



Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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Past Activities

19 JUNE—SOCIAL NIGHT—OPAL VIDEO, Part 2

Opal is a beautiful stone but nothing will entice me to go down a mine digging for them. For me the only opal fossicking is by using the wallet fossicking method - for me, safer, cleaner and largely cheaper.

17 JULY—SOCIAL NIGHT, Talk by ANN KENNON, “HISTORY OF MINERAL COLLECTING”.

Ann covered the period in Europe, and eventually the US, from the late 15th through to the 19th century. It is hard to image now that some 500 years ago only 20 types of mineral (today we know of over 5000) were considered to exist. No wonder the famous Ruby from the Black Prince's jewels has subsequently been found to be a spinel. It was not until quite late in the 500 year timescale were things like hardness and crystals shapes etc, finally considered and defined. Even the cleavage of crystals was discovered by accident when one collector dropped his prized specimen on the floor. Perhaps unfortunately, many of the original collections have been dispersed, or otherwise lost, over the years.

Ann showed images of wood cut pictures of some of these old collections. These images showed original collections being a mix of mineral specimens in among wildly diverse curiosities. Without the benefit of photography the original collectors had to draw or paint their specimens with amazing accuracy.

Next Social Meeting on 21 August will be a Talk by Noel Kennon on *How to Prepare a Prize Winning Entry.*

Janelle is preparing the “Program of Social Events” for the 2014 year. Any suggestions and or volunteers to present would be welcome.

Mineral Group Meeting

Fourteen members present, including three new members. Ann reported on her and Noel's visit to the mine at Cornwall detailing the minerals to be found. In her talk during the Social Night, Ann, also, mentioned the museum being very well worth a visit.

Peter presented the identification exercise and the minerals were; garnet, prehnite, quartz x3, nephrite, malachite and fluorite.

Mary presented gypsum as the Mineral of the Month. Gypsum (CaSO₄-2(H₂O), hydrated calcium sulphate) is one of the more common minerals in sedimentary environments. It is a major rock forming mineral that produces massive beds, usually from precipitation out of highly saline waters. Since it forms easily from saline water, gypsum can have many inclusions of other minerals and even trapped bubbles of air and water. Your fingernail will scratch this clear, white to gold or brown mineral --- that's the simplest way to identify gypsum.

Noel discussed crystal structures as the Topic of the Month. Noel explained how all minerals fall into one of the seven crystal systems which are; cubic, tetragonal, orthorhombic, hexagonal, rhombohedral, monoclinic and triclinic.

Exercise for next month—*imagine your mineral collection is lost and you were offered ten different minerals to start a new collection. List from one to ten what minerals you would select.*

Freebies of zeolites from Ben Lomond road cutting 40km. south of Glenn Innes.

Future Events

WORKSHOPS & FOSSICKING

The reminder that all members wishing to go on a Fossicking Trip MUST put their names in the Trips Book.

Fossicking

23 to 26 August	Lightning Ridge
12 to 19 September	Tambar Springs
18 to 20 October	Muttama
22 to 24 November	Oberon

Ken Mitchell has returned from one fossicking trip only to go off on another but is looking to organise something additional for November.

For any of these trips do not forget to put your names in the trips book with your contact details (so Peter can contact you) as this also covers you in regard insurance during the trip.

Workshops

Due to requests from some members who are unable to attend the Lampwork classes on Tuesday mornings, Jan Cahill has kindly agreed to hold a class on Saturday, 21 September from 9 am to 3 pm. The cost to participate will be \$75.00 but Jan will supply everything apart from gas bottles. The class will be strictly limited to five (5) but any member wishing to observe will be welcome at a cost of \$3.00 per person. Please contact Jan on 4261 2258 to reserve a place.

Classes

Due to lack of support, over the winter months, the **Friday Evening Class** has been suspended as from Friday, 2 August, 2013.

These classes will be resumed if enough members are interested. Please notify Brigitte Pickett on 4276 3742 or Joan Zealey on 4283 4687.

Please note that a **Class for Enamelling** will commence on Wednesday, 7 August, from 9 am to 12 noon. We now have a kiln suitable for the task. If you are interested in joining this class, which will be supervised by Jan Cahill and Brigitte Pickett, please put your name in the book.



Business Meeting

The full Minutes of the July Meeting are available in the Silver Room.

- ◆ The Motions that were to have been presented at the last meeting were considered and passed by the Executive at their June 14 meeting.
- ◆ A Donation has been received from Gemcuts as a prize for the competition—please note, entries for the competition need to be in by or at the September meeting.
- ◆ A Flyer and Poster has been received regarding "6 Rules for Fossicking in Western Australia". A copy is in the club hall.
- ◆ The Hervey Bay Lapidary Club has given an Invitation for a Level 3 (?) faceting competition open to our club members.
- ◆ The trolley, now in the Silver Room, for the kiln was purpose built for the club by Barry Young's sons. Thank you Barry and especially your sons. They did an excellent job.
- ◆ Consideration was, again, given to the raising class fees to \$4 but decision deferred pending information on class income versus cost of running the class.
- ◆ Discussion on Procedure for New Members. Please note, new members require to attend a Business Meeting for Induction BEFORE starting in any class. Part of the induction is to receive a folder containing a name badge, the club rules and safety information.
- ◆ The quote for \$1,800 + GST for a WCC approved contractor has been accepted and the hot water system is being installed very soon.
- ◆ No new members attended the July meeting although several were invited to attend.

The meeting was chaired for the first time by Alex McGeevy our Junior Vice President due to the absence of the President and Senior Vice President (both on leave of absence).

Well done Alex for a good job of handling your first Business Meeting.

DATES TO REMEMBER

24 July	Wed	7.00 pm	MINERAL GROUP — Crociote. Power Point Presentation 3.
21 Aug	Wed	7.00 pm	GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING 8.00 pm SOCIAL NIGHT "How to Prepare a Winning Entry".
23/26 Aug	Fri on		FOSSICKING—LIGHTNING RIDGE
28 Aug	Wed	7.00 pm	MINERAL GROUP
12/19 Sept	Thu on		FOSSICKING —Tambar Springs
13 Oct	Sun		OPEN DAY & BBQ
18/20 Oct	Fri on		FOSSICKING —Muttama
2 & 3 Nov	Sat/Sun		ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW Ribbonwood Centre, Dapto.
22/24 Nov	Sat		FOSSICKING —Oberon

Executive Committee Notice

Working Bee held on Saturday, 13 July, 2013. Many thanks to the **six** men who worked on clearing the grounds and sorting out the two sheds. It was a very hard job as large amounts of rubbish, concrete and debris had to be carried to the skip. They worked tirelessly and did an excellent job. They should be congratulated on their efforts. The skip was a 6 cubic metre skip and was completely filled with junk. Of the items sorted to remain, many will appear in the November Exhibition for sale and possibly Club Open Days.

General

The **box of various beautiful specimens** for July were auctioned and sold. Next month there are quite a few beautiful Brazilian agate nodules, zebra stone and tiger eye/iron. Some of the agates have been dyed and all have at least one face highly polished. The agates are all of adult male fist size or larger and one of the tiger iron specimens is a very large polished slab roughly 30cm x 20cm x 1cm. Reserve for most of the boxes has been set at about \$90 and that is at least 30% below wholesale value so come armed with a full wallet to the next Business Meeting on 21 August.

Not long now to October and the **GEMKANA at Mudgee**. This is the state gem show and will have displays of gems, minerals etc. See web site link:- <http://www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/gemkhana.html> for a slide show of photographs displayed at the 2012 exhibition. Further donations for the exhibition/competition is being sought from Rio Grande. If any member has bought from them please let Dorothy know as they were asking how many members have bought from them. I assume the more of us that have bought the more likely they are to make a donation.

Editor for the August meeting will be Joan Zealey. I will be on leave of absence.

OTHER CLUBS

17/18 Aug	BLAXLAND GEM & MINERAL SHOW Glenbrook Community Hall
31 Aug/ 1 Sept	WHITECLIFF GEMFEST & CAR BOOT SALE
5 to 7 Oct	GEMKHANA 2013 - Mudgee NSW State Gem Show. A Major Exhibition of Lapidary, Gems, Minerals and Artists at work.
19/20 Oct	NUNAWADING GEM SHOW Dorset Primary School Hall, Rescoria Ave, Croydon
2 & 3 Nov	CANBERRA LAPIDARY CLUB SPRING GEMCRAFT & MINERAL SHOW Parkes Room, Exhibition Park

Good fossicking,

Roger