

Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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HELLO EVERYONE!

Presidents Note

This time last year we were finalizing preparation for the exhibition. This year the newsletter is much later than normal as I waited until our committee meeting today to give you the latest update on preparations to reopen? in early 2021.

Covid – 19 is still out there and very active. There is a suggestion that the virus that dealt a severe blow to Italy and Great Britain was a far more infective organism than we have faced so far. A reminder that SARS and MERS were also Coronaviruses and no vaccine has been found to be successful for them after many years of trying. There is also talk that a vaccine may not promote a lasting protection which is depressing to say the least. I wonder whether phase 3 trials of the proposed vaccines will be reduced in duration. This phase of testing is where most vaccines fail for various reasons including side effects.

Please read “What’s on at your club”. Your feedback is most welcome be it constructive or critical, it all helps and gives you a chance to vent your thoughts and contribute. Email me.!

To let you all know what is common knowledge that Herb Csellich lost his fight against cancer that caused him so much discomfort. His talent and skill has been lost to us all and he will be missed. My daughters, many of my ex staff and countless others still wear his work as a testament to his creative brilliance. To sit with him in his workshop was to see a man in his happy place – I will miss our chats.

Lynne Webb warned me that Optus was often better than Telstra in the outback and in a 5 week trip to Glenalva then on to Gemtree, she certainly has a case. While travelling through large towns reception was transiently good, the best reception I found was standing on the top of Zircon Hill at mudtank where I had line of sight of the new Telstra tower placed next to the Jindalee radar site some 25 km away – 3 bars and 4 G.

Border passes were onerous to say the least, just one tiny error and “start again “. Grrrrrrr! Everything is on your driving license except a phone number but far much personal data was required for what reason I do not know. Returning to N.S.W was without trouble.

UP-COMING EVENTS: WHATS HAPPENNING AT YOUR CLUB

This was proposed by Bob Webb. Please read through and let me know what you think. It was warmly received by the committee but option 2 is important here. It will require renegotiation of some of our lease conditions with the council and, if we are lucky, a favourable outcome, before we can proceed. A combined meeting of the committee and supervisors is scheduled for 29 th October.

Proposed plan for reopening Illawarra Lapidary Club Classes due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Club cannot be reopened under the old conditions

This proposed plan can change at anytime to suit the changing requirements of the governing authorities. These changes could occur if there were total lockdown or the discovery of an anti-vaccine as examples.

The rules for opening the club to members are issued by-

1. Department of Health
2. Wollongong Council requirements
3. Club rules

If these rules are not carried out there could be individual fines and club fines. The club could be also be totally shut down.

Training

One of the major requirements will be training of each member who wishes to attend classes.

A member entering the club room

1. Supervisor must be informed of your attendance before the class. (Phone supervisor before class) This will stop overcrowding and disappointment
2. On arrival the member must fill in the health declaration form. (Training required)
3. The supervisor will record your temperature (Training required)
4. The supervisor will check the form to make sure that it has been correctly filled in and is legible.
5. The supervisor has the right to refuse entry to any member not complying with the protocol.
6. Hand sanitiser must be used on entering the hall
7. Social distancing rules and signage must be adhered to on entering the hall.

Social Distancing

1. 1.5 metres between all members and supervisors.
2. 4 square meters for every workspace.
3. Only 2 members and a non-working supervisor allowed in the cutting room.
4. Only 4 members and a non -working supervisor allowed in the silver room.
5. 17 members and a non-working supervisor in the main hall.
6. One only member allowed in the kitchen at one time.
7. If social distancing is impossible a mask should be used.

Cleaning.

This is a big area to cover. (see Club conditions)

Requirements for cleaning, club equipment and furnishing, floors and all surfaces, must be purchased before the club can be opened. Sprays, wipes, hand sanitiser and soap are examples of necessary purchases.

Signage must be in place before opening club

Disinfecting and cleaning (as per rules)

1. All areas must be cleaned before starting classes and at the completion of that class.
2. Communal areas including door handles, cupboards, benches must be cleaned at least 4 times a day
3. Toilets must be cleaned before and after use.
4. If a machine is used by more than one person, it must be cleaned between uses.
5. The same chair must be used by the same person for the period of class. The chair must be cleaned before and after use.
6. Members should use their own equipment and tools where possible. If using club equipment, it must be cleaned before and after use.

Opening of the Lapidary Club

Option 1

The supervisors met on Monday 13th July to discuss reopening the club classes.

The opening of the Club was rejected. The reasoning behind this was because the numbers in the work areas would be so small (following the mandatory guidelines) it was not worth opening the classes.

Option 2

To reopen in the New Year.

Suggestions were made to change the work areas so more members could attend.

These include-

1. Change the cutting room to include the silver room This will allow up to 6 members and a supervisor. Some machines will need to be relocated into the silver room. (Cabbing)
2. Silver work benches to move into the main hall We could have as many as 17 members plus a supervisor if there are no other classes at the same time. (Silver)
3. Move all Faceting cupboards into the main hall so that there is no cross over with other members (Faceting)
4. Wire wrapping use tables
5. Lamp work use tables
6. Mineral Group meeting use tables.
7. Library may be required to relocate
8. Excess chairs, tables, cupboards to be stored (ask Wollongong Council for storage). If we require a Covid-19 deep clean these items would not be included. Also, it will give members more work room and allow the 1.5 metre distancing rule to be carried out.

These changes would require a working plan and layout and would need to include electrical, plumbing and bench work. To put these changes into effect a cost would be incurred, The Grants officer should inquire if there is a grant to cover these costs from Council and Government sources.

To manage all these changes a programme of class times would need to be formulated with the input of the supervisors.

These changes would mean.

1. The club could open with more people.
2. We would not be able to hire the hall any more due to the space and Club equipment in the main hall. (The hirers only hire the hall 3 days a month on a Saturday with a maximum of 17 people per hire, maximum of 51).

We would be able to use the club on Saturday (as we used to). The Illawarra Lapidary Club has over 200 members and this would allow over 20 members per day, 6 days a week.

3. If this virus is around for a long time we may never get back into the hall if we do not change. Wollongong Council should be informed of this problem.

I am aware a lot of work would be required, but I am positive if the members can see the light at end of the tunnel they will get in and help this reorganising.

Mineral Group – August

Hello All

I know that I am a little bit late with WAI 8.2 for the second half of August but I was waiting for a few more attempts at 8.1. None turned up. Three of you delivered the correct answer and another three were on the right track but hadn't quite got there. The correct answer is "One of the Garnet Group" as there is no way you can identify which one of that Group. Those who were on the right track correctly ID'd one of the Group but used the colour to have a guess. I have no idea which one it is because I don't know the composition.

So, here is WAI 8.2. Name the blue mineral please and also the clear/white ones – there are 16 all the same.

Hoping that you are all well as we are.

Cheers

Noel



Vale – Herb (Herbie) Csellich

I am sorry to share the news of the passing of Herb on the 16th July after a series of medical issues.

Herb was born in Vienna, Austria and migrated, as a young man, to Western Australia. Whilst there, he was lucky enough to be travelling on a train on which he met his future wife of 53 years, Aira. Herb collected rocks and gold wherever he went and even after moving to Oak Flats, owned a mine at Lightening Ridge. After finding a nice opal, he set it in gold and this started his long affair with the lapidary hobby. Herb was a man of many talents with his faceting, jewellery making and casting. Very generous with his time and talents, sharing his knowledge with anyone who asked. He made many items for the Club's raffle and prizes.

Herb's smoked sausages were a hit at the Silverwork/Faceter's Christmas Party and every year the requests went out for more. A man of many talents and a true gentlemen - you will be greatly missed.



Photo: Lynne Webb

Aira wishes to send her appreciation and thanks to everyone for their kind words, cards and flowers.

Lynne Webb

Our sincere condolences also go out to Colin Wright with the recent passing of his wife Adele. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family Col.

Morning Tea, Catch Up

Our recent catch up Morning Tea was not as well attended at our first one but a few still had a great get together with an absolutely glorious winter day.

Let's do it again!



Photo: John Wiltshire

Next Morning Tea:

When: Thursday 10th September, 2020

Where: Stuart Park, Wollongong
(area where we hold the Rock Swap)

Time: 11 am

What to bring: Mask, Chair and Morning Tea

Gemboree 2021

Looking for something to do? Need a challenge? Why not enter the 2021 Gemboree Competition. As a Level 4 Competition, even if you have entered items in another Show, you may be able to enter it again (check out the rules and regulations).

Entries need to be in, in January so, get your mojo on and create something special to enter.

Further information: <https://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/>

Dates to Remember:

10 September, 2020 – Morning Tea, Get Together,
Stuart Park (where we hold the Rock Swap), Wollongong

2 – 5 April, 2021 – Gemboree 2021, Hobart Showgrounds, Glenorchy

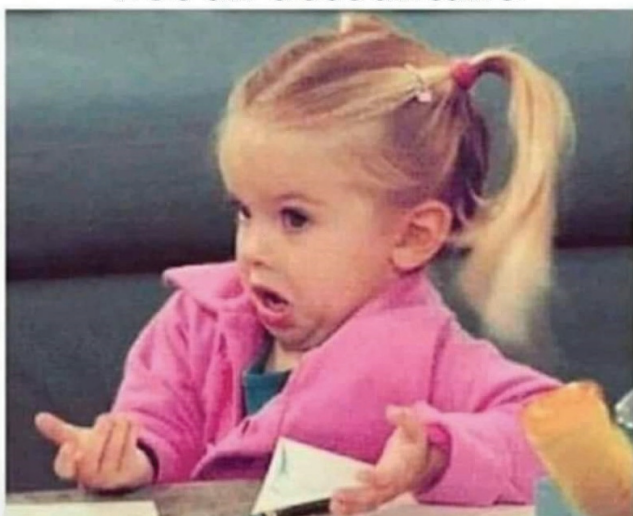
The Campbelltown show, usually a week after ours and has enjoyed our support in the past, has been cancelled along with the Gemkana in late September.

Port Hacking Club has reopened but with strict conditions.

Some time in the last week thieves returned to break into our sheds yet again.

Police have been notified. Very disappointing

**GAVIN: How many more rocks
do you need?
SUZIE: I dunno, I'm a fossicker,
not an accountant!**



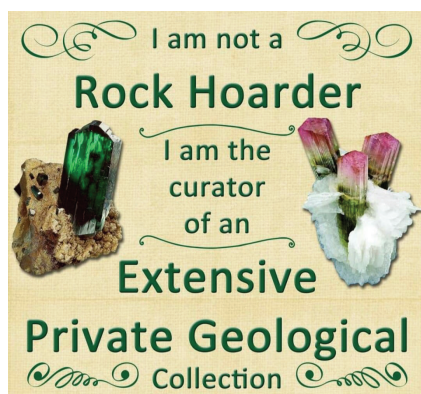
FOSSICKING TRIPS - DATES TO REMEMBER:



It's (FINALLY) that time again!! (Covid restrictions pending etc)

It's time to dust off your pick and shovel, because we're going FOSSICKING!

Pencil it in your diary, but hopefully, in late October, ILC club members are off to a private property in Muttama to fossick for beautiful, clear, quartz crystals! There will be more information in the next newsletter, so keep an eye out!



Stay Safe,

Editor Chris Hatton