



THE
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF
NEW SOUTH WALES INC

C/o School of Natural Science
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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017

The September Meeting will be held on Friday the 1st of September at 7.30 pm in the clubrooms of the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club at 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville.

The program will comprise a lecture to be given by three speakers on

‘Quartz Crystals from the Manuka Silver Project, Cobar District’

By Ian Graham, Angela Lay and Stephen Harris.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

- October 6th: Lecture on ‘**Searching for Gold in Kalimantan**’ by Mark Walford.
November 3rd: Program to be confirmed.
December 1st: **Christmas Social and Swap n’ Sell.**

The Society does not hold General Meetings in January and the first Meeting in 2018 will be on February the 2nd. Meetings will be held on the first Friday of each subsequent month throughout the year.

February 2nd 2018: Lecture to be given on ‘**Tolwong – Collecting for Mountain Goats**’ by three speakers, Dieter Mylius, David Colchester and Ed Zbik

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AUGUST 4th 2017

The 2017 A.G.M. was held in the clubrooms of the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club and attended by a little over forty members comprising a quorum. The Meeting was opened by the Society President, Dieter Mylius. There were a few announcements.

The President reminded members that the Committee had determined there was no reason for members not to bring small amounts of **minerals for sale** at any Meetings throughout the year and in fact regular sales would provide and enhance interest before the scheduled program.

Ed Zbik reported that there were several **Field Trips** scheduled over the next few months. The first one would be over September the 16th and 17th to Muttama and the McAlpine mine near Gundagai. The previous week a party of thirteen members had visited the Lowes Mt State Forest site again and recovered an amount of material. One specimen of vesuvianite from the site had been donated to the Australia Museum by Denis O'Brien, Society member from Orange. Finally, Ed reported, two more members had received their Society Work Safety certifications.

Graham Ogle reported on the **Micro-Mineral Group** meetings, the next one of which would be held in a week's time at John Chapman's house on the theme of 'Cobar Area Minerals'. Graham stressed that any members were welcome to attend the meetings which are held every month in various member's houses and if anyone wished to be kept informed of the dates for the meetings they should speak to him to be placed on an e-mail list.

Albert Falzon addressed the Meeting to recommend a vote of thanks to the Committee for the previous year's organising all activities including the Micro-Mineral Group meetings which he had found very interesting and informative.

Peter Beckwith reminded members of the forthcoming **Carlingford Gem and Mineral Fair** being held over the last weekend of this month. The Society would be setting up a stand at the Fair.

The President turned to a suggestion which had been raised at the previous General Meeting in July and communicated to members through the Newsletter about **changing the starting time** or possibly the day of the monthly Meetings to help avoid traffic congestion problems in the early evening. The suggestion was to start the meetings later at 8.00 pm. and whilst the President stressed that there would be no final or binding decision made at this time he asked for a show of hands to indicate the general feelings of the members present. The first option presented was whether members would not mind either a 7.30 or 8.00 pm starting time and a number present indicated that they would not mind either time. When asked to indicate whether they would actually prefer the Meeting to start at 8.00 pm or keep it to 7.30 a clear majority indicated their preferences to retain the starting time of 7.30 pm. Another option was presented to change the Meeting date to Saturday but the members overwhelmingly opted for keeping the day to Friday.

With no further announcements to be made the President turned to the official proceedings of the A.G.M. and delivered his Report for the previous year.

President's Report 2017

Well, 2016-17 has passed in a flash it seems, with yet another great year for the Mineralogical Society of NSW. It was year number 42.

We seem to have weathered our move to our new digs without too much drama and even provided new chairs for the venue.

I believe our Friday night programs have been fun, informative and well-presented and I thank all who participated in talks, minitalks, quizzes and other items, very much. Thank you to John Chapman especially, who has taken over from Jim Sharpe in keeping the program fresh and interesting.

Likewise thank you to all who helped in catering to our stomachs and dry throats in various ways, as well as those that come early, and stay late, to set up, and return the room to an "as found" state.

As you will hear in a few moments, financially we are in great shape, and I believe, we still will not need to raise the subs. I'm sure we all thank Graham Ogle for so ably fitting the role of treasurer into his busy life.

For those want to go out and hit rocks, Ed has provided plenty of opportunity to fossick around and do some visiting. We are in awe of the effort he puts in, trying to get us into places, but I secretly believe he enjoys it. He tried to get us back to Tolwong, but the happily weather was on our side. Let's see if he succeeds this year.

Also remember, for those have not done so, Ed is continuing to encourage members to obtain their Safe Work Methods certificates, another of his initiatives. These remind us to be safety conscious on trips, but we also hope they will help us gain access to working sites that would normally be closed to us.

Our library is starting to come together again, to be housed in the lapidary club library, and Ed, Peter, David and others are working to get that happening.

The micro mineral group continues to meet each month at various members houses, and has succeeded in submitting part 1 of the Tolwong saga to the AJM to be published. A bit of spit and polish is needed, but it's just about there. The group is very mobile travelling between Dapto and Tenambit in the Hunter Valley, with Graham Ogle our ever-enthusiastic convenor.

The list of special and out of the ordinary things the Society does has not diminished. The February Kids with Cancer sales continues to be well supported, the May auction saw many lovely specimens find new homes, and Christmas was its usual crowded event with many helpers pitching in to make it a great night.

It's encouraging to welcome new members to the Society, and hope more will follow. And if any member would like to help steer this little boat, remember, serving on the committee is not onerous.

Speaking of the committee, a big thank you to all on the committee for performing your various roles, mostly with a smile and good humour. But behind us all, is George, our secretary. He does a huge amount of work, all the stuff that just happens, picks us up when we make mistakes or forget things, and has a corporate history of the society like no other. George we thank you.

Finally, I thank you, our members, for being here each month, for being part of Mineralogical Society of NSW and for sharing your interest, passion and knowledge of minerals with each other. Just being here is encouraging to your fellow members.

I wish the incoming committee a successful year ahead.

Dieter Mylius
August 2017

The President then called upon the Society Treasurer, Graham Ogle, to deliver the Annual Report for the previous financial year.

**MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.
ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017
FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

<u>Funds in hand:</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2015-16</u>
1. Balance in Operating account CBA # 06 2016 28023647 @ 30 th June 2017	\$7,915.26	\$6,128.41
2. Funds in CBA Term Deposit 1 – Betty Mayne Bequest	\$31,966.32	\$31,966.32

3. Funds in CBA Term Deposit 2 – Edna Walker Bequest	\$64,627.23	\$63,392.58
4. Cash in Hand	\$46.00	\$46.00
5. Total Funds at 30 th June, 2017	\$104,554.81	\$101,533.31
<u>Increase in funds</u>	<u>\$3,021.50</u>	<u>\$54.47</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Membership subscriptions	\$2,890.00	\$2,755.00
Supper donations and mineral sales	\$1,112.90	\$1,096.15
Sale for Kids with Cancer	\$1,395.00	\$1,600.00
George Smith book sales + \$40 other	\$688.80	\$165.00
Interest on Operating account	\$27.64	\$37.54
Interest on term deposit into main account	\$993.67	\$990.96
Interest on term deposit into term deposit	\$1,234.65	\$1,732.06
	<u>Total \$8,342.66</u>	<u>\$8,376.01</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Supper items, 40 th anniversary	\$1,058.86	\$3,049.79
Rent – hall hire	\$330.00	\$270.00
Transfer of money raised for Kids with Cancer	\$1,395.00	\$1,600.00
Printing, postage, stationery etc.	\$560.14	\$567.95
Subs, PL ins./ Dept Fair Trading/PAI/Speaker/Website etc. also chairs	\$1,977.16	\$2,834.40
	<u>Total \$5,321.16</u>	<u>\$8,322.14</u>
<u>Income – Expenditure</u>	\$3,021.50	\$54.47
<u>Liabilities</u>	\$0	\$0
<u>Other Assets</u>		
Estimated value based on 10% depreciation pa.		
Mineral trimmer	\$21	
Display cabinets	\$149	
Library	\$656	
Microscope	\$70	
George Smith books	\$1,185 approx.	
<u>Total fixed assets</u>	<u>\$2,081</u>	

The above statement indicates that the Society is in a sound financial position

The accounts have been examined and confirmed by Jim Sharpe.

**Graham Ogle
Treasurer
4th August, 2017**

The Treasurer handed around copies of the Report, (as above) and proceeded to describe the main features. The Society was in a very strong financial position with substantial reserves due to the two bequests and also with a comfortable balance in the operating (cheque) account.

The Treasurer advised that the Committee was regularly considering what to do with some of the bequest funds, whilst maintaining a good reserve, and would welcome suggestions. There had been some consideration to purchase advanced micro-photographic equipment but unfortunately there was not any such equipment available at the present time 'off-the-shelf' which would be easy to operate and easy to teach others to use. Hopefully with constantly advancing technology some equipment might become available in a few years.

Other equipment which would benefit the Society if compact and easily operable versions became available would be bench-top and portable XRD, (X-Ray Diffraction) and SEM, (Scanning Electron Microscope), instruments. Such instruments used to be found only in research laboratories but by now it was known that some schools in America had bench-top XRDs although such versions might not be robust enough for Society use. However it was encouraging that the technology was getting there.

After his comments on possible future purchases the Treasurer read through the Financial Report noting that Society income, as is usual, was derived mainly from membership subscriptions the figure being slightly higher than the previous year. Other income was also mostly similar to the previous year including the donations for the Kids with Cancer Foundation but with an increase in the number of George Smith books sold. Interest on the bequest term deposits was less since bank rates had been reduced.

Total expenditure was less than the previous 2015/2016 year when a larger amount was spent for refreshments. That increase was due to the Society organising extra refreshments for the 40th year Anniversary Meeting and there were also purchases of library shelving and projection equipment. The Treasurer noted that he had realised that the figure given for 'Subs, PL ins./ Dept Fair Trading ... ' etc on the sheets he had handed around was incorrect due to his apparently not having carried a figure forward accurately but this would be corrected in the final report on the A.G.M.

Overall there had been an increase in funds over the previous year of \$3,021.50. There had also been some increase in the value of the fixed assets due to book and magazine purchases but this had probably been offset by depreciation.

Finally the Treasurer asked if there were any questions about the Report and dealt with some suggestions for possible uses of some of the bequest monies.

The President asked that if there were no more questions and if members had examined the Annual Financial Report they should vote to accept it since a copy had to be sent to the Department of Fair Trading within a month of the A.G.M.

Graham Delaforce proposed that the Annual Financial Report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Gary Sutherland with all in favour.

ELECTION OF THE SOCIETY COMMITTEE FOR 2017 / 2018

Dieter Mylius asked Gary Sutherland, Society member and former President, to assume the task of Returning Officer and to take the chair of the Meeting for the election of the 2017/2018 Society Office-Bearers and Committee members. Gary Sutherland took the opportunity firstly to compliment the retired Committee members for their work over the previous year and also noted the work put in by Jim Sharpe who had organized the Kids with Cancer sale and the May Auction.

The Returning Officer reported that only single nominations had been put forward for the Committee positions and was therefore able to dispense with a ballot. He read out the names and positions of the nominated Committee members and declared them elected unopposed.

PRESIDENT:	Dieter Mylius
VICE-PRESIDENT:	John Chapman
SECRETARY:	George Laking
TREASURER:	Graham Ogle
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Peter Beddow
	David Colchester
	Geoff Parsons
	Simon Tanner
	Edward Zbik

At the conclusion of the election Gary Sutherland recommended that the members offer a round of appreciation to the Committee for their work over the previous year.

In re-assuming the position of Society President and Meeting chairperson Dieter Mylius asked if there was any other business relevant to the A.G.M. and there being none, declared the 2017 Society Annual General Meeting proceedings concluded.

The President then introduced the lecture program for the evening. It has been long established that the lecture given after the A.G.M. was concluded would be a premier keynote presentation for the year and has now become called the **Mayne-Walker Memorial Lecture**.

Betty Mayne had joined the Society in the mid-1980s. She was a keen collector of gemstones, minerals, rocks and fossils and proved to be an enthusiastic and resourceful Society member. After a short time Betty joined the Committee becoming Secretary and then President for two years bringing to both positions her considerable organising skills including presiding over the June 1991 Joint Mineralogical Societies Annual Seminar. Sadly she passed away only about a month after the Seminar. In her will she stipulated that her collection should be auctioned and the proceeds divided equally between the Mineralogical Society and the Friends of the Geological and Mining Museum, (FOGAMM). The Society set up a trust fund with the bequest with the interest being used from time to time to fund projects which the Committee has deemed appropriate. In appreciation of the benefactor the Memorial Lectures were established in 1992 after a suggestion by the late Professor Laurie Lawrence and have been held every year since.

A few years ago the title of the Memorial Lectures was extended to include the names of Edna and Harold Walker. They were very different people to Betty Mayne. Edna and her brother Harold were very regular attendees at Society Meetings for many years up to the mid-2000s and whilst they did not drive and were not in the best of health they made a point of attending most Society Meetings, as well as many field trips and other events. They passed away, Harold in 2011 and Edna in 2012 and in her will Edna bequeathed a substantial portion of her estate to the Society. Accordingly it has been deemed most appropriate for the Society to commemorate their names with the Memorial Lectures.

The President then asked the Vice-President, John Chapman, to introduce the speaker for the evening.

Lee Spencer graduated from the University of N.S.W. having been a student there under Professor Laurie Lawrence and studying the Torrington area. Subsequently he moved to work in industry and conducting mineral exploration in various places throughout the Asia-Pacific area, in PNG and Indonesia, searching for sources of valuable minerals including diamonds. He had previously lectured to the Society on 'Diamond Prospecting in Indonesia'. He is now semi-retired and spends an amount of his time fishing but also travels, having retained a strong interest in minerals and takes the opportunity to collect specimens from all over the World.

‘Up the Irrawaddy’

Lee Spencer

Lee Spencer introduced his lecture by stating that in having worked for many years throughout the Asia-Pacific area and particularly Indonesia, in studying and exploring the geology there he had noted that it continued up into Burma so visiting the country was a natural progression. Over the period from 2000 to 2003 he had visited the country several times to examine gemstone mining areas. The premier gemstone area in Burma is Mogok which has produced some of the World's best rubies and sapphires but also a range of other gemstones and some rare minerals. Aably assisted by his son Lachlan operating the projector the speaker proceeded to describe his visits to Mogok in the process displaying and describing a large number of images, of the country and mining activities but mostly of very fine quality gemstones.

Burma has been known with some contention as Myanmar after a military government was established in 1962 and in 1989 changed the name of the country although many other authorities always used the old name. Under the military government there were severe restrictions on foreigners obtaining access to the country however the speaker was able to arrange a number of visits to the country over the period of from 2000 to 2003. At that time there were a number of permits which had to be obtained, photography was restricted and outsiders had to be accompanied by an armed police guard at all times. Latterly, after a change of government in 2010 and the introduction of a degree of democracy the restrictions have been lifted fairly substantially.

During his lecture Lee Spencer showed and described a large number of photographs which he had managed to take during his visits over the 2000 to 2003 period. The first images showed where the country is located, the speaker noting that there was a population of some 53 million people divided up into a number of ethnic and national groups including Chinese, Indians and Malays. The geography of the country is dominated by the Irrawaddy River which runs from north to south and is over two thousands kilometres in length, arising in the hinterland of the Himalayas where the highest peaks are at about 5,000 meters. The delta of the river covers an enormous area and is extending southwards by about 50 meters a year. On images of maps of the country the locations of a few of the cities were pointed out, Yangon, the old Rangoon, in the delta and further up river, Mandalay and about 200 klm further north Mogok, which was in the area of main interest to the speaker during his visits.

Lee Spencer next provided a brief synopsis of the history of Burma which before the British colonial administration was comprised of a number of monarchies which tended to be in continual conflicts. From the early 1800s British interests at first in the form of the British East India Company started moving into the country with the British colonial authorities eventually establishing complete control by 1886. One of the concerns of the British at the time was to counteract French influence, the French having established themselves in Indochina and were felt likely to attempt to expand to the west. British control of Burma involved three major wars which at the time were one of the biggest drains on British funds.

Once British control was established mining interests expanded throughout the country including in the Mogok area which had long received the attention of local people conducting alluvial mining for sapphire and rubies with primitive methods and no mechanisation. By the late 1890s the British were fairly well involved in the production of rubies from the Mogok district with their mining continuing up to 1931 whereas small-scale mining by locals has continued. In describing travelling to Mogok Lee Spencer made reference to the Rudyard Kipling poem, *‘The Road to Mandalay’*. The ‘Road’ in the poem - and subsequently, has been the Irrawaddy River itself which has long been a major highway. The speaker on his visits had to travel up the river to Mandalay which takes about nine hours and then by car for another six hours over very rough (land) roads to Mogok. Today direct to Mogok air flights have replaced many of the river and road routes.

During the British administration of the country Burma was quite rich producing a range of gemstones, notably rubies and sapphires but also spinels, tourmalines, peridot and amethyst. Other minerals included jade, tin, copper, tungsten, lead, silver and gold. There is even oil and some diamonds.

A number of views around Mogok were displayed including such older buildings as the British Colonial ruby mining company offices and there were Buddhist temples everywhere. The city is quite large with a population of about three hundred thousand and at an elevation of about a thousand meters has a fairly pleasant climate. A large number of images of fine ruby and sapphire stones which have been produced from the area were projected, images of other mineral crystals such as tourmaline, including the unusual 'mushroom tourmaline', views of the rock types from which the stones have been recovered, views of the mining sites and of the miners working the deposits. The speaker had visited some of the dealers operating in the area and further images were shown of small but valuable piles of rubies and sapphires on tables in the dealer's offices.

Apart from taking a large number of photographs on his visits to the Mogok area Lee Spencer had collected a number of specimens of the various gemstones and displayed yet more images of these. He finally displayed a few images of unusual and rare minerals such as painite, (a calcium, zirconium, aluminium borate), which has only been found in Mogok, vanadium-coloured tourmaline and uranium-bearing minerals.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE 40th JOINT MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES OF AUSTRALASIA ANNUAL SEMINAR

The 2017 40th Seminar will be held in the Hahndorf Tourist Park & Lakeview Conference Centre at Hahndorf, near Adelaide, S.A. over Wednesday to Friday the 4th to 6th of October and is being hosted this year by the **Mineralogical Society of South Australia**.

The Theme will be '**Copper Minerals - Copper State**'

The entire seminar will run from Saturday the 30th of September to Friday the 6th of October.

There are a number of field collecting excursions arranged for participants before and after the seminar, as well as the Adelaide Gem & Mineral Show and other activities.

'The formal proceedings, opening address and lecture program will take place over the two days of Wednesday the 4th and Thursday the 5th of October with various activities including field trips scheduled from October 1st through to the 6th. Additional field trips are planned for the 9th – 14th October to the north of S.A, and to locations and collections in and around Broken Hill.

The Seminar will be based in the historic German settled village of Hahndorf, only 30 minutes' drive by car from Adelaide City. A range of accommodation options are available including at the seminar venue. The theme of 'Copper Minerals - Copper State' has been selected in view of South Australia's early copper mining history. A number of field trips to copper, uranium and phosphate deposits are currently being planned. There are a number of tourist-interest places to visit in the region including dozens of wineries.'

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GEMKHANA 2017

The Gemkhana will be held again this year in the Hawkesbury Showgrounds at Clarendon near Richmond over Saturday to Monday, the 30th of September and the 1st and 2nd of October from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday & Sunday, and from 9.00 am to 12 noon on Monday.

The Gemkhana is presented by the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Inc. and is the Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of Lapidaries from all over NSW. Since the venue last year was very successful and geographically convenient to Sydney the Gemkhana is being held again in the Hawkesbury District Showgrounds, at Clarendon. The Showgrounds are directly opposite the RAAF base, on the Windsor Road approximately mid-way between Richmond and Windsor, turn-off on to Racecourse Road. There is unlimited parking in and just outside the Showgrounds which are a fairly short walk from Clarendon railway station.

'Featuring Competition, Exhibitions, Dealers, Demonstrations and Tailgating; Sales of minerals, fossils, jewellery, lapidary equipment, faceting rough stones and slabs, silver work and gem cutting activities.'

ILLAWARRA LAPIDARY CLUB INC

2017 JEWELLERY GEMS & MINERALS FESTIVAL

Sat 4 Nov, 9am – 4pm and Sun 5 Nov, 9am to 2.30pm
At Heininger Hall, Ribbonwood Centre, 109 Princes Hwy, Dapto
Entry: Adults \$3, children under 12 years free

Featuring: Gemstone Faceting, Cabachon Cutting, Silvercrafts, Jewellery Making and Valuations, Mineral Group, Club and Fossicking Information, Refreshments, Raffle and Kid's Games.

Dealers Selling: Lapidary Supplies, Minerals, Jewellery, Crystals, Findings, Fossils. Beads and Opals.

Enquiries: Lynne 0428310697 <http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/>

The **NEWCASTLE LAPIDARY CLUB** is holding their annual

GEM and JEWELLERY FAIR

Over Saturday 11th (9am – 4pm) and Sunday 12th (9am – 3pm) of November at the Newcastle Basketball Stadium, 27 Young Road, Broadmeadow, Newcastle.

'There will be demonstrations of jewellery making, faceting, as well as many stalls selling a variety of tools, jewellery, craft and gems and minerals. This is new venue with more stalls, in an indoor, spacious well-lit location with plenty of all-weather parking. . Parking and Entry are free and there will be canteen facilities available throughout each day.'

Inquiries to Jeff Lewin on Ph (02) 4952 9611, Fax (02) 4952 8057 or email newlap@gmail.com
