



# Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc.

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## Newsletter - OCTOBER, 2013

### President:

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### Secretary:

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### Club Welfare Officer:

MAUREEN YOUNG  
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### Past Activities

#### 13 OCTOBER—CLUB OPEN DAY

*What a brilliant sunny day, with members having stalls, a club table, tea, cakes and BBQ. As a fund raiser for the club, it was great success, raising well over \$780 for the club. Perhaps we should have more!*

#### 16 OCTOBER—SOCIAL NIGHT—Ernie Stevens on GOLD PROSPECTING

*Ernie has been prospecting and metal detecting for over twenty years. Most of the present gold he has found has been using the metal detector in Western Australia although he has, also, panned and detected here in NSW and Victoria.*

*He showed a short video of two people, both using a detector to find very substantial gold nuggets. Perhaps a good thing that Geoff could not get the sound to work properly as the air round one of the guys was full of excited expletives according to Ernie. Finding the gold is not easy but Ernie's advice was to use maps showing existing or old gold mines and hopefully, somewhere nearby will be an area worthwhile trying. At one time, Ernie, had a claim but family circumstances meant that claim was allowed to lapse before being fully registered. Finding an area can achieve high returns and even a \$spotters'fee if the area is alerted to a mining company who take out a lease on the area.*

*Ernie explained the "chaining" of an area to make sure all the area is covered. He, also, gave a definition of the difference between prospecting and gold detecting. In prospecting, if a suitable area is found a gold pan is used and specks counted. A change of position and recount to find the area with greatest concentration. The objective being to find the source of the gold. In detecting, it becomes a matter of "chaining" to clear a whole area.*

#### NOVEMBER SOCIAL NIGHT—"PICK OF THE TABLE"

*Members wishing to take up the 'Pick of the Table' should bring along a specimen, rough stone/slab, finished stone or item of lapidary to an approximate value of \$5. Names of those contributing go into the hat and are then drawn out for the member to take their pick from those items still remaining on the table. Who knows what you might be able to acquire.*

#### Mineral Group Meeting

*There were twelve members present and reports given by Carol on the fossicking trip to Tambar Springs, Aaron on his recent acquisitions and Russell on his visit to Broken Hill and White Cliffs.*

*The identification exercise was conducted by John and the ten minerals were well answered which were; rutilated quartz, zircon, pyrite, malachite, prehnite and epidote, actinolite and calcite, apatite, gypsum x 2 and fluorite. Aaron presented Quartz as the 'mineral of the month'. Quartz (silicon dioxide-SiO<sub>2</sub>) is the second most abundant mineral in the Earth's continental crust, after feldspar. It is the most common and varied mineral, occurring in all different forms, habits and colours. There are more variety names given to quartz than any other mineral. Quartz is an essential constituent of granite and other felsic igneous rocks. It is very common in sedimentary rocks such as sandstone and shale and is also present in variable amounts as an accessory mineral in most carbonate rocks.*

*Noel presented the 'topic of the month', mineral comparisons. Several minerals were discussed by the group, eg, calcite to gypsum, on how to differentiate between the minerals by means of the different mineral properties, eg, colour, hardness and crystal system.*

*Freebies of amethyst supplied by Ann and Noel.*

### **Future Events**

## **WORKSHOPS & FOSSICKING**

#### Fossicking

*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.*

Trip to Muttama was cancelled as only one member was interested.

16 November **KEN MITCHELL OPEN DAY—Latest Acquisitions**

*If previous years are anything to go by there will be a lot to see and hear about. Any member who has not previously visited Ken's place should really take this opportunity*

22 to 24 November **OBERON—SAPPHIRES** (we hope)

*Peter also indicated he was looking at a possible site for quartz crystals.*

#### Classes

- ◆ The Lampwork Class run by Jan Cahill will finish for the year on Tuesday, 29 October and will recommence on the first Tuesday in March 2014. Any member wishing to join this class in 2014 please contact Jan on 4261 2258.
- ◆ There is a Cabbing Class on Monday nights from 6.30 pm to 10 pm—Betty & Bob Hanson run the class.

## Exhibition

**Names are urgently required in the Roster Book** which is on the table in the club hall. Please put your name and telephone number on the day and time(s) suitable to you. The more members that volunteer the better, don't forget the items for the Exhibition need to be collected and assembled in the hall, packing up after the Exhibition, as well as, the actual Exhibition. Please do not leave it to just a few. There are many jobs which require attention. Every endeavour will be made to accommodate the request. This request does not apply to those helping in the kitchen.

Please put your names down, as soon as possible, to allow the roster to be finalised. There is only a very short time to the Exhibition on {2 & 3 November} and the roster needs to be attended to immediately.

Thank you to those volunteering for this very important aspect of the Exhibition. Without the help of many members volunteering the exhibition will fail. As this is our major fund raising and public awareness event for the year the importance of success can not be over stated. If you are unable to come into the club hall to sign into the book please contact Rose on 4229 3691 or Dorothy on 4284 2404 regarding your availability.

**Donations** for items to sell on the Club Table are still gratefully received as are unsliced cakes (on the day) for the kitchen.

**Post Exhibition Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, 10 November, at 11a.m.

## Business Meeting

The Minutes of the August Meeting will be available in the Silver Room.

- ◆ **Back Issues of the Newsletter** are on our web site and all members should be aware that the current newsletter is on the web site long before the hard copy can be delivered via snail mail.
- ◆ The **Hot Water System** has been installed and is being tested.
- ◆ A **New Door** has been fitted to one of the sheds in the back of the hall. A letter of thanks sent to WCC for the work done.
- ◆ A **New Grinding Machine** has been ordered and is due to arrive any day.
- ◆ **Two Electronic Advertising Signs** will be hired at a cost of \$400 for the two days of our Exhibition. One to the South and another to the North of Dapto.
- ◆ Please return **Raffle Books ASAP** as they have to be de-stapled ready to go in the container for the draw.
- ◆ The **Cupboards in the Silver Room** need to be re-located. A Working Bee has been set for 9 November at 8.30 am for this task.
- ◆ Bob the Builder is going to come into the hall and **produce a plan** to be submitted to Council for approval.
- ◆ On Saturday, 22 February, 2014, the **Gem & Lapidary Council** will hold their meeting in our club hall. Everyone interested is invited to attend. Morning tea and lunch is to be supplied by the club—volunteers please.
- ◆ **Insurance Cost** is again being raised. To insure for public liability an individual now faces a cost of \$20 per day per stall/table. For those wishing to have a stall at the Stuart Park in 2014 the cost will again be the \$25 charged this year.
- ◆ The **Club Christmas Party** has been set down for 8 December at Collegians 11.30 am for 12 Noon. Names for those wishing to attend in the trips book please as numbers have to be given in advance to the Collegians club.
- ◆ **Two New Members** were inducted into the club—**Alison & Graeme Relf**. Welcome to the club the both of you - enjoy.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

23 Oct	Wed	<b>MINERAL GROUP</b> —7.00 pm Mineral of the month - Gold. Topic of the month - Mineral Properties. Entries for mineral competition due. Entries for mineral photo (Max of 3) competition due.
2 & 3 Nov	Sat/Sun	<b>ANNUAL GEM &amp; MINERAL SHOW</b> Ribbonwood Centre, Dapto.
10 Nov	Sun	<b>POST EXHIBITION MEETING</b> 11.00 am—All welcome—In the club hall
16 Nov	Sat	<b>KEN MITCHEL</b> —View Ken's latest finds— always substantial and well worth viewing
20 Nov	Wed	7.00 pm <b>GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING</b> 8.00 pm <b>SOCIAL MEETING</b> "Pick of the Table" - Items of approx value \$5 specimens, rough/slabs of stone, finished stone or lapidary items
22/24 Nov	Sat	<b>FOSSICKING</b> —Oberon
27 Nov	Wed	<b>MINERAL GROUP</b> —End of year function.
8 Dec	Sun	<b>CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY</b> Collegians Club



*A beautiful surprise  
found just outside  
the door on a recent  
holiday.  
Hung around for a  
ham snack.  
Roger*

### OTHER CLUBS

2 & 3 Nov	<b>CANBERRA LAPIDARY CLUB SPRING GEMCRAFT &amp; MINERAL SHOW</b> Parkes Room, Exhibition Park
8/9 Nov	<b>PARRAMATTA HOLROYD EXHIBITION</b> Wentworthville

*Good fossicking,*

*Roger*