



## 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      JUNE 2021

**The June Meeting will be held on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of June at 7.30 pm in the clubrooms of the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club at 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville.**

The program at the June Meeting will comprise the **Annual Member's Mineral Auction.**

There may be a few announcements made at the commencement of the Meeting but otherwise the entire evening will be devoted to the Auction. The Meeting will start at the normal time of 7.30pm but members bringing in specimens for sale are recommended to arrive by 7.00pm to set out their sales. After any announcements the Auction will commence immediately and may last to between 9.00 and 9.30pm.

There will probably be a fifteen-minute break about half-way through the auction.

Refreshments will be provided at the Meeting although with COVID regulations in mind and subject to recommendations being constantly reviewed it may be necessary to ensure that refreshment items are handed out individually to members who may have to be asked not to help themselves. In regard to the pandemic concerns anyone attending the June meeting may choose to wear a mask and social distancing should be observed. Hand sanitiser will be provided at the venue entrance, all attendees must sign the attendance book and any non-financial members or visitors must in addition sign a COVID Tracing Record sheet and provide their contact telephone number.

A list of specimens to be auctioned is being compiled and a partial list of fifty-six specimens is provided at the end of this Newsletter. The list is not complete. It is expected that by the commencement of the Meeting there should be between 70 to 80 specimens being offered for sale. A complete auction list will be sent out by e-mail bulletin later this week. The Society is also selling a microscope, four mineral display cabinets and probably one or more 'dollar boxes' of surplus specimens. Members wishing to bid for any items should acquire a bidding number label at the reception table.

Members please note that transactions must be conducted entirely between the vendor and purchaser. The Society takes no commission on the sales and will not enter into any transaction arrangements. Payments would need to be made by cash or cheque, it is unlikely that any vendors will have credit card facilities available. During the Auction if any vendor feels that bidding on any of their specimens is not proceeding high enough they can bid for the specimen themselves to take it back.

In addition a number of trays of minerals may be sold by silent auction. Members can bring in a tray to leave for display on a table accompanied by a bid form which will be provided. Specimens, trays or boxes should be labelled clearly and the vendor should write his or her name on the bid form. The bid forms would be checked at the end of the evening with the highest bidders purchasing the tray or specimen/s. There will be no need to notify the Society in advance about trays being brought in for sale as they will not be listed.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

July 2<sup>nd</sup> : There will be a lecture to be given by Ian Graham on :- ‘**The Geology and Mineralogy of Bowdens, the Largest Undeveloped Silver Deposit in Australia**’. The program will include a mini-talk to be given by David Colchester on: - ‘**Datolite from Albion Park**’.

Aug 6<sup>th</sup>: The Society **A.G.M.** will be held in August as normal to be followed by the **Mayne/Walkers Memorial Lecture**. The lecturer and subject are yet to be finalised.

\*\*\*\*\*

### The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Dieter Mylius	Tel: (02) 9477 1060
	E-mail:	<i>dieterm@internode.on.net</i>
VICE-PRESIDENT:	John Chapman	Tel: (02) 9808 3481
	E-mail:	<i>chapmanjr@optusnet.com.au</i>
SECRETARY:	George Laking	Tel: (02) 9636 7145
	E-mail:	<i>bglaking@tech2u.com.au</i>
TREASURER:	Graham Ogle	Tel: (02) 9869 1416
	E-mail:	<i>quartzandsirius@hotmail.com</i>
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Peter Beddow	Tel: (02) 8810 8446
	David Colchester	Tel: (02) 9449 3862
	Geoff Parsons	Tel: (02) 9548 3289
	Edward Zbik	Mobile: 0401 538 480
	E-mail:	<i>edward.zbik@bigpond.com</i>
	Haley Bambridge	Mobile: 0413 100 344
	E-mail:	<i>haleybau81@tpg.com.au</i>

\*\*\*\*\*

### The MAY MEETING

The May Meeting was conducted in virtual mode and chaired by the Society President, Dieter Mylius who welcomed members who were attending and particularly the lecturer for the evening, Ralph Bottrill who was speaking from Tasmania.

The President noted that subject to any changes in the current pandemic regulations the Society June Meeting was hoped to be the first ‘live’ meeting to be held for over a year and at the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary club rooms in Wentworthville. The program would be the annual **Mineral Auction**. Details for taking part in the auction and selling specimens were provided in the Society May Newsletter. Also noted in the Newsletter was a list of books provided by Ed Zbik who advised that any members interested in borrowing any books should contact him and arrangements would be made.

Ed Zbik also reported on his investigations to find accessible field trip sites and advised that there was nothing confirmed at the moment. Currently he had asked Denis O’Brien to tour around the Tumut and Gundegai area to check on possible sites and David Hastings was checking around Tambar Springs.

Dieter Mylius referred to the forthcoming **43<sup>rd</sup> Mineralogical Seminar** to be held in Sydney at the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club in Ryde over the long weekend of the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 2021.

A promotional flyer would be e-mailed out next week with details about the **Seminar** which would comprise the customary program of lectures being held over the Saturday and Sunday and the Seminar dinner held on Saturday evening at the Club. It was intended that facilities will be set up in the lecture room so that delegates could attend the lecture program in virtual mode if preferred although it was hoped that many will choose to attend in person. Micro-mount and mineral swap and sales would be held on Monday at the Wentworthville Lapidary Club.

A **field trip program** is also intended to be part of the Seminar activities and various routes and sites to be visited are being considered and accessibility to be negotiated.

John Chapman announced that the next **Micro-mount meeting** to be held at midday on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> of May would be the 100<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group since they were commenced in 2007 and it had been decided that a celebration was warranted. The meeting would be held at John Chapman's house in Ryde and would comprise a BBQ with BYO food and drinks. Afterwards the members would be examining the **Col Price Collection** of micro-mount specimens which the Society had acquired. Members usually attending the Micro-mount meetings would be notified by e-mail about the meeting but if anyone else wished to attend they should contact Graham Ogle, John Chapman or Dieter Mylius.

Dieter Mylius provided an explanation of the background to the acquisition of the **Col Price Collection**. Some members might remember from the late 1970s and early 1980s that Col Price used to run an interesting micro-mineral column in the Australian Gems and Craft magazine. Early last year Col Price passed away and his son contacted Dieter Mylius to ask for advice about the disposition of the Collection which he wished to be kept intact. The suggestion was made that the Society would take the collection to keep in trust for at least ten years and be able to work through and examine all the specimens. It is an extensive and important collection of about 1,500 micro specimens including some very fine Tuena specimens although not very much other NSW material but many specimens from sites such as Rum Jungle, Reaphook Hill and sites in New Zealand.

With no further announcements to be made Dieter Mylius introduced the speaker for the evening.

Ralph Bottrill has been a regular lecturer and contributor to many of the Mineralogical Seminars over the years. He was described by Dieter Mylius as, 'The Boss of Everything in Tasmania'.

Taking a brief profile from the website of the Tasmania Mineral Resources Department:-

'Ralph Bottrill is a geologist and mineralogist, living near Hobart. He has worked for 36 years at Mineral Resources Tasmania where he manages the labs and rock collections and studies various Tasmanian mineral deposits, rocks and minerals. He is also an associate curator for minerals with the Tasmanian Museum and the Queen Victoria Museum.'

## **The Mt Lyell Mines in Tasmania**

### **Ralph Bottrill**

The speaker's lecture was illustrated by a Power-Point montage of photographs of maps of the Mt Lyell area, some early views of the mine sites, of the various mine workings, notes and diagrams about the numbers, species, origin and formation of minerals, the geological structure and history and then a series of photographs of fine mineral specimens.

The Mt Lyell mines are in the north-west of Tasmania and comprise a number of still-operating or now closed copper-silver-gold deposits. Mines were gradually opened up from about 1885, initially operated by the Mt Lyell Mining and Railroad Company and latterly by others and have been the source of a total of about 1.4 million tonnes of copper, 43 tonnes of gold and 733 tonnes of silver from some 119 million tonnes of ore.

The mines have also been the source of a large variety of minerals with at least 85 species reported, many being found as attractive and excellently crystallised specimens including of chalcopyrite, quartz, haematite, dolomite-ankerite and others. Mineralogically the mines are important as the co-type locality for the rare copper-iron-tin sulphide mawsonite, named after Sir Douglas Mawson, the Antarctic explorer and geologist. Many other rare minerals are also recorded from the mines, including betechtinite, florenceite, svanbergite-woodhouseite, stannoidite, hessite, jalpaite and stromeyerite.

From the Speaker's notes:-

'Geology-overview

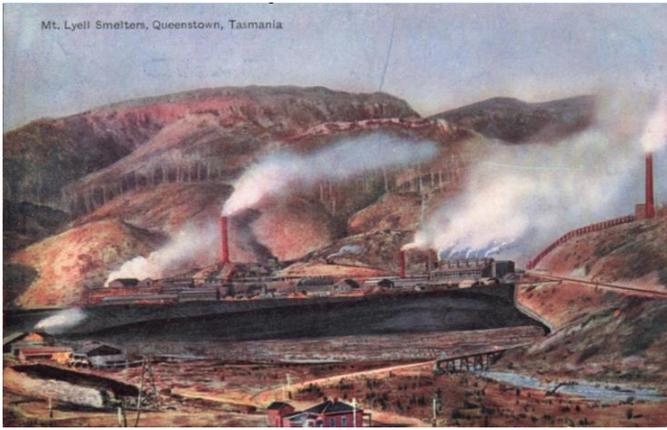
The Mt Lyell Cu-Au-Ag deposits are best considered as Cambrian volcanogenic sulphides partly remobilised by Devonian hydrothermal fluids. The mineralisation is mostly hosted by schistose, highly altered rhyolitic to andesitic lavas and tuffs of the Cambrian Mt. Read Volcanics, with minor occurrences in Ordovician conglomerates and limestones. ... The mineralised zone is up to about 800m thick.'



In regard to the history of the Mt Lyell mining area Ralph Bottrill commended to members the book by Geoffrey Blainey, *The Peaks of Lyell*, (published in 1954). At the time of compiling his book the author was able to interview many people who remembered events and stories from the early mining days.

A few of the larger mines with some still operating were the Iron Blow, North Lyell, Prince Lyell, Mt Lyell and Copper Clays and a few views of the mines and workings were projected. The speaker noted that the smelting activities and the need for wood to fire furnaces had denuded the immediate countryside of vegetation creating a 'lunar landscape'. The geological structure and development was described before the speaker moved on to project and describe a large number of images of minerals.

At the end of his lecture Ralph Bottrill dealt with a number of questions which prompted a discussion among members with reminiscences about working and collecting activities in Tasmania and the Mt Lyell area in earlier years.



Mt Lyell smelters, Queenstown.



The 'Lunar Landscape', Mt Lyell



Hematite in Quartz, Prince Lyell



Chalcopyrite, Prince Lyell



Dolomite, Mt Lyell



Copper

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Bankstown AGAMEXpos 5th & 6th of June

'Our next Expo is the Bankstown Gem & Mineral Expo on the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> of June. It will be held at the Arena Sports Club, 140 Rookwood Rd Yagoona. We open both days at 9:30am and close at 5pm on Saturday and 4pm Sunday. Entry is \$7 per adult and kids under 16 with mum or dad get in free!

Our Expo is proudly supported by the Bankstown & Districts Lapidary Club. There will be displays and demonstrations being put on by the club showing of their work and skills. Along with over 15 traders from around the country bringing you their goodies to show off. There will always be something for everyone. Our website, [www.agamexpos.com.au](http://www.agamexpos.com.au), has all the details or you can follow us on Facebook @agamexpos.

Almost forgot to tell you .. we will have a great lucky door prize as well as the kids quiz. We look forward to seeing you all, bring a friend or catch up with old friends and make a day of it! The Arena Sports Club is fully licensed and has a restaurant.

Cheers. Peter Beckwith: AGAMEXpos: 0412 333 150'

The next Expo will be held in the Windsor Function Centre on the corner of George Street and Dight Street, Windsor, over the weekend of Sat 28th - Sun 29th August 2021.

\*\*\*\*\*

### GEMORAMA at Emmaville

Over the Queen's Birthday Weekend - June 12<sup>th</sup> To 14<sup>th</sup>

'Emmaville is situated within one of Australia's richest mineral belts, steeped in mining history. It has an abundance of treasures just waiting to be discovered. The Gemorama fossicking festival is fun for everyone whether you're an experienced rock hound, newbie fossicker, young or old you won't be disappointed! Held each year Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the June long weekend, it's a place to meet and greet friends old and new whilst enjoying the beautiful countryside, flora and fauna of the New England region.

Guided Field Trips Saturday, Sunday & Monday.

For field trip information see our Facebook page.

Traders / Tailgaters ♥ Self Contained Camping Sites ♥ Evening Dinners ♥ Music ♥ Camp Fire ♥ Merchandise.

Gemorama is proudly run with all profits donated to charity. Follow us on Facebook. For more information : - [facebook.com/Gemorama](https://www.facebook.com/Gemorama)

Emmaville NSW 5304 Strathbogie Road, Emmaville NSW 2371, (02) 6734 7330 | 0436 343 935 [blue\\_thunda@hotmail.com](mailto:blue_thunda@hotmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Carlingford Gem & Mineral Expo

To be held in the Roselea Community Centre, at 645 Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford, Sydney  
Over the weekend of Saturday the 27th and Sunday the 28th of November.

## ANNUAL MINERAL AUCTION

### Specimens to be auctioned.

The following list is not complete, it is expected that by the meeting on Friday there will be between 70 and 80 items for sale).

- 1 Azurite, Girilambone Copper Mine, NSW.
- 2 Atacamite, Bench 6, Tangye Lode, Great Australia mine, Cloncurry, Qld.
- 3 Native copper, Girilambone Copper Mine, NSW.
- 4 Pyromorphite with Malachite, Browns Open Pit, Rum Jungle, NT.
- 5 Sphalerite, Pyrite on Rhodochrosite, Raura, Peru.
- 6 Pyromorphite, Bunker Hill Mine, Kellog. Idaho, USA.
- 7 Agardite-Ce, XRD confirmed, Laurium, Greece
- 8 Lollingite, XRD confirmed, Zinc Corporation, collected in mine by Jim Sharpe, 1958
- 9 Cuprite, cerussite & Chrysocolla, British Mine, Broken Hill, NSW
- 10 Aurichalcite, hemimorphite, on cuprite, Blackwoods Open Cut, Broken Hill
- 11 QUARTZ, var Amethyst, Minas Gerais, BRAZIL
- 12 QUARTZ cluster, Tingha, New England, NSW, AUSTRALIA
- 13 PREHNITE with amethyst, Sweetwater farm, Calvinia district, Central Cape Province, RSA.
- 14 PREHNITE, Tarthra farm, Mullaley district, NSW, AUSTRALIA
- 15 CALCITE on matrix, Bundoora, VIC, AUSTRALIA
- 16 AZURITE, Gardiner Range, N.T. AUSTRALIA
- 17 BARITE with Pyrite, Mibladen, MOROCCO
- 18 FLUORITE on Calcite, Okurusu mine, NAMIBIA
- 19 STILBITE and APOPHYLLITE, Bombay Quarry, Maharastra, INDIA
- 20 FELDSPAR with drusy Quartz
- 21 DOLOMITE with Pyrite, Black rock district, Arkansas, U.S.A.
- 22 CALCITE, Charcas, San Luis, Potosi, MEXICO
- 23 MOTTRAMITE, Tsumeb
- 24 PREHNITE, Prospect, Sydney, NSW, Australia
- 25 CALCITE, Tsumeb, Otjikoto Region, Namibia
- 26 Copper, Broken Hill, NSW, Australia
- 27 Inesite, Wessels Mine, Hotazel, North Cape Prov., South Africa ex Paul Melville
- 28 Epidote, Milanoa Commune, Vohemar Dist., Madagascar
- 29 Hematite, Florence Mine, Egremont, Cumbria, England
- 30 Prehnite, Prospect, Sydney, NSW, Australia
- 31 Fluorite, Third Cavern, Summit Cleft, South slope of Mt Weisseck, Lungau, Austria
- 32 Prehnite and Pectolite, Prospect, Sydney, NSW, Australia
- 33 Wendwilsonite, Bou Azzer, Ouarzazate Prov., Morocco
- 34 Pink Tourmaline in Quartz, Brazil
- 35 Orpiment Calcite, China
- 36 Pyrite Cluster, Bulgaria
- 37 Pyrite Sun Small, Sparta
- 38 Pyrite Sun Large, Sparta
- 39 Galena Crystals, Bulgaria
- 40 Galena Calcite, Bulgaria
- 41 Red Chalcopyrite, Bulgaria
- 42 Purple Fluorite, China
- 43 Calcite Crystals, China
- 44 Vanadinite, Morocco
- 45 Barrerite (rare zeolite), Rocky Pass, Kuiu Island, Alaska, USA
- 46 Calcite, Buckaroo Quarry, Mudgee, NSW
- 47 Goethite, Woodlawn Mine, Tarago, NSW
- 48 Gypsum, Chinkapook, Vic
- 49 Native Copper, Girilambone, NSW
- 50 Native Copper, Girilambone, NSW

- 51 Natrolite, Hymix (Hansons) Quarry, Kulnura, NSW
- 52 Olivine, Mt Shadwell, Vic
- 53 Pseudomalachite, West Bogan Mine, nr Tottenham, NSW
- 54 Quartz, var, Chrysoprase, Maryborough (probably), Qld
- 55 Spessartine, Tongbei, Yunxiao, Fujian Province, China
- 56 Stibnite, locality unknown (ex J Johnson collection)