



# Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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

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## November 2013

President: Eva Auerbach

Secretary: Dorothy McGonigle

Club Welfare Officer: Maureen Young

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### Past Events

Weekend of 2nd and 3rd November - Exhibition

Our annual exhibition held over the weekend at least had fine weather for most of the time and a fair number of members of the public visiting. Everyone was treated to a spectacular display of specimens, finished stones, jewellery etc. Fantastic!

Probably a record number of visitors this year signed up to become members. Most were inducted into the club at the November meeting. A testament of the standard of work that went into the production of the items and organisation of the exhibition. On that note, thanks go to all the hardworking volunteers who worked before, during and after to produce and run smoothly such a wonderful exhibition. Special thanks should go to Greg Cook as the major organiser and Maureen Young for her quiet but relentless dedication to the club jewellery table during the year. Thanks are also extended to all those vendors who also make it such a fantastic couple of days. The web site now has a document containing lots of photographs from the exhibition. These include all the competition winners work, some of the vendors and contents of display cases. A separate document on the web contains the names of all the club competition winners. For the photographs, as I have used a pdf document, just do not try to zoom in too much. If anyone would like a copy of a particular photograph please email me on the club email address.

November 20th - Club Social night - Pick of the table.

In all the time I have been to the club for the pick of the table night I have never seen so many participants, Personally I was lucky last. Good thing it was not what I had brought along!

Next meeting on January 15th is Skite night where members bring along their specimens, acquisitions etc and tell the story behind them. I enjoyed the one with Ken Mitchell and his story of "mad Mick" and how Ken outsmarted him to get his spectacular specimen.

### Mineral Group

Seventeen members present and reports given by Geoff about diopside from Mt. Elliot and Keith about recent finds from Tambar Springs, calcite and quartz. The identification exercise was presented by Eva. Well, some specimens had over six minerals present and the ten specimens were; 1. calcite, quartz, pyrite, garnet and galena, 2. quartz, dravite, peridot and apatite, 3. quartz 4. gypsum 5. quartz 6. quartz 7. rhyolite, mainly quartz 8. quartz 9. pyrite, sphalerite, realgar, orpiment, galena and quartz 10. galena, rhodonite and sphalerite. Eva will be banned from giving ID tests! Margaret presented gold as the mineral of the month. Gold (Au native element) is a pleasure to own and possess, as many people have discovered throughout the ages and around the world. Gold is a very stubborn element when it comes to reacting to or combining with other elements. Keeping this in mind helps to explain many things about gold. There are very few true gold ores, besides native gold, because it forms a major part of only a few rare minerals, it is found as little more than a trace in a few others or it is alloyed to a small extent with other metals such as silver. Gold is almost indestructible and has been used and then reused for centuries to the extent that all gold of known existence is almost equal to all the gold that has ever been mined. Gold is a great medium metal for jewellery, as it never tarnishes. Native gold wires emerging from massive white quartz can make for a visually stunning specimen. Good natural specimens are more expensive than their actual weight value. This is to be expected as good gold crystals are somewhat scarce (most are dissolved, crushed, or melted down as part of the mining process) and the only justification for preserving a specimen is the expectation that it will bring a higher price in its natural state. Noel discussed mineral properties as the topic of the month. Minerals can not always be identified by composition or crystal structure. Other properties are useful such as hardness, density, cleavage, fracture or streak. Hardness and density together give a good indication what the mineral may be. Freebies of glendonites supplied by Ann and Noel.

#### Classes

Classes will cease for 2013

Monday	2nd December
Tuesday	3rd December
Wednesday	4th December
Thursday	5th December
Friday	6th December
Saturday	30th November

Classes will restart for 2014

Monday	20th January
Tuesday	14th January
Wednesday	22nd January
Thursday	30th January
Friday	17th January
Saturday	25th January

#### Faceting members

Ann Kennon has kindly offered to present a power point presentation for members on Thursday December 12th at 8.45 am. Lasting from 1 to 2 hours and will cover what judges look for in competition and other interesting facts. Ann will also be available to answer any queries and give advice.

## Seniors Week 2014

The club has been invited to participate in the Seniors Week which will be in March 2014. The event we are invited to attend is on the 19th March in the Ribbonwood Centre, Dapto (Kurrajong Hall). Full information is not available at present but we have the opportunity to have 1 or 2 stalls (depends on other organisations attending) for presentation purposes examples of what we as a club are all about. It is also possible that we may be allowed to sell.

Anyone interested please contact Dorothy on 42842404 so she can make a list of those interested. More information to be announced.

## Annual General Meeting

Once again the Annual General Meeting is just round the corner! Nomination forms will be available in January and although the Christmas period is almost here, please find some time to consider what you can offer the club by way of taking a position.

All positions become vacant so get in early to choose which will suit you! Many present position holders have been doing it for a long time and need a break. Without members helping to run the club it will fail, not a good outcome! Now is the time for younger members to step forward and offer to take on either the full position or as an assistant - giving an idea of what is required or even to offer up new ideas.

Please take the request seriously and do not leave it to the usual few!

## Note from Dorothy

The secretary's position will become vacant. This is an important job -as are the others - but without a secretary the club will not operate smoothly. I have done the job for the past six years but feel it is now time for someone else to take up the reins. Please consider taking this role and if you wish to to know what is involved please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your support in the past. Dorothy

## Editors note

Dorothy is not the only member who has indicated they will not stand again. Greg Cook has indicated he is unable to stand as the exhibition organiser for 2014. Both will remain as members able to pass on their expertise to those that take over the positions. Members may also notice a change in the newsletter, unfortunately Jan Smith is unable to carry out the role of publisher. For years various editors have given the script to Jan and she has produced the final format that members receive. I have taken over that role and I am still learning how to drive the publishing program.

## Fossicking

Ken Mitchell was presented with the fossicker of the year award. For those that went along to Ken's place on the 16th November to see this year's crop of finds that will not be too much of a surprise. Ken excelled himself this year. There are a couple of photographs of just part of the haul on the website under fossicking and some of the major specimens were on show at the exhibition and they also are on the web site.

Peter has indicated the 2014 program to March as in the dates to remember.

## Business Meeting

The minutes of the meeting are available to view in the silver room. Highlights

1. Locksmith has fixed the locks - loose screws were the main problem
2. Cutting room cupboards to be painted over the break
3. Bob still working with builder over plans for the hall
4. Greg looking at banners for freeway bridges and Peter Soms the requirements for electronic signs

The following new members were inducted:- Sue Bennett, Daniel Belcastro, Annette Gallagher, Maria & Mark Donoghue, Kallie Janevski, Dr Timothy Billington, Dr Patricia Knight-Billington, Brodie Smith, Sherie Overman. Welcome to all of these new members to the club.

## Dates to Remember

### 2013

27th Nov	Wednesday	Mineral Group EOY function - wear a funny hat/bring a plate
8th Dec	Sunday	Christmas Party - remember to put your name in the book!

### 2014

15th Jan	Wednesday	7 pm General business meeting 8 pm Social - Skite night
22nd Jan	Wednesday	7 pm Mineral group
15th Feb	Saturday	Afternoon at Ernie Stevens place in Dapto Practical gold fossicking - metal detector/pan
19th Feb	Wednesday	7 pm General business meeting 8pm Social night - TBA
22nd Feb	Saturday	GLC meeting in club hall
23rd Feb	Sunday	Annual rock swap at Stuart Park
26th Feb	Wednesday	7 pm Mineral Group
22nd Mar	Saturday	Kangaroo Valley for petrified wood etc.

## Other Clubs Events

Collectables Swap Meet & Gem Expo 2013 at Bathurst Showgrounds on Saturday 30th November and Sunday 1st December 2013



Happy Christmas to everyone