



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

JULY 2015

The July Meeting will be held on Friday the 3rd of July 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 will commence with a talk to be given by Geoff Parsons on :-

‘A Visit to a Mineral Collection in Vienna’

The talk will be followed by a lecture by Peter Williams on :-

‘The Creative Power of Groundwater’

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- August 7th: The **Society A.G.M.** followed by the Betty Mayne and Edna Walker Memorial Lecture to be given by Noel Kennon on :- **‘The History of Broken Hill’.**
- 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**

Friday 7th of August 2015. The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are hereby duly notified that the Meeting on Friday the 7th of August 2015 will be the Society Annual General Meeting which will commence at 7.30 p.m. in the LZG14 lecture room.

The A.G.M. will present the President's report for 2014/2015, 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. 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. Any other business may also be raised and discussed. The minutes of the previous 2014 A.G.M. were circulated in the September 2014 Newsletter. Copies will be available at the 2015 A.G.M. or may be obtained from the Secretary.

Nomination forms for election to the 2015/2016 Committee are being circulated with this Newsletter. Further copies may be obtained from the Secretary if required. According to the Society Constitution nominations should be received seven days before the commencement of the A.G.M. Only financial and Honorary Life members of the Society are eligible for nomination or allowed to participate in any voting. Any members who feel able to serve on the Committee are urged to discuss this with any of the current Committee members and to make known their availability for nomination at the A.G.M. A member can be nominated for but cannot hold more than one position.

The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Dieter Mylius	Tel: (02) 9477 1060
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Jim Sharpe	Tel: (02) 9871 2502
	E-mail:	<i>sharpejames@tpg.com.au</i>
SECRETARY:	George Laking	Tel: (02) 9636 7145
	E-mail:	<i>bglaking@tech2u.com.au</i>
TREASURER:	Graham Ogle	Tel: (02) 9868 4446
	E-mail:	<i>grahamo@diabetesnsw.com.au</i>
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Peter Beddow	Tel: (02) 8810 8446
	John Chapman	Tel: (02) 9808 3481
	David Colchester	Tel: (02) 9449 3862
	John Rankin	Tel: (02) 9482 7474
	Edward Zbik	Tel: (02) 9638 6586
	E-mail:	<i>etzed@optusnet.com.au</i>

THE JUNE MEETING

The Meeting was opened by the Vice-President, Jim Sharpe, who initially noted that Peter Williams was present at the Meeting having recovered very well from his coronary bypass operation in April. The Vice-President noted that he had been informed that another Society member, Keith Walker, had undergone a bypass operation, in his case in early May, and was also doing well.

Graham Ogle reminded members about the **Windsor Mineral Show** being held over the immediately following weekend - as usual in the Function Centre at Windsor. He also advised members that there would not be a **Micro-mineral Group** meeting this month, the next one being on the second Saturday of July. Members wishing to inquire about the meetings could contact him by e-mail for details.

Ed Zbik advised that the projected field trip to the Bass Point quarry has had to be cancelled since in spite of his negotiations with the managers they would not allow visitors.

Doug Austen addressed the Meeting to report on his recent purchase of a **Digital Microscope** from a Chinese company, *Hangzhou Lezhen O&E Co Ltd*, which he suggested might also be of interest to members. The microscope was a digital USB tri-nocular stereo zoom 3.5 to 45 times magnification LED instrument which had cost him only US\$594. An accessory specimen stage which he had decided to buy in addition had cost another US\$104. Orders to the supplier of over US\$300 were supplied free of shipping charges. Doug offered to provide more details about the equipment to any interested members and left printed copies of his purchase and shipping orders which also included an amount of further information on a range of accessories for the microscope, with the Secretary George Laking.

Doug Austen further mentioned a purchase he had made of a quantity of cardboard specimen trays from the **UKGE Company** which might also be of interest to members and he finally reported having learnt of a range of steel cabinets suitable for mineral specimens now available for sale in **Officeworks** stores. Printed information on the trays and cabinets was also left with the Secretary.

A number of members confirmed having noted that the Officeworks company was currently selling the '**Stackable Spencer Range**' of steel cabinets which would be ideal for storing mineral specimens particularly micro-mounts. The cabinets were available in a few sizes with from three to ten drawers, the taller ones with wheels, in various colours and for up to \$99. The cabinets were reported also being available in IKEA stores.

Jim Sharpe introduced the speaker for the evening. David Vince is a long-time colleague of his, a member of the Mineralogical Society of Victoria and a very keen mineralogist. David Vince has spent some years working in China for the Orica Ltd explosives and mining chemicals company and whilst there was able to indulge his interest in mineral collecting. Accordingly this evening he would be sharing some of his experiences with the members.

'The Emergence of Chinese Mineral Treasures

New vistas and opportunities for Chinese and Western Collectors.'

David Vince

David Vince first went to China in 1996 when Chinese minerals were starting to be produced and marketed in any quantity. Most of the mineral specimen production activity today is in the south-east - in Hunan, Kweichow and Kwangsi. Notably Changsha, the capital of Hunan, held its '*First Mineral and Gem Show*' in 2013. The speaker worked in Weihai, a city in Shantung Province on the north-east coast of China, not far from Beijing, where the Orica Company has a factory. Over the course of his lecture the speaker described some of the historical background to mineral appreciation in China to move chronologically and in more detail to the present-day situation and current interest in, production and availability of Chinese minerals. The lecture was extensively illustrated by a large series of images of maps, views of the cities, towns and museums visited, of mining and mineral collecting activities, views of some of the shows, mines and mining areas, dealers and their displays, that the speaker was able to visit and many images of minerals.

An interesting geological feature brought to the speaker's attention on his arrival in Shantung was of a band of gneissic rocks that strikes down from the north and right down the east coast of that part of China. There was even a skarn outcrop virtually at the back door of the factory where he worked and a number of images were shown of the minerals identified in the outcrop.

Indicating on images of maps the locations of the city where he worked the speaker next displayed views of the city waterfront pointing out the local souvenir sellers lined up along the promenade to meet, greet, and hopefully sell their wares to people arriving on ferries coming in from Korea. For the visitor the local waterfront and its souvenir sellers proved an interesting source of minerals, the range of wares indicating what was available. Amongst the binoculars, strings of pearls and carved ornaments would be specimens of amber, agate, fluorites and fossils, including of a Keichousaurus from Liaoning, a type of marine reptile.

Reacting with some enthusiasm to the finding of a rare fossil for sale a number of purchases of specimens were made by the speaker from the waterfront vendors until finding two specimens that were quite identical, a very unlikely occurrence, caused him to query their provenance. He was later advised by officials from the Foreign Investment Service that the fossils were fakes and with their help he was able to get most of his money back, the Service retaining 25 per cent, possibly 'to teach him a lesson'.

Providing something of the historical background to mineral collecting in China David Vince noted that there has been a very long tradition of collecting rocks, fossils and minerals, specimens being regarded as 'viewing stones'. The tradition goes back to the earliest times with specimens being appreciated for their aesthetic value but as objects that could 'connect' the viewer with nature or natural forces. Accordingly the shape of specimens would probably be regarded as very significant and examples of the exquisite work of nature. Unfortunately collecting in China was also often directed to utilising minerals and fossils for traditional medical purposes which would almost always involve the specimens being ground up!

Mineral specimen acquisition specifically as collectables in China probably had its roots in the foreign trade concession years from the 1890s to the 1920s when many European countries set up trading posts to trade in various commodities, notably amongst others until it was outlawed, of opium!. European traders would also have shown some interest in mineral specimens, an interest which would have been recognised and catered to by locals. Many mines were operated jointly by Chinese and European companies from 1912 to 1949. Then during the period of the Cultural Revolution from 1966 to 1972 the 'Red Guards' were involved in destroying many examples of what they regarded as western bourgeois influences including many museum mineral collections and persecuting the curators. With the gradual re-opening of China from 1972 after the Richard Nixon visit and re-establishment of diplomatic relations then further opening by Deng Xiaoping in 1978 the emergence of stone and mineral appreciation and mineral specimen collecting became a respectable activity.

Gradually through the early 1980s mineral specimen awareness continued to proliferate with the re-establishment of official collections, commercial companies and vendors, particularly in Hunan which was effectively the heartland where commercial dealing started. Also at this time the Beijing museum took specimens to the Tucson Show to sell and in 1982 a series of stamps featuring fine mineral specimens were issued by the Chinese. Then notably an American dealer managed to obtain a large amount of specimen material from Changsha which he was able to move out of the country and take to the 1988 Denver Gem and Mineral Show. This opened the curtains to other American dealers in showing what was being produced in China. Another development at about this time was an invitation made to the director of the Beijing Geological Museum to attend the 1986 I.M.A. conference at Stanford. In the course of his visit the director went on a field trip to the Himalaya mine in California and met Peter Bancroft who at the time was the host for the trip.

(Peter Bancroft: Noted American mineral collector and author of books on minerals. Among other positions he has served as Curator of Mineralogy at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and as Director of Collections for the San Diego Gem and Mineral Society).

As the result of that meeting Peter Bancroft was invited back to China and allowed to photograph everything of interest to him in the Beijing Museum. Conveniently at that time modern display cases were being built by the museum to display their collections. In returning to the U.S. he was able to write a detailed and well-illustrated article about his visit for a 1987 issue of the Rocks and Minerals Magazine. By 1990 the I.M.A. was able to hold its annual conference in Beijing at a time when mineral shows were starting to be organised and a satellite mineral show was held in the museum. The show had forty-two booths and I.M.A. visitors as well as Chinese general public were crowding the aisles to buy specimens.

For a time the Beijing museum had set up its own shop and also allowed vendors to set up stalls around the building. This cosy arrangement had been largely discontinued by the time that the speaker was able to visit the museum although the main shop was still in business. By the late 1990s Chinese dealers were starting to visit the Tucson Show and other international shows regularly and books on Chinese minerals by Chinese compilers and publishers were starting to appear. The first few books were possibly somewhat over-technical and illustrations not always in colour but fairly quickly the quality of subsequent publications improved. Most are now published with entirely English text or are bilingual.

Between 1990 and 2003 mineral markets had become established in most mineral-rich provinces in China and in 2004 the Hong Kong Mineralogical Society was inaugurated. The activities of the Hong Kong Society are quite similar to that of the NSW Society. There are monthly meetings, field trips and shows organised. There are also now a number of Websites set up by museums or dealers, many showing quite impressive arrays and amounts of specimens for sale.

A number of slides showing trips made by the speaker to significant mineral areas, shows and dealers were shown, David Vince noting the constantly increasing number of sales venues and amount of material for sale. He also noted the number and amount of 'improved' mineral specimens if not faked material readily offered for sale. 'Improvements' might include irradiation to considerably enhance or completely replace natural colour, or crystals being glued together or on to a matrix base etc. The speaker also recommended that in travelling about China to sale venues, shows or dealers, the visitor should always be accompanied by a Chinese-speaking person otherwise there would be a great risk of paying too much.

Within the last few years the number of mineral shows in China has increased considerably and the speaker spent some time describing the more recent ones, notably the background, preparations and heavily structured organisation of the last Changsha Show in May this year. The preparations included the organising committee issuing detailed and firm instructions to the local hotels to conform to a list of recommendations and requirements. Not something which would be readily accepted in Australia! The also heavily structured recruitment of staff for the Show was described, another firmly expressed list of detailed requirements being specified by the organisers.

Towards the end of his lecture David Vince provided his assessment of the current and future development of Chinese mineralogy which he anticipated would continue to expand and provide more material to be displayed at more shows, within China and internationally. He then answered a number of questions from the members some of whom also added their own comments and information about Chinese mineralogy, dealing, displaying and mineral collecting.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2015 GEM FEST

Presented by the Atherton Tableland Mineral & Lapidary Club

'Every year the Gem Fest is bigger and better and the 2015 will certainly be bigger.'
 'Sunday 2nd August, 7.00am to 3.00pm - Alongside the Atherton Tablelands Mineral & Lapidary Club, Race Course Road, Tolga, on the scenic Atherton Tablelands, 1 1/4 hours drive from Cairns and 1 1/2 hours from Port Douglas. Tolga is well known for its monthly Tolga Farmers Market which is on the same day and just 100m from the Gem Fest. Stallholder enquiries welcome.

For information contact Laurence Jones @ Rainforest Gems, - Aura & Laurence Jones, 26 Kennedy Highway, Tolga, QLD 4882 or PO Box 1084, Tolga. Telephone 07 4095 5223,
 e-mail Jones@internode.on.net Internet www.RainforestGems.com.au Find us on facebook'

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 NSW Society 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
 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.

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 wcma2015@hotmail.com

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, Tas., 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 !'

THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.S.W. INC

NOMINATION FORM FOR ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS

AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2015/2016

POSITION	Name of Nominee (Please print)	Signature of Nominee
OFFICE-BEARERS		
PRESIDENT
VICE-PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
COMMITTEE MEMBERS		
MEMBER
MEMBER
MEMBER
MEMBER
MEMBER

PROPOSER:

Name (Please print):

Signature:

Date:

