



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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Secretary: John Maley

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HELLO EVERYONE!

Presidents Note

What an unbelievable turn of events. In just a few weeks the country has been turned on its head. Covid -19 has certainly shown its true colours and I suspect will devastate lives and business in this country let alone less fortunate countries in the world. I have a boat load of colleagues who have just been to Antarctica and unfortunately, they have been denied permission to land in Argentina or Chile to come home – someone is always worse off.

Our AGM went ahead and (much to my surprise) there were more members present than required for a quorum. Lapidary club stalwarts – thank you for being there.

We have an executive, a new treasurer and with a few vacancies in smaller roles. The formal list will go up in the silver room notice board and an incomplete list is elsewhere in this letter. Eva's decision to have a long summer holiday in Germany with family now seems lost as well.

There was complete agreement from the meeting about my call on closing the club until such times as we can return without the spectre of a possible life threatening infection. The problem is that we are the vulnerable target and the outcomes are not good for our demographic.

Moreover the access to medical services if we succumb may not be available to us as is witnessed by people overseas being denied admission to ICU and even to hospitals based on their being over 60 years of age or more. Scary stuff. Will it happen here?

I know most supervisors have already intimated that a shutdown was on their minds and on the minds of their groups. I think it is the safest option. If there is a move to restart groups earlier than July I will leave it up to the supervisors. Bear it in mind that you will need to wipe the place down (including tables, chairs, machinery, floors and toilets both before and after use) with disinfectant if you can find any, if not then methylated spirits. It may not be worth the effort to open.

THE CLUB IS CLOSED UNTIL JULY. WE WILL BE GUIDED BY THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER FOR AUSTRALIA ON THE STATUS OF COVID- 19 AND IF THERE IS NO GREEN LIGHT THEN MONTH BY MONTH AFTER THAT TIME.

Our safety officer raised the possibility of obtaining a portable defibrillator at the last meeting. Two weeks ago the club was witness to a remarkable episode of generosity. Robert Gerathy purchased a state of the art portable defibrillator with all the trimmings and donated this to the club as a THANK YOU for all that the club has done for his wife and himself. On behalf of all the club members both now and in the future, Thank You for this gift – I hope we don't need it.

We are now investigating the possibility of having a paramedic demonstrate how to use it. I will ask for volunteers when we have arranged it.

I will continue the monthly newsletter during the shutdown. Anything that you wish to place in the newsletter just email it to me, photos should be in reduced size (less Kb reduce the total size of the newsletter and there are limits on what can be sent) and general gossip. I cannot publish anything unless I know.

Be safe and take care.

Mineral Group

Hello All

Thank you all for responding so promptly to my request for your opinion about our forthcoming Mineral Group meetings. The overwhelming view is that we should suspend our meetings for at least the next couple of months and with this email, that is now in place.

In mid-May I will contact you again with a proposal which will depend on the status of spread of the virus at that time. We will then take it from there.

For those members (and there were 5) who expressed the opinion that we could continue with our activities, you were possibly right and it is likely that no harm would have arisen should we have proceeded with our meetings. But I hope that you will appreciate that the Club's duty of care to its members was the right way to go under the circumstances. There is always a risk and it is far better to take the safe option than the alternative.

Not all is lost and I attach WAI 3. Answers to me before the end of March please.

Cheers
Noel



Fossicking Trips

Hello All.

Hope you are doing well,

In light of the recent corona outbreak "All Trips" have been cancelled until June and then will be reassessed.

Please limit unnecessary travel and contact with others to help stop the spread of this virus.

David

Minsoc have also cancelled all meetings until further notice.

Faceting Group and Thursday Silver class	Closed
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Wednesday group	Closed
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Beading/dichroic glass	Closed
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Monday Classes and Cabbing class	Closed
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Friday class	Closed
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Open Day	Cancelled
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Kathy Selwood's Weekend workshop	Cancelled
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Vicki will contact those who have paid and arrangements made to refund your money

General Business

The Wollongong Council requires safety drills and all members should be proficient/schooled / practiced in the evacuation of the building. John Wiltshire, our safety officer, has accepted the role of WARDEN with unannounced drills will be conducted when we return.

It is customary for a Presidents report to be produced at the AGM and, in an abbreviated form, is as follows:-

- 1) The renewal of our equipment, depending on finances, will continue.
- 2) Retention of younger members is paramount
- 3) I am promoting an agenda for new members to perform Cabachons, then bezels/ settings under supervision on Mondays with Bob and Betty. After that they should feel more confident to search out where they want to go next.
- 4) I have had great support from everybody contributing to the newsletter, particularly the Mineral Group and the Fossickers. I feel It gives a few more possibilities for new members to consider

We have had numerous donations of collections to the club yet to be sorted

The new Officers Bearers elected at the AGM are as follows:-

President	Chris Hatton
Senior Vice President	Rose Cook
Junior Vice President	Bob Hanson
Secretary	John Maley
Ass. Secretary	Lynne Webb
Treasurer	Vicki Randall
Ass. Treasurer	Veronica Baker
Publicity Officer	Lynne Webb
Ass. Publicity Officer	Vacant
Lapidary Officer	Veronica Baker
	Bob Webb
Catering Officers	Carol Strachan
	Bob Hanson
Webmaster	Romina
Festival Co-Ordinator	Chris Hatton
Ass. Festival Co-Ordinator	Greg Cook
Minute Secretary	Romina
Programme Secretary	Vacant
Ass. Programme Secretary	Vacant
Public Officer	John Maley

Hall Booking Officer	John Maley
Library Officer	Janelle Bydder
Sales Officers	Barry Young, Bob Webb, Terry Hogarth and Lynne Webb
Trips Leader	David
Ass. Trip Leader	Vacant
Faceting Officers	Bob Webb, Peter Walsh
Silver Craft Officers	Bob Hanson, Mick Derrington
Silver Casting Officer	Barry Young
Welfare Officer	Maureen Young
Competition Officer	Vacant
G & L Delegate	Joan Zealey
Enamelling Officer	Michael Derrington
Membership Renewals Officer	Vacant
Safety Officer	John Wiltshire
Newsletter Editor	Chris Hatton
Ass. Newsletter editor	Lynne Webb
Mineral Group Convenor	Vacant
Ass. Mineral Group Convenor	Vacant
Ass. Library Officer	Vacant
Ass. Competition Officer	Vacant

List of some of the cancellations

The Gemboree	- cancelled
Lismore Gemfest	- cancelled
ILC Open Day	- cancelled
Parramatta Holroyd Club	- closed
Canberra Lap. Club rockswap	- cancelled
New England Fossicking and Lapidary Club's Gem show	- cancelled
MinSoc Meeting	- suspended
Campbelltown Open Day	- cancelled

If you are planning anything it would be wise to
check before you leave to avoid any disappointment



The rock swap saw a continuous stream of interested visitors.

It appears to be a 'real fossicker' you need a long beard.

We are not the only one to cancel

Cambridge University in the UK announced that they are shutting down the University to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

The last time the University shut down was in 1665 for the Bubonic Plague.

At the time, a 24 year old student was sent home.

This student then went on to discover calculus while working from home.

He later described this period as "the prime of my age of innovation and minded mathematics and natural philosophy more than at any time since".

The student's name was Isaac Newton.

Cheers

Chris