



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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Apology by Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc. to Geoffrey Irwin

In January 2014 in this newsletter, the club made a statement about the former treasurer of the Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc. Geoffrey Irwin, that Mr Irwin considered defamatory.

The statement we made is withdrawn and we apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen or any inconvenience caused to Mr Irwin.

Social Night

October 15th social night was Cec Dywer giving a talk of his times fossicking at Mt Surprise. For quite a few years Cec has spent the winter months at Mt Surprise fossicking for topaz. This was his first back here in the Illawarra for many years and he has found out what winter is really like for those of us not lucky enough to spend their time in such a lovely area as Mt Surprise. One of the photographs Cec showed was of one of the first stones he faceted from the material that he has found. He also related stories from his first visit to the area and others including the fantastic find a couple of years ago by some first time fossickers in the area. They found a very large vug of smokey quartz. Too much for them to handle so they gave away most of the haul. Not surprisingly the freebies did not last long.

Next social night is at the last meeting for the year on 19th November. It is the pick of the table night. Members wishing to participate should bring along an item to the value of approximately \$5, it can be a cut stone (facet or cab), mineral specimen, slab of other lapidary associated item. From previous years it is a good opportunity for new members to pick up something useful.

MINERAL GROUP MEETING 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2014.

Fourteen members attended this meeting. Aaron presented the mineral ID and the minerals were; calcite, tanzanite (var. zoisite), nephrite and tektite. Coral presented the item of interest - the national rock garden in Canberra which displays nine large rocks. Ann also discussed larimar jewellery spotted during their visit to Norfolk Island. Barbara presented the mineral of the month - marcasite. Marcasite (FeS₂, iron sulfide) is an old Arabic name for pyrites and similar minerals also known as spear pyrites, white pyrites, white iron and cockscomb. The two minerals, marcasite and pyrite, are often confused due to their similar characteristics. Marcasite is a polymorph of pyrite which means that it has the same chemistry as pyrite but a different structure and, therefore, different symmetry and crystal shapes. Marcasite specimens almost invariably oxidise in collections, particularly in humid atmospheres, freeing sulphur to form an acid that attacks the labels, trays and speeds the disintegration of specimens. Competition entries, for photos and specimens, are due for October. Please all members enter three photos and a good specimen.

Noel discussed the proposed program for next year and will have a handout at the October meeting. For the Christmas meeting in November please bring a wrapped present for the table. Noel quizzed the members on some of the 44 elements and 70 minerals we have been learning this year. The results were not good and we need more study. Noel presented a workshop on competition photos and specimens. Freebie of pyrolusite supplied by Ann and Noel.

Exhibition

A roster book is available in the hall for volunteers to assist with the running of the exhibition at the Ribbonwood Centre. Please put your name down on the day(s) and times you are available. Help is also needed in the kitchen to assist with preparation of food, trolley for dealers and club members who have either a table or are assisting with other requirements, serve in the food hall and washing up. We also need people to demonstrate the various activities of the club for example cabbing and faceting. Please help the club in all these activities to make the exhibition run smoothly.

For the catering at the exhibition, donations of unsliced cakes etc. would be appreciated.

Christmas Party 7th December 2014

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

Classes

The last lampwork class for 2014 is Tuesday October 28th and will recommence Tuesday March 3rd. 2015 when there will be two classes starting, one for advanced and intermediate and another for beginners to run on alternate Tuesdays.

The advanced/intermediate class is already filled, participants names have been taken. There is a limit to the beginners class as the club has only 5 torches (unless you have your own torch to use). If you wish to register for this class please contact Jan Cahill phone 42612258 early 2015 to be put on the list.

The enamelling class has concluded for 2014 and will restart Wednesday 4th. March 2015.

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 trip to Tambar Springs was attended by six members. There are problems with property access and lack of good specimens might mean this trip was the last to the area.

25th - 27th October Wee Jasper

15th - 17th Nov Sofala - Gold. Ern Stevens is going to the area in advance and will indicate where members should be looking.

General

1. In the by laws of the club it states:-

"There must be a minimum of three sales officers with equal responsibilities elected each year to the sub-committee at the annual general meeting or general meeting. The members elected this year are Barry Young, Eva Auerbach, Bob Webb and Greg Cook.

Equipment, materials, minerals or other collections being sold or donated to the club are to be evaluated by a minimum of two sales officers at a price with the majority in agreement."

It would seem this ruling is not being strictly adhered to as two members who are not sales officers have accepted donations of rocks without referring the matter to any sales officers.

2. New cupboards in the hall.

If you need one of the new cupboards in the hall please notify Bob Webb so that they can be allocated and keys and locks issued. A working bee will be organised when members have notified Bob of their requirements and an internal key register done at the same time.

3. Open day on 16th November 2014

If you require a table for the open day in November, please contact Dorothy so that you can be sure of reserving a table(s).

Business Meeting

The copy of the minutes will be available in the silver room.

An item of interest was the proposal for purchase of wall mounted fans for the hall general meeting area and a window mounted air conditioner for the silver room. John Maley to obtain prices for these items.

The competition officer reported that there were 55 entries into this years competition from 14 members.

A number of new members were inducted into the club. Welcome to those members and please enjoy all the facilities that the club has to offer.

Club Dates to Remember

22nd Oct Mineral Group Meeting

25th - 27th Oct Wee Jasper – quartz crystal

1st - 2nd Nov Gem and Mineral Show -

Ribbonwood Centre, Dapto

16th Nov Club Open Day at club, Meadow St, Tarrawanna from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

15th - 17th Nov Sofala for gold with Ern & Bet Stevens

7th Dec Club Christmas party at Collegians

Other Clubs Dates to Remember

17- 24th Oct Inverell and District Lapidary Club Inc Gem and Craft Show

24th – 26th Oct Northern Districts Lapidary Club Gem Show – Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Road Beecroft.

25 – 26 Oct Lapidary Club of NSW Exhibition 10am – 4pm daily 136 Reservoir St Surry Hills

1st Nov Cessnock Gem and Mineral Club Annual Rock Auction

7 – 9th Nov Parramatta-Holroyd Annual Exhibition (10am to 4pm). 73 Fullagar Road Wentworthville NSW

15th – 16th Nov Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show Canberra Lapidary Club 10.00am to 5.00pm EPIC – Mallee Pavilion \$5 adults, \$9 family, \$2 children/concession.