

# THE CMLC NEWS

## The Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club Inc. Newsletter for June 2025



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**Website:** [www.cmlclub.org.nz](http://www.cmlclub.org.nz)  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/p/Canterbury-Mineral-and-Lapidary-Club-100064175581041/>  
**Meeting Venue & Clubrooms:** 110 Waltham Road, Waltham, Christchurch 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of the month [Feb. to Nov.]

Annual General Meeting (7.30pm): 12<sup>th</sup> June  
Committee Meeting (7pm): 19<sup>th</sup> June  
Micro Mineral Meeting: Tuesday evenings (7 pm)  
Workshops: Every Tuesday, Friday evenings, 6.30/7:00pm – 9:00pm

### **Welcome New Members:**

Daniel Morrish, Patrick Sullivan, Benjamin Todd and Ben Scherluebbe

### **The June AGM Meeting:**

For the AGM, we have presentations of Annual and Financial Reports, Competition awards, Constitution Ratification, Soup and Toast and a special guest speaker.

This year there have been two valid nominations for President so there will be a ballot to decide the outcome. Voting will be limited to club members. Family membership entitles both parents a vote. The two nominees are Tessa Mitchell-Anyon and Kamen Engel

### **Speaker:**

Paul Scofield will be giving a talk on fossil vertebrates of North Canterbury. He will be summarising past finds, current research and future possibilities.

### **Field Trip:**

There will be no field trip for June, however the auction will be the monthly event.

### **June Auction:**

There will be an auction of Craig McGregor's material at the clubrooms on Saturday June 14th. Viewing starts at 9am followed by the auction at 9.30am. This auction will be primarily rough rock. Payment for successful bidding needs to be cash on the day unless other payment options have been discussed and agreed to by our Treasurer Lynda Alexander.

### **Workshop Notes:**

The Club is going to trial a Friday night workshop night starting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. It will be the same time and price as Tuesday nights - 6:30/7:00-9:00pm \$7 from 6:30 pm or \$6 from 7:00 pm. There will be no cutting available on the large saws, but the rest of the machines will be available for use. Please bring exact

change, or you are welcome to pay on the Tuesday night prior to the Friday if you will be attending both nights.

### **Old Club Show Cases:**

Storage space is becoming a premium issue for us and so the committee have decided to dispose of the old display cases presently stored in the back shed. Anyone interested in one, two, three - the lot, please talk to a committee member.

### **Private Sales at Club Meetings:**

In July we will be making available a small glass covered display case at the front of the room at general meetings. This will be for any individuals who wish to place a maximum of 3 priced items for sale. The items/material must be named along with the sellers name. Members who wish to purchase any item must deal with the owner to arrange the transaction. The usual 10% sales commission to the club will apply. If exhibit numbers exceed the space available we will arrange a solution.

### **Monthly Competition for June:**

There is no Monthly Competition for June as it is the AGM and certificates and cups will be presented to the winners of the 2024-2025 monthly competitions.

### **Matariki project:**

Just a reminder that you need to have your '*creation*' completed for the July meeting. (see the May newsletter for more info)

### **Monthly Competition Results for May**

Ranking	Lapidary: Own work; Pseudomorph Agate	Fossil: Fern	Mineral: Kyanite (overseas)	Alphabet Cup: A state or country starting with (J,P,H)	Bring N Brag:
1	John Taylor	Bob McKelvey	Zena Wilson	Ava Wilson	Robin Hall
2	Alice Watson	John Taylor	John Taylor	Zena Wilson	John Dugmore
3	Jaymee Allnutt	Lidsay Day	Ava Wilson	Lindsay Day	Don Stanley
4	Lindsay Day		Lindsay Day	Errol Hitt	
5					
6					
7					

### **Club Show:**

Mark your calendars for September 20 - 21st. A sub committee has been formed to organise our annual show here at the clubrooms.

### **Club Membership Fees:**

Members need to be paid up before the club AGM on the 12th June. Club fees are \$5 higher after the 31st May. An online membership form is attached to the bottom of the newsletter.

### **Missing Books/Library Update:**

Just a wee reminder that some books that have been borrowed, haven't been returned. If you have one, we'd love to see it again soon!

We also have 20 new catalogued books ready for people to borrow!

**Unreturned books:**

New Zealand Gemstones, Carolyn Bentley - (July 2024)

New Zealand Gemstones, Paul Breakwell - (July 2024)

New Zealand Gemstones, Kent Deverson - (July 2024)

Rockhound Walkabout , Nicci Quinn - (Feb 2024)

Agates of New Zealand - (Sept 2024)

The Kiwi Hunters Handbook, Drew Whittle - (Feb 2024).

## **The 2nd Crystals and Crafts Market!**

Members of the Canterbury Mineral and Lapidary club are set to host the 2nd Crystals and Craft Market. This unique gathering promises an exciting array of offerings from 22 talented vendors, bringing together both the Canterbury Mineral Club members and the enthusiastic public.

At the heart of the market lies a stunning selection of rocks and crystals. Enthusiasts and collectors alike will have the opportunity to explore a diverse range of wonders.

Beyond the mineral marvels, the market boasts a wide variety of artisanal products from leather work to incense, from baked goods to paintings.

The Crystals and Crafts Market is more than just a shopping experience; it's a celebration of creativity and community. Whether you're a seasoned collector, a curious newcomer, or simply in search of unique gifts, this market offers something for everyone. Join us for a day of discovery, connection, and inspiration in the heart of Christchurch.



**CRYSTALS & CRAFTS  
MARKET**

*Crystals, Polished Stones  
&  
Handmade Crafts*

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

*10 a.m-3 p.m*

*110 Waltham Road, Waltham, Christchurch*  
*(Next to Waltham School)*  
*Street Parking*  
*Bring Cash*

## Hotel History of the CMLC

- Written by Anna Baker

Did you hear we once had our very own hotel in Blackball?

Two of our CMLC members, recently in the area of Blackball, found evidence located at the back of the hotel of the club's historic connections to Blackball. (They did ask for permission before snooping around)

Blackball, a pint-sized town on New Zealand's South Island West Coast, is just a hop and skip (29 km) away from Greymouth. It's got a spicy political past with mine strikes, but that's a tale for another day. Today, let's dive into the historic pub formerly known as the Blackball Lodge, the Dominion Hotel, BlackBall Hilton and now the Formerly the Blackball Hilton Hotel.

Initially, Blackball was a pit stop for gold-hungry adventurers, but by 1893, it morphed into a coal-mining hub. Fast forward to the swinging '60s, and mining wasn't the cash cow it used to be. With tech changing the game and coal demand dropping, the mine shut in 1964, leaving behind a ghost town. From a bustling 830 residents, the population shrank to 331 by 1971.

Meanwhile, back in Christchurch, 1964 saw the birth of The Canterbury Mineral and Lapidary Club. But Blackball was hitting a rough patch, and the Dominion Hotel closed its doors. In a quirky farewell, the hotel license was ceremoniously buried in the basement by the retiring Mrs. Fleming at 10 pm, with a crowd of onlookers.

Enter the Lapidary Club, swooping in like superheroes in July 1968 to snatch up the rundown hotel for a whopping \$551.50, turning it into a rock-hunting HQ for those going over to the West Coast.

A club member, Chris, recalls the hotel's purchase tales, musing, "It either came with a gold claim or we snagged it because of the claim." He also vividly remembers the Inangahua quake in 1968, with his metal bed doing a jig at 5:30 a.m.

Constructed in 1910 by publican Jas Irvine, The Dominion Hotel thrived during Blackball's coal boom, serving as a hub for miners. Over time, it changed hands and names—most notably in the 1970s when Mike Graham dubbed it the Blackball Hilton. Fast forward to 1994, when a legal nudge from Hilton Hotels led to its current name: Formerly The Blackball Hilton. It now has earned a spot as a Category 2 historic landmark.

Nowadays, current CMCL members might spot a rock display at the pub's entrance. When asked, owner Cynthia said, "The rocks were just on a table, so when we revamped the restaurant, we gave them a cabinet home. We don't know if they are remnants of the club's days here".

Are these rock stars relics from our club's hotel-owning days? Someone out there might have the scoop! Check out this historic hotel below or if you're in the area. You may want to try some of their delicious food, or stand by the fire to warm yourself up a little, with maybe a pint to keep you hydrated



**New cabinet showcasing old rocks, possibly found by old club members!**

<https://www.facebook.com/FormerlyTheBlackballHilton/>

<https://blackballhilton.co.nz/>





John Baker finds a familiar logo!



Hard working club members painting the roof of the old clubroom



1969 club photograph

## COMING EVENTS:

### New Zealand

**National Gem, Rock & Mineral show 2025;** 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October; Plymouth International Hotel; 220 Courtney St; Central New Plymouth

**CMLC Show 2025;** 20 – 21<sup>st</sup> September; 110 Waltham Road, Christchurch

**Crystals & Crafts Market Day 2025;** 5<sup>th</sup> July 10am – 3pm; 110 Waltham Road, Christchurch



## Why not join our Club?

Come along to a meeting or a field trip and see how you enjoy it! If you wish to join please fill in the following details.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Phone: ..... (Evenings)

Phone: ..... (Daytime, if appropriate)

Email address .....

Areas of interest .....

.....

**All membership is subject to committee approval**

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES (#3)

(Valid from April 1st (#2))

Family \$65 ☐

Individual \$50 ☐

Country (#1) \$40 ☐

Student \$35 ☐

### Newsletter Delivery method

Email ☐

Hardcopy ☐

I/We understand that my name and contact details, phone and email, will be published on the Membership Contact list."

YES ☐ NO ☐

1. Country membership is calculated on living further than 32km from Cathedral Square Christchurch
2. Membership year is calculated from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March.
3. **Subscription rates are halved from 1<sup>st</sup> November through to 31<sup>st</sup> March**

## GEMSTONE & FOSSIL MUSEUM

67 HILLVIEW ROAD,  
BIRDLINGS FLAT

Owners: Vince & Colleen Burke

Phone: (03) 329 0812

Email: [gemstonemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:gemstonemuseum@gmail.com)

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

# HETTIE'S ROCK & CRYSTAL SHOP

**Birdwood Ave, Beckenham, Christchurch.**

**Also: Akaroa and Queenstown**

Also: Akaroa and Queenstown