



# THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

C/o School of Natural Science  
B.C.R.I. Parramatta Campus University of Western Sydney  
Locked Bag 1797 Penrith South DC N.S.W. 1797  
Website: [www.minsocnsw.org.au](http://www.minsocnsw.org.au)

## NEWSLETTER

**AUGUST 2009**

**The August Meeting is the Society Annual General Meeting and will be held on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the LZG14 lecture theatre on the ground floor of Building LZ in the Science campus of the University of Western Sydney on the corner of Victoria Road and James Ruse Drive in North Parramatta.**

## **2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The A.G.M. will commence at 7.30 p.m. with the President's report for 2008/2009 followed by the Treasurer's report for 2008/2009, presentation of the annual financial accounts and the election of the Society Committee and office-bearers for 2009/2010.

During the A.G.M. any other business may also be raised and discussed.

The Election of Office-Bearers for 2009/2010.

In accordance with the Society Constitution the entire current Committee retires at the commencement of the A.G.M. and all positions are open for nomination and election. Nomination forms for election to the 2009/2010 Committee were circulated with the July Newsletter and nominations should have been received before the commencement of the A.G.M. It would be at the discretion of the A.G.M. chairperson whether to accept any further ones being presented after the Meeting has started. A member can be nominated for but cannot hold more than one position. Only financial and Honorary Life members of the Society are eligible for nomination or allowed to participate in any voting.

After the A.G.M. has been concluded the **Betty Mayne Memorial Lecture** will be given this year by Professor Peter Williams who will speak on :-

**'The Sunny Corner Silver Mines'**

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## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Subject to circumstances some changes to the following schedule of program subjects and speakers may be made in due course.

September 4<sup>th</sup>: Talk on 'Scheelite in Australia' by John Chapman and a lecture on 'The History of Copper Mining in NSW' by Dereck Dolstra.

October 9<sup>th</sup>, (Second Friday): Talk by Matt Sciberras on 'Copper-Zinc Sulphate Minerals' and a lecture by Geoff Parsons on 'Mount Morgan, Gold, Copper, Oil and More'.

November 6<sup>th</sup>: Talk by Simon Hager on 'The Pharmacosiderite Group of Minerals' and a lecture by Paul Meszaros on 'Gold'

December 4<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Social and Swap n' Sell.

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## FIELD TRIPS

**29/30 August - Mudgee area.** Travel to Mudgee Friday evening. Visit the active Buckeroo and Mt Knowles dolomite quarries on Saturday. Minerals to be found are calcite, quartz and micros of rancieite (rare calcium-manganese oxide). Sunday yet to be decided but could include wine tasting.

**16/17/18 October – Mineral Hill Mine.** The mine is currently on care and maintenance. Travel to Condoblin on Friday and collect on the dumps on Saturday and Sunday morning. Malachite and azurite are plentiful but getting good specimens will be hard work. A range of other minerals can also be found. We are lucky to have Adam McKinnon as our host. He is currently working on Mineral Hill and will be able to give us a detailed insight into the mine and the mineralisation.

Those interested in either or both trips should notify John Chapman

by phone on 9808 3481 or  
email at chapmanjr@optusnet.com.au .

Further details and itineraries will be provided in due course.

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## THE SOCIETY COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Arthur Roffey	Tel: (02) 4572 5812
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Gary Sutherland	Tel: (02) 9871 1379
SECRETARY:	George Laking	Tel: (02) 9636 7145
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:bglaking@tech2u.com.au">bglaking@tech2u.com.au</a>	
TREASURER:	Jim Sharpe	Tel: (02) 9871 2502
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	John Chapman	Tel (02) 9808 3481
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:chapmanjr@optusnet.com.au">chapmanjr@optusnet.com.au</a>	
	David Colchester	Tel: (02) 9449 3862
	Dieter Mylius	Tel: (02) 9477 1060
	Graham Ogle	Tel: (02) 9876 5224
	Peter Williams	Tel: (02) 9685 9914

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## WELCOME

Welcome to new members : - Fred Krebs of Cranebrook  
and Phillip Bohringer of Leichhardt

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## JULY MEETING

At the commencement of the July Meeting John Chapman advised that he was looking into organizing a **field trip** to the Mudgee area over the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> of August. He was hoping to obtain permission for a party to go into the Kandos quarry. Members attending the trip would need to travel to Mudgee on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> to join the party early on Saturday morning. Visiting a working quarry would involve the party being given mine training, safety and orientation instructions by company personnel before being allowed to look for specimens. After visiting the Kandos quarry other collecting sites in the Mudgee area could then be examined on the Sunday.

John Chapman was also hoping to arrange a trip to **Mineral Hill** where Society member Adam McKinnon now works and who would be able to show a party around the site. This would have to be a three to four day trip and was being planned for the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> of October. Attendees would have to leave Sydney and travel to the Condoblin area during Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> to join the party on Saturday morning which would probably also spend Sunday at the site.

Graham Ogle announced that the next meeting of the **micro-mineral group** was to be held at Ann and Noel Kennon's house in Dapto at 11.00 a.m. on the morning of Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of July. The group was holding about five meetings a year and any members interested in attending should contact Graham Ogle for information.

Arthur Roffey advised that the lecture program for this evening had been slightly changed due to the first scheduled speaker, Bruce Myles, being indisposed and in his place Peter Williams and Jim Sharpe would give talks on a recent uncommon specimen find and on new mineral updates.

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### Mineral specimen find.

Jim Sharpe reported that just some two weeks previously his wife had been contacted by a friend who wished to dispose of two boxes of Broken Hill specimens which had been collected by her ex-husband. In examining the collection of specimens which were wrapped in newspaper of 1985 vintage, Jim had found that whilst most were of average quality and interest one of the last items unwrapped was of an impressively large specimen of the manganese sulphide, alabandite  $Mn^{+2}S$ , and which he had brought in to the Meeting to display. Alabandite is not a rare mineral being found in many locations around the world although large specimens are uncommon and Broken Hill has probably been the best location in Australia for quality specimens. Good specimens elsewhere in the world have come from only a few places such as Tombstone in Arizona.

Even Broken Hill did not produce much alabandite with amounts and specimens being found only over a short period of time. It was first noted in 1965 and the late Laurie Lawrence wrote an article in 1968 referring to a third occurrence with material being found in fractures in rock on the boundaries between the N.B.H.C. and Zinc Corporation workings. Alabandite is an olive-green colour on freshly fractured surfaces but these oxidize to the black manganese oxide hausmannite. Members were invited to examine the specimen which the speaker felt was a commendable example of a mineral uncommonly found in such condition. In researching alabandite through the Internet the speaker had found specimens which were not as good as this one on sale for US\$2,000.

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## **New Mineral Update 2009**

**See summary of talk in “Meeting Talks” section of website**

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### **‘Minerals of Mt Vesuvius’**

Graham Ogle

**See summary of talk in “Meeting Talks” section of website**

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## **WANTED TO BUY**

Wanted to buy. Good undamaged cabinet size specimen of Stellerite from Tambar Springs, NSW.  
Please phone Ron Jacobson on 0414 388 144.

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **BANKSTOWN & DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB ANNUAL SHOW: ‘TREASURES DOWN UNDER’**

Over Friday, Saturday and Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2009 in the **Bankstown Arts & Craft Centre**, Dale Parade, Bankstown.

On Friday and Saturday from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and on Sunday from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

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### **BLAXLAND GEM & MINERAL CLUB GEM SHOW**

Over Saturday and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2009. 8 am to 4 pm Daily

In the Glenbrook Community Hall, Great Western Highway, Glenbrook, NSW  
(Next to Glenbrook Theatre), Just west of Information Centre.

<http://www.freewebs.com/blaxlandgemmineralclub/BGMCshow.htm>

Displays of lapidary work and gem, mineral and crystal sales.

Refreshments available. Entry: Adults: \$3.00, Children \$1.00.

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## **CARLINGFORD GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

Being held over Saturday and Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2009 in the **Roselea Community Centre**, Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford, (in between the M2 and North Rocks Road junctions).

Open on Saturday from 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and on Sunday from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.  
Admission \$5, light refreshments available.

Featuring: 'Demonstrations of faceting gemstones, wire wrapping stones, precious metal, beading and hand made jewellery. Displays from private collections including of mineral specimens, cut & polished stone carvings, gemstones and more !.

Sales: - Of jewellery, gemstones, beads, opals, fossils, carvings, findings, mineral specimens from all over the world, tools and equipment for lapidary and beading, Metaphysical and Healing crystals'.

This year's Show is being hosted by the **Nepean Lapidary Club** which will be providing demonstrations and displays of lapidary work.

For more information contact Peter Beckwith on 0412 333 150.

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## **BROKEN HILL GEM & MINERAL SHOW. 'ROCK ON'**

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> to Monday 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009

At the Broken Hill Racecourse and Events Centre, Racecourse Road, Broken Hill, N.S.W. 2280.

'The Broken Hill Mineral Club Inc is again holding its bi-annual Gem & Mineral show and mineral enthusiasts from around Australia are invited to come to trade, buy, swap or sell mineral specimens and associated crafts'. There is on-site camping, (fees payable on arrival); field trips to collecting localities in the district; indoor and outdoor trading and tailgate sales; presentations, auction, refreshments available'.

Registration forms with some more information for the 'Rock On' are available from the (N.S.W. Society) Secretary George Laking, by e-mail from the Broken Hill Mineral Club Inc, at [bhminclub@inet.net.au](mailto:bhminclub@inet.net.au) or by post from the Club at P.O. Box 747, Broken Hill, N.S.W. 2280.

Telephone numbers for inquiries : - Les Creswick, (President) on 088 0875 6460

Or Carol Weber, (Secretary) on 088 0872 9843

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## **GEMKHANA 2009**

Goulburn Showground & Recreation Area

Braidwood Road, Goulburn

Over the October long weekend, Saturday to Monday October 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>.

Saturday and Sunday open from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday open from 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Featuring: Competitions, Exhibition, Displays, Dealers, Tailgating, Demonstrations and Field Trips.

Further information about the Gemkhana may be found on the Gem & Lapidary Council website  
[www.gemlapidarycouncil.org.au](http://www.gemlapidarycouncil.org.au)

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**GEMFEST** at the Sapphire Gemfields, Central Queensland.

Friday to Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> 2009.  
[info@gemfest.com.au](mailto:info@gemfest.com.au) or [www.gemfest.com.au](http://www.gemfest.com.au)

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## **GEMBOREE 2010**

Easter 2010 Friday to Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, at Devonport, Tasmania.  
Inquiries to the Gemboree 2010 Secretary, P.O.Box 996, Launceston, Tasmania 7250.  
For travel and accommodation bookings contact the Devonport Visitor Information Centre,  
- 1800 649 514 and mention the Gemboree.

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