



THE
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF
NEW SOUTH WALES INC

C/o School of Natural Science
B.C.R.I. Parramatta Campus University of Western Sydney
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Website: www.minsocnsw.org.au

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2015

The March Meeting will be held on Friday the 6th 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 commence with a report to be given by Penny Williamson on the

2015 Tucson Show

The report will be followed by a lecture to be given by Paul Carr on

The Burning Question of Mt Wingen – When did the Fire Start ?

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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

Meetings will be held on the first Friday of the months throughout the year except before the long weekends of April, June and October when it will be held on the second Friday.

April 10th: Minitalk by Jim Sharpe on : - **'Sampleite, An Undervalued Mineral'**.
(Second Friday). Lecture by Jeff Davis on **'Applications of Mineralogy in Forensic Science'**.

May 1st: Member's **Mini-Auction**.
Members. It is not too early to start sorting out your specimens for the May Auction. Last May over one hundred specimens were auctioned for over \$2000.

June 12th : Lecture by David Vince on : - **Mineral Collecting in China in 2000 and Now**.
(Second Friday)

- July 3rd : Lecture by David Colchester and John Chapman on : -
‘**Mudgeeite. Establishing a New Mineral.**’
- August 7th: A.G.M. and the Betty Mayne and Edna Walker Memorial Lecture to be given by
Noel Kennon on : - ‘**The History of Broken Hill**’.
- September 4th: Lecture on ‘**The Creative Power of Groundwater**’, by Peter Williams.
- October 9th : ‘**The Wonderful World of Micro-Minerals**’. Presented by the Micro-Group.
(Second Friday)
- November 6th : ‘**Aspects of the Block 14 Mine**’ by John Rankin.
- December 4th : **Christmas Social**

FIELD TRIP: MARCH 21ST & 22ND

WALLET FOSSICKING AND FIELD TRIP NOTICE

Route: Sydney – Goulburn – Canberra – Goulburn – Tuena – Goulburn – Sydney.

Saturday 21st March

Canberra Lapidary Club is hosting the CANBERRA ROCK SWAP 2015 at Wagtail Way in the EPIC showground alongside Northbourne Avenue in Canberra over Saturday and Sunday the 21st & 22nd of March 2015 from 8.30 am to 5.00pm each day.

We will attend on **Saturday**.

Camping is available at the venue on Friday night - \$29 per night - unpowered camping site.

On **Saturday** night we will camp at Tuena Camping Ground.

Sunday 22nd March

We will visit the Cordillera Mine, Kangaloolah, Tuena. Original operations around 1888-89. Later reworked in 1928.

Mineral List:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------|-----------|
| Arsenopyrite | Azurite | Bourmonite | Cerussite |
| Chalcocite | Covellite | Cuprotungstite | Galena |
| Gold | Jamesonite | 'Limonite' | Malachite |
| Marcasite | Pyrite | Pyrrhotite | Raspite |
| Scheelite, var: Cuprian Scheelite | Sphalerite | Stolzite | |

Smelter and slag heap on site.

For detailed information: e-mail Edward Zbik at etzed@optusnet.com.au or call (02) 9638 6586 before 10:00 pm any day.

Note: Ed has lost his mobile phone.

2015 Society Membership Fees: REMINDER

Society membership fees were due from January 1st and a number of Society members financial for last year have not yet renewed their subscriptions for 2015. Members are urged to consider whether they have renewed yet and if not, to do so as soon as convenient. The Society carries several insurances to protect the Society and members against injury or loss etc but insurance protection is subject to them being financial for the current year and Society membership is deemed to lapse by March 31st if the member has not renewed by then. Subscription renewal forms were sent out in December and are available from the Secretary or Treasurer at any Meeting and on the Society website.

Subscriptions may be paid by : -

Direct Credit / bank transfer to the Society's account : -
the Mineralogical Society of NSW Inc. BSB: 062016; Account number: 28023647

by sending cheque or Australia Post Money Order to the Treasurer or Secretary;

or by cash or cheque delivered to the Treasurer or Secretary at any General meeting.

Members are requested to submit a completed membership renewal form with their subscriptions wherever possible including e-mailing copies to the Treasurer or Secretary if they pay by bank transfer, particularly if any of their details, addresses etc, have changed. It is important for the Society to keep up-to-date records of member's details. 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: | Jim Sharpe | Tel: (02) 9871 2502 |
| | E-mail: | <i>sharpejames@tpg.com.au</i> |
| SECRETARY: | George Laking | Tel: (02) 9636 7145 |
| | E-mail: | <i>bglaking@tech2u.com.au</i> |
| TREASURER: | Graham Ogle | Tel: (02) 9868 4446 |
| | E-mail: | <i>grahamo@diabetesnsw.com.au</i> |
| COMMITTEE MEMBERS: | Peter Beddow | Tel: (02) 8810 8446 |
| | John Chapman | Tel: (02) 9808 3481 |
| | David Colchester | Tel: (02) 9449 3862 |
| | John Rankin | Tel: (02) 9482 7474 |
| | Edward Zbik | Tel: (02) 9638 6586 |

MICROMINERAL GROUP

For the past several months the Society **Micromineral Group** has been studying mineral specimens from the Woodlawn mine and have written a report on their findings which has been published in the *Crocoite.com* website. The Group is now studying minerals collected from the Bunnan road cutting and will similarly be writing up and submitting a report to the website.

In due course the **Group** will commence studying minerals from the **Tolwong** mine and is planning to do a mineralogical report with photographs of the minerals from the site. If you have any specimens from Tolwong, situated in the Shoalhaven Gorge, the Micro group would like you to lend them to examine and photograph them. Please label the mineral/s with your name in a lidded box and any provenance associated with the specimen/s would also be greatly appreciated.

Contact Dieter Mylius or Graham Ogle.

The FEBRUARY MEETING

THANKS

Thanks are due to all the members who donated specimens to be sold for the benefit of the **Kids with Cancer Foundation**. Over one hundred specimens had been very kindly donated by members and whilst not all specimens were sold through the evening the sale had generated a sum of over \$1,700 for the Foundation. As advised after the sale last year 100% of all direct donations to the Kids with Cancer Foundation are passed on to struggling families of kids with cancer and to children's hospitals where they are treated.

The Meeting was opened by the Vice-President, Jim Sharpe, in the absence of the President who was in Japan. Initially the Vice-President referred to the array of specimens which had been brought in for the Kids with Cancer sale drawing member's attention to several specimens with quite old labels indicating they were originally from the Johnson collection. Johnson was a collector who worked for the O.T.Lempriere company in the 1920s and 1930s being involved in processing tin and antimony ores. Jim Sharpe particularly recommended that old labels should always be preserved with the minerals since they provided a history of the specimen/s.

The Vice-President then moved on to deliver the first talk of the evening.

Tenorite; Not pretty but interesting

Jim Sharpe

Tenorite is a copper oxide and is a lustrous black mineral usually found associated with other oxidized copper minerals such as cuprite, azurite, malachite and chrysocolla. It is often found as a rim around either native copper, cuprite or the sulphide and in turn surrounded by the carbonates, illustrating the oxidation process. Jim Sharpe was able to show a number of examples of tenorite in specimens which had been brought in to display including one which had been cut through and polished. This showed that the specimen had a centre of some native copper with cuprite, then a concentric ring of black tenorite and an outer ring of malachite.

Jim Sharpe was able to refer to his considerable experience and knowledge of visiting, investigating and collecting at copper mines in New South Wales and particularly in Queensland. He advised that the collector would not see so much tenorite at many of those sites, copper mineral oxidation more often producing cuprite and then the carbonates. He had never seen any in NSW specimens and only a small amount in Queensland. In describing one of his collecting trips the speaker referred to a small mine which he would never forget right at the top of Mt McKay at the end of a steep-sided, long narrow track. In making his way carefully up the access road he noticed that a truck had gone over the side at some time in the past. He would have driven even more carefully after that observation.

In conclusion the speaker pointed out that apart from a number of tenorite specimens on display there were three examples of the mineral amongst the specimens set out among the Kids with Cancer sale this evening and he recommended these to any members who were interested in acquiring one.

Professor Peter Williams introduced the main speaker for the evening.

Professor Williams had known the speaker for many years having first met Vera Munro-Smith when she came to the University of Western Sydney to complete her undergraduate degree at the Science faculty which was first based only in Penrith, there was then no Parramatta campus. After completing her Master's degree she commenced studying for her PhD supervised by Professor Williams and Peter Leverett and aided considerably in much of her field work by Jim Sharpe. Her PhD thesis was presented in 2006, (*Cobalt mineralisation in selected Australian deposits. V Munro-Smith - 2006 - University of Western Sydney*).

Professor Williams reminisced briefly about accompanying the speaker during her field work for her PhD which was sometimes conducted under arduous circumstances. Notably some of the research trips were made to the Cloncurry area of central Queensland in summer and Professor Williams noted that on one occasion Vera Munro-Smith had the dubious privilege of having to change a tyre on a 4WD vehicle for the first time in her life with him relaxing nearby! Also during that time of the year the researchers spent a week based in Cloncurry and noted that one of the general stores had an electronic display board above its entrance which showed the time and the temperature. For all but one of the days that the team was in Cloncurry the board showed a temperature of 45°C and on the last day it was 48°C!

Vera Munro-Smith's PhD had focused on cobalt deposits and she probably knows more than anyone else in Australia about such deposits but certainly knows more than anyone else about cobalt in the Mt Isa block. Since completing her PhD the speaker has worked at Macquarie University and is now a science teacher at Mitchell High School in Blacktown.

The Cobalt Deposits of the Cloncurry and Mount Isa District

Vera Munro-Smith

Vera Munro-Smith proceeded to show a series of images initially of a number of the many sites she had visited in the course of her studies. These were mostly in central Queensland and initially of the landscape, surrounding countryside and of herself and various members of the research team accompanying her. During the course of her lecture she was able to inject a number of lively comments, items of humour about her work and the places visited, and point out a number of Society-familiar faces in many of the images projected.

In regard to the climate in central Queensland the speaker asserted that on one occasion when the team got back into Cloncurry after a day spent in the open cut at the Great Australia Mine her memory was that the display board on the general store showed a temperature of 51°C! She believed that the board has been recorded at 53.1°C on one occasion but acknowledged that this may be contentious.

Reflecting the amount of time that the speaker had spent in Cloncurry she presented a number of views of the town including of the local museum which she had visited. The visit had involved a slightly startling personal event. In needing to use a cloakroom Vera Munro-Smith experienced what she termed 'a wet kiss on her cheek' which as might be expected, prompted some sharp expression of alarm. It transpired that many of the toilets in the town in the dry and hot environment tend to attract frogs some of which sneak into the cloakrooms and congregate on the cool rims of toilet bowls. One of them apparently decided to check out the 'cheek' which was presented to it. This, as the speaker put it, was her introduction to Cloncurry.

Also presented in the views of Cloncurry were a number of the local pubs, many with clean, well-maintained and attractive facades and all of which would obviously be very welcome oases for all the locals and visitors in that environment. The interiors of the pubs often showed novelty notices or menu-boards, décor and graffiti and in one of the images Peter Williams was shown enjoying a cold one.

The speaker referred to some of the history of mineralogical discovery in central Queensland. In 1861 John McKinlay was the first to report the presence of copper mineralization. Then in 1867 Ernest Henry discovered the copper deposit which is now known as the Great Australia Mine and in 1923 John Campbell-Miles discovered the Mt Isa deposit. Some of the geological features of the Mt Isa block were described and then a number of the copper deposits which were also known or found to be cobalt-bearing were pointed out. There have only been three cobalt-producing mines in Queensland including Mount Cobalt discovered in 1919 and the Queen Sally in 1922. Cobalt mineralisation had however been known or reported in other deposits such as the Ernest Henry and the Mt Isa Copper Lode.

In the course of her studies the speaker had established that the majority of deposits which were of interest to her, i.e. cobalt-bearing, were within the Mt Isa block but she had also visited and taken samples from several deposits in NSW and from the Northern Territory and South Australia. Analyses of samples were performed at U.W.S. Parramatta by examining polished sections and by electron microscope and by XRD (X-ray diffraction). Of main interest was to find which minerals contained cobalt and analyses from many sites showed the presence of cobaltite, CoAsS, but also that pyrite and pyrrhotite contained significant levels of cobalt. Other minerals found to contain cobalt were cobaltian calcite and arsenopyrite and there were small amounts of erythrite which is cobalt arsenate. One conclusion that was reached among others was that many of the cobalt-bearing deposits were of hydrothermal origin.

In a break from speaking about cobalt deposits and towards the end of her lecture Vera Munro-Smith showed a series of images of previous Mineralogical Society field trips from some years ago which she had attended. The images showed groups of Society members on various field trips including ones at Kingsgate and others organised during Seminars and with a few familiar faces among the other attendees.

Finally the speaker showed a few views of her science class at Mitchell High School and on field excursions with the class to illustrate the work in which she was currently engaged as a science teacher.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BACK FROM TUCSON MINERAL SALE

Being held at the home of Arthur & Christine Roffey, 52 Macpherson Road, Londonderry NSW 2753
over Saturday and Sunday the 7th and 8th of March from 9:30am till 5pm

Crystal Habit, Quality Gem Rough Supplies and Quality Alpacca Supplies will present a fine selection
of mineral specimens, decorator pieces, faceting & cabbing rough, gemstones,
beads, metaphysical needs and fine alpacca products.

Presented By Christine & Arthur Roffey...02 4572 5812
Peter & Debbie Beckwith..... 0412 333 150
Glenn Huntley.....0427 945 087

Other shows by these presenters through 2015 are : -
13th & 14th June, Windsor Function Centre, Windsor.
22nd & 23rd Aug, Roselea Community Centre.
28th & 29th Nov, Windsor Function Centre, Windsor.

CANBERRA ROCK SWAP 2015

The Canberra Rock Swop, organized by the Canberra Lapidary Club is being held as usual on the
camping ground at Wagtail Way in the EPIC showground alongside Northbourne Avenue in Canberra
over Saturday and Sunday the 21st & 22nd of March 2015 from 8.30 am to 5.00pm each day.

Fossickers & dealers, Crystals, minerals, rough & cut gemstones, opals, fossils, jewellery.
More information on www.canberralapidary.org.au

The NEW ENGLAND LAPIDARY & FOSSICKING CLUB INC.

Presents the 24th ANNUAL GEM AND CRAFT SHOW

Over Saturday March 21st, 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday March 22nd 2015
from 9 am to 3 pm in the Armidale Showground.

Gems, Rocks, Crystals, Jewellery, Gifts, Craft, Beads and Lapidary Books/Supplies/Equipment
Light refreshments available. Stall holders welcome, Public Liability Insurance Required.
For details contact the organisers on (02) 6778 5122 after hours or e-mail nelfc@hotmail.com .

GEMBOREE 2015 HORSHAM, VICTORIA

AUSTRALIA'S 51st NATIONAL GEM, LAPIDARY, JEWELLERY AND MINERAL SHOW.

Presented by the Australian Federation of Lapidary & Allied Crafts Associations Inc. (AFLACA).

GEMBOREE 2015 is to be held in the Wimmera Events Centre on Longerenong Road, Dooen, via Horsham, over Easter, the 3rd to 6th of April 2015.

Showcase displays of 1,000 + National Competition Entries, Demonstrations of gem cutting & faceting, lapidary work, enameling and beading. Gemstone identification. Trade stands of a huge range of gemstones, minerals, fossils, jewellery, beads, meteorites, lapidary equipment and dozens of tailgating stalls. Program of social activities, lectures and field trips. Camping catered for with powered sites.

Gemboree booklets, information and registration from gemboree@victoriangemclubs.asn.au
Information on accommodation and other information on the area from www.visitorhorsham.com.au
or call the Horsham and Grampian Visitor Information Centre on 1800 633 218

The 26th Annual LISMORE GEMFEST

Presented by the Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club Inc over the weekend
of the 16th & 17th May 2015 in the Lismore Showgrounds

The 26th Gemfest is now in its 'Silver Jubilee' year and will be held as by now long-established in the Lismore Showground. The last Show in May 2014 saw a large number of dealers and over 130 stallholders and tailgaters who displayed and provided minerals, fossils, cutting material, cut stones, jewellery findings, tools, machinery and finished jewellery.

'More than half of the trading is under cover, providing a safeguard against poor weather. There are also club displays and children's activities such as gem sieving. A variety of refreshments are available from several caterers. On site camping registrations are obtainable at very economical rates.'

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,
Tailgate enquiries to Jan Thompson on telephone 02 6621 4703.
or visit the Website www.gemclublismore.org.au.

THE WINTER GEMCRAFT & MINERAL SHOW

by the Canberra Lapidary Club

Held over Saturday and Sunday the 30th and 31st of May 2015 from 10.00 am to 5.00pm each day
in the Mallee Pavilion in the EPIC park alongside Northbourne Avenue in Canberra.

Entry \$5 adults, \$10 family, \$2 children/concession.

Dealers in Minerals, fossils, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, opals, beads,
lapidary equipment & supplies, displays of member's collections.

For information : - www.canberralapidary.org.au

Email : canberralapidary@gmail.com

Phone: 02 6260 5322

WHITE CLIFFS GEMFEST AND CAR BOOT SALE

26th & 27th September 2015

In the White Cliffs Community Hall from 9.00am to 5.00pm Saturday and Sunday

For further information contact Jane Stevenson on 0438 790 510, e-mail wcm2015@hotmail.com

The AUSTRALASIA JOINT MINERALOGICAL SEMINAR: TASMANIA 2015

The Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia will be holding their annual Seminar at Grindelwald, Tasmania this year between the 1st and 14th of November 2015 hosted by the Mineralogical Society of Tasmania Inc.

The provisional theme for the Seminar is : - **What's new in Australian Mineralogy**

The Seminar lecture program will be held over Wednesday and Thursday the 4th and 5th of November at Grindelwald, a resort near to Launceston, and there is an extensive program of field trips to collecting sites, visits to museums, mines and events including the Zeehan and Launceston Gem & Mineral Shows being planned over the period from the 1st to the 14th of November.
