

THE CMLC NEWS

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



President – Tessa Mitchell-Anyon : mitchellanyon.tessa@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lynda Alexander: lyndacalexander@gmail.com

Secretary: Kamen Engel : cmlclub@chch.planet.org.nz

Bulletin Editor: Tyler McBeth: tyler_@hotmail.co.nz

Club Mailing Address: 93 Winters Rd, Redwood, Christchurch 8051;

Email: cmlclub@chch.planet.org.nz

Website: www.cmlclub.org.nz

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/canterburyminerallapidaryclub/>

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): 13th November
Annual General Meeting (7.30pm): 11th June 2026
Committee Meeting (7pm): 20th November
Micro Mineral Meeting: Tuesday evenings (7 pm)
Workshops: Every Tuesday, Friday evenings,
6.30/7:00pm – 9:00pm

The November Meeting

Bob McKelvey and David McDonald will be talking
about fossils from the Chatham islands.
The Derverson family will also talk about their trip
fossicking in Australia.

Welcome New Members

Lucas Goodgame
Ngarama Weepy
Steven Gwaliasi
Mary Baycroft
Lynn Timpany
Jesse Kundan
Julia Bradshaw & Eddie Newman
Mandy Wu
Zane Gilmore
Steven Ross
Daniela Rosensteich

November Club Auction

No need to twiss anybody's arm to get a hold of some good rock this month! Julian Twiss has fine material up for grabs. It consists of agate, petrified wood and crystals. There is something for everyone!



Club Field Trip

9th November:

There will be a joint trip alongside the North Otago Rock&Mineral club on the 9th to Nimmos Swamp to dig for beautiful botryoidal agates.

22nd November:

Led by Mr Engel, there will be a short trip around the University of Canterburys geology department.
(More info on field trips below)



Club Pot Luck Lunch

On Saturday 6th of December, our Christmas lunch will be held at the CMLC clubroom at 11:30am. This is a pot-luck lunch, so please bring a main and dessert you wish to share. Please also provide your own cutlery and drinks. There will be a BBQ setup for those with uncooked meat.

Agates Wanted!

Our club is looking for good quality Nimmos Swamp and Stew Point agates for our display cabinets. If you're willing to lend or donate some pieces, you will have your name displayed alongside your generous pieces for all to see! We are also willing to buy material.



Birdwood Ave, Beckenham, Christchurch.

Also: Akaroa and Queenstown



Getting crabby at Motunau beach

For many of us, the allure of going rock-hounding comes as second nature. Yet, despite having hordes of fossil crabs, Scampi, Nauliloids, and miscellaneous bones encapsulated in rock, I still find myself drawn to the beach for another fossick to add to the ever-growing treasure trove of grey mudstones at the side of my house.

“It is an auspicious day for fossils,” declared Morne. Kamen and I both agreed. Motunau is renowned for some amazing finds over the past decades, after all! Several species of beautifully preserved penguin skeletons have been found there in the past, as well as the occasional oddball find, such as monstrous toothed Pelagornithid birds or giant loggerhead turtles, which had been found by Morne himself!

On the drive to Motunau Beach, we stopped off at the Greta Valley Tavern, where Morne generously treated us to lunch. Morne ordered the bangers in mash, and Kamen and I both opted for some delicious pizza.

After lunch, we soon found ourselves on the beach. The wind was light, and the sun was harsh. It's safe to say that plenty of sunblock was needed!



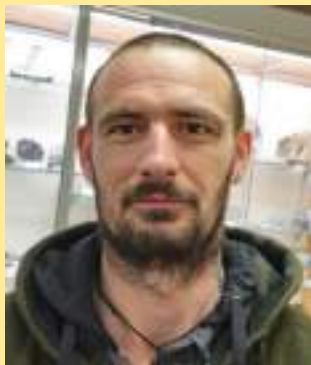
A young *Kamen engelensis* spotted in his natural habitat



This is a male *Trichopeltarion fantasticum*, which is a species that lives off the Kaikoura coastline. It is related to one of the extinct fossil crabs you can find at Motunau beach

Meet The CMLC

Chris Thian



When did you start your rockhounding adventure?

In 2016, Andrew from Hetties rock shop recommended I go to the CMLC meeting and see what the fuss was about, and soon after I attended a trip to Whitecliffs.

What lead you to join the CMLC and how long ago did you join?

After my first Whitecliffs trip in 2016, I joined the club, and that's where it started.

Which type of rock/mineral is your favourite and why?

Amethyst stalactite slices from Uruguay because you hardly ever see them around and aren't often for sale.

Do you have any other hobbies outside of rock-hounding/lapidary, and if so, what are they?

I attend hot-rod shows and burnout competitions all around the south island with a friend in a 650HP Holden HQ!

What is your favourite rock hounding memory or story?

Last year at a Whitecliffs trip, I threw out an agate that I thought was rubbish. I went back and had a look at it. I washed it, took it home and it saw there was amethyst in it. I cut it open and there it was!

As we started searching on the beach, it wasn't long before Morne found a nice crab fossil. Soon after, I discovered a piece of bone "It looks like the process of a whale vert", I said, as I secured the rock within my bag. We continued our stroll along the seafront, keeping a watchful eye on the treacherous cliffs above. The fossil crab finds came in readily from then on, although most were damaged and not worth preparing.

The two most common species of crab we find at Motunau are piecrust crabs (*Metacarcinus novaezelandiae*) and *Trichopeltarion greggi*, which is an extant genus of spider crab.

Once we had arrived back at the car, we were exhausted, thirsty and craving ice cream; we were all satisfied on the fossil front, with each of us bagging several keepers each. Kamen had a couple he wanted to test out a freeze and thaw technique to naturally pop open a couple of crab concretions, which turned out to work marvellously. Kamens' patience eventually revealed a *Trichopeltarion* carapace or 'crab hat', and possibly a *Tumidocarcinus* crab, which would be rare for the locality.

- Tyler McBeth



Before and after. This is the result of one of the crabs that Kamen froze and thawed. It took three days and 6 cycles before they cracked open! Kamens efforts revealed a *Trichopeltarion greggi* carapace!

Nimmos Swamp Field Trip

When

Sunday 9th of November (Subject to change, based on water levels in lagoon).

Where/Contact

Nimmos swamp is located near Moeraki. If you wish to attend, please contact Julian Twiss at 0274361463 and he will provide the meeting location.

Transport

You will have to arrange your own transport. It is a drive that tends to take over 3 hours each way.

What to expect

This is a swampy lagoon in coastal Otago on a private farm, where you will be digging in mud and slop to extract botryoidal seam agates with the occasional Moa bone if you're fortunate enough.

Hazards

The mud may cause one to lose their balance. At least you will land on a soft surface if this happens!

Fitness requirements

As long as you feel able to dig a deep hole in waterlogged mud, you will be fine.

What to bring

Please bring your own food and water. Old clothes and shoes are ideal, as they will get muddy.

Appropriate clothing for incase it is raining, a shovel, bucket and scrubbing brush. Cash is also needed for paying the farmer per lb of agate. (Fairly cheap).



UC Geology Department Field Trip

When

Saturday 22th November at 10am.

Contact

Please contact Kamen via 0226765713 if you want to come along. The trip will not run unless there is interest from more than 5 or more people.

Where

Parking location - Forestry Road Carpark - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZfycKPE98mYPcA3XA>

Meeting Location - At the rock garden - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/oJBHr95NVTk7xEbw6>

What to expect

An estimated 1-hour field trip. It involves a browse through a rock garden, a nosy through the thin section and rock processing labs, a womble through the SEM and microscope room, and a meander into the first-year teaching room (Display and sample storage).

Hazards

Trips, slips, falls, small rooms, rock processing equipment and uni students!



Nimmos Swamp agates are known for dark colouration, botryoidal outside, and the occasional plumes

Heart Restarter Purchase

The CMLC is happy to announce that Pub Charity has kindly provided us with funding to purchase an Automatic External Defibrillator or 'AED' for short from St John. Thank you to Kamen and Lynda for organising this, and Chris Thian for installing it on the wall next to the toilets. This device requires no training to use and comes with directions on how to turn it on. Once turned on, the AED will explain how it can be used effectively in an emergency. Once again, a huge thanks to Pub Charity for sponsoring this potentially life-saving device.



2025 CMLC Annual Quiz night

With the seemingly annual club quiz night coming up, Tessa, Liam, Kamen and your favourite CMLC newsletter editor got to work to create an exciting event that everybody would enjoy. We had so much fun coming up with ideas and questions that would incorporate variety and interest, and with a cheeky bit of humour thrown in, also.

The day finally arrived. After the general business of the club meeting was said and done, we set up our presentation with the questions being displayed on the screen, arranged people into teams, and got started. We were all pleased with the turnout. Over 40 club members and visitors attended and were arranged into five teams of 7 or 8 people each. There were roughly 30 seconds per question, 7 rounds with 7 questions, and a total of 52 points to achieve. At the end of each round, there was a vague 'Ponderous puzzle' question where you had to guess the rock based on the clues.

Kamen and I read the questions and answers, while Liam and Tessa were busy in the workshop playing teacher by marking each team's work! Every team did great, but it was team 'Porphyry' that took the win by 1 point. Talk about cutting it close!

The feedback was good. It seems that some people found the questions quite difficult, even those versed in particular fields. Perhaps next year, the organisers can refrain from making people's heads bleed with super tough questions!



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rockheads	6	3½	3½	2	4½	2	3	<
Rock Gods	5½	5	2½	5	4½	2	4	+1
Blue Bunnies	4½	5	4½	4½	3½	2	5	x
3	6½	5	4½	1	4	4	5½	x
Petrified	5	1	4	2	3½	3½	3	x
Porphyry	7½	5	5½	2½	3½	1	3½	4½

'Porphyry' (Bottom middle of photo on the left) secured the win by one point! Congratulations to Zane, Steven, Rory, Scott, Cecile, Kent and Lindsay.

Please Help Find This Member

If you are or if anybody knows G. Harvey, please contact them or let send an email to: cmlclub@chch.planet.org.nz
We don't have any of their contact details.

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 ONO. If you're interested, please contact Julian at 0274361463, or email at julian.twiss@naiharcourts.co.nz



Monthly Competition Results for October

Ranking	Lapidary own work: Obsidian or Rhyolite	Fossil: Any Fossil	Mineral: Agate with mineral inclusions	Alphabet cup: State or country starting with (G, R)	Agate Arena: Any Whitecliffs	Bring N Brag
1	Robin Hall	Chris Thian	John Taylor	Lindsay Day	Chris Thian	Jeoff Antony
2	Chris Thian	John Taylor	Chris Thian	Ava Wilson	John Taylor	
3	Lindsay Day	Robin Hall	Robin Hall	Zena Wilson	Zena Wilson	
4	Don Stanley	Don Stanley	Lindsay Day		Robin Hall	
5		Jeoff Antony			Harry Kitson	
6		Lindsay Day			Ava Wilson	
7					Lindsay Day	

Competitions for 2025/2026:

Category	Lapidary <u>own</u> <u>work</u>	Fossil	Mineral	Alphabet cup: State or country starting with ()	Agate arena
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 November:

Lapidary: Any Pounamu

Fossil: Fossil wood (Will also include fossil tree fern and forest floor)

Mineral: Garnet

Alphabet Cup: E, A, T

Agate Arena: Floater (Agate suspended in quartz)

Bring and Brag: Be prepared to talk about it.