

Lake Boga – A notable Australian mineral locality

A summary of a talk given by John Haupt at the Joint Mineralogical Societies Zoom Seminar on 4th October 2020

Lake Boga granite quarry has produced 69 separate mineral species (as listed on MINDAT), by far the most from any Victorian locality. It is the type locality for 4 species. It first came to the attention of collectors in 1975, when specimens of smoky quartz and fluorapatite crystals were found in large cavities in pegmatite veins.

It was during the mid 1980s, when Victorian mineral collectors started identifying many other species that occurred in the quarry. An important site was on the 2nd bench, known by collectors as ulrichite corner. In this area, the granite contained small veins and pods of chalcopyrite surrounding which were a number of different phosphate and uranium minerals. These included the new species, ulrichite, bleasedaleite, lakebogaite & kunatite.



*Collecting in the
Lake Boga quarry 1987.*

The following is a short list of Lake Boga species:

Anatase	Bleasedaleite (TL)	Chalcosiderite
Chlorargyrite	Crandallite	Cyrllovite
Fluorapatite	Kunatite (TL)	Lakebogaite (TL)
Libethenite	Metanatroautunite	Meurigite-(Na)
Natrodufrenite	Pseudomalachite	Rockbridgeite
Saleeite	Sampleite	Strengite
Torbernite	Turquoise	Ulrichite (TL)
Wavellite		

Photographs of some of these species are shown below.

Reference:

Birch, W.D., 1993: Phosphate minerals in granite rocks.

In Birch, W.D. and Henry, D.A. (Eds.) (1993) Phosphate Minerals of Victoria.

Special Publication N°3,

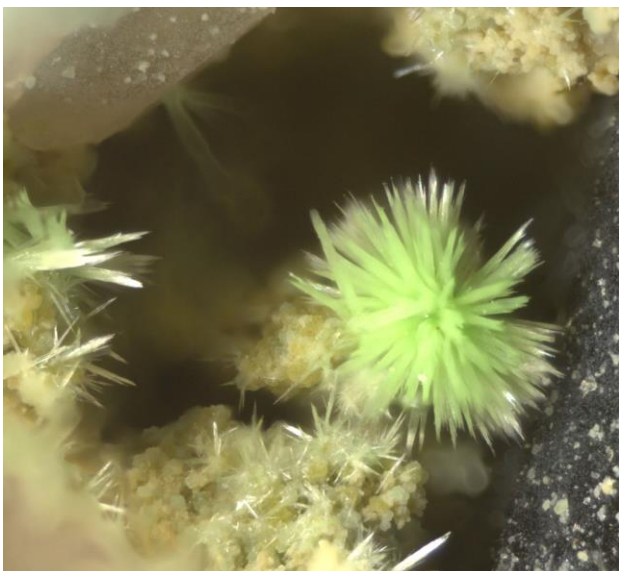
The Mineralogical Society of Victoria, 5-39.



Above: A group of fluorapatite crystals. Specimen 6mm tall.

Below: A parallel intergrowth of lakebogaite crystals. 2mm FV.

Below: A 1mm spray of ulrichite crystals.





*Above: A group of sampleite crystals.
1mm FV.*



*Above: Spheres of lustrous pseudomalachite
crystals. 1mm FV.*

*Right: Tabular saleeite crystals to 2mm
with a small brown monazite-(Ce)? crystal.*



*Below right: Crystals of anatase,
cyrilovite & torbernite. 3mm FV*

*Below: Fibrous 'balls of meurigite-Na.
3mm FV.*

