



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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Newsletter - May 2021

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HELLO EVERYONE!

President's Notes:

- What a fantastic turnout for our club's Open Day and Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea! The crowd was huge! A great big thank you goes out to everyone in the community who came and supported us at our club house and made it a success. Another great big thank you to the all of the helpers on the day with the BBQ, in the kitchen, setting up, advertising and the sellers, all who put in a wonderful and tireless effort. It most certainly did not go unnoticed! The Sausage Sizzle was delicious! As were all the cakes that were provided by our members for the morning tea to raise money for the Cancer Council.
- It's great to see more people coming to the Social meetings, last month's social was Skite night and there were certainly some worthy items to Skite about. I would love to see more people coming along, this month Roly is playing a very interesting DVD, hope to see you there!
- A big thank you goes to Suzie Brandstater for volunteering for the job of Assistant Publicity Officer.
- If anyone wants to send an email to the club about anything and everything, please use the club's email address which is: illawacq@illawarralapidaryclub.com.au and it will be passed onto the relevant person.
- A fire caused by a butane burner melting another adjacent burner was fortunately and without any major consequences dealt with promptly by our safety officer. A lesson for all of us that caution and concentration is always needed when using potentially dangerous equipment.
- Fossicking trips – if you find it difficult to get to the club and put your name in the trips book or are interested in going, then please email David at illawacq@illawarralapidaryclub.com.au to register your interest and receive the finer details!
- It's wonderful to see that classes are starting to fill again and the creative juices are flowing at the club once more.
- Romina has taken over the newsletter editor's job which I have enjoyed doing since 2017. This will lighten my commitments and give me more time to attend to family matters that have recently come to be.

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Memorial Service - Dorothy Sefton

The Memorial Service for our Founding Member, Dorothy Sefton, was held at the Thirroul Bowling Club on the 16th April. Among the attendees were five Members from our Club. It was due to the efforts of this wonderful lady that our club was established and her Memorial was a wonderful celebration of her life.

Rest in Peace Dorothy

Cheers,
Chris Hatton

ILC Open Day and the Biggest Morning Tea - May 2nd 2021

An absolutely picture perfect day – wonderful crowd - big smiles all around.

Mother nature was definitely on our side and more than a dozen members set up stalls and enjoyed a great day with a very healthy crowd.

A big thank you to John, Bob and helpers at the BBQ and to Carol, Coral and helpers with the Morning Teas. A very big thank you to everyone who donated cakes etc with \$488 being raised for the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea, an improvement from our last Morning Tea in 2019 which saw us raise \$372.55.



ILC General Meeting and Social Night



The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 19th May 2021, starting at 7pm in the clubrooms at 51 Meadow St, Tarrawanna.

Last month's meeting was attended by a dozen ILC members on the 21st April. There was no business arising from the general meeting in March.

There are however, overdue library books! If you have an overdue library book, please bring it into the club so that other members might be able to borrow it and collect the same wisdom that you have soaked up by reading the book.

It has been brought to our attention again, that some members still aren't receiving their newsletter even though their email addresses have been provided. If you know someone who isn't receiving their newsletter, please tell them to contact club management, preferably via email and confirm that they have their latest email on file, no member should be deprived of ILC news! 😊

Bob W suggested that a dozen newsletters be printed off and left at the club, he also said that he will volunteer to take this on. – Thanks Bob!

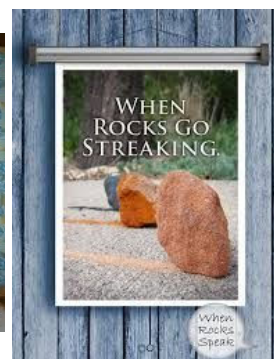
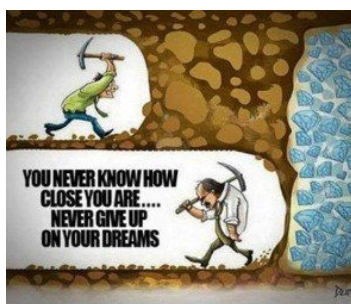
Our Social Nights are officially up and running and our Skite Night had 5 members showing off something special! We had a number of new members attend, it was great to see them join in.

Wolfgang had some samples of petrified wood from Kangaroo Valley. Wolfgang has a love of petrified wood and also had some tumbled stones that he showed. Pam had a collection of specimens her and David found on the last club fossicking trip. They cannot wait for the next trip. They had a great time. Mick showed off some of his wonderful silverwork - one of the Enamelled Boxes winning first prize at a previous Gemboree. Emerson had some petrified wood, a fossil and a 30 million year old shark's tooth that he was excited to show.

Aaron had part of his 6 million dollar collection with him. This included a pyrite egg, beautiful crystals and carved polar bears.

Thank you to all that participated!

Don't miss out on next month's General and Social meetings, it's DVD night and Roly will be playing one of the great talks about minerals from the Dallas Symposium 2017!



ILC Mineral Group

The next Mineral class will be on Wednesday 26th May, 2021, starting at 6.30pm, in the clubrooms at 51 Meadow St, Tarrawanna.

Last month's class was attended by nine ILC members, including two of our new members, Pam and David.

Roly gave a great talk on preparing exhibition quality mineral photographs so that we can look forward to some top entries in the Photo Comp later in the year.

There was also a quiz about mineral compositions that was hard, the average mark was 5 or 6. There was also an ID exercise which included getting the correct label for 8 specimens, the mark was about 6, so that was satisfactory.

Another outcome of last month's meeting was that everyone learned the correct spelling of "baryte".

Our next meeting on the 26th of May, will be starting at 6.30pm and the topic will be a 5 minute talk by each member on a specimen from their collection. There will also be a Quiz on Mineral Hardness and the ID Exercise will be on Gem Minerals.

If any of our readers are following the Mineral Group's WAI and for those who want to start, keep reading!

"Our most recent WAI was No 5, which several of you told me correctly was quartz and pyrite...Don suggested that some other members of the Group might appreciate one or two clues to assist getting the ID's right. So here are three photos of WAI 6. Answers to me before our May meeting please, here are some clues. First, one photo is contrived but all are accurate in form which is typical of this mineral, and colour which is pink. As I hope you will remember, pink colour strongly suggests a manganese mineral – maybe the silicate or maybe the carbonate. One of them occurs at Broken Hill. So does the other often in association with galena."



ILC Fossicking Trip - Tambar Springs - April 2021

A group of about 9 ILC members made their way to Coonabarabran on the hunt for Drusy Quartz and Stellerite in the month of April. Those who could, (once passing the cows) camped on the property we were fossicking on, others stayed in a caravan park in Coonabarabran.

On this trip, we had four new club members who fossicked for Drusy and other minerals for the first time and found some quite interesting pieces, whetting their appetite for future fossicks for sure!

In the past, one might have been lucky to find drusy lying on top of the ground. This time however, it was a bit trickier to find as the grass was knee high in places that, in the past few years there was none! There was still a lot of great finds in the short time we were there!

Although there was some warning about snakes and the horrible mouse plague that the locals were unfortunately experiencing, thankfully, only two mice were spotted over the entire stay on the property and there were no snakes to speak of (perhaps they were well fed...). A club member also spotted a fox close by, thanks to Les for the photo he took for the newsletter. Thanks also goes to John F, Pam & David who provided their specimens for the newsletter also!

With constant rain on Friday night from 11pm until about 8am Saturday morning, matched with a forecast of 90% chance of rain the next day, the decision to leave was made by all on site on Saturday morning. Pack up was quick. For a couple of members who left around midday it was a tedious and cautious drive out to the front gate, trying to navigate the slick tracks safely. For the remaining few who left 10 minutes later, it was very much a different story! After a quick downpour, literally five minutes before pack up was complete, what should've been a 30 minute trip to the front gate from the camp site, turned into a 3.5 hour trip. After slipping and sliding through the muddy track, the last muddy dip to go through was way too wet. Miraculously, however, the Sun came out with a light breeze and after a few hours, managed to dry the ground just enough for two cars to ~~escape~~ leave the property.

For those who are interested in what kind of mobile reception is out there.

For those on the Telstra network, they managed a few bars of phone coverage, for the Optus users amongst us, there was some reception over yonder on the hill that you could see if you squinted a bit, and if one was aligned correctly with the phone tower of course haha. Overall, it was a really great trip and the company was fantastic!

A very big thank you to the owner and lessee for allowing us to continue fossicking on this property!



Gemboree 2021

The Gemboree in Tasmania was most successful with a lot of people attending from the “mainland”.

Special congratulations go to Club Member, Dennis Hart with a 1st prize for his Square Radiant in the Novice Faceting Section. This is Dennis’ first time in entering a lapidary competition, so well done indeed!

Congratulations and Commiserations also goes to Lynne Webb with a personal best score in the Faceting Open Division of 99.5 and 99.19, but a 96.7 point score on one stone with only one deduction being of 3 points for an overwide girdle (0.02 mm in fact) – very close to a possible 100 point stone - so close and yet so far.

Next year the Gemboree is being held at Mudgee, and being so close to home maybe we will have some more members giving the competitions a go.

Here are a few photos of the beautiful entries from both of our club members.



Just
a
reminder

If you haven't already,
now would be a good time to start
on your entries for the exhibition,
as it's not far off!

Dates to Remember

Your Club

19th May:

7 – 8pm: Business Meeting

8pm: Social Meeting



Get your popcorn ready!

The next Social Night is DVD night! The club will be showing one of the many interesting talks from the Dallas Symposium 2017. The speaker will share their knowledge in regards to mineral studies and stories about their adventures! Who knows, you might get an idea for your next fossicking adventure! So, don't miss out on the show and come to the next Social meeting in the clubrooms at 51 Meadow St, Tarrawanna.

26th May:

6.30pm: Mineral Group

5 minute talks by each member on a specimen from their collection. Plus, a quiz about mineral hardness.

16th June:

7 – 8pm: Business Meeting

8pm: Social Meeting

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

6th – 7th November:

Annual Exhibition, Dapto Ribbonwood Centre

Other Clubs

15th – 16th May:

Lismore Gemfest, Lismore Showground
Lismore

22nd May:

Campbelltown Open Day 9 – 2pm
Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Crystal and Jewellery Market Day.
Lot one Bensley Rd, Macquarie Fields
(next to Hazlett Oval)

29th - 30th May

Canberra Winter Gemcraft and Mineral Show (DIY trip)

Sat 5th - Sun 6th June

Bankstown Gem and Mineral Expo

12th -14th June

Gemorama Emmaville inc. field trips (DIY - trip)

24 & 25 September:

Gemkhana, Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon (DIY trip)
Entries via express post, to be received by Friday 20th August 2021

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

...from
our club
President...

**You're never
childless,
when you
have a
husband.**

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. We would love to include it!