



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

C/o School of Natural Science  
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**NEWSLETTER**

**JULY 2017**

The July Meeting will be held on Friday the 7th of July at 7.30 pm in the clubrooms of the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club at 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville.

The program will commence with a mini-talk to be given by David Colchester on : -

**‘Micrometeorites’**

The talk will be followed by a lecture to be given by Peter Williams on : -

**‘The Origin of the Metamorphic Stones of Stonehenge’**

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**Forthcoming Meetings and Programs**

- August 4<sup>th</sup>: Society **Annual General Meeting** followed by the Betty Mayne and Edna Walker **Memorial Lecture**. This year the Memorial Lecture will be given by Society member Lee Spencer on gemstones in Burma/Myanmar titled **‘Up the Irrawaddy’**.
- September 1st: Lecture on **‘Quartz Crystals from the Manuka Silver Project, Cobar District’** to be given by three speakers, Ian Graham, Angela Lay and Stephen Harris.
- October 6<sup>th</sup>: Lecture on **‘Searching for Gold in Kalimantan’** by Mark Walford.
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Program to be confirmed.
- December 1<sup>st</sup> : **Christmas Social and Swap n’ Sell.**

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## FIELD TRIPS

### AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM VISIT (Report)

Two members participated in the 20<sup>th</sup> June visit to the Australian Museum for the Albert Chapman's 105<sup>th</sup> birthday viewing of his collection. We met two other mineral enthusiasts, one of whom was from the Maitland Lapidary Club. He also participated with us in a tour of the reference collection in the Museum's basement led by Ross Pogson.

The baryte and dolomite specimens in Albert's display were a talking point. Also on display was the Museum's specimen of magnetite from Ilford, Germany, which was spectacular and was added to the collection in the early 1870's. Nothing like this specimen was found on the Society's trip to the Tallawang Magnetite mine.

### ANTSO Visit - July 18 or 19<sup>th</sup>??

A visit to ANTSO's mineral processing department is planned for the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> of July. This is not a general tour but a visit to one of its departments. There is a limit of fifteen visitors as this is a working area.

### Oberon Lowes Mount - July 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

Field Trip to Oberon – Back to Lowes Mount – Diamond Hill on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> July. The State Forests' harvesting program has terra-formed the landscape. State Forest Fossicking Licence required. Denis O'Brien had a specimen XRD'd at the Australian Museum and it was found to be Ilsemannite,  $\text{Mo}_3\text{O}_8 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , an amorphous complex oxide of molybdenum.

### Muttama – McAlpine Mine - September 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>

Field Trip with Illawarra Lapidary Club to Muttama for quartz crystals and then to McAlpine Mine for Cubanite,  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{S}_3$ . State Forest Fossicking Licence required. **Camping in the field.**

### Annual Mineralogical Societies of Australia Conference – “South Australia – Copper State”

This year South Australia will be hosting the event from the 1st to the 14th of October at the Hahndorf Resort in the Adelaide Hills. Further details can be obtained by contacting the South Australia Society Secretary on : - *secretaryminsoc@gmail.com*

1-3<sup>rd</sup> November - Pre conference field trips, based at Hahndorf,  
 4-5<sup>th</sup> November – Annual Mineralogical Societies of Australia Conference  
 6-8<sup>th</sup> November – Post conference, field trip, micro conference and Gemboree  
 9-14<sup>th</sup> November – Field trips ending at Broken Hill

### Gloucester-Barrington Tops – November 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>

A gem lovers field trip  
 State Forest Fossicking Licence required  
 Camping in the field.

### 2018 Bombo Quarry

Visit this Heritage Listed Quarry, A headland that had been quarried out, led by Paul Carr. In February or March 2018. Optional swimming at the beach on Cathedral Rocks Avenue.

### 2017 / 2018 Tolwong / Bungonia Field Trips

A request for extension of the Society's Science Licence has been made with the NPWS. Four trips have been planned. These are subject to good weather prior the trips and a sufficient number participating.

201n/01	Bungonia 1 (week day)	Day-Trip NPWS Bungonia SCA
201n/02	Bungonia 2 (week day ??)	Day-Trip NPWS Bungonia SCA
201n/03	Bungonia 3 (2 days)	Bush Camping NPWS Bungonia SCA
201n/04	Tolwong mines from Tolwong homestead. (3 days)	Remote Bush Camping NPWS Morton NP

Note: That fossicking in National Parks and estate managed by the NPWS without a Science Licence is an offence.

Contact Edward Zbik by e-mail [ecjz@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ecjz@optusnet.com.au) or phone (02) 9638 6586 or SMS 0401 538 480 to register your interest in any field trip or visit above.

A number of sites around the state need members to evaluate their potential, most are on private properties and need : - .....

1. first contact with the landowner or tenants
2. check access to site
3. evaluate if a dump exists
4. do some research on DIGS, MinView and Mindat
5. **any site you may have visited or have an interest in.**
6. Current areas of interest Kingsgate to Lismore
7. South Coast and Tablelands
8. Peak Hill to Cobar.
9. There are some 32,000 known sites and localities that minerals are found in NSW.

### Interesting Sites on the internet

Q. How many minerals can an XRD test check

<http://www.icdd.com/products/pdf4-minerals.htm>

Q What is the Victorian Underground Mined group about

<https://www.facebook.com/Theundergroundminesofvictoria/>

Q. Looking for a position in BREXIT

[https://careers.nhm.ac.uk/templates/CIPHR/jobdetail\\_300.aspx](https://careers.nhm.ac.uk/templates/CIPHR/jobdetail_300.aspx)

### Minerals from Lowes Mount

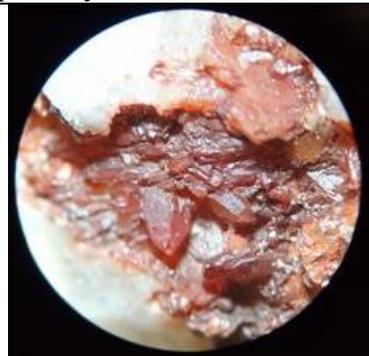
All specimens illustrated were collected and photographed by Denis O'Brien



Garnet



Druzy Quartz



Blood red colour proved to be iron oxide staining on quartz.



Epidote crystal in matrix



Thin quartz shell with druzy quartz.

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## The AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF MINERALOGY

The latest issue of the Journal, Volume 18, Number 1, for 2017, now being organised and published by the new editorial team in W.A. is in print and has been distributed to subscribers.

Major articles in this issue include 'The Golden Mile'; 'Wulfenite from the Penny West gold mine in W.A.'; 'Minerals of the Northampton lead-copper field in W.A.'; and 'Ore and Gangue Mineralogy of the Almanda mine, Cherry Gardens, S.A.' as well as a number of shorter articles, reports and many colour illustrations. The current issue clearly maintains the well-established high standard of the Journal.

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## The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

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## The JUNE MEETING

The Meeting was opened by the Vice-President, John Chapman, in the absence of the President who was on vacation. There were a few announcements.

Ed Zbik reported that there were several **Field Trips** being planned over the next few weeks. Over the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June a small group of Society members would be visiting Bungonia State Conservation Area and the Morton National Park. A visit to the Australian Museum on the occasion of Albert Chapman's birthday on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June had been arranged to view his collection and also for members to be given a tour of the Museum's archive collection.

At the end of the month another party possibly accompanied by a number of members of other earth-science-interest groups would be visiting Tolwong. Then for July the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> a visit was being arranged to the ANTSO mineral processing department at Lucas Heights.

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### Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club Displays

#### Neil Cooper

Society members attending the meetings at the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club will have been very impressed with the extensive displays of high-quality lapidary and faceting work displayed in cases around the Clubrooms. In addition to lapidary work, displays include gemstones, jewellery, enamelling and copper work as well as cases of mineral specimens and fossils. Neil Cooper who is a Lapidary Club Life Member provided a description of the Club collections.

The speaker initially indicated that the Lapidary Club's considerable collection had been built up over many years largely by donations from members but also some purchases of notable items. Sometimes donations were also made of surplus material after field trips. Gradually the display cases were acquired, some donated and some made to order as shelf space became necessary. The speaker stressed that the collection and display lay-out was under constant review with new acquisitions being regularly incorporated into the displays and existing pieces re-arranged.

As part of the ongoing review of the collection Neil Cooper asked that if any Society members noticed any name spelling errors or noted that there was no location given for a specimen when they thought that they could supply such information, to please let him know. Correcting labelling and providing more information on material was always welcome. Currently he was looking at the next project for the collection which was putting together a Prospect Quarry display.

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The main speaker for the evening was Simon Pecover who is one of the **founding members** of the **Mineralogical Society** and was substantially associated with the Society organisation, functions and activities in the earliest years. In introducing him John Chapman asked if there were any members of the Lapidary Club present who had been members of the Club since the earliest seventies. This was because the very first talk that the next speaker had given had been in this very clubhouse, ..... but he could not now remember what it had been about !. There were a few Club members present but unfortunately none could remember the talk either.

John Chapman and Simon Pecover had met when both worked at the Geological Survey in the 1980s. After that period the speaker had undertaken a number of career changes, working for a while at the Geological and Mining museum then lecturing at U.T.S (University of Technology, Sydney), for a period before moving into industrial work specialising in sapphire and opal mining.

## **‘The Origins of the High Grade Sapphire Deposits of Kings Plains’**

**Simon Pecover**

Sapphires have been found in quantity in deposits in eastern Australia and these are currently the World’s main source of the gems. About three quarters of the World’s supply is produced in Australia with New South Wales accounting for about half the production. The deposits had long been thought to be all alluvial, the corundum having been weathered from basaltic lavas. However certain deposits such as the Kings Plain deposits, northeast of Inverell in New England, have been found to be particularly rich and since the late 1980s Simon Pecover has been studying these to determine why they were so rich and where they have come from. He described the study as something of a corundum conundrum.

With the aid of a large number of images of diagrams, maps and views of the significant areas of countryside the speaker described in detail first the regional and then specific geology of the Kings Plain and Braemar areas. Then the lecture dealt with the geological, chemical development and deposition of the sapphire-bearing basalt lavas and subsequent weathering followed by alluvial action. The speaker then moved on to describe how the sapphires have been brought to the surface and concentrated in the certain locations referring among other processes to various aspects of the alluvial action of present-day and palaeo-river drainage. The lecture was very thorough dealing with the geological processes which provided the sapphire-bearing lavas and the selective deposition of corundum in specific areas, noting and explaining the background to the very high grades of sapphire obtained in certain places.

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## **VACANCY at the NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM in LONDON.**

Ed Zbik has spotted an advertisement of a vacancy for a Curator, Ores, at the Natural History Museum in London. Anyone interested in a transfer to the U.K. for a few years ?. Follow the link.

*[https://careers.nhm.ac.uk/templates/CIPHR/jobdetail\\_300.aspx](https://careers.nhm.ac.uk/templates/CIPHR/jobdetail_300.aspx)*

‘The successful applicant will join the Earth Sciences Department, part of a large science group that comprises a group of approximately 300 scientists, that houses some of the largest and most significant scientific collections in the world. £24,745 per annum plus benefits.’

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **PARRAMATTA & HOLROYD LAPIDARY CLUB 57<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EXHIBITION**

**Theme: “India and the Sub- continent”**

To be held over Friday to Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> of August, from 9am to 4pm each day.  
At the Clubrooms at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville, Sydney, NSW. Entry is free.

Demonstrations of Club activities; Rocks & minerals for sale; Members work for sale;  
Plant sales; Activities for the kids. Refreshments - Sausage sizzle, Devonshire teas.

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

Being held over Saturday and Sunday, August 19th and 20th 2017 in the Glenbrook  
Community Hall, Great Western Highway, Glenbrook, NSW.  
(Next to Glenbrook Theatre), just west of the Information Centre.  
From 8 am to 4 pm daily. Entry: Adults: \$3 Children \$1  
Displays of lapidary work and gem, mineral and crystal sales.  
Refreshments available.

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

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### **The CARLINGFORD GEM and MINERAL FAIR**

Being held in the Roselea Community Centre, 645 Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford, over Saturday &  
Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of August. Saturday from 9.30 am to 5 pm, Sunday from 9.30 am to 4 pm.

Sales and displays of jewellery, gemstones, beads, opals, gem rough, carvings,  
fossils and mineral specimens, and crystals from all over the World.

Admission fee \$7. Refreshments available.

Inquiries to Peter Beckwith on Mobile 0412 233 150

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### **THE JOINT MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES OF AUSTRALASIA 40TH ANNUAL SEMINAR**

The 2017 Seminar will be held over Wednesday the 4th and Thursday the 5th of October in the  
Hahndorf Resort Conference Centre, Hahndorf, S.A. and is being hosted this year by the  
**Mineralogical Society of South Australia.**

The Theme will be ‘**Copper Minerals - Copper State**’

The entire seminar with a program of events including a number of field trips  
will run from Saturday the 30th of September to Friday the 6th of October.

'The formal proceedings, opening address and lecture program will take place over the two days of Wednesday the 4th and Thursday the 5th of October with various activities including field trips scheduled from October 1st through to the 6th. Additional field trips are planned for the 9th – 14th October to the north of S.A, and to locations and collections in and around Broken Hill.

The Seminar will be based in the historic German settled village of Hahndorf, only 30 minutes' drive by car from Adelaide City. A range of accommodation options are available including at the seminar venue. The theme of 'Copper Minerals - Copper State' has been selected in view of South Australia's early copper mining history. A number of field trips to copper, uranium and phosphate deposits are currently being planned. There are a number of tourist-interest places to visit in the region including dozens of wineries.'

Contact: President: Harold Gallasch  
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Secretary: Chris Phillips  
 GPO Box 1089 Adelaide 5001  
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## GEMKHANA 2017

The Gemkhana will be held again this year in the Hawkesbury Showgrounds at Clarendon near Richmond over Saturday to Monday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of September and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of October from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday & Sunday, and from 9.00 am to 12 noon on Monday.

[ Members please note a correction to the dates for the Gemkhana stated in previous Newsletters which gave the dates 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. The correct dates are as given above.]

The Gemkhana is presented by the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Inc. and is the Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of Lapidaries from all over NSW. Since the venue last year was very successful and geographically convenient to Sydney the Gemkhana is being held again in the Hawkesbury District Showgrounds, at Clarendon. The Showgrounds are directly opposite the RAAF base, on the Windsor Road approximately mid-way between Richmond and Windsor, turn-off on to Racecourse Road. There is unlimited parking in and just outside the Showgrounds which are a fairly short walk from Clarendon railway station.

'Featuring Competition, Exhibitions, Dealers, Demonstrations and Tailgating; Sales of minerals, fossils, jewellery, lapidary equipment, faceting rough stones and slabs, silver work and gem cutting activities.'

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## Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc. - 2017 Jewellery Gems and Minerals Festival

Sat 4 Nov, 9am – 4pm and Sun 5 Nov, 9am to 2.30pm  
 At Heininger Hall, Ribbonwood Centre, 109 Princes Hwy, Dapto  
 Entry: Adults \$3, children under 12 years free

Featuring: Gemstone Faceting, Cabachon Cutting, Silvercrafts, Jewellery Making and Valuations, Mineral Group, Club and Fossicking Information, Refreshments, Raffle and Kid's Games.  
 Dealers Selling: Lapidary Supplies, Minerals, Jewellery, Crystals, Findings, Fossils. Beads and Opals.  
 Enquiries: Lynne 0428310697 <http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/>

The **NEWCASTLE LAPIDARY CLUB** is holding their annual  
**GEM and JEWELLERY FAIR**

Over Saturday 11th (9am – 4pm) and Sunday 12th (9am – 3pm) of November at the  
Newcastle Basketball Stadium, 27 Young Road, Broadmeadow, Newcastle.

'There will be demonstrations of jewellery making, faceting , as well as many stalls selling a variety of tools, jewellery, craft and gems and minerals. This is new venue with more stalls, in an indoor, spacious well-lit location with plenty of all weather parking. . Parking and Entry are free and there will be canteen facilities available throughout each day.'

Inquiries to Jeff Lewin on Ph (02) 4952 9611, Fax (02) 4952 8057 or email *newlap@gmail.com*

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