



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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November 2014

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Social Night

November 19th social night, the last meeting of the year was the pick of the table. As in previous years there were a lot of items brought along by the existing members. Lots of slabs and specimens. Each member placing their name on a slip of paper to be drawn from the container. This year, as there were so many new members inducted into the club on the night, the new members were able to have a pick of the table from a selection of books.

MINERAL GROUP MEETING 22nd October 2014.

Seventeen members attended. Report from Peter Stanley on his recent visit to several museums in the USA. Peter saw the Hope diamond and some wonderful specimens of topaz. The minerals identified in the ID exercise were; galena, rhodonite, malachite, fluorite, calcite and beryl (via. aquamarine). Bob produced a good specimen from Broken Hill which was identified as kyanite & quartz. Carol spoke about an article, as the item of interest, that was published in 1969. It stated there were not many fossicking localities left with good specimens! How wrong was that article. Carol also spoke about the oldest crystal in Australia - a zircon found in WA estimated at 4374 billion years old!!! Noel played a DVD on the Adelaide Mine in Tasmania displaying the beautiful specimens of crocoite. Finally a workshop on mineral identification by way of colour and streak.

Freebie of goethite from Georgia USA, supplied by Ann and Noel.

The November meeting will be the last of the year. No doubt with the usual wind up of the year and novelty "mineral" under discussion.

Exhibition

The annual exhibition went well considering the heat of Sunday and the storm that followed. There was however a problem with the hall being emptied, swept, tables stored in the correct places and cleaning of the carpets. It is a Wollongong City Council condition of hire that the hall must be cleared and cleaned by 4.30 p.m. A condition that did not give the members or dealers much time to clear everything away and clean the hall with the time that the raffle was drawn. All the chores were achieved by the set time but in future the raffle will be drawn at 2 p.m. and then doors closed to the public so that the clean up can commence.

Executive

Prior to the exhibition Brigitte and Dorothy spent some considerable time drawing up a roster for the Saturday and Sunday volunteers tasks. It would have been helpful if there had been more volunteers for the Sunday especially in regard to the clean/pack up at the end of the day. The jobs were done and thanks should go to all the volunteers who contributed to the smooth running of the exhibition, those in the kitchen who provided a trolley service of drinks and cake (essential to lubricate and feed the volunteers and dealers to keep them happy), those that ran tables, security and those that set up the hall on Friday and those that cleared/cleaned the hall on Sunday. Without volunteers the exhibition could not have been the success that it was. Thank you to all the volunteers and organisers for their great efforts.

Raffle prize winners

First Prize - Ticket No. 1258 - Naima Foster Second Prize - Ticket No. 1310 - Stephanie Vu

Third Prize - Ticket No. 92 - Trevor Wilkie Fourth Prize - Ticket No. 38 - Nancy Nuggett

All prizes have been collected - results were in the Illawarra Mercury on Saturday 8th November.

Open Day Sunday 16th November

The weather does not seem to like our open days. Sunday was a wet, dismal and windy start but brightened into a very sunny warm but extremely windy day. There was an excellent response from members and public (we signed up several new members on the day). About eighty people passed through and a raffle of a pen and tea towel raised \$79 while the raffle for a mineral specimen raised \$23. The Mercury charged \$33.85 to advertise the event (Dorothy got a senior citizens discount - well done Dorothy). The winners of the pen and tea towel was - Orange ticket A38 - Glenys Evans and Mineral specimen - Orange ticket D15 - Lynne Webb.

Thank you all who came along and ran tables and especially Coral and Don who ran the kitchen. Personally I needed those cups of tea to keep me going.

Classes

All classes will finish in December and restart in January:-

	Finishing date 2014	Restart Date 2015
Monday Class	Mon 1st Dec	Mon 19th Jan
Tuesday Class	Tue 2nd Dec	Tue 20th Jan
Wednesday Class	Wed 3rd Dec	Wed 21st Jan
Thursday Class	Thur 4th Dec	Thur 22nd Jan
Friday Class	Fri 5th Dec	Fri 23rd Jan
Saturday Class	Sat 6th Dec	Sat 24th Jan

Fossicking

The trips to Wee Jasper and Sofala did not produce as much as had been hoped. Metal detecting in the Sofala area for gold produced more old cans than gold but the experience is priceless.

The fossicker of the year was announced at the General Business meeting. The 2014 fossicker of the year is Bill McCaroll.

Proposed 2015 trips:-

Feb 22nd Sunday the Annual Stuart Park Rock Swap

Mar 21 Inspection of Ken Mitchell's latest finds (Always spectacular) 1.30 p.m.

April 3rd to 6th Gemboree at Horsham

Other trip dates TBA Tambar, Muttama and geologist field trip of Wollongong area

General

One of the grinding wheels had a new #1200 grit belt fitted (Costing \$85) and within the week it was damaged beyond further use - a 5 cent hole torn in the middle of the belt. There are two possible reasons why this hole was torn so easily. Either a member did not follow the correct stages of cutting or pressed too hard. All members should remember that it is the diamond that does the cutting, it is not the force of pressing the work against the wheel. Another point that all members should be aware and that is that if a problem does develop it needs to be reported (defect entered into the defects book), the machine involved tagged out of service (tags are available in the cutting room) and NO ONE is to use a machine tagged out of service. All machines with a tag are to be assumed as no longer safe to be operated. Supervisors should ensure NO ONE uses any machine tagged as unsafe.

Des Bet will conduct courses on the correct and safe operation of the large saws in the new year and all members (including those that currently use the saws) wishing to use the saws must undertake this course. Courses will be conducted in the day sessions of the cutting classes.

Business Meeting

A copy of the minutes will be available to view in the silver room.

Eva reported on the financial outcome of the annual exhibition. This year was the most successful yet.

Peter Soms has resigned from all office bearing positions in the club and John Maley has taken over the position of Hall Booking Officer until the AGM in March.

Noel reported on the competition judging day which went well and was well supported by volunteers from the club. We should seek to host such more often. It is also suggested that a 2015 objective for the club be to seek volunteers to become certified judges (Ann Kennon is the only one we have). Courses are available through the Gem and Lapidary Council for certification. Any member wishing to become a certified lapidary judge please contact Dorothy for details.

The booking fee for Stuart Park has been paid for our Rock Swap event on 22nd February (the last Sunday in February).

At the end of the meeting new club members were inducted into the club:- Lee-Anne Preddy-Ryman, Adam & Henry Rupa, Robert & Gail Beattie, David Earls, Catherine Cogger, Graham McLachlan, Ben Corneteg, Mary Johnson, Kamilla Bayguzina. Welcome to all new members.

Christmas Party 7th December 2014

Last call for the club Christmas party. Please put your name down in the book if you wish to attend at Collegians on Sunday 7th December 2014 11.30 a.m. for 12 Noon. The Collegians club need to know in advance how many are going to attend.

Club competition results for 2014 are on the club website.

The last newsletter of 2014 so let me wish all members a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Roger