



## THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

Website: [www.minsocnsw.org.au](http://www.minsocnsw.org.au)

Please address all correspondence to :-  
The Secretary, 58 Amazon Road, Seven Hills, NSW 2147

### NEWSLETTER      DECEMBER 2018

**The December Meeting will be held on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December at 7.30 pm in the clubrooms of the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club at 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville.**

### CHRISTMAS SOCIAL and SWAP N' SELL

The Christmas Social will comprise the sale or exchange of mineral specimens and mineralogical material, books, magazines and equipment. The Meeting will be officially opened at 7.30 pm possibly with a few announcements but the Club rooms would be open from about 6.30 pm to allow time for members with material for sale to get set up. Members intending to sell at the Social may advise the Secretary in advance of their requirement for an amount of table space which can be reserved for them.

There will be a comprehensive range of snack food refreshments and drinks including a pizza delivery at about 8.00 pm. Members, guests and visitors attending the Christmas Social will be charged \$10 upon entry towards the cost of the refreshments. There will be a lucky door prize awarded by raffle. Tickets will be issued to each person as they arrive and pay their \$10. Please make sure you receive one.

In expectation that a larger number of people would be attending the Christmas Social than other meetings, with extra food available and being consumed and minerals being moved about members are **particularly asked not to place any objects on the Lapidary Club display cases around the room.**

Members are reminded that the Society Committee has previously determined that anyone attending the Christmas Social who was not currently financial **may buy but would not be allowed to sell minerals.** Any members who were unsure of their current financial status could pay their subscriptions for 2019 from now on and they would then be taken as financial.

**2019 Membership:** Members intending to pay subscription renewals are asked to pay by direct-debiting as much as possible instead of assailing the Secretary of Treasurer at the Christmas Social with payments when they would prefer to be looking at minerals. The direct-debiting details are provided on a membership renewal form which will accompany this Newsletter. Members are asked to fill out a form particularly if any of their addresses, telephone number/s or e-mail details have changed and e-mail, post or hand it to the Secretary or Treasurer at a Meeting. Please keep the Society up-to-date with this information.

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### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

**2019:** The Society does not hold General Meetings in January and the first Meeting in 2019 will be on February the 1st. Meetings will be held on the first Friday of each subsequent month through the year unless the first Friday is before a long weekend when the Meeting would be put back one week.

The program for the February 2019 Meeting will include the lecture to be given by Glen Cathers on : -

**‘The Sepon Copper Mine, Laos’.**

There will also be the annual **Kids with Cancer** sale of donated specimens held during the February meeting. Members are invited to look through their collections for any surplus minerals which could be donated for the sale. Jim Sharpe can be informed in advance about specimens being donated so that a list can be compiled and circulated before the Meeting although this is not essential and sale material could be brought in on the evening. Donors are asked to provide a label on each specimen including the recommended sale price.

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**The SOCIETY COMMITTEE**

PRESIDENT:	Dieter Mylius	Tel: (02) 9477 1060
	E-mail:	<i>dieterm@internode.on.net</i>
VICE-PRESIDENT:	John Chapman	Tel: (02) 9808 3481
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	E-mail:	<i>quartzandsirius@hotmail.com.</i>
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Peter Beddow	Tel: (02) 8810 8446
	David Colchester	Tel: (02) 9449 3862
	Geoff Parsons	Tel: (02) 9548 3289
	Simon Tanner	
	Edward Zbik	Tel: (02) 9638 6586
	E-mail:	<i>ecjz@optusnet.com.au</i>

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**WELCOME**

Welcome to new member Maddy Dawes of Westleigh

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**The NOVEMBER MEETING**

The November Meeting was opened by the Vice-President, John Chapman in the absence of the President, Dieter Mylius who was on holiday in Europe.

Graham Ogle reported that the **Society Micro-Mineral Group** would be holding the November meeting in the Lapidary Club. Due to the increasing number of members attending the meetings causing the member's houses to become fairly congested it had been decided to start holding the meetings at the Club possibly on alternative months at the Club and a member's house, subject to arrangement with the Club management. Meetings would continue to be held every month, excluding December, usually on the second Saturday.

Anyone interested in attending the meetings or wishing to be kept informed of forthcoming ones were urged to ask Graham Ogle to include their names on the mailing list and they would then be notified by e-mail of the date, venue and theme of a meeting.

Ed Zbik reminded members about the forthcoming **Field Trip** over the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of November weekend when a party would visit the **GeoScience Australia** museum in Canberra on Saturday afternoon when they would be shown around the basement mineral archive. On Sunday the party would be exploring fossicking sites in the Paddy's river area. Trip attendees would be at liberty to make accommodation arrangements in the Canberra area or camp overnight in the Cotter reserve near to Paddy's River. The trip was open to all members.

Ed also advised that the **Society Library** was available to members to borrow books and magazines and described the borrowing procedure. A book recording borrowings was provided and the member should enter their name and the item being borrowed in the record book.

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## MEMBER'S NIGHT

John Chapman introduced the program of the evening which was intended to present a number of stories provided by members on aspects of their mineralogical and collecting interests. The presentations would be illustrated by specimens brought in to display by the speakers and by projected images of specimens, collecting locations and mineralogical events.

The Member's Night was a very full evening with over a dozen contributors speaking, many at length, about their display specimens and further generally providing a large amount of information about their collecting experiences. The speakers initially referred to notable or significant specimens which they had brought in to display and as the specimens were being described they were photographed by John Chapman with the images being projected on a screen. Also as the contributors were speaking other members offered extra useful information and comments.

John Behrens spoke first to describe a field trip he had made with members of the Parramatta Lapidary Club in the late 1980s to the Murrurundi area when they got into conversation with a local person who invited them to look at his collection at his home in a nearby town, Blandford. The collector had a shed full of rocks including some large pieces of red agate. Upon being asked where these had come from the answer was that they had been obtained from the 'Elephant Shop'. At that time the Lapidary Club people had not heard of the Elephant Shop but were later able to visit and engage in discussion with the proprietors who at the time had large amounts of Indian zeolite specimens which they had been buying by the kilo. There were also large amounts of polished agate slices and other collectables. To John Behren's knowledge the shop is still in operation although there had been a change of ownership a few years ago. (*The Elephant Shop - Freemans Drive at Cooranbong*).

In the Blandford collector's shed other specimens which caught the visitor's notice were some pieces of impressive calcite with natrolite which the local, who was a bulldozer and grader driver for the Murrurundi council, had picked up off a back road which he had been in the process of widening. There had only been one large piece of the rock exposed by the road work. It had broken open and the Lapidary club members were able to take away several pieces one of which had been brought in by John Behrens to display.

The other speakers included Jeanette Munsell who spoke about a large amethyst group which she had brought in to display which had been acquired after a large amount of work digging to some depth at a site in 2002 and Hayley Bambridge described an autunite specimen which she had acquired. Doug Collier had brought in a specimen a number of examples of which have been appearing at sales for some years usually labeled as silicon carbide and which have been taken to be a manufactured material. Greg Willis displayed a wulfenite from Mexico; other contributors were Jenni Wigzell, Fay Grebert, and Peter Green.



Calcite and natrolite, Ardglenn.  
John Behrens specimen.



Wulfenite from Mexico, Greg Willis specimen

Terry van Hoff had brought in several specimens to display and describe, among others a large kunzite crystal from Afghanistan, a fine Uruguay amethyst and an Indian stilbite with calcite. Doug Austen displayed four diamond crystals, each of several carats weight and although not gem quality were worth about \$2,000 each.



Stilbite with calcite from India,  
Terry van Hoff specimen.



Kunzite From Afghanistan,  
Terry van Hoff specimen.

Peter Williams had brought a specimen of pseudomalachite in order to describe what he regarded as an unusual mineral. It has two polymorphs, reichenbachite and ludjibaite and all are copper hydroxy-phosphates with exactly the same formula,  $\text{Cu}_2(\text{CO}_3)(\text{OH})_2$ , but with different crystal structures. Pseudomalachite is not uncommon and has been found in many locations around the World and certainly in Australia, in many sites such as Mt Isa and notably the West Bogan mine which was the origin of the specimen on display. Another site is the Coombing copper mine near Carcoar, N.S.W. where the speaker had also collected.



Pseudomalachite from the West Bogan Mine, Cobar region. Peter Williams specimen, (cat No 0001)



Diamonds, Doug Austen specimens.



In describing his collecting activities at some length Brian Holden also made some recommendations, among others that collectors need to ensure that in field collecting they bring a specimen back home in as good condition as when they first find it. Upon being asked by one of the audience whether it was his experience that sometimes specimens have been found to ‘shrink’ in transit, the speaker and others in the audience agreed that this did seem to happen on occasion!. The speaker also advised that periodically he had made a point of soaking certain of his pyrite specimens in methylated spirit to thoroughly dehydrate and sterilize them to prevent their oxidation and disintegration.

Gary Sutherland had prepared a presentation of several images of specimens in his collection recorded on a ‘USB’ chip which were projected as he spoke. These included an image of a stibnite with impressive striations from the Ichinokawa Mine, Saijo, Shikoku, Japan, and a malachite and azurite from the Peak Downs Mine, Clermont, Queensland, which was operating from 1860-1881. The latter specimen was acquired by the speaker with a large collection owned by Gertrude Thornley who was a member of the Society for a time in the early 1980s and who had been an active and field collector for many years before then. She in turn had obtained the specimen from a Stan Ashley who seems to have been to many of the classic mineral areas in the 1920’s.

Gary further showed images of two antimony minerals which have unusual formations of coiled needles, ‘rings’ or ‘tubes’. He has not been able to find an explanation of the mechanism of formation.



Boulangerite,  $Pb_5Sb_4S_{11}$ , from the Herja Mine, Baia Mare, Maramures Co., Romania. Specimens are normally seen as monoclinic needles, however it is possible to find occasional specimens that also form rings. The method of formation is not clear.



Another mineral containing antimony is Tubulite with the impressive formula  $Ag_2Pb_{22}Sb_{20}S_{53}$ . It is again monoclinic but tends to form tubes or pipes. The mechanism of formation has also not been fully identified.

The final presenter for the evening was Ed Zbik who had travelled to New Zealand during October to visit and attend the 36<sup>th</sup> Micro-Mineral Symposium held at MiCamp – Whakamaru, North Island, N.Z. over the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October. The Symposium is an annual event run by the New Zealand Micro Mineral Group and alternates between North Island (even years) and South Island (odd years). The 37<sup>th</sup> Symposium will be held over October the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> 2019 in the Hanmer Springs Forest Camp, South Island.



Symposium facilities for sessions



Collecting at Scoria quarry



Micro quartz scepter. FOV 0.5mm  
Specimen Jocelyn Thornton  
Photo Edward Zbik



Hematite after magnetite  
Specimen and Photo by Rod Martin

Ed Zbik described his visit to the Symposium at some length having also attended several of the field trips which had been organised as part of the activities.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### ILLAWARRA LAPIDARY CLUB INC – ROCK & MINERAL FAIR

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2019, At Stuart Park, North Wollongong  
Between 8am and 2 pm. (Kid's rock scramble 12 noon).

Club members and others will be selling Jewellery, Gemstones, Cabochons, Minerals,  
Opals, Findings, Beads & Fossils and maybe some Lapidary equipment.

The Rock Scramble is at 12 noon where children and young people can “bag” themselves a rock or two.

Bring a bag! and maybe a picnic lunch!

For more information contact John on 0242675618

<http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/> or like us on Facebook

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### BACK FROM TUCSON SHOW

From 9.00 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March & from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

To be held in the TURRAMURRA MASONIC HALL on the corner of the Pacific Highway  
and Turramurra Avenue, Turramurra. Very near to the Turramurra rail station.

‘New and amazing stock from the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show’.

Presented by :-

Glenn Huntley of Quality Gem Rough Supplies. Mobile No: 0427 945 087

And Peter and Debbie Beckwith of Kristallen, Mobile No: 0412 333 150

Rachelle Juter Jewellers will be at the Show with bespoke jewellery on Sunday.

## GEMBOREE 2019

The 55th National Gem & Mineral Show will be held at the Rockhampton Showgrounds, Rockhampton, QLD from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 22nd of April 2019.

‘Australia’s biggest Lapidary, Rock, Fossil, Mineral, Gem and Jewellery Competition and Trade Show. For the first time, the GEMBOREE in 2019 will include an international symposium sponsored by the Gemmological Association of Australia (GAA) and will include guest presenters and lectures.

The aim of the symposium is to attract more national and international visitors as well as provide an additional opportunity to learn more about minerals and gemmology, particularly those in the Central Queensland Region.

The GEMBOREE will give visitors the opportunity to visit the Sapphire Gemfields in the Central Highlands. They will be able to see operating sapphire mines, learn about fossicking and lapidary activities in the area. The site visit will also enable local gemstone retailers and supply businesses to showcase their products. Visitors can learn about end-to-end sapphire and other gemstone production for the area.

The GEMBOREE will also attract competitors from all over Australia and internationally and traders from all over Australia. Traders may sell only items related to lapidary. As well as the competition and trading there will be demonstrations and workshops of lapidary related skills.’

For full details and competition schedule, visit the Gemboree 2019 website at : - <http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree>

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## 42nd Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia Seminar: Update

Planning for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Seminar to be held in Perth, W.A. in 2019 is well underway.

*‘Traps in Mineralogy – Pseudomorphs, Look-Alikes, Fakes and Synthetics’*

Events confirmed include:-

EVENT	Date	Venue	Cost
Micromount session	Friday 30 August	WA Lapidary Club – Rivervale	\$5.00/table Bring your own lunch
Crystal Universe – Welcome to Perth	Friday 30 August – evening	Crystal Universe - Subiaco	Sponsored
Seminar Day 1	Saturday 31 august	State Library, Perth Cultural Centre	See below
Conference dinner - with auction	Saturday 31 August	TBC	Around \$60 Donations for auction are welcome
Seminar Day 2	Sunday 1 September	State Library, Perth Cultural Centre	See below
Evening function	Sunday 1 September	MinSocWA Patron Mark Creasy venue	Sponsored
Swap and Sell	Monday 2 September	WA Lapidary Club – Rivervale	\$5.00/table Gold coin for tea/coffee Lunch sponsored (Allan Hart)

Field trip	Tuesday 3 September start Length around 7-10 days	Murchison Mineral Field Negotiations in progress with tenement holders	Self-drive, with some accommodation provided. Details and itinerary TBC; may require entry payments to some sites.
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**Costs** to attend the seminar:

Early bird – MinSoc members – closes 28 February 2019	\$135
Early bird – Non-members – closes 28 February 2019	\$170
MinSoc members (and like-societies)	\$150
Non-members	\$185
Students	\$75
Registrations via TryBooking will open in late November on our website <a href="http://minsocwa.org.au/">http://minsocwa.org.au/</a>	

Registration costs (but not conference dinner) will be waived for speakers – email [lee\\_notebook@msn.com](mailto:lee_notebook@msn.com) if you are interested in presenting a talk related to the seminar topic.

A **mineral photo competition** is being coordinated by John Mill, with 3 main categories:

- Category 1 – subject less than 5 mm
- Category 2 – subject between 5 and 30 mm
- Category 3 – subject greater than 30 mm

Digital entries to be submitted by 30 June 2019.

Detailed guidelines are being finalized and will be posted on the website <http://minsocwa.org.au/>.

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## THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.S.W. INC.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Membership fees are due from January 1<sup>st</sup>

Please provide your full name, postal address, telephone number/s and e-mail address (if available). Members with e-mail capability will receive the Newsletter and other information only by e-mail.

NAME: .....

POSTAL ADDRESS: .....

.....

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Telephone (ah)..... (bh)..... (mobile).....

E-mail address .....

FEES: Adult membership, Sydney metropolitan area \$30

Adult membership, country or interstate \$25

Child/youth (under 18 years), or student member \$20

*Additional family members (spouse/partner and children only) can be admitted for membership at the cost of \$5 each (after the first member's costs as per the list above), If applying for additional family members, please list the name(s) here:*

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**Options for payment****1). Direct Credit / bank transfer to the Society's account****The account details are: -**

Account Name: Mineralogical Society of NSW Inc.

BSB: 062016 Account number: 28023647

Please put your name in the Memo line when making a direct debit/bank transfer so that the Society will know who the payment is from. If any of your address or telephone details have changed you should provide those details on this form and return it to the Treasurer - either : -

1) at the next General Meeting,

2) by e-mail to [grahamo@diabetesnsw.com.au](mailto:grahamo@diabetesnsw.com.au)

3) by post to the address below

**2). Cheque or Australia Post Money Order sent with a completed renewal form to : -**

The Mineralogical Society of New South Wales Inc.

58 Amazon Rd,

Seven Hills,

NSW 2147

**3). Cash or cheque delivered to the Treasurer, or in his absence the Secretary, at any General meeting**