



NELSON ROCK & MINERAL CLUB NEWSLETTER

August 2017

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GENERAL NEWS

Website. Dave Briggs is overseeing the construction of the club website, check it out at www.nelsonrmc.org, it is being continually updated. It contains news on latest meetings, local geology, projects and studies, micro minerals and so much more. It is a great source of information for the use of members and non members.

SUBS: If you have not yet paid your subs please contact Hub.

MEETINGS Now being held back at Richmond Library. Please check your emails for up to date information.

Reefton Field Trip (part two) by Mike Blowers

While Mary headed off to the uranium prospects on the Buller Gorge with John Caygill from the Greymouth Club and a pal of his, Kevin, Dave, Tez, Sheila, Zac and Mike followed Ian to Stoney Creek where we had found some good Devonian fossils on our previous trip in February 2016. We had access to the farm so we parked right beside the previous year's site. The idea was to cover a greater area than before and so we spread out in little groups to see what we could find. Tez, Zac and Sheila worked on an outcrop higher up the bank, Dave and Ian explored upstream from the initial site, trying to make sense of the geological strata that is indicated on the rough map we have and Mike and Kevin worked on fragments from the paddock below the outcrops and on the lower levels of outcrop.

After lunch our attention turned to the old quarry site about 50 metres to the north of the cars. This material was much harder, just ideal for Kevin with his 10lb hammer and some good fossilized pieces were recovered for cutting and polishing, but still a good coral samples eluded us. The most visible evidence of fossils was at the weathered surfaces of this harder rock. Finally we packed up the cars to head out, but Dave and Mike took a last look at the quarry and then Dave spotted a rock lying in the open, chock a block with corals, so we finally had a good coral sample.

The following morning we set out to follow up a report from John Caygill of good fossils and corals on the south bank of the Inangahua River. We parked up on the roadside about a kilometer past the closed off entrance to the old Macraes mine and dropped down onto the river bed looking out for a place to cross. There in the river bed Sheila picked up a nice piece of rose quartz and Ian was delighted to



Zac and his rock containing corals



There in the river bed Sheila picked up a nice piece of rose quartz and Ian was delighted to

find a river worn rock with beautiful cream coloured lumps of fossil coral showing at one end – his find of the trip – and as it turned out “The Find of the Month” at our following meeting.

Once across the river we skirted southwards along the edge of the hills finding some small crumbly outcrops with fossil showings. Ian and David disappeared into a small bush filled valley and stumbled upon a small weathered mudstone outcrop almost hidden underneath the growth, but which produced a surprising number of specimens, mostly *Euryspirifercoxi*.



Spirifer is a genus of marine brachiopods belonging to the order Spiriferida and family Spiriferidae. Species belonging to the genus lived from the Middle Ordovician (Sandbian) through to the Middle Triassic (Carnian) with a global distribution. They were stationary epifaunal suspension feeders.

Eventually we all gravitated to this site, for probably an hour, before we called it a day and returned to Reefton and set off back to Nelson.

Thanks to Ian for leading the trip and thanks to John Caygill for advice on the sites and for leading the Buller Gorge party



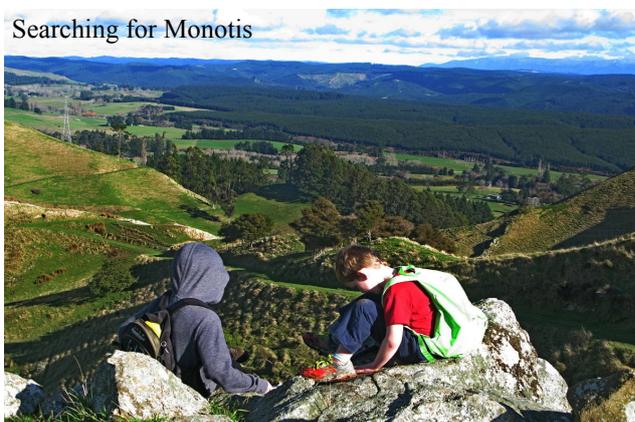
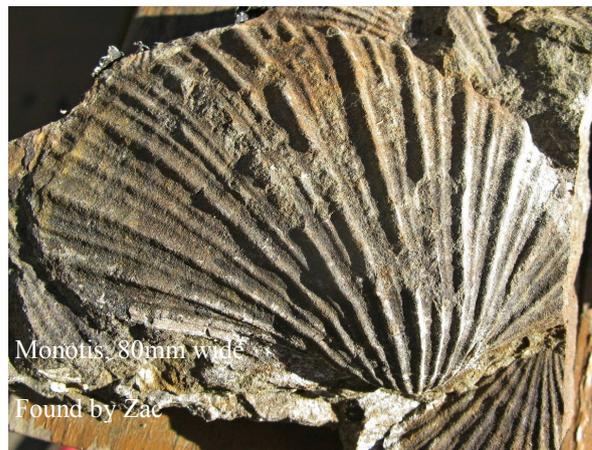
Sample finds from the Old Quarry site



Trip to 88 Valley, July 2017 by Tez Hardwick

We met the trip Leaders, Ian Ladds and Dave Briggs, at Warring Street car park and set off in convoy for the relatively short journey to 88 Valley, Wakefield.

Kevs handy buggy



Tom took a step ladder and made a temporary stile over a tall fence, thank you Tom.

Kevin took his off road buggy on the back of his truck to provide transport to the top of the hill for Hazel and Mike.

The trip was designed to further the ongoing geological investigations of the area, and the bit we were fossicking in contained almost exclusively Monotis. Where the band of Monotis fossils ended would denote a boundary line which was then logged by Dave on his GPS tagger to be entered onto his drawings.

The group informally split into two sections, one visually surveying the area and discussing the features and their origins, the other hunting for the perfect fossil specimens. Interestingly there appeared to be a very narrow band running through the area containing fossils of a different type, once again accurately noted and photographed by Dave.

The walk was a steep climb but we were rewarded with all round spectacular views of Nelson from the sea to the distant mountains. We were grateful for the beautiful clear sky and windless conditions.

Thanks to the leaders and all attendees who can now say they have contributed to the project.

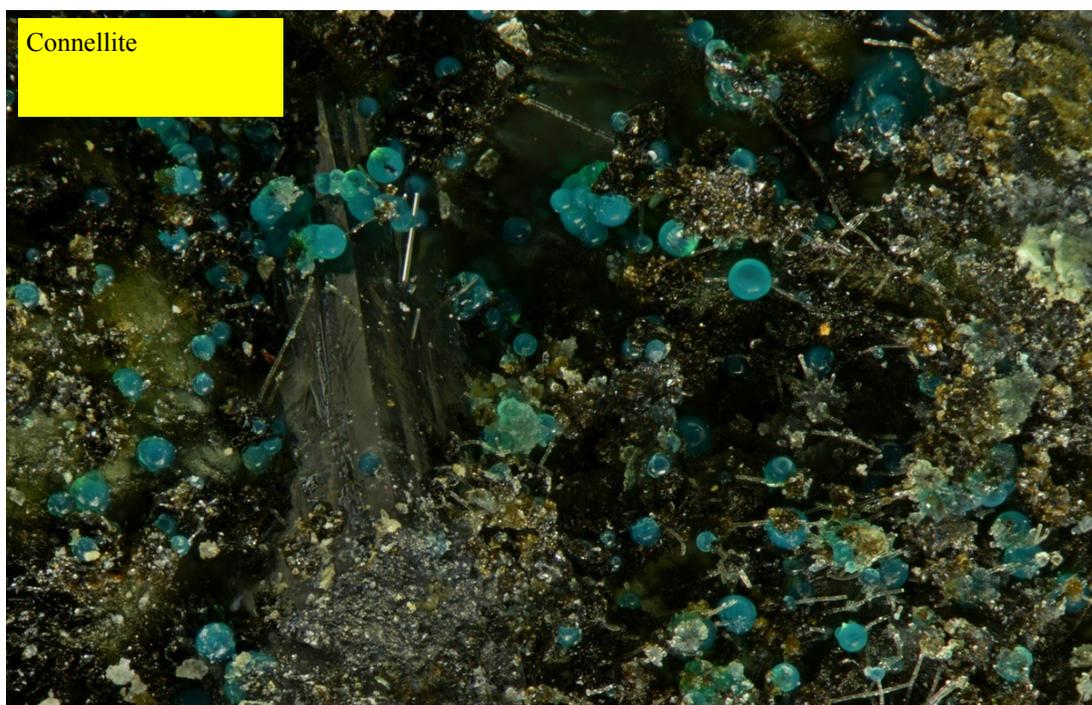
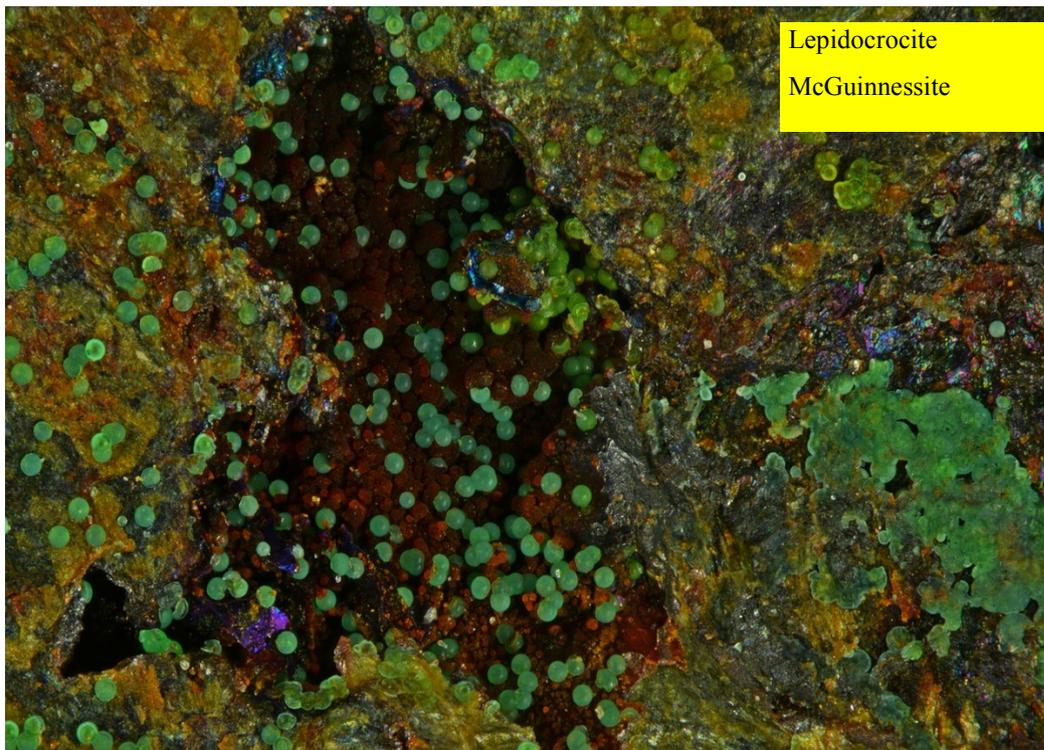
Champion Mine and Photography by Tez Hardwick

I have begun to photograph and catalogue my Micromineral collection of samples collected from the Champion Mine.

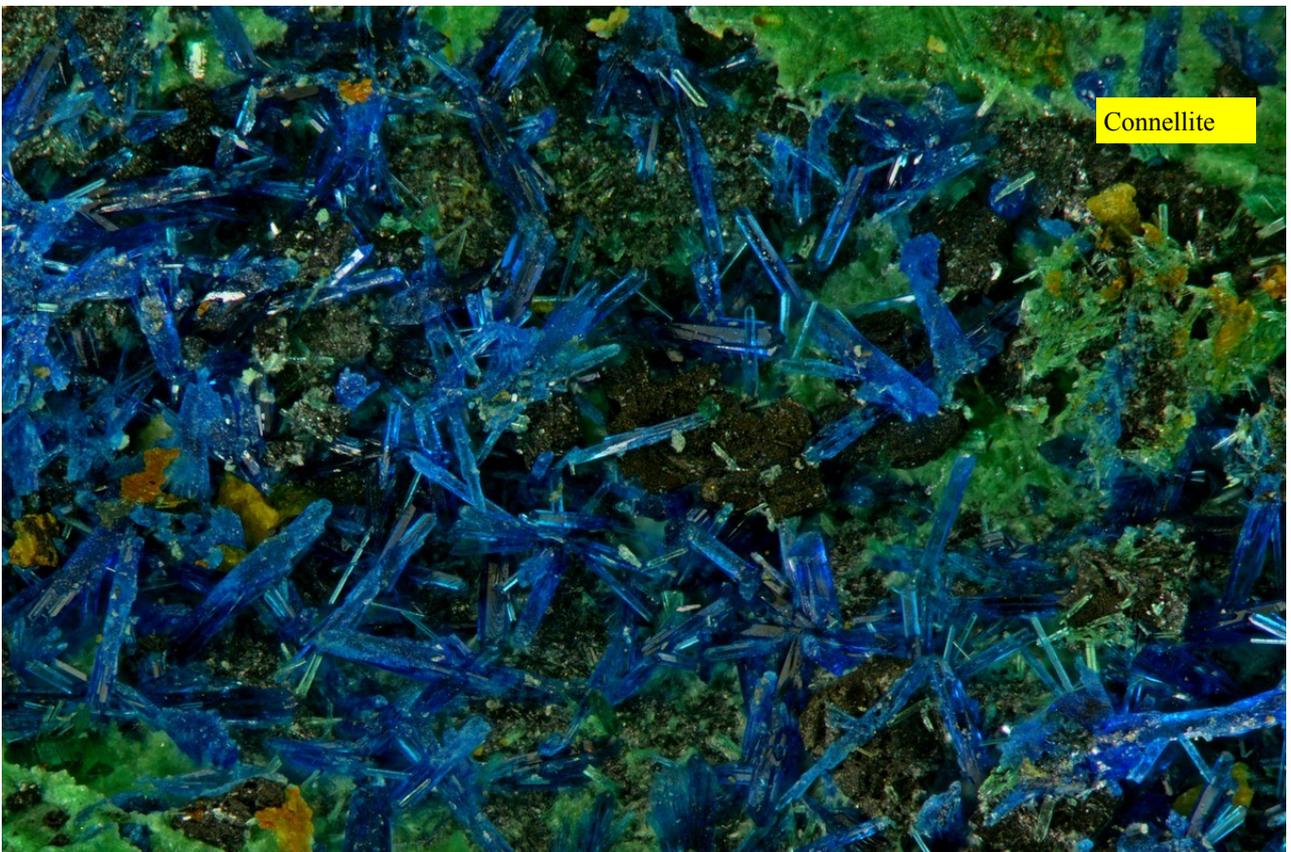
Here are some sample photos that have a field of view of 2.5mm ie the width of the photo represents a sample, 2.5mm wide.

Tim Saunderson and Hubertus OpdenBuysch are helping me to identify the minerals, but in some cases, without further analysis (which can be expensive) we cannot guarantee that the labelling is 100% correct.

You can get a better view by zooming in.



Champion Micros contd.



Champion Micros contd.



Malachite



Malachite

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have done anything of interest relating to Rocks and Minerals, why not submit a short article for possible inclusion in the next newsletter, as the other members would love to hear about it. This newsletter is great forum for sharing ideas and activities.

Large tumbler for hire: Takes two drums. Operates off main. Size: 1m x 300depth x 900high.including table. Grit available. Cost: \$10/month plus the cost of grit. Contact Kevin.

Future program (possible, but definitely not finalised– Check your emails for updates)

September	21 st Club Night	Lake Sediments	Peter Ingram
	23 rd ? Field Trip	Cobb Valley	Peter & Ian Ladds
October	19 th Club Night	Copper in Namibia	James McDonald
	21 st -23 rd Field Trip Labour Weekend	Onekaka, university house is booked	
November	16 th Club Night AGM	AGM – Patrons Talk	Mike Johnston
	19 th Field Trip	Suggestions welcome	

Tim Saunderson as many members know, is a valued member of our club who has shifted to Auckland.

He is still very active with his interest, and if you would like to see what he is up to you may subscribe to his newsletter which he publishes on an ad-hoc basis.

This is free, all you need to do is email Tim and he will send you a copy whenever he publishes. His email is saphesia@gmail.com and the first issue is out now.