



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

C/o School of Natural Science
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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2009

The September Meeting will be held on Friday the 4th of September 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 will commence with a talk to be given by John Chapman on : -

‘Scheelite in Australia’

The talk will be followed by a lecture to be given by Dereck Dolstra on : -

‘The History of Copper Mining in NSW’

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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

October 9th, (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 6th: Talk by Simon Hager on ‘The Pharmacosiderite Group of Minerals’ and a lecture by Paul Meszaros on ‘Gold’

December 4th: Christmas Social and Swap n’ Sell.

The Society does not hold General Meetings in January. After December 4th 2009 the next Meeting will be on Friday the 5th of February 2010.

February 5th 2010: Talk on Martin Zwer’s Scheelite Mine, Nundle, N.S.W. by John Rankin and a lecture by David Colchester on Magnetic Minerals.

March 5th: 2010 2010 Tucson Show Update. Lecture by David Colchester on Magnetic Minerals.

April 9th 2010, (Second Friday, - after Easter): Minitalk by Bruce Myles on 'Zircons from Malawi'

May 7th: Member's Mini-Auction.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AUGUST 7th 2009

The 2009 A.G.M. was held in the LZG14 lecture room as scheduled and attended by some fifty members comprising a quorum. The Meeting was opened by the Society President, Arthur Roffey.

The President initially made a few announcements about **forthcoming mineral shows** being held this weekend and later in the month. The Bankstown Lapidary Club Show was being held this weekend, the Blaxland Show over the 15th & 16th of August and the Carlingford Show over the 22nd and 23rd. Later in the year the Gemkhana was being held at Goulburn over the October 3rd to 5th long weekend.

John Chapman was asked to update members on the forthcoming **field trip** to the Mudgee area to be held over the 29th/30th of September weekend and the later one to Mineral Hill over the 16th/17th/18th of October. Arrangements for both trips were as given in the August Newsletter and members intending to go on either or both of these trips were urged to indicate this by placing their names on a list at the Meeting. Members were also recommended to acquaint themselves with the O.H & S regulations regarding the safety clothing to be worn and if unfamiliar to check through the list also provided at the Meeting. There were no limitations on the number of people per group entering the quarry and mine properties except that any children must be accompanied by at least one adult per child.

David Colchester advised that the Society had very generously been given an extensive donation of a large number of **Mineralogical Record** magazines from Volume 2 to 2003 which had boosted the Library collection considerably.

Graham Ogle announced that the next meeting of the **Micromineral Group** would be held on Saturday afternoon the 19th of September at Graham Delaforce's house in Penrith. The group would be looking at microminerals from Kingsgate.

The President moved to the formal business of the evening first presenting his Presidential report for 2008/2009, as follows : -

'The past year for the Society has been to me and I hope to members one of great satisfaction. In my term as your President I have had the fortune of having a management committee fully committed to see the Society go forward. Many of those serving on the committee have been in the position for some time and whilst I am sure they enjoy doing the job they were elected to carry out there will come a time when change is inevitable and so I ask you as members to seriously consider when election time comes around to nominate. I am sure that there are members among you that could bring new ideas to the successful functioning of the Society.

Our program of talks together with other functions throughout the past year have been varied, educational and entertaining but here again I ask that if any member wishes to participate in this area of activity just contact any committee member. To those members who donated specimens for our charity auction you have the Society's thanks.

Although we have not had a great number of field trips this year, remember that times have changed and areas are becoming more difficult to access. Your field trips officer is doing all that he possibly can to arrange these and again I ask for members help in this area.

Several of our members attended the annual seminar, this year in Brisbane. This was very well conducted and the host society should be complimented for their effort.

After three terms as your President, all of which I have enjoyed, I will not be standing for re-election to that position and I wish your incoming committee a very successful year.

Thank You
Arthur Roffey

The President then declared all the current Committee positions vacant and asked Society member Harvey Henley to assume the task of Returning Officer and to take the chair of the Meeting for the election of the 2009/2010 Society Office-Bearers and Committee members.

The Returning Officer first asked if there were any nominations from the floor for any of the Committee positions. With no others being made Harvey Henley noted that only single nominations had been put forward for all the Committee positions and he was therefore able to declare the nominated Committee members elected unopposed as follows.

PRESIDENT:	Gary Sutherland
VICE-PRESIDENT:	John Chapman
SECRETARY:	George Laking
TREASURER:	Jim Sharpe
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	David Colchester
	Dieter Mylius
	Graham Ogle
	Arthur Roffey
	Peter Williams

With the election of the 2009/2010 Committee over the Returning Officer handed the chair back to the newly-elected Society President, Gary Sutherland. Initially the new President thanked the previous Committee members for the work they had done over the last year and particularly thanked Arthur Roffey for his work as Society President for the last three years, noting that Arthur had been involved with the Society since inauguration in 1975 and continuously for the subsequent thirty-four years. The President also drew attention to the establishment and continuing development by Graham Ogle and his son Toby of the Society website which would allow members and interstate people to see the wealth of knowledge which was available through the New South Wales Mineralogical Society.

The President then asked the Society Treasurer, Jim Sharpe, to deliver the **Annual Financial Report**.

The Treasurer advised that the Society finances were in very good shape having shown an increase in total funds of \$1,743.72 which was similar but slightly larger than the surplus for the 2007/2008 year. As the Treasurer had pointed out in previous years the increase was mainly due to interest on the Betty Mayne Bequest Fund which had originally started at \$17,520 in 1992 and had now accumulated to over \$30,000. The finances were also healthy due to the Society continuing to have been provided with the General Meeting venue at no charge thanks to Peter Williams having organised this with the University of Western Sydney. Furthermore over latter years postage and stationery costs had gradually reduced due to most Society Newsletters being sent out electronically.

A pleasing feature of the finances was that members had donated a number of minerals to be sold at the Meetings either to add to the Society's funds or to provide donations to the Kids with Cancer charity. Over the previous year a total of \$2,013 had been raised for the Kids with Cancer with the Treasurer noting that due to the high quality of minerals donated for the charity virtually all were sold. With member's assent a donation of \$500 was also provided by the Society to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal.

Copies of the Annual Financial Report were available to members at this meeting. The Treasurer upon compiling the Report had asked John Rankin to check through and verify all the figures. In due course a copy would be sent by the Secretary to the Department of Fair Trading, as required under the Society articles of Incorporation.

With no further A.G.M. business to conduct the President declared the 2009 AGM concluded and asked Arthur Roffey introduce the Betty Mayne Memorial lecturer of the evening.

For the benefit of new members Arthur Roffey described the background to the Memorial Lectures and a brief history of Betty Mayne's involvement with the Society. Betty Mayne upon retiring as matron in charge of nursing at one of the bigger hospitals in Sydney enthusiastically developed a keen interest in lapidary and mineralogy. She became a member of the Society in the late 1980s and after two years was elected to the position of Secretary and after another year as President. This was at a time when the Society was at a very low ebb but Betty was a great organiser, building the Society up and almost single-handedly organised the 1991 Mineralogical Seminar held in Sydney that year. Betty built up an impressive mineral collection obtaining specimens from most of the dealers in Australia but also from many overseas and Arthur was privileged to be asked to build her some show cabinets at her unit in Epping to house the collection.

Upon Betty Mayne's untimely death in July 1991 her will stipulated that her collection should be sold with half of the proceeds being bequeathed to the Society and half to the F.O.G.A.M.M. (Friends of the Geological And Mining Museum) society to which she also had belonged. The auction of the collection was organised by Arthur Roffey and other members of the Mineralogical Society and held at the Geological And Mining Museum in mid 1992. At the late Laurie Lawrence's recommendation the Memorial Lectures were established to be held on the occasion of the Society A.G.M. to commemorate the bequest.

Arthur Roffey first came in to the hobby by joining the Blue Mountains Lapidary Club which was then the oldest country club in the country and was only introduced to minerals some eight years later by a life-long friend, Eric Stevens, also a long-time Society member now resident in north Brisbane. Arthur had heard the name Sunny Corner mentioned a few times in connection with minerals and since he was then living at Blackheath decided to pay the area a visit. He was very unimpressed with what was to be found there at the time and came away empty-handed but was looking forward to this evening's lecture by Peter Williams who would be able to put members in the picture about what Sunny Corner has been all about.

'The Sunny Corner Silver Mines'

Professor Peter Williams

See talk summary in "Meeting Talks" section of website

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BROKEN HILL GEM & MINERAL SHOW. 'ROCK ON'

Thursday 24th to Monday 28th 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 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.

GEMKHANA 2009

Goulburn Showground & Recreation Area
Braidwood Road, Goulburn

Over the October long weekend, Saturday to Monday October 3rd to 5th.

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

GEMBOREE 2010

Easter 2010. Friday to Monday, April 2nd to 5th, 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.