THE CMLC NEWS

The Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club Inc. Newsletter for June 2024



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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 and AGM (7.30pm): June 13 Committee Meeting (7pm): June 20 Micro Mineral Meeting: Tuesday evenings (7 pm) Workshops: Every Tuesday evenings, 6.30 p.m. Geobusters: Sunday afternoons every second month. www.geobusters.co.nz; Facebook.

The June Meeting: It is our AGM. All nomination forms for positions on our committee have to be with Tessa at least one week before the AGM. To <u>cmlclub@chch.planet.org.nz</u> Nomination forms are attached to this newsletter.

Kitchen Duty for the June Meeting: Jason Morrison, Gavin Pateman, Scott Pierce, Ron Poskitt, Rosalie Clarke, Jan Price, Ryan Rolston, Gerard Scally, Judi Sibley, Ken Sitarz, Tayla Smith-Joyce, Peter Snook. Lay out the tea, milk, coffee and cups. Do dishes and tidy up the kitchen after the meeting.

Field Trip:15 June. This will be announced at the club June meeting.

The May Monthly Competitions Results

Lapidary: Own Polished lapidary work containing the colour purple 1st John T, 2nd Craig, 3rd Lewis, 4th Lindsay

Fossil: A fossil from overseas 1st Lewis, 2nd John T, 3rd Ron, 4th Craig, 5th Lindsay

Mineral: A micro mineral from NZ 1st Lindsay, 2nd Zena, 3rd Ava, 4th John T

Alphabet Cup: FO 1st John T, 2nd Zena, 3rd Craig, 4th Ava, 5th Lindsay

Novice Section: Any rock you wish to enter 1st Ava Bring and Brag 1st Don M, 2nd= Craig, 2nd = Kamen, 3rd= Chris T, 3rd= Robin, 4th John T, 5th Bronwyn

There is no Monthly Competition for June as it is the AGM and certificates and cups will be presented to the winners of the 2023-2024 monthly competitions. **However if you have a brag piece to talk about, please bring it along.**

Wanted:Someone who is prepared to judge the classes of the July 2024– May 2025 monthly competitions. If this is you, please contact Malcolm. We need you urgently. Many thanks to Wayne Eddy who has organised this for many years. As he is unable to continue, we now need someone to take over.

New Members: Please make welcome: Andrew & Vickie Walker, Mick Hydes, Harry Kitson, Tiahla Skinner, Roger Willcocks and Onola McGready.

Wanted: Written articles by our club members for this newsletter: Club field trips, areas of interest and/or expertise etc. Even photos of club activities would be appreceiated.

Club Show: 28, 29 September. A traders application form is now out out to our club members through this bulletin. Please respond as soon as possible. Anyone who is not a club member wishing to sell at our show will be put on a wait list until we know the amount of space needed for our

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members and our regular sellers from the Marlborough and Otago clubs. If you are able to provide a raffle prize for the show, please bring it to Val Lear at one of our meetings. Traders at the show are also asked to consider donating a raffle prize.

Sonic Cleaner: A sonic cleaner has been donated to the club and will be available to use one workshop evenings.

Geo Busters: (Report by Morne Wium) For the May Geobusters we had 22 people in attendance with 3 kids attending for the first time. For the show and tell section of the meeting we had some great pieces brought in including: a Triceratops jaw, a fossil vertebra, a trilobite, agates and an interesting book. The topic was limestone and after a quick presentation, we had time to look for fossils in some 19 million-year-old limestone from Otago. Some beautiful bivalves, brachiopods and even an echinoid were unearthed. Each Geobuster chose some rocks and fossils from the auction table for their growing collections, a huge thank you to everyone who has donated to this! Everyone also received some calcite crystal nodules to open up at home, thanks for donating these Kamen!

For the next Geobusters, Kim will be be talking about fluorescent rocks and minerals. Please bring any fluorescent minerals you would like to do-

nate to Geobusters so we can give each person one to take home.





Photos of a trip to High Peak (Thanks, Ken Sitarz)



Constructing a Lapping Machine: by Spence Holdaway (The New Zealand Lapidary, December 1968)

Shortlly after a rockhound finds his first polishable stones he or she is

faced with the problem of what to do with them, and the larger and better looking the finds the greater the problem seems to be. The writer, in common with others, had to face this same situation at the beginning and solved the problem by building a dual purpose, lap-buff machine. The method, as you will find in the following account, is both simple and efficient and whether you slab or cab this machine will prove an asset to your lapidary workshop in the long run.



Firstly arrange for a plumbing firmto make up a 16-gauge, flat galvanised iron box open at both ends. Most good plumbers these days have equipment suitable for spot-welding the joint, which is handy to have done and quite satisfactory for this join. At the same time have the plumber bend up a 16 gauge tray to neatly fit inside the tin box. This should have a 1" turn

up all around. The box should be 18" wide by 22" long and about 20" high. The length and width of the tray should be slightly less than for the box. When fitted it should be 5" down from the top with the 1" turn up facing upwards (see diagram). The tray is best riveted in place with No. 10 tinsmith rivets, about 12 to 2" apart and as it is to hold or carry away water and sludge, a 4" fall to one end is desirable. After riveting make water-



tight with a good sweating of 50-50 solder, a job easily within the capabilities of most constructors.

Now obtain and solder in place a suitable drainpipe. A 9%" length of plated towel rail is ideal, cut to fit the bottom of the tray and protrude out through the side of the box as shown. This allows the operator to slip a bucket under the spout so formed to catch the sludge and water waste. The next requirement is the drive shaft and bearings. Both of these are the self-centering, ball race type. The top one is a flange type housing so that it can be bolted flat on the drain tray. The bottom one is a "P" or plumber block type housing which is bolted to a 13" x 13" angle iron bracket that is mounted across the inside of the box. The angle iron bracket, with stop-ends welded on, is bolted onto the outside casing with four 5/16" bolts. This keeps the bottom bearing firm which is very necessary as it does most of the work. The shaft should be 12" long and stepped (refer to diagram), to a depth of 1" so as to permit inter-change of lapping or buffing heads. A sludge flinger, such as a3" disc soldered or welded to the shaft just clear of the flange bearing, is needed to prevent grit and water getting into the bearing. By the way, it's as well to fit a gasket of some water repelling substance under the flange bearing. This will prevent water in the bottom of the tray from seeping through to the other bearing.

The final thing to do to the top of the shaft is to fix a 2" long, tight fitting sleeve to this to provide a guide for the various attachments you will later be using. Turning the machine upside down you can now start assembling the driving units. On the bottom end of the shaft, the portion protruding below the lower bearing, firmly fix a. 12" diameter V pulley. Any sound old washing machine 1/4 hp. single phase motor is powerful enough to drive the lap. Note that the angle iron bracket is attached to the 18" walls of the box and the motor to either of the 22" walls (in error the angle iron bracket is shown attached to the 22" walls-Ed.) This is to allow room in the box for shifting the motor when belt tightening. When drilling the holes for the motor make them oversize and then slot all four about an inch or so to facilitate belt tightening. Fit rubber or plastic grommets in the slots and provide fibre washers both under the bolt heads and motor base as an added precaution against current leak. It is advisable to mount a switch on the side of the box and this wants to be safely mounted also. Cut a 3" square out of the casing where it has been decided to mount the switch. With the aid of gutter bolts place a piece of switchboard material or other non-conductor over this square hole and you have a perfect base for mounting the switch. Having got the machine operating smoothly now return to the interesting end, for it is time to make a lap plate. For this you will need a 16- or 18 gauge 3/8" thick disc. Have welded to it 2" of shafting of the same size as the main shaft. Step it exactly as you did for the latter and fit it into the sleeve, making sure it slides easily in and out, If it doesn't it will be easy to remove some metal off the step, just a little at a time, until it slides in easily. Your machine is then ready to use.

The measurements given allow for a 1" gap between the edge of the lap wheel and the outside casing. This is quite important as it will be found desirable to put newspaper under and around the disc when using it. When changing grit size also change the paper and so avoid contamination.

Remember also that box length and width is for the 16" lap only and for wider laps a box 2" wider than the width chosen will be required. The length is not so important on bigger Wheels because here there is plenty of living space underneath the motor.

The writer believes there is a future jn this machine for faceting. Polishing heads, sphere cutters and other techniques are quite within the scope of this machine. Additions can be thought up from time to time and added to your repertoire of lapping tools. In fact, with this machine you can indulge in one of the most relaxing and satisfactory lapidary occupations—the height is worked out so we can support to use it.



Motor and pulley in place in the prototype machine

| CMLC Nomination Form | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| I would like to r for the position | ominate of: (Please tick. You n | nay tick more than one.) | | | |
| Preside | nt 📃 🗖 | Committee member | | | |
| • | | | | | |
| Name of Nominato | | Signed | | | |
| Name of Seconder | | . Signed | | | |
| "Nomination Nominee, an | Signature of Nominee Give or post is for Officers and Committee shall be sign d shall be lodged with the Secretary one w | this form to the secretary ed by the proposer and Seconder and seek before the Annual General Meeting" | | | |

| CMLC I would like to nominate C. for the position of: (Please | tick. You may tick more than one.) |
|---|---|
| President | Committee member |
| • | |
| Name of Nominator | Signed |
| Name of Seconder | Signed |
| Signature of Ne "Nominations for Officers and Con Nominee, and shall be lodged with | Ominee Give or post this form to the secretary mittee shall be signed by the proposer and Seconder and the Secretary one week before the Annual General Meeting" |

| I wo | CMLC Nomina uld like to nominate | tion RB | av tick more than one.) |
|------|--|--------------------------|--|
| | President | 1 | Committee member |
| | | 2 | |
| Name | of Nominator | | Signed |
| Name | of Seconder | | Signed |
| | Signature of Nominee Give or "Nominations for Officers and Committee shall be Nominee, and shall be lodged with the Secretary o | post t signe ne we | his form to the secretary d by the proposer and Seconder and ek before the Annual General Meeting" |

| C I would like to nominate for the position of: (Plea | MLC Nomination Form |
|--|---|
| President | Committee member |
| ••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••• | |
| Name of Nominator | Signed |
| Name of Seconder | |
| Signature of "Nominations for Officers an Nominee, and shall be lodged | of Nominee Give or post this form to the secretary d Committee shall be signed by the proposer and Seconder and with the Secretary one week before the Annual General Meeting" |



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THE 2024 NATIONAL ROCK & MINERAL SHOW Discover the exciting and colourful world of Gens, Crystals, Minerals, Rocks and Fossilis



Proudly hosted by the Mineral Club of Hutt Valley & Wellington Inc.

- Bring your Rocks and Fossils for expert identification
- Dramatic displays
- Fun and interest for all the family
- Sales tables, Jewellery, Rock art, Exotic Specimens

Expressions Whinineki Arts and Entertainment Centre 836 Frequeson Drive Uoper Hutt City Finday 4 Oct. – Sunday 6 Oct. 2024 Bam – Som Finday and Saturday Sam – 4pm Sunday





HETTIE'S ROCK & CRYSTAL SHOP

Birdwood Ave, Beckenham, Christchurch. Also: Akaroa and Queenstown





Sender CMLC, 93 Winters Rd, Redwood, Christchurch 8051.

COMING EVENTS:

Gem and Craft Show: Scottish Hall, Oamaru: 6, 7 July. Canterbury Mineral and Lapidary Club: Gem Show 2024: 28-29 September; 110 Waltham Rd, Christchurch. National Show 2024: Mineral Club of Hutt Valley Wellington: 4-6 October: Whirinaki Events Centre, Upper Hutt.

Australia

Gemboree 2025: Ballarat, Victoria; 18-21 April; Federation University, Mt Helen Campus, Ballarat.