

THE CMLC NEWS

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



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

Just a reminder that Vaccine Passes are required to be shown for all club meetings and activities.

The March Meeting: Our guest speaker is Kate Pedley. She will be speaking about inspiring people into geology.

Kitchen Duty for the March 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. **Chris Wright, Roger Knowles, Rob Lindsay, Campbell Lintott, Mark Luxton, David Macdonald, Rachel Macmillan.**

Auction at the March Meeting: Material from David Macdonald.

Field Trip: Saturday 12 March to the Pahau River for Zeolites. Leaving from the Belfast Hotel at 9 am. Trip leader is John Taylor: Ph: 0272027523. Register with him if you wish to go.

Monthly Competitions for March

Lapidary: Polished agate from Woolshed Creek
Fossil A Waipara fossil
Mineral: Rutile in quartz
Alphabet Cup: ST (Specimen from a state/country starting with)
Recent Find: From the February Forest field trip
Bring and Brag Be prepared to talk about it.

February Monthly Competition Results

Lapidary: Polished Jasper NZ
1st R. Poskitt 2nd R. Clarke 3rd J. Taylor 4th equal C. McGregor, L. Day, M. Wium
Fossil Fossil bone NZ
1st M. Wium 2nd C. McGregor 3rd R. Clarke 4th equal R. Poskitt, L. Day, D. Macdonald
Mineral: Stibnite
1st D. Macdonald 2nd L. Day
Alphabet Cup: PQR
1st equal L. Day and C. McGregor
Recent Find:
1st M. Wium 2nd L. Hall
Bring and Brag
1st C. McGregor 2nd equal M. Wium and V. Burke

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 Show Committee are meeting once a month at 6.30 pm, before the club committee meeting.

The Old Club Show Cases and Working Bee: Saturday 5 March, 10 am to 12.00 This is to assemble a show case and have them available for anyone who wants one. Please come along and help. We need lifting power, hammers and power screwdriver drills. I will supply morning tea.

LED Lighting For the new Show Cases. Despite requests for help, no one has come forward with expertise in this area. If anyone has any expertise in installing LED strip lighting into the show cases, please let Craig know at the March meeting, or phone him. Initially, I need some guidance on what to buy.

New Members: Please make welcome these new members: Alexandrah Du Barry, John Caygill and Family, Peter Snook, Trevor White, Josh Sutton, Ron Carter, John Dugmore abd Family and Lewis Hall (returning).

NANZRMC Newsletters. *Do take a look at the January NANZRMC newsletter and you will find information on a prize draw.*

Annual Club Subscription: Yes, It's that time of year again. Club subs are due for the 2022-23 financial year. Many thanks to those who get this done in good time. It's appreciated.

Wanted: Articles for the Newsletters: I would very much like to include more of our members' articles in this newsletter. Please consider writing about your personal experiences and/or skills, and share them via this newsletter (Yes, I know—wider audience on Facebook—but then, all negative feedback is eliminated via this editor—Lol).

My helicopter Trip: By Craig McGregor.

Just prior to Waitangi Weekend I received a call from Julian Twiss asking if I would be interested in a helicopter trip into Timaru River, by Lake Hawea. Although rather expensive, I felt I would have to do my civic duty to support a struggling helicopter company in Wanaka that did not have any tourism to rely on. So, along with John Taylor, David Macdonald, Julian and myself, we left Christchurch on the Sunday, intending to arrive at Wanaka airport by departure time of 3 pm. On the way we stopped in Timaru and bought several





buckets of Kentucky Fried Chicken with the intention of having a ready made dinner at our destination. We also stopped and bought a large sledge hammer—just in case.....

We arrived in Wanaka at 2.55, and proceeded to weigh in, so the helicopter could have an even

weight distribution. Who was the heaviest? (what goes on holiday, stays on holiday—but it wasn't me). Then the flight took us over spectacular scenery over Lake Hawea and into Timaru

River. This is where Julian's research told him that rhodonite boulders had been found in the past.

However, when we were dropped off, and unloaded at Junction Hutt, we found that all the beds had sleeping bags on them, so it looked like we would have an uncomfortable night sleeping on the floor.



Then it was a walk up Junction Creek to see if we could find the elusive rhodonite. This was real bush bashing work through tutu, matagouri, wild rose hip, bush lawyer and long grass. This was not to mention those blood suckers that kept pestering us all the way. Thank goodness John had thought to bring some sandfly repellent. It also involved lots of crossing

the fast flowing creek. After some time of following the other 3 up into the creek, I eventually lost sight of them amongst the scrub, and decided it would be safer for me to turn back down the valley. I would never have been found if I had taken a serious fall. In my walk down the valley, I suddenly spotted



a small black rock amongst all that schist - it is a lump of manganese. Of course, this is associated with rhodonite. I waited at the hut for the others to return empty handed, and showed them my find. That improved their thoughts of giving it another go the following day.



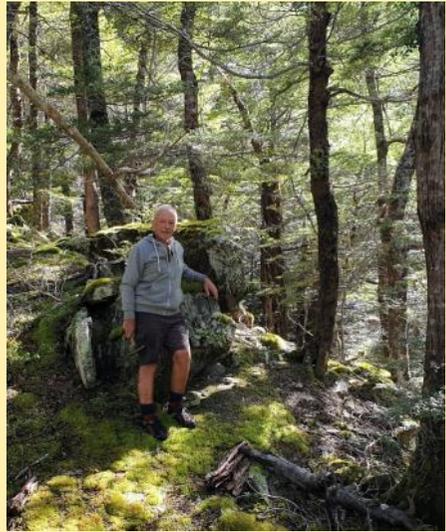
The other hut occupiers then arrived—they were hunters (2 guys, a lady and a teenage boy.) They had decided they would walk out that evening, so left the hut to us. They did help polish off the rest of the Kentucky Fried Chicken and thought it was quite a laugh to get such take-aways in the middle of the wilderness. On leaving, we were offered a joint each (I cannot tell if anyone accepted—what goes on holiday, stays on holi-





day). But, their faces did drop a little when I said “You do not know what job I do, do you?” - I work in a prison. So, we hunkered down for the night. I had brought a small gas cooker, so we were able to boil the billy, and in the morning we

had fried ham and eggs—delicious. Then it was another trek up into Junction Creek. This time I managed to keep up with the other 3—yes, they did several waits for me, and with that, I managed to keep up. I should point out that I went along as the official photographer, and got lots of photos of where we had been. But, still the elusive rhodonite could not be found.



Back to the hut we went, and again searched over the creek bed, but not even another piece of manganese could be found. The helicopter came and picked us up at 4.15 pm on the Monday. After arriving at Wanaka airport we went into Wanaka to get petrol. It was like arriving in the twilight zone. Everything was shut. Petrol Station—shut; 4 atm



machines did not work; cafes and shops shut. What had happened while we were away? Had New Zealand suffered some catastrophe? No, there was a power cut. So, hoping we had enough petrol, we made it to Omarama to fill up, eventually arriving back in Christchurch just before 11 pm. I thoroughly enjoyed this trip, with a big thanks to Julian for organising it, and to the other 3 guys for looking after me. In return, I, as the official photographer have produced a photo book for each one of us. As for the elusive rhodonite—that will have to wait for another day.



HETTIE'S ROCK & CRYSTAL SHOP

Birdwood Ave, Beckenham, Christchurch.

Also: Akaroa and Queenstown

Also: Akaroa and Queenstown





GEMSTONE & FOSSIL MUSEUM

**67 HILLVIEW ROAD,
BIRDLINGS FLAT**

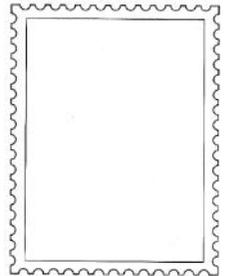
Owners: Vince & Colleen Burke

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»