



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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HELLO EVERYONE!

Presidents Note

Yes, I know it's very late but I thought it best to delay until the supervisors and committee meeting on Thursday decided on the date of club opening in the new year as well as the process to get to that point.

The club will open on Monday the 18th January as it would in more usual times. Bob H will be the supervisor for that day and there are limited numbers in the cutting room (a maximum of three) so ring him and put your name down. If you do not ring, do not expect that there will be a vacancy if you just turn up.

UP-COMING EVENTS: WHATS HAPPENNING AT YOUR CLUB

There will be a working bee at the club commencing at 10 am on Thursday 5th November. We aim to shuffle some of the furnishings of the silver room as well as move some of the equipment in the cutting room into the silver room so as to enable a greater number of members to "legally" satisfy the social distancing rules and use the facilities.

Stewart Park is on again for the end of February, Table costs \$15 for members, others \$20 the latter also require their own insurance. There is a rock and roll concert next to us so the usual problem of parking will be acute – if you are selling get there early. The rock scramble will not be on as the thieves who broke into our storage sheds in the back yard for the second time took all the boxes of rocks that we had set aside for this event.

Bob W is still lonely but a smile was on his face after the club opening date was announced. That being so these events have been well attended so another is scheduled for the 12 November at 10.30 am. Bring your chair, hat and morning tea. I can only wonder what the psychological effect that the prolonged government lockdowns will have on the mental state of the Melbournites and whether the price paid for "saving you" will be acceptable.

At some time in the past there was a rumour that next years fees would be forgone but our finances will not allow that luxury. Class costs have been set at five dollars for the next year. For those who wish to pay their fees by internet banking the following are the details:-

Account Name: **Illawarra lapidary Club** **BSB: 062-528. Account No: 00902992**
Put your name in the message section so our treasurer knows who is paying.

Truth really is stranger than fiction – (Shamelessly plagerised from the Kiama Probus Sept Newsletter)

Recently, the Chula Vista, California Police Department ran an e-mail forum (a question and answer exchange) with the topic being, "Community Policing." One of the civilian email participants posed the following question . . . I would like to know how it is possible for police officers to continually harass people and get away with it?"

From the "other side" (the law enforcement side) Sgt. Bennett, who was a cop with a sense of humour replied . . .

"First of all, let me tell you this...it's not easy. In Chula Vista, we average one cop for every 600 people. Only about 60% of those cops are on patrol where we do most of our harassing. At any given moment, only one- fifth of the 60% patrollers are on duty and available for harassing people while the rest are off duty. So roughly, one cop is responsible for harassing about 5,000 residents. When you toss in the commercial business, and tourist locations that attract people from other areas, sometimes you have a situation where a single cop is responsible for harassing 10,000 or more people a day.

Now, your average ten-hour shift runs 36,000 seconds long. This gives a cop one second to harass a person, and then only three-fourths of a second to eat a donut AND then find a new person to harass. This is not an easy task. To be honest, most cops are not up to this challenge day in and day out. It is just too tiring. What we do is utilize some tools to help us narrow down those people which we can realistically harass.

The tools available to us are as follows

PHONE: People will call us up and point out things that cause us to focus on a person for special harassment. "My neighbour is beating his wife" is a code phrase used often. This means we'll come out and give somebody some special harassment. Another popular one: "There's a guy breaking into a house." The harassment team is then put into action.

CARS: We have special cops assigned to harass people who drive. They like to harass the drivers of fast cars, cars with no insurance or no driver's licenses and the like. It's lots of fun when you pick them out of traffic for nothing more obvious than running a red light. Sometimes you get to really heap the harassment on when you find they have drugs in the car, they are drunk, or have an outstanding warrant on file.

RUNNERS: Some people take off running just at the sight of a police officer. Nothing is quite as satisfying as running after them like a beagle on the scent of a bunny. When you catch them you can harass them for hours.

STATUTES: When we don't have PHONES or CARS and have nothing better to do, there are actually books that give us ideas for reasons to harass folks. They are called "Statutes"; Criminal Codes, Motor Vehicle Codes, etc...They all spell out all sorts of things for which you can really mess with people. After you read the statute, you can just drive around for a while until you find someone violating one of these listed offenses and harass them. Just last week I saw a guy trying to steal a car. Well, there's this book we have that says that's not allowed. That meant I got permission to harass this guy. It's a really cool system that we've set up, and it works pretty well. We seem to have a never-ending supply of folks to harass. And we get away with it. Why?

" Because for the good citizens who pay the tab, we try to keep the streets safe for them, and they pay us to "harass" some people. Next time you are in my town, give me the old "single finger wave." That's another one of those codes. It means, "You can't harass me." It's one of our favourites.

Sgt Bennett

Mineral Group

Hello All

It seems that I emailed you all just a few days ago with 9.2 and now here it is, the new month. WAI 9.2 is finished and WAI 10.1 starts. I know that I say something like that every couple of weeks but time really does get away from us so quickly. You too?

OK now to WAI 9.2 which everybody got right first go. Fourteen correct answers. The best before that was 12 correct for 4.1, then 11 for 4.3. 9.2 was, of course, malachite with those characteristic rings. Just to remind you, it is attached once again.

Now to WAI 10.1 which is attached, and which I think you will all get right. There are two more photos for you to have a go at if you want to. 10.1A is an isomorph of WAI 10.1. That means you have to know what an isomorph is to solve 10.1A and I have talked with you about that on several occasions. Then there is 10.1B which has similar composition to the other two. So have a go at those two if you want to. I hope that you do have a go.

Now to the questions posed by Roly.

1 How many minerals are composed of a single element? His answer was 42 as shown in the attachment ELEMENT, but 7 are not listed in Fleischer. So the best answer is 35.

2 Which mineral consists of most elements? Roly and Ed were the only two to send answers. Both said that that mineral was **byzantievite** which has 11 elements plus the rare earth elements as also shown in the attachment.

My answers to the two questions differ from those of Roly and Ed – see the attachment.

1 No minerals have one element as they are all impure

2 And all minerals contain 92 elements for the same reason. Note that some elements will be present in exceedingly small amounts but all of them will be there.

I believe that one or two of you are going to Muttama with David and Romina to find great quartz crystals sometime soon. Long weekend. Good digging.

Finally, I received responses from 11 of you about when you would like to start up our meetings again. Two said ASAP and nine said leave it until it is absolutely safe to do so. So I guess that means not until sometime next year. When, I can't say but I'll be asking you the same question again when things look to be on the up.

I hope you are all well and will be staying well until we start to look at that question again.

Cheers

Noel



WAI 9.2



WAI 10

It seems that I emailed you all just a few days ago. OK now to WAI 9.2 which everybody got right first go. Fourteen correct answers. The best before that was 12 correct for 4.1, then 11 for 4.3. 9.2 was, of course, malachite with those characteristic rings. .

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WAI 10.1



WAI 10.1B

Muttama Field Trip October 2020



There was a great turnout for the only group field trip of 2020 to a private property in Muttama! All of us in search for some underground treasures.

Much like last year, there was the threat of rain, thunderstorms to be more precise! This didn't stop the majority from making the most out of the couple of days we had.

Getting to the site proved to be most interesting during the test run, there was way

too much Paterson's Curse (where there never was before) which made for a very slippery track. The track was also very steep, resulting in some slipping and some winching! A different, much less slippery route was then taken when the whole group went out, no more winching was needed. Hooray! 😊

There were many holes dug, some large, some small, crystals were found, but not like last year or as high quality. Thankfully there were no snakes to be seen this year, just a couple of their holes...



A socially distanced camp fire was to be had on our last night of the trip, however this was moved to the first night as it seems it would have been washed out and also it was one of our member's birthday!! A good choice to move the camp fire as there was no one about for it on Saturday night. Everyone went home by Friday evening to beat the downpour.

As I write this, my eyes have started itching in memory of the ~~lovely~~ horrible Paterson's Curse that surrounded us during our fossicking trip. At first glance, the flowers looked exquisite as they covered the mountains and paddocks in a beautiful sea of purple (most unfortunate for any land owners!), unfortunately, for those with hay fever this was the start to an itchy and sneezy long weekend, thankfully, wearing a mask helped with this also.



We really appreciate the owner for letting us fossick and setup camp on his property! He said this was the first time he had seen so much greenery about.

Overall, it was a great trip, with really great company, red shorts and all!



CONGRATULATIONS

A huge Congratulations to Member, Colin Wright for obtaining Master Facetor status in the United States Facetor's Guild single stone faceting competition. An immense achievement! Well done, Col

A couple that I met at Mudtank 2015 sent me this photo of what they harvested from a Vugh that they broke into at Kuradala about a month ago . Quite a haul – this is a 1200 mm X 600mm table.



There is space at Bunnings to run a barbeque so we can recoup some of our Covid induced losses. Give John M a call if you can help. I guess it will depend on whether the timing of the event and whether you are free on that day.

Stay Safe

Cheers

Chris Hatton

Editor