



**THE
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF
NEW SOUTH WALES INC**

C/o School of Natural Science
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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2012

The December Meeting will be held on Friday the 7th of December 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.

The December Meeting will be the annual

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL and SWAP N' SELL

At the December Meeting there may be a few announcements made but otherwise there will be no formal program or lecture, the evening being devoted entirely to the sale or exchange of mineral specimens and mineralogical material, books, magazines and equipment. The Meeting venue would be open some time before 7.30 p.m. so members with material to place on display for sale could arrive a little earlier to get set up.

There will be a substantial and comprehensive range of snack food refreshments organised and provided by Society members, as well as a range of cool and hot drinks, beer, wine and other beverages. Pizzas will be ordered to arrive about 8.00 p.m. Members, guests and visitors attending the Christmas Social Meeting will be charged \$10 towards the cost of the refreshments. There will be a lucky door prize awarded by raffle; tickets will be issued to each person as they arrive. Please make sure you receive one.

Members are cordially reminded that the Society Committee determined that members attending the Christmas Social who are not currently financial may buy but would not be allowed to sell minerals. Any members who were unsure of their financial status should consult the Secretary or Treasurer who will have current financial lists. Membership subscriptions for 2013 are also due from January 1st.

**Kids with Cancer Mineral Sale
February 1st 2013**

Kids with Cancer Mineral Sale February 1st 2013

At the February Meeting there will be a Mineral Sale to raise money for **Kids with Cancer** and members are invited to start looking for surplus specimens that they could donate for this sale. In order to provide a sale list of specimens for distribution with the February Newsletter and to be available at the February Meeting donors are asked to contact Jim Sharpe on (02) 9871 2502 or e-mail *sharpe4min@tadaust.org.au* to advise what specimens were being donated. This information should be provided by about mid-January or the weekend of 19th/20th January at the latest.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

After the December Social the next Society General Meeting will be on Friday, February 1st 2013. The Society does not hold General Meetings in January. Meetings will be generally held on the first Friday of each month through 2013 except for June and October when the Society General Meetings will probably be deferred to the second Friday of those months. Subject to circumstances some changes to the following schedule of program subjects and speakers may have to be made in due course.

February 1st 2013: **'Minerals of Arizona'**. Montage of photographs by Paul Melville, introduced and described by John Rankin.

To complement the photographic montage on **Arizona Minerals** at the February Meeting members are invited to bring in specimens from Arizona to display

There will also be the sale of specimens donated for the **Kids with Cancer** charity.

March 1st 2013: **Tucson Update** report to be given by Peter Beckwith or Peter Williams. The report will be followed by a lecture to be given by George Stacey on - 'Mt Isa - The Mine in the Spinifex'.

April 5th 2013: Lecture on **'Mercury Mining in Australia'** by Professor Ken McQueen

May 3rd 2013: **Members Mini-Auction.**

June 8th to 10th June 2013: **National Mineralogical Societies Joint Seminar.**

June 14th 2013: Because the 2013 Seminar is being held in Sydney over the 8th to 10th of June the Society General Meeting which would otherwise have been held on the 7th will probably be deferred to the second Friday of the month.

2013 SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Society membership fees are due from January 1st each year. Subscription renewal forms were sent out with the November Newsletter and more are available from the Secretary or Treasurer at any Meeting.

Members are recommended to provide their e-mail addresses if available in the interest of placing as many people as possible within electronic communication, not to mention cutting down the cost of posting out hard copies of the Society Newsletters. Members with e-mail capability may still wish to receive hard copy communications however and can indicate so on the subscription form.

All Society members will be registered for Personal Accident Insurance with the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Inc, subject to their being financial members before March 31st in any year. In order to avoid last-few-day payments the Society will not guarantee to insure members whose subscriptions are received by the Treasurer or Secretary after 23rd March. After this date the member will not be covered by insurance until the subsequent September 1st. Members of all ages will be insured except for persons over the age of 85 who cannot be insured for injuries incurred on field trips. Membership infers one person to be insured but if a member wishes in addition to insure one or more family member/s they must pay an extra \$5 per person who must be named on the subscription form. Family members can only include spouse/partner and children.

Information on the degree/s of cover provided by the Personal Accident Insurance is available from the Society Secretary or the Gem & Lapidary Council of N.S.W. Inc. The insurance has been arranged for many years by the Council for member clubs and associations through brokers Webster Hyde Heath in Adelaide with QBE Commercial Insurance Ltd and provides a number and scale of benefits for personal injuries.

The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Dieter Mylius	Tel: (02) 9477 1060
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	David Colchester	Tel: (02) 9449 3862
	John Rankin	Tel: (02) 9482 7474
	Gary Sutherland	Tel: (02) 9871 1379
	Jeremy Taylor-Edwards	Tel: (02) 9889 5889

WITH REGRET

It was with regret that the Society Committee learned earlier this year that **Harold and Edna Walker** had passed away, Edna on April 29th this year and Harold over a year previously. Both had been living in nursing homes for some time.

The Walkers were very loyal Society members and regular attendees at Meetings for some twenty years from the late 1980s to just a few years ago including travelling to Melbourne on occasion to attend the annual Mineralogical Seminar when it was being held there.

NOVEMBER MEETING

At the commencement of the Meeting the President, Dieter Mylius advised that there had been a suggestion to incorporate a new segment to the Meeting programs from time to time. This would be a talk given by any member on an unusual specimen or specimens in their collection that had an interesting story, about its history, about how it was acquired or about aspects of its formation. Any members able to speak for a few minutes about a specimen were urged to make this known to any of the Committee members with the view to the talk being scheduled for a future Meeting.

The first of these talks was given by John Chapman on : -

PELE'S HAIR

John Chapman had visited Hawaii in 2003 and was able to view a number of the volcanic sites on the 'Big Island' and pick up a number of specimens including some amounts of Pele's hair and a few other specimens of volcanic rocks and minerals. In looking over a recently-formed lava field in Hawaii the visitor will notice tufts of the Pele's hair almost everywhere in various nooks and crannies. It is a volcanic glass formed into very fine hairs, much of it literally of human hair thickness. It is formed by bubbles bursting through the molten low-viscous, high temperature lava and ejecting small droplets or pellets of the lava with often a hair-thin tendril of the lava trailing out behind. Since the tendril is so thin it solidifies almost immediately. Whilst most will fall and melt back into the lava surface some of the 'hair' will be blown away by wind and may spread over an area, lodging in cavities along the way. Strands may be over a foot long and are obviously fragile so the collector has to be careful in handling them. A number of specimens of Pele's hair, in bottles and cartons, had been brought for display by the speaker and also a few other specimens recovered from his visit to Hawaii. These included pieces of olivine sitting in basalt and pieces of pumice.

John Chapman further related aspects of his visit to the volcanic area of Hawaii advising that access to the main crater and the various vents was fairly easy, roads having been laid down to allow the visitor to skirt or get fairly near to most of the sites. This would be unless one or other of the roads had been intersected by a recent lava flow which apparently were not infrequent. He noted the danger of walking over areas of apparently long-solidified lava only to find the soles of one's shoes becoming gradually hotter! On one occasion in setting up his camera on a tripod at some distance from an active vent to take pictures at night to show the glow of the lava the speaker upon returning to his camp noted that the soles of his boots had partially melted !.

For the second part of the evening program a segment of the Dvd '**Whats Hot in Tucson 2012**' was shown. The Dvd was described in the October issue of this Newsletter, the Society and subscribers to the Mineralogical Record having been sent copies of the 2012 Dvd with the July/August issue of the Magazine. The dvd actually comprises two discs providing four hours of commentary and views of some of the best mineral specimens that were on view at this year's Tucson Gem & Mineral Show in February.

The first disc was run for about an hour after which the Meeting adjourned for refreshments although the dvd was left running with a number of members remaining almost glued to the screen for quite a while longer. Some comments were made by members about the quality of the commentary in the dvd by the American interviewer Dave Wilbur but others may have felt that he did an entirely competent job. The camera work and focusing on specimens being demonstrated was also a little shaky and possibly an excessive amount of time was spent by the commentator greeting and gossiping with various dealers

and collectors that he apparently had met at previous Shows. However this surely did not detract too much from the appreciation of the specimens being demonstrated, most if not virtually all being of superlative size and quality.

As described previously the dvds are produced by **BlueCap Productions** in the U.S. sponsored by a number of the bigger dealerships at Tucson and the current one is the sixth in a series. The 2012 'What's Hot in Tucson' dvd may be ordered from BlueCap for US\$29.99, or US\$184.89 for the full set of six years of issues. Further information on BlueCap products may be found on the Website:- info@bluecapproductions.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GEMBOREE 2013

AUSTRALIA'S 49TH NATIONAL GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

Easter 2013 from the 29th March to 2nd April 2013

In the Murray Bridge Showgrounds on the Princes Highway at Murray Bridge, South Australia
Hosted by the Gem & Lapidary Clubs Association of South Australia Inc under the auspices of the
Australia Federation of Lapidary and Allied Crafts Association Inc (AFLACA).

Gemboree 2013 Activities

'Trade Dealers. A huge range of dealers specialising in everything from gems and minerals to fossils and findings have been invited to attend Gemboree 2013.'

'Micro-Mounting. This year in South Australia we have provided a specific location for those who undertake the art of micro-mounting.'

'National Gem and Mineral Competitions. Gems, jewellery, lapidary and allied arts and crafts together with fossils and minerals will compete for national honours.'

'Field Trips. Visits are being planned to fossicking sites and to specific sites for detectors and treasure-seekers.'

Enquiries to :-

The Gemboree Convenor – sagemboreeconvenor@gmail.com

Rennie D'Arcy on mobile 0412 414 129 or e-mail - rennie.darcy@three.com.au

Bookings and Tailgating Co-Ordinators

Anne Armstrong, e-mail anne.armstrong38@three.com.au

or Ian Everard by e-mail ieverard@bigpond.net.au or telephone (08) 8251 3348

Murray Bridge Visitor Information Centre. Telephone (08) 8539 1142

Website www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au

THE 36th NATIONAL MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES JOINT SEMINAR 2013

The 2013 Seminar is being hosted by the Mineralogical Society of N.S.W. Inc in Sydney over the Queen's Birthday long weekend, Saturday 8th to Monday 10th of June 2013 on the theme : -

'The Wonderful World of Minerals'

The Seminar will be held in the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club, Ryedale Road, West Ryde, Sydney. (The suburb is correctly West Ryde, not Eastwood as given previously). The Leagues Club is in the corner of Wattle Street with Ryedale Road about one hundred meters from the West Ryde suburban railway station and the junction of Ryedale with Victoria Road.

All Seminar activities other than field trips or Australian Museum and private collection visits will be held in the Club which has substantial convention and catering facilities. Activities will include the Seminar dinner on Saturday evening 8th of June and mineral and micro-mount displays and sales probably on Monday the 10th of June.

Interstate visitors and attendees from outside Sydney will be advised about suitable accommodation in the West Ryde area which has a number of hotels. It is hoped that there will be field trips to one or more locations held in conjunction with the Seminar but details have not yet been finalised.
