



# Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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

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## Social Meeting

The social meeting for 20th May was the "pick of the table" where there was a variety of items including some books. All members that contributed an item and all the new members inducted on the night were able to make their choice.

Next social night on the 17th of June will be Ces Dwyer talking about Gems.

## MINERAL GROUP MEETING

Only seven members braved the terrible night. The identified minerals were; Rhodochrosite, Topaz, Rhodonite, Beryl (var. emerald), Calcite and a non-mineral specimen of Bismuth. Vicki will be running the meeting for June and she requests members bring two specimens, one which the chemical composition is known and another by identity only. There is a working bee on Monday 6th July, 8.30am to sort exhibition rocks in the shed. Noel presented the topic of the month, mineral identification via a power point presentation. Since the start of the mineral group in September 2004, it is known there are Approx. 5000, discovered, approved and named minerals. Possibly there are several million minerals. Fleischer has catalogued 4776 minerals and is the "bible" for minerals. Composition and crystal structure may be sufficient to identify a mineral. With composition there are seven different structure types. There are several minerals that have the same composition, so it may not be possible to identify only from composition. Locally only the University has the required equipment to identify minerals, e. g. an Xray machine. A good method of identification is prior experience of having mineral previously. Other ways methods of identification is by observation of what can be seen. For example; colour, shape - morphology, cleavage, transparency, fracture and lustre. Another way is by what can be measured. For example; streak, hardness and specific gravity. A further method is by knowing where the mineral came from - locality. Noel set an exercise for the August meeting, identify a mineral that has the following properties; metallic lustre, grey-black colour, imperfect cleavage, uneven sub-conchoidal fracture, hardness of 2.5 to 3, specific gravity of 5.83 and is opaque. Mineral group members can look it up in mineral books. The freebie supplied by Ann & Noel was quartz from the gulf which is north of Emmaville, Northern NSW.

## Fossicking/Trips

Field Trips – names and contact numbers in book please

Trip to Tambar Springs was attended by six members and was close to being totally washed out. It rained and rained but there were still a few hours solid fossicking carried out in two locations and some reasonable specimens found.

18th July (Saturday) - Roland Smith will be talking on and demonstrating the geology of the Illawarra at Bombo Quarry. Meet at 9 am in the car park North end of Bombo beach.

23rd August (Sunday) - Bob Hanson collection and BBQ lunch

18-20 September - Muttama

November - Members choice as yet only one suggestion

## General

### Club Open Day

Don't forget about the open day on the last sunday in may (31st) when the proceeds of the morning tea will be donated to the cancer council. Tables can not be put in position and set out until the Sunday morning as there is a birthday party in the hall on Saturday. A sausage sizzle will be provided at a nominal charge. Please make an effort to attend. Donations of cakes and slices all uncut would be much appreciated as would a little extra help with the kitchen. It is after all the sales of tea and cakes that are going to raise funds for an important cause..

After the business meeting on Wednesday 20th May Dorothy found a dossier for new members in the red bucket in the silver room. It only contained the club constitution, club rules and safety practices, very important information for any member. The person who left it behind should contact Dorothy.

Due to the rising cost of coffee, tea, sugar, cakes and biscuits it is necessary to increase the cost of the supper on the evening of the business and soacial evening. From the June meeting the cost will rise to \$1 per person. The increase is on a trial basis to ascertain if that can cover the costs involved.

## Saws

Two members are now authorised to use the 24" saw - Robert Bassett and Robert Hanson.

If any other members are interested in being authorised to use either the 12" or 24" saw then please contact Des Bet. We really need more members who are willing to know how the saws should be used, serviced and maintained. Please come forward and contact Des

There are still members not using the trim saws correctly in that stones too big for the machine are cut with consequence ruining the blade.

A sample guage is now available. If the stone to be cut does not fit through it is too big for the saw. That is what the 12" and 24" saws are for. Any thicker than 40mm and there WILL be damage to the blade and the 40mm does not mean 40mm in one pass then turn the stone over and cut the remaining 40mm on a second pass. These blades are EXPENSIVE and are being replaced far more often than should be under normal wear and tear. The saws are also being left in a dirty state. All members using saws should clean the machine after use.

## Supervisors Please Note

There are not many site induction forms being filled out by new members. It is a requirement of Council's ruling and we need to comply. EVERY member, existing or new, should have signed one of these forms and handed it to the secretary. The forms are filed and could be required to be seen by Wollongong City Council at any time. All supervisors should ensure all new members know where the important items of the club eg first aid box, fire extinguishers and fire blankets etc, are located and sign one of the induction forms.

## Duplication of Keys

No one is allowed to duplicate any keys without the permission of the secretary. The secretary is responsible for ALL keys and is accountable for same and needs to keep a record of who has keys to the various cupboards and sheds.

It is also time for the master key register to be filled out again. Please bring all master keys to the club and Dorothy will visit each class to register the keys. You must be present to sign the register. We have until the end of May to return this register to Wollongong City Council.

Thank you - Dorothy

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Bob Webb on attaining the certificate of competency in faceting. Bob completed the course and the final examination under the supervision of Nelson Robertson and on behalf of the Gem & Lapidary Council of New South Wales who made this possible.

Well done and congratulations Bob

## General Business Meeting

Copy of the minutes will be in the silver room.

1. The lease arrangements with Wollongong City Council are still ongoing and a request has been made for that leasing to be for 10 years rather than the five years. Arrangements have reached the stage of submission to General Manager for final approval
  2. A number of lapidary books have been donated to the club by Joan Shepard - Thanks Joan
  3. Guage made for rocks to be cut on trim saws - maximum 40 mm - More than 40 mm then DO NOT CUT
  4. Possible change of banks from CBA to CUA to bring current and deposit accounts into one location - depends on fee structure
  5. Working Bee on 28th May after class in preparation for the open day.
  6. Additional storage required for all the books now available in the library - Janelle to source appropriate cupboard.
- New starters inducted into the club. Welcome to those that turned up for their induction. Enjoy the facilities that the club has to offer.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>		<b>Dates to Remember - Other Clubs</b>	
May 27	7pm Mineral group see mineral group	30th -31st May	Canberra Winter Gemcraft and Mineral Show
May 31	Open Day 9 am to 2 pm approx		EPIC
	Donations of cakes and slices would be appreciated	11th – 12th July	Campbelltown Gem, Mineral and Jewellery Show, Greg Percival Centre, Oxford Rd Ingleburn
June 17	7 pm General Business	15/16 Aug	Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club show - Glenbrook Community Hall, Glenbrook
	8 pm Social - Ces on Gems	26/27 Sep	Bathex 2015 Exhibition - Bathurst
June 24	Mineral Group	3rd-5th Oct	Gemkhana , Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon.
July 15	7 pm General Business		
	8 pm Social - Ces on Gems		
July 18	Illawarra Geology trip		