



THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

Website: www.minsocons.org.au

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

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020

The November Meeting will be held by virtual mode on Friday the 6th of November at 7.30 pm

The program will comprise a few announcements and then a lecture to be given by Guy Fleming of the Geological Survey of NSW on : -

“An Overview of Geotrail Development in NSW”

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

December 5th or 6th: The Society Annual Christmas Social and Swap n' Sell.

The precise arrangements for the Christmas Social are still to be confirmed although the expectation is that it will be held in the grounds of the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club on Fullagar Road, Wentworthville. Unfortunately it may be that some pandemic restrictions may still be applied to a degree and the interior of the Club building may not be available for use.

2021: Society Meetings will resume on February and by then it is hoped that they can be held as before in the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club building.

February 5th 2021: A schedule of Society Meeting programs is being organised commencing with the first Friday in February and continuing with first Friday meetings throughout the year except in April when the Society meeting would be held on the second Friday, after Easter.

A PIECE OF MINERAL HISTORY FOR SALE

Ten George Smith specimens contained in a mini cabinet 30 cm high, 450 cm wide, constructed in Australian Red Cedar by Albert Chapman for his mate the Rev Bert Gardiner, an early member of the Society. The minerals are from Broken Hill, Mount Garnet, Chillagoe, Cadia and Kingsgate, representing his progress from mine manager at Broken Hill and Chillagoe to mines inspector NSW. Inspection invited at my home at Epping. \$450. Contact Jim Sharpe on 9871 2502

The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

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THE SIMPSON WA PROJECT

From MinSocWA, to all Mineralogical Societies' secretaries and the New Zealand group.

At the virtual seminar held in early October, Susan Stocklmayer of the West Australia Mineralogical Society presented an overview of the *SimpsonWA Project* which MinSocWA has embarked on as a collaborative exercise and is inviting involvement from anyone interested in contributing.

The project was proposed by Vernon Stocklmayer and was approved by the Committee as a stimulating mineralogical exercise to which all MinSocWA members and others can contribute.

Numerous minerals new to Western Australia have been discovered since the publication of the three volumes of Dr. Edward Simpson's "Minerals of Western Australia" in the early 1950s. These volumes are an exhaustive work and have provided an enormous amount of detail on each mineral, but much has been discovered since.

The *Simpson WA update* project focuses on the write up of all the minerals that were NOT included in Simpson's earlier work. There is no intention to update the minerals in Simpson's published volumes. The aim of the project is for all MinSocWA members and any other interested persons to contribute towards a write up of these additional mineral species. It was considered best to follow the style used by Simpson and not merely create an uninformative list of minerals.

Several items will be made available to assist members in their contributions, including:

1. The list of minerals prepared by Vernon Stocklmayer that currently has about 260 species. This list will grow as more are found in the literature and the research work of many institutions.
2. A PDF of the IMA mineral list, used to verify the name, formula and prime references of each species.
3. A template of the required fields for relevant information.
4. An example of a write up.

5. A WA tectonic unit map and index showing 1:100 000 map sheets covering the State.
6. Contributions will be acknowledged. Although initially this was proposed as a Society project, contributions will be welcomed from all interested persons.

It is essential that photographs are of Western Australian examples only and each photograph must include mineral names, locality, scale/FOV and a declaration that you have copyright or written permission to use (if not your photo).

This is a long-term project. We would like to aim for a release in 2025, - the 25th year of the founding of this Society. Both options of a digital-only release or a hard copy volume will be considered, subject to the ability to secure funding.

The *Simpson WA update* is launched as a collaborative research project for all of YOU to take part in, and we look forward to it gathering momentum by the efforts of our membership and all volunteers and interested parties. Contributions may consist of some information about a mineral species and may not necessarily be a complete write up. All contributions are welcomed

Finally, this is too large an undertaking for a few individuals to complete; if you do not ALL assist it will be doomed to failure.

Project coordinator is Susan Stocklmayer. Anyone interested in receiving more detailed information and for all enquiries please use the email especially created :-

Project contact: simpsonwa@minsocwa.org.au

Interested persons upon inquiry would be supplied with a "package" containing :-

A contact address as well as a PDF of the PowerPoint shown recently at the seminar

A list (incomplete) of minerals noted to date for inclusion in the revision

A list of all the minerals (and others) that have already been described by Simpson and will NOT be considered any further

The IMA master list

A map showing tectonic units to be used

A map showing positions of the 1:100 000 map sheets

An unedited write-up of a couple of minerals (acanthite and euclase) to show the required format and background type of information.

The OCTOBER Meeting

The October meeting was the annual **Joint Mineralogical Societies Seminar** held this year for the first time in virtual mode. The Seminar was clearly very successful and a number of compliments have been received from participants. It was attended by an encouraging number of people, not all of whom may have been 'connected in' for the whole proceedings but a total of about eighty people were attending for most of the lectures. The attendees were predominantly NSW Society members but with about a third being interstate people, a few in New Zealand and definitely one person in Danbury, Connecticut, U.S.A.

The Seminar commenced at the scheduled time but given the unfamiliarity of a number of the attendees with the virtual mode there were a few minutes taken as people ‘connected in’ and a few points or aspects of the virtual mode were explained to them by the Zoom program ‘host’, Graham Ogle.

Once a substantial number of attendees had ‘assembled’ the Society President, Dieter Mylius, welcomed everyone. Initially the President introduced himself to the interstate attendees and took a few minutes to explain the background to the establishment of the virtual meetings by the Zoom program which the NSW Society had been using for some months. He noted that the original theme for the 43rd Seminar when it was expected to be held ‘live’ in Sydney had been ‘**43 Shades of Silver**’. The Seminar with the original theme and number would definitely still be held but had been postponed one year to October 2021 by arrangement and agreement with the other state mineralogical societies. Hopefully by then without any of the pandemic restrictions remaining.

Dieter Mylius explained a little further about the forthcoming program which included a period at the end of the Sunday afternoon session set aside for an impromptu discussion about the future and the continuing use of virtual communication between societies and their members. A few more points about using the virtual program were mentioned such as the use of the Zoom program ‘*Chat*’ facility to pose any questions and also that the program allowed for attendees to alter their name/caption under their individual ‘windows’. Attendees were entirely at liberty to log out at any time through the proceedings by simply accessing-clicking on the ‘*Leave Meeting*’ icon and then back in again by accessing the Zoom invite link which had been distributed by Graham Ogle.

Getting the lecture program underway Dieter Mylius thanked all the speakers for their offers to contribute to the 2020 virtual Seminar and introduced the first speaker. This had been scheduled to be Adam McKinnon but due to a connection problem he was temporarily experiencing the second scheduled speaker, Rod Martin, was asked to speak first. The program of lectures otherwise followed closely and efficiently the schedule compiled and distributed to members and other societies. Lecturers were either already familiar with the Zoom methodology or were advised at the Seminar how to access and operate the Zoom ‘*Screen Share*’ facility which was fairly straight-forward. Accordingly they were able to project a series of images from their own computers for all attendees to view. The lectures were all well-illustrated with a series of images explained clearly and thoroughly by each lecturer.

The Seminar ended with the impromptu discussion as intended and a number of questions, comments, compliments and suggestions were made and discussed. Dieter Mylius finally thanked all members for their attendance and invited everyone to the 2021 Seminar.

The 2020 virtual Seminar lecture presentations will be added to the Society Website in due course.
