



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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HELLO EVERYONE!

It is now February and our year begins to build momentum.

Having returned from a holiday in Scandinavia last night, this newsletter may have more than my usual number of typos. Your indulgence please.

On Sunday the Rock Swap in Stuart Park will take place and is the first in the public eye this year. The forecast is not the best so lets hope it does not turn out like last year. For those new club members, come along and see what we get up to. Be early as this is a popular place during the weekend and parking is often hard to find.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

24th February 2019 – Stuart Park rock swap

16th March, 2019 - Campbelltown Lapidary club open day

19 – 22 April 2019 – Gemboree, Rockhampton

Membership fees are Due

Social Programme February

Noel Kennon presented--"Lapidary Materials" as the social. We humans make stuff out of materials. Clay, glass, wood& minerals for lapidary. Craft persons use material for each craft. In lapidary we use stone or a relevant material. When cutting, polishing, making jewellery etc. we must have a copy of "Competitor & Judging Manual-- Lapidary & Allied Competitions" to confirm what is needed to make cabs, faceting, jewellery, enamelling etc. Materials used can be solids, liquids or gases. Mostly, solids are used. They can be metals, ceramics or polymers.

Metals can be precious/pure. Gold is an example which is impossible to obtain 100% pure. Ceramics-- minerals except metals-- rocks, fossils, glasses, gem stones which can be natural or man made. Examples of precious stones-- diamond, corundum, beryl & opal.

Noel did not finish talk & will finish next year? The one he had to go was Polymers- these materials, many of them artificial, are built from repeating chains of smaller chemical units. Examples are: plastic water bottles, silicone rubber tips on your phone's ear buds, rubber tyres.

That sounds interesting and for those new to the club, I have never heard Noel speak and not be interesting.

Trips

David Hastings has the energy of the Eveready bunny.

Have a look at this, what has happened so far this year and what else he has in mind

Oallen Ford Shoalhaven River Trip

On Saturday 16th February, seven club members went on a day trip to Oallen Ford on the beautiful Shoalhaven river.

There was panning, sluicing and some testing of different ways to obtain the precious metal GOLD. There was also a bit of wild fruit picking to be had.

A BBQ lunch with some very tasty cake and slice was greatly enjoyed. With great company and lovely weather, a good day was had by all.

Where are the photos of the bullion ???!!!

Trips 2019

February Sunday 24th Rock swap

March 7 - 10th Glen Innes Lapidary show "Minerama"

March 16 – 17th Armidale show

March 24 – 30th Tingha

April 11 - 15th Tambar Springs

April 19 – 22 Gemboree Rockhampton

August Tuena or Sofala TBA

September Muttama TBA

October Graben Gullen TBA

November Tingha, Inverell, Glen Innes. TBA

Other club trips TBA keep an eye on trip book at the club.

As you can see he is very busy indeed, add to this list I will be at Mudtank from Easter till end of May, Keradala in early June and Rubyvale till mid July. I already have several who have expressed interest.

Allan House advises he will make a DVD for library on his Agate creek talk from last month if anyone is interested. He is leaving on 13th May if anyone wants to go up while he is there—speak to Allan.

Mineral Group

Fifteen members turned up for the first meeting of the year.

Reports were given by John, David & Roly. WA1-1 was calcite with the pink colouring due to specimen containing cobalt. (this specimen was listed as an ID last year).

Mineral of the Month-- Charoite- found in Russia in 1947 & colours include violet, lilac & purple.

Noel presented "principles of Identification" of minerals. There are over 5000 discovered minerals & who knows how many more will surface. Noel explained how we can use composition, crystal system, experience, associated minerals ,hardness, colour, streak, transparency, lustre, cleavage, morphology & specific gravity to ID minerals without the use of expensive equipment (X-ray analysis, infra-red spectroscopy etc.) associated with Universities. The group did a case study to ID a specimen.

Roly then presented photography 1- Set & Composition. Roly explained the problems with mineral photos mentioning lighting, background, size of specimen, use of tripod. He advised the solutions to all the problems explaining the best camera settings & the use of a macro lens, with the camera set on manual. The aim is to obtain an accurate photo. Part 2 &3 to follow in March & May.

The ID exercise tonight was described by Noel as the easiest set of 10 ID'S for this year-- so enjoy it. Most of the group were correct with at least 9 of the specimens, with a high percentage of 10. The ten specimens were: crocoite, quartz x2, calcite x2, malachite, gold, garnet, azurite & pyrite. Freebies of prehnite from Mullaley supplied by Noel & Ann. A good night was had by all.

Mineral Group meeting next Wednesday night 6PM DVD, finger food & usual ID exercise.

Business Meeting

John was weighed down with a mountain of corespondance both in and out.

Janelle, our librarian, is concerned about the number of books outstanding for more than six months. If that is you, please return them.

Robert Hanson volunteered as Saturday supervisor but nobody turned up for class last Saturday. Robert advises members need to ring him on **02 42951001** if they are coming to Saturday class.

Kathy Selwood advises 10 free tables at Gemkhana this year & open to first ten clubs to contact her.

Rose Cook is looking at a stone carving workshop with Kathy Selwood , put your names in book please. If enough members, this will be organized.

Michael Derrington- more supervisors are needed, if you can help please let us know.

After last years treatment at the leagues club Christmas party, the mooted move to a new venue became a reality with the Dapto Leagues Club the front runner – anyone with a better idea , contact John

Our Safety Officer, John Wiltshire has been busy with the supervisors – on behalf of the club thank you for your time and effort.

There will be no social meeting next month due to the AGM, there are vacancies in positions to be filled and nomination forms are available at the club .

