

ALEXANDRA
& EILDON



LAPIDARY
CLUB



**LOCAL
CLUB
SERIES**

ALEXANDRA & EILDON DISTRICT LAPIDARY CLUB

CONTRIBUTORS

Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club

Dave Kelly
Kathie Maynes
Campbell Myers
Collin & Jenny Myers
Shirley Rees
Norm & Marie Stace
Alan Webb
David & Debbie Hibbert



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INTRODUCTION

Name: Lapidary Club
Location: Alexandra & Eildon
Address: Gordon Street, Alexandra
Event: Annual Thornton
Rock Swap and Gem Fair

The Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club was formed in 1968 by a group of passionate rock and gem enthusiasts and run club events throughout the year. Everyone is welcome to join.



© Campbell Myers 2015

The Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club meet regularly in their premises located at Gordon Street, Alexandra. They also hold the Gem and Rock Swap in late February of each year at Thornton. Club events and excursions are held throughout the year and new members are always welcome to join.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

The first gathering of the founders of the Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club was on 8 March 1968 when a meeting was held at the home of Mr and Mrs G Campbell of Eildon, to discuss the forming of a Lapidary Club. There were 28 people in attendance, all interested in finding and creating gem stones. All those at the meeting agreed that a Lapidary Club should be formed and that it be called the 'Eildon & District Lapidary Club'. Nominations were then called for Office Bearers. At a subsequent meeting held on 17 May 1968, it was suggested and passed that the club room would be at the Cricket Club Hall at a rental of \$10.00 per annum (plus electricity costs). The Club continued, with a change of Office Bearers each year until 1971.

In 1970 the Club had joined with the Victorian Gem Clubs Association (V.G.C.A.). An Annual General Meeting was due on 26 April 1971, however at the previous General



From the private collection of former member, the late Roy Heap.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION



Meeting held on 29 March, the meeting was cancelled due to a lack of attendance. No further meetings occurring until 1974 when a group of interested people met and a new Club was formed. On 23 July 1974 a meeting was held at the Thornton Hall with 16 people in attendance. All agreed that a Lapidary club be formed and called the 'Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club'. Nominations were then called for Office Bearers. Meetings were subsequently held at the Thornton Hall until 23 September 1975. From 28 October 1975, meetings were held at the Car Club Rooms in Alexandra.



A report in the *Alexandra Standard* dated 9 May 1979 the club mentioned how it was their future intention to hold a 'Gemboree'.

In July 1980, a meeting was arranged between the Lapidary Club and the Car Club to clarify the club's position of tenure. After negotiations between the two clubs, a letter from the Car Club (dated 24 November 1981) informed the Lapidary Club that the club rooms were being officially handed over to the Alexandra, Eildon District Lapidary Club. The Car Club stated that in the event of the Lapidary Club ever closing, the building was to be transferred over to the Alexandra Shire Council and it was only to be used as a sporting body or a club. A copy of the letter was forwarded to the Alexandra Shire Council to allow necessary registration alteration to the Shire records of ownership.



At a meeting held on 26 May 1981, the Lapidary Club considered conducting a Rock Swap & Gem Fair in February 1982. In a subsequent meeting on 22

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION



September 1981 it was agreed that the Rock Swap & Gem Fair would be held at Willow Park Thornton (Tumbling Waters) on 28 February 1982. This was the first instance of the fair which became an annual event since that time and continues to this day at the Thornton Sporting Ground.

In May 2020 the club received a \$5000 grant for works to the kitchen and to erect a water tank for their water supply. The club continues to hold their Rock Swap & Gem Fair annually.



TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- 8 March 1968** The '**Eildon & District Lapidary Club**' was formed and Office Bearers elected. Twenty-eight people were in attendance.
- 17 May 1968** Passed at a General Meeting that the club room be the Cricket Club Hall and a rental of \$10 per year be paid as well as electricity costs.
- 1970** **Joined the Victorian Gem Clubs Association (V.G.C.A.).**
- 29 March 1971** A General Meeting was held, but due to a lack of attendance, it was decided that future club meetings be abandoned until a time when numbers increased. It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 26 April 1971 be cancelled.
- 26 April 1971** Scheduled Annual General Meeting cancelled due to lack of interest.
- 23 July 1974** The '**Alexandra, Eildon & District Lapidary Club**' was formed and Office Bearers elected. Sixteen people were in attendance. Meetings were held at the Thornton Hall.
- 28 October 1975** The meeting venues changed from Thornton to the Car Club Rooms in Alexandra.
- 2 May 1979** A report in the *Alexandra Times* stated that the club had 32 'enthusiasts' at their last monthly meeting. (*Alexandra Standard*, 2 May 1979).
- 9 May 1979** A report in the *Alexandra Standard* dated 9 May 1979 the club mentioned how it was their future intention to hold a 'Gemboree'.
- July 1980** Negotiations started between the Car Club and the Alexandra, Eildon District Lapidary Club regarding long-term tenure of the Car Club Rooms.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- 24 November 1981** The Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club was officially handed the Car Club Rooms.
- 26 May 1981** The holding of an annual Rock Swap & Gem Fair was discussed at a General Meeting of the club.
- 22 September 1981** It was decided at a General Meeting of the club that the first instance of the 'Alexandra, Eildon District Lapidary Club Rock Swap & Gem Fair' be held on 28 February 1982.
- 28 February 1982** **The first 'Alexandra, Eildon District Lapidary Club Rock Swap & Gem Fair' was held** at Tumbling Waters.
- 22 February 2015** The **30th Rock Swap & Gem Fair** was held at the Thornton Football Oval. This year the Gold Coin Donation entry was abandoned, making it even more appealing for the public. This was the first fair that Artworkz attended.
- 22 February 2015** Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet.
- 28 February 2016** The 31st Thornton Gem and Rock Exhibition was held at the Thornton Football Oval.
- 26 February 2017** The 32nd Thornton Gem and Rock Exhibition was held at the Thornton Football Oval.
- 25 February 2018** The 33rd Thornton Rock Gem Fest and Sale Exhibition was held at the Thornton Football Oval.
- May 2020** The club received a \$5000 grant, which was enough to fix the kitchen and erect a water tank for their water supply.

OFFICE BEARERS

LISTING OF OFFICE BEARERS



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

1968 OFFICE BEARERS

Elected meeting 8 March

President:

Mr. Neil Murphy

Vice President:

Mr. W. Aron

Secretary:

Mrs. G Campbell

Auditor:

Mr. McLinnon

Treasurer:

Mrs. Hunt

Equipment Officer:

Mr. Hunt

Librarian:

Committee members:

Mr. Polderman

Mr. A. Van Der Vect

Mr. T. Hughes

Mr. D. Chambers



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

1969 OFFICE BEARERS

Elected meeting 11 April

President:

Mr. Parsons

Vice President:

Mr. Arnold

Secretary:

Mrs. Charmon

Auditor:

Mr. McLinnon

Treasurer:

Mrs. Hunt

Equipment Officer:

Mr. Hunt

Librarian:

Mr. Hughes

Committee members:

Mr. O'Kane

Mr. Cheffer

Mrs. Polderman

Mr. Heron

Mr. Charmon



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

1970 OFFICE BEARERS

Elected meeting 20 March

President:

Mr. Arnold

Vice President:

Mr. Campbell

Secretary:

Mrs. Charmon

Auditor:

Treasurer:

Mr. Hunt

Equipment Officer:

Mr. Hughes

Librarian:

Mr. Charman

Committee members:

Mr. Hillman

Mr. Hillman (*Camp Marshall*)

Mrs. Polderman

Mr. Heron

Mr. Charmon

GALLERY

RELATED IMAGERY

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club in 2012

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



2013 Rock Swap at Thornton

Copyright © Ron Cooper 2013

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



2015 Rock Swap at Thornton

© Campbell Myers 2015

eSPLASH MEDIA ARTICLES

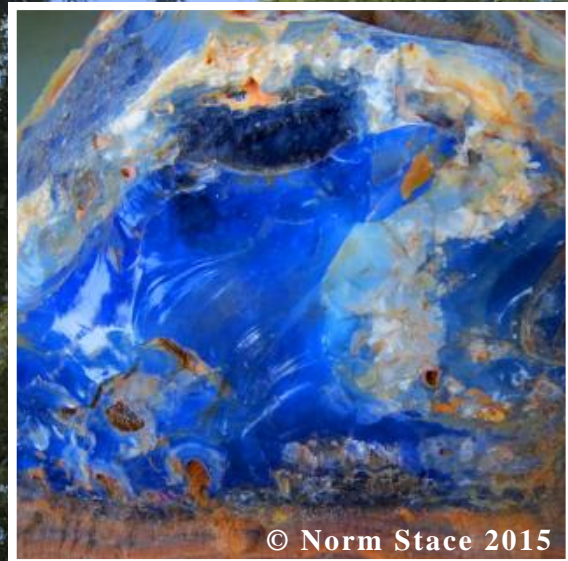
ARTICLES FROM THE eSPLASH eMAGAZINE

2015 2016 2018 2019 2020

GOLD, GEMS AND FOSSILS

ALEXANDRA & EILDON DISTRICT LAPIDARY CLUB

Published 27 February 2015 (eSplash112)



Thornton Rock and Gem Exhibition.

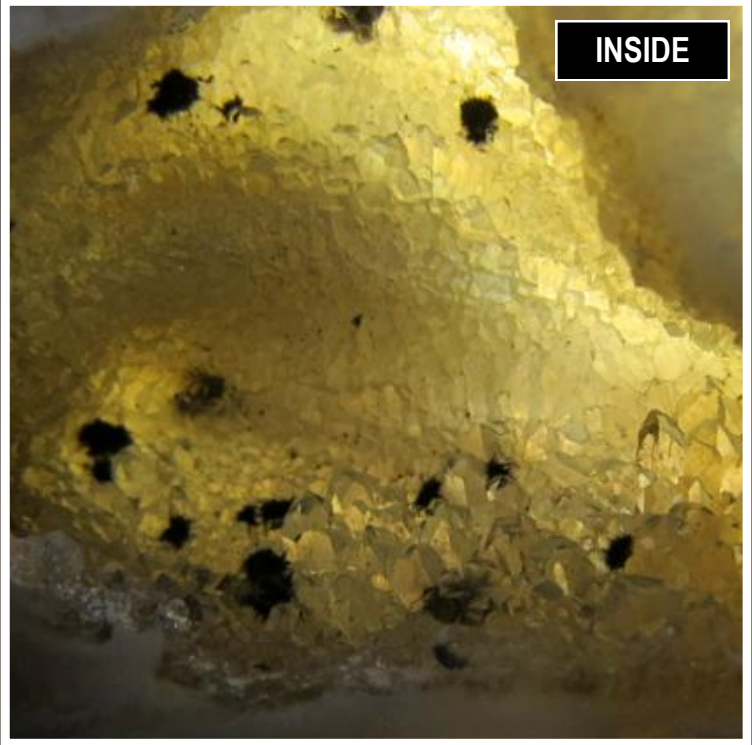
The Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club held their 30th Exhibition on Sunday past. We attended and loved browsing the stalls and finding rocks and gems to buy. It was very well organised and attended.

A great day was had by all

OUTSIDE



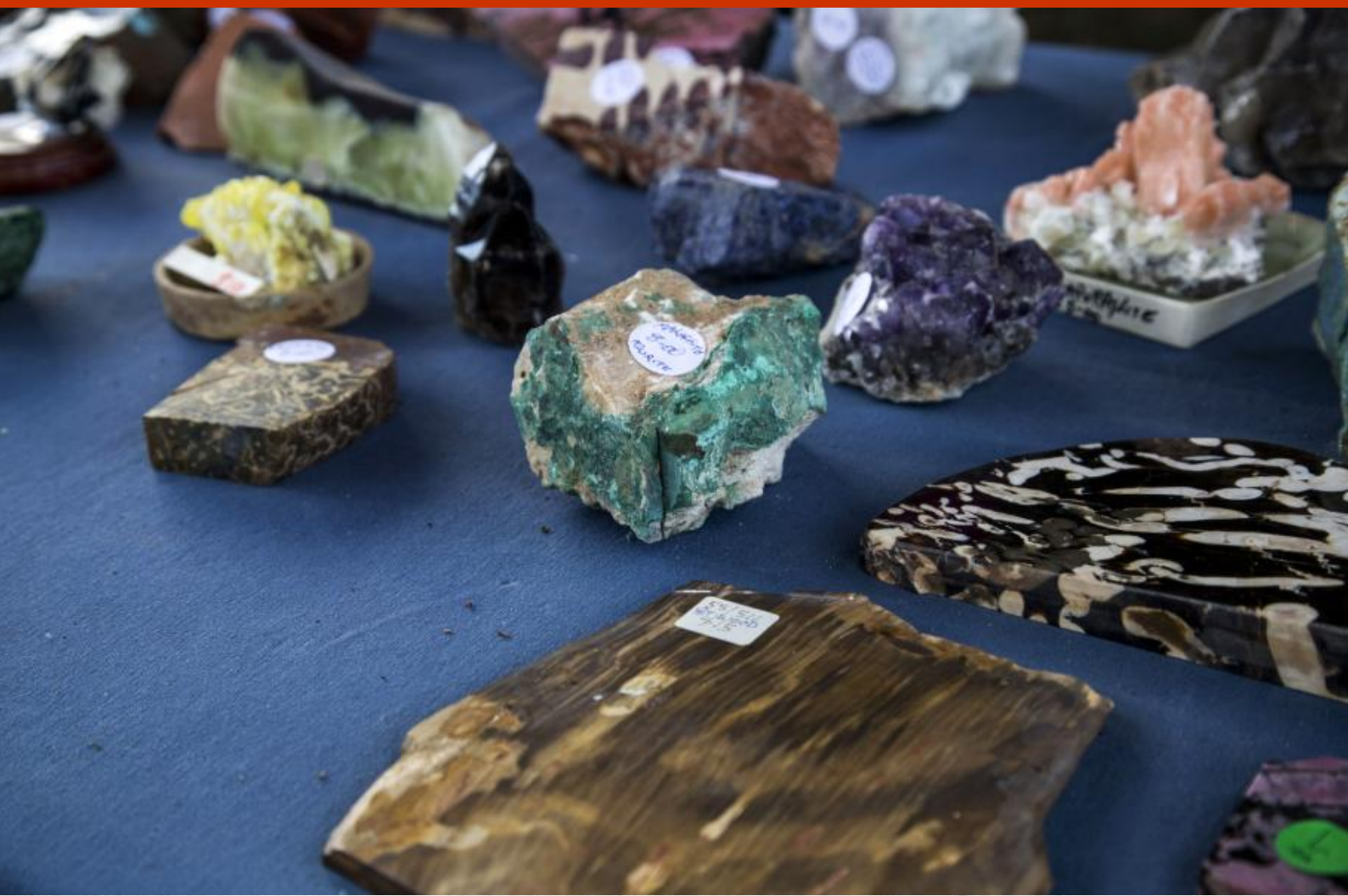
INSIDE



Amazing crystals









**Echinoid
Fossil**



**Beaumaris Beach
fossil site, Victoria**

**Echinoids belong
to a large group of
living and extinct sea
creatures that include the
common Sea Urchin.**





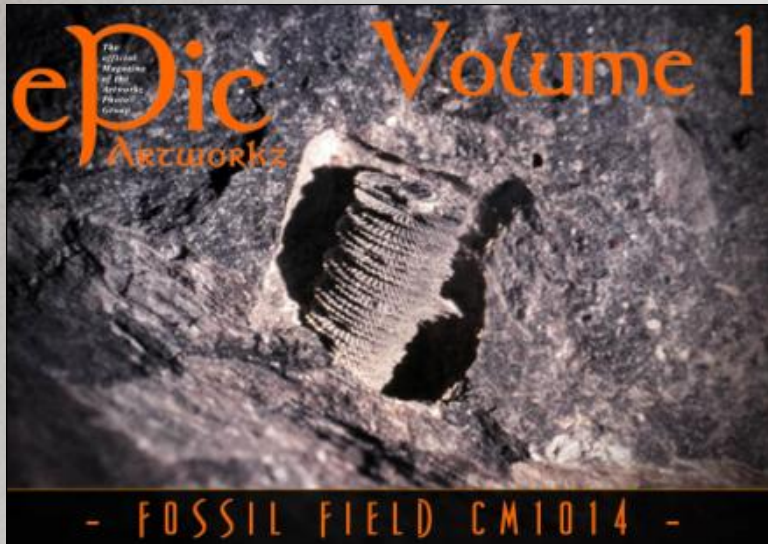
© Norm Stace 2015.

ePic

The
official
Magazine
of the
Artworkz
Photo
Team

ARTWORKZ

SHOWCASING OUR DISTRICT'S EPIC PHOTOGRAPHERS



The 'ePic' is the free eMagazine of the Artworkz Photo Group, made up of Photographers who love to share their work while inspiring and educating others.

The ePic is designed for use in educational areas, and for the iPad's platform.

The ePic Template is freely available to help promote photography and learning. Contact us for more information.

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'ePIC' HERE**



- LOCAL FOSSILS -

GOLD, GEMS & FOSSILS

ALEXANDRA & EILDON DISTRICT LAPIDARY CLUB
PUBLISHED 20 FEBRUARY 2015, ESPLASH111



Unearthing beauty in the bush.

The Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club is our district's most active lapidary club, with lots constantly going on. They have a well established home in Gordon Street, Alexandra and are always looking for members.











Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club

Meetings:

Fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 pm (Clubrooms).

Workshops:

Second and fourth Sundays of each month (Clubrooms)

Contact: David (03) 5774 2908.

Clubrooms - Gordon Street, Alexandra 3714.

Alexandra & Eildon District
Gem and Lapidary Club presents

THORNTON GEM & ROCK EXHIBITION

Gems
Crystals
Opals
Fossils
Minerals
Jewellery

*Something
for all ages*



Sunday 22 February 2015

Thornton Football Ground
Thornton-Taggerty Road
From 10 am

Contact David (03) 5774 2908



EXPLORING
CREATING
DISCOVERING
ENJOYING

Local Adventurers
seeking to unlock our
District's hidden treasures

FINDING LOCAL FOSSILS

Some Alexandra Adventurers get their hands dirty



Published 17 October 2014 (eSplash102)



Shell



Crinoid

*A small clay ball
surrounding a pyrite
(see next page)*





EXPLORING
CREATING
DISCOVERING
ENJOYING

Local Adventurers
seeking to unlock our
District's hidden treasures



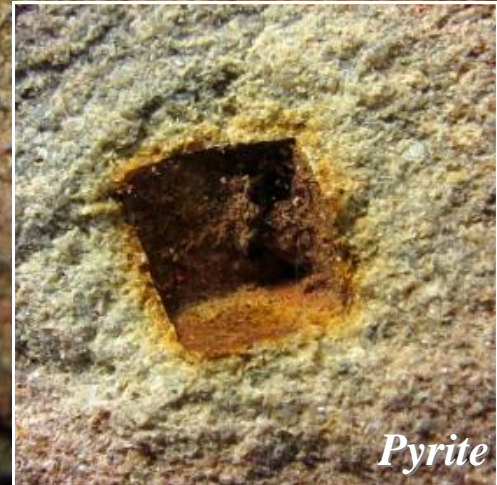
Pyrite in a clay ball



Shell



Pyrites



Pyrite



*EXPLORING
CREATING
DISCOVERING
ENJOYING*

**Local Adventurers
seeking to unlock our
District's hidden treasures**

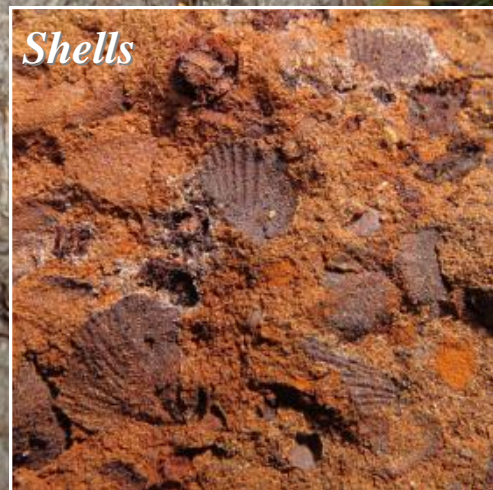
Shell



Specimens



Shells



*Check out the
Alexandra-Eildon
Lapidary Club Website.*



EXPLORING
CREATING
DISCOVERING
ENJOYING

Local Adventurers seeking to unlock our District's hidden treasures

Crinoid



Shell



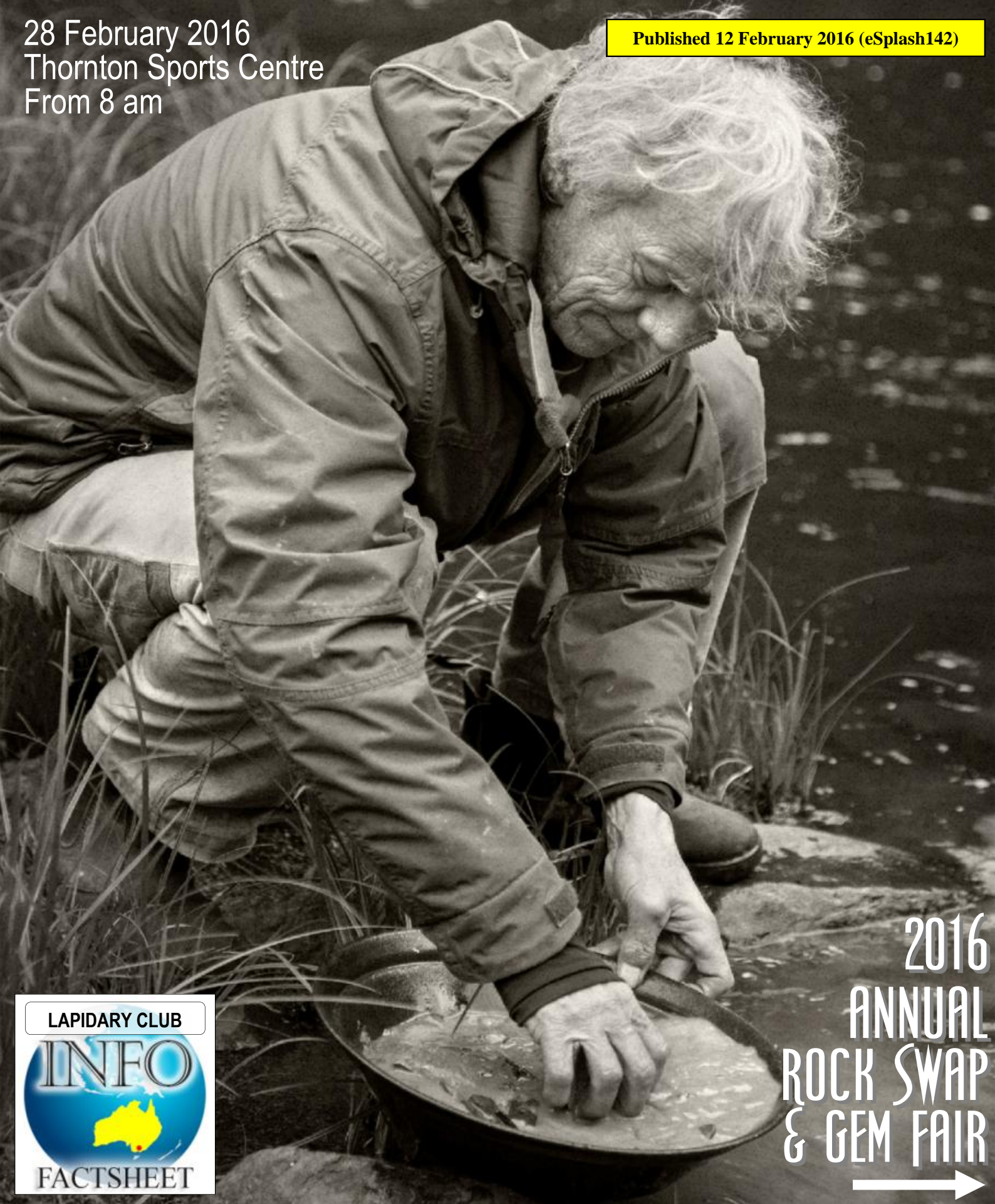
Alexandra Adventurers' Leisa Lees, Stephen Handbury and David Hibbert joined 'Alexandra-Eildon Lapidary Club' members Norm Stace and Alan Webb on a field trip to the Cathedral Ranges

Wednesday to visit two fossil sites. Many small fossils were discovered. Of special interest to the Adventurers are unfound fossil sites highlighted in documentation from the early 1900s. One site is the fossil bed of the Lungfish *Eothenodus microsoma* (Hill 1929) located at the back of the Cathedral Range in what was once the huge Cerberean volcanic cauldron.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT THE

28 February 2016
Thornton Sports Centre
From 8 am

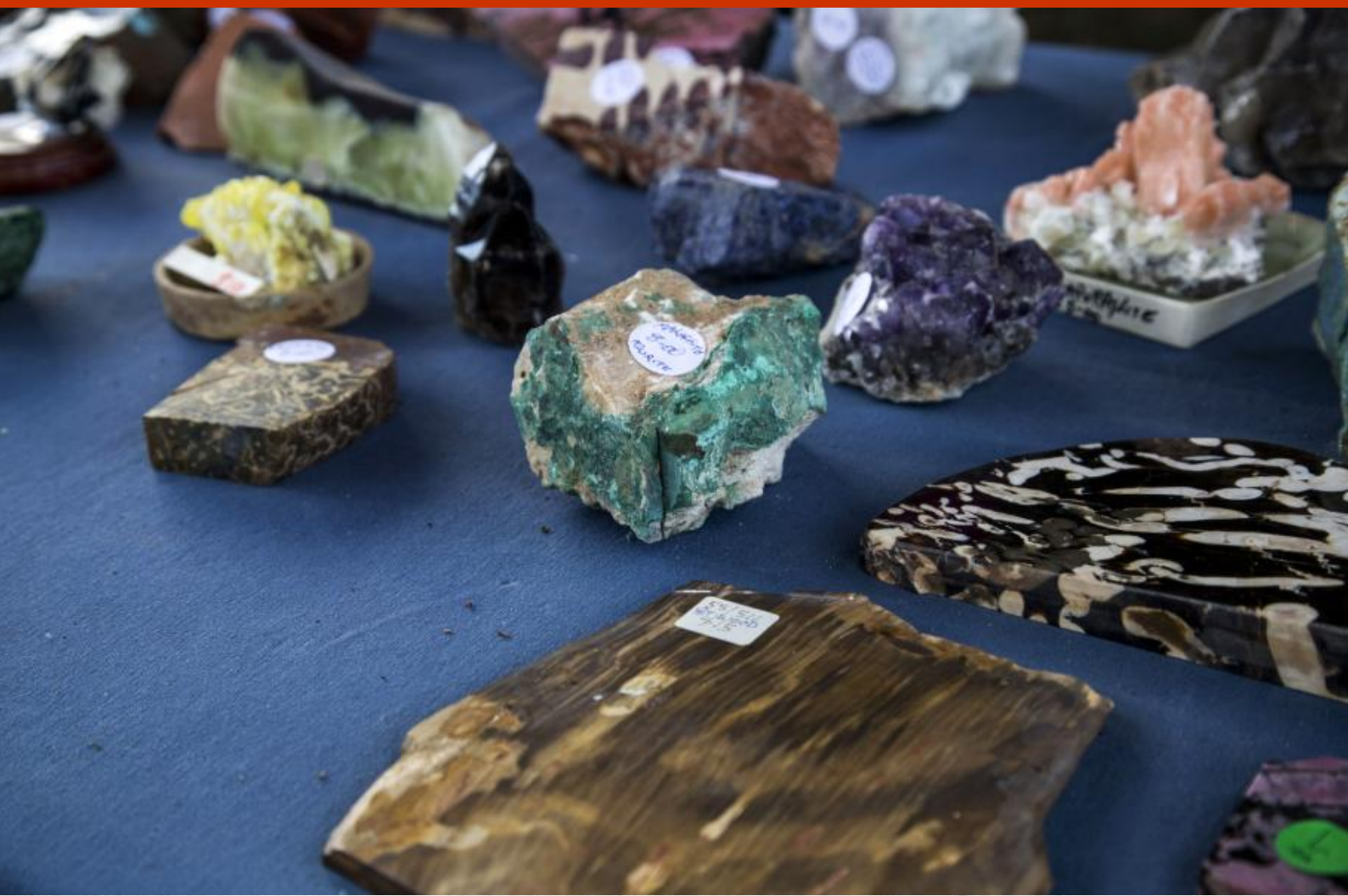
Published 12 February 2016 (eSplash142)



2016
ANNUAL
ROCK SWAP
& GEM FAIR
→

LAPIDARY CLUB







**Echinoid
Fossil**



**Beaumaris Beach
fossil site, Victoria**

**Echinoids belong
to a large group of
living and extinct sea
creatures that include the
common Sea Urchin.**







ALEXANDRA AND EILDON DISTRICT LAPIDARY CLUB
EXTENDS A WARM INVITATION TO EVERYONE TO JOIN US AT THORNTON FOR OUR

2016 ANNUAL ROCK SWAP & GEM FAIR

28th FEBRUARY 2016

Trading from 8am until mid/late afternoon.
12 km along the Goulburn River from Lake Eildon.
Thornton Sports Centre, Thornton-Taggerty rd. Thornton.
300m from Goulburn Valley Hwy. Ref; Melway Map 510 U9

Come, bring the family and peruse the large range of Exotic Minerals, Gems, Fossils and other Wonders of the World, gathered here, in these tranquil surrounds.

Stall holders display product from far and from near, both in raw and in finely worked form, for everyone's wonderment, and for sale.

Try your hand at Panning for Gold and Gems from punnets provided at very reasonable rates. Perhaps pick up a tip or two from an expert.
The Raffle will be drawn at 2pm.

Stall Sites are 3 m frontage with 1m passage between and are \$25 each for the day. Stalls can extend behind the frontage as far as required.

ROCK SWAP & GEM FAIR

THORNTON - 28 FEBRUARY 2016
PUBLISHED 11 MARCH 2016, ESPLASH144



Another Great Success

We visited the annual Rock Swap & Gem Fair held at Thornton Sunday 28 February and by all accounts, it was an outstanding success. Talking with organisers, I learnt that they believe it was their best fair to date. Considering they have been holding this event for over three decades, it is great to hear that it still continues to develop and grow in popularity.



My wife and I attended with friends and I was looking for some small rocks to photograph and something old from the bric-a-brac stalls. My wife was after rock jewellery to compliment her lovely wardrobe and collection. As it turns out, I was easily satisfied as there were rocks galore and numerous vendors selling old wares. My wife took longer to choose a piece from the many vendors selling women's jewellery. In the end she was rewarded with a necklace featuring a leather strap and three polished agate rocks. The rocks compliment each other perfectly. We also spent time talking with friends and meeting new people.

The Rock Swap & Gem Fair Committee have achieved something special with the 2016 event. Chatting with stall holders, it was clear that this is an event they thoroughly enjoy attending, even though some of them travel great distances. If you have been getting the eSplash magazine long enough, you will likely know that one of my passions are rock and fossils. Hence this event definitely suits my likes and gave me plenty to enjoy and learn. Although it is a year away, I strongly recommend putting a little time aside for a visit to the upcoming 2017 fair next February. We definitely gave this year a big *thumbs-up*, and organisers are working to make next year even bigger.

Congratulations to the organisers for a great event.



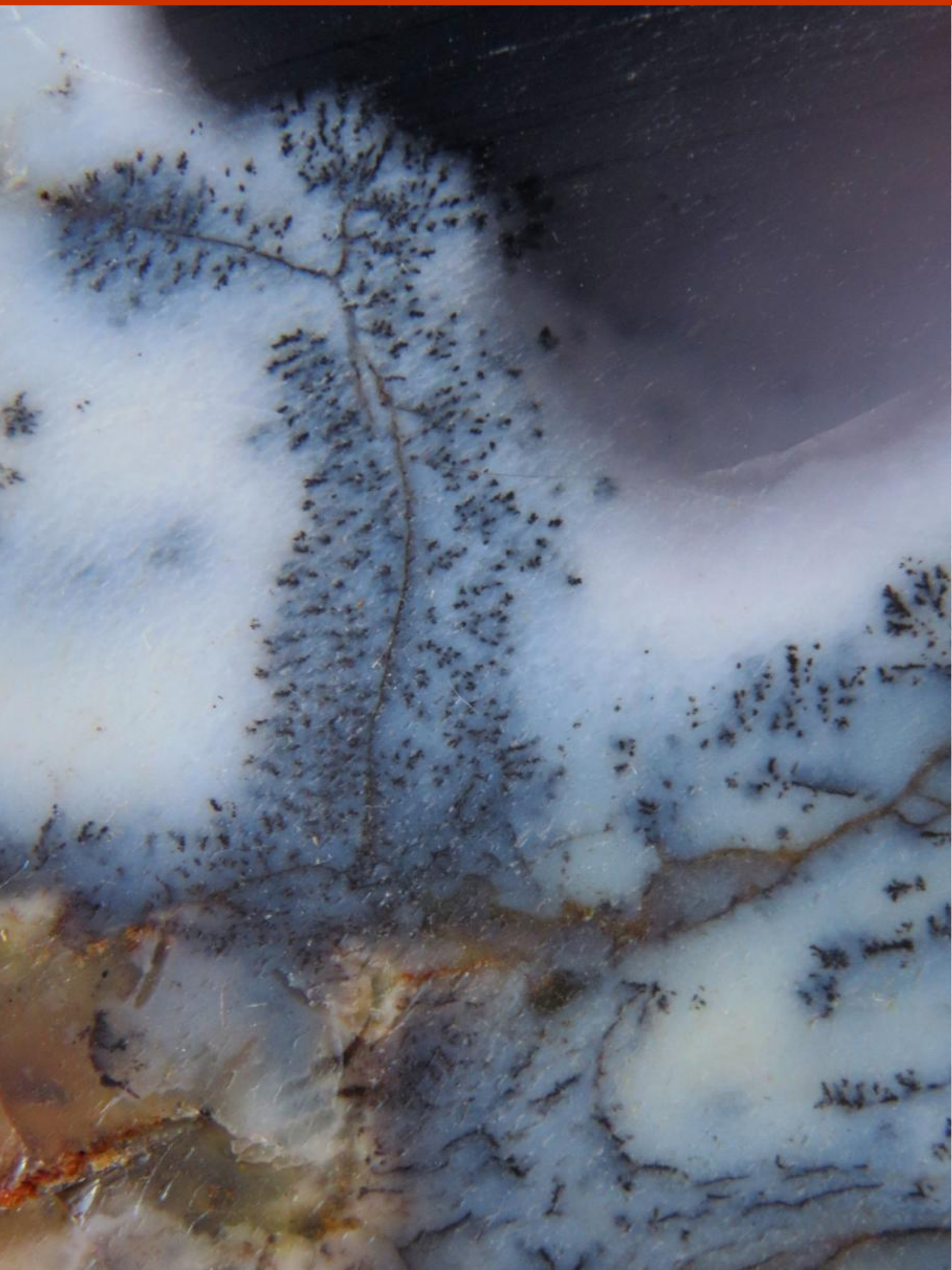




Cavenderichthys talbragarensis - A stallholder let me photograph this fossil





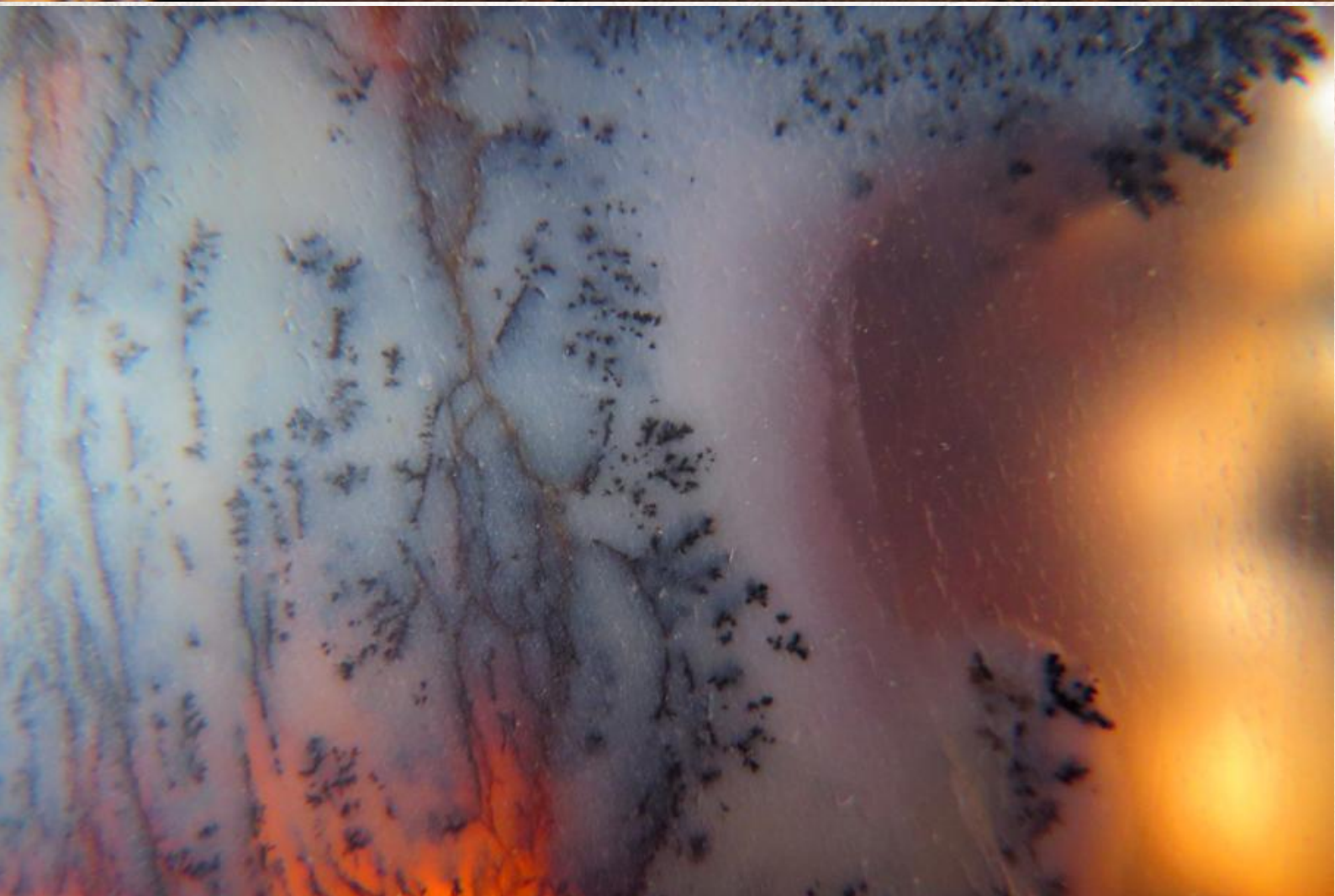


A Japanese tree-like scene in one cheap rock I purchased



One of the stalls with well priced items



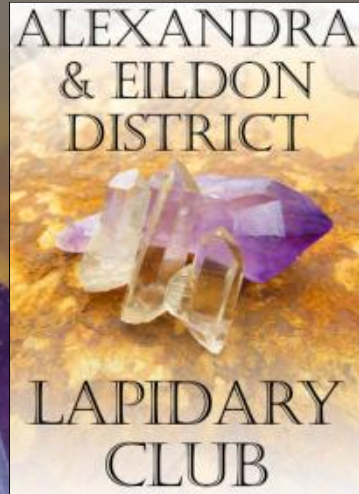


Alexandra & Eildon District
Gem and Lapidary Club presents

THORNTON GEM & ROCK EXHIBITION

Gems
Crystals
Opals
Fossils
Minerals
Jewellery

*Download the
Alexandra &
Eildon District
Lapidary Club
factsheet here*



*Something
for all ages*



Sunday 26 February 2017

Thornton Football Ground
Thornton-Taggerty Road
From 10 am

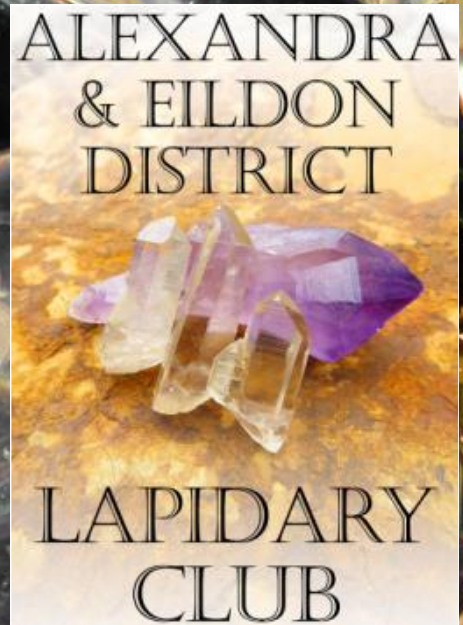
Contact David (03) 5774 2908

ANNOUNCING THE 2018 ROCK GEM FEST & SALE

SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY FROM 8 AM
PUBLISHED 23 FEBRUARY 2018, ESPLASH190

**ON THIS
SUNDAY**

Download
Factsheet



The 33rd Annual Rock Gem Fest & Sale

As nature lovers, we always look forward to February when the Thornton Rock Gem Fest & Sale is held. This Sunday it is on again and we encourage you to take some time out and visit this year's fun event.











- SCENES FROM 2017 ROCK GEM FEST & SALE -



Sunday 25 February 2018 from 8 am at the Thornton Recreation Reserve













The Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club

As well as holding an annual Rock Gem Fest & Sale, the Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club meet regularly in their premises at Gordon Street, Alexandra. They hold regular club events and excursions, workshops and training sessions throughout the year, and new members are always welcome.

The first gathering of the founders of the Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club was on 8 March 1968 when a meeting was held at the home of Mr and Mrs G Campbell of Eildon, to discuss the forming of a Lapidary Club. There were 28 people in attendance, all interested in finding and creating gem stones. All those at the meeting agreed that a Lapidary Club should be formed and that it be called the 'Eildon & District Lapidary Club'.

The club continues today and is one of just a few local clubs to have held so many annual events. It remains an exciting place to learn about lapidary (the polishing, engraving and preparing of stones and gems) and everything else rock related.

You are welcome at Thornton's Annual Event this Sunday





lapidary

noun

1. the art of cutting, polishing, and engraving precious stones.

Examples

They attended lapidary club each month.

They loved the connection lapidary gave them with nature.

Alexandra & Eildon District Gem and Lapidary Club
are proud to present their Annual

ROCK GEM FEST & SALE

**Gems
Crystals
Opals
Fossils
Minerals
Jewellery**

Something
for all ages



*All stall holders must
show proof of insurance*

Sunday 25 February 2018

Thornton Recreation Reserve
Thornton-Taggerty Road
Open from 8 am

Contact Norm 0418 577 189

VOLCANIC BASALT CONE

Alexandra Eildon & District Lapidary Club



GET UP - GET OUT - GET EXPLORING

ANNOUNCING THE 2019 ROCK GEM FEST & SALE

SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY FROM 8 AM
PUBLISHED ESPLASH209 22 FEBRUARY 2019

ON THIS
SUNDAY



The 34th Annual Rock Gem Fest & Sale

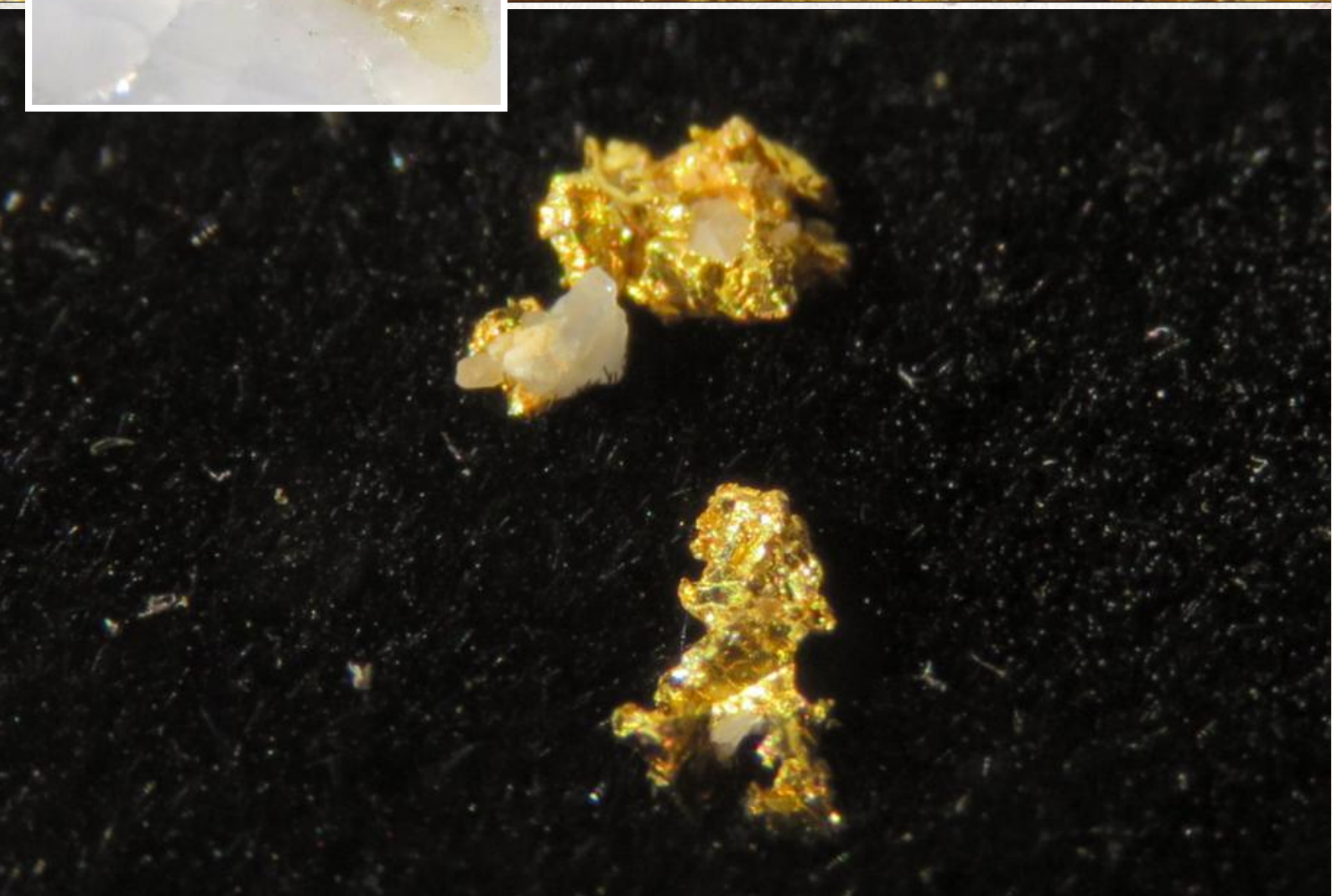
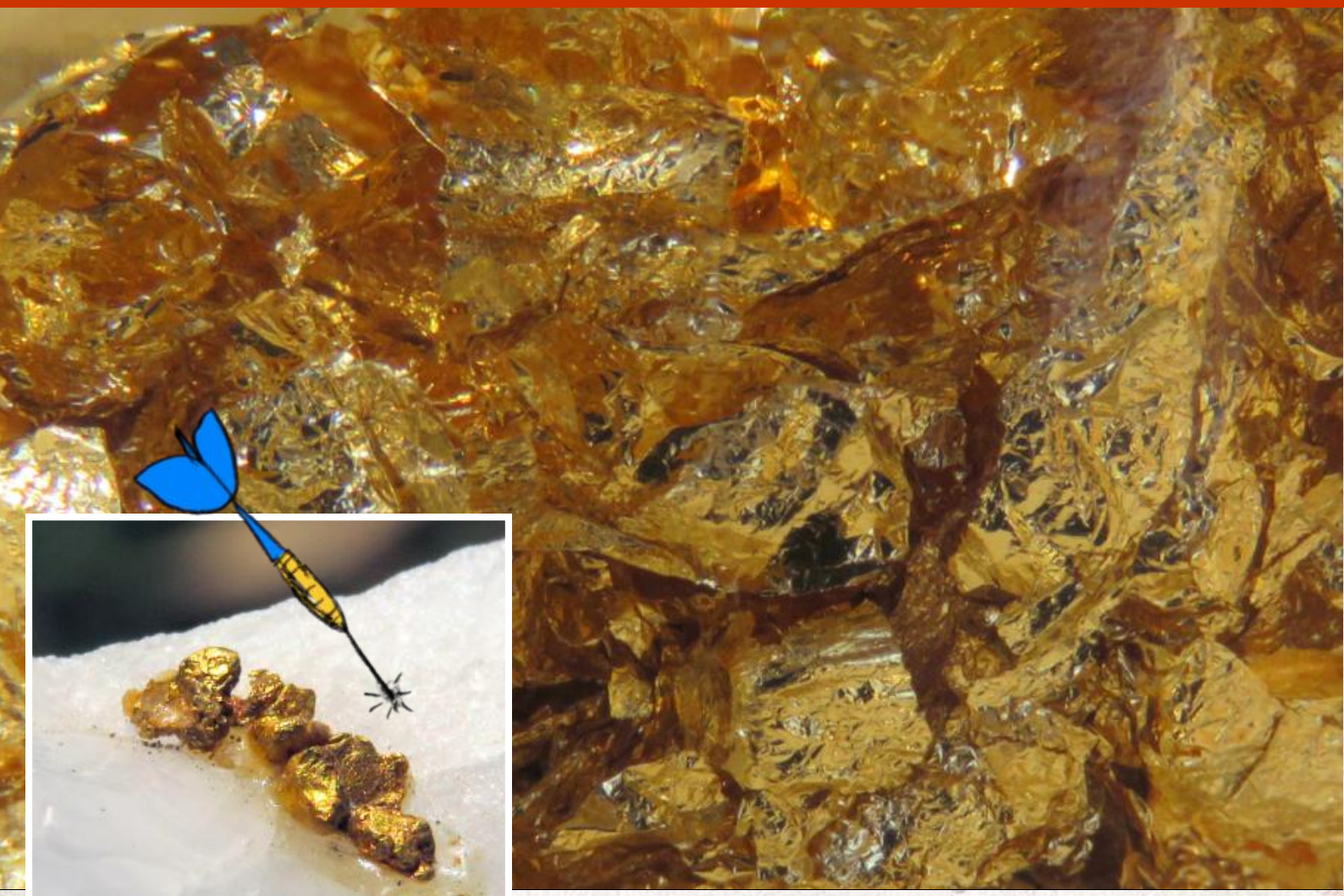
As nature lovers, we always look forward to February when the Thornton Rock Gem Fest & Sale is held. This Sunday it is on again and we encourage you to take some time out and visit this year's fun event.





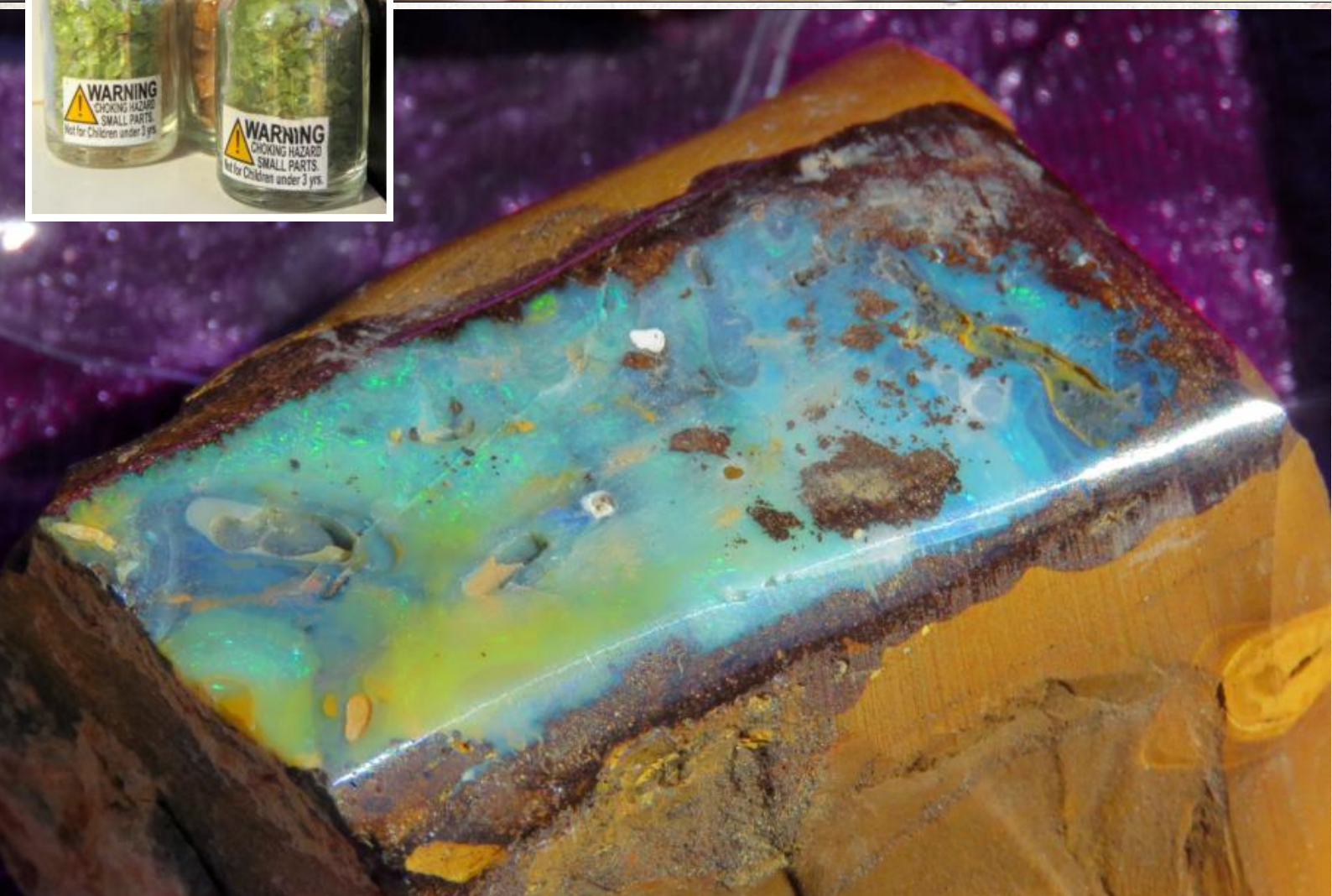






















The Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club

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The club is one of just a few local clubs to have held so many annual events.

You are welcome at Thornton's Annual Event this Sunday



Alexandra & Eildon District Gem and Lapidary Club
are proud to present their Annual

ROCK GEM FEST & SALE

**Gems
Crystals
Opals
Fossils
Minerals
Jewellery**

Something
for all ages



*All stall holders must
show proof of insurance*

Sunday 24 February 2019

Thornton Recreation Reserve
Thornton-Taggerty Road
Open from 8 am

Contact Ross 0488 621 048

aPe
Artworkz
Photo
Essay

Artworkz
Photo
Essay

SHOWCASING OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS

PhotoEssay

Thornton 2019 Rock Gem Fest



David Hibbert

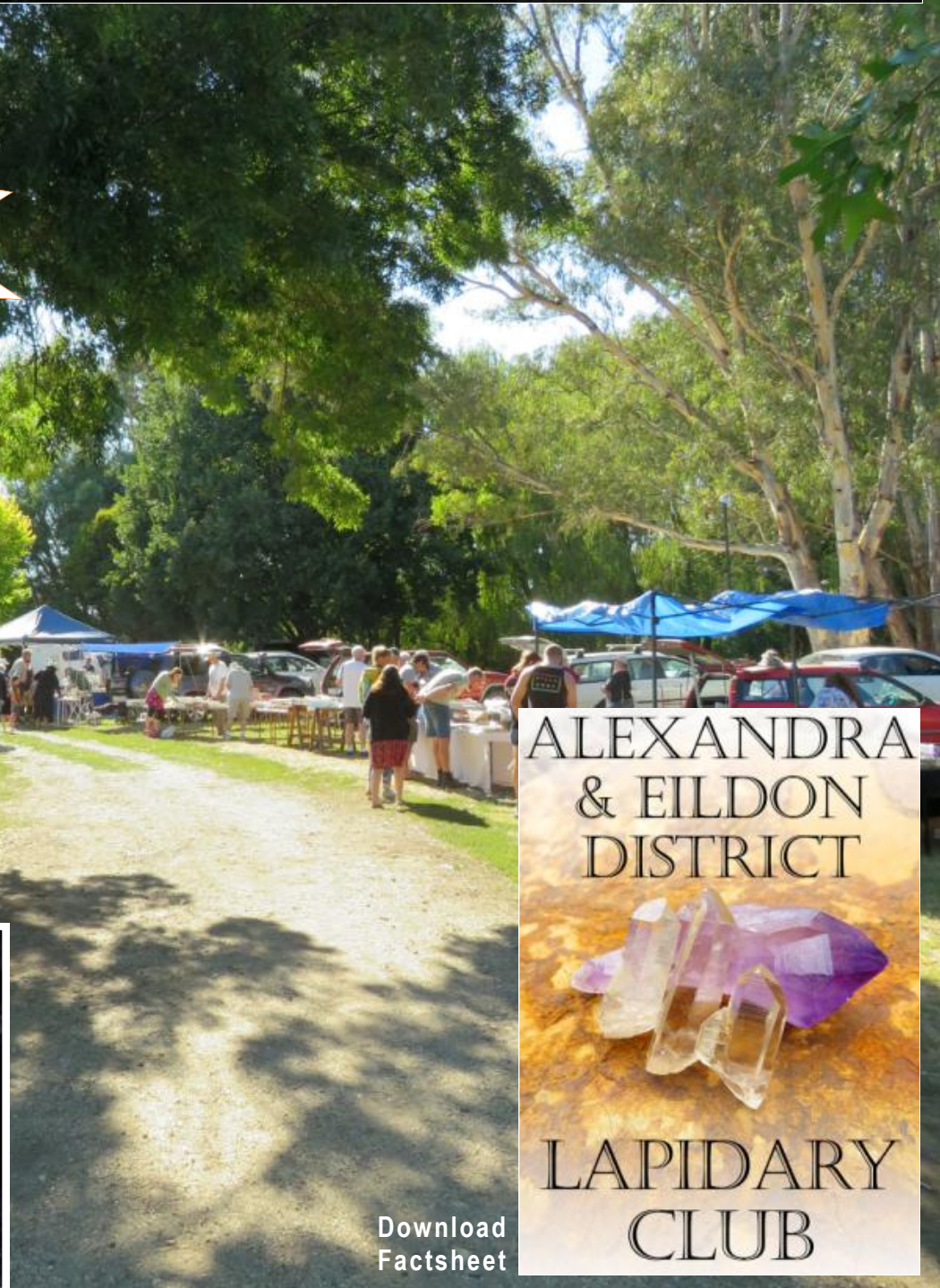
An Artworkz PhotoEssay (aPe) is an eBook with text accompanying around eight photographs, that teach us something of the topic and the writer

CLICK ESSAY TO DOWNLOAD

ANNOUNCING THE 2020 ROCK GEM FEST & SALE

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY FROM 8 AM
PUBLISHED ESPLASH229 17 FEBRUARY 2020

ON SUNDAY
23 February



ALEXANDRA
& EILDON
DISTRICT



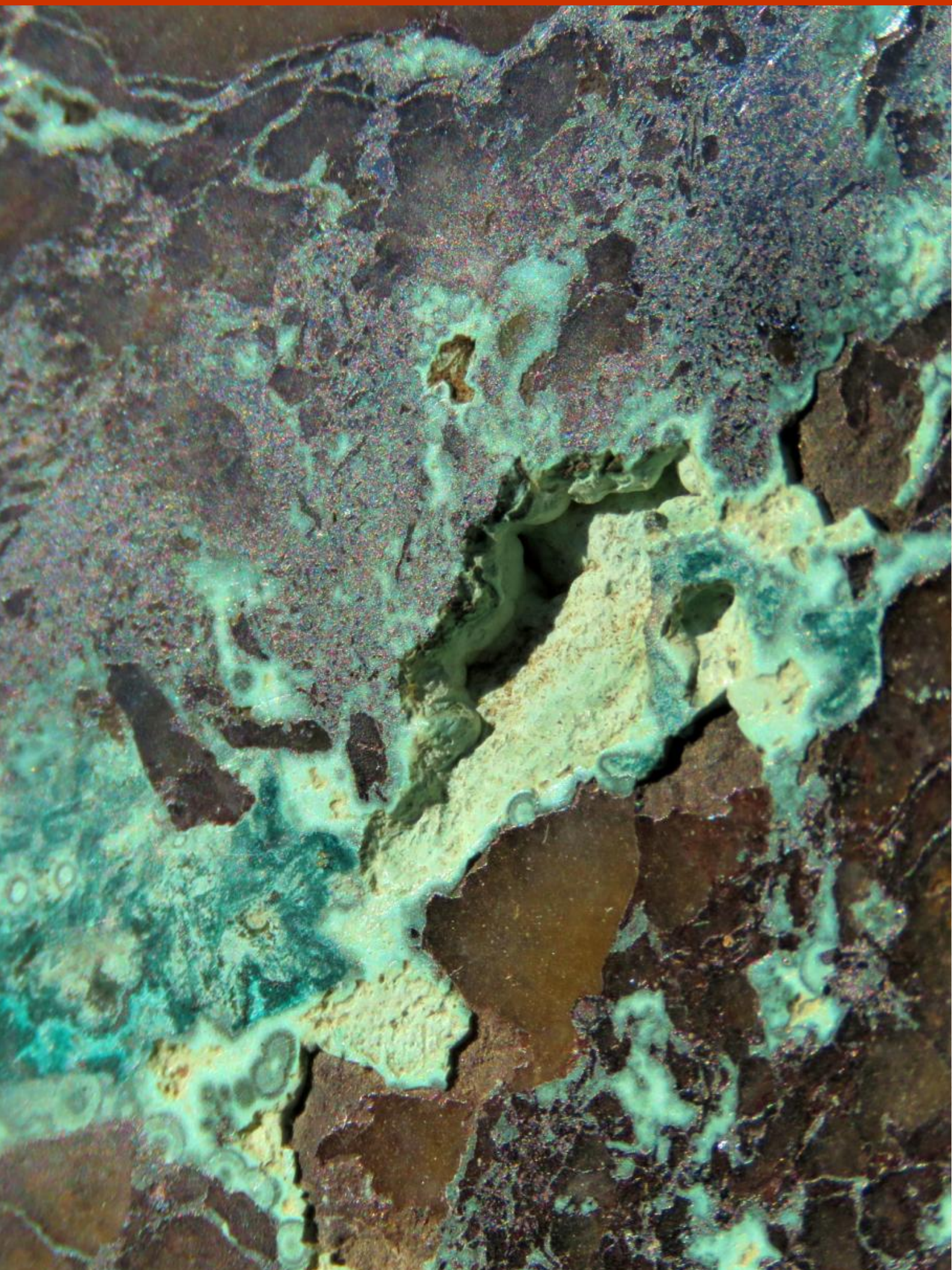
LAPIDARY
CLUB

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Factsheet

The 34th Annual Rock Gem Fest & Sale

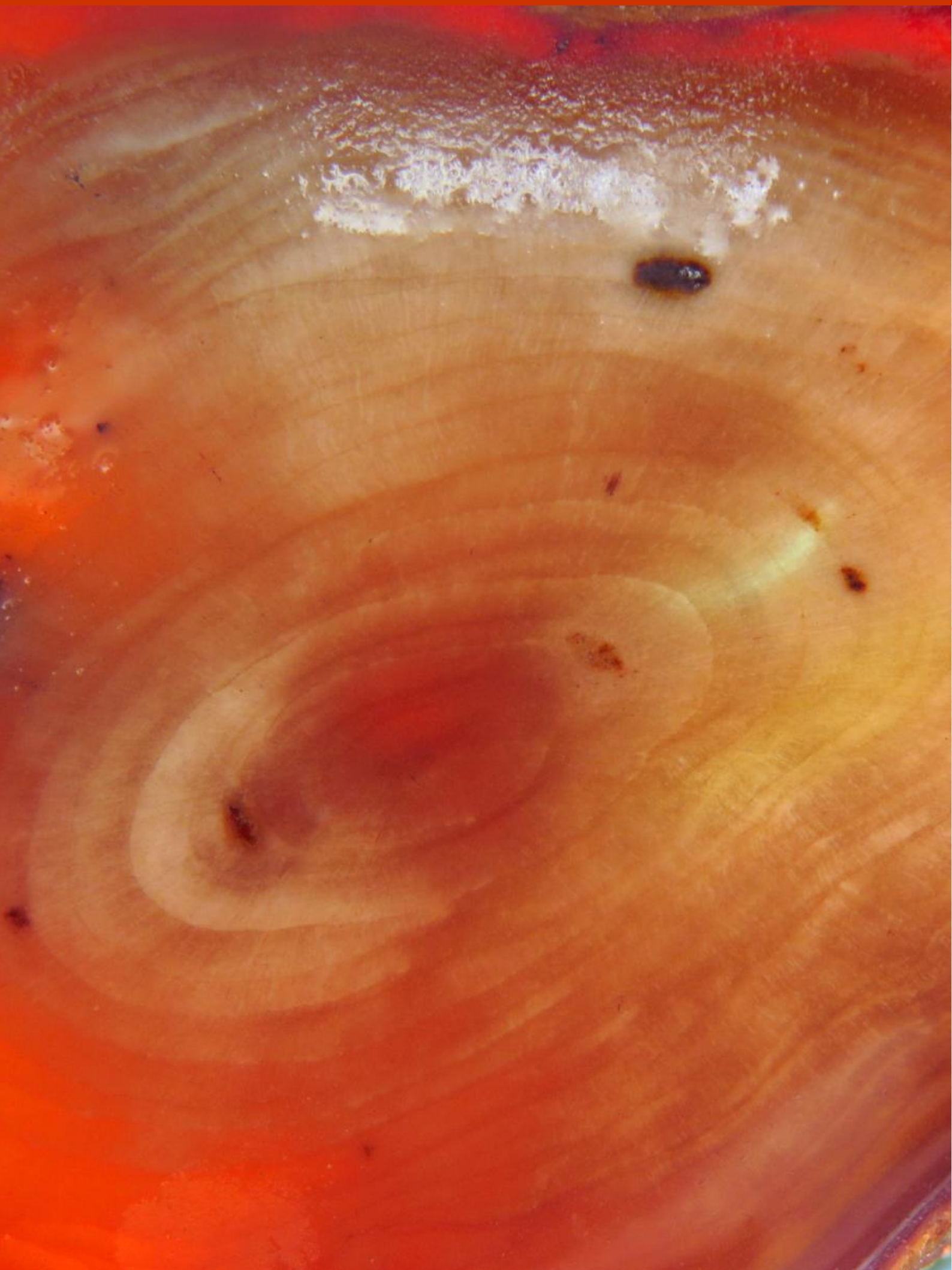
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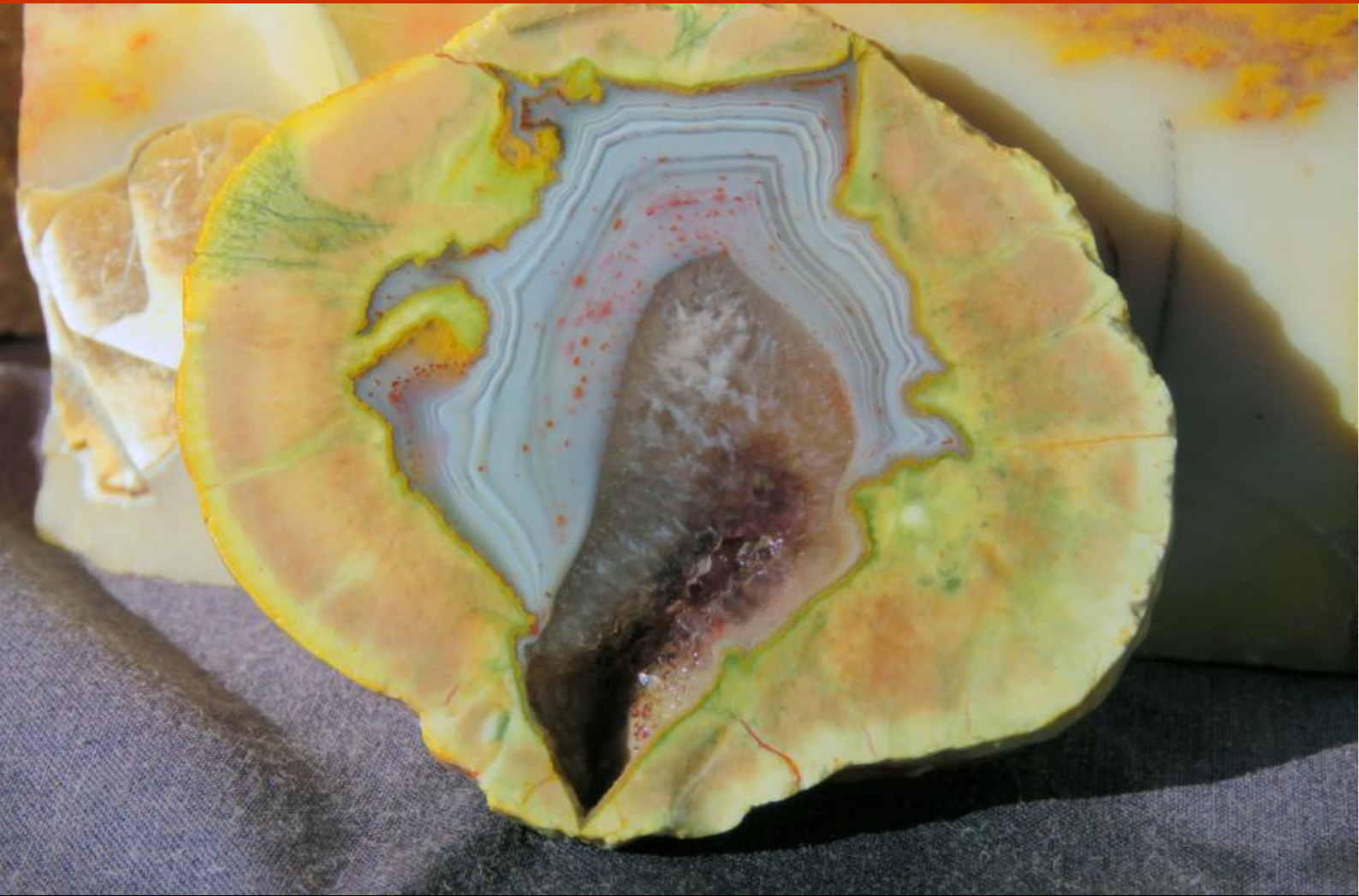


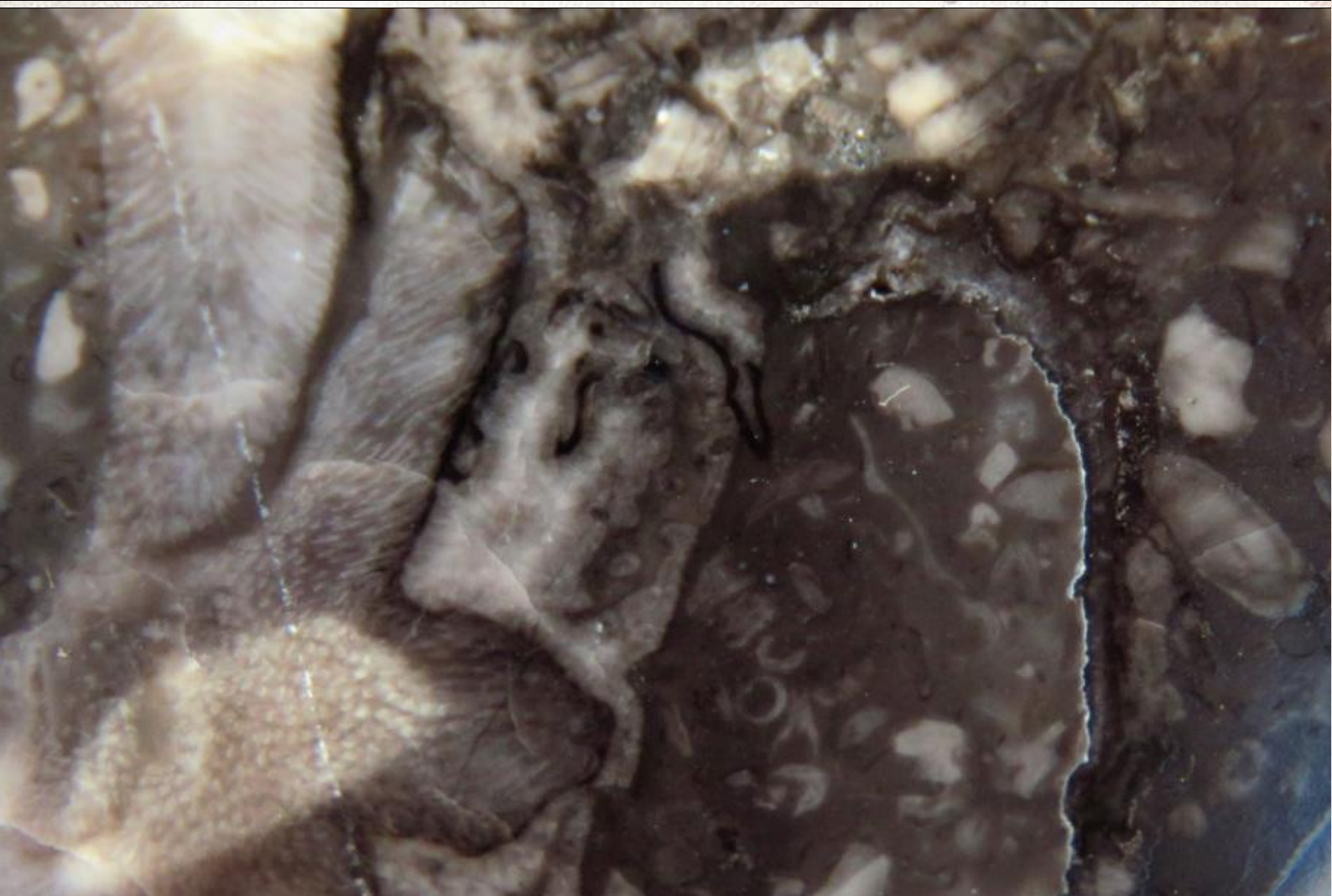




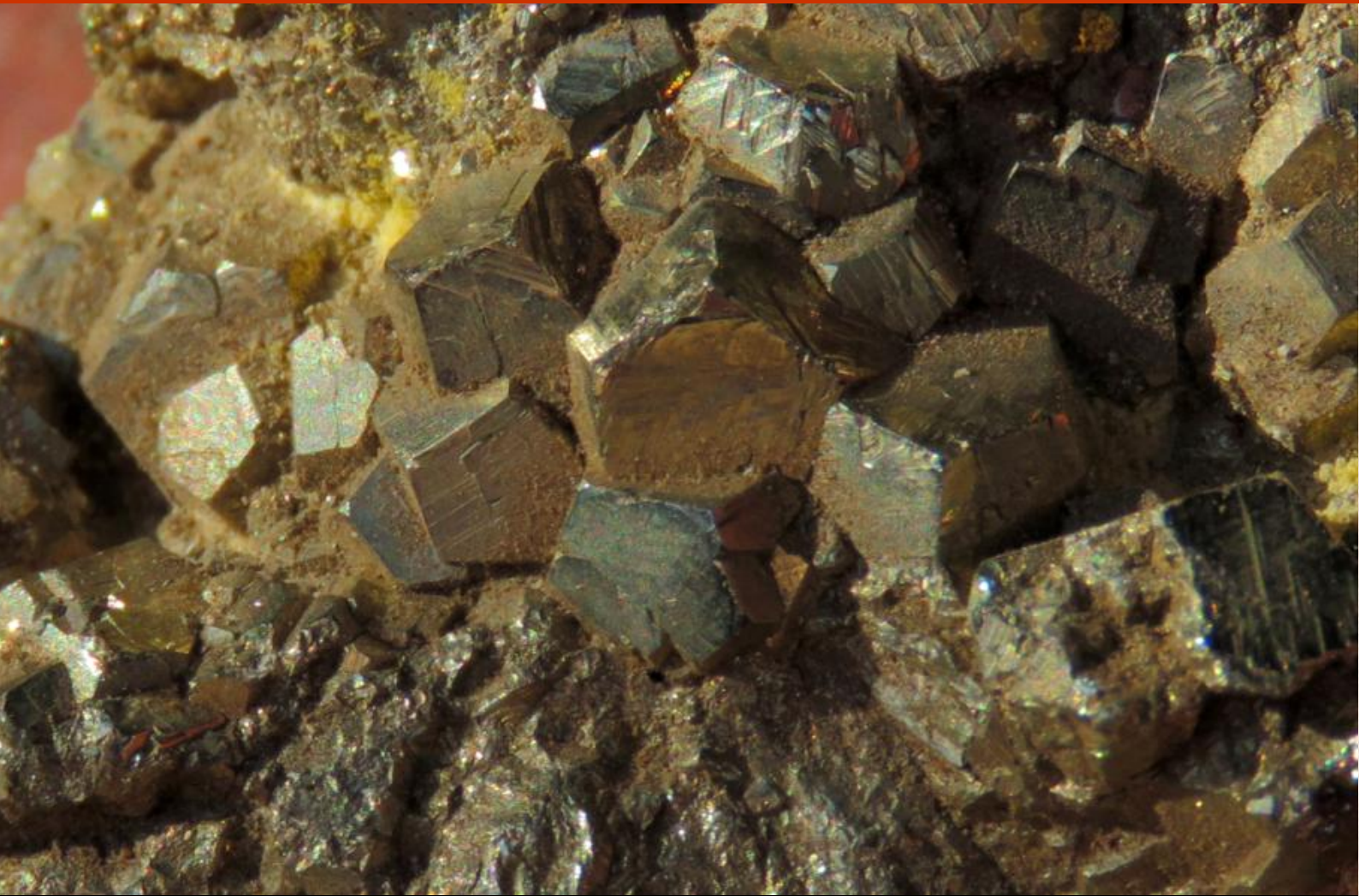


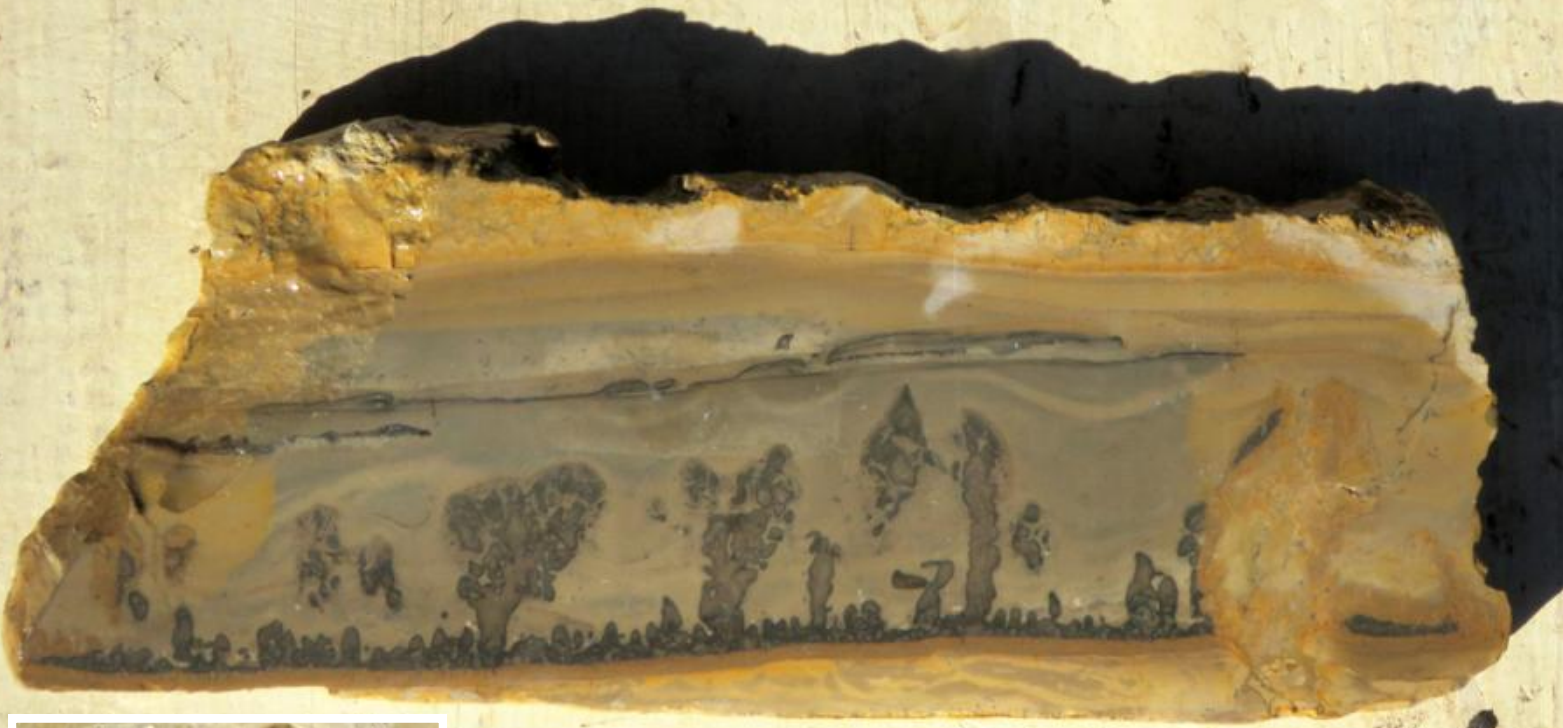




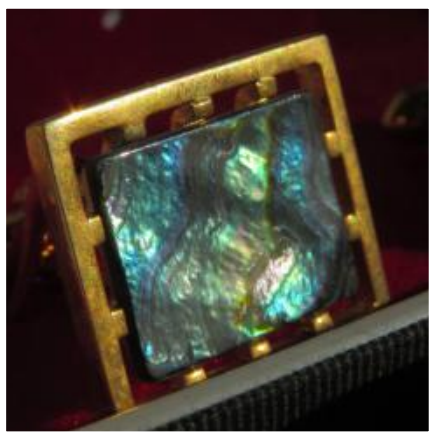






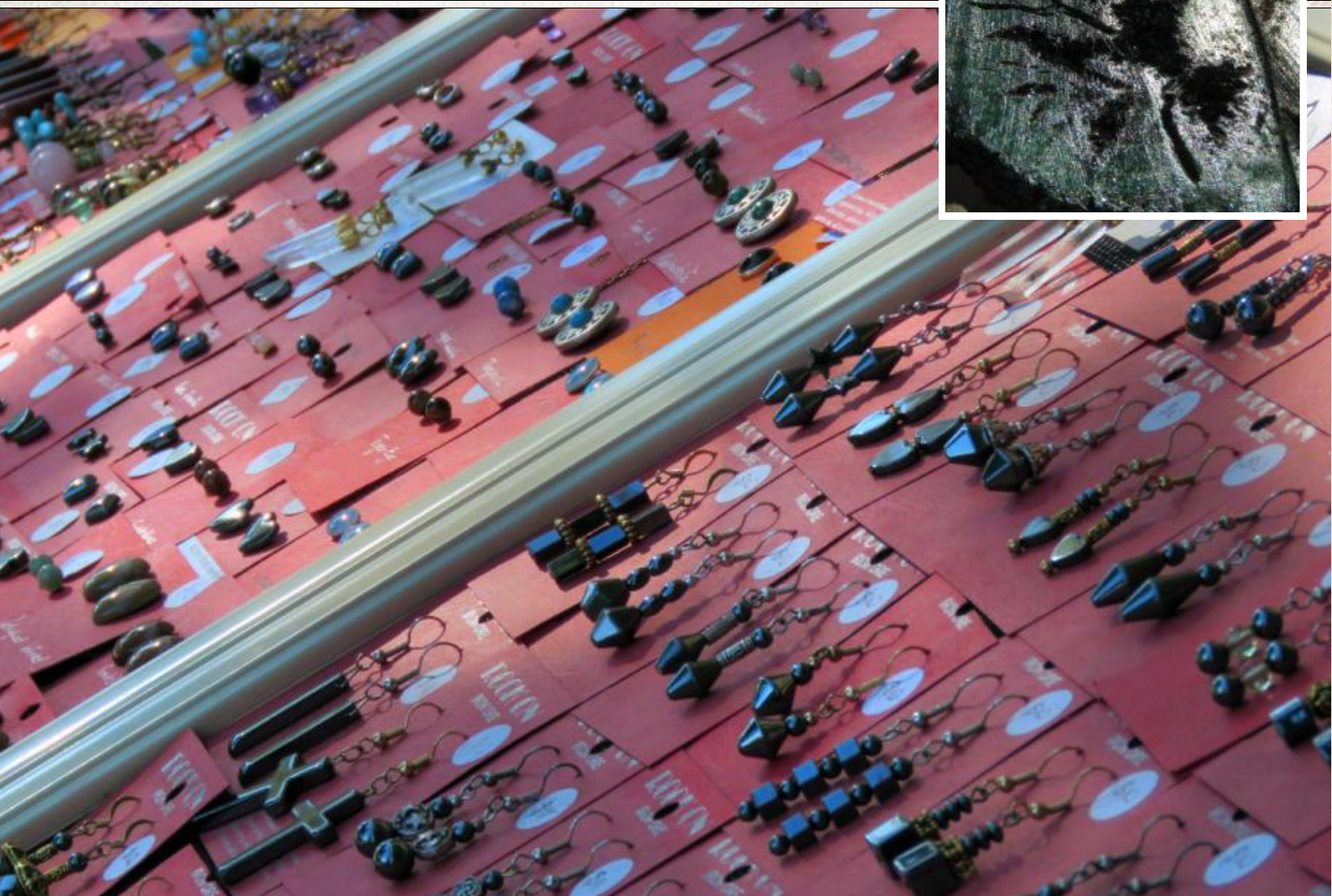
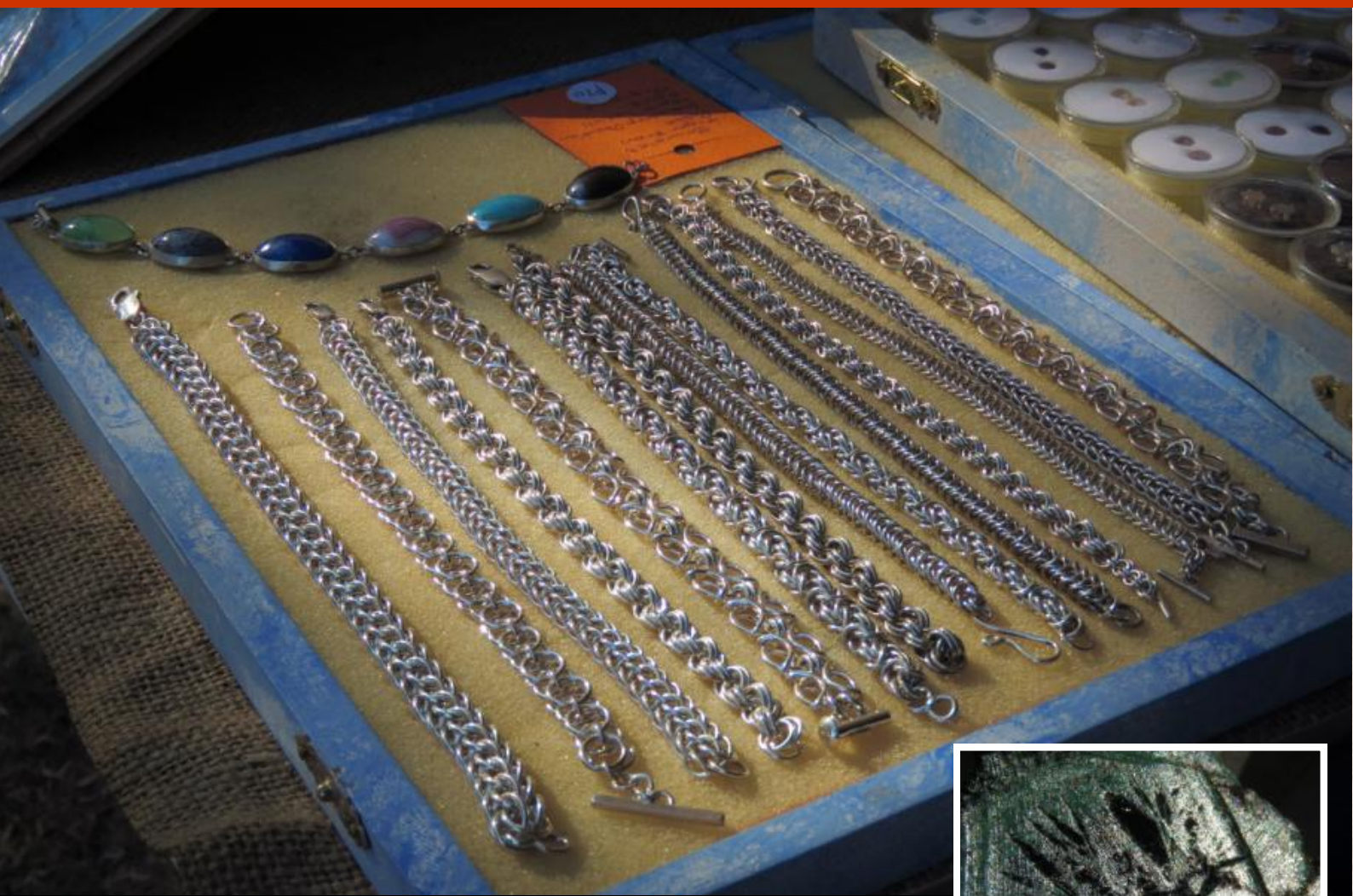












- SCENES FROM THE 2019 ROCK GEM FEST & SALE -



Sunday 23 February 2020 from 8 am at the Thornton Recreation Reserve





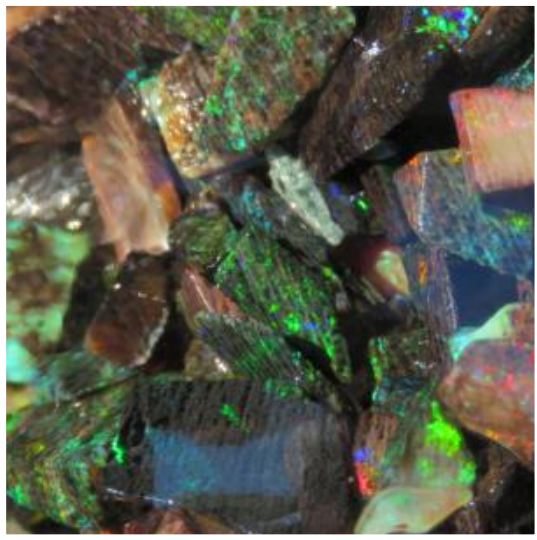
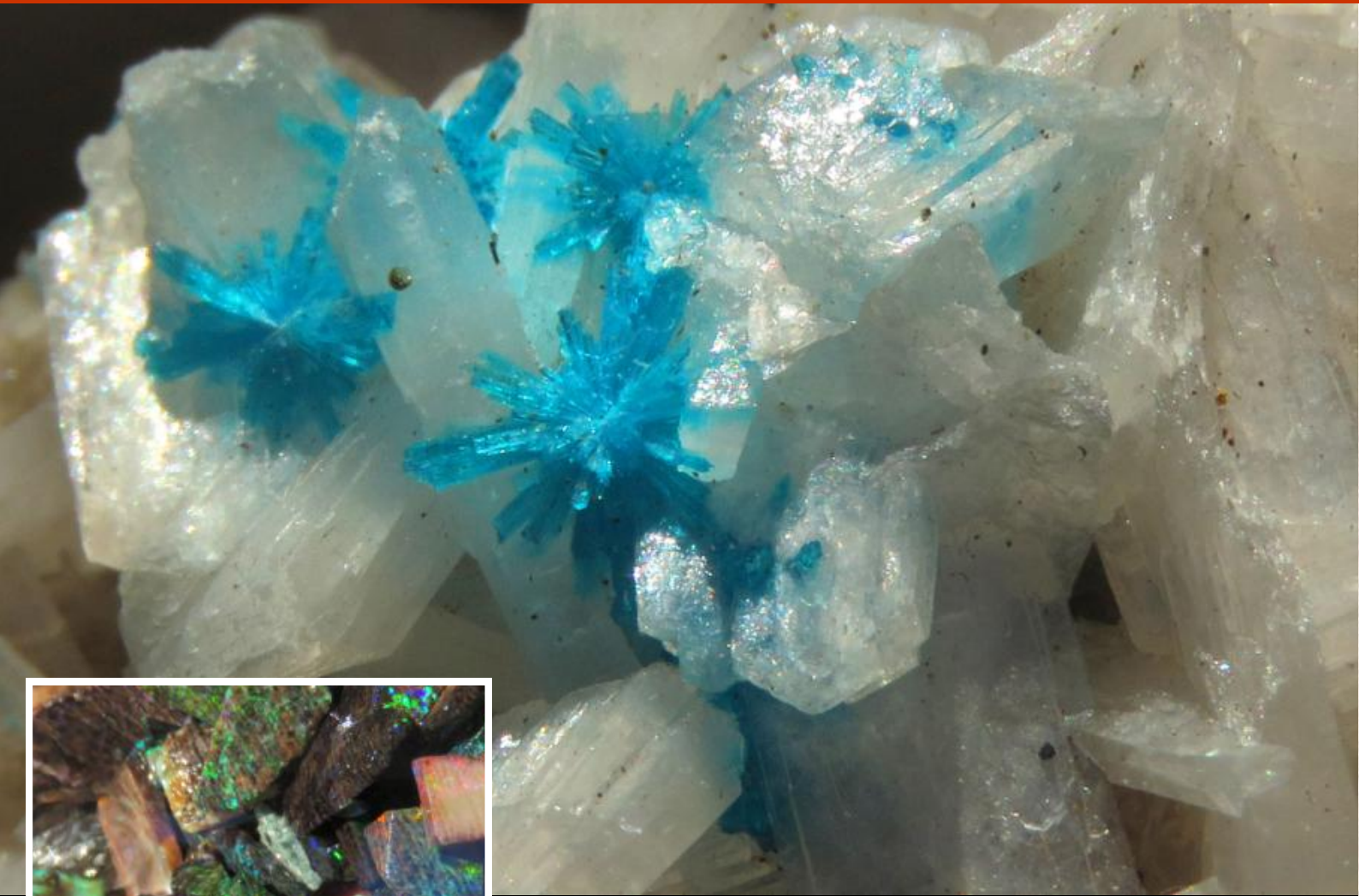
- SCENES FROM THE 2019 ROCK GEM FEST & SALE -



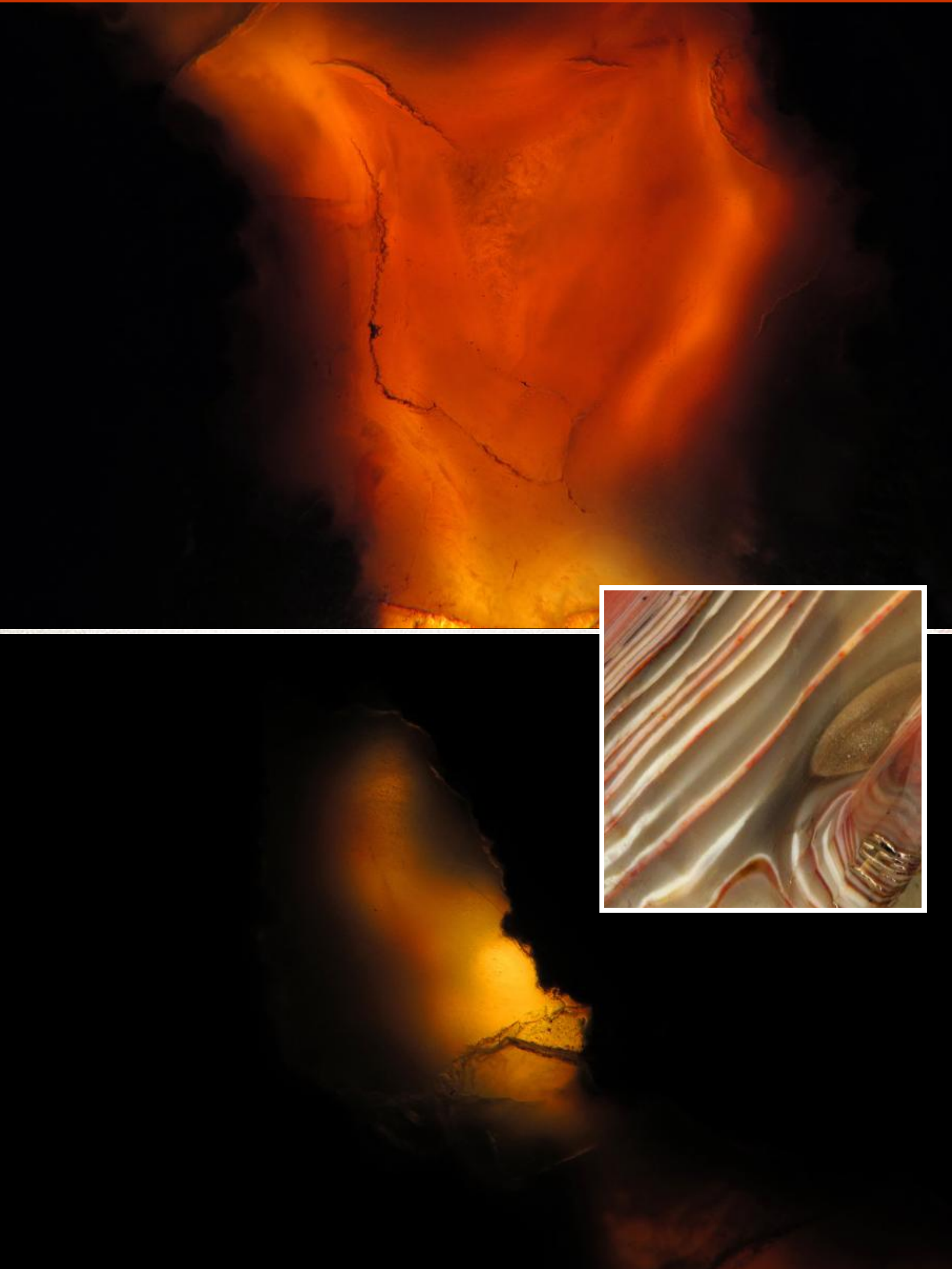
Sunday 23 February 2020 from 8 am at the Thornton Recreation Reserve













The Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club

As well as holding an annual Rock Gem Fest & Sale, the Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club meet regularly in their premises at Gordon Street, Alexandra. They also hold regular club events and excursions, workshops and training sessions throughout the year. It remains an exciting place to learn about lapidary (the polishing, engraving and preparing of stones and gems) and everything else rock related and new members are always welcome.

The first gathering of the founders of the Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club was on 8 March 1968 when a meeting was held at the home of Mr and Mrs G Campbell of Eildon, to discuss the forming of a Lapidary Club. There were 28 people in attendance, all interested in finding and creating gem stones. Those at the meeting agreed that a Lapidary Club should be formed and that it be called the 'Eildon & District Lapidary Club'.

The club is one of just a few local clubs to have held so many annual events.

You are welcome at Thornton's Annual Event this Sunday



Alexandra & Eildon District Gem and Lapidary Club
are proud to present their Annual

ROCK GEM FEST & SALE

**Gems
Crystals
Opals
Fossils
Minerals
Jewellery**

Something
for all ages



*All stall holders must
show proof of insurance*

Sunday 23 February 2020

Thornton Recreation Reserve
Thornton-Taggerty Road
Open from 8 am

Contact Ross 0488 621 048

MONOGRAPTUS FOSSILS

ALEXANDRA - 6 AUGUST 2019

PUBLISHED 9 AUGUST 2019, ESPLASH219



An old photo leads us to a fossil find

After receiving an old photograph from Lance Adams with an unrecognised road in it, Allan Layton and I went out in the field to investigate the road, which we found, But to our surprise we also found a small previously unknown fossil field.

We took local retired Geologist David Gamble to the site and he was as excited as we were to confirm the existence of a collection of fossils.



Rock covered in fossils






The fossils range from 5 to 25 mm



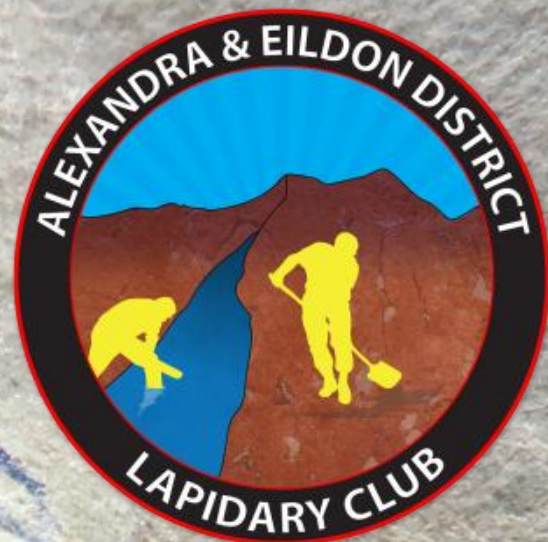


These Monograptus fossils are not new at Alexandra, being recorded here in 1899 by TS Hall. But this small site is new, as it was only exposed after a recent rock fall. The site had previously been investigated for fossils with no results.



Monograptus are small aquatic animals dating to the early Devonian era.

Should fossils and rocks be of interest to you, then the Alexandra & Eildon District Lapidary Club is always looking for new members and would love to hear from you. A link to their website and factsheet be found on the following page.



Press for website

ALEXANDRA
& EILDON



LAPIDARY
CLUB



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Serving the Community