

THE CMLC NEWS

The Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club Inc. Newsletter for April 2019



President -- Malcolm Luxton Phone 033088874
Treasurer -- Lynda Alexander Phone 3476393
Secretary -- David Macdonald Phone 3520304
Bulletin Editor--Craig McGregor Phone 0274209814
Club Mailing Address: 14 Reynolds Ave Bishopdale,
Christchurch 8053
Email: cmlclub@chch.planet.co.nz
Website: 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: 11 April, 9 May, 13 June (at 7.30 p.m.)
Committee Meeting: Tuesday 16 April, 16 May, 20 June (at 7 p.m.)
Micro Mineral Meeting: 4 April, 2 May, 6 June.

Please remember the \$2 entry fee for our General Meetings.

The April Meeting: Our guest speaker will be David Cleghorn, who will speak about jade and opal.

Supper Duty: Errol Hitt, Cécile Tait, Robert Kerr, Simon and Dee Rooney.

Auction at the Club Meeting: There will be some material from David Macdonald's collecting.

Field Trip: This will be to White Rock Quarry. More details at the General Meeting.

Working Bee: A big thank you to those who turned up to help the Otago Club members get some of our show cases loaded onto their trailers, ready for them to use at the National Show in Dunedin, in October. By clearing them from out of the storeroom, we are now able to clean out a lot more stuff that we are not using. Please let a committee member know

if you have a use for a large number of used carpet tiles. These are the same as the ones used to carpet our hall. We have far more than we need.

Workshops: The plan is to have the workshop classes up and running from Tuesday 7 May. This may change depending upon how well machinery repairs etc can be done.

Committee Meetings: A reminder to Committee Members that the **April Committee meeting is on Tuesday 16 April at 7.00 p.m.** This is to avoid the Easter break.

Annual Subscriptions: These are now due. You will find a file attached to your emailed newsletter. Those receiving by mail have already received your subscription notice. Remember there is a discount for early payment before 31 May.

Message from Ron and Sara Keen

Good morning - This is to let you know that the Oamaru show this year is being held on 6th and 7th July. There will be fliers etc coming out shortly but the earlier people know the better, particularly if people have already booked accommodation for the weekend after. Pass the message on to anyone you think is interested in coming.

All the very best, Ron and Sara

April Monthly Competition

Lapidary:	Any polished jasper from High Peak Forest
Fossil	Any fossil from Southland
Mineral:	Pyrite
Alphabet Cup:	UVW Country or Region.
Recent Find:	From last club field trip
Bring and Brag	

March Monthly Competition Results

March 2019		1ST	2ND	3RD
Lapidary:	Polished agate from Woolshed Creek	J. Taylor	R. Hall	C McGregor
Fossil	Any fossil from Marlborough	D.MacDonald		
Mineral:	Serpentine	C McGregor	R. Hall	
Alphabet Cup:	ST	Lindsay	D.MacDonald	C McGregor
Recent Find:	The Forest	Taylor		
Bring and Brag		1 st Baldwin	2 nd C McGregor	3 rd E.Hitt
		4 th R.Lindsay	5 th D.Stanley	

LIBRARY TIME! By Chris Wright.

I have found quite an comprehensive article entitled “Gold Fever: a rich history” in the Feb/Mar 2019 edition of the Outback magazine Page 44. It can be borrowed from the Christchurch public library or if necessary purchased from most book shops. I would consider it a necessary read.

'Godzillus' fossil find stumps experts

Experts are trying to figure out what a fossil dubbed "Godzillus" used to be.

The 68-kilogram fossil recovered last year in northern Kentucky is more than 1.90 metres wide. To the untrained eye, it looks like a bunch of rocks or a concrete blob. Experts are trying to determine whether it was an ani-

mal, mineral or a form of plant life from a time when the Cincinnati region of the US was underwater.

Scientists at a Geological Society of America meeting viewed it this week at the Dayton Convention Center in Ohio.

"We are looking for people who might have an idea of what it is," said Ben Dattilo, an assistant professor of geology at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Scientists say the fossil is 450 million years old. University of Cincinnati geologist Carl Brett said it's the largest fossil ever extracted from that era in the Cincinnati region.

"This is the ultimate cold case," said Ron Fine, the Dayton, Ohio, amateur paleontologist who spotted the fossil on a hillside last year and gave it its name.

"Like Godzilla, it's a primordial beast that found its way to the modern era," Fine said. Now 43, he's been collecting fossils since age 4, and said he saw part of this one on a hillside off Kentucky 17 nearly a year ago.

"Most fossils around here are small, the size of your thumbnail or your thumb," he said. "This thing's huge."

He said it could be an early form of seaweed or kelp.

"This one has us stumped," said David Meyer, another UC geology professor. Fine shared his find last September at a meeting of the Dry Dredgers, a group of amateur geologists.

Meyer, who wrote a book called "A Sea Without Fish" about the era, said the fossil has intricate patterns that remind him of "goose flesh. Some of its surface also looks like scales. But this thing is not boney. It is not a fish."

He guesses it could have been something like a sponge.

"Cincinnati was covered by a sea, 100 to 200 feet deep," Meyer said. "Primitive shellfish lived in it. But no fish."

-Stuff: 26 April 2012



Archaeological relics littering capital beach: *Stuff*, October 12 2018

Unusual stones washing up on a Wellington beach could be archaeological relics from Wellington's maritime past.

The flint pebbles scattered along Reef Bay - on the western entrance to Wellington Harbour - are an anomaly among the tonnes of greywacke deposited along the rest of the shore.

They are likely to be ballast from sunken 19th century ship the Subraon which sank in 1848, said retired geology professor Rodney Grapes.

The ship was in Wellington during the 1848 earthquake and acted as a short-term refuge for those who thought it would be safer at sea.

The Subraon departed Wellington for Sydney on October 26 and sank after running aground on rocks about 100 metres off Reef Bay. All 40 people onboard were evacuated.

Grapes said the flint did not naturally occur anywhere in the region and was unique to the bay, though similar stones were found near Balaena Bay at a known ballast dump.

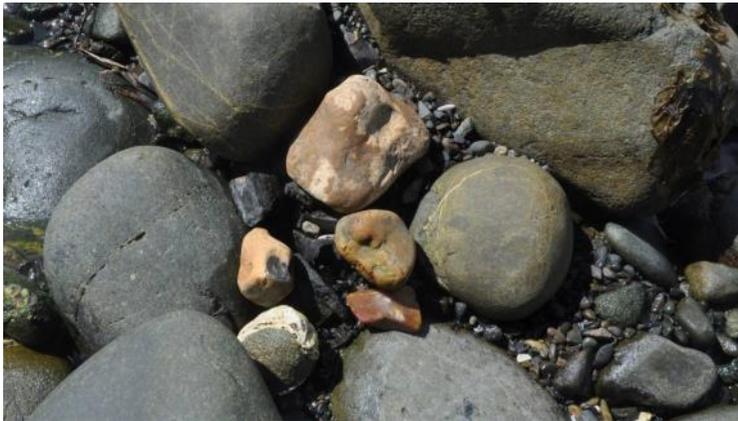
He said the flint was likely from England where the Subraon was built in 1846.

The flint could be found on Reef Bay beach as well as on a part of the beach which was impacted by an earthquake in 1855, which indicated the stones had been in the area before that earthquake.

Past president of the Mineral Club of Hutt Valley and Wellington Ian Godfrey said club members had been fossicking for the flint over the last few years.

The flint at Reef Bay was of particular interest to collectors because it polished up well and was different to the greywacke that dominated Wellington's geological make-up.

"For collectors in Wellington there's almost nothing at all. If something unusual turns up people are always interested."





HETTIE'S ROCK & CRYSTAL SHOP

Birdwood Ave, Beckenham, Christchurch.

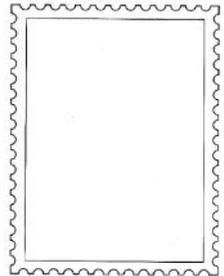
Also: Akaroa and Queenstown

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





Sender CMLC 14 Reynolds Ave Bishopdale, Christchurch 8053



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