



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

PO Box 117 Corrimal NSW 2518 Clubrooms - Tarrawanna Hall, 51 Meadow St, Tarrawanna

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HELLO EVERYONE!

Presidents Note

Contrary to the gossip, the club will not be opening in the **foreseeable** future.

The Wollongong City Council has imposed heavy penalties on those who use the Club facilities (\$1200 for the offender and \$5000 for the club) if you are caught. Do not even think about sneaking into the cutting room or using the slab saw as it will be the end of your membership, ***forever***, if you are found out.

The Council will decide. I, for one, will not be there for quite a while after the Council say we can return and, from all those who read their email and responded, I am not alone in that thought.

The social distancing laws will be in place for some time, possibly into 2021. There will also be cleaning duties, disinfecting the toilets, wiping the benches after each use and a limit on numbers in the building. I hope that the gossips will volunteer – just give me a call and I will arrange a roster for you.

UP-COMING EVENTS: WHATS HAPPENNING AT YOUR CLUB

Same as the last couple of months - ***Nothing***

General Business

The executive has met and feels that a final decision on the fate of the Exhibition for 2020 will be postponed until August but the prognosis looks guarded. A similar concern exists for Open Day (late Nov) & the Christmas Party.

With social distancing rules in place it would be unfair on all concerned who may not see the necessary numbers to make a profit. Would our dealers still support us. Are there enough club members willing to take the risk and be there. Is there going to be a second wave of infections? We expect that the Council would vigorously check the numbers admitted and that the social distancing rules are met etc. We also expect they would penalise any infringement in order to keep us safe. We don't not know what other restrictions/ provisions will be in place. Our own costs will be considerably higher than normal. Who would volunteer to do the cleaning or anything for that matter at these events.

Our letter from the WCC, in case you missed it in the mailout that I sent you at the end May

- Are you planning on reopening? If so,
 - How soon after Council announces centres can reopen?
 - Will the centre be open for committee/organisation use only or open for hire?
 - How will you manage bookings, enquiries and requests for centre inspections, inductions, no shared use of equipment etc?
- What cleaning program do you have planned?
 - Sanitiser and cleaning supplies
 - Regular touch point cleaning
 - Enhanced cleaning between groups using centre
 - Plan to clean/decontaminate if COVID-19 positive case onsite
- How will you ensure physical distancing of attendees meets the 4m² per person and 1.5m between people regulations?
- How will you manage access to the centre? Considering where people enter and exit, sanitising on entry, any times when there could be queues and smaller spaces (e.g. toilets and foyers).
- What are your plans for 2020/21 Fees & Charges?
 - Wollongong City Council has proposed no fee increases for Council managed centres; the Draft Operational Plan is open for public comment until 9th June.
 - Please find attached a summary of room information that we use to update Council's website www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/centres
- What will be the capacity of each room including kitchens?

Capacity will be significantly reduced due to 4m² per person. To calculate the capacity of a room:

 - Measure the length of the room accessible to attendees (remove storage and access points).
 - Measure the width of the room accessible to attendees.
 - Multiply the length by the width to calculate the area of your room in square metres.
 - Divide the area of your room (calculated in square metres) by 4 to calculate the maximum number of people allowed.
 - For example:

A hall that is 12m wide and 20m long may only have a floor area of 10m wide x 17m long when entry/exit points and travel paths are considered.

When determining room capacity consider impacts on common areas such as toilets and entry/exit points. The room capacity number you can manage and still achieve physical distancing regulations throughout the building may be significantly less than the 4m² room capacity. You may determine that not all halls/rooms within the centre can be utilised at the same time.

Kitchens needs special consideration to ensure compliance, food safety standards adherence and enhanced cleaning is critical, sharing of crockery/cutlery is to be avoided and physical distancing must still be considered.

Social Night -

Home watching TV

ILC's fossicking trip April 2020

April's fossicking trip worked a little different this year. Unfortunately, the planned trip to Tambar Springs had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. It was replaced with a "go through your stash and show us your favorite find" type of fossicking trip from home!

Have a look at what our members have "fossicked" at home.

A couple members added in a little back story to their images. Images are below.

Peter found this green specimen in Agate Creek about 5 years ago in a most unlikely spot. It was in a number of pieces but most of it was sitting upright like an Easter Island statue just waiting for me to find. I believe it is a quartz stalactite from inside a large geode (which no longer exists). It is dark green in colour. Very rare!

Peter found his Agate specimen some years ago at Agate Creek. "It was a bit ugly until I cut it. It reminds me of 3 seals."

Dave found this spectacular looking piece of Petrified Wood near Chinchilla, QLD. It takes pride of place on the display unit.

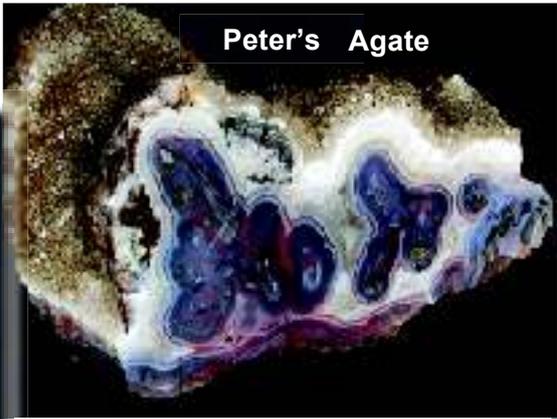
Rom found her piece of Agate while she was fossicking for Petrified Wood on a private property near Chinchilla. A lot of people were surprised and it was the only piece of Agate found on the whole trip.

Carol n Bob found a piece of Prehnite that is very similar to the shape of Australia!

Joan wrote, the Lepidodendron cone is Carboniferous, and comes from the Wardie shales near Edinburgh. I've had it for about 50 years, finding it was one of the things which kindled my interest in rocks and fossils.

More detailed info about Ken and Allan's favourite finds can be found after everyone's photos, and is followed by a blast from the past with Terry and Lynne!

The fossil Club will be back fossicking in June – contact David to see what is in the pipeline



Peter's Agate

Peter's Quartz Stalacite



Dave's Fave
Petrified Wood

ILC April 2020 Fossicking Trip
Fossicking
from home in ISO during
Covid - 19



Rom's Agate



Joan's Favourite
Lepidodendron
on Cone



Carol n Bob's



Allan's favourites

Geode



Ken's Favours

Molibdenite on Calcite



Allanite and Garnet

Location: Mary Kathleen Mine, Mt Isa Inlier.

Size: 32cm x 18cm

Collected 2018



Calcite was leached out in 2020 with hydrochloric acid leaving the Allanite, Garnet and Green?

This specimen looks much more interesting when viewed with your own eyes. When you collect the sample, you are unsure what you find in the calcite. You look to see if there is any indication of crystal growth in the calcite. Even if this looks good at the time you collect the sample, when it is leached, you may find very little in the way of crystals. Or it may be more exciting than you anticipated.

If you leach with hydrochloric acid, ensure it is rinsed several times by placing it in tubs of water. If you do not do this your specimen may fall apart.

When a sample is leached, the specimen can be cleaned with no damage to the crystals including the fine hair crystal of Epidote, Actinolite or whatever is in the specimen.

Location: Lime Creek Quarry, Mary Kathleen, Mt Isa Inlier. Queensland.

Size: 90x55mm

Molybdenite 55x50mm

This specimen is in the show case.



I fossicking at Lime Creek for many years and did not find anything of interest. Then in 2016 I found a piece of calcite about 300mm x 120mm with a small piece of Molybdenite showing at one end.

So, I thought I will take this specimen home and leach the calcite and see if the molybdenite would be an interesting specimen.

I decided as it was a large piece of calcite, I would break it down to half the size. All it took was one hit with a hammer and it broke right through the molybdenite at the end.

So, I took the complete specimen home and part leached the main piece of calcite and completely leached the other piece of calcite. I then placed the two pieces of molybdenite together.

I think it is the most unique specimen I have in my collection.

By Ken Mitchell

My Most Exciting Find

By Allan House

My most exciting find was during the agate creek field trip in June 2019. I had taken several people to fossick at various locations, some of which were spotted with my drone. We all did very well from this. In the last week, one of the group, Brian, told me he and his mates had dug a large hole at the old pink patch, and had found some very good stones. he suggested we go to the hole and have a go – it was his way of saying thanks.

So, Bill, Merilyn and I went there to have a go. Well, the hole was definitely big and about a metre deep. Soil had been barrowed out making a heaped mound about 5 metres in length. Bill and I tried various spots in the hole and found nothing of note. While Bill started another hole a short distance away, I decided to dig under the barrow mound, a decision which was to lead to one of my greatest finds. I unearthed the leading edge of a solid rock and started to clear material away from it. It was hard going as the clay-like soil was highly compacted.

As more and more of the rock was unearthed, I called Bill over and asked for his help to dig it out saying “it could be a geode”. Altogether, it took over 2 hours to dig out. The find was a 33kg geode 45 x 42 x 12cm. It was in 3 pieces - 2 sides and a cap. It has a mass of Citrine crystals inside, most with sharp points. Some of the crystals are as wide as my thumb. I have built cradles for the 3 pieces so they can be displayed together.

It was a find based on goodwill, a hunch and luck.



A blast from the past - June, 1994 - Terry & Lynne had several great days digging out plates of amethyst at Camfield Station, Northern Territory. The amethyst was in seams and all connected a bit like a jigsaw puzzle. We stayed at Kalkarindji (old Wave Hill) and had lots of funny and strange experiences whilst there, but that's another story. The last photo is of the haul we brought back from that trip. Unfortunately, this location has been closed off to collecting.



Mineral Group - Noel writes

Here is a problem about the Club for all members to ponder over.

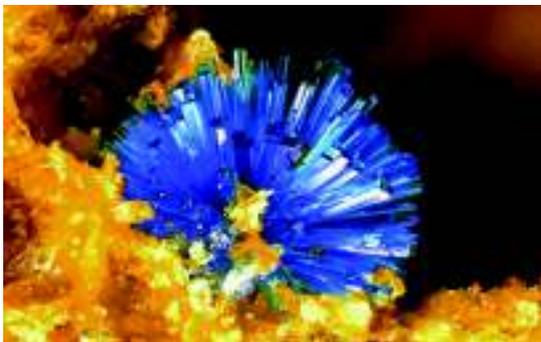
The following statements are true or false. Four are false. **Find the false statements.**

- The clubrooms of the Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc. are located in Meadow Street, Tarrawanna.
- Anybody over the age of 18 years can be admitted to Membership of the Club.
- Anybody under the age of 18 years can be admitted to Junior Membership of the Club.
- Members can learn how to cut and polish stone into cabochons, fancy cabochons and free forms.
- Chris Hatton is currently Editor of the Club Newsletter.
- The General Meetings of the Club are held on the third Wednesday of the month excepting for December.
- Those Meetings are scheduled to commence at 7.00 pm
- The Annual Show of the Club is held in November at the Ribbonwood Centre, Dapto.
- The March General Meeting of the Club is followed immediately by the Annual General Meeting.
- The Club Rock Swap is held at Stewart Park, by the beach, on the last Sunday in February each year.

Now to WAI 4.3. I had hoped that more than twelve of you would have a go. Thirteen did and that is really good. So far, I haven't heard from Vicki, John G, Adam, Ernie, Lint or Romina. I really do hope that doesn't mean that you have a problem of some kind - but if so, is there anything we can do?

Several of you had difficulty with 4.3 but two were able to sort it out. Eleven of you finally got it right and I was so pleased that one of those was Robert – good on you. Their correct answers were linarite ($\text{PbCu}(\text{SO}_4)(\text{OH})_2$) – a mineral now never to be forgotten – although not all linarites look as good as 4.3. Here it is again just to enjoy.

Now to WAI 4.4 which shows two different but related minerals. Both please and if you can, tell me why they are related.



WAI 3



WAI 4

Enjoy and stay safe

Chris Hatton