



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

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

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009

The October Meeting will be held on Friday the 9th of October 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.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: The Society Meeting is being held on the SECOND Friday of this month because the first Friday is before a long weekend.

The Meeting program will comprise a talk to be given by Matt Sciberras on : -

‘Copper-Zinc Sulphate Minerals’

The talk will be followed by a lecture to be given by Geoff Parsons on : -

‘Mount Morgan, Gold, Copper, Oil and More’.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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

November 6th: Talk by Simon Hager on ‘The Pharmacosiderite Group of Minerals’
and a lecture by Paul Meszaros, (if available), on ‘Gold. From Alchemy to Spectroscopy’

December 4th: Christmas Social and Swap n’ Sell.

The Society does not hold General Meetings in January. After December 4th 2009 the next Meeting will be on Friday the 5th of February 2010.

February 5th 2010: Talk on Martin Zwer’s Scheelite Mine, Nundle, N.S.W. by John Rankin and a lecture by David Colchester on Magnetic Minerals.

March 5th: 2010 2010 Tucson Show Update. Lecture by Ross Pogson on 'Cave Minerals'.

April 9th 2010, (Second Friday, - after Easter): Minitalk by Bruce Myles on 'Zircons from Malawi'.
Lecture by Les Bursil on 'Aboriginal pigments and tools'.

May 7th: Member's Mini-Auction.

June 4th: Talk by John Rankin on 'Mineral Catalogues'. Lecture by Lin Sutherland on 'Forensic
Gemmology in N.S.W.'

July 2nd: Jim Sharpe and Peter Williams on 'Ernest Henry. The Man and the Mines'.
Lecture by Meaghan Clissold on 'Scanning Diamond Drill Core'.

August 6th: Society A.G.M. Betty Mayne Memorial Lecture to be given by Brian England on
'Minerals of the Garrawilla Volcanics'.

FIELD TRIP

There will be a Field Trip to the Mineral Hill mine site north of Condoblin over the Friday 16th to Sunday 18th October 2009 weekend.

The mine is currently on care and maintenance. Members attending the trip should travel to Condoblin on Friday for collecting on the dumps on Saturday and Sunday morning. Malachite and azurite are plentiful but getting good specimens will be hard work. A range of other minerals can also be found. We are lucky to have Adam McKinnon as our host. He is currently working on Mineral Hill and will be able to give us a detailed insight into the mine and the mineralisation.

Mineral Hill is $\frac{3}{4}$ hours drive NE of Condoblin. To get there take the road to Nymagee (Melrose St) for approx 60 km. Turn right at Melrose (locality) along the Dandaloo Rd. After 8 km turn left onto the Mine access road.

A full itinerary for the trip with suggestions for accommodation in Condoblin has been distributed by John Chapman to all members who have indicated their wish to attend. Any other members interested in the trip should contact John Chapman. Any members attending field trips are required to acquaint themselves with the Society safety regulations and to sign an attendance register verifying that they have read these.

Those interested in attending the Mineral Hill trip should inquire from or notify John Chapman by phone on 9808 3481, mobile 0435 085 050 or email at : - chapmanjr@optusnet.com.au .

WELCOME

Welcome to new Society member Denys Angove of Hornsby Heights

THE SOCIETY COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Gary Sutherland	Tel: (02) 9871 1379
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:	Jim Sharpe	Tel: (02) 9871 2502
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	David Colchester	Tel: (02) 9449 3862
	Dieter Mylius	Tel: (02) 9477 1060
	Graham Ogle	Tel: (02) 9876 5224
	Arthur Roffey	Tel: (02) 4572 5812
	Peter Williams	Tel: (02) 9685 9914

WITH REGRET

With regret the Society Committee has recently learned that long-time Society member John Lower passed away on the 23rd of June last. John's professional career had been as an airline pilot but after retirement among pursuing other interests he had joined the F.O.G.A.M.M. (Friends of the Geological and Mining Museum) Society and become one of its active members, serving on the committee for a time. He had maintained a long association as a volunteer worker at the Geological and Mining Museum and the Earth Exchange as it was re-named and until this closed and had also been a member of the Mineralogical Society for some twenty years.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Meeting was opened by the Society President, Gary Sutherland, who initially referred to inquiries that had been made by members about their attending Committee meetings in order to obtain a better understanding about how the Society functioned. The President made it plain that all Society members were at liberty to attend Committee meetings and the prospect of non-Committee members attending meetings and contributing suggestions etc was obviously ideal. Since the Committee meetings were usually held in member's houses it would be necessary to limit the number of other members who might want to attend, preferably to only one or two. Accordingly he asked that anyone wishing to attend a meeting should make this known to any of the current Committee members who would check and advise whether there had been any other such requests and also notify the member at whose house the meeting was to be held.

John Chapman reminded members about the forthcoming **Field Trip to Mineral Hill** to be held over the 16th and 17th of October weekend and that any members thinking of going should contact him to have their names placed on a list and to obtain more information.

Dieter Mylius gave a report on the **Field Trip to the Mudjee area** which had been held over the 29th and 30th of August weekend. As Dieter explained, the previous weekend the members going on the trip "brought rain to Mudjee and mud back to Sydney". There was rain in the area over the Friday evening and overnight with light rain intermittently through the following Saturday morning sufficient to make the ground in the quarries which were to be visited fairly muddy and heavy going in places. The Buckeroo and Mt Knowles dolomite quarries a few kilometers north of Mudjee were visited through Saturday morning and into the afternoon. Minerals found certainly included some calcite and quartz and whilst all specimens may not have been completely cleaned or

identified yet may probably include some ranceite. On the Saturday evening most of the party who were remaining overnight in Mudgee assembled in the outdoor kitchen at the Mudgee Valley Tourist Park for a BBQ.

On Sunday morning the party went to a dimension stone quarry, comprising a granite-bouldered hilltop in picturesque countryside also north of Mudgee from which quartz crystals had been found in the past. A few small but no notable specimens of quartz were found there. As the party then dispersed to make its way back to Sydney and elsewhere undoubtedly some of them called in at various wineries along the way.

A final feature of the Mudgee trip was that a few members called in at the Col Rebo property under Mt Airlie involving a 15km turnoff east from Capertee on the Mudgee-Lithgow road. The party spent possibly about two hours on the property being shown over the top of the mountain and the site of a diamond deposit by the owner. Members in the party spent some time scratching unsuccessfully for any remaining diamonds in small gravel dumps from the processing work and then were shown over the mountaintop traversing a network of roads built after an impressive amount of work over many years by the owner.

With no other announcements or reports to be made the President asked John Chapman to deliver the first talk of the evening.

**‘Scheelite in Australia’
by John Chapman**

See “Meeting Talks” section of website for summary

The President then introduced the next speaker for the evening, Dereck Dolstra, who has had a varied career working for among other bodies the Geological Survey and the Mining Museum and in retirement has been pursuing an interest in the historical aspects of mining activities in Australia.

**‘The History of Copper Mining in NSW’
Dereck Dolstra**

See “Meeting Talks” section of website for summary

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GEMKHANA 2009

To be held in the Goulburn Showground & Recreation Area, Braidwood Road, Goulburn
Over the October long weekend, Saturday to Monday October 3rd to 5th.

Saturday and Sunday open from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday open from 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon.
Featuring: Competitions, Exhibition, Displays, Dealers, Tailgating, Demonstrations and Field Trips.

Further information about the Gemkhana may be found on the Gem & Lapidary Council website

www.gemlapidarycouncil.org.au

49TH ANNUAL GEMSTONE & MINERAL SHOW

Presented by members of the **Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club** over Friday, Saturday & Sunday, the 6th, 7th & 8th of November 2009 at the Clubrooms at 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville.
10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. each day.

GEMSTONES, OPAL, MINERALS, FOSSILS, JEWELLERY & ENAMELING
Free Admission. Club stalls, lucky dips, showcases, crystals, demonstrations, sales.
Information from Publicity Officer Barbara Clark on telephone (02) 9636 8470.

GEMBOREE 2010

Easter 2010. Friday to Monday, April 2nd to 5th, at Devonport, Tasmania.
Inquiries to the Gemboree 2010 Secretary, P.O.Box 996, Launceston, Tasmania 7250.
For travel and accommodation bookings contact the Devonport Visitor Information Centre,
- 1800 649 514 and mention the Gemboree.