



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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HELLO EVERYONE!

The first newsletter from central Australia.

The NT Department of Tourism have installed WiFi at Gemtree – civilization at work.

Optus have also installed a mobile tower here as well but I don't know many who use Optus outside of major centres.

There are flyers attached and an interesting article on Mintabie. With regard to the later there were some spirited private conversations from the Alice Springs contingent that attended the Gemboree at Willunga on the subject.

A big congratulations to Mick Derrington with his efforts in enameling leading to deluge of medals, placings and commendations at the Gemboree, well done. President Rose, Greg and myself did our best to represent the club and certainly made a lot of contacts. The next will be at Rockhampton next Easter, put it in your diary.

Meetings:

Mineral Group Meeting

Fifteen members attended the March meeting. Two working bees are scheduled for 7th May 8.30AM & 13th August 8.30AM. The mineral of the month is: "spodumene". The number 3 on-line ID was smithsonite.

Two presentations:

Peter, corundum var. ruby. Most of these stones come from Thailand with very few in Australia. The best stones come from Myanmar (formerly Burma). The stones are valued with the 4 C's-- colour, clarity, carats & cut. The best are blood red.

Adrian: rare earth minerals. All these minerals have at least one or two rare earth elements. Most of these stones come from China. Adrian went through all the rare earth elements then the rare earth minerals. One mining site in Australia- Mount Weld-WA & a 2nd site will be opened later at Nolans Project- near Alice Springs NT. Ten minerals were indentified in the ID exercise: fluorite, molybdomite, red beryl, barite, tourmaline-var. schorl, silver, cuprite, copper, diamond(rough) & galena. Noel also had an ID exercise for new members to the group.

Freeby this month-smithsonite from Kintore open cut mine, Broken Hill.

Social Meeting:

Joan has organized a video night one of the Minehunters series of videos- on rubies and garnets in Greenland, and time permitting, one of their other exploits following the business meeting on the 16 th May, the speaker arranged for that night Barbara Ryman has been postponed and leaves a vacancy for June 20th – If anyone can offer a speaker call Joan.

On a separate issue, Joan is interested in going to see the Cartier exhibition in Canberra.

If enough people are interested we could make a day of it? It runs till mid July. I know that it is the same weekend as our open day, but Canberra Club has its winter exhibition on May 26-27th so perhaps we could do both on that Saturday? Put it in the trips book.

Field Trips:

The field trip to Kangaroo Valley – I have not heard how it went or whether the rains won the day and local flooding spoilt the trip.

General Business Meeting:

Virtually all of the board and other positions advertised at the AGM were filled – congratulations to all those successful candidates.

Lynne Webb suggested the club look at having workshops for junior “rockhounds”- children of club members who are too young to join club. They would have to be supervised by a parent. The club would have to see if we could have supervisors willing to come on a Saturday to teach the kids. Put your hand up and support this it sounds like a good way to “grow “ our club.

Exhibition update- Rebecca outlined all the table changes for this years show with the emphasis on demonstrating club activities. On Tuesday Rebecca will pay Ribbonwood Centre a deposit of \$700. The trouble she had with the Friday use of the main hall has been settled, with a start of 8AM. Chris Hatton will man the club table on Saturday & Sunday with helpers when needed. Rosters will be done differently, where members can indicate what date & time they can volunteer & will be attached to the door of the silver room.

The guessing competition prizes will be as follows:

- 1st prize- hand made gold bracelet by Herb
- 2nd prize pair sapphire rings female /male set in yellow gold by Herb.
- 3rd prize- hand made silver bracelet by Herb.
- 4th prize- fossil specimen donated by Lynne & Terry.
- 5th prize- enamel butterfly pendent by Michael Derrington.

I cannot wait to see these.

Rebecca to make large signs for front door detailing entry cost etc.

The auction with Noel Kennon at the hammer processed 100 items from a camp (not gay) washing machine to plants , mineral specimens , faceting rough, jewellery , watches and other sundry items. 60 percent were sold but it was a marathon session with some far away attendees getting home just before midnight. The clubs 10% fee raised \$194. There were a few lessons to be learned about timing, payment etc. but the overall feeling is that there will be another with some adjustments. Thank you Noel for his effort and Lyn for “penciling”

New Members are Sandy Wild, Jenna Rowland, Catherine Stewart, Katrina Christian , Brianna Porter, Stephanie Porter and Alana and Wade Marcus. Welcome to the club and enjoy your time with us, there is knowledge, expertise and any number of senior members to answer your questions – just ask.

Dates to Remember:

25 th April – ANZAC day, no classes at the club on that day

16 th May – Monthly Business meeting – 7 pm

27 th May – Cancer Council Biggest Morning tea – at the club rooms. This will be conjunction with an open day with stalls having goodies for sale. Let your friends know or better bring them along, buy your Christmas presents early at a great discount as you are dealing with the manufacturer. Sausage sizzle and we will not run out of onions this year. Ladies if you could bring a cake please

April Trip to Tambar Springs – Look in the trips book and put your names down
If not too late



For your bench. At your side.