



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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March 2021

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HELLO EVERYONE!

Presidents Notes:

Another successful Rock Swap and it was pleasing to note that the setup and close down was orderly and we would have passed inspection if the authorities had descended upon us. There was a steady stream of new faces as well as regular visitors and I hope that it was a commercial success for all those who participated.

Our Safety Officer, John did a sterling job being onsite at 5.30am to direct the setup under Covid 19 safety rules – Thank you and well done.

The Annual Exhibition has been booked at the Ribbonwood Centre for the first weekend in November and the first invitations for exhibitors have been sent out. In 2019 there was a major shift in displays with long time supporters declaring that they would not be returning for various reasons. Several Club Members stepped up but there were also newer displays added which were very successful. We hope to expand this theme further this year.

There has been a favourable meeting with the Wollongong Council at the Clubhouse, and, while not getting our hopes too high, air conditioning is now on the agenda. It is part of the Covid-19 safe plan as suggested by the Department of Health. It is several years away and parcelled with a refurbishment of the kitchen and the “sinking floor”. Keep your fingers crossed. It also shows the value of writing to any Government body or institution as they have to reply in writing. A personal visit or phone call conversation does not seem to have the same effect.

The defibrillator is now on the wall in the main hall – we have a qualified instructor coming to show us how to use it – I will send out a reminder of the date but a Wednesday seems the most likely day.

The Gem and Lapidary Council has just posted details of the 2022 Gemboree at Mudgee. We are organizing the gates and from what Rose and I saw when we visited the venue, the Gemboree should be a cracker. The setup is just unbelievable. Please contact Rose if you can help at Mudgee. Many hands make light work. If you are contemplating going, book your accommodation now. If you have a van/ tent/campertrailer we have a huge space allocated for the Illawarra Club close to the action with power and water on site. The cost to help is a few hours of your time.

The AGM is coming up on the 17th March and while nominations for some positions have been received there are a number to be filled. If you feel you can be of help to your club – Volunteer. If you cannot, come along and vote.

N. B. You have to be a financial member to vote.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Club Fundraiser - BBQ Bunnings, Bellambi – Sunday 28 March

Thank you to all those members who have volunteered to help with the BBQ, a great response so far, although, we are still short a number of people for the “early” shift from 7am. Anyone able to assist, please contact Secretary John on Ph: 42675618. We are also in need of at least 4 x eskys on the day. Anyone with a spare esky, please contact John also.

OPEN DAY MAY – Sunday 2nd May, 2021

Planning for the Open Day has begun. Those wishing to set up a stall inside should contact Secretary John on Ph: 42675618 otherwise setting up outside is on a first in best dressed basis.

Please note everyone, this year there will be a fee charged on all stalls of \$5.00 per table (i.e. \$5.00 for each 2 metres or part thereof).

PAST EVENTS:

ROCK SWAP – Stuart Park 2021



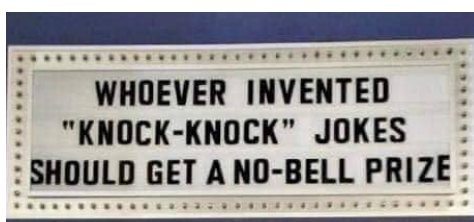
A Panorama of the Rock Swap – Photo: Romina.

A little head pops up over the table and then looks longing at her mother. The little girl, only six years of age, has seen a Shark's tooth that she loves. Her mother looks at her and smiles. I pop the Shark's tooth in a bag and pass it to the little hands that await, they are clapping in anticipation. She takes the bag and is jumping on the spot unable to contain her joy and excitement and says thank you. The huge grin on that little face makes my getting up at 4am in the morning all worthwhile. The joy in that little moment was so, so precious. A future rock hound for sure.

The weather gods were looking out for us this year and a fantastic day was enjoyed by all. We had 17 stalls with everyone spreading out Covid safe thanks to our Safety Officer, John and many his helpers. With great weather and lots of people attending, I think everyone had a great day. Unfortunately, there was no Rock Scramble this year, and, I know many, many kids were disappointed, but, let's hope this can be part of next year's event.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with advertising by sharing our Event and liking us on Facebook, for handing out brochures and word of mouth. Particular thanks goes to Suzy Bradstater as she printed off and gave out brochures at all her recent sale days, paid for advertisements personally as a donation to the Club and posted our flyer on many facebook community sites. Suzy has not only done this for the Rock Swap, but, for many of our previous events also. Thank you Suzy, the Club appreciates what you do.

Publicity Officer, Lynne



Mineral Group

On Wednesday March 3, we held the February meeting of the Mineral Group with nine members present. There was a DVD on the early years of the mineral collection of the Natural History Museum in London, then Quiz Number 1 (mostly for fun), an ID on prehnite and finally the ID exercise number 3 involving 10 different specimens from a list of 12. The average score was 7 to 8 which was an excellent result. We ended the evening with freebies from the Kara Mine in Tasmania and supper. Ann and I enjoyed the meeting and I'm sure the others did too.

Our next meeting is on the 24th March when Ed will talk on Micro-minerals, something to look forward to. The ID exercise for that meeting will number 11 and Quiz No 2 will be about Colour in Minerals.

Our first Working Bee to prepare minerals for the Show will be on Monday April 12 from 8.30 until midday. More information about that at the March meeting.

Now, WAI 1 and WAI 2 were both pyromorphite as all of you identified, and as most remarked, two excellent specimens. See how you go with WAI 3 which is attached.

It appears that most lapidary classes of the Club are nearly back into full swing although social distancing still applies. However, it is possible that some relief to that may soon be allowed. As far as our Group is concerned, the hall can easily accommodate all our current members with current social distancing. Our first two meetings of 2021 have gone well with 9 in attendance so when the rest decide it is time to resume, we will welcome you in safety.

Finally, whether the Club has a Show this year or not, we will have our annual Mineral Display Competition and Photographic competition and it is not too early to start thinking about what to photograph and what mineral to show – more about that at the next meeting.

We hope that you are all well and stay well.
Cheers
Noel



WAI 3

ILC Fossicking Trip – Oallen Ford - 7th Feb 2021

A group of fourteen, very keen ILC members made their way to Oallen Ford on Sunday the 7th of February for our first club trip of 2021. One goal was on their mind and that was to find GOLD!



The weather could not have been more perfect, there was plenty of water flowing in the Shoalhaven. Under the bridge, where it was once dry and where we had parked during our last club trip, had a decent amount of water. We couldn't drive under it, although one member tried and was lucky to get himself out. One could see evidence that the new bridge had been flooded, as there were branches still stuck in it.

Everyone armed with buckets and sieves started their hunt for gold, were we all going to shout EUREKA!? Well, with a vigorous shake here and a delicate pan there, a few good...bits, flecks, specs of flour gold were found! Hooray!

(Photo below was taken with a microscope)



After all of that shaking and panning, and the smell of onions cooking on the BBQ, it was time for lunch. Members found a dry and shady spot under the bridge and enjoyed a socially distanced, sausage sizzle!

Overall, even though fortunes weren't found, it turned out to be a really great day out for everyone!

Thank you to everyone who came and made the first trip of the year a success!

DIY Trips in March, restrictions permitting – put your name down in the trip book:

Minerama 12th - 14th March 2021

Canberra Rock Swap 13th & 14th March 2021

Keep an eye out in coming newsletters for our next club trip to Tambar Springs in April!

Dates to Remember:

12, 13 & 14 March – Minerama, Glen Innes

13 & 14 March – Canberra Rock Swap

Please note the change of venue to Parrot Park in the Epic Centre
(behind the Service Station)

17 March – Annual General Meeting, Club Rooms, Tarrawanna

2 to 5 April – Gemboree, Hobart, Tasmania

24 & 25 September – Gemkhana, Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon



Thank you, Romina for the puns and the photos.

Cheers

Chris Hatton,

Editor