



## Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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**March 2018**

President: Rose Cook

Secretary: John Maley

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### **HELLO EVERYONE!**

Another month goes by so quickly. To all those who came and set up for the rock swap what a disappointment. Driving wind and rain caused most to abandon the gathering before 9 AM. Four hardy souls persevered until 1 PM. We will see whether the rumours about timed paid parking are correct and whether our event continues next year but we hope it does.

The next few months could be interesting as the editor. I will attempt to produce a monthly newsletter and mail it out while on an extended fossicking trip. E-mail me your wishes / requests / gossip / news for publication and will do my best to include them.

### **Meetings:**

#### **Mineral Group Meeting 28th Feb. 2018.**

1. Sixteen members attended & reports given. The mineral of the month is apophyllite which refers to three minerals: fluorapophyllite, hydroxapophyllite & fluorapophyllite-- wide range of colours.
2. email ID was Sulphur.

Two presentations as follows:

Ann Kennon-alpine minerals-found in the Swiss Alps & similar regions- size from small to large. Approximately 50 minerals found & the ones covered by Ann were: quartz, tourmaline & fluorite. The people who fossicked for these minerals were called "strahlers" & the art known as strahling. Ann spoke about quartz gwindels with hematite- "iron roses" & alpine pink fluorite.

Keith Tysson- cleavage of minerals- Keith discussed the different types of cleavage & displayed photos of fluorite, galena, calcite & halite showing the cleavage present. Of course Keith had to display a different type of cleavage, if you know what I mean.

The ID, conducted by Noel, this week, the members identified 10 minerals from their composition (with 2 ring ins to make it a bit harder) & the minerals were: corundum, graphite, periclase (not a mineral), vanadinite, rhodocrosite, smithsonite, diopside, magnesite, scheelite & cerussite. Most of the members got about 50% correct, however, Adrian topped the marks with 80% correct.. The freeby of the month is gypsum.

#### **Next Mineral Group Meeting. 28 March 2018.**

Peter Stanley will be the guest speaker, sounds as if this will be a surprise topic particularly to Peter.

Noel will continue with the ID exercises but given the influx of new members there is consideration being given to dividing the exercises in to old and new groups given that the new members have less experience and hence a lesser chance of winning – sounds very fair to me.

## **Field Trips:**

This weekends trip to Kangaroo Valley may be in doubt given the rainfall over the last few days. A flooded river will deny us access to the site – Peter will assess closer to the time and make contact with all who have put their names in the trips book

## **April 26 – 29<sup>th</sup> –**

Trip to Tambar Springs looking for Druzy Quartz and Stellerite . The accommodation at the local pub was extolled in glowing terms. Put your names in the trips book.

### **General Business Meeting:**

### **Election night**

- No real changes here with the executive returned and President Rose at the helm for another 12 months. Thank you Bob Webb for being the returning officer. There are vacancies for a grounds officer ( yes , it is our responsibility to mow the lawns and keep the place tidy) and a trips leader. PUT YOUR HAND UP PLEASE.

### **General Business**

- The meeting voted for a Membership Renewal Officer – Thank you Alan House , now all those who forgot to renew their membership will have Allan contacting you with gentle reminder.
- A petty cash tin with a receipt book will be made available for those small bills incurred on behalf of the club that can be settled quickly rather than wait until Eva is at the club and having to write small amount cheques
- After a prolonged time Eva has recovered just over half the disputed shortfall in deposited funds From the CBA but I think it would be fair to say that she will never again use the bag drop method of depositing funds. Thank you for your tenacity Eva.
- John is busy with a review of the constitution / our charity status/ and lots of other associated business. The possibility exists of considerable changes – watch this space.
- The Big Morning tea for the Cancer Council in May at our Open Day- John was amazed that we received a letter agreeing to do this again without ever hearing from them first.
- We have so many new members that a series of in house workshops for cabbing, cutting, basic silverwork ,and faceting have been mooted in the near future
- We have a new minutes secretary , Romina Di Noro as well as a web master. After 17 years and only 4 meetings missed in that time Thelma heads off for a well earned rest but tells me that she will be at the meetings and we will still see her around the club . Thank you from all of us
- President Rose inducted one new member Sandy Wild into the club – Welcome Sandy.

### **Auction Night**

Our social event after the Business meeting in April. ( Bargains to be purchased.)

A maximum of 10 items per member,  
tagged with your initials

Minimum price

The club claims a 10 % commission on the sale price

Noel Kennon – auctioneer in residence – talk to him if you need to sort out terms before hand

No sheep stations

## **Dates to Remember:**

As you can see there is a bit going on

Cooloolo Rocks & minerals- Gympie,

### **March-**

North Brisbane Gem & Jewellery Festival,  
Crystal Habit, Turramurra,  
Minerama Fossicking gem & jewellery Show-  
Glenn Innes, Gemkhana,  
Wantima, Victoria, Canberra show,  
New England show, Armidale,  
Hobart show, Campbelltown show,  
Devonport show,  
Grafton Gems,  
Gemboree Willunga— this will be a club trip with club insurance cover

### **April**

World of craft Homebush,  
Wanganui NZ—

### **May**

Redcliffe, Diamond Valley, Gold Coast, Sydney crystal show, Lismore gemfest,  
Mount Gravatt, Canberra Winter show

### **June-**

Bankstown Gem and Mineral Fair - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
Windsor Gem and Mineral Fair – 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June  
Joint Mineralogical seminar  
Ballarat, Gemorama,  
Emmaville, Hawksbury show,  
Gold Coast-

### **July-**

Enfield show-

**November-** Canberra show 10th-11th.



For your bench. At your side