



# 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      JULY 2024

The July Meeting will be held in the clubrooms of the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club  
At 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville, at 7.30 pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July.

There will be a lecture to be given by Ross Pogson on :-

### **Goethite Pseudomorphs after Marcasite and Pyrite: Farafra Oasis, White Desert, Egypt**

There will also be a short talk to be given by Dieter Mylius on :-

### **Pressure Cooking with Three Ingredients**

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## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS and PROGRAMS**

August 2<sup>nd</sup> : Society A.G.M. and Memorial Lecture.

The programs for the meetings on September 7<sup>th</sup>, October 11<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> have not been finalized. The Christmas Social and Swap n' Sell will probably be held on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December.

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## **The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING      Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2024**

Members are hereby duly notified that the Meeting on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2024 will be the Society **Annual General Meeting** which will commence at 7.30 p.m. in the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Clubroom.

The A.G.M. will present the President's report for 2023/2024, the Treasurer's report and presentation of the annual financial accounts for 2023/2024 and the election of the Society Committee and office-bearers for 2024/2025. All Committee positions are open for nomination and election. Any other business may also be raised and discussed.

Nomination forms for election to the 2024/2025 Committee are included with this Newsletter or 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. If insufficient nominations are received before the commencement of the A.G.M. they can be accepted at the Meeting.

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 then to arrange for another member to propose them and provide the nomination form. A member can be nominated for but cannot hold more than one position.

Nomination forms may be sent to the Secretary electronically but given any possible computer/internet delays, members sending forms by e-mail should ask for a confirmation that they have been received.

Members sending hard copy nomination forms by post are reminded to address all correspondence to :-

The Secretary, Mineralogical Society of NSW Inc,  
58 Amazon Road, Seven Hills, NSW 2147

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## The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Dieter Mylius	Mobile: 0412 516 193
	E-mail:	<i>dieterm@internode.on.net</i>
VICE-PRESIDENT:	John Chapman	Tel: (02) 9808 3481
	E-mail:	<i>chapmanjr@optusnet.com.au</i>
SECRETARY:	George Laking	Tel: (02) 9636 7145
		Mobile: 0468 387 899
	E-mail:	<i>bglaking@tech2u.com.au</i>
TREASURER:	Graham Ogle	Mobile: 0400 683 574
	E-mail:	<i>quartzandsirius@hotmail.com</i>
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Haley Bambridge	Mobile: 0413 100 344
	Denis O'Brien	Tel: (02) 6360 3412
	Geoff Parsons	Tel: (02) 9548 3289
	Mark Walters	Mobile: 0421 012 647
	Ed Zbik	Mobile: 0401 538 480

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## WELCOME

Welcome to new members Phil Blevin of Corlette and Andrew Barnes of Long Jetty.

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## The JUNE MEETING

The June meeting was opened by the Society President, Dieter Mylius. A few announcements and reports were made. Mark Walters reported that inquiries and investigations were continuing into arranging **Field Trips**, - finding and obtaining access to various mineralized and possible fossicking sites. Notably Brian Holden was contacting and talking to landowners in the New England area.

The President noted that a suggestion had been made for private collection visits to be made as field trips and asked that any member prepared to accept visitors for collection-viewing could contact him and arrangements made for visits.

The next **Micro-mineral Group** meeting was provisionally scheduled for the 31<sup>st</sup> of July and would be examining Tollwong and Woodlawn minerals.

With no more announcements to be made the President introduced the evening's program which was to be a Forum being given by himself and John Chapman. Contributions from members during the Forum were invited.

The main speakers presented a thoroughly well-researched, detailed and illustrated description of the arrangements for maintaining their collections. The subject was one which collectors would probably consider to be very important and the speakers provided a wealth of information and recommendations for members and collectors to consider. The lecturers provided a number of images of their own and other member's collections, specimen labelling, display cases, storage arrangements and cataloguing. At the end of the Forum the speakers advised, in response to a few queries, that a guide-line plan could be compiled for collectors to follow in cataloguing and maintaining a collection.

## **Member's Forum on Maintaining and Cataloguing your Mineral Collection**

### **John Chapman and Dieter Mylius**

Dieter Mylius spoke first and described his collection and how it is housed, labelled and catalogued. He has over over 8000 specimens in his catalogue which includes hand specimens, thumbnails and micro-minerals. These were divided into Cabinet to miniature – 2700; Thumbnails – 1950; Micro minerals – 3400. With a number of images the speaker described how he displayed, housed and stored his specimens.

Drawers for large to miniature specimens



'Try to use individual similar-sized boxes to avoid damage. Boxes are from Greg Vort-Ronald in SA – cheap, several sizes – often at Canberra Show. Order in drawers is alphabetical by mineral name. Each mineral has a number and label which can double as display label. Printed on 200 gsm card.'

## Thumbnail minerals



'These are those under 38mm largest dimension. Boxes keep dust off small crystals.  
Each drawer holds 88 boxes. Double extension drawer runners.  
Label blue-tacked to inside back of box

MIKON-Finn acrylic boxes 41 x 38 x 35mm (many sizes are available) Code name T4H white from Mikon Mineralienkontor in Germany, [mikon-online.com](http://mikon-online.com) 39 Euro for 100 plus postage.  
Less if you buy more – less German VAT.'

Minerals waiting for something to happen to them or from collecting trips



Stuff not in collection, waiting for processing, never been processed, give aways, etc Stored in cut-down A4 boxes with lids – small in size, not too heavy, can be stacked. In garage, home-made shelving, standard materials from Bunnings. 295 mm deep to take A4 ream boxes. Takes a little under 300 boxes. Each is labeled with a locality, maybe date, what may be in them.

Minerals are numbered sequentially regardless of size, name or locality.

- \* Each number is unique
- \* Against that I record
- \* Mineral name including varieties. If unknown list it as unknown
- \* Locality – country, state, (county), town, mine – always that order
- \* Where I can find it – drawer, display, etc
- \* Then added (optional)
- \* Chemical formulas
- \* Latitude - longitude
- \* Date found/bought/acquired & from whom
- \* Size, whether I have done a label
- \* Whether its been tested and by whom
- \* Whether I have photographed it



- \* Dana, Strunz/Nickel Number, Heys Number
- \* Whether radioactive, fluorescent
- \* Others.

Access allows me to

- \* Sort any or all fields or partial fields if you are not sure of spelling
- \* Asterisk before or after allows searches to ignore text before or after what you are looking for
- \* Allows you to use “and not” “or”, etc
- \* Arrange alphabetical up and down
- \* Arrange date up and down

Final addition is the ability to attach photos if I have them (I allow up to three and only use low res to limit size of database)

## Minerals needing special consideration

Radioactive minerals – Small amounts generally OK. Avoid handling, do not dust off, wear nitrile gloves when handling, do not breath in dust, don't sweep up dust - use sticky tape, have in separate boxes, check your environment regularly with a dosimeter. Don't keep them in your pocket.

Light sensitive minerals –

Silver minerals, Cinnabar, Vivianite, etc, keep out of light as much as possible. Do not display them as the light will alter them.

Pyrite disease –

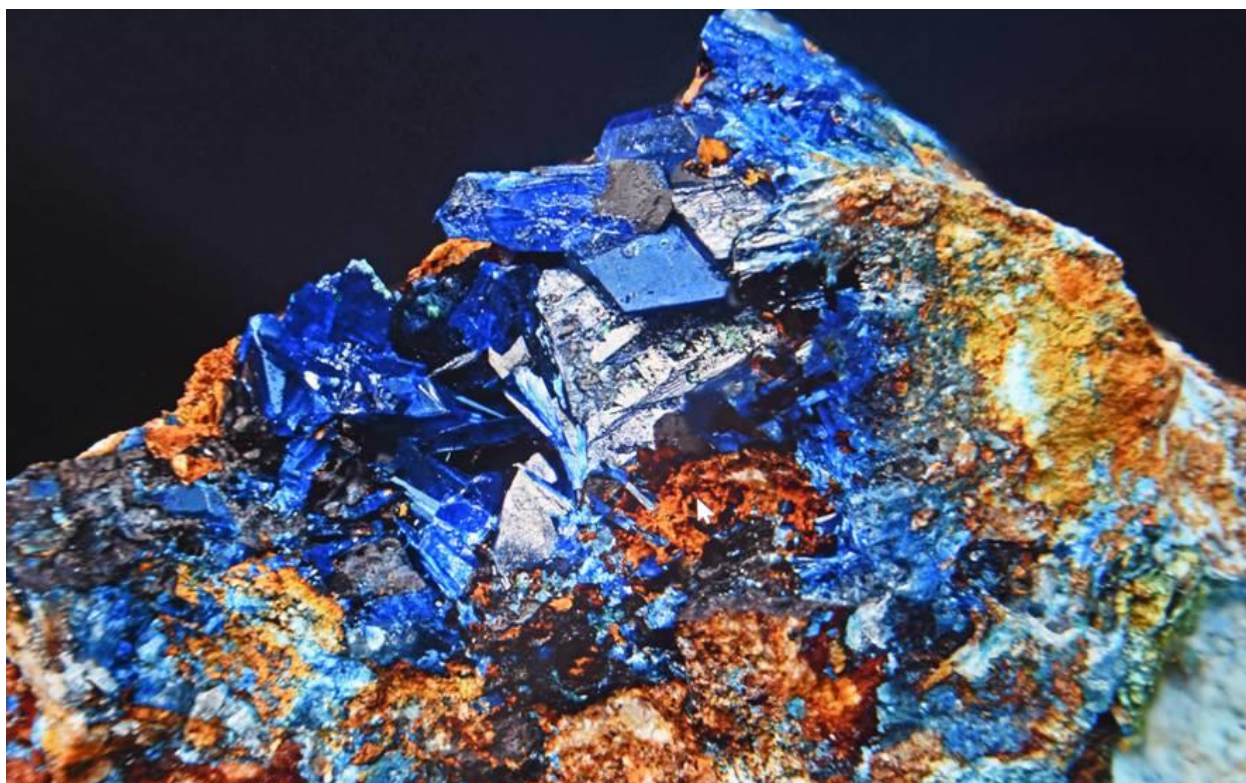
Pyrite and other sulphides may undergo “pyrite disease”. No reliable cure as far as I know, so check your pyrites (especially dollars), arsenopyrites, pyrrotites and pentlandites regularly for powdering. Remove from collection and store separately in plastic, ideally vacuum sealed. As they deteriorate they release sulphuric acid which attacks paper and metal.

Evaporites –

Sydney is not a good environment for evaporites, as they can deliquesce in the humidity or simply decompose, and fall to pieces. If you have some, photograph them and store them in a sealed bag with a desiccant. I have lost several – glauberite, thernardite – halite seems to survive.

Asbestos –

Either don't keep, or keep sealed so fibres cannot escape.



John Chapman was the second speaker and also described how both he and other Society members, Haley Bambridge, Graham Ogle and Brian England housed, displayed, labelled and stored their collections with particular reference to cataloguing.

## Issues Discussed

Collecting:	Hazardous materials
Protecting:	Handling, packaging and storing
Recording:	Record details - Don't put it off Labels and catalogue numbers
Processing:	Repairing and Trimming; Cleaning and Acid Etching
Storing:	Drawers, Plan cabinet; Open shelves, Boxes; Trays and inserts
Displaying	Dust exclusion; Lighting; Shelving (glass protection)
Cataloguing:	Cards vs Spread Sheet vs Relational Database Properties to record in the catalogue
Imaging:	Photographing; File type and naming Hyperlink to catalogue.



Storage drawers Bac System

<p><b>Sampleite</b> E26 dump Northparkes Mine <a href="#">Parkes, NSW</a> Catalogue No. <a href="#">760</a></p>	<p><b>Sampleite</b> E26 dump Northparkes Mine <a href="#">Parkes, NSW</a> Catalogue No. <a href="#">761</a></p>
<p><b>Pyrite</b> Mount Bulga Copper Mine Orange NSW Catalogue No. <a href="#">763</a></p>	<p><b>Pyromorphite</b> Blackwoods open cut Broken Hill NSW Catalogue No. <a href="#">764</a></p>
<p><b>Almandine garnet</b> Irelands Garnet Quarry Broken Hill NSW Catalogue No. <a href="#">766</a></p>	<p><b>Native Copper</b> Murrawombi Pit Girilambone Copper Mine <a href="#">Girilambone, NSW</a> Catalogue No. <a href="#">767</a></p>
<p><b>Azurite</b> Eastern open cut Mineral Hill Mine <a href="#">Mineral Hill, NSW</a> Catalogue No. <a href="#">769</a></p>	<p><b>Babingtonite</b> Qiaojia Yunnan Province China Catalogue No. <a href="#">770</a></p>

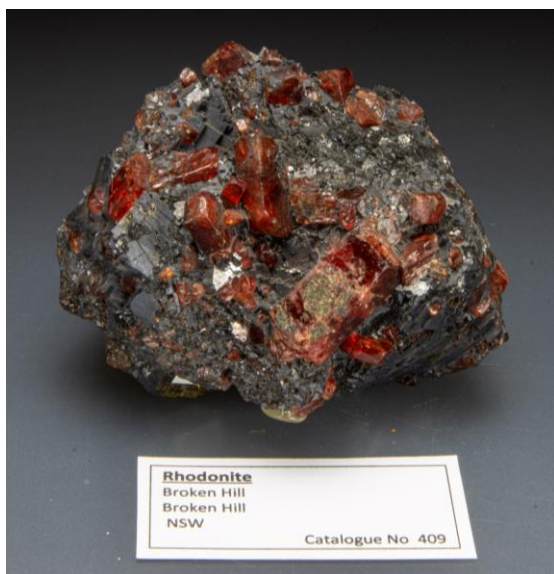
Labels and catalogue numbers

## CATALOGUING

Catalogue No	Mine Or Locatio	Date
Display Name	Town Or District	Select
Main Mineral(S)	State Or Country	Comments
Status	Lat:Long	Collections
Additional Mineral(S)	Method	Composition
Size	Source	Class
Description	When	Select
Workings	Price Paid	Photo Hyper Link
	Current Value	



## IMAGING



File name: JC\_409\_MG\_2704

File name: D35846\_Molybdenite\_Water Cut Shaft  
15cm across\_MG\_2806

In speaking about imaging John Chapman acknowledged that collectors would vary in their practice of photographing their specimens but recommended that this be done, particularly of the more important specimens. He noted that the Australian Museum was in the process of photographing all of its 80,000 specimens and ended his lecture with a few points about photographing minerals.

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## LIBRARY



### A Practical Guide to Collecting Minerals and Crystals

## ORDER FORM

A full-colour A4 sized (210mm x 297mm), hard-cover book written as a guide to mineral collecting, filled with useful hints and catering to collectors of all levels. Written and illustrated with over 100 photographs by Tony Forsyth OAM.

I wish to purchase ..... book/s priced at AU \$40.00 per book, PLUS AU \$15.00 to cover Australia Post delivery of each book within Australia. (\*Note: if you order two to six books, the price per book will reduce to AU \$36.00, and the postage will remain at AU \$15.00 in total) (for international postage pls ask)

Book/s: \$ .....  
Postage & Packaging: \$ .....  
TOTAL: \$ .....

Please post my book/s to the following address:

Name: .....  
Address: .....  
Town/City: .....  
State: .....  
Postcode: .....  
email address: .....  
Mobile or Tel: .....

#### HOW TO CONTACT US:

Tony Forsyth, Crocoite Australia  
89 Glenora Street, Wynnum  
Queensland 4178

Email: tonyandjude@outlook.com.au  
Mb: 0419 661 962

Anthony B Forsyth OAM  
trading as Crocoite Australia - ABN 654 970 187 90

#### PAYMENT

Please check which payment method you would like to use and post or email me a copy of your completed form. We accept Direct Deposit, PayPal and Credit Card Payments.

 **DIRECT DEPOSIT**

Account: Crocoite Australia  
BSB: 064133  
Account: 10594516  
Bank: Commonwealth Bank

Note: Please leave your name and "book" in any payment notes.

 **PAYPAL**

Your PayPal email address please:

 **CREDIT CARD**

Please fill out your card details below if you require a credit card payment, and I shall contact you for any further details. Your name as it appears on your credit card:

Card Number: .....

Expiry date: .....

CCV number (on reverse): .....



## Mineralogical Records and Rocks & Minerals Magazines for Sale

There are still a few of the donated **Mineralogical Records** and **Rocks & Minerals** magazines for sale and these will be tabled at the Society Meetings. Members are reminded that the Library has a complete collection of all **Mineralogical Records** from the first issue in 1970 to 2016 which are available for borrowing. The Library collection of **Rocks & Minerals** is less complete but has most issues from 2000 to the current date.

A list of articles in the **Mineralogical Records** referring to Australia was compiled by Ed Zbik and circulated in the March Newsletter.

Tony Forsyth has published a new book 'A **Practical Guide to Collecting Minerals and Crystals**. A copy will be obtained for the Library.

## FIELD TRIPS

### BATHURST DISTRICT

#### FEBRUARY 2024

Seven enthusiastic Minsoc members gathered near Yetholme in February 2024 to explore and gather specimens from a nearby abandoned mine site. Mark Walters, Field Trip Officer for Minsoc met with Denis, Mark S., Geoff, Dioni, Dieter, and Sue at the Yetholme Roadhouse on Saturday morning for a final briefing. Members then travelled in convoy to the site.

There were three main areas to explore:

- The southern costeans
- The small open cut
- And the underground cavern and tailings dump

The main minerals being sought at all three sites were

1. Molybdenite
2. Scheelite
3. Powellite
4. Andradite garnets
5. Pyrite

Minsoc had visited this area on a previous occasion and Mark Walters and Denis had also made some recent explorations to familiarise themselves with the topography of the area and likely minerals to be found.

**First stop** on Saturday morning was the southern costeans where abundant metallic Molybdenite was found in the rocks associated with white fluorescing Scheelite and glittery Andradite garnets.

**Second stop** was the small open cut to the north of the costeans. A 1940s era night lamping investigation reported that the open cut produced “brilliant fluorescent effects” and this proved to be the case with our visit. Scheelite and Powellite had not been identified here prior to the 1940s although Molybdenite had been mined on and off for the previous thirty years. **Third stop** for the day was the underground cavern and open cut dating from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The tailings dump was piled high with rocks containing mineral specimens and the underground cavern showed abundant fluorescing minerals on the walls and roof.

The intention on Saturday night was to carry out a night lamping check of the sites visited during the day. Dioni found a good camping site in the afternoon behind a farm shed where we set up camp and pitched our tents while we waited for darkness. We were visited in camp by some cows who wandered about looking at the curious campers. After dark Mark Walters used his heavy-duty short-wave UV lamp to look around the cavern first. The fluorescence was useful in identifying and collecting minerals such as Scheelite, Powellite and green fluorescing Calcite. Following along the same contour we walked over to the small open cut where Dieter found some good examples of brightly glowing Powellite with garnets. The group then moved on to the southern costeans where abundant Scheelite had been previously identified. Returning to camp around 10pm we settled into our accommodation for a good night’s sleep.

The delights of this site are the wide views of the surrounding Bathurst plains to the west and the hills around Oberon to the south. At night the lights of Bathurst were clearly visible. Sunday dawned with low clouds and mist but soon the sun came out and we had another warm and sunny day ahead. At the small open cut Dieter happily shared his expertise in identifying Powellite crystals with



*garnets in the daylight and more good specimens were found. Moving on to the cavern and tailings dump we collected what we could carry back up the hill to the car park. Denis found that on the cavern floor, buried under several centimetres of fine dust, there was abundant fluorescence in the rocks that had been overlooked on previous visits.*

*A very successful and enjoyable field trip produced some excellent specimens and the group left the site around mid-afternoon. Many thanks to Mark Walters for organising the field trip and to all the participants for making the weekend such a success.*

### **PHOTOS**



*Collecting at the southern costeans with wonderful views*

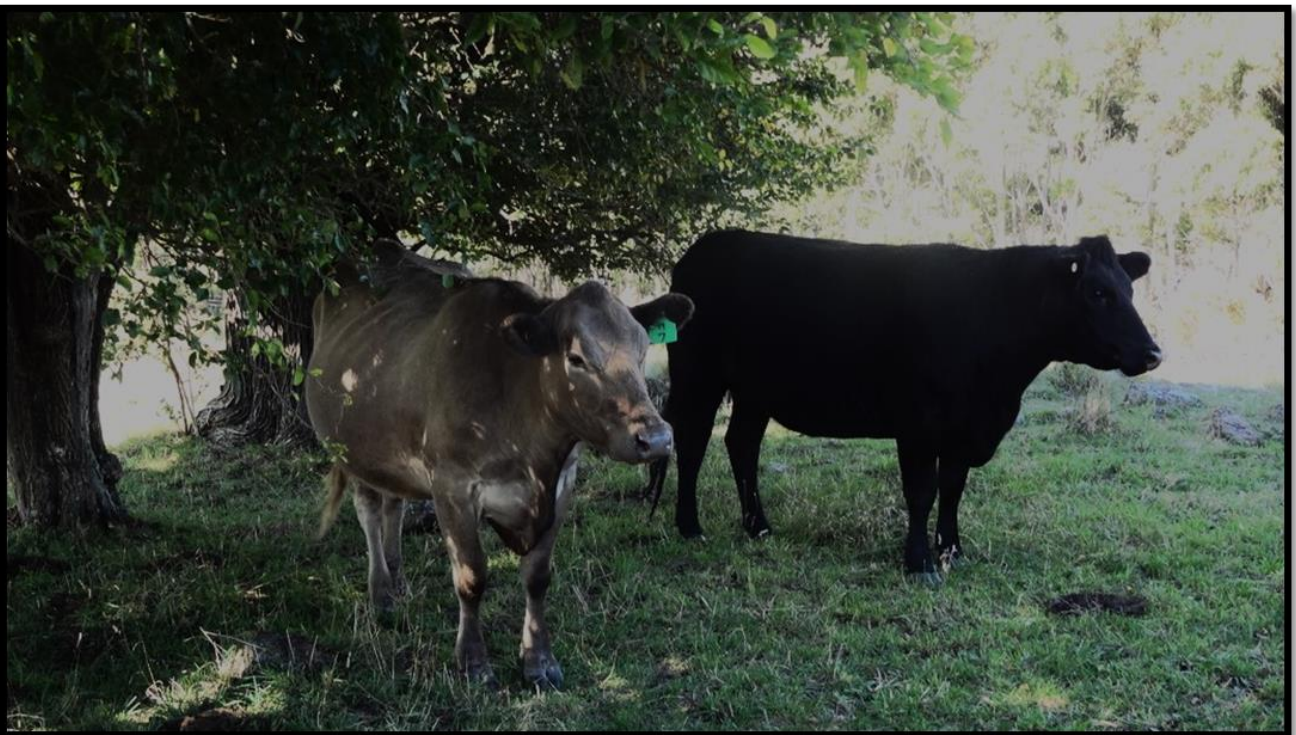


*Dioni collecting Pyrite at one of the southern costeans*





*Geoff setting up camp Saturday afternoon*



*Our camp visitors Saturday afternoon*





*Walking down into the cavern at dusk for night lamping - Geoff and Mark S.*



*The lights of Bathurst in the distance from our campsite*

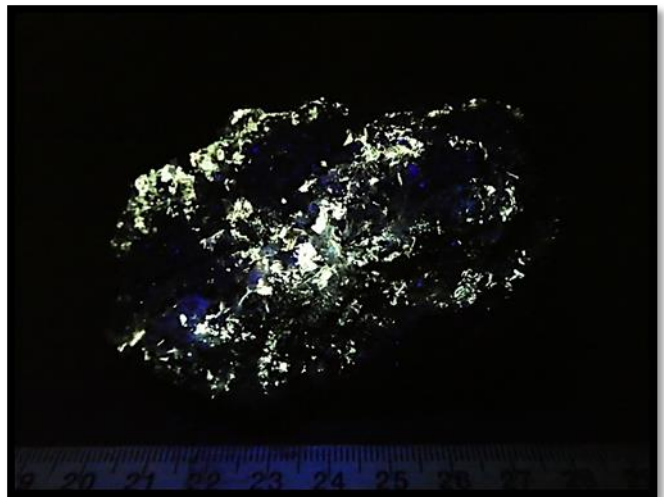


*Looking south towards Oberon and Diamond Hill*

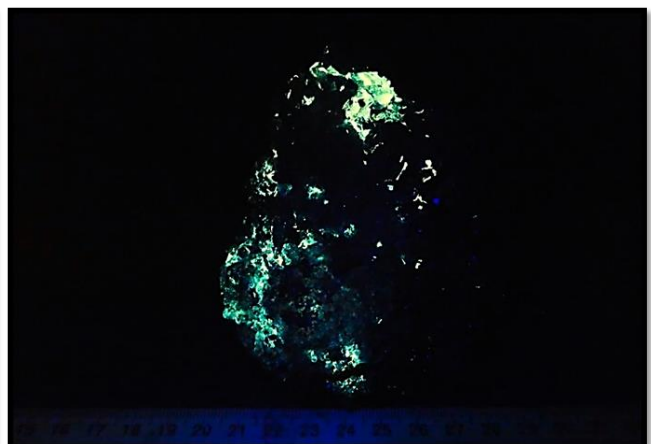
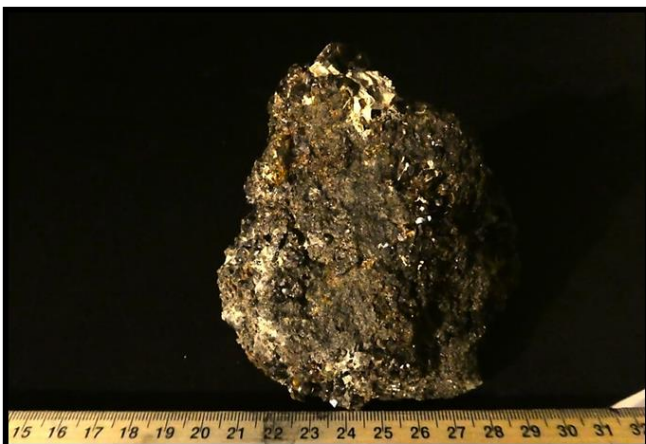




*Garnets in skarn – the black garnet centre right is 10mm across  
(collected from the small open cut)*

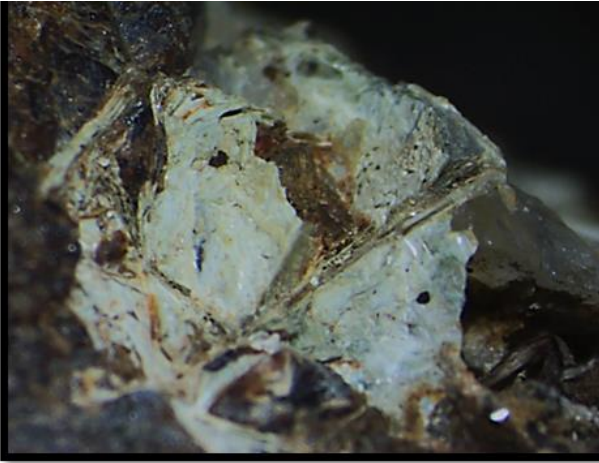


*Garnets and Powellite in skarn – natural and SW UV light*

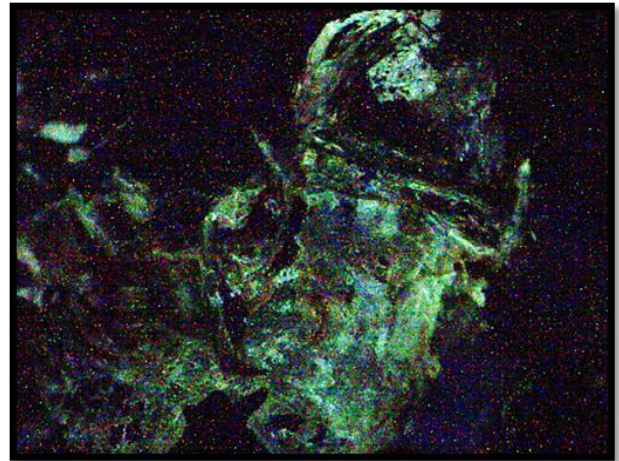
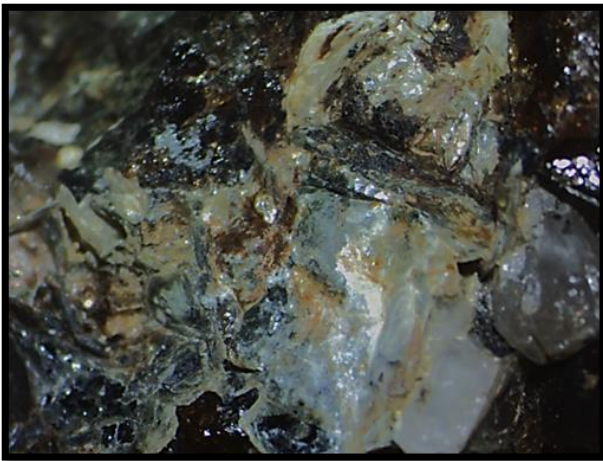


*Large specimen of garnets and Powellite:      Natural and SW UV light  
(Note the large cluster of Powellite crystals top centre)*





*Powellite crystals in natural and SW UV light – FOV 10mm*  
(From the large cluster of the previous specimen)



*Powellite crystals in natural and SW UV light – FOV 10mm*  
(From the large cluster of the previous specimen)



Inside the cavern  
Good specimens were found in the rocks on the floor covered in dust

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club 44th Annual Gem Show & Exhibition

To be held in the Greg Percival Community Centre, Oxford Road, Ingleburn NSW  
over Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am – 5:00 pm, and Sunday 9:30 am – 4:00 pm the 14<sup>th</sup> of July.

*Instagram.com @Campbelltownlapidaryclub*

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“Enjoy a fun day out discovering crystals, minerals, gemstones, fossils,  
and handcrafted jewellery direct from dealers and artisans.

Please see our Facebook page for more information.

We look forward to seeing you there!”



**Campbelltown & Districts Lapidary Club**  
**44th Annual Gem Show & Exhibition 2024**

Saturday 13th July 9.30am - 5.00pm  
Sunday 14th July 9.30am - 4.00pm  
at  
Greg Percival Community Centre  
Oxford Road, Ingleburn NSW

Enjoy a fun day out discovering  
Crystals, Minerals, Gemstones, Fossils &  
Handcrafted Jewellery direct from  
Dealers and Artisans

\$10 entry payable ONLY at the door  
Children U/16 free with paying Adult

Lucky Door Prize & Raffle  
Free Children's Activity  
Food & Drink available

Scan the QR code to add to your diary



 [instagram.com/Campbelltownlapidaryclub](https://www.instagram.com/Campbelltownlapidaryclub)  
 [facebook.com/Campbelltownlapidary](https://www.facebook.com/Campbelltownlapidary)  
 [ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com](mailto:ctownlapidaryclub@bigpond.com)



**CENTRAL COAST  
LAPIDARY,  
CRYSTAL, GEM  
& JEWELLERY  
SHOW**

Exhibitors and sellers of crystals,  
gemstones, minerals, fossils,  
jewellery, beads and more.

**DATES**  
Sat 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 9am-5pm  
Sun 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 9am-4pm

**VENUE**  
**Mingara Events Centre**  
Wyong Rd, Tumbi Umbi NSW 2261

Adults \$5 entry fee  
Children under 18 FREE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
P: 02 4362 2246  
E: [secretarycclc@gmail.com](mailto:secretarycclc@gmail.com)  
[facebook.com/centralcoastlapidaryclub](https://www.facebook.com/centralcoastlapidaryclub)

PROUDLY  
PRESENTED BY  
CENTRAL COAST  
LAPIDARY CLUB INC.



## LAPIDARY, CRYSTAL, GEM & JEWELLERY SHOW

### The Central Coast Lapidary Club Inc

The Central Coast Lapidary, Crystal, Gem & Jewellery Show is going to be held on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> & Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> of October at the Mingara Events Centre, Wyong road, Tumbi Umbi, Central Coast.

For more information : - Tel 02 4362 2246 Secretary [cclc@gmail.com](mailto:cclc@gmail.com)

[Facebook.com/centralcoastlapidaryclub](https://www.facebook.com/centralcoastlapidaryclub)

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## Blue Mountains Lapidary Club Gem Show: 20th and 21st July

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> 9am-4pm Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 9am-3pm.

'Gemstone and minerals, dealers, jewellery, slabs, fossils, lucky dips, raffles, gold & sapphire panning, plus more!. In the Bullaburra Progress Hall, cnr of Noble Street & Great Western Highway. Bullaburra.'

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## Christmas in July "Open Day" – Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc

51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2024 – 9am to 2pm.

'Club members selling Mineral Specimens, Fossils, Lapidary Materials, Jewellery & more.

Morning Tea and Sausage Sizzle Lunch available.

You can find us at our website [www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au](http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au)

or like and follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IllawarraLC>'

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## **Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Gem Show**

Saturday & Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> August 8:30 to 4 pm daily

Displays and Sales of lapidary work, gems, rocks, minerals, jewelry, beads and gemstones

Being held in the Glenbrook Community Hall, Great Western Highway, Glenbrook,

(adjoining the Glenbrook Theatre). Entry: Adults \$3, Children \$1

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## **The State Gem and Mineral Show and GEMKHANA. 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September**

The State Gem and Mineral Show, **GEMKHANA 2024**, will be held over Saturday the 28th and Sunday the 29th of September in the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Show Grounds at 40 Racecourse Rd, Clarendon.

Featuring Hand crafted Jewellery, Faceted Stones, Polished Stones (Cabochons), Stone Carving, Minerals & Fossils, Crystals.

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THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.S.W. INC

NOMINATION FORM FOR ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS

AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2023/2024

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: .....