long period of time and that there are regular checks on the progress. When the stone is getting toward the end of the cut, it is mandatory that you stay with the machine until the end of the cut and remove the stone from the machine.

Thank you.

### Workshops, Fossicking and Classes

Members from the lampwork and silver classes attended a shop 'fossicking' trip

to the bead warehouse 'I Love You Beads' Leichhardt on Sunday 9th Feb meeting at the club rooms and car pooling for the trip. Thanks to the drivers who were happy to transport members to the venue, it was very much appreciated. All members entered the warehouse eager to see wares and bargains. Enjoyable browsing by all to find that item to make up a lovely piece of jewellery, of course there was the 'splurge' on crystals and beads that one just couldn't resist. Everyone enjoyed the day and the refreshment stop on the way home.

Lampwork Classes - Commence Tuesday 4th. March new time 9.30am - 1.30pm.

The Fossicking trip on Saturday 15th Feb was to the home of Ernie Stevens for practical gold prospecting. There were 17 members who attended and were welcomed by Ernie into his home. He demonstrated the use of the various metal detectors and gold panning. Members were treated to a large spread of food (looked enough to feed an army) for a mid session tea break. No freebies (other than the food) but all members got to see nuggets of gold from fractions of a gram to over three ounces (nice). Ernie explained gold leases and refining.

### General Business

Minutes of the January meeting are available in the silver room.

Following the resignation of Geoff Irwin as a member some of the positions he held have had to be filled on a temporary basis until the AGM to permit the smooth running of the club and to fulfil legal requirements. Dorothy McGonigle is now the acting treasurer and John Maley the Public Officer.

A quote is being sought for new fluorescent lights in the hall.

Greg Cook is fixing the big saw - see separate comment from the Executive Committee.

We now have grant monies to go ahead with solar power but have to show evidence of all stages of installation.

Greg Cook left his keys in the hall just before Christmas, has anyone seen them?

Peter Soms has presented the club with the legally required Safe Work Method Statements. All members should be aware of safe work methods - see also note from Executive Committee. Having been personally involved in the production of these Safe Work Method Statements (where I worked before retirement) I am aware of the tremendous amount of effort required to compile these and all members should be grateful for Peter's work. Thank you Peter.

New members are in future being invited to attend only the social night on the night of their induction. Four new members were inducted into the club: Ron Bennett, Karen McLean, Robert McCurdie and Terry Anchor. Welcome to these new members, enjoy all the club can offer.

#### Club Dates To Remember

26 Feb Wed 7.00 pm Mineral Group
Mineral - Opal, Topic Evolution of minerals
19 Mar Wed 7.00 pm Business meeting
8.00 pm AGM
23 Mar Sun Kangaroo Valley for petrified wood etc (Meet Berry Apex Park)
26 Mar Wed 7.00 pm Mineral Group
31 Mar Mon 10 day trip to Tambar Springs
16 Apr Wed 7.00 pm Business meeting
8.00 pm Social night - Thunder eggs
April Proposed trip to O'Allan Ford

#### Other Club Dates To Remember

2 Mar Sun Newcastle Lapidary Club Rock Auction
2 Dora Rd, Adamstown
15/16 Mar 23rd Annual Gem & Craft Show -
New England Lapidary club
Armidale Showground
22 Mar Campbelltown Lapidary Club Open
Day Lot 1 Bensley Rd, Macquarie Fields
5/6 Apr Rock Swap - Canberra Lapidary Club
18/21 Apr Gemboree Gatton, Qld
17/18 May Lismore - Gemfest