



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

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

**MARCH 2013**

**The March Meeting will be held on Friday the 1st of March 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 program at the March Meeting will comprise a report on the 2013 Tucson Show to be given by Peter Beckwith or Peter Williams.

**Tucson Update**

The previously scheduled lecture by George Stacey has unfortunately had to be temporarily postponed but may be held later in the year. In its place there will be a :-

**‘Show and Tell’**

A number of members will bring notable, unusual or significant specimens to display and will provide a few minutes of explanation about each one. In addition to those members already scheduled for the **Show and Tell** if anyone else wishes to bring in a notable or unusual specimen to display to the Meeting they are welcome to do so and may speak about it if they wish.

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Members are reminded about the annual **Mini-Auction** to be held at the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May General Meeting and could start sorting out their surplus specimens from now on. In order to provide a sale list in advance of the Auction information on specimens should be provided to Jim Sharpe ideally by about two weeks before the Sale.

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## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings will be generally held on the first Friday of each month except in June when the Society General Meeting has been cancelled because of the **Seminar** being held that month and October when the Meeting will be deferred to the second Friday. Subject to circumstances some changes to the following schedule of program subjects and speakers may have to be made in due course.

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

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

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

### 'The Wonderful World of Minerals'

Because the Seminar is being held in Sydney over the 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of June the Society General Meeting will be cancelled for this month.

July 5th: Lecture by Michael Waterhouse on the **Wau Bulolo goldfields** in Papua New Guinea.

August 2nd: Society AGM and the Betty Mayne Memorial Lecture.

September 6th: Program not yet finalized.

October 11th: (The first Friday in October is before a long weekend and the Society Meeting will therefore be deferred to the second Friday).

Member's display of their favourite fluorites. Talk on **Fluorite** by Gary Sutherland.

November 1st: Program not yet finalised.

December 6th: Annual Christmas Social and 'Swap n' Sell.

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## 2013 Society Membership Fees: **REMINDER**

Society membership fees were due from January 1st and a number of Society members financial for the previous year have not yet renewed their subscriptions for 2013. Members are urged to consider whether they have renewed yet and if not to do so as soon as convenient. Subscription renewal forms were sent out in December or are available from the Secretary or Treasurer at any Meeting.

Members are advised that whilst the Society has guaranteed to register all members for **Personal Accident Insurance** this is subject to them being financial for the current year. Insurance cover will lapse if the member has not paid their 2013 subscription by March 31st and 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. 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.

## The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Dieter Mylius	Tel: (02) 9477 1060
VICE-PRESIDENT:	John Chapman	Tel: (02) 9808 3481
	E-mail:	chapmanjr@optusnet.com.au
SECRETARY:	George Laking	Tel: (02) 9636 7145
	E-mail:	bglaking@tech2u.com.au
TREASURER:	Graham Ogle	Tel: (02) 9876 5224
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

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## FEBRUARY MEETING

At the commencement of the February Meeting the President, Dieter Mylius, complimented the members who had helped set up and organise the refreshments for the **Christmas Social** in December which the Committee felt to have been a very successful evening. The event had been attended by a little over seventy members and a few visitors with apparently quite an amount of specimens and other mineralogical material changing hands.

John Chapman announced that he had been informed by Arthur Roffey about a collector living in Coonabarabran who had been collecting **zeolites** from the **Garrawilla** area for over twenty years and was looking to sell an amount of them. John Chapman suggested that a number of members might care to take a trip out to Coonabarabran one weekend to see what the collector had available and also to look around the area. Among other places of interest in the area the Brian Head collection on display at the **Crystal Kingdom** in the town would be an obvious venue to visit along the way.

A number of members indicated an interest in taking such a trip and John Chapman would make further inquiries and inform members of any plans in due course.

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With no more announcements to be made the Meeting was handed over to John Rankin who was to introduce, display and describe a large number of photographs of mineral specimens taken at the **2012 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show** by Society member Paul Melville. The theme for the 2012 Show had been on the **Minerals of Arizona**.

Complementing the photographic montage members had commendably responded to the invitation to bring in specimens from Arizona to display to the Meeting and an impressive and varied array of minerals were set out for examination.

### Minerals of Arizona

John Rankin commenced his presentation by describing something of the background to the collecting of minerals in Arizona which has a large number of working, closed or worked-out mines and in the number of these and total mineral production can be compared to New South Wales.

Arizona is in the south-west of the United States and has a similar population to New South Wales of about 6.4 million (Arizona) to 7.2 million (NSW) whereas the population of Tucson of about half a million dwarfs Broken Hill with about 20,000. The land area of Arizona is some 300,000 square kilometers compared to 800,000 for NSW.

Collectors have been active in Arizona from the earliest years of mining but particularly from the 1930s having managed to preserve a large number of examples of the minerals found there. The collecting activities have also involved collectors from the 1950s onwards investigating old, discontinued or abandoned mines to recover more specimens. Arizona has produced sixty-four type minerals compared to New South Wales's twenty. Apart from large deposits of copper and lead in the State there is also molybdenum, vanadium, gold and silver.

Starting in the late 1850s there were first a number of gold and then by 1860 silver 'rushes' in the State. Given the low European population of Arizona at that time, its proximity to Mexico and with a common border it was the more convenient for American mine operators to employ labourers from Mexico to travel in to work the mines for a few months, generating amounts of ore which the operator could then set about smelting. Apparently in those early years friction would sometimes occur with the Mexican labourers attacking the American supervisors and making off over the border with the concentrated ore. Another problem was that the local Apaches would be likely to attack either group.

By 1861 five forts had been established in Arizona to attempt to control the Apache problem but when the American Civil War started in that year all American troops were pulled out of the state and the Apaches had free rein for a while. Virtually all mining was discontinued until copper mines started opening up in the 1870s.

Whilst the production of copper in 1963 in Arizona considerably surpassed that being produced at that time in New South Wales, most of the mines shown on maps of Arizona had been opened up in the late 1800s and very early 1900s and have been worked out or closed. However a number of the larger deposits and mines have continued operating or were opened up further and Arizona is still the leading producer of copper in the U.S. today. As he spoke John Rankin continued to show images first of maps of Arizona indicating the locations of many of the mines and of collectors investigating and working in mines sometimes quite deep underground to recover specimens, before mainly showing a series of images of the minerals on display at the 2012 Show.

Many of the Show display cabinets were dedicated to the minerals from either one specific mine or mining site whilst others showed examples of one or more species found at a number of mines and sites across the State. Many of the mines, as is the established custom in the industry, have colourful or novel names such as the Stonewall Jackson silver mine, the Red Cloud, North Geronimo, Copper Queen, Silver Bell, etc. Minerals shown included fine examples of azurites, malachites, aurichalcites, wulfenites, vanadinites, cerrusites and native silvers. Since many of the mine sources of the minerals had closed down many years ago this indicated the age of the specimens collected from them, many being over one hundred years old.

In the course of his presentation and in addition to describing the minerals the speaker constantly referred to the various museum's, dealer's and notable collector's Show cabinets providing at least some background information to most of the exhibits, exhibitors and the minerals, mines or mining sites featured in the various cabinets as he went along. A number of the collectors and dealers cabinets featured specimens collected over a hundred years ago which the speaker was able to point out providing some information or an anecdote about the specimens, the history, the original or current collector or exhibitor.

One show cabinet at Tucson last year featured specimens some of which had been put together for the Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. It was exhibited to help promote Arizona's claim to statehood, the U.S government at the time being inclined to amalgamate the State with New Mexico. Statehood was eventually granted in 1912.

A rather extraordinary anecdote that emerged when John Rankin researched his presentation concerned Society member David Colchester's father. Geoffrey Colchester was apparently a very well-travelled man, originally from Britain but who worked in a number of countries up to his being involved in the First World War and for a few years had been living in America. In 1914 Colchester senior was working at the Mammoth-St Anthony mine in Arizona as an engineer mine surveyor and sampler and at weekends he and a friend regularly went out to noodle on the mullock heaps for wulfenite. They were not doing this for specimens but to gather the mineral to sell as a lead ore to make a little extra money and the friend who was German was sending the collected wulfenite at intervals back to Germany to be processed. The co-operation ceased at Christmas in 1914 when war was declared and Geoffrey Colchester went back to Britain to join the army. David Colchester has speculated that his father may have had some of the wulfenite that he helped collect in Arizona shot back at him as lead bullets when he was with the British army in France!

At the end of John Rankin's photographic presentation David Colchester provided a little further information about the exploits of his father who had worked at several mines in Arizona in the years before he returned to Britain. These included the Copper Queen and Bisbee and for a short period he was in north Mexico dodging revolutionaries led by Pancho Villa.

Also at the end of the photographic presentation members were able to examine the array of Arizona specimens which had been brought in to display.

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **BACK FROM TUCSON MINERAL SALE**

Saturday and Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2013 from 9.30a.m. to 5.00 p.m.  
At 52 Macpherson Road, Londonderry.

Sales by Crystal Habit, Quality Gem Rough Supplies and Quality Alpaca Supplies of a fine selection of mineral specimens, decorator pieces, faceting and cabbing rough, gemstones, beads, metaphysical needs and fine Alpaca products.

Hosted by Arthur and Christine Roffey, Peter & Debbie Beckwith and John and Val Tunzi.  
Inquiries to Arthur Roffey on (02) 4572 5812 or Peter Beckwith on 0412 333 150

Other shows by the above exhibitors through 2013 are : -

15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> of June at the Windsor Function Centre, Windsor.

24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> August at the Panthers Club, Penrith, (more information to follow).

23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> November, Windsor Function Centre, Windsor.

## **The New England Lapidary and Fossicking Club Inc.**

### **22nd Annual Gem & Craft Show**

Saturday March 16th in the Armidale Showground. 9.00 am – 4.00 pm

“See a spectacular array of Gems, Opals, Fossils, Rocks, Crystals, Jewellery, Gifts, Crafts, Beading, Lapidary Supplies & Equipment, Books, Leather/Wood Craft and much more.”  
“For details contact the organisers on (02) 6778 5122; after hours e-mail nelfc@hotmail.com”

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## **CANBERRA ROCK SWAP 2013**

### **13th and 14th of April**

The **Canberra Rock Swap**, organized by the **Canberra Lapidary Club** is being held again this year as usual in the EPIC park alongside Northbourne Avenue in Canberra over Saturday and Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of April from 8.30 am to 5.00pm each day. Some of the attendees would start arriving and setting up on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> when the camping area will be already open. Entrance is FREE for the public whereas campers and vendors are asked to register.

The Rock Swap is entirely a tail-gating sale and a substantial social interaction event and normally is attended by several dozen vehicular groups and campers and many day visitors. Organised social events include the ‘Banger Barby’ on Friday and the ‘Pizza Night’ on Saturday.

*‘Registration Forms must be completed and returned as soon as possible. Unless otherwise agreed, payments should be received by 13 March 2013. If you are unable to attend, any payments will be fully refunded (except for booked tables). We can cater for people who want to arrive early or stay on after the Rock Swap’.*

Registration forms and more information are available from the Canberra Lapidary Club on website [www.canberralapidary.org.au](http://www.canberralapidary.org.au) or from the Rock Swap convenor, Norm Menadue on e-mail :- [nmenadue@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nmenadue@optusnet.com.au) , telephone (02) 6258 6631, or mobile 0407 718 347.

Registration forms for the Rock Swap will be available at the (N.S.W. Society) General Meetings or from the Secretary, George Laking. Forms can also be e-mailed or hard copies posted if requested.

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## **GEMBOREE 2013**

### **AUSTRALIA’S 49TH NATIONAL GEM AND MINERAL SHOW**

Easter 2013 from the 29<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:sagemboreeconvenor@gmail.com)

Rennie D'Arcy on mobile 0412 414 129 or e-mail - [rennie.darcy@three.com.au](mailto:rennie.darcy@three.com.au)

Bookings and Tailgating Co-Ordinators

Anne Armstrong, e-mail [anne.armstrong38@three.com.au](mailto:anne.armstrong38@three.com.au)

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

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

Website [www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

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## The 23rd Annual LISMORE GEMFEST

Being held over Saturday and Sunday the 18th & 19th of May 2013 in the Lismore Showground.

Opens 9 am – 5 pm Saturday, 9 am – 3 pm Sunday.

'This event was hailed in the Gold Gem and Treasure Magazine October 2012 issue as the best and largest gem and crystal show in Australia by patrons who attend other interstate shows and Gemborees. We already have the dealer hall fully booked with 26 dealers and expect in excess of 130 tailgaters from various parts of Eastern Australia including ACT, NSW, QLD and VIC. We had a large number of visitors including collectors from NZ and the USA'.

'Anyone intending to visit NSW prior to the Seminar in June should take note that the LISMORE GEMFEST is held only a couple of weeks before the June long weekend and more than rivals the Gemboree. Accordingly interstate/overseas visitors might like to incorporate Lismore in their itinerary and perhaps also the New England/Hunter areas prior to the Seminar.'

Information: Postal enquiries to P.O.Box 743, Lismore, NSW 2480,

General enquiries to Bruce Copper on 02 6688 8280 or e-mail : - [bcopper@bluemaxx.com](mailto:bcopper@bluemaxx.com),

Tailgate enquiries to Jan Thompson on telephone 02 6621 4703.

or visit the Website [www.gemclublismore.org.au](http://www.gemclublismore.org.au).

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## **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 Leagues Club is in the corner of Wattle Street with Ryedale Road about one hundred meters from the West Ryde suburban railway station and two hundred meters from 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

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