



# THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

C/o School of Natural Science  
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## NEWSLETTER

### NOVEMBER 2012

**The November Meeting will be held on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 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 previously-scheduled lecture on 'New Minerals from Australia' has had to be cancelled and instead there will be a audio-visual presentation with commentary of superlative mineral specimens seen at the 2012 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show.

#### **'What was Great in Tucson in 2012'**

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### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

After the December Social the next Society General Meeting will be on Friday, February 1st 2013. The Society does not hold General Meetings in January. Meetings will be generally held on the first Friday of each month through 2013 except for June and October when the Meetings will probably be deferred to the second Friday of those months.

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

December 7th: Annual Christmas Social and 'Swap n' Sell.

February 1st 2013: 'Minerals of Arizona'. Montage of photographs by Paul Melville, introduced and described by John Rankin.

**To complement the photographic montage on Arizona Minerals at the February Meeting members are invited to bring in specimens from Arizona to display**

At the February Meeting there will also be a **Mineral Sale** to raise money for **Kids with Cancer** and members are further invited to donate specimens for this sale.

March 1st 2013: Tucson Update report to be given by Peter Beckwith or Peter Williams. The report will be followed by a lecture to be given by George Stacey on - 'Mt Isa - The Mine in the Spinifex'.

April 5th 2013: Lecture on 'Mercury Mining in Australia' by Professor Ken McQueen

May 3rd 2013: Members Mini-Auction.

June 8th to 10th June 2013: **National Mineralogical Societies Joint Seminar.**

June 14<sup>th</sup> 2013: Because the 2013 Seminar is being held in Sydney over the 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of June the Society General Meeting which would otherwise have been held on the 7<sup>th</sup> will probably be deferred to the second Friday of the month.

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## 2013 SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Society membership fees are due from January 1st each year. Subscription renewal forms will be sent out with this Newsletter and more are available from the Secretary or Treasurer at any Meeting. Members are recommended to provide their e-mail addresses if available in the interest of placing as many people as possible within electronic communication, not to mention cutting down the cost of posting out hard copies of the Society Newsletters. Members with e-mail capability may still wish to receive hard copy communications however and can indicate so on the subscription form.

All Society members will be registered for Personal Accident Insurance with the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Inc, subject to their being financial members before March 31st in any year. 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. Information on the degree/s of cover provided by the Personal Accident Insurance is available from the Society Secretary or the Gem & Lapidary Council of N.S.W. Inc. The insurance has been arranged for many years by the Council for member clubs and associations through brokers Webster Hyde Heath in Adelaide with QBE Commercial Insurance Ltd and provides a number and scale of benefits for personal injuries.

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## The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

|                 |               |                           |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| PRESIDENT:      | Dieter Mylius | Tel: (02) 9477 1060       |
| VICE-PRESIDENT: | John Chapman  | Tel: (02) 9808 3481       |
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|                    |                       |                     |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| COMMITTEE MEMBERS: | David Colchester      | Tel: (02) 9449 3862 |
|                    | John Rankin           | Tel: (02) 9482 7474 |
|                    | Gary Sutherland       | Tel: (02) 9871 1379 |
|                    | Jeremy Taylor-Edwards | Tel: (02) 9889 5889 |

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## OCTOBER MEETING

### **‘Members Forum. Collections and Recollections – Kingsgate’**

A number of Society members had responded to the suggestion and request to bring in mineral specimens from Kingsgate to complement the talks and recollections about the site and there was an impressive display of specimens provided.

Professor Peter Williams was the first speaker and with the aid of a number of projected images gave a description of the mineralogy and history of Kingsgate including some of the surface and mining features such as the mineralised pipes, the formation of which has still not yet been fully explained. The site is situated about twenty-five kilometers to the east of Glen Innes in New England and in the opinion of the first speaker there is no other deposit in the World that has produced as fine specimens of molybdenite and also possibly of native bismuth. Recent research has been showing that there is a large range of rare and very rare bismuth and lead-bismuth sulpho-salts also present in the deposit.

The Kingsgate site was originally pegged for tin by workers opening up what was called the Wolfram pipe, so-called because there was some wulfenite in it but as it turned out not much cassiterite so the mining was abandoned for a time. Unfortunately much later when the economic significance of the presence of molybdenum in the dumps was noted much of it had been washed away into and down the local Yarrow creek and lost. The remaining dump material was processed and an amount of molybdenite and bismuth concentrates produced and also larger amounts from several other pipes which were gradually opened up. Apart from the main commercially-significant metallic minerals at Kingsgate the site has also produced an amount of optical and radio quartz and from the point of view of collectors, some unusual quartz crystals.

Professor Williams referred to articles about Kingsgate which have been published in the Australian Journal of Mineralogy such as *‘The Lost Mines of Kingsgate’* in the December 2007 issue describing the existence of a number of smaller deposits with similar mineralisation which have gradually been found to the south of the Yarrow river. The smaller deposits have limited metal mineralisation but have also produced interesting and unusual quartz specimens some of which were noted and described by George Smith. One or two examples of the unusual quartz specimens had been brought in to the Meeting and were pointed out and discussed by the speaker who advised that one can still find such specimens, if one knows where to look.

Due to some recent prospecting by a company putting a trial pit into the old Wolfram pipe a wealth of secondary bismuth minerals had been exposed which has been something of a revelation for the mineralogists. It has contributed to a substantial on-going examination with identification of a number of bismuth and lead-bismuth sulpho-salts with more to be investigated and more to be identified. The speaker surmised that one reason that these were only now being discovered was that in the past and due to the value of bismuth the early miners had been very diligent in gleaning all vestiges of the bismuth minerals from the deposit for processing.

At this point Professor Williams recommended that the lecture program take a short break for members to examine the various specimens that had been brought in to display and if there were any questions about particular specimens these could be directed at the owners who had brought them in.

The second speaker to the Forum was Jeremy Taylor-Edwards who took the Meeting on a photographic tour of the Kingsgate site showing a number of images taken over the course of several visits that he and Christeena have made, sometimes in company with Terry Van Hoff. He described on one trip descending down the steep '25' pipe with the aid of a 100 meter length of rope, tied to a tree outside the entrance, which just made the distance to the bottom. An easy descent but as he said, a much more difficult ascent with an extra 60 kilos of rock in his back-pack!.

Several of the pipes were shown being explored with some of the mineralization still in the walls and ceilings pointed out. Various hazards were mentioned in exploring the pipes at Kingsgate such as encountering amounts of bat guano and puddles of deep murky water. Also as the speaker advised, whilst collectors would probably avoid visiting Kingsgate in the summer the temperature was usually quite comfortable once the visitor had gone down into any of the pipes.

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## **'The Museums of England'**

### **Gary Sutherland**

The second part of the evening program was a photographic montage presented by Gary Sutherland and describing a trip that he had made to the U.K. last year taking in a number of significant mineralogical museums and galleries along the way. There were four museums featured in the presentation; the Killhope Museum near Nethead in Northumberland; the Kentwick Mining Museum in Keswick, Cumberland, the Royal Cornwall Museum at Truro in Cornwall and the National History Museum in London.

Killhope Museum, also known as the North of England Lead Mining Museum, is primarily of historic interest and features a range of mining equipment and a significant display of 'spar boxes'. These were ornamental constructions contained in wooden boxes or some in glass cases of crystals and pieces of minerals obtained from the north of England area and made in their spare time by miners. The museum is situated in a fairly extensive old mining area with a number of preserved buildings and reconstructed machinery for examination.

The Kentwick Museum presented quite a large collection of mining memorabilia, particularly of lamps, lights and other equipment. There was also a selection of mineral specimens, mostly from the Keswick area but also a number from other sites in northern England.

One small problem for the speaker in visiting the Truro Museum was that he was not supposed to be taking photographs inside the building and he had unfortunately equipped himself with a large camera with a noisy shutter. However since he had the rooms more or less to himself a number of images were taken but without the benefit of flash illumination.

By contrast there were no restrictions on photography and the use of flash illumination in the National History Museum and a larger number of images in much better quality were taken. The use of flash there was particularly useful because the lighting in parts of the National History Museum is quite poor and dark leaving many of the specimen cases not shown at their best but images of the exhibits were much improved with the flash photography.

The speaker set his photomontage projection on automatic advance with a musical accompaniment and provided comments at intervals as the images came up. There were several hundred shown. At the end of his presentation Gary Sutherland answered a number of questions about his U.K. trip and his photographic techniques and cameras before declaring the formal program ended.

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## **MINERAL SALE**

### **Of the Peter Shales Collection**

Over Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup> 10am to 3pm.  
At 82 Rausch Street, Toongabbie     Inquiries to John Smedley on Mobile 0418 978 875

'Mineral specimens for advanced collectors and beginners.  
Over 400 mineral specimens. Also some fossils and lapidary material.  
All must go!. All priced to sell !.'

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

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

Saturday & Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 2012  
In the Windsor Function Centre on the corner of Dight & Macquarie Streets, Windsor.  
Next door to Windsor Public School.

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.  
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.  
Inquiries to Peter Beckwith on 0412 333 150.

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### **GEMBOREE 2013**

### **AUSTRALIA'S 49TH NATIONAL GEM AND MINERAL SHOW**

Easter 2013 from the 29<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013

In the Murray Bridge Showgrounds on the Princes Highway at Murray Bridge, South Australia

Hosted by the Gem & Lapidary Clubs Association of South Australia Inc under the auspices of the  
Australia Federation of Lapidary and Allied Crafts Association Inc (AFLACA).

## Gemboree 2013 Activities

'Trade Dealers. A huge range of dealers specialising in everything from gems and minerals to fossils and findings have been invited to attend Gemboree 2013.'

'Micro-Mounting. This year in South Australia we have provided a specific location for those who undertake the art of micro-mounting.'

'National Gem and Mineral Competitions. Gems, jewellery, lapidary and allied arts and crafts together with fossils and minerals will compete for national honours.'

'Field Trips. Visits are being planned to fossicking sites and to specific sites for detectors and treasure-seekers.'

Enquiries to : -

The Gemboree Convenor – *sagemboreeconvenor@gmail.com*

Rennie D'Arcy on mobile 0412 414 129 or e-mail - *rennie.darcy@three.com.au*

Bookings and Tailgating Co-Ordinators

Anne Armstrong, e-mail *anne.armstrong38@three.com.au*

or Ian Everard by e-mail *ieverard@bigpond.net.au* or telephone (08) 8251 3348

Murray Bridge Visitor Information Centre. Telephone (08) 8539 1142

Website *www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au*

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## **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 Eastwood – Ryde Leagues Club at 117 Ryedale Road, Eastwood, Sydney. All Seminar activities other than field trips or Australian Museum and private collection visits 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 and sales probably on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of June.

Interstate visitors and attendees from outside Sydney will be advised about suitable accommodation in the Eastwood area which has a number of hotels. It is hoped that there will be field trips to one or more locations held in conjunction with the Seminar but details have not yet been finalised.

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