



THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

Website: www.minsocnsw.org.au

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

NEWSLETTER JULY 2022

The July Meeting will be held in the clubrooms of the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club at 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville, on Friday the 1st of July at 7.30 pm.

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 although registering by QR code is not required. Anyone who feels unwell or has had recent contact with an infected person should not attend the Meeting.

The program will include a lecture to be given by Luis Martins on :-

‘A Mineral Collecting Trip to the Faroe Islands’.

There will also be a mini-talk to be given by John Chapman and David Colchester on :-

‘Iridescence – Now And Then’.

Members are invited to bring in any specimens showing iridescence to display to the Meeting.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

August 5th: The Society **Annual General Meeting** and the Mayne-Walker **Memorial Lecture** to be given this year by Dr Ken McQueen on **“The Paddy’s River Skarns, ACT: Their Origin and Mineralogy”**

The following details about the speaker and the subject of his lecture have been provided by John Chapman:

‘We are honoured to have Dr McQueen present the Mayne-Walkers Memorial Lecture this year. Ken is Adjunct Professor (Geochemistry and Landscape Evolution), at the University of Canberra. He is also an old friend of the Society having given us a number of presentations over the years. The work on the skarn deposits of Paddys River was recently published in the Australian Journal of Mineralogy

Several areas of skarn mineralization occur along the Paddy’s River valley in the ACT. The deposits are zoned, magnetite- and silicate-rich metasomatic replacement skarns containing complex assemblages of prograde and retrograde primary minerals and an association of base metal sulfides, scheelite, minor silver, gold and bismuth. The skarn mineralogies indicate medium-high temperature, oxidising conditions during their formation. Sulfides and scheelite were introduced during hydrous retrograde alteration. Weathering of the skarns has resulted in a great variety of secondary minerals and oxidation products. More than 90 different primary and secondary mineral species have been identified in the skarns.’

The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

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NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter is being sent out earlier than usual because the Secretary will be away from Sydney for a week.

THE JUNE SOCIETY MEETING

The June Meeting was opened by the President, Dieter Mylius, and attended by about twenty members with a similar number connecting in by virtual mode. There were occasional slight delays with maintaining the virtual connection, or in particular, being able to transmit to the virtual screen the information and images that the lecturers were presenting. It is expected that expertise in managing the virtual connections at future meetings would improve with the increasing familiarity of the operators.

There were a few announcements. Thanks were offered to Marian Ong again for her bringing in an amount of extra snack foods to the Meeting. Members were reminded about the visit to the Geological Survey's **Rock & Mineral Collection** at Londonderry arranged by Kevin Capnerhurst for the following Saturday. The tour of the Collection would be from 10 am to midday after which there would be a BBQ lunch. Members wishing to attend were urged to check with John Chapman to see if they could be included. There had to be a limit to the size of the party.

The next meeting of the **Micro-mineral Group** would be on the following Sunday the 5th of June, to be held at John Chapman's house in Ryde. Regular Group members would have been notified by e-mail, any other members interested in attending were advised to inform John Chapman that they wished to attend.

Mark Walters reported that investigations into possible **Field Trip** sites to visit were continuing including the hope to arrange a return visit to Mt Tennyson although actual visits for members would probably be scheduled for the warmer months. At the moment the ground everywhere was very wet and over the next two months Mt Tennyson was likely to attract snow.

John Chapman introduced the first speaker of the evening noting that Arnold Van der Heyden had worked for the MMM mine at Broken Hill for many years and had been instrumental in 'rescuing' many specimens from the mines in that area. It was suggested that many members would have in their collections Broken Hill specimens originally collected by Arnold. He has since moved around the world working for a number of companies and was currently working for a consulting geological company in Sydney.

The Benefits and Pitfalls of Collecting On-Line

Arnold van der Heyden

Buying any material on-line, without the ability to study them first is always likely to present problems and the speaker reminded members about the well-known adage, 'Buyer Beware'. Notably the speaker stressed that the images provided by mineral dealers in their websites were not unlikely to be misleading. Images of specimens would be taken from their best angles, carefully sited to conceal blemishes or damage.

Repairs on specimens were not likely to be visible in images and the dimensions given for specimens could be unreliable. For example the speaker showed an image of a gold specimens alongside a tourmaline crystal, both apparently the same size. Examination of the stated dimensions however indicated that the gold specimen was actually a fraction of the size of the tourmaline. By a number of examples Arnold van der Heyden showed and described a variety of the pitfalls of collecting online and warned the members to watch out for fakes, repairs, incorrect identifications or sources and alleged but inaccurate dimensions. Otherwise the regular buyer would gradually become familiar with the more reliable dealers and a list was provided.

The second presentation for the evening was given by Society member Kevin Capnerhurst. Kevin is a senior geologist with the Geological Survey of NSW of the Department of Primary Industries and was originally a colleague of John Chapman who was also with the Department. Latterly Kevin has become curator of the NSW Economic Rock and Mineral Collection at Londonderry thereby joining an (?eminent), list of previous curators of the Survey Collection, all of them Society members, Simon Peckover, Harvey Henley, Dereck Dolstra, Martin Crane and Paul Meszaros.

The State of the State's Economic Rock and Mineral Collection

Kevin Capnerhurst

The specimens comprising the **Economic Rock and Mineral Collection** have been added to by people collecting since 1887. Over the years various collections had also been purchased or donated and gradually collected together and housed up to 1995 in the Geological and Mining Museum in the Rocks. The Museum had been re-named the Earth Exchange in 1988 as part of an administrative re-organisation. At that time the Albert Chapman Collection was purchased by the NSW government and placed on display in the Earth Exchange. Due to the decision to close the Museum by 1995 the Chapman collection was moved to the Australian Museum and all the other collected material of some 26,000 specimens moved to Londonderry. Due to renovations at the Australia Museum the Chapman Collection was moved to the Bathurst Fossil and Mineral Museum in 2019 but will be moved back in due course once the new Minerals Gallery at the Australian Museum has been completed.

For the second part of his lecture Kevin Capnerhurst considerably updated the information previously given to the Society in his March 2018 lecture on the development of the Geological Survey's MINVIEW database of NSW mineralization, geoscientific data, and current and historical mining sites.

MinView is a web mapping application that allows users to view, search and download a comprehensive range of geoscientific data on NSW. It also provides access to a range of supporting reference data, including current and historic exploration and mining titles, areas of exploration constraints and cadastral information. The speaker referred to images in Minview as he spoke noting how readily information could be accessed and in considerable detail. Views could be obtained in any degree of zooming in to enlarge or reduce the area being examined and obtain information on any sites shown. There were over 500 map layers available.

Visit to the Economic Rock and Mineral Collection

Following his talk given to the June Meeting on the State Government's Economic Rock and Mineral Collection, Kevin Capnerhurst hosted a visit by a group of members to view the Collection at Londonderry on the following Saturday. Twelve members were treated to a behind-the-scenes trawl through drawers and boxes of iconic NSW minerals. The visit ended with a pleasant BBQ at the site. Thanks to Kevin and to Dominica Byun who gave up her Saturday to open up for us.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

Central Coast Crystal Gem & Lapidary Show

15th & 16th October 2022 at the Mingara Event Centre, Wyong Rd, Tumbi Umbi

Northern Districts Lapidary Club Gem Show

To be held in the Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft, over the weekend of the 29th & 30th October.

The Canberra Lapidary Club Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Show

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
Age of Fishes Museum Information & Fossil Exhibits
