

THE CMLC NEWS

The Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club Inc.
Newsletter for August 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: 1 Arlington Street, Burnside,
Christchurch 8053 **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): August 11, September 8.
Committee Meeting (7.30 pm): August 18, September 15
Show Committee Meeting (6.30 pm): August 18, September 15
Micro Mineral Meeting: Tuesday evenings (7 pm)
Workshops: Every Tuesday evenings, 6.30 p.m.

The August Meeting: As of writing the newsletter we may or may not have a speaker, but something is being arranged.

Kitchen Duty for the August Meeting: Owen Swann, Mark Abrahamson, Jan Price, Kim Annan, Sue Baldwin, Lindsey Balloch Therese Balloch, Jim Barwell and Carolyn Bentley.

Field Trip: Saturday 13 August. 10.00 Meet at the Birdwood Café on Birdwood Ave, Beckenham, for a morning coffee (bring your own cup if you want to do take-away). 10.30 am: Go to Hetties and see their workshop in action, and explore the shop. 11.30 am. Meet at the clubrooms for a swap, buy and sell meet (bring no more than 20 items). 12.00: at the clubrooms for a pot luck lunch. (Bring some food to share, your own plates, cups and cutlery, and drink)

The July Monthly Competitions Results

Lapidary: Polished lapidary work containing the colour green

1st J. Taylor, 2nd C. Mc Gregor, 3rd L. Day

Fossil: NZ Fossil shell: 1st C. Mc Gregor, 2nd L. Day, 3rd J. Taylor

Mineral: NZ mineral under 5cm in size: 1st J. Taylor, 2nd Equal L. Day and D. Macdonald, 3rd C. McGregor.

Alphabet Cup: Country or region starting with the letter A,Z,O

1st J. Taylor, 2nd C. McGregor, 3rd L. Day

Novice Section: Any rock you wish to enter

1st equal N. Van Hout, B. Adams-Hooper, 2nd Z. Wilson, 3rd A. Wilson

Bring and Brag: 1st M. Wuum, 2nd C. McGregor.

The August Monthly Competitions

Lapidary: Polished lapidary work containing the colour purple

Fossil: Fossil crab (NZ)

Mineral: Mineral from Southland.

Alphabet Cup: A specimen from a Country or region starting with the letter B, Y, or P.

Novice Section: Any rock you wish to enter (Anyone who has been in the club less than 2 years)

Bring and Brag: Be prepared to talk about it.

The National Show and Competitions (14-16 October at Riccarton Park):

The date to remember: Final date for competition entries is 31 August.

Final date for booking for the Show dinner is 31 August. Booking sheets are available on our club website. There will also be some available at the next club meeting. The form is also on-line on our website.

Please come to the dinner. There will be a lucky chair. The person who gets it will get their dinner cost refunded. There will be lucky draws (At least 6 so far).

A big thank you to all who have donated prizes for the raffle and the dinner lucky draws.

A big thank you to all club members who have offered to do displays for the show. We now have a very good number, but could do with even more.

A big thank you to all club members who have offered their help setting up, manning and breaking down the show. Currently Val Lear is working on a timetable roster for this and it will be sent out to everyone once completed. More people are still needed, so please see Val at the August meeting.

Wanted: Competition entries. You now have a competitions summary

sheet, or can obtain one from our website: www.cmlclub.org.nz. Please give your entry form to David Macdonald at the August meeting. It would even help if you were to verbally tell him what you intend to enter.

Wanted: Donations for the rock fossicking area. Please see Bill Johnson if you can donate for this. Just bring your donated material along with you to the show.

Show Newsletter No.3: This will be coming out soon, so keep an eye on your email. It will include a timetable for the Show as well as a dinner booking form and a competitions entry form.

As you can see, there is still a lot to do, and only 2 more club meeting to go before the show.

Cataloguing : An article by Val Lear (Many thanks Val. I very much appreciate club member's articles, and hope more members could write one up—Ed)

Well it's another rainy day to do inside jobs and I have been ordered to put some words together for the CMLC newsletter on my talk last week on cataloguing so here goes. Then I'm going to the cafe at the beach for a coffee as a reward so I had best get on with it.

Actually cataloguing is a bit like that. You have to just get on with it. Imagine how awful it would be if for some reason you couldn't attend to your collection ever again and all your knowledge of source locations of your rocks or minerals disappeared with you. A catalogue is a record of all sorts of information about each rock or mineral that you have personally collected or acquired. Source information might be the most important bit. You can re-identify a mineral and sometimes the matrix will help you locate it, but rocks including agates, become guesswork or relegated to the garden rock heap unless you just want a pretty ornament or want to make cabochons.

The simplest beginning is a notebook with columns. Substitute for a spreadsheet on your computer if you are set up for this. Even better use a data base such as Mindat provides. (More on Mindat in the resource list at the end). The advantage of spreadsheets is the ability to re-order your collection headings e.g. I could instruct the spreadsheet to re-order the locations in alphabetical order so I could suddenly easily see all the Whiskey Bay minerals I have, or I could instruct the spreadsheet to re-order in mineral name order and suddenly easily see how many azurites I have from all different locations, or I could leave the spreadsheet in the number order from the beginning 30 years ago and see my collection in that order. I can

demonstrate this at the club using the 3 printed catalogues attached to one of our collections if you want to see this. Anyway, allocate a number for your specimen rock or mineral. Begin with 0001, 0002, 0003...I have read that if you have an important or valuable collection that could be on-sold on day you should add your initials at the beginning of the numbering e.g. R.A.T.0001, R.A.T.0002, R.A.T.0003...Put the same number on your specimen. This way the numbers you put on your rocks or minerals can remain for ever, (if you have painted with white paint and written in Indian ink.) and can be integrated into someone else's collection easily. I stick my numbers on using the white medical tape 'Leukoplast' which I buy from a pharmacy and use a waterproof, fade-proof, fine black ink pen. The tape is not foolproof however as it dries out on some rocks and doesn't stick to crumbly rocks.

Now the column headings can be as many as you have the patience for.

32 years ago I began recording each entry in this order:

Proper mineral name (or type of rock name).

Chemical formula.

Common name and previous proper name if that applied.

Locality detail – quarry or mine name e.g. Broken Hill District has huge variety of detail with each area unique. Nowadays GPS co-ordinates are the thing. But otherwise you just have to describe the cliff on the left of the steps you went down to a bay and the nearest named location for example. Don't forget to put the nearest city, province and country. (There are many “Spring Creeks” in many countries.)

Location of your storage. Cabinet, number of shelf, number of carton, house, garage, etc.

Acquisition Detail – who gave it to me, where I bought it from, self collected, and who identified it, even who confirmed the identity (minerals).

Money that I might have paid for it.

De-accession detail - I give my grandchildren rocks and minerals and fossils, I sell at club auctions, I give rocks to visitors etc. I break some rocks up and they become micro-minerals and go into another catalogued collection.

Type Locality specimen.

Whether it is rare.

Cautions – radioactive, poisonous, needs airtight container, needs the dark.

There is so much more detail you can record. If you are an agate collector then I can imagine the columns might be mainly about the types of agates - dendritic, thunder eggs, moss, storm, jasper agate, plume, seam. Sardon-

yx etc. Or the different genesis of agates which is a fascinating topic. There is a great interest in the stories of the collecting of a piece including the human interest dramas involved in collecting, the history, the geology including the age of formation. I read that someone records whether the specimen should be traded up sometime. I've added more information over the years to my catalogues. I really love very old usually ugly rock so often I add notes on the geology when I've read up about the area.

All this information points to one thing – keep notes as soon as you can when you have self collected or acquired a new rock or mineral. When I go on car trips I drop a note with the exact location description in each bag of stuff from each area as soon as it is in the car. There are many rivers in Nelson NZ and easy to confuse them when I get home. The interest is in the location. Many of these rocks get binned after I have examined them but I've had a chance to read up a bit more of the geology of an area and see it for myself.

So the last thought is to share the location of your catalogues with your nearest and dearest. If it is on the computer share the access info. The catalogue is guaranteed to add value to the bunch of rocks and minerals you have probably spent years collecting and looking after. Transferring my catalogue to my spreadsheet is not finished yet...

Finally some of my talk at the club was on the ordering of mineral specimens as one of the club collections is ordered using the worldwide Dana system, based on chemistry. Accessing minerals in that collection is easy using one on the three catalogues I've printed – by mineral name, by location or by the number order in the trays. See the Micromineral Group for help with this. Other systems have superseded the Dana system.

Resources

Mindat.org is an outreach program of the Hudson Institute of Mineralogy, a non profit organization based in the U.S. but created by Jolyon Ralph in the U.K. 20 years ago when he was bored one Christmas. It has become the world's most comprehensive mineral database. This site contains data on minerals, rocks, and meteorites from across the globe, as well as their localities and much more. So many good photos. Continually being updated. All levels of expertise are welcomed as the emphasis is on being open to learning about the rocks and minerals of the world. To access the free collection catalogue tool on Mindat, first you have to register and become



New Zealand National Gem Show 2022

**GEMS, CRYSTALS,
FOSSILS AND MINERALS**

WHEN: 14,15,16TH OCTOBER 2022

**WHERE: RICCARTON PARK
RACECOURSE ROAD**

**ADMISSION: ADULTS \$5
CHILDREN \$2
UNDER 5'S FREE**



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CANTERBURY MINERAL AND LAPIDARY CLUB
WWW.CMLCLUB.ORG.NZ**

a member of Mindat, and then when you have logged in, go to your home page, and click “Click here to manage your personal collection catalogue”. I emphasize it is free to do all of this. Donations are requested to keep Mindat running and when you feel ready and able to donate something it is welcomed. You can link photos on Mindat to your specimens. Your personal catalogue is private, no-one else has access except you.

Other internet sites that are helpful and not complicated:

Labeling and Cataloging Your Mineral Collection – John H. Betts.

Rockhoundresource.com/labeling-and-cataloging-rocks-minerals-the-right-way.

Marksminerals.com.au

p.s. Americans spell cataloguing without a “u”. We don't. By the way labeling and labelling are both correct but take care to get it right on the net or you won't get into the site you want.

p.p.s I snuck out and had coffee before I finished this and it's stopped raining finally.

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, 1 Arlington Street, Burnside, Christchurch 8053.



I don't need therapy

**I need to go
ROCKHOONDING!**