



THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

C/o School of Natural Science
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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2016

The June Meeting will be held on Friday the 3rd of June at 7.30 p.m. in the clubrooms of the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club at 73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville.

The June Meeting will be an Open Night, Interactive Forum on : -

‘Kingsgate Re-visited’.

The program will present Member’s collections and re-collections from Kingsgate and other molybdenite mines in New England. It will be introduced by Peter Williams who will provide a background to the mineralogy and history of the Kingsgate site. Other scheduled speakers are Brian England and Jim Sharpe.

Members are invited to bring in any notable specimens which they may have of minerals from Kingsgate or other molybdenite deposits in New England and if possible to address the meeting to describe acquiring the specimen/s or relate any experiences, information or impressions gained in collecting at Kingsgate. Anyone with surplus Kingsgate material could offer this for sale in a \$1 tray.

The SOCIETY MEETING VENUE

Members who have not yet attended a Society meeting at the **Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club** room are advised that the entrance to the Club car-park is unfortunately not illuminated at night but is about fifteen meters to the right of an entrance to neighbouring tennis courts which may be lit up. In entering the Lapidary Club entrance drivers are intended to steer to the right of the Club building and drive along the right side, around the back and to park at 45deg along the left side of the car park.

At the Society meetings and when taking refreshments members are asked that not too many people should crowd into the Club kitchen when obtaining hot drinks since space in the kitchen is limited. Please obtain your drinks and move out of the kitchen as soon as possible. The Society may place a hot-water urn and drink materials outside in the main room if this proves more convenient.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Meetings will continue to be held on the first Friday of the months throughout the year.

- July 1st: Lecture on the **Hera Gold-Lead-Zinc-Silver Mine at Nymagee** by Adam McKinnon.
- August 5th: Society AGM followed by the Betty Mayne- Edna Walker Memorial Lecture : - **‘Mineral Curiosities’** by Brian England.
- September 2nd: **Mineral Quiz** by Noel and Ann Kennon. The Quiz was to have been presented at the April 1st Meeting but due to the length of the commemorative program could not be held then and has been re-scheduled to September.
- October 7th: **‘4.5 Billion Years of Mineral Evolution’** by David Colchester
- November 4th: Lecture on **‘Meteorites’** by Ross Pogson
- December 2nd: **Christmas Social.**
- February 3rd 2017: Lecture on **‘Radioactivity and Minerals’** by Geoff Parsons.
- March 3rd 2017: Lecture on **‘The Milton Lavers collection’** by Paul Carr.
- April 7th 2017: Lecture on **‘19th Century European Minerals in the Australian Museum’** by John Rankin.
- May 5th 2017: **Members Mini-Auction**

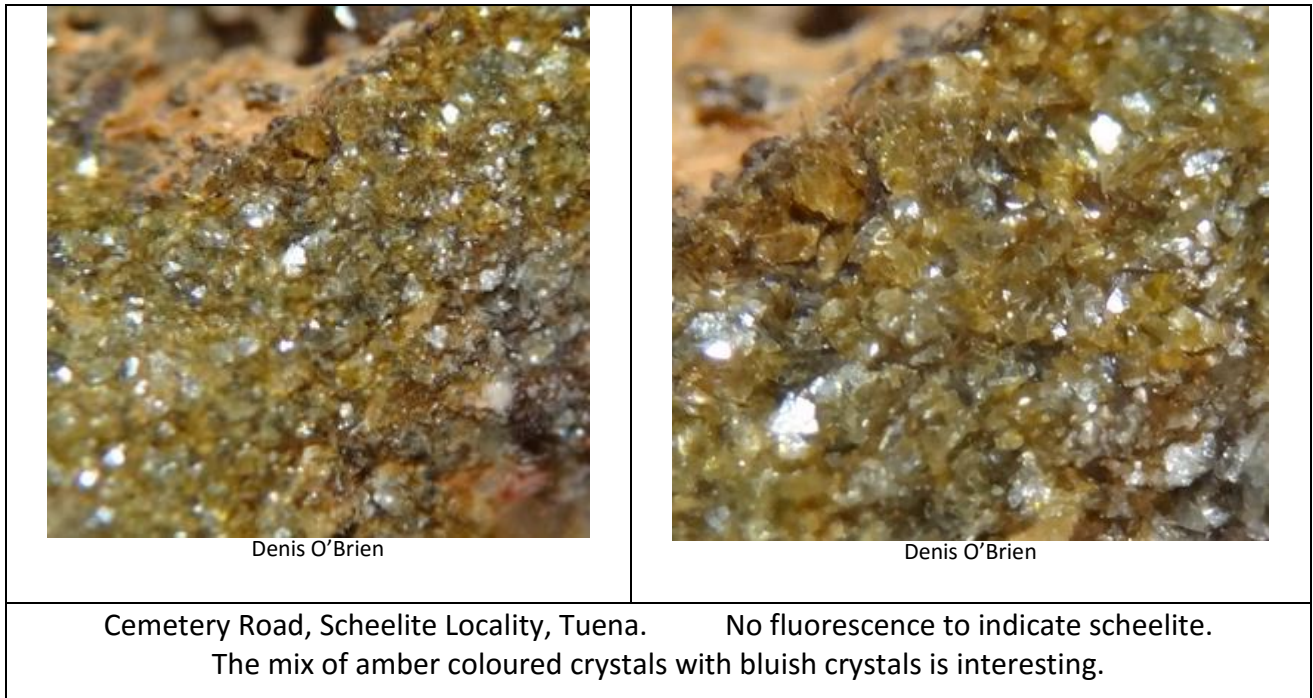
FIELD TRIPS

The **Society Field Trips Officer**, Ed Zbik has organised and conducted three field trips during April and May and has prepared reports as follows. More trips are being planned including return visits to the Tollwong area as part of an on-going mineral research project being conducted in consultation with and permission from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, (NPWS).

The Cordillera Field Trip

In attendance were Peter Beddow, Naomi Estelle, Brian Holden, Ann and Noel Kennon, Dennis O’Brien, Geoff Parsons, Simon Tanner and Ed and Antony Zbik.

Ten members assembled at Parsons General Store on 16th April. Three sites were visited over the weekend commencing at the scheelite occurrence west of Tuena.



Regrettably the owner of land around the Mt. Costigan mine that contains sections of the mine not rehabilitated did not give permission to access these areas on his property. The afternoon was spent at Cordillera. No specimens found at this site other than small milky quartz crystals.



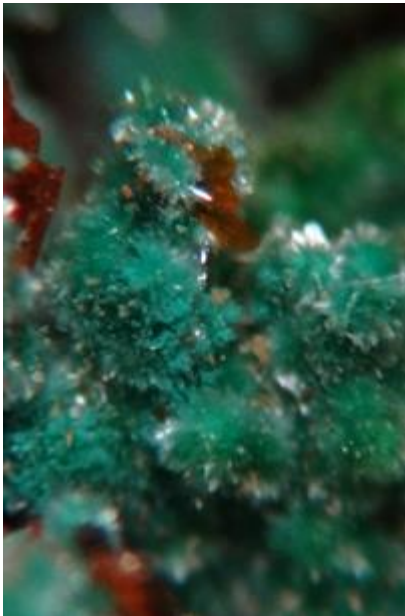
Sunday saw us depart after 10:00 am after waiting for three members who registered but did not front up or call. The group left for The Adits south of Mt Costigan but the approach to the road to the site proved too rugged for the variety of vehicles in the convoy so the party returned to Cordillera for a second day. Geoff Parsons found a fine specimen of Stolzite sitting on the surface ready to be picked up. Small azurite crystals, and malachite were found on the benches while cuprotungsten was collected across most mineral occurrences.



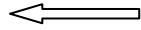
Malachite (~FOV 10mm)



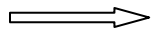
Malachite Fan (~ FOV 4mm)
Photos by Dennis O'Brien



Suspect cerussite
needles on malachite
(~FOV 5mm).



Colourless tabular
crystals
(~FOV 6mm)



by Dennis O'Brien



At the Cordillera Site



The intrepid Collectors

And the minerals



Cerussite. FOV10mm

Malachite. FOV10mm

Cerussite on copper. FOV10mm

Photos by Brian Holden

Tolwong May 2016 Field Trip Report.

The party assembled at Tolwong Station gate at 10:00 am. We met the owners who unlocked the padlocked gates for us to continue the journey by 4WD. We travelled some 4km in 4WD over the rough and gutted excuse of a road to the car park marked in the April reconnoitre. Rather than follow the track (???) to the campsite, the party moved through the bush directly to predetermined way points. We missed the thickets as we first moved mainly west for 2km, zigzagging to keep the walk at an easy pace then north 3km before making the final leg to the campsite 1½ km travelling west to Sivewright Spur overlooking Tolwong Creek. The GPS noted we had walked 8km from the car park. Arrived at campsite at 3:30 pm. As we set up camp and made a camp fire the sun set at 5:10pm.

It was a moonless night and by 6:00 pm it was pitch black and overcast. 8:00pm came very slowly with most of us retiring soon after. Light rain fell during the night. All were up early in the morning, most agreed that everyone was warm through the night and sleeping was pleasant in one's sleeping bags. Soon after breakfast, we packed our day packs and hammers and moved west. The track was quite distinct (3-4m wide) for 700m before it came to a loop end. From here the track became narrow but could easily be followed in single file, then it disappeared, and the ridge became a saddle and steeper, 20°, then 30°, then 40° then 50° (and some sections 60°) steep. The scree was loose boulders, slate, loose dirt and a mixture of all. Martin Rosser bound over every combination and led the group down the slopes to reach Tolwong Creek, no mines were evident but specimens were selected. The UHF radios proved to be very useful in communicating finds and positions. The rain was setting in and after 2 hours the group returned back up the slopes and back to camp. Its 1:00 pm back at the campsite and the light drizzle continued for the rest of the day (and night).

Monday had us pack up and start the return journey back to the cars. We arrived at the Tolwong gates before noon, spending time with the landowner from the main homestead. The group had a warm (country serving size) lunch at Nerriga Pub before we all separated and returned back to Sydney. How close did we get to Tolwong Mines?, the GPS waypoint data is still being assessed.

MinView Data GS								
Tolwong mines coordinates	230404	E	6141160	N	Distance			
							from Tolwong Mines	
	WP886	397m	230412	E	6141196	N	36.8781778	m
	WP870	470m	230345	E	6141215	N	80.6597793	m
	WP856	440m	230328	E	6141180	N	78.5875308	m
	Mud Scree	439m	230419	E	6141160	N	15	m
NPWS & Heritage coordinates								
Tolwong mines coordinates	230310	E	6140950	N	Distance			
							from Tolwong Mines	
	WP886	397m	230412	E	6141196	N	266.308092	m
	WP870	470m	230345	E	6141215	N	267.301328	m
	WP856	440m	230328	E	6141180	N	230.703273	m
	Mud Scree	439m	230419	E	6141160	N	236.603043	m
		variance	94		210	Between GS and NPWS H		

Geoff Parsons is the custodian of Group 1 minerals collected, totaling 2.8kg, some 25 specimens, mostly galena, with yellow, green brown crusting, vitreous minerals in cracks, whitish alteration products are evident with other specimens showing whitish pseudomorphs after galena.

....Geoff Parsons

Graham Ogle is the custodian of Group 2 minerals collected 21 specimens, 3.2 kg. including Quartz Pyrite Galena Scorodite Anglesite Arsenopyrite Cerussite, ?Chlorite, unknown metallic needles. Also photographed a larger rock with a calcite seam on it – thin though.

We were certainly close to Tolwong Mines but didn't actually get to any mine as such. Geoff, Martin and I collected in the creek – where there were a few rocks that had come down from the slopes on the other side where the mines are. I don't know precisely which one we were closest to. The side of the creek that we came down on was steep, and the other side was even steeper. Simon thought he could see a dump on the other side slightly up-stream from where we were, we did not find a way to get to that, it fits in with what Brian England said about there being a dump there.

Martin and Geoff have the coordinates of where we collected, it was at 347 m and is WP004 on Martin's GPS.

.....Graham Ogle

Several of the samples were taken for testing at the Australian Museum, which is ongoing subject to availability of XRD. Progress so far.

- Several unknown or doubtful specimens have been X-rayed with the main result being scorodite found in various habits (massive, granular, chalky, globular and drusy) and colours (white, various greens, yellows).
- Most secondary minerals have proved to be scorodite or anglesite (more tests to be done).
- Anglesite seems to be quite common where galena is present.
- Small white acicular crystals (largely coated with scorodite) are believed to be cerussite but are too small to work with.
- Tiny, metallic, acicular crystals embedded in quartz have not been identified by XRD as sample was too small, but have been given to John Rankin to microprobe. Results in due course.
- Black crystals found by Geoff on the dray track on reconnoitre trip (GPWP66) proved to be cassiterite in quartz, but may not necessarily come from the main group of mines. It's appearance is quite different to other Tolwong specimens.
- Baryte was not found, and at this stage is not confirmed in any of the specimens we have. The one suspected specimen proved to be dolomite.
- Calcite was not found on collected specimens, but crystals were found on one specimen loaned to me for photography by Paul Moxon.
- Not sure that 3 mines were visited on the weekend. I thought none had been reached due to the terrain, suspect that all specimens coming from the creek bed near the top workings.

..... Dieter Mylius











We will return, an extension in the Science License will be made

..... All

Main points from the May 7-9 trip

- Rained during trip, 3 days.
- visited locality of Tolwong Mines at the 300m-400m level.

- collected just under 6kg specimens,
- only spent 2 hours at sites accessed.
- Scree slope on approach had slope of 50° plus in some sections with both rock, boulder and unstable soil sections.
- Pathways. Tracks overgrown and washed away, return journey found more tracks.
- Agreed for a Spring time approach from Bungonia side along Bridal trail from Trestle LO to camp on the Shoalhaven River and move up Tolwong Ck to the mines later in the year.
- Need to reconnoitre access to area prior main party.

<p>Walking in</p> 	<p>Resting</p> 	<p>OMG</p> 	
<p>This is gentle.</p> 	<p>Look down.</p> 		<p>Coming up</p> 
 <p>Around the creek</p>		 <p>The track stops here for cars</p>	
<p>TLC gaffa tape fixes shoe</p> 	<p>Monday lunch break</p> 	<p>At Tolwong HS gates.</p> 	<p>Timed shot all in.</p> 

Specimens collected by the Mineralogical Society of NSW are under a NPWS Science Licence for research. Fossicking is prohibited in National Parks and will result in heavy fines, imprisonment or both. Tolwong HS is a private property, permission is required before entry.

Sunny Corner Field Trip Report

Two days were spent at the site. Brian England filled in for Peter Williams who had the flu that's going around. Saturday was spent at Silver King, Sunny Corner and New Shaft mines and the slag heap. Members worked around the rehabilitation areas and scree slopes.

Saturday night saw the group enjoying an evening at Lithgow Workies. All stayed at the motels, only Simon Tanner was adventurous to camp in the State Forest camping grounds.

Sunday, we visited the Nevada Mine. A small party then continued to Diamond Vale in the Lowes Mount SF in the afternoon to find some epidote, molybdenite and suspect scheelite.



WHAT SOME MEMBERS SAID

One of the target mines that we wanted to visit was the Copeland Mine, it's one of the few mines with gossan still evident but we didn't reach it. It is now hidden from view by the trees and appears to be outside the rehabilitation zone. I would be interested in going back some time.

Although rehabilitation has been carried out (under the Dept. Lands 2015 Derelict Mines Program) it was done with great sensitivity so that most of the mine relics have been retained untouched. Good specimens of sulphide ores (galena and sphalerite plus galena) were found below the Silver King, plus plenty of massive fine grained pyrite. The ore at Sunny Corner is volcanogenic in origin and participants were shown a specimen of unmetamorphosed bedded sulphide from Rosebery Tasmania which would have been similar to the ore horizon at Sunny Corner before it was metamorphosed, deformed and recrystallised.

Unique to Sunny Corner are the very sharply defined moulds of twinned idiomorphic arsenopyrite crystals in argillite. These moulds are up to a centimetre across and comprise either 2 or 3 columnar crystals intersecting at 60 and 120 degrees. The arsenopyrite has been leached from the argillite by groundwater but specimens can be found in which the arsenopyrite crystals are still present.

Our search for the Copeland tunnel and its small dump of colourful gossan containing chalcophanite and mimetite at the north side of the mine area was unsuccessful.

.... **Brian England.**

Minerals found included Pyrite Galena Quartz Beudantite in Silver King dumps. Beudantite in various phases, likely silver-rich.

Acid Mine Drainage minerals found in two overhangs near No 1 adit as per P.A. Williams article – chalcantite, metahohmannite, various copiapite-group minerals, alunogen and others to a total of 15 – appearance as described in article. Possible bariopharmacosiderite.

....**Graham Ogle**

REFERENCE:

Peter Williams, "The silver mines of Sunny Corner, New South Wales", AJM Vol 17 No 1

Vicki Powys, "Sunny Corner A Silver town of the 1880's"

J.E. Carne "The Copper Mining Industry and the Distribution of Copper Ores in New South Wales 1908", Geological Survey.

Reports by Ed Zbik, May 2016

The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

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The MAY MEETING

The Society May General Meeting was held for the first time in the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club building which proved to be very comfortable. The program was the annual Society Mini-Auction and was attended by about fifty members including two American visitors from California. The Auction was conducted as usual by Dieter Mylius who briskly and competently disposed of the lots assisted by Arthur Roffey who displayed each specimen as it came up for sale. There was a large range of some seventy-six mineral specimens offered for auctioning, many of fine quality, with almost all sold for a total amount of about \$2,700, the Sale ending at about 9.30 pm.

At the commencement of the Meeting there were a few announcements. John Behrens welcomed members to the Lapidary Club venue and advised that in the event of the Club car park becoming full visitors could park in the nearby Woolworths shopping center car-park which would be open until midnight and a short walk to the Club.

Ed Zbik addressed the Meeting to report on forthcoming **Field Trips**, to Tolwong over this weekend and to **Sunny Corner** over the 21st/22nd of this month. The **Cordillera** trip had been held as scheduled over the 16th and 17th of April with a number of specimens collected and some awaiting full identification. He also reported that the NPWS had extended the final date to 13th of May for receipt of submissions by interest groups recommending changes to and review of its fossicking policy.

Ed Zbik finally advised that Frank and Gertrude Godeny had been awarded SWMS certificates which he handed to them at the Meeting. The number of SWMS-compliant Society members was now up to thirty.

Graham Ogle reported that the next **Micro-Mineral Group** meeting would be held at Geoff Parson's house in Engadine at 1.00 pm next Saturday the 14th of May.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Gem Show

Over Saturday and Sunday the 20th and 21st of August 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

Information from : -

<http://www.freewebs.com/blaxlandgemmineralclub/BGMCshow.htm>

The 39th Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia Seminar.

From the 30th September to 4th of October 2016 with the formal proceedings being held over Saturday, Sunday and Monday the 1st to 3rd of October 2016.

The 39th Seminar will be hosted by the **Mineralogical Society of Queensland.**

Subject: **"Mineralogy - Science and Passion"**

Venue: In the theatrette of the Queensland Museum on the corner of
Grey and Melbourne Streets, South Brisbane, (Southbank).

Quote from the Queensland Mineralogical Society Inc Website:

'The Mineralogical Society of Queensland is pleased to announce details of their 2016 seminar and invite you to attend in Brisbane, Queensland, on the Queen's Birthday weekend, Sept-Oct 2016.

The theme is **Mineralogy - Science and Passion** - giving guest speakers leeway to speak on almost any subject that they are passionate about. We are presently finalising our program of guest speakers and this will be publicised on the website www.mineral.org.au and through state and affiliated societies and clubs. We are sure that the variety of topics and our presenters will have something for everyone. As well as the seminar we are conducting field trips and a microscopy session in the days before and after the formal proceedings for those who can attend.

Seminar Registration: Adult \$85 per person, student \$40 per person.
Seminar Dinner is \$50 per person.

In addition to the formal proceedings on Friday the 30th September there will be an informal Micromount session and on the Monday morning after the Seminar there will be a mineral bazaar. The venue for both the Micromount session and mineral bazaar will be the Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society Club rooms approx. 12klm south-east of the Brisbane CBD. There will also be optional field trips, half a day on Monday the 3rd and the full day of Tuesday 4th October.

Also being held over the October long weekend over the 1st, 2nd & 3rd of October :-

GEMKHANA 2016

In the Hawkesbury Showgrounds at Clarendon near Richmond.

The Gemkhana is presented by the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW Inc. and is the Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of Lapidaries from all over NSW. Since the venue last year was very successful and geographically convenient the Gemkhana is being held again in the Hawkesbury Showgrounds, at Clarendon. The Showgrounds are directly opposite the RAAF base, on the Windsor Road approximately mid-way between Richmond and Windsor, turn-off on to Racecourse Road. There is unlimited parking in and just outside the Showgrounds which are a fairly short walk from Clarendon railway station.

Over Saturday to Monday, 1st, 2nd & 3rd of October from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm
on Saturday & Sunday, and from 9.00 am to 12 noon on Monday.

'Featuring Competition, Exhibitions, Dealers, Demonstrations and Tailgating'
