THE CMLC NEWS

The Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club Inc.
Newsletter for March 2021

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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: March 11, April 8, May 13
Committee Meeting: March 18, April 15, May 20
Micro Mineral Meeting: Every second week, Tuesday evenings.
Workshops: Every Tuesday evenings, 6.30 p.m.

The March Meeting: The guest speaker is Alex Nicols who will be speaking about volcanic magma chambers.

Supper Duty for the March Meeting: Put the tea and coffee and cups out on the counter, do the dishes, and make sure the kitchen is tidy at the end of the meeting. Thanks. **Chris Wright, Mike Cook, Bryan Davies, Lindsay Day, Roger Dennis, Wayne Eddy, Lee Frewen.**

Auction at the March Meeting: This will be some more material from the Brian Jones estate. Unfortunately, my eftpos machine will not be available for this auction, but you could use on-line banking, or even old fashioned cash.

Field Trip: Currently we are working on a field trip to Akatore for either March or April. Further details at the club meeting.

The February Monthly Competition Results:

Lapidary:	Polished Jasper	1st J.Taylor	2nd Equal R. Knowles C. McGregor	3rd L. Day
Fossil	Fossil bone NZ	1st C. McGregor	2nd L. Day	
Mineral:	Analcine NZ	1st L. Day		
Alphabet Cup:	PQR	1st L. Day	2nd C. Tait	3rd C. McGregor 4th J Taylor
Recent Find:		1st J. Taylor		
Bring and Brag		1st Equal C McGregor E.Hitt	2nd Equal R.Lindsay D. Stanley	3rd Equal Thomas Healey Val Lear

March Monthly Competitions:

Lapidary:	Polished agate from Woolshed Creek
Fossil	A Waipara fossil
Mineral:	Epidote NZ
Alphabet Cup:	ST
Recent Find:	Found within the last year.
Bring and Brag	Be prepared to talk about it

Raffle Prizes: Every club meeting we have several raffles of material kindly donated by club members. However, we are now very short of prizes. Please if you could donate a prize or two, bring them along to the club meeting. They will be much appreciated. Many thanks to those who have already done so.

Workshop: The large order from Richon Tools has now arrived. There are still some grinding wheels to come, and they will be dispatched after the factory goes back to work at the end of the Chinese New Year on Friday. I have been in touch with Peter at Richon Tools, and he is very appreciative of our business. ***Please also bring the correct money for the workshops: $6.50 if you start at 6.30 p.m. or $5 if later.***

The Club Rooms: ***A big thank you to Val Lear and Glen McLennan*** for work they have done in the toilet area: cleaning, installing mirrors, repairing the hand drier (Now works heated and with much more force), getting the ceiling fan repaired, and organising more sanitary products for cleaning etc. Val has also been working on updating the library and it's procedures. ***A big thanks to Jan Price, Rob Lindsay, Tessa Mitchel-Anyon and Don Stanley*** who have been working on our wall show case. This is being rearranged, labelled and strip lighting installed.

The Club Driveway: This is now being completed. As it takes over a weeks for the concrete to harden sufficiently for traffic, parking on the grounds will not be possible for some time. There is plenty of street parking, especially in side streets beside the school, and also down near Waltham Park. ***A big thank you to all the club members who answered the urgent call to come and lift the old driveway tiles. It is very much appreciated.***

New Members: Please make these new members welcome:
Lotus Hartley, Jordan Mussen, Elly Burgess, Tamara Rookes, Ron Poskitt and Rosalie Clarke.

CHATHAM ISLANDS PEAT WAX: S. Barker

Natural mineral waxes were first recorded on Chatham Islands by Ernest Dieffenbach in 1839. Detailed examinations and analysis were carried out by the New Zealand Colonial Laboratory in 1868 and the first commercial interest arose from Mr Gus Weisner's world trip in 1920. He arrived at the Chatham Islands in 1915 as an engineer for the New Zealand - Fishing Plant at Kaingaroa after coming from California where he had seen wax mined from lignite. Isolation precluded development but persistent interest. from Mr Weisner and Mr E, Guest of Oenga saw the British Imperial Institute had a | detailed analysis in 1927 of peat from. Barker Brothers Ltd | land at Kaingaroa. |

World War II saw natural wax become a strategic material in explosives and munitions for the western world as Germany controlled most worked deposits. The British Admiralty commissioned an urgent survey of the Australian deposits in 1941 which almost resulted in peat shipments to Britain to. augment wax mined from peat there. | .

Results of this survey are recorded in the New Zealand - Journal of Science and Technology Volume 25, No. 1 (Section 3B), pp 1-44, 1943; Macpherson, N.O. and Hughson, W. G. Post war, an American company showed interest in 1948 but did not proceed and it was left to publicity on lignite deposits at Fitzgerald River on the south coast of Western Australia to recreate interest on wax in 1970. | |

The major textbook on wax technology; Warth, A. H. "Chemistry and Technology of Waxes" Reinhold, N.Y. 1947 records that Chatham Islands moorland covers 40,000 acres with an average thickness of 14 feet _ yielding 9.4% of a crude wax with a melting point of 73°C. Warth concludes, "The size of the peat deposits and its high wax yield may serve to illustrate the importance of the future peat wax industry."

This reference started a new commercial interest in the | deposits and several companies pegged areas on the Chatham Islands. Some of the original contenders have dropped out and the principle companies at present involved are Dillingham Mining Company of Australia (a subsidiary of a major U.S. company) and Pan Pacific Mining Company Ltd (a subsidijary of an Australian Public company, Karangi Minerals Ltd

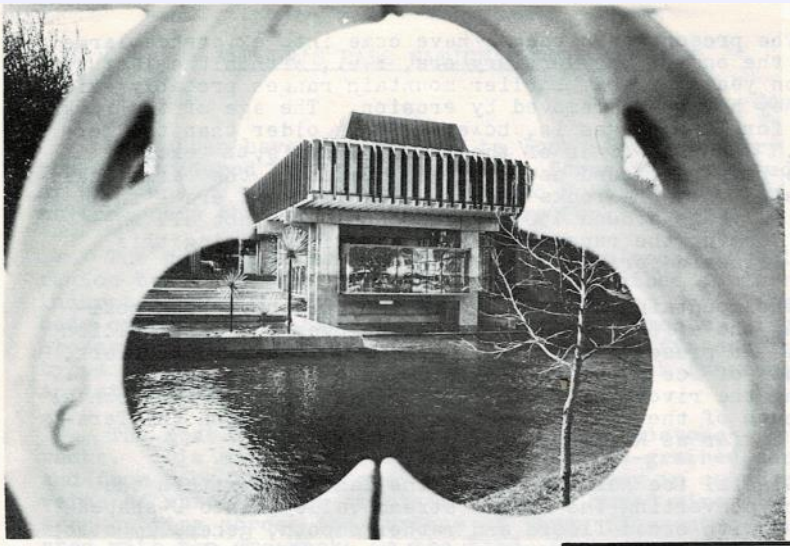
N.L.) The Karangi Group plans to offer participation in the development of its areas to the New Zealand public through the formation of a New Zealand company to be named Chatham Ex Industries Ltd.

Further development now awaits Government industrial approval and final legislation controlling environmental and conservation aspects.

At Chatham Islands the wax carrying peat deposits are up to 30 feet thick and have wax all through except the top leached inches. Mineral wax is formed in the same way as coal or oil. The vegetable oils "petrify" and become wax in the passage of time. The apparant reason for the reputably highest wax concentrations of Chatham Islands peat in the world is due to the great age and predominance of the mineral pearing plant family Braeophyllum in the host material. Samples that offer 30% crude wax on a dry matter basis have been found.

The peat is moorland type as opposed to Irish bogs type, so drainage is not a great problen. After aeration and air drying, the peat is fed into extractors and soaked with solvent which disolves the wax. The solvent is then driven off and reclaimed leaving the hard brittle wax at normal temperatures. In practibe the solvent is heated and under pressure to speed up the process and output. The crude wax obtained is itself made up of three parts, i.e., resin, asphalt and "true wax" and the proportions of each is determined by what solvent is used. The solvent in turn is selected to match the main end use as, for example, wax for electrical insulation can have a higher resin content than for carbon paper. Wax grade is determined by melting point, solubility in various organic' solvents, compatability when mixed with other waxes and the relative content of resin, "true wax" and asphalt.

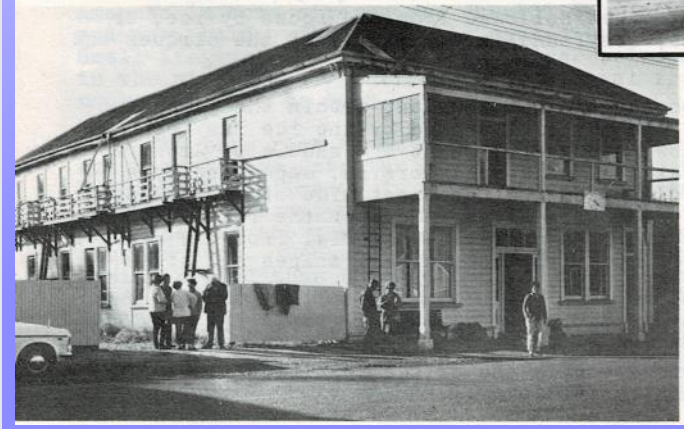
Peat wax is a mineral wax and is one of a number of waxes that make up approximately half a million ton usage a year. Other mineral waxes are Ozokerite, Cer sime and Paraffine, although Paraffine is not a true wax. Peat wax closely resembles "Montan" in both chemical and physical properties. Both are brittle with a high melting point and can produce a hard polished surface when treated with other waxes. -Its main use is as a base for specialist "synthetic" (cont. P7)



Christchurch Town Hall
from Victoria St. Bridge

Photo: Courtesy ChCh. Press Co.Ltd.

The Clubrooms



Blackhall Lodge

Photo: LEN BARNARD

These photos taken from the Kahurangi Exhibition Supplement, October 1972. They show the old clubrooms that had to be demolished after the earthquakes, The new Christchurch Town Hall where we held the first National Show, and our building we owned at Blackball, Nick-named The Blackball Hilton.

waxes and is found also in polishes, adhesives, candles, carbon paper, cosmetics, electrical insulation, explosives and lubricants. Waxes of vegetable origin include Bayberry, Japan or vegetable Ocuba, Palm and wax extracted from cotton seed and sugar cane. Of animal origin are bees wax, Candelilla Carnauba, Chinese wax, all from insects and spermaceti from whales. Closely allied are lanolin from sheep's wool and carbon wax from the plastics industry.
From Kahurangi - October 1972 (An interesting historical document - interesting to note how many attitudes have changed over the years - Ed.)

GEMSTONE & FOSSIL MUSEUM

67 HILLVIEW ROAD,
BIRDLINGS FLAT

Owners: Vince & Colleen Burke
Phone: (03) 329 0812
Email: gemstonemuseum@gmail.com

Open 9:30am till 5:00pm (seven days a week)

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

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