


NEWSLETTER

January/February 2020

PO Box 743, Lismore NSW, 2480 Website www.gemclublismore.org.au Facebook Lismore Gem and Lapidary Club

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Leonie Hyde	0432 170 360	Steve Payne	6624 3505	Gary Thompson	6621 4703
Ivan Turner	6629 8209	Pieter Vryenhoek	6689 9337	Liz Weatherburn	6629 3433



February Meetings

Combined Committee and General Meeting:
Monday, February 3, Committee Meeting 6:30pm, General Meeting 7:00pm.

Junior Rockhounds:
 Saturday, February 1, 1pm to 3.30pm

NOTE: The combined meetings will usually be held on the first Monday of the month - easy to remember!



Happy New Year to everyone.

After such a torrid end to 2019 and start to 2020, leaving Australia hot, bothered and bewildered, we hope for a cooler, gentler, damper year to come, in which to pursue our love of rock-related natural beauty.

A recent rain shower or two has reminded us that grass can be green again, but a sheen of water on our rock garden has given brilliance to the rock colours - we'd forgotten how good wet rocks can look.




Workshop Times.

Saturdays: 1st Sat of the month opens at 11am, most other Saturdays opens at 9am, until 4.00pm.


Tuesdays: 2pm to 9pm.


Thursdays: 9am to 12.30pm.


Juniors: 1st Saturday of the month, 1 - 3.30pm.



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News snippets.

With the onset of 2020, the Club is gearing up for our 30th Lismore Gemfest. Keep your eyes and ears open for ways to help and enjoy this big event. The tailgaters' contracts were sent out this week. Thanks Jan for all your quiet hard work on getting this important job done.

We apparently have a new-look facebook page for Gemfest, along with Instagram and google ads. Check it out. Please keep collecting and donating ice cream containers and rocks and crystals for Gemfest events.

A small number of excellent people turned out on the 11th January to set up the workshop after its use by Tropical fruits over the New Year. A nice snag sandwich was enjoyed after the working bee. Thanks for doing that work for all of us.

Field Trips.

Because of the bushfire effects, and closures of forests and national Parks, there will be no field trip this year on the Australia day weekend. Future trips will be decided at coming meetings, subject to rainfall and other weather.

Fingers crossed that trips are possible in the near future.

The 2019 Christmas Lunch.

It seems so long ago now, seen through smoky haze and the fog of Christmas and holidays, but it was a great party with good food, excellent company and conversation, and lovely lucky prizes for many. Thank you to the movers, organisers, arrangers, decorators, donators, and caterers and cleaner-uppers who contributed to our well-being and enjoyment. And thanks Rod for your genial em-ceeding.





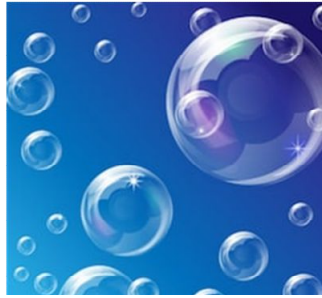
Workshop News.



You've seen the real estate ads for "A Renovator's Delight"?

Well this pre-loved renovator's delight faceting machine appeared at the club rooms in December, with its owner seeking renovating advice. Let's hope we see the machine and its owner back at the club both engaged in producing beautiful faceted stones in 2020.

Words of Wisdom.



There is no angry way to say bubbles.



Learn from yesterday, live for today, look to tomorrow, rest this afternoon. Charlie Brown

Looking for a fun activity for travelling rockhounds?

In the mail recently came some reminders that the Wedderburn Detector Jamboree is on again in March 2020. It reminded me of an enjoyable weekend spent there in 2016. It is held on the Victorian Labour day holiday weekend each March, 7th and 8th March this year. It is held at Hard Hill Tourist Reserve free camping area at Wedderburn Victoria, in the gold-bearing Loddon Valley.

It is a very well-organised and welcoming event in a tiny Victorian town.

The actual detecting event involves using detectors to hunt for numbered tokens hidden in a fenced-off area. The tokens are handed in and used as a draw for the lucky prize winners. The more tokens you find the more chances you have of winning excellent prizes from Minelab, Coiltek, and Wedderburn Tourism. The Editor actually won a small gold nugget in the draw for people who didn't find anything! Other people won fancy detectors and other gear.

There were all kinds of people and equipment, from "experts" with camo gear and big earmuffs and electronic pointers, to casual beginners with a little coin detector and a hopeful attitude. All



were happy and keen and welcoming. The \$50 fee for competitors for the weekend includes a good breakfast on both days and entertainment on Saturday night. There is no fee for camping or spectators, and there is food and drink for sale.



Also during the weekend they have gold-panning championships, where heats are run trying to separate miniscule dots of gold from sand within a set time. When they were short a couple of contestants for the last heat Ian stepped up, but couldn't find a thing! Spectacles definitely needed! But a lot of fun.

There are children's sections in the detecting and gold-panning events, and also garage sales around town for those lacking the gold fever.

Check out *Wedderburn Detector Jamboree 2020* on your search engine.

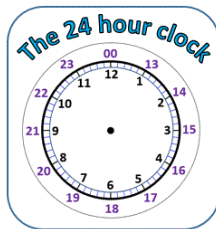
Items for Sale

These 2 lapidary machines are for sale. For more information or to make an offer, contact President Rod.



This Month's Puzzlers.

1. If a chiming clock were turned into a 24-hour clock so that it struck 24 times at midnight, how many times would it strike in the course of a 24-hour day?
2. Four buses leave the garage at the same time, on the same day. The first one returns to the garage every 16 hours, the second one every 12 hours, the third one every 8 hours and the fourth one every 4 hours. How long will it be before they all meet at the garage again?



Guess the Gemstone.

- Most commonly red, but can be green, orange, pink or purple.
- Found in metamorphic rocks.
- Five species commercially important as gems are pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular and andradite.
- Necklaces of this gem adorned the necks of Egypt's pharaohs, entombed with mummified corpses for the afterlife.
- Referred to as "carbuncle" in ancient times.
- In ancient Rome signet rings with these carved gems were used to stamp the wax that sealed important documents.
- Birthstone for January.
- Gem for 2nd anniversaries.



From www.gia.edu

Oops. Rookie Publishing error!

We Editors were nicely advised that the names and numbers of some of our hardworking committee members had been omitted from our Newsletter banner. So we chased around asking people about these absent identities and set about adding them... Only to discover the information was already there, hiding quietly behind the text box below, invisible since last June, and undetected by our proof-reading. Sorry, Liz and Ivan. You have now been restored to your rightful and visible place. We do try, but errors do slip in. Please let us know (kindly) if we slip up. Only too happy to rectify fake news and errors!

O O P S !

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Don't forget to mention your club membership, for a discount.

34 Smith Drive
Ballina NSW 2478
Ph. 02 66811686
A/H 0427 012 014
Contact Brian or Liz

Club Calendar.

2019

Saturday January 25 to Monday 27 Australia Day weekend
Saturday, February 1 Junior Rockhounds resumes.
Monday, February 3 Combined Committee and General Meeting

What's On?

2020

March 7&8 Wedderburn Detector Jamboree, Hard Hill Tourist Reserve, Wedderburn, Vic.
March 28-29 Australian Gold Prospectors' Expo, Bendigo Showgrounds, Vic.
April 10-13 (Easter) Gemboree 2020, Australia's National Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show at Albury Showground.
May 16-17 Lismore Gemfest - 30th year.
May 30– 31 Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Gemshow, Exhibition Park, Mallee Pavilion.

Note from the Editor.

It's always good to receive news items and contributions from members for the newsletter. Keep those reports and photos and ideas and classified ads coming in.

Please send newsletter contributions and suggestions to email ian.rodgers5@bigpond.com or ianandkathryn.rodgers@telstra.com

Deadline for contributions or information 20th of each month. Or there is a mailbox near the sign on book for newsletter contributions.

Workshop Fees.

Workshop fees are **\$3.00** per person if you use **any club equipment** (e.g tools, pickle pots, torches, laps, saws). If using **only** your own equipment the fee is **\$2.00** Both of these fees include the cost of tea or coffee.

Workshop fees for Juniors are the same. As well a small fee is sometimes charged for materials needed.

Use of big saws involves an extra cost of 10c per square inch (or square 25mm).

NEWSLETTER AND OTHER INFORMATION BY EMAIL.

We encourage you to get your newsletters by e-mail.

It saves money for the club, and reduces the time-consuming process of printing, compiling, folding and posting - all done by volunteers. Pictures are in colour and text is easier to read.

If you want to change to an email newsletter notify Bruce at bruce.copper@bigpond.com or Editor at ian.rodgers5@bigpond.com