



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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Social Meeting

Social night of the 22nd October was a talk by Dr. Penny Williamson from Wollongong University on the Rogerley mine and the Fluorite from that mine. The owners of the mine invited her to dig out some of the Fluorite while she was on holiday in the UK. Pockets in the mine have been named by the owners and one has been named "Penny's Pocket" in her honour and that has since expanded into a zone. All the Fluorite from the mine, in daylight fluoresces to a blue but under lights indoors shows as a dark green.

The notable specimen extracted from the mine is known as the "Weardale Giant" a plate of multiple crystals of Fluorite, some single and many twinned crystals up to 8cm on a face, whole plate is approximately a metre square. When removed from the mine, with great care and difficulty, the specimen weighed over 300kg. The matrix on the back was reduced by using a giant sized chain saw with diamond teeth. The process wore out one set of the chain saw teeth. Final specimen weighed in at about the 100kg.

For those with access to a computer <http://www.ukminingventures.com/> is the link to the Rogerley mine site with photographs of the mine and specimens.

The November social night is the last for the year and is the bring, buy or swap night. Any member with items to swap or sell bring them along. Those wanting to buy come along with a full wallet/purse. There will be bargains to be had.

Mineral Group Meeting

Fifteen members attended with Peter Stanley leading. Reports from 1. Peter on the recent visit to Muttama & his trip to South Australia & 2. Aaron on his recent purchase from Warrawong (worth 6 million - at least). Peter's ID exercise was as: dravite, quartz x 3, topaz x 4, garnet/lapidolite, elbaite & 3 garnets. Peter presented a power point presentation on 1. The periodic table (was excellent) & 2. Four minerals (in detail) topaz, garnets, tourmaline & quartz. The working bee for 5th October was cancelled as there was sufficient material ready for the exhibition. The dvd night on 7th October was presented by Noel. These dvd's, on mineral display's from USA, Germany etc., have been excellent & any club member is welcome. Next meeting is on microminerals & anyone with a microscope is asked to bring it along to the meeting. All to note the final meeting for the year has been moved to Wednesday 2nd December from 25th November.

Fossicking/Trips

Names in the trips book please

24th October - Trip to NSW Lapidary Club Open Day. Visit to Aust Museum to see Chapman Exhibition.

November 21st, 22nd Glen Innes three to four days.

December 5th & 6th – Sydney Crystal Show

December 6th Club annual Christmas party at Collegians

Workshop

Barbara Try is willing to carry out a workshop on How to cut cabs to exhibition standards. If you are interested in attending this important workshop please put your name in the book as soon as possible. Date for the workshop has not been determined until we see enough members are interested.

Lampwork Classes

Lampwork classes conducted by Jan Cahill will cease at the end of October due to the warn weather and will resume in March 2016. A further notice will be in the newsletter with times and dates that the class will commence. Any queries please contact Jan Cahill.

Christmas Party

Our club Christmas party will be held on Sunday 6th December 11.30 a.m. for 12 Noon. It will be held at the Collegians club, Flinders Street, Wollongong. Anyone interested in attending please put your name and telephone number in the trips book. Numbers are limited so please attend to this as soon as possible so that tables can be reserved.

Exhibition

It is only a couple of weeks before the exhibition will be with us. Brigitte has asked for volunteers to help run this event but the response has not been great as yet. Please give Brigitte your name and the day(s) and times you will be available to help on these three days. First day is of course setting the exhibition up in the hall without members of the public around.

We need help in the kitchen making sandwiches, setting up the tables in the refreshment area, help serving customers, especially at lunch time when it gets very busy and also the bit everyone enjoys - the washing up and clearing tables.

We also need names for people to man tables in the halls, for example the raffle table, collections of admission fee (our first time to collect a fee instead of the voluntary gold coin) and handing out the lucky door prize raffle tickets. Help is needed in organising a the draw of the lucky door prizes at the set times. Of course there is also the need for security people keeping an eye on the tables to make sure there is no theft. On the Sunday is the very important task of taking everything out of the hall and leaving it in a neat and tidy condition - many hands make it a much lighter task.

Rosters will have to be sorted out very soon and copies given to the volunteers who are helping.

Vitally important; If you volunteer for a specified time and day please be sure to turn up! If you can not make it then please let Brigitte or a executive committee member know as soon as possible.

General Business Meeting

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

A working bee may be required in the grounds. One of the shrubs in the garden causing some club members breathing problems. Offending shrub to be severely pruned - best at ground level.

One new member – inducted into the club - Ian Burchell - welcome and enjoy all the facilities that the club has to offer.

Dates to Remember

24 Oct	Trip to NSW Lapidary Club Open Day. Visit to Australian museum to see Chapman Exhibition.
28 Oct	7 pm Mineral group - micro - minerals.
7 - 8 Nov	Annual Exhibition
21 - 22 Nov	Glen Innes three to four days.
5 - 6 Dec	Sydney Crystal Show
6th Dec	Club Christmas party - Collegians

Dates to Remember - Other Clubs

7th Nov	Cessnock Annual Auction - Stephen St, West Cessnock
7/8th Nov	Canberra Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show
13 to 15th Nov	Parramatta Holroyd Lapidary Club Annual Exhibition
14 to 15th Nov	Newcastle Lapidary Club Annual Gem Show
28 to 29 Nov	Windsor Gem & Mineral Fair
5 to 6th Dec	Nepean and District Lapidary Club Gem Show