

# THE CMLC NEWS

## The Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club Inc. Newsletter for September 2020



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**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:** September 10, 8 October, November 12  
**Committee Meeting:** September 17, October 15, November 19  
**Micro Mineral Meeting:** Every second week, Tuesday evenings.

Please remember to use the sign-in book. Please use the tracing app in the window, or sign the tracing sheet. And also please remember to wear your name badge. If you do not have one, please let the door know this, and one can be made.

**The September Meeting:** Our guest speakers will be Morné Wium. He will be talking about North Canterbury fossils.

**Supper Duty for the September Meeting:** Richard Stewart, Cécile Tait, Charlie Thomas, Julian Twiss, Reuben Van Buuren, Anna Watson.

**Auction at the September Meeting:** This will be material from David Macdonald.

**The Club Show: 25 to 27 September:** *There is a lot of information here. Please read and digest.* A big thank you is extended to everyone who has volunteered to help at the show. A jobs list has been passed around at the last two club meetings. There are still some big gaps. It will go around for the last time at the September meeting. Please consid-

er volunteering if you have not already done so. The jobs list with names will be then emailed out to everyone as a reminder.

The show setup will be from 8.30 a.m. on Friday 25 September. Continental Hire will deliver tables at 9 a.m., and also erect a marquee at the front of the hall, overlapping with the verandah. This will provide us with a lot more room. Entrance to the show will be through the marquee, and then into the hall from the back door. The exit will be at the main double doors.

Please remember that we are looking for good quality raffle donations to be sold at the show. If you can help, see Val Lear at the September meeting.

The fossicking trailer will also be at the front of the hall. This is where all your off-cuts and unwanted rocks can go. The public love fossicking through this. You can bring your containers of donated rocks etc to the September meeting, and we will store them ready for the show.

Anna Baker is preparing a kids questionnaire as a identifying competition. She is looking for small tumbled give away stones for children who successfully complete the competition.

Christopher Thian is organising a public voting competition for the best display. We have 15 show cases ready to fill with displays. If you can do a half or full display case, please see John Taylor. He is taking the list of people doing displays.

A big thank you to Scott Hardwick, who organised the printing of the show posters. A very good number of these went at the last club meeting. These are to be put up on any noticeboard you can find—libraries, supermarkets, public noticeboards, shops, etc. More will be available at the September meeting. The success of the show depends upon everyone doing their bit of advertising.

Other advertisings being done are: radio, Eventfinda, Facebook (paid advertising, and notices on the NZ Fossil, Lapidary, Rock and Mineral site), The Star, Neighbourly.

Security: Because part of the show will be in the marquee, overnight security will be needed—someone doing a sleep-over. Any volunteers?

**Field Trip:** 12 September: The site for this is being organised and details will be announced at the club meeting.

**The Micro-mineral group:** This club group is running an informal get together in the clubrooms over Labour Weekend. Already, quite a few people from other parts of New Zealand have indicated they will be attending. For details on this event, please see Val Lear or Don Stanley

## The August Monthly Competition Results:

August		1st	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3rd	4 <sup>th</sup>
Lapidary:	Polished agate but end- New Zealand	O.Swan	J.Taylor	C.McGregor	R.Lindsay R Knowles L Day
Fossil	Fossil from Glenafric	C McGregor	J.Taylor	R.Lindsay	L Day
Mineral:	Malachite	C McGregor	= J.Taylor L Day		
Alphabet Cup:	DEF	C McGregor	L Day	C. Tait	
Recent Find:		R.Hall	R.Lindsay	L Day	
Bring and Brag		C McGregor	D. Stanley	R.Hall	R.Lindsay

## September Monthly Competitions:

Lapidary: Polished freeform greenstone

Fossil Fossil wood from Southland

Mineral: Opalite NZ

Alphabet Cup: GHI

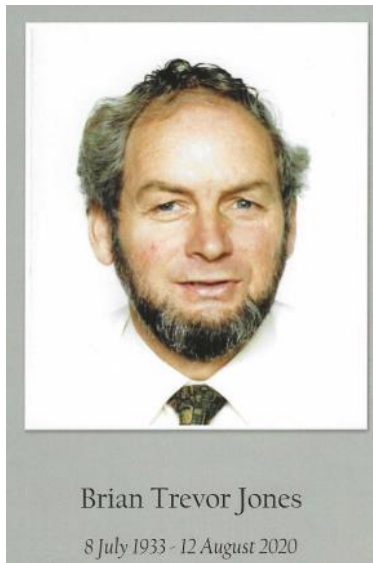
Recent Find: Something “acquired” on the club workshops field trip.

Bring and Brag

**.New Members:** Please make welcome the following: Peter and Jaden Cleghorn, Sapphire Williams, Carolyn Brewer, Mat Spiertz and family, and Scott Evans.

**The Micro-Eye:** A new cabinet has now been purchased by the club to store the micro-eye and monitor. Our thanks to Malcolm Luxton for organising the micro-eye and cabinet. This is now housed at the back of the hall. The micro-eye will be invaluable for public displaying of micro mineral specimens. I'm sure it will be put to great use at our show and at the micro mineral meeting over Labour Weekend.

**Brian Jones:** As announced at the August meeting, my good rockhound friend, Brian Jones passed away recently. He had been in care at Wesley Care for about a year. Multiple Sclerosis, had made life very difficult for him over the last few years. Along with his family, I was invited to give a eulogy at the funeral, and had the privilege of being one of the pall bearers. Brian had been an active rockhound nearly all of his adult life, with teacher postings to Kai-koura, Auckland, Huntley and Christchurch. He took me under his wing nearly 40 years ago, and we did many trips into the hills, and overseas. He also was into faceting and sphere making, and we were always swapping notes on techniques etc. He was club president from 1988 to 1991. Our condolences to Lynda, our club treasurer, and to the rest of Brian's family. He will be much missed.



### Recently found by Betty McKellow at Glen Afric



## Heracles the 'largest parrot ever': New fossil discovered in Otago Stuff: August 7, 2019.

New Zealand was once home to incredible ancient birds like the moa and Haast's eagle, and now apparently a species of giant parrot.

A fossil of the world's largest extinct parrot has been uncovered in Central Otago. Experts believe the huge bird was

around 1 metre tall and weighed around 7kg.

The bird has been named *Heracles inexpectatus* - a nod to its Herculean myth-like size and strength, and the unexpected nature of the discovery.

Flinders University associate professor Trevor Worthy said New Zealand was known for its birds, but "until now, no-one has ever

found an extinct giant parrot – anywhere". The New Zealand fossil is about the size of the gi-

ant 'dodo' pigeon of the Mascarenes and twice the size of the critically endangered flightless kākāpō, previously the largest known parrot.

Like the kākāpō, it was a member of an ancient New Zealand group of parrots that appear to be more primitive than parrots that thrive today on Australia and other continents. The new parrot was found in fossils up to 19 million years old from near St Bathans in Central Otago. It's an area well known for a rich assemblage of fossil birds from the Miocene period.

"We have been excavating these fossil deposits for 20 years, and each year reveals new birds and other animals," Worthy said. Professor Mike Archer from UNSW Sydney said Heracles was "the largest parrot ever".

"... No doubt with a massive parrot beak that could crack wide open anything it fancied, may well have dined on more than conventional parrot foods, perhaps even other parrots." Heracles lived in a diverse subtropical forest where many species of laurels and palms grew with podocarp trees.

"Undoubtedly, these provided a rich harvest of fruit important in the diet of Heracles and the parrots and pigeons it lived with. But on the forest floor Heracles competed with adzebills and the forerunners of moa," Professor Suzanne Hand from

UNSW Sydney. Canterbury Museum's Paul Scofield said the St Bathans fauna provided the only insight into the terrestrial birds and other animals that lived in New Zealand since dinosaurs roamed the land more than 66 million years ago.



# Canterbury Mineral and Lapidary Club



## Gem Show 2020

**September 26 and 27**

**Gemstones, fossils, minerals**

**Displays, sales, fossicking trailer**

**110 Waltham Rd (Next to**

**Waltham School)**

Saturday 26 Sept. - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday 27 Sept - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



*Adults: \$3; School Children: \$1*

# HETTIE'S

## ROCK & CRYSTAL SHOP

**Birdwood Ave, Beckenham, Christchurch.**

**Also: Akaroa and Queenstown**

Also: Akaroa and Queenstown





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

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

