



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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HELLO EVERYONE!

The exit from lockdown continues except for Victoria and the comments from Noel in the Mineral Group note is not far from the bullseye in my mind.

A huge thank you to Barbara Try and the NDLC.

After wading through the Health Department / Council requirements, John has decided not to reinvent the wheel but adopt the Northern Districts Lapidary Club's plan which was felt by the Committee to be a great idea. Our Covid-19 plan is with Council and the next step is a meeting with Supervisors to go through the exact steps needed to pass the Council's requirements. We have had a couple of very good suggestions from Senior Members of the Club which are under discussion.

No supervisors , No opening.

Most Supervisors have met and there were many concerns expressed about opening and also not opening. The Victorian experience is stunning as is the World's problem with Covid-19 and it coloured the Supervisors meeting to a major extent. Only a few argued for early opening in spite of the high risks we face.

Of most concern was the restriction on numbers in the cutting room - 2 plus a Supervisor or two only, when this includes the Supervisor using the equipment – this is according to the social distancing rules. Carrying heavy equipment out into the hall or into the silver room would enable another two members but this idea was not supported.

Overall, it was felt that the risk/reward for early opening was too great. The continued closure may lead to a loss of Members which is a great and real concern, but, has no easy answers. John has been instructed to purchase all the necessary equipment and we will meet again in Sept / October when it will become clearer whether we are headed to further lockdown or not. With some Clubs not considering reopening until 2021 even if things go well, we may be in the same boat.

Would all Members contact their respective Supervisors and let them know whether they would like to open or no and when they want to return

Noel had some data from the Mineral Group which sounded quite negative for early opening.

We already know of several Supervisors who will not be back soon. This may mean that we only open on a day or a few days of the week.

***** **Don't** even think about sneaking in when there are no Supervisors present. Breaking the rules means a fine and the possibility of Club closure if you are caught. After all this effort I doubt this scenario will be well received.

We have three out of four Saturdays where the Hall is occupied by the Art Group and the Sewing Group. John will contact them and alert them to the risks and costs that they will face if there is an outbreak. It presents us with concerns whether or not they "do the right thing" with regard to cleaning and who bears the costs if there is a breach. If the council can provide an alternative hall for them it will certainly make our task much easier.

The Council will inspect us at a time in the future to check that we are obeying the rules and also check our preparation. That's if we do eventually open.

AT THIS TIME THE CLUB REMAINS CLOSED

Finally a brief summary of risks Covid-19 based on practical experience from the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio which, in my opinion, is one of the top medical facilities in the world.

- 1) Most people under 50 years don't die from the disease.(very few at our club are in this age group)
- 2) In the 50 – 70 years age group, the worst comorbidities are BMI greater than 40 (very overweight) and high blood pressure
- 3) Other lesser but still significant risks include: diabetes, heart disease, lung disease and immune suppression.

If you are in any doubt your risks, check with your doctor before making a decision about returning as Covid – 19 is still out there and still lethal in our demographic.

BOB'S NOT SO LONELY ANYMORE

About 35 members had a legal social distancing “bring your own cuppa” at Stewart park at the site of the rock swap and wished Bob well. Many were disappointed that their supervisors we not present as they brought along partially finished items. They required guidance and advice on what to do next. In spite of that it was a fun hour or so to catch and to gossip. Another day in a month is planned to prevent Bob from relapsing. **Does 10.30 on Thursday 13th Of August sound reasonable?**

Bob Webb and John Wiltshire rang me after the meeting of supervisors with the aim to present to the next meeting a formal proposal and time line about opening the club. Any ideas, suggestions or thoughts this is your chance to have a say - contact Bob or John. All help will be gratefully accepted.

THANKYOU

I wish to thank everyone for their phone calls and those that sent cards in the passing of Lorraine. Your support and condolences are sincerely appreciated.

Kind regards, Keith Tyssen

COVID-19 Declaration

Below is a Declaration which you will have to fill out and sign.

It will go in our Register along with our submission to Council so that it can be checked if necessary when a representative from Council arrives.

This will take a lot of the pressure of the Supervisor and places it where it should be – on the shoulders of the Members to do the right thing.

The contact details are necessary for tracing if need be.

Not signed and submitted – no problem, you will not be allowed in.

Members Covid 19 Health Declaration.

Members name (print)..... **Date** **Time**.....

Mobile Phone number.

Home phone number.

Signature.

Member must answer following questions with a yes or no. The supervisor on duty will take your Temperature and record below. Your temperature must be below 37.3 degrees Celsius. If 37.3 or greater entry will be refused.

1. Have you returned from overseas travel in the last 14 days?
2. Have you been in direct contact with a confirmed case of Covid -19?
3. Have you been in contact with a suspected case of Covid-19 or travelled to a know Covid -19 hot spot in past 14 days?
4. Do you have a fever? (a temperature at or above 37.3 degrees C)
5. Do you have a sore throat or have any cold or flu-like symptoms?
6. Have you taken any paracetamol in the last 4 hours? (this would lower your Temperature)

Temperature taken by Supervisor using an infrared Thermometer =

Supervisors Signature.

I have attached the minutes of the last two committee meetings as no one has access to the notice board in the silver room. We have been busy.

Open Letter from a Concerned Member

I believe that one or more members of our Club's Executive Committee are receiving emails and or phone calls from a member or members. I am of the understanding that these communications are an attempt to influence the recipient, to look at trying to have the Club open earlier than it should.

My view of this type of communication, is a form of harassment, and harassment is one of the truest forms of BULLYING. Bullying of any type is not to be tolerated in any form in our society, let alone in the Illawarra Lapidary Club.

The following, are ways that the member or members can look at their issues.

1. At the next Annual General Meeting the concerned member or members are invited to nominate for a position on the Club's Committee.
2. The concerned member or members can resign from our Club.
3. Or the concerned member or members can SUCK IT UP and allow the Committee to carry on with the difficult job of safely reopening the Club.

If any member would like to discuss the above issues with me, please don't hesitate to approach me at any of the Lapidary Club's monthly business meetings, or any other Club event where I am in attendance.

I feel the club will reopen when it is safe for all members to attend.

John Wiltshire (Safety Officer)

Who says that Geologists have no sense of humour

- 1) Q) What should I advise a woman about marrying a geologist?
A) Tell her that geologists have their faults & the more she tries to be gneiss, the more she'll be taken for granite. And warn her that on the wedding night, geologists see bedrock!
- 2) You may be a mineralogist if:
 - You can pronounce the word 'Molybdenite' correctly.
 - You own more pieces of quartz than underwear.
 - You watch old western movies for the rock formations.
 - Your children are named Ruby, Beryl, Sapphire, Jade, Amber or Crystal.
 - You can point out on maps where Broken Hill, Agate Creek, Mudtank, Dundas/Tasmania & Argyle Diamond mine are located.
 - You can tell the difference between a mineral & rock.
 - You know Moh is not one of the 3 Stooges.
 - You know that 'Dragonstone' in Game of Thrones is Obsidian.
 - People may say you have rocks in your head - & you are not insulted!
 - When you go into the wilderness - it's not spirituality you seek.
 - Your home has more specimens than a Pathology lab.
 - You know Crocoite is not a breakfast cereal.
 - You know "Cabinets" are not made by cabinet makers.
 - You know "Thumbnails" are not on thumbs.
 - You know that 'Steno' had nothing to do with transcription.
 - You know 'Terminations' are not illegal in southern USA.
 - You know Rhombic is not a latin dance.
 - You know Gypsum is not the plural of gypsy.

- You know 'Trigon' is not a mythical God or AFL term.
- You know 'Muscovite' can be found beyond Moscow.
- You know 'Twinning' will not require maternity staff.
- You know 'Schorl' is not an item of clothing.
- You know a 'Vein' may occur beyond the body.

Thanks Roly

Mineral Group

Hello All

Here we are, half way through the year and still in self imposed lockdown. It seems to Ann and I that what is happening in Victoria and to a lesser extent in other states especially NSW, strongly suggests that easing of the restrictions happened too soon. Yes, there were powerful economic factors that led to that easing, but it was still too early. Additionally, the allowances made to the NRL and AFL sent all the wrong messages to the whole community – “if them, why not us?” or “how can they play their games without infringing on the social distancing rule?”

So, having said that, I turn now to the recent emails from Chris Hatton about the conditions under which it might be possible to resume meetings of various ILC classes and groups. Just in case you lost the email, I am attaching that information for your pleasure. I know what Ann and I think about resuming Mineral Group meetings under those conditions but I wonder what each of you think. A short email from each of you please telling me what you would like to do. Once all the responses are in, (tomorrow?), I'll let you all know the collective opinion.

Now to WAI 6.3. I had responses from 12 of you, 8 of them correct. Not too bad. 6.3 is, of course, a gorgeous specimen of imperial topaz – attached for you to enjoy once again.

I hope that, when you ALL send me your email with your opinion about resuming our meetings, you will include your answer to WAI 7.1 which I attach. Now despite there being two colours, this is one mineral. The two colours should tell you what it is. And please, I want the correct name, not the common name.

By the way, the Annual Show has been cancelled, (along with the November Open Day and Christmas Party), so the working bees that Don scheduled for us are no longer necessary for this year. We will take up the slack in 2021.

Thank you and stay well.
Noel



WAI 6.3



WAI 7



This is what happens when it's just too big to bring home



Photo: Terry Hogarth

Stay safe

Chris Hatton