



# Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

PO Box 117 Corrimal NSW 2518

Clubrooms: Tarrawanna Hall, 51 Meadow St, Tarrawanna

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## Newsletter - June 2021

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### President's Notes:

For anyone who has yet to have the "first Jab" it is a decision to be pondered, researched and then acted upon. I had a long chat with my GP about all the different types of vaccines and specifically the risks with the Astra Zeneca vaccine. Yes, a specialist needs a GP - Viral sponsored illness is a very long way from what I used to do.

My first jab was on Monday morning - no trouble.

Tuesday, I had a dull headache all day, my muscles ached, my shoulder (that received the jab) really ached and was tender. I felt exhausted. Thank goodness for PANADOL which reduced the symptoms dramatically but I spent only a couple of hours out of bed on Tuesday and went back to bed without dinner and slept all night.

Wednesday I feel well with no symptoms but my shoulder is still tender.

So far, so good. It was just a matter of knowing the risks of being 70 years old and catching Covid -19 or being vaccinated with its own risks. You weigh up the risks and take ownership of the outcomes. This is why you have a GP.

In this month's newsletter you will see a new item - Buy, Swap and Sell. I think it is a great new service and I hope that all of you will use it. A great idea Romina - see what a fresh mind can do to "the old rag". I reckon I have a few items that may end up on it in the near future.

Cheers,  
Chris

### Contents

President's Notes: .....	1
ILC Business Meeting and Social Night .....	2
ILC Mineral Group .....	3
Fossicking/DIY Trips .....	4
Members Works & Achievements ...	5
Exhibition time – it's nearly here! ....	6
Exhibition Guessing Competition Prizes .....	6
VALE – Joan May Sheppard .....	8
Dates to Remember .....	9
Buy/Sell/Swap .....	10

### Classes at the Club

The club is pretty much back to normal now. So, classes are moving along. If you are interested in joining a class, please don't hesitate or be shy. The classes are for everyone. Try one of them, or, try all of them and do them at your own pace. You never know what you will enjoy until you try it out at least once! We have some very experienced supervisors there to show you the ropes!

For information on classes/costs and times, please visit the following link:

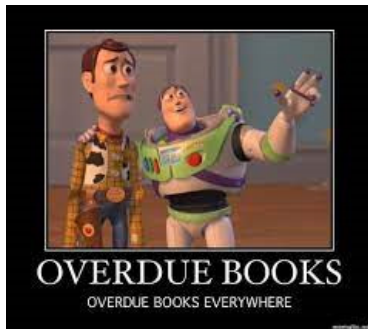
<https://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/activities/classes/>

## ILC Business Meeting and Social Night



The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021, starting at 7pm, followed by the Social meeting in the clubrooms at 51 Meadow St, Tarrawanna.

Last month's business meeting (19<sup>th</sup> May) was attended by about 15 ILC members. It would be great to see even more members, new and existing attending the meetings. Don't be shy, come on down and be part of it, the meetings are for everyone! Minutes from the meeting are available in the Silver Room at the club.



In last month's newsletter, I mentioned that at the business meeting, our *keeper of the books*, Janelle, indicated that there were plenty of overdue library books. It seems that this month is the same. A quick fossick around the house should show up some overdue library books and you never know what else you might find. Speaking from experience, in looking for my library book, I came across a small bag of faceting rough! Surprisingly enough, the book I was looking for was called, *Cutting Gemstones, A beginner's guide to faceting*.

President Chris, inducted new member Simon T into the club, welcome Simon!

There were plenty who came to watch a DVD at the Social meeting, there were two options, everyone could either watch a talk from The Dallas Symposium 2017 DVD or a DVD about Cutting & Working with Opal, those present at the meeting opted for the latter. If anyone has any opal they are working with and would like to include it in the newsletter, please send an email to the club's email address!

Thank you to all who came along and joined in, we hope to see more members next time!

### What's on next...

Our next social meeting will be a very interesting one! One of our members, John Finkernagel, is an "Aboriginal technology keeper". John will share his knowledge with us and talk about topics such as knapping, grinding, tool production and a bit of history to put it all in context. Below are some examples of what John does.

They are very impressive, looking forward to your talk, John!



## ILC Mineral Group

The next Mineral class will be on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2021, starting at 5.45pm with finger food before the DVD (everyone to bring a savoury or sweet plate), the main meeting will start at 6.30pm in the clubrooms at 51 Meadow St, Tarrawanna.

Last month's class was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May and was well attended.

Members brought one mineral specimen from their collection and had 5 minutes to talk about it. The following is Noel's account of the evening; Ann led off with her ruby crystal from India, then Ed with his iridium from Tasmania, and David told us how he hand-polished two flats on a hump of jasper. Next was Don and his large pieces of corundum, and Coral with her large piece of quartz, then Peter and his Madagascan celestine geode. We finished up with Pam and her sapphire pendant made by David, Roly and the spectacular polished graphic granite and finally Vicki and her yellow quartz – oops, sorry, calcite. All very interesting pieces and very well presented. Thank you all.

It was decided that we will have a full day working bee on a weekend day in July to clean up the mineral show cases at the front of the hall. The date will be decided at the next meeting.

We finished the meeting with Exercise No 16 – gem minerals. This exercise was quite difficult as all specimens were in the as-found condition. To be ID'd were specimens of topaz, diamond, sapphire, ruby, aquamarine, zircon and two each of emerald and elbaite. Of the four major gemstones, ruby, sapphire and emerald were there but the fourth was missing. Now, which one was that? The best ID was 9/10 and the average was about 5/10 which was a good result.

We finished up with freebies (elbaite, rutile and malachite), and supper. It was a really good night made better by a total eclipse of the full moon which we ducked outside to follow over a couple of hours. - Noel



WAI 6: For those following the WAI each month. Last month we had WAI 6, Noel gave us three photos, of which one is to the left to ponder over, if you said that they were Rhodochrosite, you would've most certainly been correct!



WAI 7: Noel snuck in a WAI 7 in between our last newsletter and the mineral class of May, there were absolutely no clues given for WAI 7. Although, the double line in the photo may have been a big hint in itself!

Can you figure out what it is? If you don't want to know the answer just yet, do not read the next sentence, stop reading! Everybody responded correctly with double refractive calcite as their answer. In his answer, David set out why calcite behaves this way due to birefringence



WAI 8: The only clue given for WAI 8, is that, "it is a gemstone". The answer to this WAI will be in next month's newsletter, if you are interested in learning more about minerals in person, join the Mineral Class every fourth Wednesday of the month, everyone can attend! Having attended this class myself, I can say that it is definitely interesting and you can certainly learn a lot!



## Fossicking/DIY Trips

The club didn't have any fossicking trips away, but there were a couple DIY trips this month.

### Lismore Gemfest

A few of our club members, including Terry and Lynne, made their way to Lismore and this is what they had to say about it.

"Three of our Club Members made the pilgrimage to Lismore for their Annual Gemfest. This year's event was on a massive scale, a normal year attracts around 6,000 attendees but this year it was 11,000 (obviously playing catch up for the cancellation in 2020). It was massive, well done Lismore.

The weather was wonderful and the 120 tailgaters and dealers all had smiles on their faces. There was a huge selection of items for sale, no matter what your interest in lapidary. The Lismore Club members are always so friendly showing true country hospitality to all. A great show and a credit to all."

### Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club Open Day



A couple of us from the ILC went to the Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club Open Day/ Morning Tea which was on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The weather was perfect for the day and there were plenty of beautiful gems and minerals ready to find new homes. They had a fantastic all day BBQ and lots of goodies for Morning Tea. A few of our members were there with stalls. One of our members, Suzy, is not just a member of the ILC, she is the president of the Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club, so what better person to give us a report on the day than Suzy herself! Below is what she had to say.

"Campbelltown and Districts Lapidary Club had its annual March Open Day on the 22nd of May. This was the club's third attempt at running the event, the previous two being postponed due to Covid and floods.

The weather was very kind to us and the community turned out in large numbers. Many exciting things to be seen and purchased. It was lovely to see Garry Farnham's stall being run very efficiently by the next generation, some amazing treasures to be found there. Due to the changed date, the club combined their Biggest Morning Tea event and the Open Day. A substantial amount of money was raised for Cancer Support which will be donated in the name of long-time members Dorothy Perkins and Nick Pastor who sadly lost their battles with cancer during the Covid period when the club was closed.

It was a lovely day and a great opportunity for club members to do some fossicking without getting their hands dirty."

## Members Works & Achievements

We would like to congratulate two ILC members on becoming back up supervisors! Rebecca O'Donnell and Paul Hanson are back up supervisors, thanks for stepping up and helping out!

Rebecca will now be a backup supervisor for the wire wrapping, cabling and lampwork. Paul will be a backup supervisor for the cabling classes.



The beautiful art of faceting has been developing since the 15<sup>th</sup> century. If one can cut a stone just right, the stone will shine beautifully! Under the direction of our club's really great instructors, Bob and Peter (I speak from experience), some of our club members have been making stones shine beautifully on Thursdays at our club house!



Faceting classes have taken off at the club in the last couple of years with more people learning how to turn a bit of rough, into beautiful gems!

Here are some of our members in action at the club!



Eva faceting a Moroccan Opal, into a bicentennial cut with 115 facets



Greg checking his progress



Vicki checking the facets on her light blue, man made Nanosital.



Michael, John and Bob, inspecting faceting rough.



John consulting Gemcad before dopping his stone



John's rough piece of Pink Cubic Zirconia



BLING BLING  
John's 6mm and 8mm gems, destined to become an earring and pendant set

Whether you're an old or new member, if you're interested in learning, the faceting class is for everyone! So, please come and visit on Thursday and give faceting a go!

### Reminder: Dichroic Class this month!

There will be a dichroic glass firing on Wednesday the 30th June, starting at 9am sharp. Bring your own dichroic glass and there will be clear and black glass available on the day. You can purchase glass from [www.chockadoo.com.au](http://www.chockadoo.com.au) also.

## Exhibition time – it's nearly here!



Your Club needs **YOUR HELP** more than ever to make our upcoming Exhibition in November, a safe and successful event! Upcoming meetings will include details of how to organise the Exhibition successfully in these times of Covid-19 restrictions, whilst retaining the joy and practicalities of it.

The Committee and other helpers have been really busy. Preparations are already going on behind the scenes. Preparations that include, covid-19 plans, advertising, communicating with dealers and a lot of other jobs and decisions, BUT, it cannot be successful without everyone stepping up to volunteer to help out both, before and after.

Here are some easy ways to get involved:

1. Attend meetings to get the latest low down on what's happening
2. Tell a Committee Member of your willingness to help (in person, on the phone or email a message).
3. If you are able to help out at a specific time on the weekend of the Exhibition put your name on the sheet on the **silverwork room doors**. If you are able to help out but not sure when, pop your name on the bottom of the sheet with your number so that you can be contacted if needed.
4. Showcases are another area you can help out. It can be a lot of fun and very satisfying. You can borrow a showcase from the Club if you haven't got your own. Do it jointly with a friend, double the fun! Also, let Co-ordinator Chris Hatton know, so that he can keep a spot for you.
5. Donations of rocks or items of lapidary are always welcome and can be dropped into the Club rooms. Items for lucky door prizes and the kids' games are always appreciated.
6. Every Thursday, Maureen is working on jewellery and items for the Club table. Come on in and lend a hand, your help is needed and very much appreciated.
7. For those wishing to enter the Competitions, it's a good time to get those projects underway. An entry form can be downloaded from the website or picked up at the club. Entries should be given to Eva, who is managing the competition. The cut-off date for the entries is the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Eva is happy to receive them earlier. The following is the link for the form on the ILC website: <https://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/forms/>

## Exhibition Guessing Competition Prizes

**1st Prize:** Horse & Pumpkin carriage, made by members of the Illawarra Lapidary Club in sterling silver- 99mm long, 23mm wide, 45mm high. Valued at \$1800

**2nd prize:** Agate pendant. sterling silver wired pendant set on a 42-centimetre sterling silver link chain, donated by Veronica Baker, valued at \$600.

**3rd prize:** Enamelled sterling silver pendant, handmade and donated by Michael Derrington, valued at \$280.

**4th prize:** Amethyst specimen, from Mexico. Donated by Terry Hogarth, valued at \$150.

**5th prize:** Enamel disk flower pendant, handmade and donated by Michael Derrington, valued at \$150.

Ticket books will be picked up at the end of this week and can be purchased at the club. The cost will be \$2 each, or 3 for \$5. Please consider picking up a ticket book or two, to sell for the club. The Winners will be drawn the weekend of the 6th/7th of November.

The Results will be on ILC's Facebook page. Good Luck!



# Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc. 2021 Exhibition

## Guessing Competition Prizes



1st Prize:  
Horse & Pumpkin  
Carriage with a  
faceted Australian  
Garnet.  
Handmade in  
Sterling Silver.  
99mm long,  
23mm wide,  
45mm high.  
Valued at \$1800



2nd Prize  
Agate Pendant set  
Sterling Silver wire  
on a 42 centimetre  
Sterling Silver link  
chain.

Donated by Veronica Baker

3rd Prize  
Enamelled  
Sterling Silver  
Pendant.  
Valued at \$280



Donated by Michael Derrington

4th Prize  
Amethyst specimen, from  
Vera Cruz, Mexico.  
Valued at \$150.



Donated by Lynne Webb & Terry Hogarth

5th Prize  
Enamel Disk  
Flower  
Pendant.  
Valued at \$150



Donated by Michael Derrington



## VALE - JOAN MAY SHEPPARD

It is with sadness that I inform our Membership of the passing of our esteemed long-time member, Joan Sheppard.

Joan was one of our longest serving members, having joined the Club in 1968 and became a Life Member in 1991. Joan served the Club in various positions including President and Secretary in the 1980's but will perhaps be best remembered for her love of fun, travel and, of course, lapidary pursuits.

Joan was famous for her Gemtree masterpieces and was there right at the start of these creations. Once she became proficient at a lapidary craft, such as, Gemtrees or the carving of Emu Eggs, she was happy to pass on her knowledge through running classes. Joan was a great organiser and loved to travel. She organised at least 20 extended bus trips for members and others that usually took in the National Gemboree Show together with site seeing, tourist activities and sometimes fossicking. Trips included Launceston Tasmania, Rockingham WA, Alice Springs NT, and Toowoomba Qld. Joan even made it to the famous Tucson, Arizona megashow in 1989.

Joan was always a very keen participant in the Club's fossicking trips. She was also very involved in the Club's Christmas Skits which were a feature of our Christmas get togethers for many years. The sparkle in Joan's eyes (with perhaps a touch of mischievousness), her infectious laughter, and adventurous spirit is what I most remember.

Rest in Peace Joan, you touched the lives of many for the better.

Terry Hogarth

Joan's funeral service is to be held at Parsons Funerals, 34 Belmore Street, Wollongong on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 at 12 noon. Those unable to attend can watch Joan's service via <http://fcp.mediahouseplus.com/wollongong-chapel-parsons/joan-sheppard/>



## Dates to Remember

### Your Club

#### 16<sup>th</sup> June:

7 – 8pm: Business Meeting

8pm: Social Meeting



A “Knapping Talk” by our very own John Finkernagel, he will talk about topics such as knapping, grinding, tool production and a bit of history to put it all in context.

#### 30<sup>th</sup> June:

There will be a dichroic glass firing on Wednesday the 30th June, starting at 9am sharp. Bring your own dichroic glass and there will be clear and black glass available on the day. You can purchase glass from [www.chockadoo.com.au](http://www.chockadoo.com.au) also.

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> June:

6.30pm: Mineral Group

#### July: TBA

Mineral group Working Bee

#### 21<sup>st</sup> July:

7 – 8pm: Business Meeting

8pm: Social Meeting

#### 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November:

Annual Exhibition, Dapto Ribbonwood Centre

### Other Clubs

#### 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> June

Gemorama Emmaville inc. field trips (DIY - trip)

#### 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July

Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club  
42nd Annual Exhibition

Sat 9.30am - 5.00pm

Sun 9.30am - 4.00pm

Entry Fee \$5, children under 12 free with paying adult

The Greg Percival Community Centre  
Oxford Rd Ingleburn

#### 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> September:

Gemkhana

Hawkesbury District Agricultural

Showgrounds 40 Racecourse Rd Clarendon  
(DIY trip)

Competition entries via express post, to be received by Friday 20th August 2021

<https://gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/gemkhana/>

#### 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> October:

Central Coast Crystal, Gem & Jewellery Show.

Mingara Event Centre, Wyong Rd Tumby  
Umbi.

Sat 9am to 5pm

Sun 9am to 4pm.

#### 30<sup>th</sup> & Sun 31<sup>st</sup> October:

Canberra Lapidary Club Gem Show  
Spring Show :

Sat: 10am to 5pm

Sun: 10am to 4pm

For all DIY and Club trips, please add your name to the trip book or let David know via the club's email address when each trip is coming up.

## Buy/Sell/Swap

Starting next month, we will have a new section in the newsletter. As you can tell by the heading, it will be a buy/sell/swap section for all members who are interested in doing just that.

### How does it work?

If you are interested in advertising/buying something, please email [illawacq@illawarralapidaryclub.com.au](mailto:illawacq@illawarralapidaryclub.com.au) a photo of the item you would like to buy/sell/swap with a short description and the price if applicable.

Anyone interested in the item, will need to email: [illawacq@illawarralapidaryclub.com.au](mailto:illawacq@illawarralapidaryclub.com.au). Your email will then be forwarded to the person advertising.

### Your personal details will not be put in the newsletter.

**Disclaimer:** Buyers enter into private sales/swaps with sellers. In the case of an issue arising no liability will be held by The Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.. The buyer/seller are responsible for any portion of these transactions, claims, liability, damages, losses, costs, and any expenses arising from or in any way connected with such right, claim or actions.

Hopefully, everyone is getting their newsletter via email, if not and you are reading a hard copy, please add the club's email address (see below) to your Address Book or Contacts. Also, if you have changed your email address, please let us know by sending an email to: [illawacq@illawarralapidaryclub.com.au](mailto:illawacq@illawarralapidaryclub.com.au) so you can continue to receive updates about events and our newsletter.

If you would like to submit articles, tips and tricks, step by step photos of what you've been working on, or anything lapidary related to the newsletter. Please send an email to [illawacq@illawarralapidaryclub.com.au](mailto:illawacq@illawarralapidaryclub.com.au) with the subject "newsletter submission". We would love to include it!



Have you seen the Illawarra Lapidary Club on Facebook yet? If you haven't, do a search for the Illawarra Lapidary Club and check us out!



May your rough always shine, Romina :)