



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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HELLO EVERYONE!

Presidents Note

This newsletter comes to you from Tennant Creek. There is a couple of interesting pages at the end of the letter on the club rules for Fossicking trips. If you feel that is onerous then I met a fellow fossicker (very experienced) at Mudtank who wished to fossick on the extended fossicking area at Wave Hill.

He is still waiting for permission from four institutions having already been granted access permission from the current lessee.

Regulation and paperwork descend upon us me thinks.

To the new members Welcome, this newsletter gives you an idea as to what we do and offer.

UP-COMING EVENTS: WHATS HAPPENING AT YOUR CLUB

Cutting Class and Wire Wrapping – Monday nights 6.30pm to 9.30pm

Just a reminder that we have a Monday Night class for those of you that can't make it through the day. Please take advantage if it works for you.

Skite Night:

The skite night has been moved to our Business/Social Meeting 19 June, 2019 – Please bring along a special purchase, something you have made or something you would like to share a story about with the Club. It can be fun, it doesn't have to be lapidary. This is a fun evening, come and share a story.

Working Bee and Sausage Sizzle – Sunday 30th June, 2019

Donations of newspapers are needed and we would appreciate as many as possible being left at the Club Rooms as soon as possible.

Mulch is being delivered to the Club Rooms for the 30th and we need as many hands as possible to lay down paper and place the mulch throughout the garden to stop the weeds.

The Club will be putting on a sausage sizzle for lunch for all the workers. Please put your name in the Workshop Book so we know how many to cater for.

Please everyone come along, many hands make light work and we need your help. If you could bring some gloves and a shovel that would be great.

Gemkhana – Saturday 28 & Sunday 29th September, 2019 – Hawksbury District Agricultural Show Grounds 40 Racecourse Road, Clarendon.

Only 4 months to go to have your entries ready (entries close 16 August, 2019). Competition schedule available on the Gem & Lapidary Council's Website.

Gemboree 2020 – Australia's National Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show – 10 – 13 April, 2020 at the Albury Showgrounds. There has been a Booklet placed on the Information Board in the Club Rooms regarding next year's show which has the Competition Schedule. You have a whole year to work on your entries.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

25 & 26 May, 2019 – Canberra Lapidary Club – Gemcraft & Mineral Winter Show
Mallee Pavilion (Epic Centre) Flemington Road, Mitchell
8 – 10 June 2019 - Gemorama , Emmaville
19 June, 2019 – Business and Skite Night – Club Rooms 7pm
13 & 14 July, 2019 - Campbelltown Lapidary Club Exhibition and Sale
Greg Percival Community Centre, Ingleburn
28 & 29 September – State Gem, Mineral and Lapidary Show – GEMKHANA
Hawkesbury Agricultural Society Showground, Clarendon
2 & 3 November – Illawarra Lapidary Club's Annual Exhibition
Heininger Hall, Ribbonwood Centre, 109 Princes Highway, Dapto

Club Open Day

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. The weather gods were not so kind but we still had a great crowd for our small event. Thank you to everyone who donated cakes and treats for the Morning Tea – the grand sum of \$372.55 was raised for the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea, a great effort. To all the helpers in the kitchen and those on the BBQ , a very big thank you.



General Business

We decided at last weeks meeting to pay for a first aid course. David Hastings is going to do the course 1 day with booklet @ a cost of \$195.

The club is willing to pay for a first aid course with St.Johns for a club member who goes on a lot of fossicking trips. Your choice is as follows:

1 day course with a study booklet to be read before the 1 day course @ a cost of \$195.

The alternative is a 2 day course with no study booklet @ a cost of \$224. If you are interested please contact one of the committee members. The courses are being held in Wollongong & Bowral. After you have completed the course the club will then buy a first aid kit.

Social Night –May 15th - Talk by Peter Clarke

We will all look at our local landscape with new eyes after Peter Clarke's talk on the Geology of Gerringong. Peter took us back 260million years, when the Sydney Basin was a shallow sea off the coast of Gondwana, 2000Km from the south pole. Ash from undersea volcanoes covered shells, forming the fossil bed of Black Head at Gerroa, and building cliffs up to 20m high. Subsequent basalt and ash flows formed the coast as far as Lake Illawarra, and the thickest lava flow has been quarried throughout the region. Subsequently the basin filled up with sediments from as far away as Broken Hill, forming the Narabeen shales and the Hawkesbury sandstone. Peter pointed out that local rock platforms mark a previous low tide level, about 5m above the present one, but that global warming might raise the sea back to this level.

Social Night - June 19th

Change of programme. Our June social will now be **SKITE NITE**. If you have found something interesting on one of the Club's field trips or on your own, if you have made, bought, been given or otherwise acquired anything which would be of interest to your fellow lapidaries, please bring it to the June meeting, and tell us about it.

Gemboree, 2019 – Congratulations to Mick Derrington on his excellent results including a 1st in Enamelled Jewellery. After a great novice showing at the Gemboree 2018 Mick has turned in a great result yet again proving to all he has a talent for this discipline.

Maybe a workshop Mick??

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 and “avago “

Mineral Group

At the end of April having enjoyed a great evening of minerals with 18 members members night . But first of all we need to welcome three new members to the Group. A most enthusiastic welcome to Lint Tung and to Adam Royston and Ernie Royston. Your names are now on our Mineral Group email List; please send me a note that you have received this mail, confirming that your address is where it should be. All us other members hope you enjoyed what was on offer last evening. The presentations on Fossicking and on Mineral Cleaning were topics that members asked for last year when we surveyed what they most wanted to hear about. The format of the meeting was unusual but we will return to normality next month.

Another piece of news – I have just received an email from member Di who has been a way for a while. She is now living in Sydney to be married soon and unable to attend any meeting for the remainder of the year. We are sorry of course that we will not see her again until 2020 but delighted with her other news. We send her our sincerest congratulations and wish her and her partner to be all the very best for the future. Di, you and partner perhaps will be very welcome to return to our meetings when you are ready. Please let us know when that might be.

Last evening, in talking about bleach for removing organic matter with chlorine ‘Nappysan’ was mentioned. Tereska was quite correct in saying that as far as she was aware, it was not a chlorine based bleach but an oxygen based bleach. The active ingredient is in fact, sodium percarbonate with composition $\text{Na}_2\text{H}_3\text{CO}_6$ or $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot 1.5\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$. As you can see, not an atom of chlorine in sight.

Lint, Adam and Ernie didn't have the fun of an identification exercise last evening and along with the rest will now have that fun while waiting for what I have in store for you in May. As I mentioned there are 5 (five) pieces of homework here for you. Our new members may have a little trouble with some of the attachments but I am confident that you will do your best. A score of 2 correct will be great. As for the rest of you, a score of 4 correct will be very pleasing.

You will see that instead of providing slides of 5 minerals to ID I have provided 7 (that is seven) all quite easy. You can ID them all if you want to but I only asked for five so you can select which 5 you want to send. There is another thing. I have relisted the 7 in order of difficulty with the toughest worth 7 points and the easiest 1 point. How I have organised that new list is for you to puzzle out. I challenge you to select the hardest five to try to score 25 with the answers you submit. And please get your answers back before the closing date and time which is Wednesday 15 May at 6pm.





Ed:

Sorry Noel, I did not know what you planned and fiddled with the order here in an attempt to save space.

My last email was sent a couple of days after our April meeting. It included the above pictures of seven different minerals for you to identify as homework with the request that you send your answers back to me. Well several members of the group did that and scored rather well. I haven't received anything from the others so we will have to go through the answers to WAI 5a to g during our meeting next Wednesday. At that meeting, I am going to ask you all whether you are interested in learning by doing this kind of homework - have a think about your answer.

Two talks next week, one from me on origins and formation of minerals and the last of the three from Roly on Photography 3 and then an ID exercise. For this exercise there won't be a hand out sheet but I'm giving you relevant information here. There will be 10 specimens to identify. They share a common feature. Your task will be to ID each of them and to work out what is the common feature. It is an easy exercise and I look forward to high scores.

Next month (June) we will have an early start and a DVD. Next Wednesday, I will bring several DVD's for you to choose the one we will play.

Cheers

Noel

Next Meeting May 29 th at 6.30

Cheers

Noel

Past Activities:

Tambar Springs 11th - 15th April 2019

A group of 6 of our club members travelled to private property in search of Drusy Quartz and Stellerite. Some members of the group stayed onsite, which was a first and the rest stayed in Coonabarabran, as the Tambar Springs, Royal Hotel closed unexpectedly.

We had some really great weather, there were plenty of flies that also joined us on our fossicking trip thanks to the tremendous amount of cowpat-tites on the property.



It was very dry on the property, making it much easier to find Drusy. We had it on good authority by a very experienced member, that this was one of the best years at Tambar due to the dry weather and lack of ground cover. There was plenty of Drusy and Stellerite to be found, however, there weren't many specimens of Stellerite worth collecting. Heulandite made a very brief appearance on the trip also.



A family of emus came along to inspect what was going on, as did an Echidna.



There were a few unfortunate cases of Ticks. A good deterrent for ticks is insect repellent containing DEET, however, it is not recommended for children. For those who are interested, the camp and fossicking area had zero phone reception for both Optus and Telstra, UHF was the to go!

We appreciate the property owner letting us fossick and look forward to going again next year!

ILLAWARRA LAPIDARY CLUB INCORPORATED

FIELD TRIP REGULATIONS

(1) EXCURSION LEADER

Each field trip shall be organised and supervised by the Trips Leader or an Excursion Leader appointed by that Officer.

Every person, whether a member of the Club or an invited visitor, shall strictly observe any request or direction made by the Excursion Leader.

Note: Only members of this club, or any other lapidary club, are allowed on private property. Visitors/invitees are allowed on public property. It is the discretion of the trips leader if children are allowed.

Prior to departure, briefing to be held by Trips Leader or appointed Leader.

(2) EQUIPMENT SAFETY

Each person participating in a field trip shall be responsible for ensuring that their equipment is maintained in a safe condition and used in a safe manner.

(3) ASSEMBLY

All participants shall record their name in the Trips Book – an Insurance requirement.

All participants shall assemble at the designated place at the appointed time

Should the meeting place be distant from the field trip site and vehicles required to travel to the site in convoy, drivers must comply with the convoy rules as set out in **(4)**

(4) CONVOY RULES

Vehicles shall be driven and parked in compliance with Road and Traffic Rules and shall not cause congestion or blockages.

Vehicles shall proceed to the field trip site led by the Excursion Leader.

The last vehicle in the convoy shall be driven by a person nominated by the Excursion Leader.

Vehicles shall not change position in the convoy.

Each driver must keep the following vehicle in sight except in dusty conditions where the vehicle cannot be sighted but the dust plume can be seen.

Vehicles shall be sufficiently far apart to allow non-convoy vehicles to pass safely.

Should any vehicle stop, the preceding and following vehicles shall stop, thereby bringing the entire convoy to a halt.

Once halted, the convoy shall not proceed until authorised by the Excursion Leader after dealing with the cause of the stoppage.

Upon reaching the field trip site, drivers must comply with parking and other instructions issued

by the Excursion Leader.

(5) FIELD TRIP SITE RULES

Upon arrival at the site, all participants shall assemble to receive instructions and advice from the Excursion Leader.

All participants shall:

- (a) wear a hard hat if it is a mandatory requirement at the site or if instructed to do so.
- (b) observe any conditions and limitations applying to the site.
- (c) close any gate that was originally closed and leave open any gate that was originally open.
- (d) keep well clear of livestock.
- (e) keep well clear of mine shafts and adits except when collecting at such locations.
- (f) strictly observe instructions about tides in coastal sites, particularly when seas are rough and freak waves may occur.
- (g) Parents shall keep children under strict surveillance at all times, particularly at dangerous sites.
- (h) ensure that persons below them on steep slopes are aware of their presence and are not endangered by any of their actions
- (i) collect only sufficient material for their needs, leaving excess materials for others.
- (j) notify the Excursion Leader upon leaving the site before conclusion of the trip, and
- (k) obey any instructions from the Excursion Leader and conduct themselves in such a way to ensure that the progress of the trip is orderly and safe.

No participant shall:

- (l) take animals to a field trip site.
- (m) take explosives or firearms to a field trip site
- (n) damage cultivated fields or fences.
- (o) Cut or damage trees or other vegetation.
- (p) Undermine trees or the banks of any watercourse.
- (q) Approach close to, or climb upon any quarry walls or cliffs.
- (r) light a fire, except with permission of the Excursion Leader, and appropriate facilities are available and the day is not one of total fire ban in the area and it is understood that the fire shall be properly extinguished and covered with soil.

- (s) Leave litter of any kind at the field trip site unless a proper receptacle is available.
- (t) leave unfilled any hole dug at the site.
- (u) work in a location where another person has left tools to indicate that the person has left tools to indicate that the person has not finished working at that location.
- (v) walk from, or otherwise leave the site, without notifying the Excursion Leader and advising where he/she is intending to go and expected duration of absence.
- (w) Take photos & place on facebook etc. without speaking to excursion leader first.

(6) BREACHES OF REGULATIONS

A person who breaches any of these Regulations may be subject to disciplinary action by the Club.

(7) GENERAL

The Trips Leader, or person nominated by the Trips Leader is the only person allowed to contact and organise field trips on private property or special field trips under the name of the Illawarra Lapidary Club.

Only members whose names are in the trips book or trips log and have paid their Insurance for the current year are covered by the Club's Personal Accident Insurance.

Members who want to fossick on private property sites must **NOT** use the name of the Illawarra Lapidary Club as a **MEANS OF ACCESS** to these sites.

Prior to embarking on a field trip, participants should ensure that their vehicles are properly serviced and that sufficient fuel, water, food and other necessities are carried to satisfy the needs of the trip.

Participants should ensure that all equipment requirements for the trip are loaded prior to the trip.

Participants are advised to take a small, but comprehensive, personal first aid kit on all field trips.

The personal safety of each participant on a field trip is the responsibility of that participant. The Club accepts no responsibility in this matter.

Permission obtained by the Club to conduct a field trip at a particular site shall not entitle a participant or other person to return privately to that site at a later date.

Members fossicking privately are advised to have their own Insurance cover. Participants are responsible for a small payment (\$10 per person) to property owners when fossicking on private property.

Cheers

Chris

