

THE CMLC NEWS

The Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club Inc. Newsletter for May 2020



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Meeting Venue & Clubrooms: 110 Waltham Road, Waltham, Christchurch 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of the month [Feb. to Nov.]

General Meeting:
Committee Meeting:
Micro Mineral Meeting:

Greetings all. I hope you are all doing well, and the lockdown has provided you time to be creative and explore different craft activities. Maybe even sort out your rock/mineral/fossil collections.

A Message From President Malcolm:

Greetings to you all.

I have been wondering how you have all been faring over the past four weeks and hoping that things have not become too onerous. I know several of you have had to work as usual, or transfer your operation to home at least. Trust this has not been too difficult.

I see here and there on Facebook some of the lockdown projects that have taken place and I have heard of several others. Well done! Generally I think, most folks are finding plenty to do and some have been perilously close to 'exulting' in the time off. Some of us retirees have not noticed a whole lot of difference and we've even been getting groceries delivered by family members to boot.

Social media has been burgeoning with myriads of reports, news clips, 'conspiracy theories', propaganda and dire warnings as you will no doubt

have experienced first hand. I hope you have managed to retain peace of mind in spite of it all even though it is often a puzzle knowing where the truth lies. I am endeavouring to stay positive and giving credit to those in authority who I believe are doing their best for us - at least here in NZ. We are certainly living in a favoured place.

We are still unsure about just when we may get under way again. Our decision to resume will be inextricably linked to where we stand within the restriction levels. Normally we would be holding the AGM in June but like some other groups we may need to postpone till July or whenever. Your committee of course has not been able to meet but we have been exploring the possibility of having a 'Zoom' conference call in May.

Keep those machines a'working; get those books read; continue with those daily walks - we may soon be able to go rockhounding again.

My Best
Malcolm

So, what have you been doing during the lockdown? I would welcome any personal stories, especially related to our hobby that have kept you occupied during this time. Please send text and photos to me at craigmcgregor88@gmail.com

I have a few stories about what I have been doing, and they will follow in this newsletter. BUT, I will need more stories from the rest of our members.

For the Workshop:

Owen, John and I discussed how the vertical laps could be better used, especially as some workshop attendees were using the diamond wheels very roughly to grind out curved surfaces. The committee decided to invest in some diamond flat plates that could be magnetically attached to the vertical lap machines. They have now arrived from China. They are diamond grit grade 80, and will be ideal for doing rough grinding. Currently, I am waiting for the magnetic sheets to arrive and will be attached to the diamond plates.

For the Club

While I was in Tucson in Late January, early February, I did some buying for the club. This included diamond grinding wheels, diamond saw blades, some gem items that could be used for prizes, and 3 books about petrified wood (for the library). All of this was freighted along with my

own purchases, and Craig's and Andrew's (Hetties) purchases. However, with all the lockdown rules, and the restrictions on freighting, I thought it would be some time before we would see them. The good news is that the freighting has arrived, and is currently being stored until such time as the lockdown rules allow Craig and Andrew to be able to pick it up. So, that was a big relief.

A Locked Down German

Many of you have met my friend, Hans Schumann from Bielefeld in Germany. He arrived at our place about 1 week before we all went to lockdown. He is an avid petrified wood collector, so then spent some time in Southland, visiting the beaches etc, and finding a few nice pieces. He also spent some time with Jack



Geerlings in Winton while down there. Jack has been a rock collector for many years, and has an amazing workshop that is well worth a visit. He is usually at the Oamaru Gem and Craft Show in July. When Hans got back to our place, he and I did a 1 day trip to Oaro to see what we could find. There was very little showing on the beach. We came across a man with 2 children who have a bach at Oaro, and were collecting on the beach. So, it soon became clear

why we were not finding anything. However, I did find a very interesting yellow rock, which I still am not sure of what it is. I found 2 pieces, one of which I made into a sphere. Both pieces had hard limestone attached, so I initially thought



it was flint. But, when working it, it appeared to be softer than I would expect flint to be, and the colour was not the sort of colour we get on the Kaikoura coast.

I think you will agree, that the material is very colourful, and nicely patterned. So, if anyone has any ideas on what it might be, please let me know.

The day after we got back from that trip, the whole country went into lockdown. So, Hans was stuck. Of course, he stayed with Catherine and me. After about 3 weeks, he had very little information about repatriation flights, until a Luftansa flight was announced as being the last to leave on the Sunday. As he had heard nothing, we decided to take him to the airport in the hope of getting a seat. 4 hours later he rang me to ask me to pick him up, as the flight was full, and he did not have a seat. While there, he was told the last flight would be on the Tuesday, however, news media stated there was a flight leaving the following day (Monday). We decided to get him out there really early—about 7 a.m. (Check-in was 10.30 a.m.). Some time later he rang me to say he had a seat, and all his rocks (2 heavy suitcases) had made it on board. I think it was an AirNZ flight as he later told me it went via Vancouver, and was the fastest flight he had ever had from New Zealand (Only 20 minutes on the tarmac in Vancouver for refueling). He is now very pleased to be home, and waiting for a test swab result that would allow him to come out of isolation.

Virgin Air

As I write, the news media has announced that Virgin Air has gone into voluntary receivership. When Craig, Andrew, Catherine and I had to cancel our trip to Melbourne (The Gemboree at Albury had been cancelled) our return flight was with Virgin. On cancellation they would only credit a flight for future use. Craig, Andrew, Christopher Thian, and I had also booked flights with Virgin to Brisbane to attend the Lismore Gem Show. This show has been cancelled and our flights credited. So, it now looks like we could lose all those credits.

Well, yes, many people have lost more than that. My son-in-law **was** a pilot out of Christchurch for Virgin, and his sister **was** a flight attendant.

From Vince Burke

Hi All,

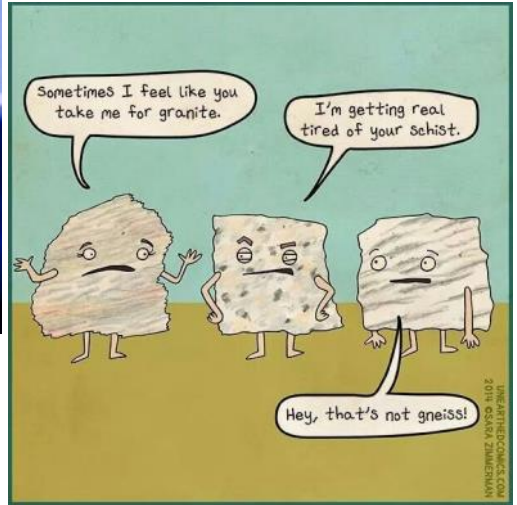
All is well here, I suppose with the beach and open spaces we can move around a little bit. I have attached Kens agate cut, it took four blades to get through, 10 inch to 33 inch it will be good to show members how long it took (four days) and how it was done, plenty of photos. Keep

in touch. The 33inch did not cut all the way through so used a 100mm grinder with a diamond blade to get though 20mm, went well. Vince.





A big thanks to Vince for the work done on this, and to Ken for allowing the club to purchase it. It will go on display in our clubrooms.



HETTIE'S ROCK & CRYSTAL SHOP

Birdwood Ave, Beckenham, Christchurch.

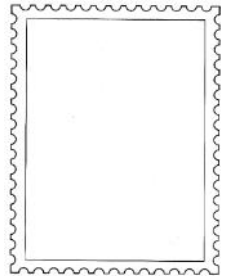
Also: Akaroa and Queenstown

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Sender CMLC, 24 O'Briens Rd, Sockburn, Christchurch 8042.



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