



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

PO Box 117 Corrimal NSW 2518 Clubrooms – Tarrawanna Hall, 51 Meadow St, Tarrawanna

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February 2016

President: Bob Hanson

Secretary: Dorothy McGonigle

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Social Night

The social night for February was Noel talking about the Amber Room. Not the typo from last month of Amberoo. The Amber Room was originally built, in what was in 1701, Prussia, entirely from amber backed by gold leaf and mirrors using approximately 6 tonnes of amber. It was later dismantled and given by the German ruler to his then ally Tsar Peter the Great where it, eventually, was reconstructed in the Catherine Palace on an even grander scale. It was described as the eighth wonder of the world. Remaining in the Catherine Palace until the second world war it was looted and removed to Konigsberg by the Germans. Unfortunately that location was bombed by the allies. To this day no one really knows if the bombing destroyed it or if it was dismantled and transported to a secret location by the Germans. What is known is that using drawings and photographs of the original from 1979 to 2003 it was recreated in the Catherine Palace and that is now open to public view.

Mineral Group Meeting

The first meeting of the year started at the new time of 6.30pm and everybody was on time. After the welcome and announcements came the identification exercise in new form. Eight specimens were presented with clues on how the names of the minerals might be found. For the most part all present did well. Noel then presented a power point on mineral compositions to assist Group members learn the symbols for the chemical elements and how compositions are represented using those symbols. The presentation included information about the important mineral groups and how the formulae for minerals are read. The last part of the night was another power point dealing with the principles of photographing minerals and the need to know the capabilities of the camera and the objectives to be achieved in the photographic process. The evening finished at 9.00 with supper.

Fossicking Trips 2016

Feb	- 26th Friday Evening 7 p.m. visit to Wollongong Uni Howard Worner collection
	- 28th Sunday Rock Swap at Stuart Park
Mar	- Sunday 20th Daytrip to Kangaroo Valley for petrified wood and jasper - meet @ 10 a.m. Apex Park, Berry
Apr	- 5 day trip to Tambar Springs for drusy quartz and stellerite date tba
May	- Daytrip to Grabben Gullen for sapphire date tba
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
Dec	- Christmas Party

Classes

Lampwork

Lampwork classes commence on Tuesday 1st March 2016 - Jan Cahill is the supervisor. If you are a new member wishing to join this class please contact Jan Cahill on 90832258.

There will not be a lampwork class on Tuesday 29th as both Jan and Brigitte will be away.

Silverwork

Silverwork classes commence on Wednesday 2nd March 2016 - Brigitte Pickett is supervisor. Brigitte will be away from March 23rd to 13th April. During this time Veronica Baker will supervise the classes.

Workshop

The workshop on how to cut cabs to judges standards will be held on Saturday 27th February. The class has now been fully booked.

Barbara Try will supervise this workshop which will commence at 8.30 a.m.

Rock Swap

Whatever you do do not forget the Rock Swap On Sunday 28th February. It's a great venue virtually on the beautiful beach at Stuart Park, Wollongong. There will be lots of members there with their stalls full of goodies. We also expect members of other clubs with their stalls. A fantastic opportunity for all to find that tool, specimens, material to cut or finished stones even jewellery. The date is featured as an event on our Facebook site. There will also be a rock scramble for the kids - always so popular just don't blink when the word "Go" is given.



Membership

Membership fees are now due by 29th February. If not received by that date a surcharge of \$10 will be added. To vote at the Annual General Meeting, nominate or to hold a club position you have to be a financial member. It should also be noted that from this month any member (Except life members) who require hard copy of the newsletter to be sent to them an additional fee of \$15 applies. Newsletters are free sent electronically and are always available on the website.

Nominations for positions at the AGM

Nomination forms are still available on the club hall table just waiting for members to take one and nominate for a position. ALL positions are vacant at the AGM, executive and general, they MUST be filled for the club to function. At present only a few nominations have been received and certainly NOT enough to run the club!

If more nominations are not received, especially for the position of Secretary and Minute Secretary **IT WILL BECOME NECESSARY TO CALL A SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE ILLAWARRA LAPIDARY CLUB INC.** After 54 years in existence in the Illawarra Region and also one of the biggest clubs in the art of lapidary, It would be a very sorry day indeed if the club were to fold for the lack of a few volunteers to run for office. The current Minute Secretary has held the position for 16, **YES SIXTEEN** years and the Secretary **EIGHT!** Surely someone can take over these positions so the club can run. Both members will still be available to give advice to ease a new office holder into the position.

General

There seems to be a general lapse in the cleaning of the trim saws. It would be advisable if each member who uses the trim saw removes all the bits of rock from the table before any other member uses the saw. The brushes in the cutting room are not being cleaned after each use. Simple motto - if you use an item of equipment, clean it before you leave it!

Supervisors to check the pots and the end of classes, some are being left empty.

General Business Meeting

The copy of the General Business meeting will be available in the Silver room.

Some items from the meeting:-

1. Rock swap Sunday 28th February cost for stall \$10 members and \$15 non members.
2. Proposal for a member to become a life member
3. Possibility of having an information stall outside Warrawong shopping centre before the exhibition.

New member inducted was Glen Seppanen who has been coming along to the club with his father to the mineral group meetings and general meetings. Welcome Glen enjoy the facilities of the club as a full member.

<u>Dates to Remember</u>		<u>Dates to Remember - Other Clubs</u>	
24th Feb	6.30 pm Mineral Group meeting	Sun 6th Mar	Newcastle Lapidary Club Rock Auction Clubhouse, Dora Rd, Newcastle, NSW
26th Feb	Friday night 7 pm visit to Wollongong University Howard Worner collection	11-13th Mar	Minerama Fossicking, Gem & Jewellery Show Glen Innes, NSW http://www.minerama.com.au/
28th Feb	Sunday 8.30 am to 2.30 pm Annual Rock Swap Stuart Park, Wollongong	Sat 12th Mar	RockAuction Sat 12th March, 2016 Central Coast Lapidary Club
16th Mar	7 pm General Business meeting and AGM	19-20 Mar	25th Annual Gem And Craft Show at Armidale Showground
20th Mar	Trip to Kangaroo Valley to fossick for petrified wood and jasper. Beautiful location. Meet at 10 am at Apex Park, Berry	25- 29 March	GEMBOREE The 52nd National Gem & Mineral Show, Ulverstone, Tasmania FullDetailsat http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/
TBA Apl	5 day trip to Tambar Springs	15-17th Apr	Hawkesbury Show at Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon NSW.
		16-17 Apr	Rock Swap Canberra