



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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

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February 2015

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Social Night

The social night on 18th February was the talk by Noel Kennon on opal, birthstone for October. The name is probably derived from Sanskrit upala – valuable stone. Opals are non crystalline with a hardness of 5.5-6. Recognised varieties are black, white, jelly, boulder, crystal, matrix, fire potch, hyaline, opalised wood and opalite. Most comes from Australia, with small amounts found worldwide. They are shallow, not below 30m, and are believed to have formed when Australia became arid and the great Australian basin dried. Acid weathering produced a silica gel which dried to opal. Uniquely among gemstones, the colour is due to diffraction of light, with predominantly red being the most valuable.

MINERAL GROUP MEETING

Eighteen members attended the first meeting of the year. The minerals identified were; gold & quartz, fluorite, calcite & beryl var. emerald & pyrite. Noel presented a power point presentation explaining what, where, why & how minerals were formed. A mineral is a naturally occurring, solid and an inorganic substance with a given chemical composition & internal atomic structure. There are three rock types that are associated with minerals, igneous, metamorphic & sedimentary. Minerals were formed millions of years ago through solidification, condensation, precipitation & transformation. Noel explained that the minerals of the crust are mostly silica SiO₂ as quartz, aluminosilicates of Ca, Na & K as the feldspars, CaO as limestone & marble (CaCO₃) & various iron oxides. Noel detailed the 2015 program & how different members of the group will be presenting each meeting. There will be a mineral ID exercise each month. Next meeting 25th February, skite nite and a power point presentation by Ann & Carol. Freebies supplied by Ann & Noel.

Working Bee

Don't forget the working bee which will take place on Thursday 26th February commencing at 1.30 p.m. the club hall, kitchen, toilets etc. need to be spick and span prior to WCC's visit on Friday 27th February.

For keeping the hall etc. in a clean condition, a roster system has been devised and is situated in the same area as the book for members to sign when they attend classes. It is self-explanatory. All you need to do is the decide which chore you will complete, sign the form and date when the task was carried out.

Authority to use saws in big shed

Any member wishing to be authorised to use the 12 inch and 14 inch saws – and so far only one member has shown any interest! – please contact Des Bet on mob:- 0400 312 554 arrangements will be made to come to the club and demonstrate the methods of using saws correctly. If you have a rock which you would like to be cut, please bring it with you.

November Exhibition

Although the annual exhibition does not take place until November, it is very important that we start carrying out details and what needs to be done now in this regard, Brigitte (festival organiser) needs help. Help in this regard means taking on a role for different aspects of organising the event. We need members who are willing to organise the club desk (information for prospective new members), organising the games section including treasure hunt, arranging for the purchase of raffle ticket books, (this cannot be done until we have arranged for beautiful and worthwhile prizes of jewellery) flyers to publicise the event. The list goes on.

Please contact Brigitte and inform her of what you would be willing to take on. The members who have done these tasks in the past are very willing to give any assistance.

Annual Subscriptions

Thank you to all the members who have renewed their membership for 2015. There are still outstanding membership renewals and it would be appreciated if these could be brought up to date as soon as possible.

Classes and Fossicking

Classes.

Lampwork classes recommence 9.30 am to Noon Tuesday March 3rd.

Seed bead classes commence on the fourth Saturday of March (28th) 9 am to Noon

Jan and Bill Cahill recently visited the Burnie District Gemstone club (originally Burnie Lapidary club), now situated in the Highclere community Hall. It was amazing the bountiful amount of equipment, specimens etc. A most enjoyable experience.

Fossicking

Tambar Springs date will probably be changed to Apr 11-12 members wishing to attend to contact Pete/look in the trips book for final details once he has them.

Annual General Meeting

The agm will be held after the march business meeting which takes place on Wednesday 18th March 2015. If you have not yet nominated for a position on the executive or committee of management please do so as a matter of urgency. All positions become vacant and it is imperative that the executive positions i.e. president, secretary and treasurer and the two vice president positions be filled. If positions of secretary and treasurer are not filled a special meeting will have to be called to start dissolution of the Illawarra Lapidary Club, is that what you want? Positions vacant are attached to the nomination form.

General Business Meeting

Minutes for meeting to be available in the silver room.

- 1. Rock Swap 1st March.** Stall set up time 8am & finishing time 2pm. Cost per site \$10 members & \$15 other club members. 28th March visit to Ken Mitchell's 81 Fern st. Gerringong – names in book please. April Horsham Gemboree on front table. Some competitions already closed. May – Anzac Day w/e. Names in book if interested. July half day field trip. August - visit to Betty & Bob Hanson's house. Details in book. There is a trip with Inverell club in April—16th, 17th, 18th & 19th. Must be a member of Inverell club- cost \$20.
2. It has been noticed that some members are attending classes in open shoes. For safety no open shoes are allowed in any class, whether it be in cutting, silver room or in hall.
Supervisors! Please check that members are suitably dressed.
3. Appears hall has to be professionally cleaned every 6 months — in new leasing agreement. Some clarification of new leasing agreement required if club is granted new lease for the next 5 years. Polishing machine, given to us by Council, has not been used & if we are unwilling to use on floor then it will be done by professional at a cost to the club.
4. Prizes for annual exhibition needed urgently.
5. Bob Webb - has prepared list of items to be done at working bees/before/after classes. Volunteers needed or club may have to employ professional people to do the jobs at a cost of about \$5000 per annum. Club fees would have to be increased to cover the cost.
6. Please return overdue library books asap. Next month no social because of AGM. Could someone consider doing monthly social events to take over from Janelle.

New member Dora Karavasiles - Welcome to the club.

General

Courses for judging cabochons have now been completed and when other courses become available, we will be notified. There are still some positions available in the faceting course for judges. If you wish to attend this course it will be held on the 14th and 15th march 2015 at the Parramatta/Holroyd lapidary club contact Nelson Robertson on 43854495 as soon as possible,

The club is in the process of applying to renew the licence to continue our lapidary classes and meetings, a working bee will be held on Thursday, 26th February commencing at 1 p.m.

on Friday 27th February representatives from WCC will meet at the Tarrawanna community hall with any group who is applying to have a licence to work from the Tarrawanna community hall.

it is essential that the hall, gardens, grass, toilets, kitchen and the outside of the building is free from rubbish or cobwebs etc. if we want to renew our licencing agreement we have to prove that we are capable of managing the hall and its surroundings

Please make every effort to attend on this day.

Dates to Remember

Feb 25	7pm Mineral group
Mar 1	Rock Swap - Stuart Park, Wollongong
Mar 18	7pm General Business 8pm Annual General Meeting
Mar 25	7pm Mineral group
Mar 28	Visit to Ken Mitchell's collection
Apl	Tambar Springs
Apl 15	7pm General Business 8pm Social
Apl 22	7pm Mineral group

Dates to Remember - Other Clubs

Mar 7	Campbelltown Districts lapidary club Open day - Lot 1 Bensley Rd, Macquarie Fields
Mar 7	Lapidary Club of NSW - Open & Sale Day 136 Reservoir St, Surry Hills
Mar 21/22	Canberra Lapidary Club - Rock Swap Wagtail Way, EPIC exhibition park
Apr 3 - 6	Gemboree - Horsham, Victoria