



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

C/o School of Natural Science
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NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2014

The August Meeting is the Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and will be held on Friday the 1st of August 2014 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.

2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. will commence at 7.30 p.m. with the President's report for 2013/2014 followed by the Treasurer's report and presentation of the annual financial accounts for 2013/2014 and the election of the Society Committee and office-bearers for 2014/2015.

The minutes of the 2013 A.G.M. were circulated in the September 2013 Newsletter. Copies of this will be available at the 2014 A.G.M. or may be obtained from the Secretary.

During the A.G.M. any other business may also be raised and discussed.

The Election of Office-Bearers for 2014/2015.

In accordance with the Society Constitution the entire current Committee retires at the commencement of the A.G.M. and all positions are open for nomination and election. Nomination forms for election to the 2014/2015 Committee were circulated with the July Newsletter and nominations should have been received before the commencement of the A.G.M. A member can be nominated for but cannot hold more than one position. Only financial and Honorary Life members of the Society are eligible for nomination or allowed to participate in any voting.

After the A.G.M. has been concluded the Betty Mayne/Edna Walker Memorial Lecture will be given this year by Lin Sutherland on : -

**“Zeolites from India and other Delectable, (Collectable),
Flood Plain Basalt Mineral Suites”**

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings will be held on the first Friday of each month throughout the year except before the long weekend of October before Easter next April and in June 2015 when it will be held on the second Friday. Some of the following programs and speakers are still to be confirmed.

September 5th: The September program will be an **Interactive Member's Forum** with members invited to present short, or long, talks on their favourite minerals, favourite collecting sites, most enjoyable field trips etc or any stories which reflect their interest in mineralogy.

Jim Sharpe has prepared a list of suggested subjects that members may be able to speak about. As follows:-

<i>Minerals – why I started collecting;</i>	<i>My favourite mineral is ;</i>
<i>Field trips, was a great experience;</i>	<i>Characters I have met whilst collecting;</i>
<i>I collect most minerals but am most keen on Why?</i>	<i>Collections I have seen;</i>
<i>A good tip when collecting is ;</i>	<i>Conserving and cleaning tips;</i>
<i>Q. I would like to know ;</i>	<i>Ideas for the Society to consider.</i>

Anyone who can contribute to the **Forum** is asked to contact Jim Sharpe on (02) 9871 2502 to advise him of their participation.

October 10th,: Lecture by Graham Ogle on : - **‘Långban, Sweden – Rarity and Fluorescence’**.
(Second Friday)

November 7th: Lecture by Brian England on : - **‘Kulnura Zeolites’**.

December 5th: **Christmas Social.**

Society Meeting programs have been established for the first months of 2015.

February 6th 2015: Lecture by Vera Munro-Smith on **‘Cobalt Mines of the Cloncurry District’**

March 6th 2015: Report on the **2015 Tucson Show**, speaker to be confirmed, and a lecture by Paul Carr on **‘The Burning Question of Mt Wingen – When did the Fire Start?’**

April 10th 2015: (The Meeting will be held on the second Friday. April 3rd is Good Friday).
Lecture by Rob Barnes on **‘Mineral Deposits in NSW’**, to be confirmed.

May 1st 2015: Member's Mini-Auction.

June 12th 2015: Lecture by David Colchester and John Chapman on : -
(Second Friday). **‘Mudgeeite. Establishing a New Mineral.’**

July 3rd 2015: Member's Forum on **‘Kingsgate Revisited’**. Overview of the history, geology and minerals. Member's experiences, mineral display and discussion.

The JULY MEETING

The Meeting was opened by the President, Dieter Mylius, who reminded members about the forthcoming **Annual General Meeting** and urged members to consider offering to join the Society Committee and help contribute new ideas or suggestions for Society activities. After the A.G.M. was concluded there would be the annual **Betty Mayne** and now also **Edna Walker Memorial Lecture** to be given this year by Lin Sutherland on 'Zeolites from India and other Delectable, (Collectable), Flood Plain Basalt Mineral Suites.

The President also reminded members about the next **Micro-Mineral Group meeting** to be held at Society member Jeanette Munsell's house the following Saturday week. The Group would continue examining mineral specimens from Woodlawn and from the zeolite location in the Bunnan road cutting near Scone. Members who wished to receive notices and information on the meetings were recommended to speak to Graham Ogle and be added to an e-mail list.

Peter Williams announced that he had a collection of **Mineralogical Records** to dispose of complete from Volume One, Number one to Number 42 Number 6 including all supplements and mis-printed issues. The collection was for sale at the cost price of \$100 per year issue or \$4,000 total.

The Meeting was then handed over to the two speakers for the evening who were to deliver lectures on trips they had made to the U.K. over previous years when a number of mines, mining areas and mineral museums were visited and a substantial photographic record of their tours had been made. Both lectures photographically featured mainly mineral specimens with a number of views of the English countryside, mining areas, mines and mining equipment.

Some British Mines & Minerals: Part II

John Rankin

John Rankin's lecture described some of the mineral-viewing components of a trip he had made to the U.K. in October 2012. His first visit was to the Bakewell Show, (also known in England as 'The Rock Exchange'), held in October each year at Bakewell, a small town near Matlock in the Derbyshire Peak District. A number of views of the countryside in driving to the town were shown and then of the venue for the Show which is held in two rooms of a local school before the speaker concentrated in showing images of many of the minerals on display and some of the dealers.

The next area described by the speaker during his U.K. trip was Cornwall when he visited a number of sites starting with mines in the vicinity of Minions, a village on the granite outcrop of Bodmin Moor a few kilometers north of Liskeard. At about 300 meters above sea level the village is said to be the highest in Cornwall. It would also appear to be one of the smaller villages since the speaker found that there were virtually no car parking spaces there! There were the remains of several mines in the vicinity such as the Caradon Hill mine, the Phoenix United and the South Phoenix with some of the remaining mine buildings put to modern use. An engine house originally part of the South Phoenix mine workings currently housed the Minions Heritage Centre. The Phoenix mine closed in 1898 and was notable for having produced exceptionally well-crystallised specimens of cuprite.

Continuing his tour around Cornwall John Rankin had next visited Truro and the Royal Cornwall Museum which has an extensive collection of minerals including a display in its entrance of the Rashleigh collection originally put together by a notable collector of the time, Philip Rashleigh (1729-1811).

The speaker spent some time in the museum and had taken a large number of photographs including apart from mineral specimens some of the historical artefacts featured in the Museum. These reflected the long period of metal mining in Cornwall such as an ingot of tin found on a mine site and dating to over two thousand years ago.

In travelling around Cornwall John Rankin found that due to the narrow roads and limited car parking in many places he decided to concentrate on the St Just area, on the coast, almost to Lands End on the south-west extremity of England. A few views of the town were shown, the speaker noting what he had already found about other parts of Cornwall, that there were only ten parking places to be found. A view was also shown of the local pub which whilst the speaker would have liked to drop into he wanted to get to see some of the mines, there being several famous ones in the area.

The only mine in the area which was set up for tourism was the Geevor tin mine which closed in 1990 and is the largest preserved tin mine in Europe. The mine is a heritage site with a museum called the Hard Rock presenting the story of tin in Cornwall. Illustrations of other mines in the area such as the Levant and the Botallack indicated that mineheads were often built in cliffs on the edge of the sea with many of the workings angled downwards and out under the seabed for up to 2.5 kilometers. Much of the tin mined was also smelted in Cornwall, using (old) South Wales coal. Tin ingots with smelter's marks were pointed out in images from the museum. A tour of the preserved mine workings and processing equipment also provided a number of images shown to the meeting. The ore processed consisted of a mixture of cassiterite, wolfram and country rock.

The Levant mine closed in 1930 but in the 1960s the Geevor which was still working wanted to re-open it and extract more ore. Only for the operators to discover that the Levant shafts had become flooded and in noticing that the level of water in the shafts rose and fell with the tide it was apparent that one of the shafts under the sea-bed had been breached. The site of the breach was identified by means of putting bags of fluorescent dye into the shafts and watching for where this appeared in the sea some distance offshore. An operation was then mounted to plug the breach which took four years and several attempts but with the aid of several thousand bags of quick-setting cement to form a mat around the breach and finally six hundred tons of quick-setting grout pumped into the hole it was closed off.

As a result of this work collectors may see notices on the Internet offering chalcocite specimens for sale which were recovered from the previously flooded sections of the Levant and a number of images of these specimens were demonstrated. Other out-of-doors images taken by the speaker during his visit to Cornwall where he had scheduled to spend a week touring and walking around showed that for much of the time the area was shrouded by thick fog. In spite of this he had managed to photograph many of the surviving mine buildings and machinery. In view of this experience John Rankin advised that if anyone were to travel to Cornwall they should not use up the limited sunny days to visit museums but rather reserve the museum visits for the dull days and the brighter ones for the outside.

After touring Cornwall John Rankin visited the Museum of Natural History in London to spend a whole day there. Thanks to the services of Peter Williams who had provided an introduction to the minerals curator Mike Rumsey, the speaker was able to look behind the scenes. Accordingly he was able to photograph a large number of the more significant specimens in the Museum collection and many of these were shown to the meeting. Notably he asked to see South Australian atacamites and since few of these were on public display was shown all of them, stored in cabinets under elaborate security conditions, and was able to photograph them.

Since the Museum of Natural History collection is so large John Rankin tried to concentrate during his visit there on seeing and photographing mainly Australian and Cornish material obtaining images of many superlative specimens. Noting as he did so the meticulous record-keeping and labelling of the specimens by the Museum which often provided a history of their acquisition.

Some British Mines & Minerals: Part II

Gary Sutherland

At the commencement of his talk Gary Sutherland complimented the previous speaker on the montage of photographs presented from Cornwall including those of the magnificent specimens in the Truro museum. On the occasion of his own visit there the quality of his photographs had been limited by directives 'posted everywhere' not to use flash photography whilst John Rankin had not found this problem, the restriction having been lifted.

During his last visit to England the speaker having visited the Museum of Natural History on previous trips had determined instead to look for a number of the smaller museums around the country all of which he found had interesting varieties of minerals. Some of the museums such as the one at Manchester University turned out to be difficult to find but was well worth visiting with a good selection of minerals particularly from northern England as well as a selection of international specimens. Another notable museum was the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences at Cambridge which had a collection of the most phenomenal fossils.

On this last trip Gary Sutherland again decided to visit Wanlockhead and the small museum there although not for too long this time because when he arrived it was raining. The next stop was at the Edinburgh National Museum of Scotland which is a modernistic building in the centre of the town. There were a few minerals although not a very extravagant selection on display. After Edinburgh the speaker made his way down the east coast of England to stop at Cambridge to see the Sedgwick museum. He had noticed it having been through the town on a previous trip but had then found the museum closed.

This time the museum was open and the speaker found that whilst it presented an interesting historical look at minerals there was not a large array of specimens and the labelling was slightly unreliable. By contrast the fossil collection was much more extensive. One interesting feature of the Sedgwick Museum was that a room had been set up to resemble Charles Darwin's office and to reflect his voyage around the Pacific with mineral and other types of specimens numbered to indicate where he had stopped to collect.

After introducing and describing aspects of his most recent U.K. trip Gary Sutherland switched on a DVD he had prepared which presented a photographic montage of the mineralogical components of his trip and which ran for the rest of the lecture. The DVD showed a large number of images, mostly of minerals photographed in the various museums visited, a few showing fossils and also a few showing the museums and other buildings. The speaker provided various comments, items of information and pointers as the DVD ran through the images.

MINERAL COLLECTION SALE

The Kinnane Collection

The following notice has been sent in to the Society by Peter Beckwith who has asked that it be circulated to members.

'Crystal Habit is making available the sale of the Neil Kinnane Collection. It contains some 1300 specimens from around the world as well as over 300 fine specimens from Australia. The mineral & gemstone collection has become available due to Neil's serious ill-health and subsequent costs. Both he and his wife, Lyn, will also be at the opening sale.

The Mineral Collection as well as his Gemstone Collection will be on offer for the first time at a private event for MINSOC members on Friday the 8th and Saturday the 9th of August in the Brooke Room at the Stamford Grand Hotel, North Ryde.

The Stamford Grand Hotel "The Brooke Room"
Cnr. Epping & Herring Roads NORTH RYDE NSW 2113
Phone (+61 2) 9888 1077 ; DDI (+61 2) 9886 3613
Web www.stamford.com.au

This event will start around 5pm and finish at 10pm on the Friday and around 9am till 5pm on the Saturday. There is plenty of parking at the hotel.

Should anyone have any questions or want a catalogue of the collection please feel free to contact me by either phone – mobile 0412 333 150 or email peterrare@optusnet.com.au I have a listing without photos available by email.

Thanks & regards Peter Beckwith Crystal Habit'

DVD. QUEENSLAND AGATE FROM AGATE CREEK

A letter and DVD titled QUEENSLAND AGATE FROM AGATE CREEK have been received from a collector, lapidarist and fossicker 'Sir Paul Howard' of Elanora, Gold Coast. The letter and the first few minutes of the DVD introduce the author who describes his collecting and lapidary interests over most of his life with particular reference to Agate Creek in north Queensland. The DVD then further provides an hour of information about regulations and licenses, advice and recommendations about travelling, camping and fossicking for agate in the Agate Creek area. The DVD and introductory letter will be available for examination and borrowing at the Society Meetings.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE BLAXLAND GEM & MINERAL CLUB GEM SHOW

Saturday & Sunday August 16th and 17th 2014

Displays of lapidary work and gem, mineral and crystal sales. Refreshments available.
Glenbrook Community Hall, Great Western Highway, Glenbrook, NSW

(Next to Glenbrook Theatre) Just west of Information Centre.
<http://www.freewebs.com/blaxlandgemmineralclub/BGMCshow.htm>
 8 am to 4 pm Daily Entry: Adults: \$3 Children \$1

CUMBERLAND GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Over Saturday and Sunday the 23rd and 24th of August
 in the Roselea Community Centre, Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford.

SALES of jewellery, gemstones, beads, opals, mineral specimens from all over the world,
 tools and equipment for lapidary and beading work, metaphysical and healing crystals.
 Displays of mineral specimens, cut & polished stones, carvings & gemstones.

A WORLD OF GEMS GEMKHANA 2014

The Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of Lapidaries from all over NSW,
 presented by the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Inc

To be held in the Goulburn Showground-Recreation Area, Braidwood Road, Goulburn, NSW 2580
 over the Labour Day Weekend of Saturday to Monday, October 4th to 6th.
 From 10.00 am to 5.00 pm Saturday & Sunday, 9.00 am to 12 noon on Monday.

Displays and Demonstrations of Jewellery, Gem Faceting, Gemstones and Gem Identification.

Sales by local and interstate gem, jewellery, mineral dealers and tailgate vendors of minerals,
 crystals, fossils, gold, silver, mountings, faceted gems, beads, finished jewellery,
 jade, gift items, tools, supplies and equipment.

Raffle, Children's Activities, Attractions for everyone of all ages, Refreshments, Plenty of parking
 Admission: Adults \$3.00, Children \$1, Families \$8.

Contacts for inquiries: - Marilyn or John Behrens on (02) 9635 8218 or Arthur Roffey on 02 4572 5812.

The NORTHERN DISTRICTS LAPIDARY CLUB GEM SHOW

From Friday the 24th to Sunday the 26th of October 2014

A Gems, Jewellery and Minerals Exhibition
 at the Becroft Community Centre, Becroft Road, Becroft.

From Friday 24th, 9am – 9pm, Saturday 25th 9am – 5pm and Sunday 26th, 10am – 4pm.
 Admission: Adults \$4, Children \$1 Family \$8 - Free tea coffee and refreshments

THE PARRAMATTA and HOLROYD LAPIDARY CLUB

Presents their

ANNUAL EXHIBITION

To be held over Friday, Saturday & Sunday the 7th to 9th of November 2014.
From 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. each day. At the Clubrooms at 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville.

Competition, demonstrations of Club activities, rocks & mineral for sale, member's work for sale, demonstrations, children's activities, sand sieving, fossicking heap, refreshments.

Wheelchair access and plenty of parking

Contacts: Ray 02 9863 1273, John 02 9635 8218
