

THE CMLC NEWS

The Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club Inc.
Newsletter for February 2022



President -- Malcolm Luxton Phone 033088874
Treasurer -- Lynda Alexander Phone 3476393
Secretary -- Tessa Mitchell-Anyon Phone 027 963 1235
Bulletin Editor--Craig McGregor Phone 0274209814
Club Mailing Address: 24 O'Briens Rd, Sockburn, Christchurch 8042.

Email: cmlclub@chch.planet.org.nz

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 (7.30pm): February 10, March 10, April 14
Committee Meeting (7.30 pm): February 17, March 17, April 21
Show Committee Meeting (6.30 pm): Febr 17, March 17, April 21.
Micro Mineral Meeting: Tuesday evenings (7 pm)
Workshops: Every Tuesday evenings, 6.30 p.m.

The club Committee hopes you all had a restful summer break. Just a reminder that Vaccine Passes are required to be shown for all club meetings and activities.

The February Meeting: This will be a social evening. A get together, relax and chat. Please bring something to show and tell. Something of interest to you that would inform other club members of your particular interests.

Kitchen Duty for the February Meeting: Put the tea and coffee and cups out on the counter, do the dishes, and make sure the kitchen and toilet areas are tidy and clean at the end of the meeting. Thanks. Julian Twiss, Hanuka Ichinose, Hayman Jerr, Bill Johnson, Robert Kerr.

Auction at the February Meeting: This is of some let over bits and pieces from the Brian Jones collection (from in drawers, and under benches etc.)

Field Trip: Sunday 13 February to High Peak. The meeting place is at the corner of Dart and Washpen Roads at 8 a.m. There will be car pooling from there.

Monthly Competitions for February

Lapidary:.....Polished Jasper NZ
Fossil..... Fossil bone NZ
Mineral:.....Stibnite
Alphabet Cup:.....PQR
Recent Find: During this summer holidays
Bring and Brag..... Be prepared to talk about it

November 2021 Monthly Competition Results

Lapidary Tumble polished stone or sphere.
1st C. McGregor 2nd E Hitt 3rd L. Day
Fossil: Fossil from Reefton area.
1st C. McGregor 2nd D Macdonald 3rd L. Day
Mineral: Chrysocolla- ore of copper
1st C. McGregor 2nd D Macdonald 3rd equal L. Day / J Taylor
Alphabet Cup: MNO
1st L. Day 2nd C. McGregor
Recent Find:
1st equal E. Hitt / L. Day
Bring and Brag
1st R.Dennis 2nd C. . McGregor 3rd V. Burke 4th E. Hitt

The National Show and Competitions: As you know, we are holding the National Show, here in Christchurch, at the Woolston Club, on October 14, 15, 16. Setup will start on Wednesday 12 October. The competition schedule is now out to all members, and the first show newsletter. Application for sales table space is also out to all members, and other traders. If you have missed out on these documents, you can download them from our website: www.cmlclub.org.nz

The Old Club Show Cases: Now that we have new lightweight, portable show cases, we can dispose of the old ones. If you would like one of the old display cases, please email the club at cmlclub@chc.planet.org.nz More names and contacts will be also taken at the February meeting. After this, you will be contacted with a Saturday morning date to come and get them. Currently, they are in carry crates, and unassembled.

LED Lighting For the new Show Cases. If anyone has any expertise in installing LED strip lighting into the show cases, please let Craig know at the February meeting, or phone him. We need someone with expertise in this area.

NANZRMC Newsletters. Tessa does a great job of distributing other club newsletters and the National Association of Rock and Mineral Clubs newsletter to all our members. ***Do take a look at the January NANZRMC newsletter and you will find information on a prize draw.***

Waiuta: From Chris Wright

For those of us whom have memories of the township Waiuta on the west coast, here are some links that may be of some use:-

1. www.whispersofgold.com
2. www.waiuta.org.nz/shop/



CANADIAN NEPHRITE JADE

by Ron Purvis : The New Zealand Lapidary Journal, September 1968.

ROCKHOUNDS of New Zealand and Canada have several points in common. Both countries were visited by Captain Cook and both lands possess nephrite jade. Canadian jade was in fact, first recorded by this explorer. Cook mentioned in his journal while wintering on the west coast of what is now British Columbia, of the presence of 'green hatchet stones' found in the Fraser River gravels. Centuries earlier, however, Indians in British Columbia, like the Maoris in New Zealand, had discovered the out-standing qualities of this tough, hard and lovely stone. Jade was hunted and shaped by these pre-historic rockhounds in Canada chiefly because the rock retained a cutting edge longer than anything else in existence at that time.



There were jade wedges for splitting logs, jade knives and scrapers for cutting meat and scraping skins and micro- blades for shredding roots. Jade was also a valuable trading commodity and, when neighbouring skulls needed cracking, there were, of course, jade tomahawks and war clubs.

Carved amulets, or tikis, were also popular items in those early days and artisans shaped extra long ceremonial celts, or chisels, of the finest intense green jade for tribal dignitaries to carry as status symbols on

special occasions.

Jade was formerly found only in the Fraser, Bridge and Couihalla Rivers located in southern British Columbia. Slabs of about half an inch thickness were sawn from waterworn jade boulders by either of two methods: the first being thin slices of sandstone were used to saw and trim the fibrous nephrite. The second sawing method was by raw-hide thongs, wet and coated with garnet sand, drawn back and forth to make the cut. This important but laborious task was evidently executed by pre-historic lathes because jade saws and shaping tools are invariably found to have been buried along with members of the so called weaker sex. Apparently the menfolk busied themselves at hunting and fighting and were content to leave the jade work to the ladies daily sawing circle.

The jade industry suffered a decline when the first fur traders appeared in British Columbia a hundred and sixty years ago. Iron and steel tools and weapons were more functional and could be easily obtained by simply handing over a few furs. Rock hunting went out of style.

Chinese Prospectors

About sixty years later, upon completion of the two trans-Canada railways, many Chinese labourers were released and followed hard on the heels of the earlier prospectors up the rivers in search of gold. Gold they found, but of more value still to the Oriental mind was jade, and quietly off to China by the ton went British Columbia jade. locally at Lillooet in the centre of the old jade region, old timers still remember how hilarious it appeared to see Chinese prospectors trudging through the gold fields bent under the weight of huge 'green rocks' of no apparent value. On looking back now, we suspect that the Orientals likely had a few laughs of their own! The Chinese skimmed off the surface jade and passed through the land and nephrite again lay undisturbed in the rivers. In 1949, Indian lads brought the writer several smooth green stones that had obviously been shaped by human hands. Curiosity prompted me to seek identification and, in brief, the hunt for jade in British Columbia was on again.

Canadian nephrite jade has thus far been found only in the Province of Columbia. During the past ten years, however, enthusiastic searching by increasing numbers of rockhounds have brought to light additional jade areas in B.C., the Omeneca River and tributaries in central g.c. and the Dease Lake region located in the far northern interior of this Province. Nephrite jade is found usually in the form of water worn pebbles, cobbles and boulders. Occasionally a lucky rockhound will find a jade nodule in situ or come upon a lens of nephrite exposed to view in the serpentine hostrock but our serpentine dykes are immense and jade

occurrences few, so such moments are about as frequent as needles are found in haystacks.

B.C. jade comes in almost every shade of colour and, like nephrite jades found elsewhere in the world, all too much of it comes in drab colours, with fractures and containing dark inclusions. Bright apple green jade is most desired and is considered more valuable when the colour is uniform throughout. In addition to nephrite, British Columbia also contains such rocky relatives of jade as actinolite, bowenite, chrysolite, serpentine, talc and tremolite.

New Zealand rockhounds are undoubtedly familiar with nephrite jade in general and I need not waste the reader's time in describing characteristics and appearances of this rock. I can also skip the details of polishing nephrite because this subject has been very competently covered by Mr. R. A. Shields in the June, 1968 issue of *The New Zealand Lapidary*. Jade is not the easiest stone to polish and I heartily recommend Mr. Shield's article on nephrite jade as required reading for all rockhounds interested in obtaining the best polish on their jade stones.

In addition to jade, Canada has scads of active rockhounds, several hundred rock clubs and a great long list of gems and minerals that keep the hobbyists busy hunting outdoors in the summer and cutting and polishing in-doors in the winter months. Canada has no particular restrictions regarding the export of rough jade but our Federal Government has a ruling in effect limiting the sale of Queen Charlotte Is. argillite similar to the restrictions on greenstone exporting in New Zealand.

Readers who have waded through this article and still courageously wish to read more about Canadian rocks are invited to drop a line to the Editor of this Journal and just possibly E.G.T. if there's space, will allow me to tell you the story of the 'Black Carving Stone of the Haida Indians'. The Haidas were the most advanced and aggressive tribe on the entire west coast of North America. These fiercely proud Indians dominated this vast area from a group of misty islands now known as the Queen Charlottes—Captain Cook paused here for a few months, too, almost two hundred years ago—but that's another story!

From: <http://jadecitypaydirt.blogspot.com/2015/04/jade-fever-in-british-columbia.html>

"WE ALL THINK WE KNOW JADE when we see it, but the word "Jade" actually refers to two very different stones that look very much



alike. China's historic jade is Nephrite, famous as the toughest stone on Earth and known for its rich resinous texture when polished. Nephrite is the jade that B.C. has in abundance. Its chemical structure is completely different from jadeite, found primarily in Myanmar (Burma). Jadeite is beautiful, and rare, and even though it's a relative newcomer in the Asian jade trade (the 1700s) it became China's pre-eminent gemstone over the past two centuries, and that's at the root of the confusion between the two stones. (The Chinese use the word "yu" to refer to both kinds of jade.)

HETTIE'S ROCK & CRYSTAL SHOP

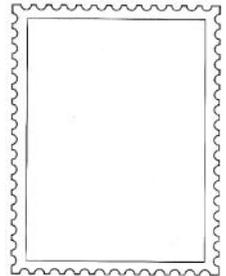
Birdwood Ave, Beckenham, Christchurch.

Also: Akaroa and Queenstown





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



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