



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 2015

The October Meeting will be held on Friday the 9th of October 2015 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 October Meeting will be held on the second Friday of this month because the first Friday is before a long weekend.

The program at the October Meeting will commence with a talk on :-

Mineral of the month – Stibnite and other antimony minerals

The subject will be introduced by Gary Sutherland with background provided by Peter Williams.

Members are invited to bring in any interesting antimony specimens to help illustrate the talk.

The talk will be followed by a lecture to be given by David Colchester and John Chapman on :-

Mudgeeite. Establishing a New Mineral.

In order to illustrate and display at the lecture members are also invited to bring in any specimens they may have from the Mt Knowles site near Mudgee where examples of the new mineral have been found, particularly any samples which they think may contain the new mineral.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- November 6th : There will be a talk on the **Mineral of the month - Smithsonite** and a lecture by John Rankin on **'The Block 14 Mine, Broken Hill'**.
- December 4th : **Christmas Social.**

2016: Some Meeting programs for 2016 have already been scheduled; others are yet to be confirmed. The Society does not hold General Meetings in January. The first Meeting in 2016 will be on February the 5th. Meetings will be held on the first Friday of each month throughout the year except before any long weekends when the Meeting would be held on the second Friday of that month.

February 5th 2016: The program in February will include a talk to be given by Dieter Mylius on:-
‘Collecting Minerals from the Clara Mine in Germany’.
 The talk will be followed by a lecture to be given by Ross Pogson on :-
The Cliefden Caves and Speleological Themes at the Australian Museum.

The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Dieter Mylius	Tel: (02) 9477 1060
VICE-PRESIDENT:	John Chapman	Tel: (02) 9808 3481
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
	John Rankin	Tel: (02) 9482 7474
	Edward Zbik	Tel: (02) 9638 6586
	E-mail:	<i>etzed@optusnet.com.au</i>

THE 40TH-YEAR ANNIVERSARY DINNER CANCELLED

At the September Society Committee meeting it was decided that with considerable regret the 40th - Year Anniversary Dinner that had been planned for the 30th September would have to be cancelled. There had unfortunately been a very limited response from members registering to attend.

The booking with the Ryde-Eastwood Club was for a minimum of fifty people and by mid-month, two weeks before the event, only about half that number had registered. The presumption was made that at that stage, very few more would register. Since the Club would expect to charge the Society for the full fifty people, the cost of the Dinner, which even although it would have been subsidised to a degree by the Society, would become prohibitive. Members who had registered for the Dinner and had paid the fees will be re-imbursed.

A few alternate suggestions for a commemorative event have been considered such as arranging a function next April or May when the Society would be completing its 40th year. However, suggestions from members for the nature, date and venue of a commemoration would be most welcome.

It would surely be ideal to celebrate the Society's long and hopefully rewarding work in an appropriate manner within this 40th year.

MICRO-MINERAL GROUP MEETING

Micro-Mineral Meeting at 1:00 pm on Saturday 17th October 2015, at 25 Chudleigh Street, Rydalmere.
For details: phone Ed Zbik on (02) 9638 6586, mobile 0401 538 480 or email etzed@optusnet.com.au

Please advise Ed in advance if you wish to attend the meeting
but not before 10th October, he will be in W.A.

Theme for the Meeting:

Minerals from Germany or minerals beginning with "G" and : -**Field Trips Minerals Identification.**
Been on a field trip in 2015 and want some minerals identified ?. Bring a folding chair + specimens

REQUEST for SPECIMENS

Jim Sharpe would like to acquire some specimens of black or very near black malachite. If anyone has any such specimens or knows where they may be obtained please contact him with the information either by telephone : - (02) 9871 2502 or e-mail sharpejames@tpg.com.au

The SEPTEMBER MEETING

The President reminded members about the forthcoming Society **40th Year Anniversary Dinner** and urged members to register as soon as possible so that the numbers for catering could be given to the Leagues Club management.

Ed Zbik reported on the **August Field Trip to Mt Tennyson** which had been attended by thirteen members. The party did not go to the Mammoth Mine on that visit but to a number of other sites in the area and were able to find a variety of minerals including molybdenum in calcite and small pyrites. The site with fluorescent minerals could not be found at night even with portable U.V. lights but the location has been noted for future investigation.

Further trips were already scheduled for September to Muttama in company with members of the Illawarra Lapidary Club; in October to the Mogo State Forest and to Mudgee in November. Some of the trips would involve camping overnight and some would require individuals to acquire State Fossicking Licences. Group licences could be applied for but the procedure was involved.

With no further announcements Dieter Mylius proceeded to introduce and describe : -

‘The Wonderful World of Micro-Minerals’

For the purpose of the evening’s lecture the Meeting room tables had been re-arranged to set up almost a dozen microscopes around the room with a few micro-mineral specimens provided alongside each instrument. In addition members had brought in various numbers of their own micro-specimens.

Asking why would people collect micro-minerals Dieter Mylius pointed out an obvious advantage, the specimens are usually inexpensive and take up much less storage room than ‘cabinet’ specimens. Potentially there is a larger variety of different minerals available in micro form and the

collector could build up a large and very representative collection with solely micro specimens. Some World-famous mineral localities have yielded almost entirely only micro-specimens but have still become famous due to the quality, variety and scarcity of their minerals.

Since micro specimens are by nature fragile most members would obtain the clear plastic display boxes to hold them. The boxes with specimens were then even easier to stack in drawers. The specimen would be secured to the base of the box with a small amount of blue-tack, (Bostik 'Press-Stik' etc). Members were warned that the blue-tack may harden with time and cease to secure the specimen.

In examining micro-specimens a hand lens can be used but ideally a microscope is essential and preferably a stereo instrument with some degree of zoom capability. Any amount of money could be paid for a microscope but Dieter Mylius advised that in looking at the E-Bay website earlier in the day he had found instruments being advertised there for prices from US\$100 upwards. In obtaining a microscope a reliable source of light should either be incorporated into the instrument or purchased in addition, a dual optic-fibre flexible light source being recommended.

A number of photographs of micro-specimens were shown by the speaker, some of them self-collected many years ago. Collectors were likely after some time collecting micro-specimens to wish to take photographs of some of them and Dieter Mylius described aspects of photographic methodology for small samples, also advising that the Society Committee was looking into purchasing a digital micro-photographic array.

Finally Dieter Mylius described the activities of the **Society Micro-Mineral Group** which meets monthly at various members' houses and recently celebrated its 50th meeting. The Group has set itself a few projects, the first being to study minerals of the Woodlawn mine and specifically to write up the findings to provide an article to be presented to the *Australia and New Zealand Micro-mineral News*, an on-line publication managed by Steve Sorrell. A consideration for the Society Micro-Mineral Group was that they had noted that minerals of the Woodlawn Mine were poorly represented in Mindat. The Woodlawn article had been written by Noel Kennon and photographs for the article taken by several of the Group members.

A second project underway has been to describe the minerals found in side of the road cutting near Bunnan. Whilst the variety of minerals found in macro sizes is limited there is a larger variety of minerals in micro form from this site, mostly various zeolites, calcite and aragonite. An article on the mineral findings from the site is being written up and the Group is already commencing to look at minerals from the Tollwong site in the Shoalhaven gorge. The Tollwong work is referring to and being based on an article on the site written many years ago by the late Laurie Lawrence. Tollwong was noted for the presence of bournonite but there are quite a number of other copper and other minerals reported from the site.

Dieter Mylius finally showed a number of images of micro specimens mostly collected by members on field trips, noting that it is a very pretty and colourful world when seen through a microscope. Images were shown of micro-atacamites from North Parkes and malachite from Mineral Hill, erythrite from Carcoar, azurite from the Cash Essington mine, libethinite and pseudomalachite from North Parkes, a fine malachite on cuprite from Broken Hill, natrolite on calcite from Kulnura, wulfenite from Whim Creek, smithsonite from Cooma and a one-millimeter scheelite crystal from Mt Tennyson.

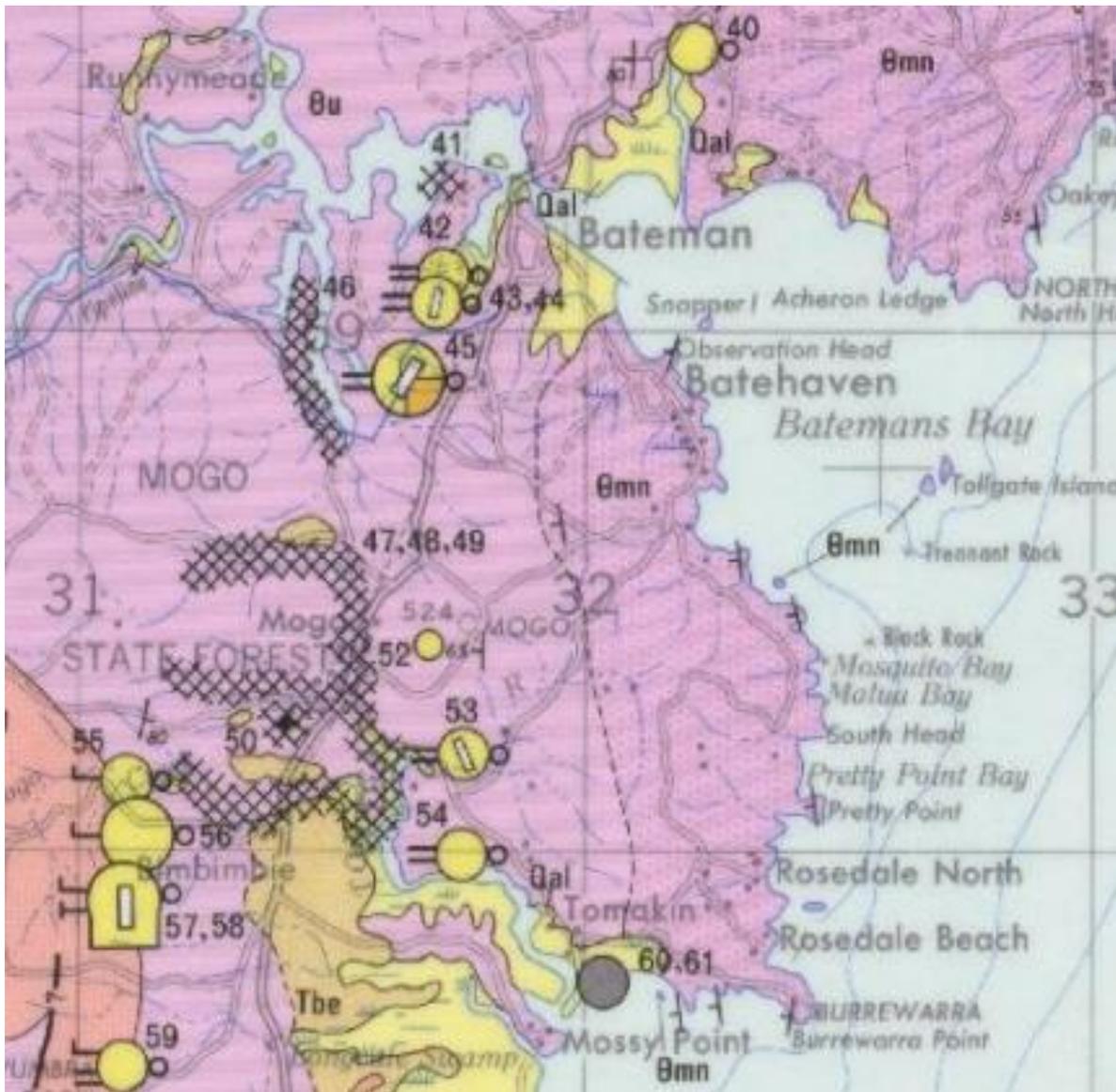
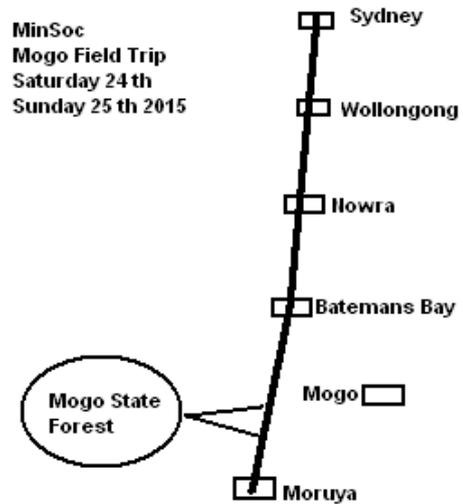
With the introduction concluded members were invited to move around the room to the various microscopes alongside each of which a selection of micro-specimens had been provided. They were also advised that the specimens at each instrument would be changed at intervals over the next hour to constantly provide a greater variety of items to examine throughout the evening.

FIELD TRIP to MOGO STATE FOREST. October 24th & 25th

Open to all members;
 Gold deposits and associated materials
 Normal hammer and PPE, metal detector optional.
 Camping in the forest;
 Turquoise deposits in locality.

Each member wishing to attend this trip: A STATE FOREST FOSSICKING LICENCE IS REQUIRED

To register, contact Edward Zbik by e-mail:
etzed@optusnet.com.au phone (02) 9638 6586,
 mobile 0401 538 480. Please call after 10th October
 because Ed will be in Western Australia until then.



FIELD TRIP TO MUTTAMA (quartz crystals) Weekend Fri – Sun 18/19/20 September 2015

The field trip was a composite of Illawarra Lapidary Club and MinSoc NSW. However, due to reasons of illness, and family and other commitments the numbers were small being three from MinSocNSW and two from Illawarra.

An enjoyable weekend was had by all and the weather was mostly kind, except for a little rain on Saturday night. All arrived early afternoon on the Friday and after setting up the camp spot just across the creek crossing we got an afternoon of collecting on the low ridge accessible by the 4WD vehicles. Thanks to the Illawarra guys (Ken Mitchell and Peter Stanley) who knew the location, for giving us guidance on techniques and the most suitable equipment. We all went home with a variety of crystals, some individual and some composites on plates and in clusters.

Numerous small crystal clusters in milky quartz abound on the surface but to find the more decent stuff required hard work, digging, removal of boulders, scratching through the dirt, spreading the diggings, and eying through the material for that hint of a crystal form or a partial reflection of a crystal face in the sunlight. Good sharp digging equipment, and modified scratching with prying tools seem to be the more efficient way to go. Plus a short-bristled brush to clean off some of the dirt on drying out further after removal from the ground is helpful.

Saturday was a beautiful day up on the ridge with the marvellous view across the green rolling hills to the west with attendees digging their foxholes or wandering around specking and chatting. Everyone came away with specimens but the real quality is only revealed on getting home and more thoroughly cleaning of the soil off the crystals.

One of the attendees left on the Saturday afternoon, one Sunday morning early and one later in the morning with the Illawarra guys leaving later on Sunday to take some items of appreciation to the land owner (in Cootamundra).



Figure 1. A selection of Muttama quartz crystals



Figure 2. Doubly terminated quartz crystal (group at left hand end).



Figure 3. Peter Stanley and Denis O'Brien comparing findings on the ridge.

On leaving Muttama I travelled down through Pettit and on up to the Ellamatta property just across the Gobarralong Bridge on the Murrumbidgee River. I spoke to the farmer there (Max Crowe) who explained to me where the cutting and shafts from the former chromite mining were up in the hills behind the property. I drove part way up on his property after crossing one gully, and after a bite of lunch hiked across the hills straddling the occasional fence to reach below the cutting. I found some chromite around the surface among lots of serpentine but missed going all the way up to the cut. On viewing a mullock heap around the next ridge I decided to hike further to examine it. Similarly, there was some chromite in amongst lots of serpentine material.

The chromite is hard, heavy and black with some reflective lustre but with absolutely minimal or no evidence of any crystal facing, but possibly some fracture faces. I did not proceed to mullock heaps further up the hill as I could not see them from where I was on the hillside. I restricted my collecting, knowing that I had to walk around the hilly rocky terrain with my backpack, bucket and hammers back to my vehicle parked part way up the first ridge.

On returning to the farm, I spoke to the farmer about the history (he had got from his father). Apparently ore would be bagged and sent down on a flying fox to be shipped out (to somewhere??). The chromite shows that it is amenable to hand sorting and high grading as most that I observed was complete lump material. I showed Max the chromite and demonstrated its appearance and density in comparison to the serpentine. I gave him a quartz crystal cluster from Muttama and left, taking photos of the hillside I was on from further along the roads past the farmhouse before returning to Sydney.



Figure 4. The hills above Ellamatta Station. The scree slopes from the mine shafts can be seen just below the peak whereas the cutting and remnants from that are on the lower ridge to the right (visually above the trees in the foreground)

Report compiled by Geoff Parsons
25th September 2015

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GEMKHANA 2015 OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND

The Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of Lapidaries from all over NSW

GEMKHANA 2015 OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND

The Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of Lapidaries from all over NSW will be presented by the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Inc. at the Hawkesbury Showgrounds, directly opposite the RAAF base, on the Windsor Road at Clarendon, approximately mid-way between Richmond and Windsor, turn-off on to Racecourse Road.

Over Saturday to Monday, the 3rd, 4th & 5th of October 2015 from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday & Sunday, and from 9.00 am to 12 noon on Monday.

'Sales and Displays, Demonstrations, Jewellery, Gem Faceting, Gemstones, Gem Identification. Minerals, Gemstone Carving, Crystals, Fossils, Beads & Equipment. Local and interstate Gem, Jewellery and Mineral Dealers, Raffle , Children's Activities, Attractions for everyone of all ages, Refreshments, Plenty of parking.'

The EMMAVILLE ANNUAL GEMFEST and SWAPMEET

Being held over the long weekend, Saturday to Monday, the 3rd, 4th & 5th of October in the Emmaville Community Centre (Old Court House) on Glen Innes Road, Emmaville.

'Plenty of market stalls and tailgaters to swap and sell with or just view the many collections of gems on display. Fossicking field trips will be conducted on all three days commencing at 9.00 a.m. each day, cost \$15 adult per day. Bring a small pick, shovel, bucket or back pack, container for specimens, kneeling pad or ground sheet. Wear long sleeves, hat, walking boots or sneakers, gloves, (gum boots and rain coat if wet).'

It is reported that the Gemfest organisers have negotiated access to the Fluorite Mine at The Gulf for one of their field trips which would be the first time in about eight years that anyone has been allowed near the site.

Inquiries to : -

Rodney Robinson 0427 494 335; Ann Fairbanks 0467 965 833; Mick Scherf 0427 347 159
or www.emmavillegemfest.com

GEMS AND TREASURES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The ANNUAL FESTIVAL of the Central Coast Lapidary Club Inc.

will be held at the Mingara Club, Wyong Road, Tumby Umbi

Over Friday to Sunday, the 9th to 11th of October 2015

Set up from Thursday 8th October at 1:00pm. Open from Friday 9th, 9am until 8pm,
Saturday 10th, 9am until 5pm and Sunday 11th, 9am to 4pm.

'Participants and vendors, please join us for our Central Coast Lapidary Club Dinner and Presentation on Saturday night, 6pm until 9pm, at \$33.00 per head'.

Enquiries: please email cclapidary@optusnet.com.au or the thelittlerockshop123@gmail.com
or telephone Robert Scott on 02 4362 3626, mobile 0405 904 881.

The 38th AUSTRALASIA JOINT MINERALOGICAL SEMINAR TASMANIA 2015

The Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia will be holding the 38th annual Mineralogical Seminar at Grindelwald, Tasmania this year between the 1st and 15th of November 2015 hosted by the Mineralogical Society of Tasmania Inc.

The theme for the Seminar is : - **What's new in Australian Minerals**

The Seminar lecture program will be held over Wednesday and Thursday the 4th and 5th of November at Grindelwald, a resort near to Launceston, and there is an extensive program of field trips to collecting sites, visits to museums, mines and events including the Zeehan and Launceston Gem & Mineral Shows being planned over the period from the 1st to the 14th of November.

There is a link for information on Seminar-priced accommodation at the **Grindelwald - Tamar Valley Resort** in the Society Website with other Launceston/Tamar Valley accommodation information readily available on the internet.

'This is the 4th Seminar to be held in Tasmania and will be dedicated to new minerals and discoveries in Australian Mineralogy. Some of the World's foremost Mineral Speakers and subjects will include :-

Paul Carr:	The Milton Lavers Collection
Dehne McLaughlin:	The Areyonga azurite mine
Alan Longbottom, Elliott, P.,	Putnisite
Jolyon Ralph:	Mindat update
Steve Sorrell:	What's new in old collections?
Plus: Lin Sutherland, Frank Reith, Allan Pring, Joel Brugger, Stuart Mills, Erik Melchiorre, John Cornish and more.	

In addition. View the Beaconsfield gold museum, the Crocoite display at the legendary Pioneers' Museum, Zeehan with associated field trips to world famous West Coast Mines.'

The Registration form for the Seminar is now available on the Tasmania Society website at : - <http://tasmanianlapidarymineral.weebly.com/joint-australian-mineralogical-societies-seminar-tasmania-2015.html> Registrations with full payment are required by 31st August 2015. Persons wishing to attend this year's National Seminar should fill out the Registration application form and forward it to Marnie Pope, Treasurer/Secretary MST, at the email address pope00@ozemail.com.au or mail it to P.O. Box 1111, Rosny Park, Tasmania, 7018.

For further details contact : -

Ralph Bottrill (President MST), Convenor: The 38th Annual Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia Seminar - on 0429 173 055 - rbottrill@mrt.tas.gov.au
Marnie Pope, Treasurer/Secretary MST, pope00@ozemail.com.au
Kim Dunstan (Zeehan Gem & Mineral Fair) ph: 0417 157 678 - kim.dunstan@hotmail.com

FESTIVAL OF MINERALS & GEMS

by the **ILLAWARRA LAPIDARY CLUB INC**

Over SATURDAY 7th November 9am to 4pm & SUNDAY 8th November 9am to 2.30pm

At the RIBBONWOOD CENTRE, PRINCES HIGHWAY, DAPTO

Our 53rd Exhibition featuring top Mineral Dealers plus Lapidary Supplies, Jewellery, Beads, Opals, Jewellery Valuations, Fossils & Displays. Food & refreshments available. Adults \$3, Children free.

<http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/>

THE WINDSOR GEM & MINERAL FAIR

Over Saturday 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m and Sunday 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m the 28th & 29th of November at the Windsor Function Centre on the corner of Dight & George Streets in Windsor.

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. Displays and demonstrations of lapidary work by the Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club
Admission fee, Light refreshments available.

Inquiries to Peter Beckwith on 0412 333 150 or email at *peterrare@optusnet.com.au*

THE AUSTRALIAN FINE MINERAL SHOW

Saturday 5th December, 2015 10am to 5pm

ONE DAY ONLY – AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED

At the AUSROX/CRYSTAL UNIVERSE SHOWROOMS

202 Turner Street, Port Melbourne, Victoria

Featuring newly prepared Broken Hill specimens from the MILTON LAVERS COLLECTION and other superb Australian & overseas mineral specimens. International and Australian Dealers including Crystal Classics (England), Ausrox (Australia), Trinity Minerals (USA), Allan Arnold (ACT), Dehne & Maureen's Minerals (TAS) and Terry Hogarth & Lynne Webb (NSW).

Enquiries (03) 96461744 or *rob@crystaluniverse.com.au*

The 1st Annual SYDNEY CRYSTAL SHOW

Over Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th December from 9.00am to 5.00pm each day

To be held in the Fraser Park Pavilion, 100 Marrickville Road, Marrickville
(Close to the Sydenham Train Station), Less than 10 klm from the CBD!

'Two full days of incredible natural wonders from Australia's leading mineral, fossil & jewellery merchants. Join us for the best crystal show in town! Amazing natural wonders; Minerals, Crystals, Fossils, Jewellery, Gems, Lapidary Supplies & more, all in one place and just before Christmas. Lock in the dates & tell your mates! An oresome event for all ages!'

SALE OF MINERAL COLLECTION BY SILENT AUCTION.

Ken Mitchell is selling his mineral collection which will be on display in his garage at 81 Fern Street, Gerringong, NSW. 2534, on the south coast 120 klms from Sydney.

The sale will be conducted by silent auction and offers will close on 4th April 2016. The collection is for sale to the highest bidder and the person whose offer is the highest monetary value, [if its meets or is above the reserve], will win the ENTIRE collection. It may be viewed at any time from the present to April 3rd 2016 by appointment. Ken should be contacted to make arrangements to view the collection.

Ken's contact details are : - Home: 0242341448, mobile:0448724211.

Please leave a message or e-mail : - *kandmitchell@aapt.net.au*

All persons who wish to make a bid should ensure that their bid is sent in before the closing date and must place their offer into a sealed envelope. The envelopes will be placed in a sealed container and on April 4th 2016 Ken will be opening the envelopes and checking the bids.

The highest offer may not be not be the winner, as it may not meet the reserve price.

The Collection consists of:-

Mt Isa Fluorite, Epimorphs, Quartz crystals with inclusions: from Ken's location.

Quartz crystals, Rosettes and more from Tom's Mountain, Mt Isa Inlier.

Mt Lidster, Hematitic Quartz, Mt Isa Inlier.

Quartz crystals from new localities in Mt Isa Inlier.

Fluorite in Quartz Crystals: Soldiers Cap, Cloncurry.

Skeletal Quartz: Beyond the Graves, Wee McGregor, Mt Isa.

Amethyst: Kuridala, Cloncurry.

Rare Drusy Quartz on calcite, Purlawaugh, NSW.

Stellerite Plus, Tambar Springs area.

Prehnite, Mullaley, NSW.

Broken Hill Minerals.

Brazilian Minerals.

Namibian Minerals.

Shatter Cones and Melt rock from Australian Meteorite Impact Sites.

Many other specimens are available.

90% of my Collection is self-collected.

Look forward to hearing from you all soon.

Cheers Ken
