



# THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

Website: [www.minsocnsw.org.au](http://www.minsocnsw.org.au)

Please address all correspondence to :-  
The Secretary, 58 Amazon Road, Seven Hills, NSW 2147

## NEWSLETTER      AUGUST 2022

**The August Meeting is the Society's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and will be held on Friday the 5th of August 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the clubrooms of the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club at 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville.**

All members attending the meeting should be double vaccinated. Masks can be worn but are optional and social distancing should be maintained. Everyone should sign the Attendance Register and anyone who feels unwell or has had recent contact with an infected person should not attend the Meeting.

The A.G.M. will present the President's report for 2021/2022, the Treasurer's report and presentation of the annual financial accounts for 2021/2022 and the election of the Society Committee and office-bearers for 2022/2023. 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 2022/2023 Committee are attached to this Newsletter.

After the Reports and Election Any Other Business may also be raised and discussed.

When the A.G.M. has been concluded the Mayne-Walkers Memorial Lecture will be given this year by Professor Ken McQueen on :-

### **The Paddy's River Skarns, ACT: Their Origin and Mineralogy'**

An abstract describing Professor McQueen's lecture was given in the July Newsletter. Professor McQueen is Adjunct Professor (Geochemistry and Landscape Evolution), at the University of Canberra.

The work on the skarn deposits of Paddys River was recently published in the Australian Journal of Mineralogy. (June 2021, Volume 22, Number 1).

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## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS and PROGRAMS**

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>:**      There will be a lecture given by Trevor Dart on '**Recent finds in the Broken Hill District**'. Since the speaker will actually be in Broken Hill the lecture will be given by Zoom.

It is intended to hold a sale for the **Kids with Cancer** charity foundation during the September Meeting.

**October 7th :**      The programs for October and November 4th are to be confirmed.

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>:**      Christmas Swap And Sell.

## **FIELD TRIP to PADDY'S RIVER 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

Hi All

The Mineralogical Society has been granted a licence to enter the Murrumbidgee Corridor to the area along Paddy's River to

- Remove soil or stone from reserve
- operate motorised vehicle in reserve

This licence expires 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Note that there are numerous conditions to the licence; a copy should be attached to the SWMS for Paddy's River. Registered members are to carry a copy of the licence plus an ID like Drivers Licence or passport while using this licence.

All intending to use a vehicle must provide vehicle make, model and registration that will be driven in the reserve. There are numerous video's monitoring the area including the Karst areas and the arm of Paddy's River.

Mark Walters and Denis O'Brien are also official licence holders to this approval.

Any group using this licence must be led by Mark Walters or Denis O'Brien or Edward Zbik.

Members are required to have a current SWMS and provide additional information before they will receive the excursion details. The closing date for acquiring SWMS certification and re-accrediting is 2 weeks before the event at 6:00 pm Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

The numbers on the first visit to Paddy's River skarn are limited to financial 12 members who are SWMS accredited. There will be other trips as the licence is for 1 year.

Please direct all inquiries to Mark Walters on Mob: 0421012647 or e-mail : - [markwalterstafe@gmail.com](mailto:markwalterstafe@gmail.com)

Edward Zbik

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## **THE AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF MINERALOGY**

The latest issue of the Journal, Number 1, Volume 23, has been published and distributed to subscribers. There are articles on the minerals, - Penriceite from the Penrice marble quarry in S.A.; Elliottite from Tom's Phosphate quarry in Kapunda, S.A.; and Minyulite from South Australian rock phosphate deposits.

Other major articles are : - Lost Crocoite from an Iconic Tasmanian Mine by Tony Forsyth; Amethyst from Wyloo station in the Pilbara by Peter Downes and others; Riechenbachite from the Mount Glorious Mine at Cloncurry in north-west Queensland by Jim Sharpe and Peter A. Williams; and 'What's new in the Land of Oz' by Steve Sorrell.

Subscriptions are \$32 for two issues including postage, (within Australia),  
and may be applied for through the website [www.ajmin.org.au](http://www.ajmin.org.au)

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## THE JULY SOCIETY MEETING

The July Meeting was attended by only a little over a dozen members with a larger number connecting in by virtual mode. The poor weather and cold climate at this time of the year may have discouraged more members attending in person. There were a few announcements.

Graham Ogle reported that the next **Micromount meeting** would be held on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of July at the Lapidary Club and the Group would be looking at minerals from Canada and Alaska.

Mark Walters advised that a projected scoping trip to Mt Tennyson was cancelled due to rain and the general transport advice for people not to travel over that weekend due to anticipated torrential rain. The scoping trip to Mt Tennyson will have to be done at a later date when the site is dry enough to access. Mark reported that we are still waiting for the ACT government to issue the licence for Paddy's River Skarn.

(Editor: *The licence has now been issued, see Field-Trips section*).

Dieter Mylius noted that the trip to the **Economic Rock and Mineral Collection** at Londonderry had been quite successful and attended by a dozen members. It was hoped to hold another trip to the **Collection** at some time later in the year.

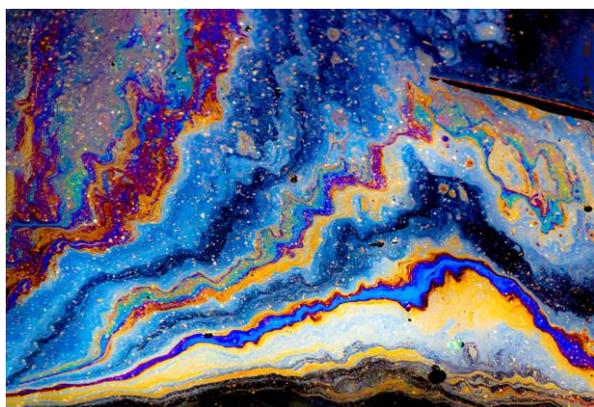
The first talk of the evening was given by John Chapman, the subject and images having been compiled by himself and David Colchester who have provided the following notes.

### 'Iridescence – Now And Then'

#### John Chapman and David Colchester

"The talk has been triggered by observations while bush walking around Sydney since due to the abnormal amount of rainfall we have had recently this has meant that many bush walking tracks have been kept wet by water seeping out from the sandstone and soil. If the water persists for several days there may be the formation of an orange gooey slime in the pools and also an iridescent sheen on the surface of the water. This iridescent sheen resembles the 'rainbow' colours seen on wet roads where an oil slick occurs but this also happens in pristine bush settings where there is no oil contamination. So what is causing the iridescence? David already had the answer.

Bacteria in the water in the puddles use the oxidation of ferrous iron ( $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ) to ferric iron ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ) to provide energy for their metabolism.  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  is much less soluble in water than  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  so it precipitates out as orange ferric oxide ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ) and possibly goethite.

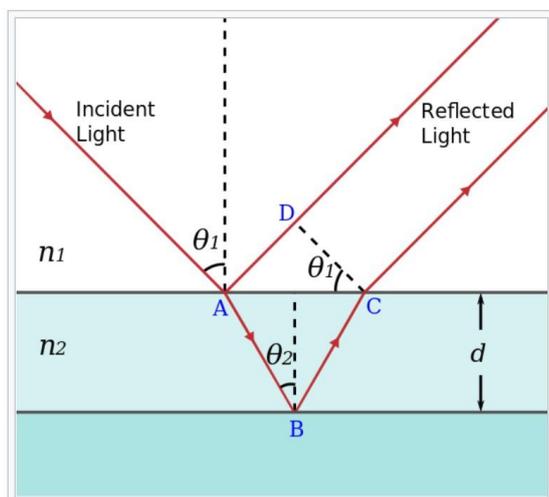


Thin-film iridescence caused by oil on water

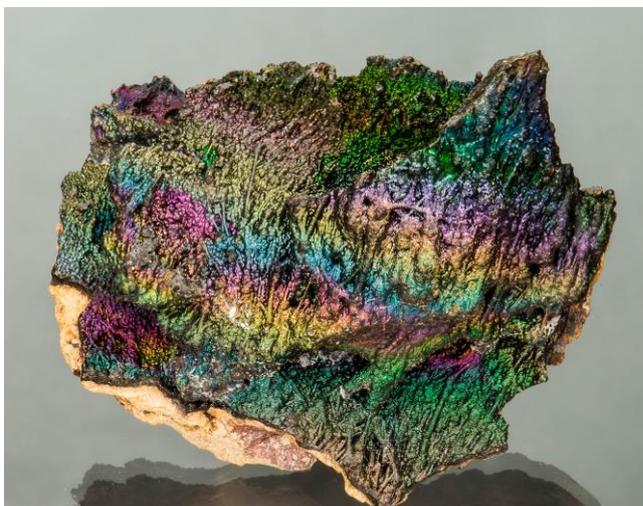


Thin-film iridescence caused by iron oxide layer precipitated by *Gallionella ferrugina* bacteria,

The phenomenon of iridescence was explained with a diagram showing the interaction of light with a thin film of oil on a surface or an oxidation patina on a mineral such as goethite when the different wavelengths and colours in white light are selectively separated and reflected.



Demonstration of the optical path difference for light reflected from the upper and lower boundaries of a thin film.



Iridescent goethite ( $\alpha\text{-Fe}^{3+}\text{O(OH)}$ ) from the oxide zone of the Peak Hill Gold Mine

Charles Lyell's dictum: "the present is the key to the past"

So we can go for a walk in the bush and see processes happening today that have been active in the past. Or in David's case, step outside and see these processes happening in the gutter right outside his house !"

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## 'A Mineral Collecting Trip to the Faroe Islands'

### Luis Martins

The lecture of the evening was given by a new member to the Society, Luis Martins, who is from Portugal, recently arrived and currently living and working in Australia. In 2019 Luis was living in the U.K. and was able to join a group of members of the SMLS, (Sussex Mineral and Lapidary Society), making a mineral-collecting trip to the Faroe Islands in August that year. The speaker's lecture was very well-illustrated by a series of images showing many aspects of the islands, the landscape, the local facilities including some of the hotels, the museum, the local Pizza King, the small towns with their brightly coloured houses, the well-built roads and bridges, the people he met or with whom he was travelling but particularly the geology, mineral collecting sites, the mineralogy and the minerals.

The Faroe Islands are situated in the north Atlantic approximately 300 km from the north of Scotland and about halfway between Iceland and Norway. They are an archipelago of eighteen major islands and numerous smaller ones. They were settled originally by viking seafarers and are now a fairly autonomous province of Denmark. Faroese, derived from Old Norse, is the primary and official language with Danish widely used and taught in schools whereas English is also well understood. This may have been promoted by the volume of tourism, particularly from the U.K., that helps boost the Faroese economy. The economy used to depend a great deal on the fishing industry whereas tourism has latterly become significant.

According to Luis Martins the population of the Faroes is about fifty thousand people, ... with one hundred thousand sheep and three hundred thousand puffins!

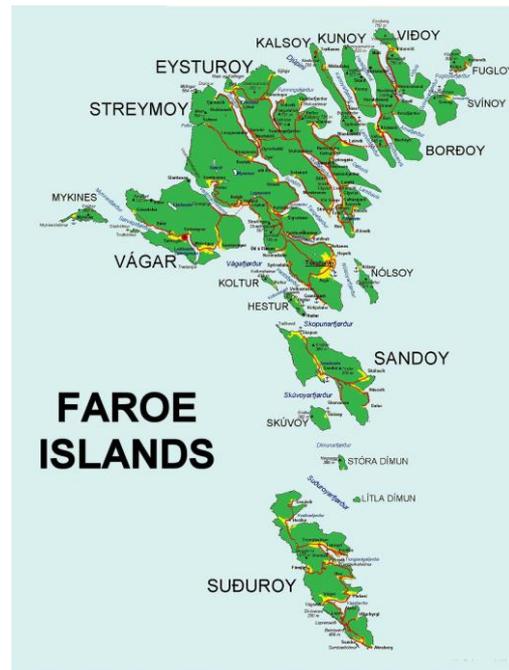


The people



The puffins

The Faroe Islands are formed almost entirely of basalt being part of the North Atlantic Igneous Province (NAIP), (along with Iceland), but unexpectedly with a small deposit of coal on the southernmost of the larger islands, Suðuroy. In places over much of the archipelago the basalt contains zeolites and the party visited and collected at quarries, along road cuttings and on the spoil dumps from road or tunnel excavations on several of the major islands. The speaker advised that most of the commonly known zeolites are represented on the Faroes with one or another species tending to predominate at one or another site. Specimens collected and images of them shown, not all from the same sites, included chabasite, calcite, heulandite, stilbite, thomsonite, levine, mordenite, apophyllite, and mesolite.



## The Minerals



Thomsonite on Chabazite



Apophyllite



Thomsonite



Mesolite



Chabazite

Many of the images shown were of the lapidary society party collecting at a large number of sites mostly at current and former quarries and also along road cuttings and on spoil dumps. (In 2019 the Faroese government was in the process of constructing a tunnel to connect the capital Torshavn with Esturoy Island and the spoil dump from that work proved to be a source of specimens). The collecting sites were not all on the same island, the party having to cross over to at least four of the major islands to visit other sites. They also had to contend with the weather which was changeable and sometimes quite wet and had to wear cold and wet weather gear for all of their time out of doors.

The climate of the Faroese is influenced by being in the path of the north Atlantic Gulf Stream which provides fairly mild winters and cool summers. The weather is overall windy, cloudy, and cool throughout the year with over 200 rainy or snowy days a year. Sunny days are rare and overcast days common. At a northerly latitude of 60°N the summer days are very long and the nights short.



Collecting in the wet



Drier and finding a small pocket of mesolite



Then to town after a day's collecting: Haute Cuisine for the SMLS



A few views were shown of the capital Torshavn with the feature of houses in the town as well as in the countryside sporting a layer of green turf on their roofs.



Torshavn Harbour



At Hustoft Quarry: The SMLS group ready for their next overseas trip

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

The **Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club** will be holding its Annual Gem Show on the weekend of the 20th & 21st August at the Glenbrook Community Hall (adjoining Glenbrook theatre), Great Western Hwy, Glenbrook, 8:30am to 4:00pm.

‘It has been two years since we last held a show hence we are very excited to be able to once again host this annual event.

Displays and Sales of lapidary work, gems, rocks, minerals, jewelry, beads and gemstones.  
Refreshments available.      Entry: Adults \$3, Children \$1’.

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### **GEMKHANA 2022, NSW’s Annual Gem and Lapidary Show**

9am – 5pm Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th of September 2022 at the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Show Grounds 40 Racecourse Rd, Clarendon.

‘Featuring Desert Fire Designs, Hand crafted Jewellery, Faceted Stones, Polished Stones (Cabochons), Stone Carving, Minerals & Fossils.

Free Parking and ATM on Site. Camping is also available on site.

Children’s Activities. Adults \$10 Children under 16 Free’.

Inquiries: Contact Bob McLean [gemkhana@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au](mailto:gemkhana@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au)

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### **Central Coast Crystal Gem & Lapidary Show**

Saturday 15th October, 9am-5pm, Sunday 16th October, 9am-4pm  
at the Mingara Event Centre, Wyong Rd, Tumby Umbi

‘Exhibitors and sellers of crystals, gemstones, minerals, fossils, jewellery, beads and more.

Adults \$5 entry fee Children under 18 FREE

For more information: Telephone secretary @ 02 4362 2246’

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### **Northern Districts Lapidary Club Gem Show**

To be held in the Beecroft Community Centre, Corner Beecroft Road & Copeland Road, Beecroft, over the weekend of the 29th & 30th October, both days 9 am to 5 pm.

‘Sales of minerals, slabs, jewellery (incl. sterling silver), books and lapidary equipment plus displays of the club members’ creations. Entry \$5.00, children under 16 free.’

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### **The Canberra Lapidary Club Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show**

To be held over the 29th & 30th October from 10am to 5pm Saturday, 10am to 4pm Sunday  
In the Exhibition Park (EPIC) Mallee Pavilion.

Sales by Lapidary dealers of Gems, Minerals, Jewellery Minerals, fossils, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, crystals, opals, beads. Displays of members' collections. Demonstrations of cabbing & faceting. Refreshments.

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### **The Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc**

**2022 60th Anniversary Exhibition: Jewellery, Gems and Mineral Festival**

Will be held over the weekend of Saturday the 5th & Sunday the 6th of November 2022.

Saturday 9am – 4.00pm, Sunday 9am – 2.30pm. In the Ribbonwood Centre, Heining Hall,

109 Princes Highway, Dapto.. Parking access from Heining Street, off Fowlers Road.

Featuring – Fossicking Information, Jewellery Valuations, Gemstone Faceting, Club Information, Mineral Group Displays, Silver craft, Kids Games, Traders Selling – Lapidary Supplies, Jewellery, Minerals, Findings, Fossils, Beads, Opals, Crystals.

Refreshments Available. \$5 Admission – Children Under 12 Years Free. Lucky Door Prizes

*[www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au](http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au)*

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# THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.S.W. INC

## NOMINATION FORM FOR ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS

### AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2022/2023

POSITION	Name of Nominee (Please print)	Signature of Nominee
<b>OFFICE-BEARERS</b>		
PRESIDENT	.....	.....
VICE-PRESIDENT	.....	.....
SECRETARY	.....	.....
TREASURER	.....	.....
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>		
MEMBER	.....	.....

**PROPOSER:**

Name (Please print): .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....