



TAURANGA GEM & MINERAL CLUB INC

P.O. BOX 841 TAURANGA 3144

GEMZONE

July 2021

VILLAGE GEMS

TAURANGA GEM & MINERAL CLUB Inc.

HISTORIC VILLAGE

17TH AVE TAURANGA

POLISHED STONES - CLOCKS – GREENSTONE PENDANTS - MINERALS

NOVELTIES - KAURI GUM - JEWELLERY - POLISHED FACES

MUSEUM & FLUORESCENT DISPLAY

Rotorua Lapidary



WE HAVE BEEN SERVING NEW ZEALAND SINCE 1981

STOCKISTS OF:

- Tumbling Machines for Stone, Glass & Shell
- Rock Cutting, Polishing & Carving Machines
- Grinding & Polishing Media for Stone, Glass, Shell, Bone and Metal
- Crystals, Minerals & Rough Rock
- Polished Stones
- Fossils
- Gemstone Beads & Metal Clasps & Fittings
- Greenstone & Jade Carvings

SERVICES:

- Stone Cutting, Polishing & Drilling
- Jewellery Repairs & Bead Threading
- Stone Bead Necklace & Earring Making

**HOURS: Monday – Friday 9.30am to 5pm
Saturday 10am – 2pm**

Rotorua Lapidary Rock & Mineral Supplies Ltd
1120 Eruera Street, Rotorua 3010
Postal Address: P O Box 569, Rotorua 3040

Ph: 07 348 8996 Fax 07 348 8621

rotorualapidary@xtra.co.nz
www.rotorualapidary.co.nz

Colin & Bev Simmons

July Club Events

Workshop

Every Tuesday night from 6pm to 7-30pm.

Use of the workshop during shop hours:

\$2 per hour

Please pay at the counter

Club Night

Monday 12 July

Juniors from 6 pm – 7.30pm

Making crystal geodes and workshop projects and rock ID competition

Seniors at 7.30pm

Steve and Joanna will be talking about their fossicking adventures in Australia.

Show and tell last field trip

Interest table: Field trip finds from last trip

Committee

Wednesday 14 July at 7.30 pm.

Meet at the clubrooms.

Field Trip

Sunday 25 July Field trip- To Te Ahroha To find galena and other minerals. Meet at the Te Aroha clock tower in the centre of town before 9:30

NOTE: Contact Graham if you need to carpool. Do check your email in case of bad weather. Graham Hill: 027 2566399 / 07 552 4496

HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER NEEDED

We need a safety officer for the club.

We also need to display a hazard list in the shop and workshop.

Anyone interested??



Stone Of The Month

Thunder Egg Agate Creek Australia

Field Trip cancellations: TGMC takes the safety of its members seriously and has the right to cancel field trips in the event of severe weather warnings or other factors that prevent any trip from taking place. News about changes, postponements or cancellations to a proposed field trip will be advised via email and posted on the Facebook page as soon as possible.

Collection Viewing Night Last Wed Of Month

Wednesday 28th July at 7.30pm

Is at the home of Graeme & Sharon Dewhurst, 338 Otumoetai Rd.

They have a world class collection!

Please bring a plate to share for supper and any rocks or fossils for identification or discussion.

Club notices

Remember to take a camera or your phone on the field trips then you can submit your photos for the next newsletter or our Facebook page.

WANTED: Mechanically minded person to help Bryce in the workshop

- People to help paint the inside of our shop a bit closer to summer

TGMC Committee Members 2020 and other Club Officers		
President Shared	Graeme Dewhurst	576 7874
	Carla van den Hout	552 5175
Vice President Shared	Carla van den Hout	552 5175
	Graeme Dewhurst	576 7874
Treasurer	Johanna Raynor	072828126
Secretary	Steve Raynor	282 8126
Club Email	sec.tgmc@hotmail.com	
Membership		
Publicity	Bryce Cooper	0276950606
Shop	Carla van den Hout	552 5175
	Olga Nicholson	575 2070
Shop supplies	Bryce Cooper	0276950606
Field trips	Graham Hill	552 4496
Field trip assist.	Charlie Harris	021 0409332
Workshop	Bryce Cooper	0276950606
	Raymond Schroder	576 3027
Museum display	Margaret Parker	576 2660
Facebook admin	Ian Mason	543 4951
	Kristy Phillips	0210397340
Newsletter advertising	Ian Mason	543 4951
Patron	Roger Eade	576 0117
Newsletter	Ian Mason / Gordon Sherwood	543 4951 / 0226323534
Library/Museum	Marcel Authier	572 3034
	John Clark	022 0206812
Maintenance	Bryce Cooper	0276950606
Microscopes		
Silent Auction	Ian Mason	543 4951

New Zealand Events

National Show: 15-17 October, Mineral Club of Hutt Valley & Wellington, Lower Hutt

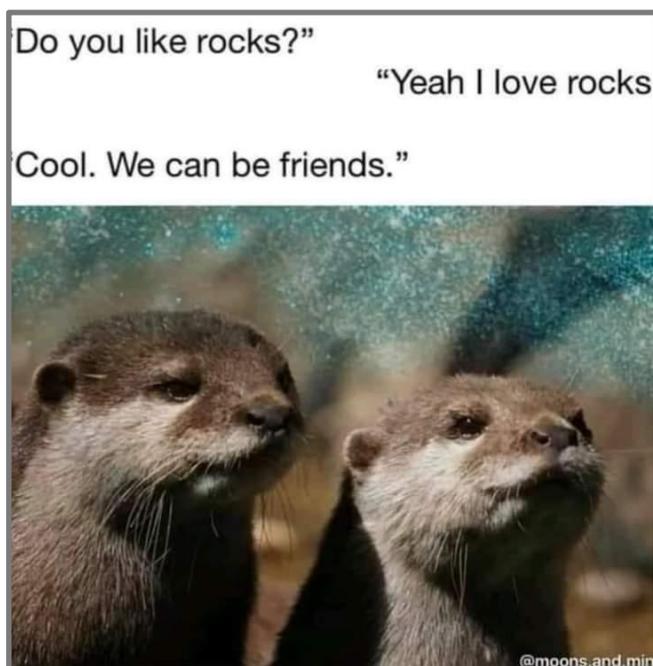
2022 – National Show. To be hosted by the Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club.

Australian events

Gemfest, Sat 24 and Sun 25 July 2021
Cairns Mineral & Lapidary Club
Cairns Youth & Recreation Centre
Grounds, 129 Mulgrave Rd, Cairns City
QLD, Australia

GEMKHANA 24 - 25 Sep 2021
Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon,
Australia

Carlingford Gem And Mineral Expo 27-28 Nov 645 Pennant Hills Rd, Carlingford
NSW, Australia



Maratoto Quartz collected by Gordon Sherwood

A GOOD FOSSIL STORY – from Peter Nixon

This is a good fossil story, and like all good stories, it has a happy ending.

Last month, I had a call from Graeme Dewhurst to tell me that he had a friend who wanted some fossils identified. As I am a keen Palaeontologist, I offered to help. I paid a visit to Graeme's friend and had a look at his fossils. What was interesting was that the fossils were hooked up from a long line fishing vessel from a depth of between 500 and 870 metres about 70 nautical miles south west of the Chatham Islands . This is a relatively shallow area of sea bed known as the Chatham Rise. It forms part of the former continental land mass of Zealandia , which sank under the ocean in the early Tertiary period .

After having a look at the fossils, one looked like a bone to me, and seemed to show an organic structure. The other one resembled a tree branch or a piece of fossilized wood. I sent photos of the bone to GNS Science in Wellington in the hope that they could help to identify it. I received the following reply:

'We have records of similar material dredged up from the Chathams. We think the specimen is the broken off Oligocene – Miocene (most likely) rostrum of a whale. These phosphatised fossils are coming out of the Chatham Rise and get eroded and polished, similarly to the specimen in the photos you sent. Unfortunately, we cannot give you a precise identification on the species of this specimen, however the records we have from previous finds are of the Ziphiidae family, the beaked whales. These finds are a very interesting part of the geological history of the Chatham Rise and NZ. They also hold a cultural significance to Ngai Tahu.'

This is a really significant find of an early whale species up to 30 million years old! The good news is that more objects have been pulled up from the seafloor, which they would like me to identify, so there will be more about this in future.

Fossil Whale Jaw bone (rostrum)– Chatham Rise



Cleaning Quartz with Oxalic Acid By Gordon Sherwood

Oxalic acid is easy to use and gives great results but not everyone gets the expected results first time around, why is this?

For myself, the first time using Oxalic acid I was terribly disappointed with the results as my quartz came out with a yellow scum over them. So, what did I do wrong, I was sure I followed the directions I had been given and surely, I had not been led up the garden path!

Further research via YouTube and more questions asked of fellow club members I found a few tips that made all the difference. Firstly, as I had originally read that the acid works best warm. I had initially mixed the acid in warm water but being in a bucket it soon cooled down. Not a problem I thought as research had shown that the quartz could remain in the acid until it had done its job. But it wasn't working so left it longer and still longer a good week maybe more due to work hours and what was seen was a yellow scum covering the crystals. "This is not good", I thought. Time to ask some more questions. The answer was simply to redo it again.

Then the magic ingredient was mentioned, YES, a very magic ingredient. Surely this was someone playing me for a fool, but why not give it a go. What was that magic ingredient you ask, why it was tinfoil, crumpled up tinfoil. Apparently, this helps stop the yellowing.

Secondly, it was suggested to keep it warm the whole time and a crock pot was suggested as a good means to do this. Having a reasonably large amount of crystal to clean I thought about the mother in law's old steriliser for preserving fruit would be ideal fit for the purpose if used as a double boiler as the thermostatically controlled temperature would ensure a constant temperature during the process.

Time to give it a go in the good old Kiwi way, all was working sweet as, YES, the crystals were going white, and the quartz was being cleaned as expected, awesome. Then disaster. The 16ltr bucket split and acid had leaked into the main heating area where the copper element was. Acid and copper do not mix I know that much. Fortunately, I had discovered the disaster early on and quickly emptied the steriliser and added baking soda to neutralise the rinse water, hoping that I had not wrecked the element. Phew, seems like it is still OK.

Round Three. New Bucket like brand new, Check. Tinfoil crumpled up, well three balls of crumpled up, tinfoil, Check. Temp set at 55DegC being the temp of the hot water cylinder, Check. Acid added to the crystal water, never put water in acid.

After a couple of hours everything was going fine, the quartz was looking cleaner. After 5 hours it looked nearly done, being later in the evening I turned the temp down a bit and waited for the morning to arrive. Rubber acid proof gloves donned, respirator mask to minimise the fumes from the acid which are not advisable to breathe, I was ready to check on my rocks. This time I was not disappointed in the least.

What did I use to get this great result?

1 cup of Oxalic Acid crystals to the 16ltr bucket approx.. 10ltrs of water
3 crumpled up balls of tinfoil.
Boiler set at 55DegC.
Crystals soaked for approx.. 12hrs.



Some Dirty Quartz Pseudomorph and the cleaned Quartz





Check the link at the end of this newsletter for the You Tube video of this acid trip.

WANTED TO BUY

**Collections of minerals
and crystals.**

**Lapidary material rough
and cut.**

Phone Greg 07 574 0905

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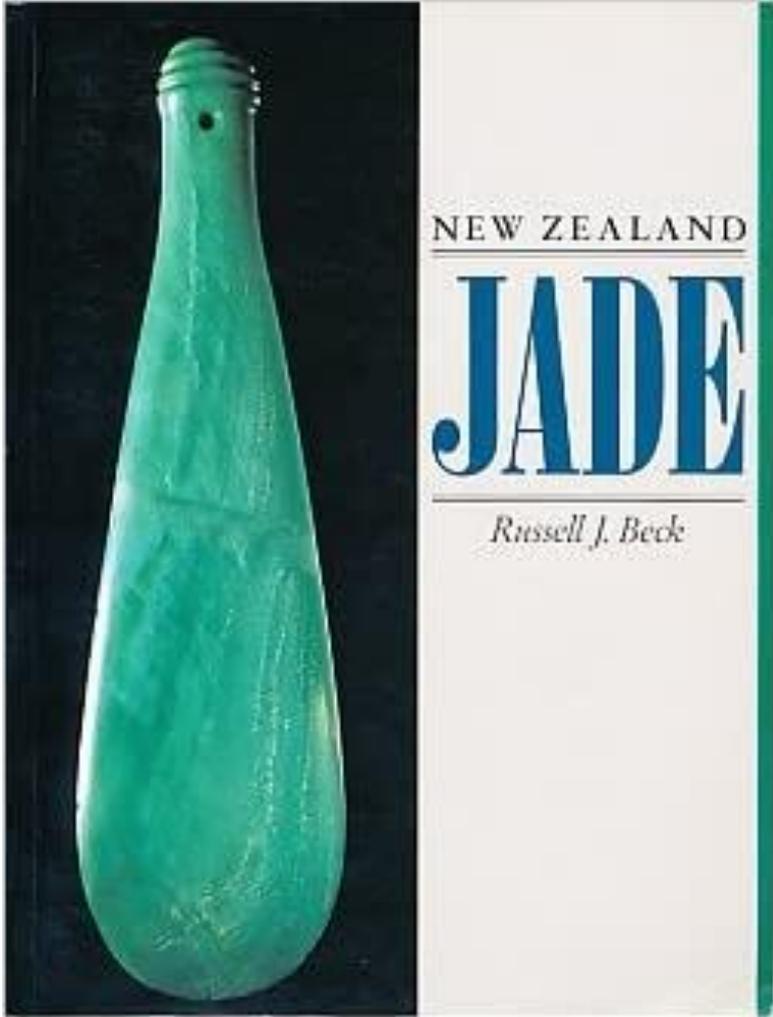
07 575 3851

BOOK REVIEW

Book Reviews for the newsletter can be emailed to Ian Mason
imn.mason@hotmail.com

New Zealand Jade by Russel Beck

Book Review by John Clark



GREENSTONE-the name touches a romantic chord in all New Zealanders, Maori and Pakeha alike.

Begun originally as an attempt to clear up the confusion surrounding the term greenstone, and to make New Zealanders more aware of the facts about their national gemstone, this fascinating and informative book now has two distinct elements; first, a broad background of jade, leading into a history of New Zealand jade, its use by the moa hunters, by the Maoris, and the legends that have surrounded its origin and discovery; secondly, an account of the different types of jade, its identification, its geological structure, and its historical and contemporary location in New Zealand.

The book also outlines the different methods of preparation, both historical and contemporary, with practical advice on cutting and processing. Russell Beck has

undertaken a number of experiments that have proved or disproved many points that were uncertain. Bold, clear line drawings, detailed maps, numerous black and white photographs, and eight magnificent plates in full colour amplify the text.

Cheers John Clark Tauranga Gem & Mineral Club

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**You Can Borrow This Book From The
Club Library**



WANTED TO BUY

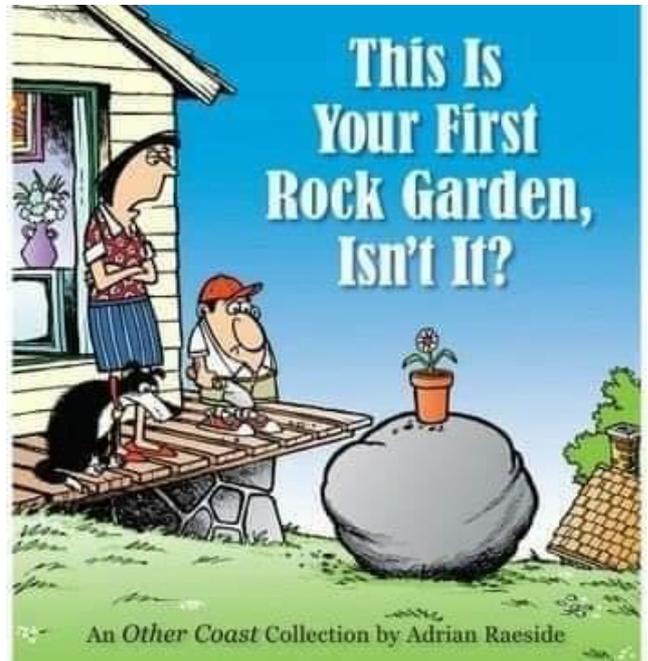
Wanted to buy: I am looking to buy any lapidary equipment. I am most hoping to find any slab / trim saw 8" or 10" or larger. Any equipment for cabbing & grinding. Contact: kathy.gott@gmail.com

Wanted to buy: Collections of Minerals, Crystals and polished faces. Large or small, part or all.
Contact Greg 575 3851.

Wanted to buy: Bob Vear is looking for NZ Fossils Ammonites and Trilobites or any interesting fossils. Location identified preferably.
Contact Bob (07) 543 0660.

Wanted: Please drop off any surplus egg cartons at the shop for Ian Mason.

Wanted to buy: Gold, silver, any old or unwanted jewellery made of gold or silver for scrap. Top scrap prices paid. Contact Graeme on 07 577 1979 or 027 4496 960; email carver.petersen@extra.co.nz



What are the Birthstones for July?

Ruby
Turquoise
Onyx

THE THAMES SCHOOL of MINES MINERAL MUSEUM

101 Cochrane Street Thames

One of Australasia's finest mineralogical collections started in 1870 on The Thames Goldfield



Open Wed – Sun 11am - 3pm Adults \$10.

Unaccompanied children \$5

Extended opening over summer. Local heritage & group concessions.

Group tours by arrangement,

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TAURANGA	cnr elizabeth & glasgow sts (OPEN 7 DAYS)
MOUNT	37 hewletts road. (beside the fluover)
GREERTON	1231 cameron rd (next to super liquor)
FRASER COVE	corner of fraser & brook streets
OTUMOETA	95 ngatai road (near the otumoetai golf club)

Facebook Groups To Follow



[Tauranga Gem & Mineral Club](#)

[New Zealand lapidary, Rocks, Minerals, Fossils](#)

[NZ Rocks, Fossils, Crystals Buy Sell & Exchange \(Only NZ nothing imported\)](#)

[Coromandel Peninsula Rockhounds](#)



Cleaning With Oxalic Acid

Visit this You Tube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrXObMOtdho&t=221s>

