

THE CMLC NEWS

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



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Website: www.cmlclub.org.nz

Facebook: Canterbury Mineral and Lapidary Club

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

General Meeting: June 11, July 9, August 13

Committee Meeting: June 18, July 16, August 20

Micro Mineral Meeting: Every second week, Tuesday evenings.

Well club members, it looks like we can get started again. At the door, please sanitise your hands, and register contact details. If you are not well, please stay away. We must be aware that children (Woosh) are using the hall during the day. If you become unwell after the meeting, you must let me know so I can inform Woosh.

A Message From President Malcolm: Greetings to you all.

Well at last we are all cautiously coming out of hibernation! - and looking round at the wild and woolly bunch of committee members last evening, it's a Godsend!. I certainly hope they can find a good hairdresser pretty soon!

Despite our appearances, there was an air of expectancy as we considered getting back to some form of normality with club activities. By the time July gets here I think most aspects of our programme will be up and running. Craig will have done a good job of putting you all in the picture via this newsletter and I will be relatively brief here to avoid doubling up on detail.

If your lockdown activities are a reflection of what some committee members achieved then you are to be commended. We would like to hear

about what you got up to if you feel so inclined, at the June social get together. It would seem that everyone in the club has managed 'corona-free status' and for this we are counting our blessings. I hope also that none of you have suffered unduly financially or in other aspects of your lives.

Looking forward to catching up over the next few weeks.

Malcolm

The June 11 Meeting: This will be a social meeting, where we can all get together and do lots of talking, and sharing. Please bring along something you can share and talk about at the meeting. A brag piece, perhaps. Also please bring along a plate (of eats) so we can all have a shared supper.

The Annual Subscription. The committee have agreed that there will not be a subscription charge for belonging to the club for the 2020-2021 year. If you have paid this subscription, it will be credited to the 2021-2022 year. Any new person wanting to become a member will be charged the usual subscription, but this will also be credited to the 2021-2022 year.

The Annual General Meeting: The committee have decided that the AGM that is usually held in June, will now be held at the July meeting. Nomination forms for the committee are attached to this newsletter. Please hand your form to the club secretary (easy to do at the June meeting), or post at least 2 weeks before the AGM. The July meeting will be a soup and toast evening.

Field trip: Sunday 21 June from 12.00. This will be our club mid-winter barbecue at Birdlings Flat. Bring your own food for cooking, plates, utensils, and drink and have a fossick along the beach. Meeting in the car park area. Please make this a family occasion.

The National Show: You will remember that the committee decided that we would cancel the National Show to be held in Christchurch due to the uncertainty created by the Corona Virus outbreak. The Christchurch National Show has been rescheduled to 2022 (14-16 October), provided we are able to obtain the venue. The National Show next year is being held by the Hutt Valley Wellington Club at Upper Hutt.

So, this year our club will have its usual annual show at the clubrooms on 26-27 September. I hope everyone will become fully involved as has been done in the past.

The Workshop: Classes will start on Tuesday 2 June, evenings at 6.30 p.m.

The Mincro-mineral group will also start this Tuesday at 7 p.m., and every second Tuesday thereafter.

For the Workshop:

During the lockdown the goods I bought for the club at Tucson finally arrived. Most of this is diamond wheels and saw blades for the workshop. Also included are some very nice polished gems from Madagascar that can be used for prizes, raffles etc. 3 very interesting books on wood are also in the consignment.

In the last newsletter, I asked for articles from our members to provide a bit more variety and interest. Thank you to John Baker and Vince Burke who responded. It would be nice if some more of our members put their fingers to the keyboard. Email articles to craigmcgregor88@gmail.com. I do believe Scott Hardwick has an article in the pipeline.

My Tumble Polishing Secret: During lockdown I completed a tumble load of various mixed stones up to a final grit of 600. I then used a method I have used quite often to bring up the final polish. I learnt this method in 1979 when I lived in Edendale and was a member of the Hokanui Rock Club, based in Gore. The man who shared this secret was John Tolson of Mataura. He has used the method for many years and had an extensive collection of Slope Point Flower Stones (rhyolite) that all had an excellent polish. **And the secret:** I tumble for 2 weeks using Cold Power. Any other automatic washing machine, non sudsing powder will do the trick. I do it in a rotary barrel tumbler. The polish I got was excellent.

Craig McGregor

A Cabbing Machine- From Idea to Construction

In New Zealand buying machines for working on your rocks is exasperating. I'm sure like most rock hounds; you end up cobbling something together from bits of salvage from other machinery. After the COVID lock down many businesses have



had to diversify. I work at Tool Making Services in Montreal Street Christchurch and put the suggestion forward that there was a need for machines for all those rock hounds that want to cut, polish and grind. This suggestion went down well and so the idea began to form. We used my own experience of working on stones with extra research and guidance from other experienced stone workers. The design process began and the first two machines construction is underway. Currently in their preliminary stages; a mock-up was constructed to give us the idea of size, dimensions and specifications for the components that were going to be required.

Tool Making Services have been established in Christchurch, New Zealand for over 35 years. They've already built a unique niche in the area of specialised components and tools so this new idea and process has been a simple transition. The cabbing machines are currently in various stages of construction, and components are being sourced or made. We can't unveil the machines at this stage but perhaps we can have some photo's ready by the next issue of the newsletter.....so watch this space!

Perhaps the company may diversify into more machines for the avid stone worker, lapidarist and carvers here in New Zealand. For more details contact John Baker at the Canterbury Mineral and Lapidary club or contact Tool Making Services Ph. 03 3792 068, Mob. 0274336539 or Email: toolservice@xtra.co.nz.

Editor note: During lockdown I needed to get some diamond segments braised onto a set of my cups I use for sphere cutting. John did an excellent job for me, and the sphere cups now work wonderfully. I imported the diamond segments from www.richontools.com. They are a company based in Hong Kong. The owner, Peter, is always very obliging, and always happy to help. I have always had excellent service from him over quite a few years. I suggest it might be worth your while having a look at their website if you need diamond tools of any sort.

Lapidary Lockdown By John Baker

What do you do when you're suddenly confined



to home for the foreseeable future? Binge watch Netflix, learn to cook, start jogging? NO!

The amateur rock carver, lapidarist will start to cut, grind, and polish until their finger prints have been erased and their finger nails are almost down to the bone. Each slice, cut and knock to your hands is another notch towards improving.

Each morning, after a good strong coffee, I'd unlock the shed, plug in the mains, switch the water on and begin. I finished off a commission of a rhodonite heart. Not



something I'd usually want to

make but this client had her own personal reasons for wanting one.

Then I started slicing some rocks that my wife and I found on our Christmas break. This piece of rock was collected along with 87kg of other rocks; that were stashed away in every crevice of our campervan.

Anna (my wife) can managed simple stringing up of necklaces but some of the pieces required something a little more refined. This is when my daughter stepped in. She was able to plait and lash with intricacy, as long as we crossed her palm with silver, or in other words, put money in her pocket.

So after 4 weeks of lockdown I now have a great collection and variety of necklaces to sell at local markets and maybe even our own CMLC rock show, if we decide to have one.

The Sitarz Agate: A further report from Vince Burke.

Hi All,, here is the photo of the end of the agate last cut, first photo shows the end and the slice out of the middle which I am ok with. I think its about 8 out of 10 for woolshed Creek agate. It will still take some time to grind and polish, I will have a go at the end with the crystal caves I will be able to grind it but it will be a guess about the polish as it is 29kg. Some very minor cracks will have to be filled etc. The other slice I will drop in-

to the cabinets sometime and the committee can decide what to do with it,
Happy Days.

Vince.

Editor: And now it is in the clubroom cabinet. Many thanks to you,
Vince, for your work.



A Lockdown Poem by Pam Ayers
Time for us girls

I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates.
You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.
They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told.
We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth



But we grew up in the 60s -
If you only knew the truth!
There was sex and drugs and rock 'n
roll
The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.
Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?
We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like a red rag to a bull!
So here you find me stuck inside
For 4 weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!
It didn't really bother me

I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no flaming flour!
Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.
At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!
So let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this awful virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.
We'll all get through the crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide
To fit through the flaming gates!
Pam Ayres

HETTIE'S

ROCK & CRYSTAL SHOP

Birdwood Ave, Beckenham, Christchurch.

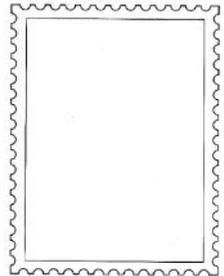
Also: Akaroa and Queenstown

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



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