



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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President: Chris Hatton

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HELLO EVERYONE!

Presidents Note

A couple of pieces of housekeeping, thank you for the opportunity to be your president. I hope that you find that I am up to the task and that your faith in me is justified.

Firstly comparing those who have paid and those who are on the clubs database and mailout list there is a marked discrepancy with many senior members who have paid but there is no record of them at all. To try to rectify this I will send a congratulatory email to all new members and ask that they reply so that I know that we have secure lines of communication. If you know of anyone who has not received their newsletter contact Myself or John

The minutes of the AGM, the full version of the outgoing President Rose Cooks speech and a full list of the officer bearers are posted on the notice board in the silver room.

Thank you Bob Webb, our returning Officer for a job well done at the AGM.

To our new life members Lynne Webb and Rose Cook , congratulations to you both and both are well deserved.

Thank you to our Safety Officer, John Wiltshire, who gave us a brief and informative briefing on how to use the fire extinguishers in case of emergency which was squeezed in between the business meeting and the AGM last month. Thank you John lets hope we never need to use that knowledge.

Club open day on the 5th of May. A fun day with lots of bargains for sale and the opportunity to catch up with club members as well.

What's happening at your Club:

4th May 2019 – Open Day , Blaxland Gem and Mineral Club

15 the Valley Rd , Valley Heights

5th May - Club Open Day at the Club Rooms 9am to 2pm

and morning tea for cancer council

18 – 19 May 2019 – Gemfest, Lismore Showground

Business/Social Night – Next Month - May 15th - Talk by Peter Clarke

The Gerroa region is noted as having the oldest identified Australian geological site of historical importance. The area between Gerroa and Wollongong has a geological history extending back over 250million years but also records recent geological processes active today. Peter plans to talk about the many geological processes that are evident in the area encompassing Gerroa to Wollongong and inland to the top of the escarpment .

A little about our speaker:

Peter Clarke studied geology and materials science at university, and then spent most of his working life in the quarrying industry as a geologist/scientist. When the time came for retirement, the Kiama area was the natural choice for someone who recognises the link between this area's geology and the industry in which he worked. Peter enjoys living on the coast, likes volunteer work, with his wife enjoys 7 grandchildren and likes the stimulation of preparing and delivering talks on a variety of topics.

Come along and enjoy!

General Business

Supervisors are still needed but we have had three volunteers so far – put up your hand.

Our librarian has put out a sizable list of names of those who have been tardy with returns of overdue books to the library. PLEASE RETURN THEM.

There are spaces available for cabbing on Wednesday and Friday but Monday seems to be at capacity. We are planning a six week Friday night Course for cabbing as well.

John Wiltshire has added this safety notice to the wall for all who use the cutting room

Cabochon Cutting Equipment

No beginners/new members, allowed to use Cabochon equipment (machines) UNSUPERVISED. Only members who are competent, and approved can use Cabochon cutting and polishing equipment unsupervised.

There must be a least 1 club Supervisor on the premises at the time of Cabochon equipment being used.

Our efforts to purchase a new display case for the exhibition has come to nothing. Undeterred Barry and Greg will make one and in doing so we will get exactly what we want and at a considerable saving as well. Thank you both.

Welcome to the two new members, Paul Little & Paulie Kettley , who were inducted by V P Rose Cook.

Mineral Group - March

What a great night we had last night. First Ed showed us all those Dal'ngorsk mineral photos to finish off his story about the products of the mines in that part of Russia and then to top that off he had 8 (?) super specimens including a terrific pyrite and an even better pyrrhotite. Wow!! Then Roly showed us the ins and outs of getting the lighting and illumination optimum when photographing mineral specimens or most other things for that matter. We hope most of you took him up on the offer for a freeby grey card to use in setting up to get the best out of your camera and computer in combination.

We decided on 1st of April for our first Working Bee of the year. We will start at 8.30 in the morning to clear the shed and prepare whatever is there now for boxing and pricing later in the year, ready for the Show.

Remember, April will be a Workshop on fossicking and cleaning. So bring along anything you have that is relevant to talk about or ask about. All contributions will be welcome.

Finally, we (you and Ann and I) enjoyed the ID exercise. You successfully found 10 named minerals among the 20 that were available and then successfully identified most of the remaining 10. The results were beyond my expectations. All 10 named minerals were found with an average score of about 8 with talc and elbaite giving the most trouble. Most of the remaining 10 were ID'd with wavellite stumping most(all' ?) 17 out of 20 was top score but 19 was within somebodies reach. New member Siggy, Robert and Coral, Bill, Tereska and others, all exceeded expectations. How good was that ?

Cheers

Noel

Next Meeting 6.30 Wednesday 27th

Two WHAT AM I's this month and for a very good reason which will be apparent when you look at them.



Past Activities:

WORKSHOP - Our 1st Sunday Workshop for 2019

CHAINMAILLE – The Basics

APRIL CHAINMAILLE WORKSHOP

Chainmaille was the first of our Sunday Workshops for the year with 9 members attending. We were taken through the steps for the use of the Club's Jumpring maker by Barry before setting about making our own bracelets. Everyone grasped the necessary skills to turn their jumprings into a beautiful byzantine chainmaille bracelet. 100% success rate with everyone going home with a finished bracelet (see photos). Thankyou to our instructors, Barry, Maureen and Lynne

Lynne



Editors note : if you are a new member then try to attend these workshops. If it is not what you want , no problem but you will never know until you try. I found it a lot of fun as well as getting to know the other members.

Proposed Workshops

Below are our proposed weekend work shops for this year .**Put your names in the book** under which course you want to attend and if there is sufficient interest then it will happen.

Gemstone carving

Polymer Clay

Cabachon Making (6 week class)

Wire wrapping

Basic Silverwork

Dichroic Glass

I certainly enjoyed the wax carving and enameling last year. Mick Derrington has already cast his creations in silver and they are excellent. If you are new to the club have a go at these , put your name down

APRIL SOCIAL - Talk and Powerpoint Presentation by Paul Carr on **“Botswana and Namibia: A Travelogue from a Geologist’s Perspective”**

Paul mesmerized us with his journey in the dry season into South Africa. Flying into Johannesburg Paul and nine others hired 4wd vehicles with roof top tents and headed off on their wild adventure. Many game reserves were visited, the photos of the wildlife encountered including elephants wandering through their campsite, lions, kudu antelope, jackals, springbok, hippopotamus, baboons, warthogs, crocodiles, leopards, zebra, impalas and so much more were truly awe inspiring.

Many of the encounters being very up close and personal and all captured on video. The birdlife was also amazing with yellow billed and red billed hornbills, flamingos, bee-eaters storks, guinea fowl, eagles and so much more. The group flew over Victoria Falls by helicopter and visited the iconic Copper, Lead & Zinc mine of Tsumeb and the Brandberg West Mine which is a Tin/Tungsten Mine. They headed to the Skeleton Coast with its many shipwrecks, the Cape Cross Seal Colony and to the Messukm Crater. By Hot Air Balloon they flew over the Sossus Dunes - some of the dunes here are up to 300 metres high with some in the group climbing to the top of one of the 80 metre dunes.

A truly wonderful 4 week trip for Paul that he generously shared with us making those of us who came to his talk very envious indeed.

Fossicking Trips - Tingha Fossicking trip

A dozen ILC members made the journey to the old tin town of Tingha for a week of fossicking in the sun. The week started off with a digging warm up trip to the blue box, where Crystals and Jellybeans were found.

Day two found the entire group at a mystery location with a local guide, this proved fruitful as we uncovered better quality jellybeans.

Day three, the crystals were put aside for a day for a trip to Wallangra, some lovely black tourmaline on quartz was found by everyone, there were variations on the thickness of the tourmaline and the whiteness of the quartz.

Day 4 found us all off to another mystery location with our very knowledgeable guide. This site proved to be a very good site as we all found even bigger jellybeans and terminated crystals than the other days. A double terminated crystal that was found by our trip leader, even had the guide very excited!

The ILC members on the trip also donated some of their findings to the club (Young Fossicker Encouragement donation) for young fossickers to hunt for in the sandpit and lucky dip etc at the Illawarra Lapidary club events. A collection has already been started for Tambar Springs.

The company and weather on this club trip was great.

