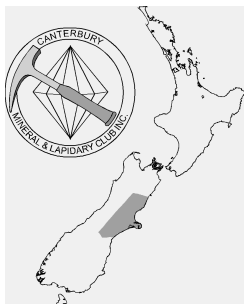


The CMLC News

The Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club Inc

Newsletter for June 2008



President – Dorice Grant.....Phone 3483889

Treasurer – Lynda Alexander.....Phone 3476393

Secretary – Don Stanley.....Phone 3588299

Address: 91b Merrin St, Avonhead, Christchurch 8042

E-Mail: cmlclub@chch.planet.co.nz

Web site: www.cmlclub.org.nz

Meetings Venue & Club Rooms:

110 Waltham Road, Waltham, Christchurch

7.30 pm on the second Thursday of each month

From February to November

“Geology is a capital science to begin with, as it requires nothing but a little reading, thinking and hammering.” *Charles Darwin, 1835.*

NEXT - Geobusters for 31st May is cancelled

Micro Mineral Meeting: Wednesday 4th June 2008 at 7.30 PM

Annual General Meeting: Thursday, 12th June 2008, at 7.30 P.M.

Well this is the business end of the year, the AGM is upon us. President Grant has advised that she is not prepared to be president for another year (she claims she has done her bit, and it is time someone younger took up the mantle) and, to date, there has only been one nomination for the position. Unless there is additional nominations it would appear that we are in for an election in name only, and no need to actually take a vote. I know we already hear too much about elections, with the General Election expected later this year, but it would be nice to have a vote, wouldn't it?

Website to check out this month:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/marlboroughrockandmineralclubnz>

Monthly Competition results for May 2008

- 1 Cluster of Amethyst crystals - 1st John Taylor, 2nd Hamish Craigen, 3rd Owen Swann
 - 2 Piece of Boulder Opal - 1st John Taylor, 2nd Lindsay Day, 3rd David Winter
 - 3 Piece of Bloodstone - 1st Owen Swann, 2nd Sheila Craigen, 3rd Hamish Craigen
- Juniors: Piece of Mica - 1st Jake Kelly, 2nd Daniel Alexander

Reminder: Your annual club subscription is now overdue. If you wish to remain a member then please pay promptly for the full amount (the discounted amount expired on 31st May 2008) to ensure you have voting rights at the AGM. Additionally if you haven't paid the subscription, and don't intend to, *this will be your last newsletter.*

The club show is coming up (August 2nd) and it is time for members to begin planning the sections they wish to enter. The show schedule is available on our website for members to download (and print whatever parts they desire) and there are some printed copies for members who can't download available up at the front desk.

The committee has agreed to having a sausage sizzle (\$2 each) at the show, also selling tea and coffee (\$1 each). Sales Tables are also available at \$5 each (same as last year). ***Additionally, the committee is looking for donated material for raffle prizes.***

The committee is also looking for members to assist with the setting-up of the show and dismantling of same afterwards. **IF YOU CAN ASSIST PLEASE LET COMMITTEE MEMBERS KNOW.** It

would be nice if we could get some of the members who rarely assist to volunteer, rather than the same ones, year after year. So far there has been a zero response and the club show may need to be cancelled, due to lack of interest.

The National Show in Greymouth is also coming up, October 2nd to 4th at three nearby venues. The show schedule has been received, and is on the front desk for viewing. It is not to leave the clubrooms. An electronic version is available on our web site. The committee has asked Chris Wright to print some copies and specific segments for members without internet access, who wish to enter the different competitions (please see Chris to order the part you require, he can print some at the time, others he may have to post to you). Any members who want to go to Greymouth for the show should begin the process of organising accommodation, time is running out and there is only so much available. Field trips as follows -

Friday 3rd October - Bus trip to Oceana Gold, Reefton and visit the famous Globe area. On the way you will go via Moana through Te Kinga and Bell Hill and visit a working goldmine where 0000's of ounces have been won and you will see the trommel method of gold recovery. Lunch will be at Reefton, and then onto Globe. We will travel down the Paparoa side on the way home and visit Blackball where you can refresh with a beer at the Hilton and sample/purchase famous Blackball salami. A quick stroll around the coke ovens at Wallsend and home around 6p.m.

Saturday 4th October - Bus trip to the beaches north of Greymouth, Rapahoe for marcasite crystals, jade and tumble stones, and onto Barrytown beach which is world renowned as one of the best beaches for finding float jade. Tides are perfect for the day. In addition a trip will leave Greymouth and visit Hokitika where you can walk the town and see the jade factories and most importantly Westland Rubyrock where specimens and jewellery can be admired and purchased. On the way home, we will detour via Arahura and wend our way through the old goldmining towns of Stafford, Goldsborough and Dilmanstown. A quick stop to view the Stafford cemetery should ensure that you can envisage the tough times that miners had to endure. Both these trips should have you back to Greymouth by 5 p.m. to get ready for the annual show dinner at Shantytown commencing at 7.30 p.m. There will be a bus available if required and we need to dress appropriately for the event - e.g. period costume. This will be a night not to be missed.

Sunday 5th October - For those not attending the AGM a short trip to the local beaches around Greymouth will take place in the morning and afternoon.

CMLC Executive Election & AGM. With Dorice not seeking re-election to the post of President, this is not a position to be left vacant. The positions of Treasurer and Secretary are currently occupied but if someone would like to do the job then they need to be nominated and elected to the position. Nomination forms were sent out last month, and need to be with the Secretary by Queens Birthday (3rd June). The agenda for the AGM will be the welcome, apologies, a minute silence for late members, minutes of 2007 AGM, Presidents report, Treasurers Financial report, Elections, monthly competition awards and the long service awards.

At the June General Meeting, (which will follow the AGM) there won't be a guest speaker. Peter has advised he is willing to organise the competition for the next year (July 2008 to May 2009), details of competition material to be included in the July newsletter. There will only be an auction of Vince Burke material if there is sufficient time (after both the AGM and GM). If there is enough interest David Macdonald will give a short demonstration on how to display your specimens in a competition case, and how to follow the Club Show Schedule. Remember anyone, or a group, may put together a themed showcase. At the conclusion of the GM there will be soup & toast.

Geobusters: Liana has advised she has been unable to organise the junior section meeting on 28th May that she was planning and regrets that it has to be cancelled.

Field Trips.

Whitecliffs went ahead on a cold, wet Sunday (3rd May) run by Nick Webb (Tony had to pull out due to his mother-in-laws illness and subsequent death) with \$\$\$\$ (Nick still to advise) raised from those attending (at \$5 each). By all accounts the agates continued to call out to John Taylor, leaping into his hands.

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15th June those who have already registered with President Grant are to meet at 10.30 at the Information Desk in the foyer to be escorted to the Museums Geology Storage facility in the bowels of the building. Those members are reminded not to bring bags and not to be late. Norton Hiller has confirmed that it is OK to bring your camera and asks for a donation. Please provide a gold coin to show our appreciation. This trip is limited to 15 members so registration is required (contact Dorice to see if there any cancellations as it is already fully booked).

22nd June is the Annual Birdlings Flat BBQ. Members should get there for a fossick on the beach around 10.30 am for a couple of hours before the BBQ is fired up. Bring a bucket for your agate and wood, food for the BBQ, something to drink and warm clothes as it can get a bit fresh.

July 12—13th is the Oamaru annual Show

August 2nd is the Club show and August 17 the workshops of 3 members will be open for all our members to have a look; 10.00 am for Owen Swann (92 Brynley St, Hornby), 12.00 Peter Merrett (23 Castile St, Belfast) and 2.00 for John Taylor (424 Mairehau, Parklands). Remember they are making an effort, so please support them.

The committee has decided to delete section 20 from the BYLAWS of the constitution, as it was considered irrelevant. The relevant section is as follows Members shall only take that amount of material for their own use, and not under any circumstances remove material for financial gain to themselves.

As you can see merely by allowing an auction of self collected surplus material we are in breach of our own rules. Lindsay Day was the only committee member to vote against the motion and he wanted the record to state that his desire was for the offending section to be replaced. It was pointed out that it can be replaced at any time. Please consider this article to be your notification of the change to the bylaws of the constitution. Now we can hold an auction without breaching our own rules. *Additionally, if anyone would like to suggest a replacement clause/section, please let a committee member know, or vote for a member who does have an idea/opinion.*

Over the last 2 committee meetings there has been lengthy discussion on the recording of information pertaining to collecting locations, who to contact for permission, what you can expect to find etc. A new document has been produced for the field trip leader to complete, giving a record of (the above) and who attended (see opposite) for future planning and as a guide for members wishing to fossick outside of an official club trip. The necessity of this became apparent when we couldn't easily locate the fossicking sites from the 1960's to 1990's for future field trips.

Dorice held her last committee meeting in May, finishing her tenure by giving the club a clock for the main chamber in the clubrooms.

The National Association has written to the club requesting anyone who has borrowed a VHS Video titled "Rockhounds - The Movie" to please return it. The letter advised it was borrowed by someone either from Tauranga or Christchurch (they think) and has not been seen since. If this is you please return it to Nick or Tony ASAP. This was mentioned at the May GM but there was no response, other than general mirth.

A few words from Madam President with The Annual Presidents Report -

I am pleased to be able to report on the past year. I will not be seeking re-election, and feel the 2007-2008 committee has served the club well.

We have had a variety of good speakers each month from both within and outside the club, and the monthly outings have been well attended, with some of the field trips being to locations the club has not visited for years. Also, the 2 long weekend trips have been well patronised despite the increasing cost of petrol.

Thank you to all speakers and trip leaders.

You have turned out in force for the monthly meetings. On one occasion we needed more chairs, and that has been great. With a rock auction each month, from which the club derives a little income, members are still adding to and refining their collections. Thanks to Craig McGregor for his auctioneering skills and his vast knowledge of the material.

I would remind members that turning up to meetings only, is not enough. For you to get most out of this club (or any other), you need to be involved, join in the activities offered, help where you can, offer opinions and get to know your fellow members.

I would especially like to thank Bill Graham and Vince Burke for their phenomenal efforts in fixing the leaking roof, and for the installation of the new sink and bench in the workshop, and also Bill for keeping the back lawn looking so great.

Not to be forgotten, the team who turned up to clean and paint the workshop, which is, thanks to them, now looking very much improved.

Essential to our club are Hamish Craigen and Peter Merrett, who turn up each week, summer and winter to tutor and supervise the workshop. This is a big commitment on their part and much appreciated. Thanks to Sheila Craigen for always finding something interesting for the raffles, to Ray Jackson for purchasing, weighing and selling the grits, Chris Wright for twice a year putting together the club magazine, Kahurangi, and to Liana Kelly for successfully launching the junior section....these young people are the future of rock clubs and deserve to be fostered.

Thanks to Linda Alexander for dealing with the proceeds of auctions and keeping the club accounts straight, and to Don Stanley for dealing with all correspondence, the monthly newsletter and for keeping me on track at meetings. And to all members of the committee, thank you for your support. To those standing down from committee, thanks for your contribution.

The club is in good heart and can only get better...the incoming president and committee have my support and best wishes.

Dorice Grant (President)

Rockhounding in Oz (Part 2)

Contributed by Ron and Sara Keen (Lake Hawea)

After leaving the Gemboree, we headed into the Adelaide Hills for a week or two with old friends.

Then it was the long drive round the Spencer Gulf to the ex-BHP town of Whyalla. We had two reasons for stopping in Whyalla. One was the chance to relax at an absolute beachside site, the second was to catch up with Glyn Francis, who we'd last visited in the small mining town of Iron Knob.

Those of you familiar with Glyn's name, will know that for many years he was the manager of the nearby Iron Monarch mine. But he was a manager with a difference, and it's to his credit that the location can boast more than 175 minerals, 5 of which are type localities. Two of these just had to be described as Monarchite and Francisite. Of the others, 14 are known from less than six other world occurrences, and only 4 have been reported but not confirmed.

Glyn has now retired to Whyalla, where his leisure (?) time has been devoted to developing a fantastic garden. And somewhere in all this, he's found time to produce a CD, from his own photography, of many of the mine's mineral specimens. We were also privileged to see the "almost-ready-for-publication" copy of the book he's producing on the Iron Monarch Mine. It will certainly be a "must" for serious collectors' bookcases.

As generous as ever, Glyn has given us a copy of his CD and a number of rare specimens, some of which will be available at this year's micromineral symposium.

Taking leave of Glyn's and Maxine's hospitality, we headed west on the Eyre Peninsula, through the town of Cleve, and on to Barry and Jodie Schubert's farm east of Dark Peake. When we last visited Barry some five years ago, he'd not long finished a large shed which was purpose-built to house his collection, which at that time was contained in dozens of mushroom boxes.

Everything is now on display, and what a display it is! As a "protege" of Glyn, Barry has had the opportunity of collecting with him and it showed, not only in some of the display cases looking like they may have come from Glyn (they had), but also the fact that he had numerous magnificent

specimens from the Iron Monarch.

Like any meeting between fellow collectors, time flew and suddenly it was getting towards dusk and we still had to find somewhere to park up for the night. No worries! Right there in Barry's yard, a gesture greatly appreciated as it allowed us to have dinner with his family (and be introduced to the delectable garfish) and also talk long into the night.

Once more, the generosity of Australian collector's came to the fore, and we were not allowed to leave without a good selection of minerals for distribution at the symposium.

It was now time to head west across the Nullabor, only this time we planned to take our time, unlike our west to east crossing five years ago. And we managed to do it, with our first overnight stop in Nullabor National Park at our "best campsite in the world", so-named from our previous trip when we'd discovered it had no flies, no mozzies, no noise and no-one else.



Barry Schuberts collection



Fossils from the Nullabor

On to Mundrabilla Station where we'd been invited to stay with the owners. It was on this property of over a million acres, that a huge 10 tonne meteorite was found a few years ago. As a result of finding this one, as well as a number of smaller ones, there is now a meteorite tracking station installed on the escarpment above the homestead. (Later in our travels, we actually met up with one of the technicians responsible for the installation of the equipment – he happened to be a member of the WA Mineralogical Society. Small world!)

We'd been told by a WA rockhound friend to watch out for fossils along the road between Mundrabilla and the next roadhouse at Madura. He wasn't wrong, they were everywhere. Although of relatively recent deposition (only 3 million years),

and entirely sea shells, there was such a variety and so many, that we found it impossible to pass by without numerous stops.

Because of this distraction, it was after lunch before we could store the caravan at the Cocklebidy roadhouse, and head out for 2 nights at the Eyre Bird Observatory. The trip in was 21 km of mainly corrugated road, followed by a 1 km steep descent of the escarpment then 10 km of sand-driving. But it was all worth it for the experience of staying in the old telegraph station and being able to sit and watch the dawn and dusk gatherings of the numerous birds coming in for water. Of all the varieties, it was undoubtedly the Major Mitchell cockatoos that proved our favourite.

The time at the observatory passed far too quickly, and before we knew it, we were on our way out to the main road, to continue our journey west. However, we'll have to continue this tale in our next newsletter.

Hopefully there will be another instalment in the July newsletter. Keep it up [ED].

Club Diary

June 2008

- 4 Micro Mineral Meeting
- 12 Annual General Meeting
- 19 Committee Meeting
- 22 Birdlings Flat BBQ
- 28 GeoBusters Meeting

July 2008

- 2 Micro Mineral Meeting
- 10 General Meeting
- 12/13 Oamaru Show
- 17 Committee Meeting
- 26 GeoBusters Meeting

August 2008

- 2 Club Show
- 6 Micro Mineral Meeting
- 14 General Meeting
- 17 Workshops
- 21 Committee Meeting
- 30 GeoBusters Meeting

September 2008

- 3 Micro Mineral Meeting
- 11 General Meeting
- 13 FieldTrip TBA
- 18 Committee Meeting
- 25-28th Marlborough Rock & Mineral Club Show
- 27 GeoBusters Meeting

October 2008

- 1 Micro Mineral Meeting
- 2nd-5th Greymouth National Show
- 9 General Meeting
- 11 FieldTrip TBA
- 16 Committee Meeting
- 24-28th Micro Mineral Symposium at Bannockburn
- 25 GeoBusters Meeting

November 2008

- 5 Micro Mineral Meeting
- 14-16 Show weekend field trip
- 20 General Meeting
- 27 Committee Meeting
- 29 GeoBusters Meeting

December 2008

- TBA Presidents Xmas BBQ

Many of these dates are tentative and are subject to planning and permission considerations.