



## Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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**January 2016**

President: Bob Hanson

Secretary: Dorothy McGonigle

Club Welfare Officer: Maureen Young

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### **Valedictory - Viktor Raffler**

It is with sadness that we record the passing of another valued member of the Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc. - Viktor Raffler

Viktor was born on the 10th July 1925 in Austria. He was the middle child of three. His elder brother, Norbert, died on the frontline in WW1 at the tender age of 21 years. His sister, Sylvia, passed away in 2005.

Viktor grew up in Austria and he worked in a shoe factory and a coal mine. In WW2 he served in the German merchant navy and was captured by the British and spent some time as a POW.

In 1949 Viktor married Philomena Resnik and they had two sons, Norbert and Viktor. He and his young family started a new life in Australia, arriving in 1955. Two more children - Angela and Kevin - were born in Australia. Viktor worked for a time with BHP but later became self employed as a concreter and cement renderer.

In June 1991 he became a member of the Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc and became very proficient in silver work and was an excellent faceter. He also cut cabochons. He was a very quiet gentleman but he would help anyone who asked. He rarely missed his Thursday class and would go to Collegians for his lunch as he said it would save cooking dinner that night.

He showed Bob Webb some of his faceted stones which were done in his early years with the club, they were excellent. Bob thinks he may well have kept that very first stone, a red one.

Viktor will be sadly missed by the members of the club. In July of 2015, his ninetieth birthday, members of the Thursday class took him out to lunch to celebrate.

Viktor passed away on January 2nd 2016. Our sincere condolences go to Norbert and June, Viktor and Julie, Angela and Tom, Kevin and Kim and Christiane. He was a much loved granddad and great granddad.

### **Mineral Group Meeting**

Fifteen members attended the final meeting of the year with two new members. Reports from Don- on the exhibition result for the mineral table, Aaron - his birthday gifts, Peter - weekend exhibitions & Ann - on their recent visit to Tasmania. Noel conducted the ID exercise by way of a power point presentation & the minerals were: cerussite, crocoite, prehnite, corundum - variety, star sapphire, calcite, fluorite, a garnet, quartz & cuprite, malachite & cuprite & topaz. Noel presented several interesting topics for the group to work through, with the final examination & everyone passed & can progress to next year. Peter was again the dux with a score of 67% in the exam. A fun night was had by all & everyone wished all club members a happy & safe Christmas & New Year.

### **Social Night**

The first social night of the year was a "skite" night. Members bringing in items and telling the tales of how they were found and where.

Next social night 17th February will be Noel talking on Amberoo. Come in and listen to Noel tell us all about that.

### **Fossicking Trips 2016**

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|-----|---|
| Feb | - 6/7th Trip to Dunedoo for leaves/plant fossils with Fossil Club - See David Hindmarsh                                   |
|     | - 26th Friday Evening visit to Wollongong Uni Howard Warner collection  |
|     | - 28th Sunday Rock Swap at Stuart Park  |
| Mar | - Daytrip to Kangaroo Valley for petrified wood and jasper  |
| Apr | - 5 day trip to Tambar Springs for drusy quartz and stellerite  |
| May | - Daytrip to Grabben Gullen for sapphire  |
| 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 | - 2nd on Week trip to Emmaville Gemfest and Tingha sands etc or Week trip from 15th to Inverell Gem Show and Tingha etc.  |
|     | - 30th Daytrip to Sydney for Lapidary Club of NSW followed by visit to Albert Chapman collection at the Australian Museum |
| Nov | - 5/6th ILC Annual Gem & Mineral Show   |
|     | - 19/20th Weekend trip to Tuena for gold  |
| Dec | - Christmas Party   |

## Membership

Membership fees are **DUE** now and are payable by 29th February!

The March meeting is the AGM when **ALL positions** become vacant! To hold a club position, nominate a member for position or to vote a member into a position you **MUST** be a financial member. Nomination forms are available in the club hall. It would be appreciated if members would complete the nomination sooner rather than later.

ALL members to note the Secretary AND Minute Secretary will **NOT** be standing for election this year. It is of the utmost importance that both these positions are filled. A list of positions is attached to each nomination form.

## General

Arthur Roffey has resigned his position of Secretary of the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW after twenty five years. We wish him well in his retirement.

Marilyn Behrens has taken on this position and we wish her every success as Secretary of the Council. There is a change of mailing address for the Gem & Lapidary Council, which takes effect immediately. The new address is P.O. Box 163, WENTWORTHVILLE, NSW 2145 Tel No 02 96358218.

During the Christmas break John Maley reported that the bridge over the creek had become unstable. This was reported to Wollongong Council and they attended to this instability immediately. A letter of thanks has been sent to Gordon Webb, Maintenance Officer.

The hall and sheds were fumigated inside and out on the 17th December and there were many red back spiders found around the base of the hall. Working bees will be required in the year each month to keep the grounds clear of grass and rubbish so that the spiders can be kept at bay. The working bees will also need to include the inside of the hall, especially as the hall is hired out on a regular basis. In regard to the spiders, the hall is hired out for children's parties and there are also children who attend the Embroiders' Guild. If any of the children were to be bitten we could be in real trouble. So how about members pulling our weight and cleaning the place up on a regular basis.

At the last executive meeting the toilets were not in the best state of cleanliness, the kitchen sink and floor needed attention and the hall was due to be hired out the next day. Two of the executive members stayed back and cleaned the toilets, washed and polished the hall floor and washed the kitchen floor.

Three members have made themselves available to supervise and train any member wishing to use the saws in the shed. They are Bob Webb, Greg Cook and Bob Hanson.

Gem cuts have sent notices (available in the hall - Please read these notices) stating they will give members a discount of up to 10%.

A new lawn mower has been purchased - unfortunately we could not afford a ride on, however, there is an open invitation for any member to come and give it a good work out. We have nice lawns and they need cutting regularly.

## Classes

The Monday classes are 8.30 am to 12 Noon - Cabbings and 6.30 pm to 10 pm for Silver and cabbings.

## For Sale

The club has a 12 inch saw complete with blade. Cost \$300 contact one of the sales officers ie Bob Strachan, Greg Cook, Bob Webb, Bob Hanson, Barry Young

## General Business Meeting

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

Some of the items discussed:-

1. Thanks to those that came into the club and cleaned and polished the floor.
2. Australia Post have introduced a \$1 postal fee. As a result as foreshadowed last year this will be the **last "free" posted** hard copy to members unless a member elects to pay an additional fee for postage. The newsletter is available on our website and is sent to all members who have given their email address. Electronic newsletters will always be free. For those that want a hard copy these will be available for collection the Thursday after the each months general business meeting in the club hall.
3. Desiree Savage, a reporter from the Illawarra Mercury will be visiting the club on Thursday 11th February to take photos and compile a article for the Illawarra mercury.
4. Mineral Group start time is changed to 6.30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month.
5. The toilets are still being left in an unacceptable condition. A motion was put to the meeting, and accepted, that the club employ a professional cleaner to come in at least once per week to clean the toilets. The cost of the cleaner to be met with an increase in class fees from \$3 to \$4 per session.

There were two new members inducted into the club. Welcome to the new members and please enjoy the facilities and social aspects of the club.

### Dates to Remember 2016

27th Jan	6.30 pm Mineral Group
6/7 Feb	Dunedoo fossicking trip
17th Feb	7 pm General Business meeting
	8 pm Social - Noel on Amberoo
28th Feb	Annual Rock Swap Stuart Park

### Dates to Remember - Other Clubs 2016

25th - 29th Mar Gemboree at Ulverstone, Tasmania  
details <http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/>