



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

C/o School of Natural Science  
B.C.R.I. Parramatta Campus, Western Sydney University  
Locked Bag 1797, Penrith South DC, N.S.W. 1797  
Website: [www.minsocnsw.org.au](http://www.minsocnsw.org.au)

**NEWSLETTER**

**MARCH 2017**

The March Meeting will be held on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March at 7.30 pm in the clubrooms of the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club at 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville.

**Members please note:**

The premises of the Lapidary Club are in regular use most days and evenings throughout the week and over weekends but on Fridays after the day activities have concluded the rooms and main gate would be closed and padlocked. On the Friday evenings when there is to be a Society Meeting the gates and rooms will be re-opened from about 6.30 pm. Members attending the Society Meetings are recommended to time their arrival at the Club premises for not earlier than 6.30 pm.

At the March Meeting there will be a mini-talk to be given by John Chapman on :-

**‘An Introduction to Types of Mineral Deposits’.**

The talk will be followed by a lecture by Larry Barron on :-

**‘The Hornsby Diatreme’**

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**Forthcoming Meetings and Programs**

Meetings will be held on the first Friday of each month throughout this year.

- April 7<sup>th</sup> : There will be a lecture to be given by John Rankin on :- **‘19<sup>th</sup> Century European Minerals in the Australian Museum’.**  
The lecture will be preceded by a mini-talk to be given by Dieter Mylius.
- May 5<sup>th</sup> : Member’s **Mini-Auction.**
- June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lecture by Simon Peckover on :- **‘The Origins of the High Grade Sapphire Deposits of Kings Plains.’**

July 7th: Lecture by Peter Williams on ‘**The Floating Stones of Stonehenge**’ or ‘**Where did the Metamorphic Stones of Stonehenge Come From?**’

August 4<sup>th</sup>: Society **Annual General Meeting** followed by the Betty Mayne and Edna Walker **Memorial Lecture**.

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## **MAY MEETING MINI-AUCTION**

The annual **Member’s Mini-Auction** will be held at the 5<sup>th</sup> of May Meeting. 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 7.30 pm and after any announcements the auction will commence immediately and will probably last about two hours. Over the last few years the auctions have been selling up to 80 specimens and this is sensibly the maximum that can or should be dealt with in one evening.

Members intending to enter lots in the Auction are recommended to start sorting out their surplus specimens soon but limiting themselves to ten specimens each. When the auction commences if someone feels that bidding on any of their specimens is not proceeding high enough they can bid for the specimen themselves. The Society takes no commission on the sales and will not enter into any transactions which must be entirely between the vendor and purchaser.

So that an auction list can be prepared and distributed in advance please provide Jim Sharpe with a list of your specimens to be auctioned by April 21<sup>st</sup>. Contact Jim by phone (02) 9871 2502 or by e-mail: [sharpejames@tpg.com.au](mailto:sharpejames@tpg.com.au)

In addition to the regular auction minerals can also be sold by silent auction. Members can bring in a tray of specimens to leave on a table accompanied by a bid form which will be provided. There will be no need to advise Jim in advance regarding the silent auction as the boxes will not be listed.

**Please clearly label all your specimens and boxes.**

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## **2017 Society Membership Fees**

Society membership fees were due from January 1st and members are invited to renew their subscriptions. At the present time only about half our members financial for 2016 have renewed their subscriptions for this year. Please look to attending to your subs. The Society carries several insurances to protect the Society and members against injury or financial loss etc but insurance protection is subject to them being financial for the current year. According to the Society Constitution membership is valid in any new year up to March 31<sup>st</sup> when it will be deemed to have lapsed but would be re-instated immediately upon payment of the current year fee.

Membership infers one person to be insured but if a member wishes in addition to insure one or more family member/s they must pay an extra \$5 per person who must be named on the subscription form. Family members can only include spouse/partner and children.

Subscription renewal forms have been sent out and are available from the Secretary or Treasurer at any Meeting or are on the Society website. A form will accompany this Newsletter. Members are asked to fill out a renewal form particularly if any of their addresses, telephone number/s or e-mail details have changed. Please keep the Society up-to-date with this information.

Subscriptions may be paid by : -

Direct Credit / bank transfer to the Society's account : -

The Mineralogical Society of NSW Inc. BSB: 062016; Account number: 28023647

by sending cheque or Australia Post Money Order to the Treasurer or Secretary;

or by cash or cheque delivered to the Treasurer or Secretary at any General meeting.

Members posting their subscriptions should not send these to the Society's Western Sydney University postal address but to the Secretary's address as follows: -

Secretary, The Mineralogical Society of NSW Inc,  
58 Amazon Road, Seven Hills, NSW 2147

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## WELCOME

Welcome to new members **Shirley Lord** of Prospect and **Angela Lay** of UNSW, Sydney.

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## 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) 9868 4446               |
|                    | E-mail:          | <i>grahamo@diabetesnsw.com.au</i> |
| COMMITTEE MEMBERS: | Peter Beddow     | Tel: (02) 8810 8446               |
|                    | David Colchester | Tel: (02) 9449 3862               |
|                    | Geoff Parsons    | Tel: (02) 9548 3289               |
|                    | Simon Tanner     |                                   |
|                    | Edward Zbik      | Tel: (02) 9638 6586               |
|                    | E-mail:          | <i>ecjz@optusnet.com.au</i>       |

## A Report on a Trip to Northern NSW. By John Chapman

### A visit to the Northern Rivers region

I recently spent a week at Lennox Head in northern NSW and so contacted Society member John Hoffman who lives in Lismore with a view to seeing his collection. Well, John was a wonderful host. He took us on a bit of a tour of local collecting sites and brought along examples of specimens collected from these sites. This included a spectacular specimen of opal from the Tintenbar area – a magnificent piece. We ended up at his house right at the top of Lismore Heights to see his collection. And what a collection. Wide ranging, high quality, diverse and includes many very interesting local specimens. Only had about an hour there which was not enough time to see it all. We finished the visit with a pleasant lunch at a local restaurant with his wife Judy.

John has issued an invitation to any members of the Society passing through Lismore to contact him in order to visit and view his collection. His phone number is (02) 6625 0051 but you can always contact a member of the Society Committee to get that information.

Thank you John and Judy for your warm hospitality.

John Chapman



John Hoffman in his collection room

Examples from John Hoffman's collection.



Opal from Tintenbar. Approx. 3 cm across



Chalcedony from Kyogle. FOV approx. 5 cm



A view of one of John's mineral cabinets.

The **Lismore Gem and Lapidary Club** have long promoted their annual 'GEMFEST' as the 'Biggest Annual Event in the Country', a statement which may well be thoroughly justified. The Shows, of which John Hoffman is one of the main organisers, have been attended for many years by well over one hundred stall and tailgater sales vendors with in addition a number of dealers housed in a large display hall and have regularly attracted a large number of visitors. This year will see the 27<sup>th</sup> Gemfest, held as usual at the Lismore showgrounds and over the weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of May. The event would be very worthwhile for members to make a point of visiting.

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## The FEBRUARY MEETING

At the commencement of the Meeting Jim Sharpe drew member's attention to the array of specimens laid out that had been donated for the **Kids with Cancer sale** this evening. The specimens included a number of notable examples specifically a few items from a 1930s collection, a selection of fine specimens donated by Paul Melville including two rare pyromorphites from Rum Jungle and one from Broken Hill. There were also several specimens of sampleite. Jim Sharpe pointed out that each sale over the last few years had raised a similar sum of about \$1,800 for the Foundation and he was hoping that the current sale would match this.

Arthur Roffey reminded members about a sale of part of the collection of the late Ron Young, notable collector and member of the Queensland Society for many years. The sale would be at Arthur Roffey's house at Londonderry over the weekend after the next.

Ed Zbik advised that this year the format for projected **Field Trips** would be changed to a degree with some trips being organised for weekdays instead of only weekends. This was to allow access to working sites which would be closed and locked over a weekend but, subject to a management's approval, visitors might be allowed in during the week. There were a number of Trips being planned. During March it was hoped to organise a visit to Hornsby Quarry. The quarry was currently full of water but due to be pumped out and filled in, conveniently with some of the spoil being generated from the extensive tunneling road works around Sydney. Over the period when the quarry has been pumped out of water and before it was filled in it was hoped to arrange a visit when the interesting diatrema formation could be viewed. Parts of the quarry walls are in a poor condition and visitors would only be allowed to walk around the rim and not on the quarry floor. The March Society Meeting was scheduled to be given a lecture on the **Hornsby Diatrema** by Larry Barron.

In addition there were trips being planned to the Bombo quarries, sites in Lithgow and Newcastle, the Bungonia area and Tollwong in the Morton National Park in March/April or May, - which would involve traversing several waterfalls, quite a lot of walking and overnight camping. Ed Zbik was also looking for people and asking for volunteers to help with 2-3 day 'reccé' trips to examine sites at Tumut and Kingsgate.

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### 'Radioactivity and Minerals'

#### Geoff Parsons

Geoff Parsons commenced his lecture by describing the different types of radiation emitted by radioactive elements, alpha, beta and gamma, and in some circumstances of neutrons. He proceeded to refer to a number of projected images, first of the Periodic table, noting that the standard table provides quite an amount of information about each element in the individual panels in the table and proceeded to describe each of the radioactive elements, describing various of their characteristics as he went along.

Other images were of tables, diagrams and lists showing the break-down pathways and products of the natural radioactive elements, notably of the more active thorium and uranium 235, also showing the characteristics of the products, half-lives and further break-down products and the radiation generated. The speaker moved on to describe and demonstrate several instruments used for detecting and measuring radiation and then under which circumstances and for what purposes instruments might be used in the field, measuring the amount of radiation in ores, rocks and hot springs etc. Demonstration of the instruments was aided by a few specimens which had been brought in to be tested.

Geoff Parsons' lecture was extensively illustrated by projected images, mostly of lists of elements and diagrams of products and pathways producing secondary break-down products of radioactive elements. At the end of his lecture the speaker was able to deal with a number of questions.

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **BACK FROM TUCSON SHOW**

From 9.00 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March & from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

'Great New Venue': The TURRAMURRA MASONIC HALL on the corner of the Pacific Highway and Turramurra Avenue, Turramurra. Very near to the Turramurra rail station.

'New and amazing stock from the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show'.

Presented by :-

Glenn Huntley of Quality Gem Rough Supplies. Mobile No: 0427 945 087  
And Peter and Debbie Beckwith of Crystal Habit, Mobile No: 0412 333 150

Leaflets describing the Show and the new location will be available at the Society February and March Meetings.

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### **MINERAMA 2017: The Northern NSW Annual Gem Show**

Being held in the RSL Services Club, Glen Innes, over Friday the 10th to Sunday the 12th of March.

'The Minerama is held annually in March at Glen Innes, NSW. This gem show is one of the largest annual gem shows in NSW and features fossicking field trips for a variety of gems in the area (*eg. sapphire, garnet, topaz, quartz crystals, etc*). Field trips are suitable for both beginner and expert fossickers with some locations not normally open to the public. The gem show has a large number of traders in gems, lapidary supplies, minerals, fossils, jewellery and much more with gemmologists/faceting experts in attendance for advice throughout the weekend.'

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### **BLAXLAND GEM & MINERAL CLUB OPEN DAY**

Saturday 18th March 2017, 8am to 3pm  
Free Admission. Displays and sales of lapidary work, rocks & minerals.  
Demonstrations on cutting, grinding and polishing gemstones.  
Refreshments available.  
15 The Valley Rd, Valley Heights NSW 2777

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## **CANBERRA ROCK SWAP 2017**

The Canberra Lapidary Club Rock Swop will be held as usual on the camping ground at Wagtail Way in the EPIC showground alongside Northbourne Avenue in Canberra over Saturday and Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March from 8.30 am to 5.00pm each day.

Fossickers & dealers, Crystals, minerals, rough & cut gemstones, opals, fossils, jewellery.

More information on [www.canberralapidary.org.au](http://www.canberralapidary.org.au)

Or from the Club Show Convenor, Norm Menadue, on Tel: 02 6258 6631.

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## **GEMBOREE 2017**

Incorporating the 53<sup>rd</sup> NATIONAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

To be held at the Tony Luchetti Showground on the corner of Barton & Geordie Streets in Lithgow over Easter 2017 from Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

‘Come and see the wonderful displays of gems, crystals, fossils and jewellery.

National Exhibitions and Competitions.

Over 20 leading Australian Dealers in attendance – lapidary, jewellery, and mineral trading.

Tailgating – where hobbyists trade their arts. Refreshments.

Enquiries to :- Colin Wright on 02 9521 2688, - [coldel1@hotmail.com.au](mailto:coldel1@hotmail.com.au)

Or Arthur Roffey on 02 4572 5812 - [crystalhabit@bigpond.com](mailto:crystalhabit@bigpond.com)

Or Publicity Officer Alan McRae on 02 6331 5404 – [amcrae@lisp.com.au](mailto:amcrae@lisp.com.au)’

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## **27<sup>th</sup> Lismore GEMFEST 2017**

Will be held in the Lismore Showgrounds, Alexandra Pde, North Lismore, over the weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> of May next. Saturday from 9am to 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 3pm.

Quoting from the Lismore Lapidary Club Website show announcement :-

‘Lismore GEMFEST is the biggest annual event in the country devoted to lapidary and allied arts and is organised by the Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club Inc. Exhibitors come from all parts of the country and range from amateurs to the most experienced professionals. Everything from rough stone for cutting, through to finished jewellery in all price ranges, along with mineral specimens, fossils, gold nuggets and meteorites are to be found on display. There are gem sieving activities for children, demonstrations of jewellery making and other craft activities.

Further information from :- [bruce.copper@bigpond.com](mailto:bruce.copper@bigpond.com), Telephone 02 6688 8280

Or from the Website :- [www.gemclublismore.org.au](http://www.gemclublismore.org.au)

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

Being held over Saturday and Sunday, August 19th and 20th 2017  
in the Glenbrook Community Hall, Great Western Highway, Glenbrook, NSW.

(Next to Glenbrook Theatre), just west of the Information Centre.

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

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

Refreshments available.

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

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership fees are due from January 1<sup>st</sup>

Please provide your full name, postal address, telephone number/s and e-mail address (if available). Unless otherwise indicated, members giving their e-mail address will receive the Newsletter only by e-mail.

NAME: .....

POSTAL ADDRESS: .....

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Telephone (ah)..... (bh).....

(mobile).....

E-mail address .....

If an E-mail address is supplied please indicate if the member wishes to receive hard copies of any Society correspondence or E-mail only. ? E-mail only: ..... ? Hard Copy also: .....

FEES: Adult membership, Sydney metropolitan area \$30

Adult membership, country or interstate \$25

Child/youth (under 18 years), or student member \$20

*Additional family members (spouse/partner and children only) can be admitted for membership at the cost of \$5 each (after the first member's costs as per the list above), If applying for additional family members, please list the name(s) here:*

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**Options for payment**

**1). Direct Credit / bank transfer to the Society's account**

**The account details are: -**

Account Name: Mineralogical Society of NSW Inc.

BSB: 062016 Account number: 28023647

Please put your name in the Memo line when making a direct debit/bank transfer so that the Society will know who the payment is from. If any of your address or telephone details have changed you should provide those details on this form and return it to the Treasurer - either : -

- 1) at the next General Meeting,
- 2) by e-mail to [grahamo@australiandiabetescouncil.com](mailto:grahamo@australiandiabetescouncil.com),
- 3) by post to the address below

**2). Cheque or Australia Post Money Order sent with a completed renewal form to : -**

The Mineralogical Society of New South Wales Inc.  
 58 Amazon Rd,  
 Seven Hills,  
 NSW 2147

**3). Cash or cheque delivered to the Treasurer, or in his absence the Secretary, at any General meeting**