THE CMLC NEWS

The Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club Inc. Newsletter for October 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.]

Annual General Meeting (7.30pm): 9th October
Committee Meeting (7pm): 16th October
Micro Mineral Meeting: Tuesday evenings (7 pm)
Workshops: Every Tuesday, Friday evenings, 6.30/7:00pm – 9:00pm

Welcome New Members:
Mark McCallum, Seung Hee Hong family, Trich Allen, G Harvey, Ian Fryer, Jess & Peter Hey, Robin & Lisa Pearce, John Whitford and Derrick Whitford

The October Meeting: Swot up your skills for the October CMLC quiz night!

Field Trip: This month's field trip is to Otago to look for Rhodonite at Akatore on Sunday, the 26th - More info below.

This will not be your usual club auction! There are some great quality crystals up for grabs

June Auction: Jenny Grundy's collection of agates and other lovely minerals will be up for sale at this months general meeting.

Show Time!

A Newsworthy Event

With the 2025 CLMC annual show looming closer, advertisements of the coming event were drawing attention all over social media of what's in store for those who attend. These advertisement tactics certainly paid off, as it wasn't long until TVNZ1 caught wind and planned to visit the showroom for a promo of the upcoming Gem Show and the club itself.

Anna and Kamen both spoke to reporter, Charlotte Mulder from the breakfast show. Anna gave the show a great plug and described the gist of the show flawlessly; meanwhile show vendor Kamen Engel provided a captivating insight on the world of photographing thin sections of rock. No doubt the viewers were astonished by Kamen's ability to grind down rock to an impressive width of 0.03mm. That's a seriously thin slab!

Success! The Two-Day Gem Show

The two-day Gem Show was a tremendous success, and was even featured on TVNZ morning program. We experienced a consistent flow of attendees throughout the two-day event, allowing everyone to browse comfortably without feeling overcrowded and uncomfortable.

Both the public and vendors provided excellent verbal feedback on how well the show went. Although we faced a minor setback with predictions of red/orange gale-force winds for Sunday, but all the stallholders came together to adapt, reorganising the workshop space and removing showcases to accommodate outside vendors.

We showcased a diverse range of stalls, featuring vendors from Marlborough, the West Coast, and many of our local club members.

The OG homie with a banger!

The kids' quiz kept both young and old engaged as they searched for answers. The trailer filled with rocks was a popular attraction, and our volunteers remained busy throughout the event.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the vendors for their participation, with a special shout-out to those who travelled from afar. A big thank you goes to Tania (coffebug) for providing us with delicious coffee and to Haydene (Bestbaking_nz) for keeping both vendors and attendees well-fed throughout the day. We also

want to express our gratitude to Kamen and his partner Mya, for stepping up to handle night security. As usual, we want to thank our trusty volunteers who rose to the occasion and gave up their time to make the 2 days successful and to Val for organising the Raffle and Glen for donning his overalls to do some deep cleaning after the event.

Event organiser Anna Baker, organising a beautiful display of amethyst

We hope that if you attended, you found something special to add to your collection, to wear, or to give to someone else.

Looking forward to next year!

Anna and John Baker

- Event Organisers

Agates wanted! The 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 the material if necessary.

Club Collab!

The Otago Rock & Mineral club have kindly invited the CMLC members to attend a field trip to Nimmos swamp with them on the 9th of November. If you wish to attend, please contact Julian Twiss at 0274361463

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

Akatore field trip

When: 8:30am, Sunday 26th October. (Labour weekend)

Where: Meet on the south side of the Akatore creek, on Akatore Rd. Click the link for the exact co-ordinates on google maps. https://maps.app.goo.gl/ymkUjm8Pqkc6fx3p7?g_st=afm

Transport: You will need to arrange your own transportation.

Accommodation: You will need to organize this yourself. Considering it is 5 hour drive from Christchurch, you may wish to stay the Saturday night in Dunedin at the Dunedin Motor camp or somewhere else.

Fitness requirements: A low level of fitness is fine.

What to take: Your own food and drink will be needed. Depending on the weather forecast, suitable clothing and sunblock if it is sunny. Safety glasses are crucial. Covered footwear and pants are also helpful to prevent injury when large pieces of rhodonite are broken off. A sledge hammer and rock pick are essential for breaking off rhodonite from the large seam that runs along the beach. You can find beach worn rhodonite nodules on the beach as well.

What to expect: This trip involves breaking pieces off a 1.5m thick rhodonite seam on a rocky beach. Rhodonite is a popular lapidary stone that is known for its high manganese content, and its vibrant black and pink colours.

Contact: Julian Twiss is the field trip leader to contact if you wish to attend.

- 0274361463

Letter from the competition judge

Thanks for everyone who brought along their competition specimens last month. I'm excited to see what you guys have in store for me at the next meeting! I'm especially interested in seeing how you tackle the Lapidary (own work) category of Obsidian or Rhyolite. Good luck to everyone and happy hunting!

Meet The CMLC

Liam Bignell

When did you start your rockhounding adventure?

I started in 2017, that's when I met Tessa!

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

I saw people with cool rock collections and had geology friends at university who were in the rock scene.

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

My favourite are ventifacts because they have a story behind them and feel smooth and are nice to hold.

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

I enjoy collecting recorders and brewing alcohol. I also like playing board games. My favourite at the moment is Azul.

What if your favourite rock hounding memory or story?

My first trip to Nimmo's swamp. It was the first time I found plenty of agates with Tessa. We found nice druzy quartz pieces. I felt like a pig in mud!

Monthly Competition Results for September

Ranking	Lapidary own work: Two Halves	Fossil: Fossil Tooth	Mineral: Any Form of Quartz	Alphabet cup: State or country starting with (I, S)	Agate Arena: Parallax	Bring N Brag
1	Zena Wilson	Rob Lindsay	John Taylor	Malcolm Luxton	Tessa Mitchell-Anyon	Campbell Potter
2	Campbell Potter	Lindsay Day	Malcolm Luxton	Lindsay Day	Malcolm Luxton	Alice Watson
3	Liam Bignell	Malcolm Luxton	Robin Hall	Ava Wilson	John Taylor	Rob Lindsay
4	Robin Hall	Tessa Mitchell-Anyon	Ava Wilson	Zena Wilson	Robin Hall	Paul Morgan
5	Malcolm Luxton	Ava Wilson	Zena Wilson	John Taylor	Alice Watson	
6	John Taylor	Zena Wilson	Alice Watson			
7	Alice Watson		Tessa Mitchell-Anyon			
8	Lindsay Day		Lindsay Day			

Competitions for 2025/2026:

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

Lapidary: Obsidian or Rhyolite
Fossil: Any fossil
Mineral: Agate with mineral inclusions (Sagenite, dendrites, etc)
Alphabet Cup: G, R
Agate Arena: Any Whitecliffs
Bring and Brag: Be prepared to talk about it.

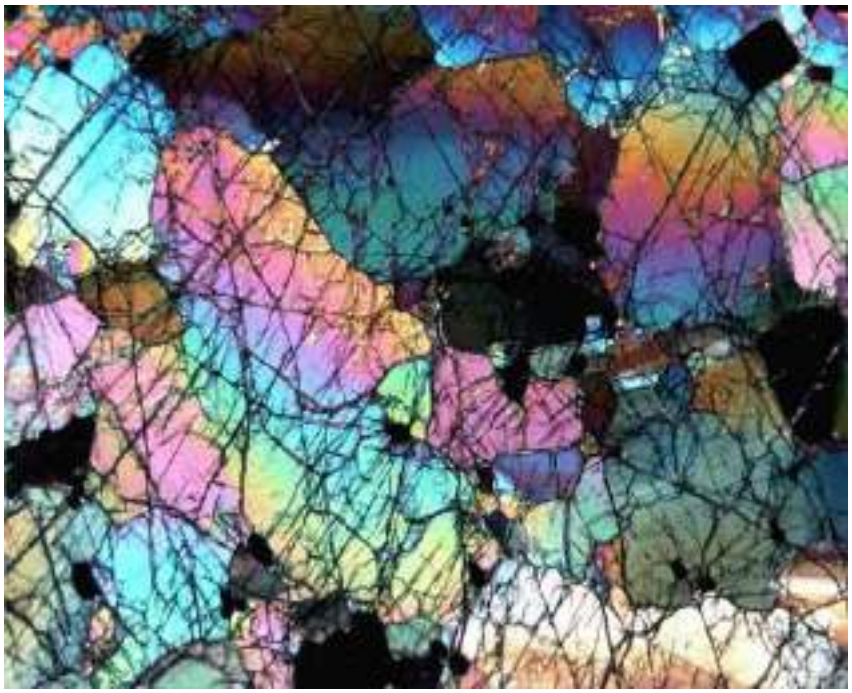
Coming Events:

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

Rocks named in New Zealand

Dunite

When Austrian naturalist Ferdinand Hochstetter visited some chromite workings near Nelson in 1859, recognised that a particular rock was unusual:



This photograph is of a beautiful Dunite thin section

"On approaching the harbour of Nelson from the high sea, a bare mountain ridge is seen rising to a height of about 4000 feet which owes its name 'Dun Mountain' to the rusty-brown colour of its surface. It consists of a very peculiar kind of rock, of yellowish-green colour when recently broken, but turning rusty-brown on the surface when decomposing. The mass of the rock is olivine, containing fine grains of chromate of iron interspersed; it is distinguished from serpentine, for which it was formerly taken, especially by its greater hardness, and its crystalline structure. I have called it Dunite."

Dunite is now the name for rocks composed almost entirely of olivine. It is thought to originate in the mantle, deep within the earth. It occurs only in narrow tectonic zones where mantle rocks have been pushed up into continental crust.

Inventor of names

Geologist Patrick Marshall had a talent for identifying rocks and minerals. He proposed the rock names rodingite and ignimbrite as well as identifying a new mineral he called tuhualite. All these names are still in use today.

Unique to New Zealand, tuhualite was identified by geologist Patrick Marshall in 1932. It is a rare constituent of the distinctive alkali rhyolites of Tūhua (Mayor Island) in the Bay of Plenty. It has also been recorded in volcanic ash on the Coromandel Peninsula, derived from Tūhua. Tuhualite occurs as isolated, tiny violet to deep purple crystals, up to 0.25 millimetres long.

These small purple gems are Tuhualite.

This 5-centimetre piece of Rodingite was collected near the Roding River in Nelson. The creamy coloured material is called hydrogrossular, and is surrounded by grains of pyroxene.

Rodingite

Geologists who examined rocks in the Dun Mountain area in the 19th century recognised unusual coarse-grained bands or dikes cutting across serpentinite. These were given a variety of names. In 1911 geologist Patrick Marshall proposed the term rodingite (after the Roding River), and the name has subsequently been adopted internationally.

Rodingite mainly consists of two calcium silicate minerals: hydrated lime garnet (for which mineralogist Colin Hutton later proposed the name hydrogrossular) and pyroxene. Marshall considered that rodingite was a distinct rock that crystallised from a magma, but later investigators agree that it is a hydrothermally altered rock.

Ignimbrite

The origin of the widespread volcanic rocks that blanket the central part of the North Island was long debated. However, early observers recognised that they were composed of ash and pumice fragments. Similar rocks in the western USA had been called ‘ash-flow tuffs’ or ‘welded tuff’. In 1932 Patrick Marshall coined the name ignimbrite – derived from Latin ignis (fire) and imber (shower). This has gradually gained acceptance. He imagined that ignimbrites were deposited from immense clouds of intensely heated ash and pumice, which would today be called pyroclastic flows.

New Zealand scientists have played a major part in studying ignimbrites – deposits of some of the world’s largest volcanic eruptions.

Goodletite

Rare boulders of a beautiful greenish-grey rock containing ruby and sapphire (corundum), found in glacial gravels near Hokitika, have been informally known as goodletite. Despite numerous searches, the rock has never been found in the place where it was formed. The rubies are not good enough quality to be regarded as gems, but the rock is prized by collectors.

Miners originally discovered the ruby rock. On a visit to the West Coast, around 1892, William Goodlet, a laboratory assistant at the University of Otago, obtained a sample. It was later described by G. H. F. Ulrich, director of the Otago School of Mines. The name goodletite was never formally proposed, but is now in common usage.

Despite more than 100 years of searching, Goodletite has been found only as boulders and never in the place where it was formed.

Ode to a rock hound

Here is an extract from a student poem about William Goodlet, after whom the ruby rock goodletite is named:

He’s the boy who found out rubies
On the west coast of this island,
Found the new stone,
The green matrix,
Goodletite we’ll always call it.
From Tasmanian exhibitions
Come gold medals to our Wullie,
For his minerals awarded.

This map shows the location of minerals and rocks first named in New Zealand.