

# THE CMLC NEWS

## The Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club Inc. Newsletter for February 2019



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**Website:** [www.cmlclub.org.nz](http://www.cmlclub.org.nz)  
**Meeting Venue & Clubrooms:** 110 Waltham Road,  
Waltham, Christchurch 7:30 pm on the second Thursday  
of the month [Feb. to Nov.]

General Meeting: ..... 14 February, 14 March, 11 April  
Committee Meeting: ..... 21 February, 21 March, 18 April  
Micro Mineral Meeting: ..... 7 February, 7 March, 4 April

Welcome back to the new year. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable break.. Please remember the \$2 entry fee for our General Meetings.

**The February Meeting:** We will be hosting a group from the Silver Smiths Guild who will talk about what they do, and possibilities of inter-changing some classes and workshop activities.

**Supper Duty:** Robin Hall, Campbell Lintott, Catherine Patey, Bill Johnson, Frank Pugh.

**Auction:** There will be material on offer from a former club member, and 2 flat laps.

**New Members:** Please make these new people welcome: Morne Wium, Anton Jenkins, Reuben Van Buuren, and Peter Smith.

**Field Trip:** Planning is under way for a trip to High Peak on 16 February. More details at the General Meeting.

**Working Bee:** Saturday 23 February, 10 a.m. We need everyone at the clubrooms to help with this. Bring gardening gloves and brooms. Some of the jobs that need doing are weed pulling, tidying rubbish out of the workshop, sweeping locking compound into the cracks between the driveway tiles, the hall chairs need tightening etc, etc. We need to give everything a good tidy-up. This will be followed by a lunchtime barbecue for those in the working bee.

**Raffle Donations:** A big thank you to everyone who has donated raffles for our monthly meeting. They are much appreciated. However, monthly raffle prizes are becoming a bit short of supply. Please consider if you have anything in your collection you could donate.

**Workshops:** Currently John and Owen are putting time into reconditioning some of the machinery in the workshop. As this time is needed to repair and service the machines, workshops will not start until at least in March.

**Committee Meetings:** The Club Committee has been experimenting with having the meeting immediately before the General Meeting. However, for various reasons, including the rushed nature of the meetings, the Committee have decided to revert to having Committee meetings on the Thursday following the General Meeting. So, the next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 21 February, in the clubrooms.

## **February Monthly Competition**

Lapidary:	Polished fossil egg shells /wood	
Fossil	Any NZ West Coast fossil.	
Mineral:	Orbicular Granite	
Alphabet Cup:	PQR	A specimen from a country/ state
Recent Find:	From the last Whitecliffs fieldtrip	
Bring and Brag		

## November Monthly Competitions

		1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Lapidary:	Worked NZ Greenstone	C. Mc Gregor	R.Hall	
Fossil	A NZ fossil more than 100 million years old.	1 <sup>st</sup> equal C. Mc Gregor R Hall	D. Macdonald	J. Taylor
Mineral:	Spherulitic Rhyolite	D. Macdonald	C. Mc Gregor	
Alphabet Cup:	MNO	R. Hall	C. Mc Gregor	R. Lindsay
Recent Find:		D. Macdonald		
Bring and Brag		C. Mc Gregor		

### **LIBRARY TIME!**

Here are some library items that have been donated to the club library in November

1. What's Hot in in Ste. Marie 2016 [DVD]

[www.vimeo.com/ondemand/wish16](http://www.vimeo.com/ondemand/wish16)

sainte. marie aux mines mineral show

<http://www.sainte-marie-mineral.com/english/>

June 27 – 30, 2019

2. D G A Whitten A Dictionary Of Geology

3. N & R Perry Australian Opals In Colour

4. Margaret Bradshaw Beneath Our Feet

5. Frank Glen Bush In Our Yard

6. Eric Pawson Geographers At Work

7. Barry Brailsford Greenstone Trails: The Maori Search For Pounamu

8. James D Dana Minerals And How To Study Them

9. J & A Bauer Minerals Rocks & Precious Stones

10. Russell J Beck New Zealand Jade The Story Of Greenstone
11. B N Thompson New Zealand Volcanology
12. Charles Sorrel The Rocks & Minerals Of The World
13. Westlands Golden Century 1860 To 1960

So come & find me and I will unlock [NEW] the library for you to get the item

*-Chris Wright*

### **The 2018 National Rock and Mineral Show held in Tauranga**

This year's Nationals were held in (mostly) sunny Tauranga at a great venue – the Tauranga Race Course in Greerton. Our Club was represented by Malcolm and Yvonne Luxton, Craig and Catherine McGregor, Frank Pugh and ourselves.

On the Friday we entered the show building in a double queue and after paying our \$5 entry fee, found we were immediately in front of the raffle table. After buying various tickets we had the choice of turning left into the dealers' and Club stall hall or to turn right. As we had a pre-arranged meeting with some Australian rockhounds in the café in one corner of an even larger hall, we turned right.

The café had plenty of tables and chairs and was impressive with its huge array of hot and cold cabinet food, including gluten-free items, plus the usual hot and cold drinks. It became a popular meeting point on several occasions over the weekend. After lingering over a coffee with our friends, it was time to explore the rest of this hall.

There was an amazing array of activities, many hands-on attractions designed mainly for children, though adults seemed to enjoy being involved as well. There was Ian Godfrey's sphere-making machine running, a long tunnel featuring a UV section was popular, there were huge frozen blocks of ice for people to pick at to try and get the specimens out, microscopes, a faceting demo, raffles, mineral identification competition, and Waihi Gold had a little digger and some gravel set up for the kids to test their gold mining skills. In another corner were items for a silent auction, plus what was to be available at the main auction.

The displays were excellent. The only disappointment of the whole weekend were the competitions. They were poorly supported which meant there were cases with big gaps in them. Malcolm did well with a first and a third for a polished butt ends, and Craig McGregor got a second for his sphere.

In the separate dealer's and Club stall hall there were excellent supplies of fossils, gemstones, minerals and crystals, metaphysical supplies, jewel-

lery, carvings and many other items too numerous to mention.

We returned on the Saturday as we still had friends to meet up with. It was great to catch up with Yvonne and Heather Abbott who are still selling rocks under the name of Ron's Rocks. We also enjoyed a long catch-up with Olga Nicholson – one of the organisers of the show - who we once came across at a Sunday market in Yowah (as of the Nuts) in Queensland. You never know where you'll find New Zealanders lurking. Sadly, Kevin is in care and unable to attend.

We didn't return on Sunday but we left on Saturday feeling very satisfied that the effort to get there had been worthwhile. Roll on the Nationals for 2019, being run by the Otago Rock and Mineral Club in Dunedin.

*Sara Keen (Geraldine)*

## **Fossils of surprisingly tiny flightless Central Otago birds present a mystery**

Stuff: Michael Daly 14:44, Feb 28 2018

Fossils of some tiny flightless prehistoric birds found in Central Otago are raising intriguing questions for scientists.

The fossils come from two species that lived 16-19 million years ago, were members of the rail (Rallidae) family, and one is barely larger than a sparrow.

Rails include swamphens, moorhens, coots and crakes, and are common around wetlands. The world's largest rails evolved in New Zealand, notably the flightless takahe and weka.

The more common of the new fossil rails is named *Priscaweka parvales*, meaning ancient weka with small wings, and was just 1/20th of the weight of a weka.

When the two newly-identified species were alive, the climate and landscape was very different from that of today.

"At that time, a 5600-square kilometre mega-lake dominated the landscape of New Zealand's South Island. It was surrounded by a subtropical rainforest," a statement from Flinders University said. "Plants typical of Australia and long lost from New Zealand, such as eucalypts, casuarinas, palms and cycads, were common."

Along with the Flinders' researchers, others involved in the project were from the University of NSW, Canterbury Museum and the Museum of New Zealand. Their findings were published in the *Journal of Systematic Palaeontology*.

The fossils were found along the banks of Mata Creek and the Manuherikia River, near St Bathans in Central Otago. They are among the

St Bathans Fauna found in sediments near the base of the early Miocene (19 to 16-million-years-old) Bannockburn Formation. Other St Bathans Fauna include crocodiles, turtles and a mammal that lived on land.

Professor Mike Archer, from the UNSW Pangea research centre, said the latest discoveries emphasised New Zealand's natural history as one of the world's "most extraordinary engines driving bird evolution".

"Charting how lineages like these rails have changed through time on an island that has been geographically isolated for over 80 million years will test basic presumptions made about bird evolution in general," Archer said.

It's thought the two newly-identified species came from Australia, having flown the 1500km across the Tasman Sea. "However, the new species are unlike any rail known elsewhere so their exact origin or closest relatives remain a mystery," the statement said.

The published study added that although New Zealand was at a similar distance from Australia in the early Miocene as now, dispersal was perhaps less difficult then. Geological evidence suggested that in the early Miocene, there were other islands and seamounts in the Tasman Sea that could have acted as stepping stones.

The discovery of the fossils of the two species showed flightlessness in New Zealand birds was not a recent phenomenon, although relatively large flightless members of their evolutionary descendents were, the study said.

The abundance of flightless birds in New Zealand before human colonisation had been attributed to a lack of mammalian predators that lived on land.

So far, no mammalian terrestrial predators were known from any New Zealand fossil site, and the St Bathans mammal was an enigma. It had caused a reconsideration of the idea bird-dominated ecosystems only arose in the absence of non-chiptoran (non-bats) mammals, the paper said. "Its presence apparently did not preclude the development of flightlessness among small birds, suggesting that this mammal, or these mammals, were unlikely to have strongly preyed upon them," the paper said.

While the St Bathans Fauna did include predatory birds, as well as the crocodiles, their presence also did not seem to have precluded the evolution of flightlessness in rails during the early Miocene.

There was substantial climatic cooling in New Zealand not long after the St Bathans deposits were formed. That was most likely responsible for the extinction of the tropical fauna and flora, and could have caused the extinction of the St Bathans rails.



# HETTIE'S

## ROCK & CRYSTAL SHOP

**Birdwood Ave, Beckenham, Christchurch.**

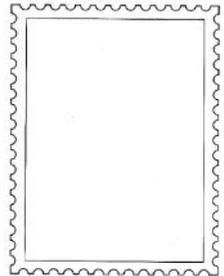
**Also: Akaroa and Queenstown**

Open 7 days 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.





Sender CMLC 14 Reynolds Ave Bishopdale, Christchurch 8053



«Field1»  
«Field2»  
«Field3»  
«Field4»  
«Field5»