

# THE CMLC NEWS

## The Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club Inc. Newsletter for May 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.]

General Meeting (7.30pm): 8<sup>th</sup> May

Committee Meeting (7pm): 15<sup>th</sup> May

Micro Mineral Meeting: Tuesday evenings (7 pm)

Workshops: Every Tuesday evenings, 6.30 p.m.

### Welcome New Members:

Henry Smith, Blake Finney, Paikea Bennett, Greg Lilly, Shane Peters, Dave Curtis and Campbell Potter.

### The May Meeting:

Chris Thian will speak about his trip to Tucson. Tucson is one of the largest USA gem and mineral shows in the world. There may also be a University student speaker.

### Field Trip:

The May field trip may be a trip to Whitecliffs on May 10<sup>th</sup> to search for agates and petrified wood. This is yet to be confirmed.

### May Auction:

This auction includes material from Don Stanley.

### Monthly Competition for May:

Lapidary: Own work; Pseudomorph agate

Fossil: Fern

Mineral: Overseas kyanite

Alphabet Cup: A state or country starting with J, P or H

Bring and Brag: Be prepared to talk about it.

## Monthly Competition Results for April

| Ranking | Lapidary: Own work; Overseas Thunderegg | Fossil: Teredo Wood | Mineral: Aquamarine | Alphabet Cup: A state or country starting with (G, L, I) | Bring N Brag:        |
|---------|---|---------------------|---------------------|--|----------------------|
| 1       | John Taylor                             | Lindsay Day         | John Taylor         | Zena Wilson  | Don Stanley          |
| 2       | Lindsay Day                             | John Taylor         | Ava Wilson          | Lindsay Day  | Alice Watson         |
| 3       |   |                     | Zena Wilson         | Ava Wilson   | Tessa Mitchell-Anyon |
| 4       |   |                     |                     |  |                      |
| 5       |   |                     |                     |  |                      |
| 6       |   |                     |                     |  |                      |
| 7       |   |                     |                     |  |                      |

### Matariki project:

At the May meeting we will be making available some pieces of garnet schist which Craig McGregor affectionately dubbed 'Matariki Stone'. You are invited to take a piece and transform it into something beautiful, unusual or quirky. At the July meeting, first meeting after Matariki, bring your crafted masterpiece along for display and judging. This will be simply be a simple but meaningful remembrance of Craig's Matariki idea.

### Workshop notes:

Can workshop attendees ensure they have the exact amount of money to cover their workshop fees. It is extremely difficult and time consuming trying to find change for the \$50 notes that are often handed in.

### Crystals and Crafts Market:

The recent Crystals and Craft Market, organised by a few dedicated members of the CMLC, was a resounding success. The event not only drew a substantial crowd but also achieved its financial goals. The funds raised have been put to excellent use, enabling the club to purchase a stack of fold-up 1.8-meter tables. This acquisition is anticipated to bring long-term savings for the club, as there will no longer be a need to hire tables for future small events.

Feedback from vendors and the public was mostly positive, with verbal compliments, emails and comments on our Facebook page. However there is still room for improvement, such as:

- Better ventilation or air conditioning (Quite a few people said it was too hot and stuffy)
- Trouble with EFTPOS and online banking due to wifi and roofing blocking signal
- Parking (not much we can do about this, unless we can use the school grounds)
- Venue is easy to pass by when driving, could we have a flag outside the venue?

These critiques will be addressed for future events.



While the excitement for more markets is palpable, the club is also gearing up for its annual show. This event is a highlight of the club's calendar and requires meticulous planning. Stay tuned for more updates and announcements regarding our next event, we may just squeeze in one more market before the Gem show. Join our Facebook page to stay up-to-date!

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Canterbury-Mineral-and-Lapidary-Club-100064175581041/>



#### **June AGM:**

June 12th is our AGM. Paul Scofield from the Canterbury Museum will be our speaker. Paul will likely be speaking along the lines of fossils and prehistoric life in New Zealand.

#### **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.

#### **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

## From the book 'Moa: The life and death of New Zealand's legendary bird'

- Quinn Berentson

'87 Pounds Weight Of Gold!' bellowed the front page of *The Otago Daily Times* on 16 August 1862, and underneath:

Yesterday afternoon two men went to the Treasury, Dunedin, and deposited a bag of gold weighing eighty-seven pounds. They declined to say where they had obtained this rich parcel, but stated there was room for plenty more men where they had been working...

The two prospectors, an American named Horatio Hartley and Irishman Christopher Reilly, refused out-right to say where they got the gold from, until paid a reward of £2000. After negotiations with the Provincial Council of Otago, they were promised their bounty and the two prospectors told an extraordinary tale that would transform Central Otago and provide those who studied the moa of New Zealand with the most extraordinary specimens of the giant birds that have ever been found.

Hartley and Reilly's bonanza was not the first taste of gold fever – a major goldfield had been discovered the year before, near the town of Lawrence, and named after its discoverer Gabriel Read. Thousands of men had already travelled to Gabriels Gully, as it was only a relatively short journey from Dunedin, and the port town's hospitality and supplies. Hartley and Reilly, however, were both veteran gold miners from California who shunned the crowds of treasure-seekers swarming around Lawrence and quietly hit the jackpot 40km away in the Cromwell Gorge. It appeared the entire 30-kilometre length of the Clutha where it roared through the sheer chasm was loaded with the precious metal. Hartley and Reilly's thousand ounces of gold had been almost ridiculously easy to obtain – after breaking their only shovel and pan, they brought an old tin plate from a sheep farmer and using that and their bare hands, were still able to amass a fortune. They spent two months quietly panning only the richest spots they could find, not seeing another soul but aware that any day, someone else could stumble across their El Dorado, and eventually sneaked their 40-kilogram sack of gold quietly into Dunedin to the astonishment of everyone in the province. The riches of Central Otago were secret no more.

A few days after the Dunstan goldfield was officially proclaimed, every available foot of the riverbank in the Cromwell Gorge was pegged out in the standard sized 24-square-foot claim, and as the first reports spread of the ridiculous amount of gold in the river, the 'Dunstan Rush' began in earnest. Tens of thousands of people across New Zealand, Australia, the British Isles and North America suddenly stopped what they were doing, abandoned their lives, and often their families, and abruptly took off to somewhere called 'The Dunstan' – The most isolated part of the most remote country on Earth.

The *Otago Witness* reported in August 1862, just days after the news had hit, that in Dunedin 'building operations are almost at a standstill; clerks, craftsmen and labourers are all going or going to the diggings. Ships were abandoned at the crowded wharves of Port Chalmers, beers lay half-poured in the pubs and even the same Dunedin City councillors that had officially announced the gold rush, promptly quit their positions and joined in. Many of the first diggers were hardened campaigners like Hartley and Reilly - veterans of the previous rushes in California and Australia, and they immediately set off. Every Tent, pair of boots, metal pan and loaf of bread in Dunedin flew off the shelves and into the hills. But many gold hunters left the city virtually empty handed, hopelessly unprepared for the challenging climate and elements they would have to face in the Otago hinterland, yet compelled to find gold at all costs. This desire had been written about since ancient Roman times and was known in Latin as *Auri scra fames*, or 'The accursed hunger for gold'.



### CMLC Nomination Form

I would like to nominate .....  
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 Nominee .....

**Give or post this form to the secretary**

"Nominations for Officers and Committee shall be signed by the proposer and Seconder and Nominee, and shall be lodged with the Secretary one week before the Annual General Meeting"

### 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

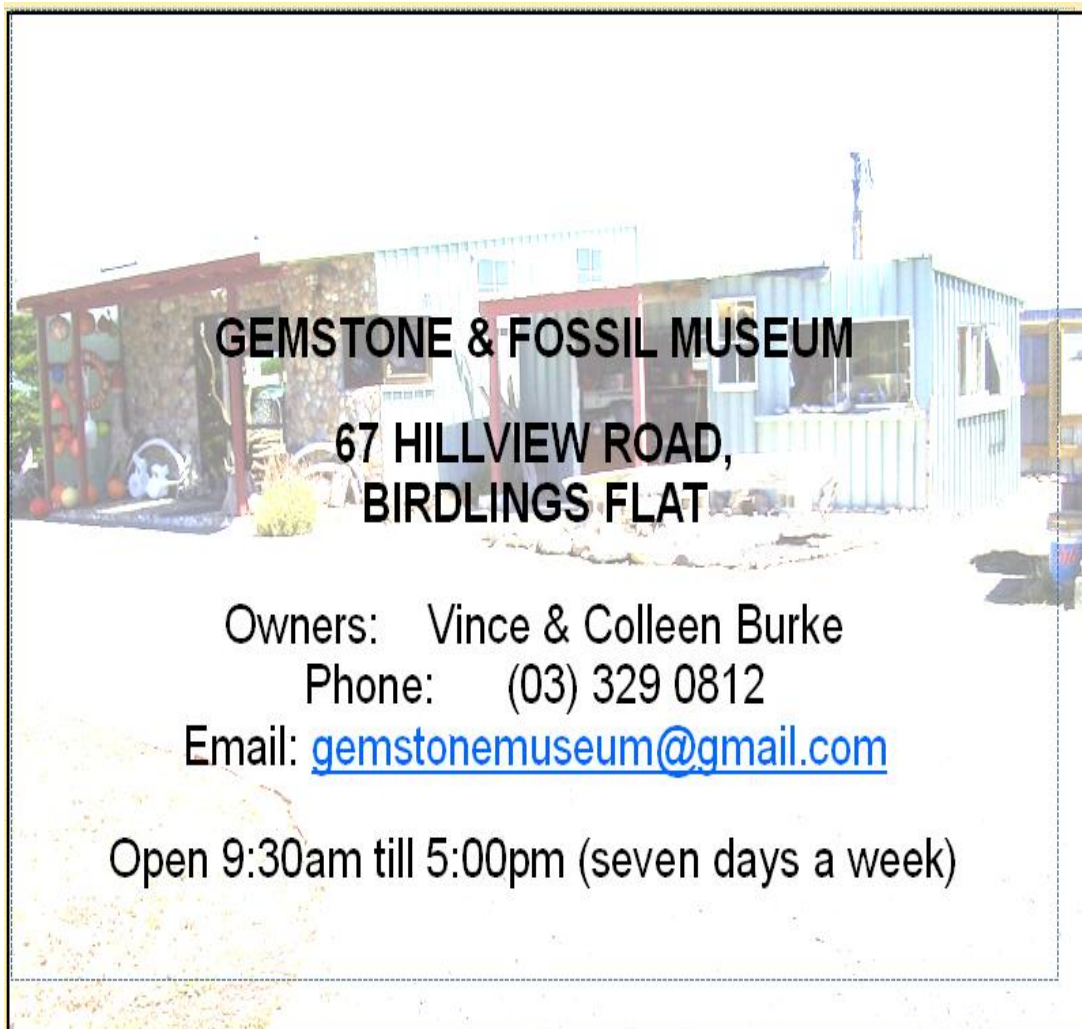
Email ☐

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**

