



THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

C/o School of Natural Science
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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2016

The February Meeting will be held on Friday the 5th of February 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.

The program at the February Meeting will commence with 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.

At the February Meeting there will also be the **Mineral Sale** to raise money for the **Kids with Cancer Foundation** and a sale list of about 140 items is accompanying this Newsletter. Further donations could be brought in on the sale evening.

Minerals will be on sale from 7.00 p.m. and transactions could continue after the Meeting program has commenced at 7.30 p.m. Buyers are asked to conduct this as quietly as possible.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Subject to circumstances some changes to the following schedule of program subjects and speakers may have to be made in due course. Meetings will be held on the first Friday of the months throughout the year.

March 4th : Lecture on **‘Blood Diamonds of Liberia** by Peter Buckley.

April 1st : **A 40th Year Commemoration** will be held as the first half of the April meeting with a number of founding or early members of the Society invited to provide a few anecdotes

and impressions of the earliest years. April will be the last month of the Society's 40th year since inauguration in May 1975. There will be extra refreshments provided, no extra refreshment fee will be requested. Since the evening program will be quite lengthy it is recommended to commence at 7.00 pm.

The commemoration talks will be followed by a **Mineral Quiz** presented by Ann & Noel Kennon

- May 6th : Member's **Mini-Auction**
- June 3rd : Open night, interactive forum on : - '**Kingsgate Re-visited**'. Member's collections and re-collections from Kingsgate and other molybdenite mines in the New England.
- July 1st : Lecture on the **Hera Copper-Gold Mine at Nymagee** by Adam McKinnon.
(To be confirmed).
- August 5th : Society AGM followed by the Betty Mayne- Edna Walker Memorial Lecture : - '**Mineral Curiosities**' by Brian England.
- September 2nd : Lecture on '**Radioactive Minerals**' by Geoff Parsons.

FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Visit to Gerringong, Saturday 20th February (All members welcome)

Visit to Gerringong to see Ken Mitchell's extensive collection of Australian Minerals. Part of the collection is up for silent auction. Details have been entered in past newsletters. Ken is providing meat for a BBQ and members are asked to bring along a plate. If you want to attend, register for details with Edward Zbik by e-mail at etzed@optusnet.com.au or SMS to mobile 0401 538 480

Revisit to Cordillera / Peelwood. Weekend of the 2/3rd April (All members welcome)

Back to Cordillera, Peelwood and mines in the locality. Camping at Tuena. Both sites have mines, open cuts, trenches, slag heaps and chimneys. Cordillera had two chimneys but one was dismantled and bricks used to build St. Mary's Catholic Church at Tuena. If you want to attend, register for details with Edward Zbik by e-mail at etzed@optusnet.com.au or SMS to mobile 0401 538 480

Other field trips are in the planning stage and once confirmed, members will be given notice.

WELCOME

Welcome to new members Jim Gobert of Kenthurst,
and Dr Dan White of Leichhardt

SOCIETY MEETING VENUE Update

Information available to the Society in regard to losing our current Meeting venue has firmed up slightly with indications that W.S.U. is expecting to commence removing equipment and furniture from the LZ building 'from April' with the view to subsequent demolition. The Society should be able to hold the April 1st Meeting in the current G14 venue but that would probably be the last occasion there.

Arrangements for an alternative Society meeting venue in the Parramatta area are being investigated and members will be notified of a new venue in due course.

WITH REGRET

With regret it was learned that a very long-time member of the Society, Eric Nowak, had passed away in early December. Eric had been a member of the Society from within the first year since inauguration and regularly attended Meetings. He was also frequently to be seen tailgating at shows around the country. Eric's health had been failing for some time; he was in his early 90s.

The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Dieter Mylius	Tel: (02) 9477 1060
VICE-PRESIDENT:	John Chapman	Tel: (02) 9808 3481
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	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>

MINERAL HUNT FOR CROCOITE IN NSW.

A challenge has been set by members returning from the last Annual Australian Mineral Societies' Seminar.

- "Is There Crocoite To Be Found In NSW? "

Crocoite, lead chromate, $PbCrO_4$, that gleaming, hyacinth-red chromite of lead, with sharp crystals is found in quantity and quality at the Dundas Extended, West Comet and Adelaide Mines in Tasmania.

It also occurs in small crystals in the Happy Jack Gold mine at Cometvale in Western Australia and in the Olary Province in galena and pyromorphite at the Wadnaminga gold mines. Crocoite was originally found in the Urals in 1766.

A reference to crocoite appears in "Minerals of Broken Hill" by Warner, H. & Mitchell. "Red crystals were described as crocoite by Marsh in 1897, supposedly occurring beneath crusts of vanadinite in limonitic gossan from the Proprietary Mine. It now appears that the specimens were from Dundas, Tasmania". No other reference occurs for crocoite finds in NSW.

The crocoite is formed in the oxidation zones of lead ore bodies when chromic acid is released from chromite. The chromic acid combines with galena in the ore body to form crocoite, melanchroite (basic chromate of lead, differing from crocoite in its darker-red colour and brick-red streak) and chromiferous cerussite. The decomposition of galena (or other primary lead minerals) is required for crocoite formation.

The Tasmanian deposits were originally silver-lead-zinc mines. The following minerals can be used as indicators for possible crocoite occurrences.

Lead Ores:

Primary: galena, Jamesonite

Secondary: angelsite, cerussite, crocoite, chromiferous cerussite, dundasite, embolite, massicot, minium, phoenicochroite, phosgenite, pyromorphite.

Zinc Ores:

Primary: sphalerite

Secondary: chalcophanite

Other: bindheimite, gibbsite, hinsdalite, stichtite, boulangeerite

Some rarer minerals include weilerite, hidalgoite and gorceixite

The associated rock was unaltered serpentine and dolomite, stained green with chromic acid.

Mines with "chrome" in their name include: McAlpine Chrome Mines, (Brungle), Mundongo Chrome Mine, (Tumut), Colemans Chrome Mine, (Tumut), Chrome Mine, (Tottenham), Gobarrolong Chrome Mine, Chrome Dome Mine, (Woods Reef), Chrome Gully Mine, (Nundle), Chrome Hill Prospect, (Narrabri).

Chrome minerals follow the serpentine belts of NSW. The Gundagai - Wallendbeen Belt, the Copmanhurst – Gordon Brook Belt and the Great Serpentine Belt which includes the Bingara-Bowling Alley Point District and Barraba District.

Members are asked to check out known mine localities and return a sample of suspected specimens if passing any existing chromite occurring sites in the above serpentine belts, including any associated mineral for identification by the mineral group.

If you are passing through any of these belts, GPS locations and details of suspected chromite sites can be given. Information on how to approach landowners to ask for permission to enter property to evaluate sites for possible future field trips can be obtained from Ed Zbik. Join the crocoite hunt by registering at etzed@optusnet.com.au.

Check DIGS for Industry Report 18 Chromite and then follow up on individual mines.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BACK FROM TUCSON SALE: **Change of Venue**

The Back From Tucson Sale this year will be held from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday and from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm Sunday the 5th and 6th of March in the Turramurra Masonic Hall on the corner of the Pacific Highway and Turramurra Avenue in Turramurra. The Masonic Hall is just up the road from the station and there is ample parking in the carpark in Gilroy Lane about 50 metres away.

A new facebook page has been set up, the – ‘Back from Tucson Gem & Mineral Fair.’, : -
<https://www.facebook.com/backfromtucson/>

THE 2016 MINERAMA GEM & JEWELLERY SHOW

From Friday to Sunday the 11th, 12th & 13th of March in the Glen Innes & District Services Club at 120 Grey Street, Glen Innes. Friday and Saturday from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm and Sunday from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. Free entry, refreshments available.

‘As the largest annual fossicking, gem and jewellery show in NSW, Minerama has been drawing regular visitors to Glen Innes for almost 20 years. Held every year in March, Minerama is perfect for all gem lovers, rockhounds and outdoor adventurers. Search for buried treasure in Celtic Country with a three day program (Friday to Sunday) of guided fossicking field trips to suit both beginner and experienced gem hunters. Great fun for the whole family with a wealth of gems just waiting to be unearthed.

There will be over 100+ stalls trading in gemstones, fine jewellery, faceting rough, lapidary tools & supplies, crystals, beads, rare fossils, mineral specimens, arts, crafts and more. Whether you are after a two-dollar special, a gemstone of world-class quality or a unique piece of jewellery you'll find it at Minerama. There are also featured gem cutting and beading displays, free advice from gemmologists, dealers, lapidaries & jewellers, and plenty of entertainment throughout the weekend.’

Inquiries to (02) 6730 2400 or e-mail: - www.minerama.com.au
 General information from tourism@gisc.nsw.gov.au

The NEW ENGLAND LAPIDARY & FOSSICKING CLUB INC.

Presents their **25th ANNUAL GEM AND CRAFT SHOW**

To be held over Saturday and Sunday the 19th and 20th of March from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday and from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm on Sunday in the Armidale Showground.

Camping available, fees for powered or unpowered sites, tables and tailgating. Insurance and bookings are essential. Hall access for setting-up from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm on Friday 18th. Free Entry.

‘See A Spectacular Array of Gems, Rocks, Crystals, Jewellery, Gifts, Craft, Beads, Lapidary Books/Supplies/Equipment and much more. All On Sale At The Show. Raffle Tickets \$1.00. Great prizes B.B.Q breakfast, lunch & light refreshments available. Stall holders and tailgaters welcome. Public liability insurance required.

'For details or to book - Contact Events Coordinator Cheryl Henderson on (02) 6778 4931,
email nelfc@hotmail.com Or mail to P.O. Box 82, Uralla N.S.W 2358.

CANBERRA ROCK SWAP 2016

The Canberra Rock Swop, organized by the Canberra Lapidary Club is being held on the camping ground at Wagtail Way in the EPIC showground alongside Northbourne Avenue in Canberra over Saturday and Sunday the 16th and 17th of April from 8.30 am to 5.00pm each day.

Fossickers, dealers and tailgaters. Camping available. All dealers and campers must register.
Crystals, minerals, rough & cut gemstones, opals, fossils, jewellery, refreshments.

More information from : - www.canberralapidary.org.au
Norm Menadue, Show Convenor Ph : 02 6258 6631, or mobile 0407 718 347
or e-mail : nmenadue@optusnet.com.au
Mail to Canberra Lapidary Club, PO Box 577, CURTIN ACT 2605

GEMBOREE 2016 ULVERSTONE, TASMANIA

AUSTRALIA'S 52nd NATIONAL GEM, LAPIDARY, JEWELLERY AND MINERAL SHOW.

Presented by the Australian Federation of Lapidary & Allied Crafts Associations Inc. (AFLACA).

To be held in the Ulverstone Showgrounds on Flora Street, Ulverstone, north coast of Tasmania
over Easter 2016, Friday March 25th to Monday March 29th..

A number of half to full day field trips are planned during the Gemboree.

The trips are to be confirmed but may include : -
Beaconsfield/Flowery Gully and the Beaconsfield Museum, adjacent to the gold mine.
Zeehan/Dundas visiting the mining area as well as local museums.
Calder: Visit to the Calder Gravel and agate quarries.
Penguin Iron Mines for Jasper and ironstones.

Contact: Ralph Bottrill, Field Trip Manager
Mineral Resources Tasmania
PO Box 56, Rosny Park TAS 7018
Phone: (03) 6165 4715 | Mobile: 0429 173 055; e-mail rbottrill@mrt.tas.gov.au

The 27th Annual LISMORE GEMFEST

Presented by the Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club Inc over the weekend of the 14th & 15th May 2016
in the Lismore Showgrounds. From 9am to 5pm on Saturday and 9am to 3pm on Sunday.

Information on the Website www.gemclublismore.org.au.

MINERAL COLLECTION FOR SALE

Extensive mineral collection for sale.
 Some old-time favourites from the collection of the late Betty Boughton.
 Also an agate collection both cut and uncut.
 Sale on the 6th and 7th of February at 52 McPherson Road, Londonderry.
 Inquiries to Arthur Roffey on (02) 4572 5812.

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, Purlewaugh, 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
