



THE
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF
NEW SOUTH WALES INC

C/o School of Natural Science
B.C.R.I. Parramatta Campus University of Western Sydney
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NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2015

The August Meeting is the Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and will be held on Friday the 7th of August 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.

2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. will commence at 7.30 p.m. with the President's report for 2014/2015 followed by the Treasurer's report and presentation of the annual financial accounts for 2014/2015 and the election of the Society Committee and office-bearers for 2015/2016.

The minutes of the 2014 A.G.M. were circulated in the September 2014 Newsletter. Copies of this will be available at the 2015 A.G.M. or may be obtained from the Secretary. During the A.G.M. any other business may also be raised and discussed.

In accordance with the Society Constitution the entire current Committee retires at the commencement of the A.G.M. and all positions are open for nomination and election. Nomination forms for election to the 2015/2016 Committee were circulated with the July Newsletter and nominations should have been received before the commencement of the A.G.M. A member can be nominated for but cannot hold more than one position. Only financial and Honorary Life members of the Society are eligible for nomination or allowed to participate in any voting.

After the A.G.M. has been concluded the Betty Mayne and Edna Walker Memorial Lecture will be given this year by Noel Kennon on : -

'The History of Broken Hill'

There will be a number of Broken Hill ore specimens available at the Meeting and also a number of early photographs showing the mines and the turmoil of the strikes which occurred at Broken Hill early last century for members to select for \$1 each, paid into the collection box. The funds from the sale of the photographs will be donated to the Kids with Cancer Foundation, Westmead.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

September 4th: **‘The Wonderful World of Micro-Minerals’**. Presented by the Micro-Group.

October 9th : Lecture by David Colchester and John Chapman on : -
(Second Friday) **‘Mudgeeite. Establishing a New Mineral.’**

In order to illustrate and display at the lecture members are 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.

November 6th : Talk by Dieter Mylius on the **Minerals of the Clara Mine**
and a lecture by John Rankin on **‘Aspects of the Block 14 Mine’**.

December 4th : **Christmas Social.**

February 5th 2016: The Society does not hold General Meetings in January, the first Society Meeting in 2016 will be on February the 5th.

FIELD TRIP to Mt TENNYSON

Mt. Tennyson camping Field trip over the weekend of the 8/9th August 2015

Open to all members. (Ski gear optional)

Entry Fee \$20.00 per person for two days with optional camping at Mt Tennyson. Entry fee includes fire wood and toilets.

Alternate bricked accommodation can be found at Tarana, Rydal or Lithgow.

Mt Tennyson is being sold with the new owner building their house and gardens around the Mammoth Mine so this may be the last chance to access this area.

Those with UV lamps may prospect at night in waning moonlight.

To attend, contact Ed Zbik at etzed@optusnet.com.au or phone (02) 9638 6586 for more details.

Additional Field Trips

September 18th/20th Muttama ~100km west of Yass

Open to all members, Joint field trip with Illawarra Lapidary Club; (not quite Herkimer Diamonds).

October 24th /25th Mogo State Forest

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

November 21st/22nd Mudgee (date to be confirmed)

SWMS compliant and competent Members only.

December 12th/13th Diamond Hill

Open to all members; Mo-skarn; Oberon base

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

As previously advised, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the formation of the **Mineralogical Society of N.S.W.** and it has been decided to hold a formal commemorative dinner at the Ryde-Eastwood Club at 117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde, on Wednesday the 30th of September. It is hoped that a number of the earliest members of the Society will be able to attend the function as well as all, (or as many as possible), current members. A nominal fee of \$40 per person will be requested with the Society subsidizing costs in excess of this including providing an amount of wine per table. Registration in advance would be needed since obviously the Club if not the Society would need to know the precise number of attendees in order to organise the catering. Further details to follow.

The JULY MEETING

At the commencement of the July meeting the Society President, Dieter Mylius, reminded members that the August Meeting would be the **Society A.G.M.** and recommended that members consider whether they would wish to contribute to the Society's organisation by offering to accept nomination to the Committee. Anyone interested in joining the Committee was advised to discuss this with any of the current members.

The **Micro-Mineral Group** was holding a meeting at John Behren's house the following Saturday and the Group would be studying 'Minerals Collected on Recent Field Trips'.

Ed Zbik explained about some of the on-going work he was conducting to organise **Field Trips** having managed after some months of negotiations to arrange another visit to Mt Tennyson in early August. This would unfortunately probably be the last one to be made, at least for some time, since the property was in the process of changing ownership and Ed Zbik had no indication that the new owners would allow subsequent visits. Other trips being organised included a visit to limestone quarries in the Mudgee area in November which would be held to coincide with the Meeting lecture to be given describing the finding of the new mineral 'mudgeeite', (not yet officially named), from the Mt Knowles quarry.

Ed Zbik also described the **SWMS**, Safe Work Methods Statements that he had been arranging with those members who had completed the associated questionnaires. The Statements had been compiled by Ed after consultation with the Department of Mines and **Certificates of Compliance** printed several of which were handed out at the Meeting. The Statements would allow the compliant members to apply to enter mining or quarrying properties which were currently being operated by indicating to the property management that members had been instructed and agreed to safety regulations.

Bob Meyer-Gleaves reported that the **Emerald Mine** at **Torrington** had been filled in and rehabilitated. Jeremy Taylor-Edwards advised that he had visited the site some time previously and had photographed the area thoroughly. Possibly a selection of the photographs of the site before and after rehabilitation could be shown to a Meeting.

Brian Holden drew member's attention to the forthcoming Mining Expo '**AIMEX**' which would be held over the 1st to 4th of September in the Showgrounds at Olympic Park in Homebush. The exhibition would feature substantial displays of mining and related equipment.

‘A Visit to a Mineral Collection in Vienna’

Geoff Parsons

Geoff Parsons has worked for ANSTO for some fifteen years and in the course of his work takes a business trip to Europe about once a year. In doing so he usually makes a point of taking with him a box with a few Australian mineral specimens including some of sampleite to help him make contact and trade with European collectors. In visiting Vienna over the course of several trips and looking for mineral shops he had gradually established a few contacts and made friends. In one of the shops he had seen a specimen of sampleite, ‘of only average quality’ on a shelf with a price of €120. The proprietor advised that the specimen had been obtained in Tucson and he knew that he had “probably paid too much for it”.

Making contacts with mineral dealers in Vienna had led to Geoff Parsons being invited to view two private collections in the city and he was able to show a number of images of the cabinets, minerals and the collectors. On one of his visits the speaker was able to trade a specimen of sampleite for one of parsonsite providing him with the only sample he has of the mineral carrying his name.

(Parsonsite is a lead, uranium, phosphate and was first described in 1923 from a find in the Shinkolobwe Mine, Katanga, Congo. It was named for mineralogist Arthur Leonard Parsons (1873–1957) of the University of Toronto, Canada).

Another series of images were shown by the speaker of a visit he made to the Natural History Museum in Vienna. This is what he described as a ‘classic old-time’ museum, very old-style with areas somewhat dark due to limited lighting. Notably for the speaker the museum had a sample of parsonsite on display. Other exhibits in the Museum included a fine display of Colombian emeralds. One of the final images shown was of the International Atomic Energy Agency building. Visiting the IAEA in Vienna in the course of his work was the official reason for the speaker’s trip.

As an item of interest to members but separately from speaking about his visits to Vienna Geoff Parsons displayed an old dolly pot which he had found on the occasion of the last Society field trip to the Belmore mine. Another collecting interest of the speaker was displayed by means of two old bricks with the manufacturer’s initials moulded into the side. One was made for the Mt Morgan gold mine in Queensland and the other originally made in Scotland but imported and used at the Dee Copper Mine, also in the Mt Morgan area.

‘The Creative Power of Groundwater’

Peter Williams

Peter Williams referred to water as effectively the ‘universal solvent’ and noted that it is involved in mineralogy in very many and some surprising ways. Chemically about twenty forms and structures of water are known with another one having been discovered very recently. In spite of a great deal of work that has been performed on water we still do not know everything about its properties. Most mineralising events involve water and even deep in the Earth’s mantle hundreds of kilometers deep there are processes occurring which involve the chemistry of water.

Referring to the first of a number of images the speaker pointed out a photograph of some stalactites in Jenolan Caves which had formed due to the major contribution of water, seeping very slowly, dissolving, moving and then re-crystallising the calcite.

The speaker proceeded to describe in some detail various of the chemical processes which will occur to minerals in the presence of water and with or without the presence or movement of oxygen. Alternatively other examples referred to were situations where water was not available to influence the mineralogy in spite of the presence of oxygen such as in parts of the Atacama Desert which is one of the driest places on earth. The virtual absence of water in the Atacama has produced unusual minerals, different to those which would form in a more water-containing environment. Other mineralized areas referred to were the lead and chromium deposits around Dundas in Tasmania where depending on a number of conditions including the prevailing pH but notably the amount of water and oxygen, different minerals might form. Deeper underground other factors such as temperature and pressure become more significant.

Peter Williams next referred to some of the physical properties of water noting that the boiling point of 100°C at sea level is influenced by the air pressure which would be a lot less at the top of Mt Everest, (about 68°C). Conversely if the pressure around boiling water is increased it will remain liquid at higher temperatures, - up to a point where it becomes a 'super-critical' fluid with different physical and chemical properties to normal water.

The speaker finally referred to the movement and development of minerals of the refractory elements such as tin, tungsten, niobium, tantalum, and titanium. These elements may be supposed to be insoluble in water but under conditions of different temperatures and pressures and particularly in the presence of reactive ions such as fluoride various minerals can form.

At the end of his lecture Peter Williams answered a number of questions, stressing at some points that not all the properties of water and its interaction with other substances have yet been sorted out but that of course, research continues.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE CRYSTAL FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY 'THE LITTLE ROCK SHOP' OURIMBAH, CENTRAL COAST N.S.W

To be held in the Gosford Showgrounds over Saturday & Sunday the 15th & 16th of August.

Enquiries to Rob Scott, The Crystal Festival, PO Box 365 Ourimbah NSW 2258.

Telephone 02 4362 3626, mobile 0405 904 881 or e-mail thelittlerockshop123@gmail.com

A **Trader Expression Of Interest Form** has been provided by the organiser and can be e-mailed or hard copies provided either by the organiser as above or from the Secretary, George Laking.

BLAXLAND GEM & MINERAL CLUB GEM SHOW

Over Saturday and Sunday the 15th & 16th of August 2015

In the Glenbrook Community Hall, Great Western Highway, Glenbrook, NSW
(Next to Glenbrook Theatre) Just west of Information Centre.

Displays of lapidary work and gem, mineral and crystal sales. Refreshments available.

8 am to 4 pm Daily Entry: Adults: \$3 Children \$1

CUMBERLAND GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Over Saturday and Sunday the 23rd and 24th of August, 9.30 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 9.30 am to 4.00 p.m. on Sunday in the Roselea Community Centre, Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford.

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 of mineral specimens, cut & polished stones, carvings & gemstones.

AIMEX 2015

ASIA-PACIFIC'S INTERNATIONAL MINING EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION

'The largest mining equipment exhibition in the Asia-Pacific region – will be held from Tuesday to Friday, 10 am to 5 pm, (4 pm on Friday), from the 1st to the 4th of September 2015 at the Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park'

'Held once every two years and firmly established on the international mining industry calendar, AIMEX is the flagship event within the portfolio of established industrial trade fairs staged by Reed Exhibitions, Australia's leading exhibition organiser.'

Visitors to the Exhibition would need to register in advance with Reed Exhibitions Australia Pty Ltd, Tower 2, 475 Victoria Avenue Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia (0)2 9422 2500.

E-mail: reply@news.reedminingevents.com.au

WHITE CLIFFS GEMFEST AND CAR BOOT SALE

In the White Cliffs Community Hall.

From 9.00am to 5.00pm Saturday and Sunday the 26th & 27th of September 2015

For further information contact Jane Stevenson on 0438 790 510, e-mail wema2015@hotmail.com

The Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables & Lapidary Club Inc presents the

BATHEX 2015 EXHIBITION & BATHURST BICENTENARY

'The Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History Exhibition'

'NSW Central West's biggest collectables triennial event'

Over Saturday and Sunday the 26th and 27th of September in the Bathurst Showgrounds, Sydney Road, Bathurst. There will be interstate & NSW dealers offering a range of Australian & world stamps, coins, & accessories, as well as competitive stamp and coin displays in the regional show.

The **Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables & Lapidary Club Inc** has over 150 members with interests not only in stamp collecting and philately but also coins, bank notes, lapidary work, rock and

mineral collecting and many other collectables. Whilst there would be some minerals and lapidary work on display and for sale at the Bathex Show there will clearly be a large range of other collectables.

Selling Space Applications, Dealers and Tailgating Enquiries or Bookings Application forms and charges at the Bathex Show can be obtained from : -

Ernst Holland, BATHEX 2015 Co-Ordinator, on telephone 02 63373661 or e-mail ernst.holland@bigpond.com

Alan McRae, Secretary, Telephone 63315404 - evening is best, - or email amcrae@lisp.com.au

Or write to the Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club Applications, PO Box 1351, Bathurst NSW 2795.

GEMKHANA 2015

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.'

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

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 !'
