



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

C/o School of Natural Science  
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**NEWSLETTER**

**JUNE 2013**

There will be no Society General Meeting in June, it has been cancelled for this month due to the **National Mineralogical Societies Joint Seminar** being held over Saturday to Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> in the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club on Ryedale Road, West Ryde.

Members who may have decided belatedly that they would like to attend the Seminar but who have not yet registered to do so are advised that registrations, for the Seminar but not for the dinner, can be accepted up to a half hour before the commencement of the Seminar, before 9.00 am, on Saturday morning 8<sup>th</sup> June. (Preferably earlier).  
Reservations for the dinner had to be made by the 20<sup>th</sup> of May.

**The next Society General Meeting will be held on Friday the 5th of July 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 July Meeting will include a lecture to be given by Michael Waterhouse on : -

**‘New Guinea Gold. The Story of the Wau Bulolo Goldfields in PNG’**

Michael Waterhouse is an economist and historian and the author of the book : -  
‘Not a Poor Mans’s Field. The New Guinea Goldfields to 1942. An Australian Colonial History’.  
The author has travelled extensively in Papua New Guinea and written several books about the country.

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**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Meetings will be held on the first Friday of each month for the rest of the year except in October when the Meeting will be deferred to the second Friday because the first Friday is before a long weekend.

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

- August 2nd: Society AGM and the Betty Mayne Memorial Lecture. The lecture will be given by Ian Graham on a subject to be advised.
- September 6th: The program will include a lecture to be given by John Tottenham on : - **Pine Ridge Cassiterite**. Members will be asked to bring in specimens of tin minerals to help illustrate this lecture.
- October 11th: (The first Friday in October is before a long weekend and the Society Meeting will therefore be deferred to the second Friday).  
Member's display of their favourite fluorites. Talk on **Fluorite** by Gary Sutherland.
- November 1st: The program will include a lecture to be given by George Stacey on – **'Mt Isa - The Mine in the Spinifex'**
- December 6th: Annual Christmas Social and 'Swap n' Sell.

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## The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

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	John Rankin	Tel: (02) 9482 7474
	Gary Sutherland	Tel: (02) 9871 1379
	Jeremy Taylor-Edwards	Tel: (02) 9889 5889

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## MAY MEETING

At the commencement of the May Meeting the President, Dieter Mylius, described the forthcoming **National Mineralogical Societies Joint Seminar**, referring to the program, the speakers scheduled to deliver lectures on a wide range of subjects and the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club venue which the delegates would surely find very comfortable. He strongly recommended members who had not yet registered to attend the Seminar to consider doing so, the event being held in Sydney only once every six or seven years since it rotates through the other states each year.

Society member Ken Mitchell, visiting from Wollongong, informed the Meeting that he was planning another **field trip** to **Tambar Springs** and the **Garrawilla Volcanics** similar to the very successful Trip which he organized in April last year.

This year the Trip would most likely commence on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of September and last through to Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ken would arrange for the attendees to be accommodated in the **Tambar Springs Royal Hotel** as before and the party would visit the Glendowda and Portobello farm sites. Confirmation of the dates for the trip and further details would be provided in due course. John Chapman offered a strong recommendation to members to look to attending the forthcoming trip advising that the trip last year had been very well organized, very specimen-productive, a very friendly social event and with the party accommodated very comfortably and economically in the Royal Hotel.

In speaking about the forthcoming Field Trip Ken Mitchell was able to refer to several specimens including a laumontite with chabazite on stellerite and a double-sided drusy quartz obtained on trips to the Glendowda and Portobello sites which he had brought for the auction.

Referring back to the Seminar members were advised that those delegates who had asked to join the tours of the **Australian Museum collection** would be required to pay the normal full Museum entry fee of \$15. In that event they were recommended to take some time after being taken on the collection tour to view other parts of the Museum's public display areas, notably the Albert Chapman Collection. Lin Sutherland reported that the Museum has recently up-graded the lighting of the gemstone displays.

Christeena Taylor-Edwards reported on her examination of specimens of the gravel collected from the **Airly Mountain diamond processing site** on the March field trip. She suspected that at least one of the fragments of gravel might be a diamond, mixed with other minerals, mostly sapphire, and would show this to members at a subsequent meeting.

With no more announcements the President recommended that the Auction should be got underway but first he took the opportunity to offer thanks to Jim Sharpe who had organised the auction, contacting members who had specimens to sell, collecting the lists of specimens being brought in, compiling the sale list and printing bidding numbers.

The Auction was conducted by Dieter Mylius as the auctioneer assisted by Arthur Roffey demonstrating each lot as it came up for sale. Some ninety-four specimens were auctioned in a little over two hours for a total of over \$3,000. Almost all lots were sold, including the silent auction trays with only about two specimens being retained or bought back by the vendors.

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## LECTURE CORRECTION

Correction to a sentence in the April Meeting lecture given by Professor Ken McQueen, **'Mercury Deposits and their Historic Mining in Australia and New Zealand'**

When turning to report on mercury mining in New Zealand the Newsletter gave the speaker's first sentence as : - *"Referring to New Zealand the amount of deposits and production has been worse than Australia"*.

This was incorrect since the speaker had actually said : - *"Referring to New Zealand the amount of deposits and production of mercury has **not been much better** than in Australia."* Whilst both countries have produced very little mercury at all the production from New Zealand had been slightly greater than in Australia.

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **THE 36th NATIONAL MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES JOINT SEMINAR 2013**

The 2013 Seminar is being hosted by the Mineralogical Society of N.S.W. Inc in Sydney over the Queen's Birthday long weekend, Saturday 8th to Monday 10th of June 2013 on the theme : -

#### **'The Wonderful World of Minerals'**

The Seminar will be held in the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club, Ryedale Road, West Ryde, Sydney. The Leagues Club is in the corner of Wattle Street with Ryedale Road about one hundred meters from the West Ryde suburban railway station and two hundred meters from the junction of Ryedale with Victoria Road.

Most Seminar activities will be held in the Club which has substantial convention and catering facilities. Activities will include the Seminar dinner on Saturday evening 8th of June and mineral and micro-mount displays on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of June.

Activities to be held away from the Club will include a field trip to Kulnura Quarry for zeolite collecting on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup>, Australian Museum mineral collection visits arranged for Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> and private collection visits, to be arranged but probably also on Monday.

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### **WINDSOR JEWELLERY, BEADING, GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

Saturday & Sunday, June 15th & 16th

At the Windsor Function Centre on the corner of Dight & Macquarie Streets, Windsor.

Saturday open from 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. & Sunday from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

ADMISSION \$5, children \$1.                      Light refreshments available.

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.

DEMONSTRATIONS: of gemstone facetting, wire wrapping stones and hand-made jewellery.

DISPLAYS: of private collections including mineral specimens, cut & polished stone, carvings, gemstones and more.

Inquiries to Peter Beckwith on 0412 333 150.

Other shows by the above exhibitor through 2013 are : -

24th & 25th of August at the Panthers Club, Penrith, (more information to follow).

23rd & 24th of November, Windsor Function Centre, Windsor.

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## **GEM SHOW by the BLAXLAND GEM & MINERAL CLUB**

Over Saturday and Sunday, the 17th and 18th of August  
Being held in the Glenbrook Community Hall, Great Western Highway, Glenbrook, NSW  
(Next to NPWS). Just west of Information Centre.

Displays of lapidary work and gem, mineral and crystal sales. Refreshments available.

<http://www.freewebs.com/blaxlandgemmineralclub/BGMCshow.htm>

8 am to 4 pm Daily. Entry: Adults: \$3 Children \$1

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## **GEMKHANA 2013**

In the Showground at Mudgee over the long weekend Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> - 10.00am-5.00pm;  
Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> - 9.00am-5.00pm; & Monday, October 7th - 9.00am to midday.

'The competition brings entries from all across NSW and quite a few from interstate.  
Dealers and tailgaters will attend. We will have children's activities. Refreshments will be available.

There is wheelchair access and plenty of parking. On-site camping is available

Contacts are Arthur 02 4572 5812, Marilyn 02 9635 8218,

[www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au](http://www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au) for info and link to secretary.'

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## **Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club**

## **Annual Exhibition**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 9th and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> of November. From 9am to 4pm each day  
At the Club Rooms at 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville, Sydney.

'Competition, sales, demonstrations, children's activities, sand sieve,  
fossicking heap, refreshments. Wheelchair access and plenty of parking

Contact the Club on 02 9636 7843.'

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