

THE CMLC NEWS

The Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club Inc. Newsletter for September 2025



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Meeting Venue & Clubrooms: 110 Waltham Road, Waltham, Christchurch 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of the month [Feb. to Nov.]

Monthly Meeting (7.30pm): 11th September

Committee Meeting (7pm): 18th September

Micro Mineral Meeting: Tuesday evenings (7 pm)

Workshops: Every Tuesday, Friday evenings, 6.30/7:00pm – 9:00pm

Welcome New Members:

David Chivers and Gloria Grace

The September Meeting: Tessa Mitchell-Anyon will be giving a talk on her trip to Rakiura/Stewart island

Field Trip: The September field trip will be for the annual CLMC gem show on the 20th and 21st of September!

September Auction: Julian Twiss will be selling agates, crystals and an assortment of international stones

Slab Saw for sale: Julian Twiss has a Lortone 18-inch slab saw with a new Greenline highland park blade. It is for sale at \$4000. If you're interested, please contact Julian at 027461463, or email at Julian.twiss@naiharcourts.co.nz



CMLC Gem Show

The countdown begins as we are now weeks away from the annual gem show! Save the dates on your calendar and be sure to check out this incredible gem show at the Waltham Rd clubroom this month!

Chucky Trailer: We will be having our always popular chucky trailer as usual. If you have any rough material you are looking to get rid of, please bring it along to a general meeting or workshop evening so we can fill the chucky trailer.

Showcases: If you are interested in having a showcase at the show, please let John Taylor know.

Stallholders: We still have space outside for a few small tables so please get in touch with us if you would like to be part of the show and sell some material! cmlclub@chch.planet.org.nz

Volunteers: If you can spare some free time to help out with the show, please email cmlclub@chch.planet.org.nz to find a role that suits you best. We cannot do this without all you wonderful people's support!

Raffle: We are looking for donations for raffle prizes. If you have anything you are willing to donate, please bring it along to a monthly meeting and give it to Val Lear, or a member of the committee to pass along. This is always a good fundraising activity for the club so any donations are greatly appreciated.

CANTERBURY MINERAL AND LAPIDARY CLUB

GEM SHOW

SAT 20TH SEPT 9 AM-4 PM

SUN 21ST SEPT 10 AM-4 PM

PLEASE BRING CASH

110 WALTHAM RD
CHRISTCHURCH

- SHOWCASES
- STALLS
- KIDS COMPETITION
- REFRESHMENTS
- RAFFLES
- CHUCKY TRAILER

ADULTS-GOLD COIN ENTRY
KIDS UNDER 16 FREE



There are currently some incredible raffle prizes to be won! As you can see, there are top shelf agates from New Zealand and overseas, as well as fossils such as high quality toredo wood from Otago and a very special Matariki stone Sphere which was expertly crafted by club member, Robin Hall



Letter from the Competition Judge

Hello all newsletter readers!

Many thanks to all those who entered into the August competition, I was absolutely delighted with how well it went. I asked for more material, new, unusual, and even a little strange, and you certainly delivered! For the first time in a long while, our competition table was completely packed with weird and wonderful objects.

Of course, this made my role as judge a real challenge, but it was a challenge I thoroughly enjoyed. My personal favourites from the night were Malcolm's large fossilised Tampa Bay coral and John Taylor's polished variscite.

I'd love to see this month's table just as full, if not fuller. The competition is a fantastic way to showcase what's out there to new members, and it's also a great source of inspiration for anyone planning their next fossick or purchase.

I hope you enjoyed last month's entries as much as I did, and I look forward to seeing your name among the entries at our upcoming meeting.

Stay safe, and happy fossicking!

- Kamen Engel, Secretary.



A lovely agate in the centre, with Aotea stone bottom left, and Norwegian Thulite on the right!



Amazing agatised fossil corals for the fossil section of the August competition!

Monthly Competition Results for August

| Ranking | Lapidary own work: Any tumbled stone | Fossil: Fossil coral | Mineral: Something blue or green | Alphabet cup: State or country starting with (E, N) | Agate Arena: Any Magpie | Bring N Brag |
|---------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Scott Hardwick | Malcolm Luxton | John Taylor | Malcolm Luxton | Tyler McBeth | Paul Morgan |
| 2 | Robin Hall | Rosalie Clarke | Chris Thian | Chris Thian | Malcolm Luxton | Scott Hardwick |
| 3 | Campbell Potter | Ava Wilson | Scott Hardwick | John Taylor | Lindsay Day | Lindsay Day |
| 4 | Chris Thian | Chris Thian | Campbell Potter | Zena Wilson | John Taylor | Don McLaughlin |
| 5 | Zena Wilson | Lindsay Day | Tracey Freeborn | Ava Wilson | Ron Poskitt | |
| 6 | John Taylor | Zena Wilson | Tessa Mitchell-Anyon | Rosalie Clarke | Nate van Hout | |
| 7 | Tessa Mitchell-Anyon | John Taylor | Lindsay Day | Ron Poskitt | Robin Hall | |
| 8 | Malcolm Luxton | Tessa Mitchell-Anyon | Zena Wilson | Lindsay Day | Ava Wilson | |
| 9 | Lindsay Day | Ron Poskitt | Ava Wilson | | | |
| 10 | Rosalie Clarke | | | | | |
| 11 | Ava Wilson | | | | | |
| 12 | Ron Poskitt | | | | | |

Upcoming Competitions for 2025/2026:

| Category | Lapidary <u>own work</u> | Fossil | Mineral | Alphabet cup: State or country starting with () | Agate arena |
|----------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|------------------|
| Sep-25 | Two halves of anything | Any tooth | Any form of quartz | I, S | Parallax |
| Oct-25 | Obsidian or Rhyolite | Any fossil | Agate with mineral inclusions (sagenite, dendrites, etc) | G, R | Any Whitecliffs |
| Nov-25 | Pounamu | Fossil wood | Garnet | E, A, T | Floater |
| Feb-26 | Any polished geode | Something from Otago | Olivine | O, L, B | Any Mt Somers |
| Mar-26 | Any sphere | Something marine | Any lead mineral | Q, F | Tubes/plumes |
| Apr-26 | Flint/Chert | Trilobite | Tourmaline | W, U | Any Otago |
| May-26 | Carnelian | Something from Canterbury | Any form of calcite | Y, P, V | Any uncut nodule |

Monthly Competition for September:

Lapidary: Two halves of anything

Fossil: Any fossil tooth

Mineral: Any form of quartz

Alphabet Cup: I, S

Agate Arena: An agate with parallax effect (Shadow banding)

Bring and Brag: Be prepared to talk about it.

Auction Action

For those who couldn't make it, we recently held the third and final major auction of the late Craig McGregor's collection. I wasn't keeping count but the turnout was fantastic with what seemed like over 30 attendees filling the room! This was a huge effort to organise, and I'd like to thank everyone who came along to support Craig's family and the club.

There were some lively bidding wars, great deals, and plenty of fun. If you missed out, don't worry as Craig's son, Alistair, will have a stall at the club show in September, offering another chance to pick up some quality material.

Many thanks to those who helped organise and coordinate the event, especially John Baker for being the main point of contact between Craig's family and the club, and John Taylor for running the auction so seamlessly.

Keep your eyes on the newsletter for more auction action in future and we hope to see you at one of the next events!

- Kamen Engel, Secretary.



What are meteorites?

Meteorites are pieces of space debris which, having survived a fiery journey through the atmosphere, land on the earth's surface. They provide much of our knowledge of the origin and evolution of the solar system. Apart from a few kilograms of rock brought back from the moon by astronauts, meteorites are the only material from beyond the earth available for study.

Meteoroid, meteor or meteorite?

A meteoroid is a piece of rock or space debris in our solar system. If it enters the earth's atmosphere, it becomes visible as a meteor – a bright, moving trail of light, commonly called a 'shooting star'.

If the object survives its blazing plunge through the atmosphere and lands on the surface of the earth, it is called a meteorite.

What are meteorites made of?

Meteorites are divided into two groups: stony meteorites (stones) and iron meteorites (irons).

Stony meteorites are the most common, and are composed of silicate minerals, similar to volcanic rocks found on earth. Many contain tiny spheres (chondrules), which have been formed by the rapid cooling and solidification of molten droplets. These distinctive stony meteorites are known as chondrites (pronounced 'kon-drites'). Their chemical composition closely matches that of the sun.

Iron meteorites are heavy and look different from normal rocks, so they tend to be picked out as unusual. They resist weathering, although they are often rusty on the outside. Most iron meteorites contain 7–15% nickel. Fun fact, the easiest way to debunk most meteorite fakes is to look at the nickel content. Very few rocks on earth contain such high percentages of nickel. The curious and distinctive markings revealed by cutting and etching are intergrowths of metal crystals called Widmanstätten structures.

Falls and finds

Meteorites that have been observed landing are classified as falls; those which have been discovered later, on or beneath the earth's surface, are called finds. Thousands of meteorites land on earth every year, but only five or six are ever found. Meteorites are named after the place where they are found.

| Name | Date Found | Region | Finder | Classification | Type |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Wairarapa | 1863 | Wairarapa | W.H. Donald | Stony (chondrite) | Find |
| Makarewa | 1879 | Southland | A. & I. Marshall | Stony (chondrite) | Find |
| Mokoia | 1908 | Wanganui | W. Syme | Stony (carbonaceous chondrite) | Fall |
| Morven | 1925 | Canterbury | W. Stewart | Stony (chondrite) | Find |
| View Hill | 1953 | Canterbury | C.G. Anderson | Iron | Find |
| Waingaromia | 1970 | Gisborne | H. Reeves | Iron | Find |
| Dunganville | 1976 | West Coast | T. Downey | Iron | Find |
| Kimbolton | 1976 | Manawatu | R.H. de Rose | Stony (chondrite) | Find |
| Ellerslie | 2004 | Auckland | B. & P. Archer | Stony (chondrite) | Fall |

Meteorite falls and finds in New Zealand

This table lists the two meteorites that have been seen to fall, and those that have been found, in New Zealand. Full information about falls and finds around the world, including technical details on each meteorite, is given in the *Catalogue of meteorites*, published by Cambridge University Press.

View Hill meteorite

The View Hill meteorite was found in North Canterbury in 1953. Its surface has been etched with weak acid to show the cross-hatch pattern of Widmanstätten structures, a typical feature of iron meteorites. The lines have been formed by the intergrowth of the nickel-iron minerals kamacite and taenite, as the original rock slowly cooled. Each green bar on the scale represents 1 centimetre.



The meteorite found at View Hill in 1953



New Zealand Meteorites

These are the casts of meteorites found in New Zealand, showing how they vary in colour and size. Each green bar along the top of the scale represents 1 centimetre.

Recorded meteorites in New Zealand

This map shows the location of meteorites that have landed in New Zealand. Only those which have been checked and authenticated by the Meteoritical Society, in the USA, are included.



HETTIE'S
ROCK & CRYSTAL SHOP

Birdwood Ave, Beckenham, Christchurch.

Also: Akaroa and Queenstown

Also: Akaroa and Queenstown



Attention CMLC members: If you would like contribute to the CMLC newsletter, you're more than welcome to send in a report and photos of your recent rock-hounding trip. If you are interested, please send an email with the provided content to tyler__@hotmail.co.nz for a feature in future editions

For interest: Life time club member Chris Wright recommends people to watch 'Outback Crystal Hunters', which is on channel 6 Duke, Thursday 9:55 to 10.50pm

COMING EVENTS:

New Zealand

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

CMLC Show 2025; 20 – 21st
September; 110 Waltham Road,
Christchurch

**SHOW CASES
WE WANT
YOUR
COLLECTION!**

BUT ONLY TO BORROW



email: cmclub@chch.planet.org.nz