



THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

Website: www.minsocnsw.org.au

Meetings will be held at 7.30pm on the first Friday of each month through the year in the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club.

Please address all correspondence to :-

The Secretary, 58 Amazon Road, Seven Hills, NSW 2147

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

The March Meeting will be held on Friday the 2nd of March at 7.30 pm in the clubrooms of the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club at 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville.

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

‘Mineral of the Month – Garnets’.

There will be a lecture to be given by Kevin Capnerhurst on :-

The New Minview, Much More Than On-line Mineral Deposit Data.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

April 6th : The program will include a number of talks on ‘**Pyrite. How, Why and Where?**’ Presenters will include Peter Williams describing the chemistry and crystallography and Brian England describing the types of specimens.

May 4th : Member’s annual **Auction**.

June 1st : Lecture to be given by Graham Ogle on :- ‘**The Fluorescent Minerals of Sterling Hill**’.

July 6th: Lecture to be given by Glen Cathers on :- ‘**The Sepon Copper Mine, Laos**’.

August 3rd: **Society A.G.M.** and the Betty Mayne, Edna and Harold Walker Memorial Lecture.

September 7th: Lecture to be given by Jeff Davis on ‘**Elements That Make Up Minerals**’.

THANKS

A big thank-you to the Members who generously donated minerals for the Kids with Cancer sale at the February Meeting. The sale made \$1,005 for the charity Foundation.

MAY MEETING MINI-AUCTION

The annual **Member's Mini-Auction** will be held at the 4th of May Meeting. It is expected that the auction will sell up to 80 specimens through the evening. Members intending to enter lots in the Auction are recommended to start selecting their sale specimens from now on but limiting themselves to ten specimens each. In due course, by the middle of next month, a list of the specimens being offered for sale should be submitted by each vendor so that an auction list can be compiled and lot numbers assigned to each specimen.

In addition to the regular auction minerals can also be sold by silent auction. Members can bring in a tray of specimens to leave on a table accompanied by a bid form which will be provided.

WELCOME

Welcome to new members Laurie, Lan and Kevin Brown of Thornleigh
 Lee Gronow and Deborah Flynn of Wilberforce
 Gary Bruce McCalmont of Chatswood
 And re-joining member Peter Arena of Allambie Heights

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
	E-mail:	<i>chapmanjr@optusnet.com.au</i>
SECRETARY:	George Laking	Tel: (02) 9636 7145
	E-mail:	<i>bglaking@tech2u.com.au</i>
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	E-mail:	<i>grahamo@diabetesnsw.com.au</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>ecz@optusnet.com.au</i>

FIELD TRIPS

Ed Zbik has compiled a substantial schedule of a number of Field Trips to be held over the next few months. Some of them are exploratory reccé trips, others involve up to six days of travelling and camping on-sites. Several of the trips are to the Bungonia area on the west of the Shoalhaven River gorge where there are a number of small to larger mineral deposits. Some of the trips would require the attendees to possess the Society 'Safe Work Methods Practices' (SWMP) certificate.

Much of the area between Bungonia township and nearer the Shoalhaven, is either National Forest or a State Conservation area, (SCA), which has involved the Society, or specifically Ed Zbik, having to apply for various permits and scientific licenses to enter to locate and investigate the mineralogy of a number of sites. Bungonia is near the Tollwong similarly-mineralized sites on the east side of the river gorge which has also been investigated by the Society.

The Manuka mine is in central NSW south of Cobar and would involve two days travelling there and two days back with the intention to spend two days on site and one day at another site in the area. Trip attendees would be able to stay in the mine accommodation at Manuka.

FIELD TRIPS MARCH TO JUNE 2018

All minerals collected by the Society in the Bungonia SCA and Milton NP will go to The Australian Museum or Western Sydney University for examination.

Members attending Bungonia and / or Manuka are suggested to carry UHF/CB radios with a minimum 5km range.

Bungonia SCA under Society's "Science Licence"

Open to all Society members. Sunday 11/3/2018 – Monday 12/3/2018
Walk around to find actual mines - there are several sites.
Camping in camping ground (optional bush camping)

Bungonia SCA Block-Up mines, the twin site of Tolwong, with similar mineralogy

Open to all Society members. Saturday 24/3/2018 – Monday 26/3/17
Bush camp two nights at site.

Bungonia SCA Long Gully Walk

Open to all Society members. Saturday 7/4/2018 – Sunday 8/4/218
Walk down Long Gully Creek looking for stannite - old tin run.
Camping in camping ground (optional bush camping)

Bungonia SCA Trestle Track Walk

Open to all Society members. 21/4/2018 Saturday – Sunday 22/4/2018
Visit O'Brien's and Carmichael's mines then walk to the Trestle Track
Camping in camping ground (optional bush camping)

Manuka and Cobar

Open only to Certified Members with Certificate of Compliance

Check latest AJM for article on Manuka.

This is a follow-up to Ian Graham's presentation on Manuka

Current confirmed dates Thursday 26th April to 1st May

Optional days - Wednesday 25th April to 2nd May subject to confirmation of access.

Includes visiting commercial operating mines and open cuts.

Visit Manuka open cut (2 days on site + 1 day off site)

While at Manuka, we will be accommodated in the site's dongas.

We will use camping grounds and bush camping when away from Manuka

McAlpine Revisit – Tumut

Open to all members Saturday 19/5/2018 – Sunday 20/5/2018
State Forest camping (nil facilities) and State Forest Fossicking Licence required

Canberra Geoscience Visit, then onto Paddy's River Skarn.

Open to all members 23/6/2018 Saturday – Sunday 24/6/2016

Please Note:

Specimens collected by the Mineralogical Society of NSW from the Morton National Park and Bungonia State Conservation Area 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.

To register for any of the above field trips:
 Contact Edward Zbik by e-mail: ecjz@optusnet.com.au
 Any questions, call 0401 538 480 until 10:00pm

TOLWONG MINE, Morton National Park

Currently we have four members willing to spend 3 days in the bush.
 A minimum of 6 members is needed to do a revisit. If interested, call Ed.
 Science Licence expires 30th June 2018.

SAFETY WORK METHOD STATEMENT & CERTIFICATION

The Society certifies members to be recognised as competent safety aware.

To assist the Society to gain access to Commercial Mines and Quarries, the Society issues a specific written "Safe Work Methods Practices" (SWMP) document specific for the site to the mine management. The Society certifies its members attending as being competent. The Society enters a mine site or quarry on the same basis as a contractor to work on the site. A SWMP document is written for each site and may have inclusions added at the request of the hosting company and site manager.

Members attending commercial mining sites must be certified in the SWMP document as compliant.

A number of member's Certification are now expiring in 2018 and members need to recertify.
 The Stage 2 certification involves 28 questions plus two activities. (One is optional)

To request for the Certification documents and questions for certification or renewal
 Contact Edward Zbik by e-mail: ecjz@optusnet.com.au
 Any questions, call 0401 538 480 until 10:00pm

Ed Zbik
 February 2018

THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY IS NOW OPEN.

Books can now be loaned out to members. When you borrow a book, you are the librarian. The magazines are slowly appearing on the shelves as they are accessioned, sleeved and labels prepared.

Loan Policy

- Any item until the next meeting
- Limit of 2 books
- Limit of 2 magazines
- Limit of 2 DVD's
- Limit of 1 Set of Books, maybe a set of 3 or 5 books
- Limit one piece of any equipment, ie microscope

Order on the Shelf.

- All books are arranged in accession number.
- All Magazines and Journals are arranged by date, volume and number.

- Instruments are kept on the bottom shelf.
- When returning magazines, please place them in their sequence.
-

Borrowing:

Each book/magazine/item will have a library card that details the method of borrowing.

Loan period is for **one month** or on the **date of the next Mineralogical Society Meeting**.

When borrowing an item

Print-your-name -in left-column

Print date borrowed in central column

Place this card in the LOANS BOX in your named envelope.

Upon return of item

Remove -card -from your-envelope -from -the -LOANS -BOX.

Print-date -of-return in -right'-column.

PLACE this card back-in -the -'sleeve

Return--back-to-shelf

Place -in accession -or-Volume/Number-order

Returns are expected one month after borrowing.

Books are NOT reserved, what is on the shelf is what is available.

It happens:

- Damaged books, missing or torn pages, covers or duct cover damaged. Place the book on the bottom shelf with a note about the damage.

Members:

Nearly two thirds of the Society's books have been sold to members over the past number of years.

When decluttering, downsizing or finished reading the following please consider donating them to the Society

- Books
- Magazines
- DVDs
- Any publication dealing with minerals, geology or acceptable Natural Science subjects relating to minerals, geology, history and locations will be accepted.
- If your copy is in a better condition than the library's copy, then it will be substituted.
- Duplicate copies may be sold to benefit the library.
- Donations of mineral specimens will be placed in the Mineral Archives.
 - Mineral specimens.
 - Mineral specimens may be placed in the "Kids for Cancer" box or archived.

- Ed Zbik

- February 2018

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

At the commencement of the Meeting Ed Zbik advised that a substantial number of **Field Trips** were a work in progress with a number scheduled over the next four months to visit sites in Bungonia, central NSW, the Tumut area, Canberra and Paddy's River with aspects of some of the trips still to be confirmed.

Ed also reported that the **Society Library** was slowly coming together with most of the books and the AJM and Rocks & Minerals magazines by now labelled with cards, on the bookshelves and available for

borrowing. The Society had a full set of Mineralogical Records due to be set out on the bookshelves but labelling was not yet completed. Ed described and demonstrated the procedure to be followed for items to be borrowed advising that members were expected to take a book or magazine for one month only and return it at the subsequent Meeting. He also expected that in time the Society would be investing in a few instruments such as another microscope and the procedure for borrowing these would be treated in the same way as for the books, being labelled with a card to be signed.

Ed Zbik asked if any members would be able to help him find a copy of a book, only two copies of which were made. On the occasion of the first Mineralogical Seminar held in Victoria in 1977 the Victorian society printed a joint publication '*Zeolites Seminar book*'. It was a summary and description of all the speakers and their lectures at the Seminar. The Victorian society kept one copy and the other had been given to NSW but its current whereabouts are unknown. Ed asked that if any members had any knowledge of the book could they let him know.

Graham Ogle reported on the meetings of the **Micro-Mineral Group** which were held, usually on the second Saturday of each month throughout the year, at various members' houses. The next one would be held the following Saturday at Noel Kennon's residence in Dapto and in March at Brian England's house in Maitland. The meetings usually presented a theme, of a particular type or location of specimens to examine. Graham Ogle urged any members interested in attending a meeting to check with him.

Jim Sharpe thanked the members who had brought in specimens for the **Kids with Cancer** sale. He pointed out that there were a few unusual specimens including a large piece of basalt with a mass of chabazite crystals which had been set out for silent auction. The specimen was from the Glen Lomond Range, south of Glenn Innes, and had been collected when road works temporarily exposed an outcrop.

John Chapman addressed the Meeting to report on the sad loss of a cheerful member, **Arthur McLean**, who had passed away in January. Arthur had had an interesting life and John Chapman had brought a folder with some information on Arthur's life to the Meeting. He also advised that he had taken on the task of selling Arthur's mineral collection and would probably be holding a sale at his house in March.

'Tolwong – Collecting for Mountain Goats'.

The Background:

Tolwong to the cartographers is a section of the Morton National Park in the Southern Highlands bounded by the Shoalhaven river gorge on the north and west. To mining prospectors over a hundred years ago it referred to a fairly small area along the eastern edge of the gorge where a number of sites of mineralization were identified. The mineralized area was about ten kilometers due east of the township of Bungonia on the other side of the gorge.

In reference to a paper written by Professor Ken McQueen of the University of Canberra: - '*Difficulties with Refractory Ores: History of the Tolwong Mines, Shoalhaven Gorge NSW, 2003*' – copper-tin-arsenic mineralised outcrops were discovered on the edge of the Shoalhaven Gorge in about 1904 by a John Sivewright. Mining groups were sufficiently enthused to commence setting up mining operations with the Tolwong Mining Company formed in 1907 and the lode opened up at a number of points along its length. By 1910 two 'flying fox' aerial/cable-ways had been set up to transport ore to a processing plant built in the base of the gorge. Ore production and processing had proceeded but after only two years of operation the company faced liquidation due to the large amount of capital expenditure and low returns from the ore and concentrates. '*Total production from all the deposits was probably less than 1,500 tons*' (K.McQueen). Apart from the small amount of ore mined the processing was a problem since one of the main commercially-significant minerals was stannite, a copper-iron-tin sulphide from which it was difficult to separate the metals.

Other minerals at Tolwong included arsenopyrite, chalcopyrite, galena, sphalerite, tetrahedrite and, notably of interest to collectors, some bournonite. Intermittent work on some of the lode sites continued up to 1916 when it was discontinued completely. Since then the sites have been looked at briefly in the 1960s and in 1971 by BHP among other companies but the small size of the orebody has discouraged any development.

The mineralogy of Tolwong has been examined to some extent, notably apart from Professor McQueen's paper the late Laurie Lawrence also worked on the mineralogy of the sites and it is his paper that the Society has been using as a reference to identify all the minerals at Tolwong. For this purpose several trips have been made by Society members to some of the sites and an article is being prepared for eventual publication in the Australian Journal of Mineralogy. The Mindat database lists seventeen minerals that were found at Tolwong and Society investigators have identified twelve so far.

The Introduction:

The President, Dieter Mylius, introduced the lecture for the evening describing Society investigations and visits to Tolwong by suggesting that : -

“Some people may say that this place is where the science of knee reconstruction was advanced by decades, then others may say that this is where the Jamaican bob-sled team did their summer training, some may say that this is what Sir Edmund Hilary used as a training run before climbing Everest and some say that if you remember being there, You have never been there. We call it Tolwong ! ”

(The background to the speaker's introduction may be that Society groups organised by Ed Zbik have made several field trips into the old Tolwong mining area over the last two years and given that sites are some kilometers from the nearest possible vehicle access, the whole area is substantially overgrown, equipment including for overnight camping has had to be carried some kilometers from where vehicles could be parked and since the area is all National Park and cheering camp fires were not allowed to be lit, visiting the mines has presented some challenges and discomfort to the intrepid explorers).

The Logistics:

Ed Zbik initially displayed a number of images of the mining work at Tolwong in the early 1900s showing views of the Shoalhaven river site of the processing plant, heavy equipment being brought in by the miners and images of maps of the National Park indicating the location of the mining area. He then described some of the several trips he had made to explore gaining access to the mining sites by reccés sometimes accompanied by a Park ranger. Other trips had involved taking three days to access a site with a lot of walking and negotiating various waterfalls. Views were shown of the camp sites and remains of some of the worked sites. Ed also described a little of the application procedures he had had to take on, filling in paperwork, negotiating regulations and applying to National Parks officials for permits to enter the area. Society exploration of the Tolwong mines has all been done on the basis of it being a science project for which a Science License, which has to be renewed yearly, had to be obtained.

The History of the Project and the Geology:

David Colchester spoke next to initially describe the history of the Society Tolwong Mineralogy project which originated in 2006 when Laurie Lawrence said that he wanted to prepare a paper on the Tolwong deposits and asked him and Jim Sharpe to help. Sadly Laurie passed away later that year and the project lapsed but in 2015 the Society Micro-Mineral Group decided to start examining minerals from the Tolwong deposits with reference to Laurie's original paper. The prospect of identifying and providing photographs of many of the minerals originally listed by Laurie Lawrence and publishing a report on this was perceived as a tribute to his contribution to Australian mineralogy. The report was now at an advanced stage with a draft having been sent to the editor of the Australian Journal of Mineralogy in WA. A few modifications would be needed before the report could be published.

The Tolwong orebody extends for about 750 meters along the edge of the gorge and was mined to a depth of 550 meters. It occurs in a shear zone which transects substantially deformed and folded Ordovician slates and quartzites. Later geological processes intruded carboniferous granites and hydrothermal fluids which deposited the ore minerals. Laurie Lawrence had described the development of the orebody by referring to a process he named tectonic overprinting.

The Minerals:

Dieter Mylius initially described the discussions, decisions and the work leading up to examining and photographing where possible, any Tolwong material that the investigators were able to locate, mostly in member's collections, and then the decision to visit the original sites and try and recover new specimens. He then moved on to refer to the minerals originally listed by referring to a large number of images of specimens noting how many examples of these had been recently identified.

In conclusion Dieter Mylius thanked the members who had been helping with the Tolwong mineral identification project and noted the efforts put in by Ed Zbik in organising field trips to the sites and all his negotiating with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

2018 Society Membership Fees

Society membership fees were due from January 1st and members are invited to renew their subscriptions. The Society carries several insurances to protect the Society and members against injury or financial loss etc but insurance protection is subject to them being financial for the current year. According to the Society Constitution membership is valid in any new year up to March 31st when it will be deemed to have lapsed but would be re-instated immediately upon payment of the current year fee.

Membership infers one person to be insured but if a member wishes in addition to insure one or more family member/s they must pay an extra \$5 per person who must be named on the subscription form. Family members can only include spouse/partner and children.

Subscription renewal forms are available from the Secretary or Treasurer at any Meeting or are on the Society website. Members are asked to fill out a renewal form particularly if any of their addresses, telephone number/s or e-mail details have changed. Please keep the Society up-to-date with this information.

Subscriptions may be paid by : -

- i). Direct Credit / bank transfer to the Society's account at the Commonwealth Bank: -
The Mineralogical Society of NSW Inc. BSB: 062016; Account number: 28023647
- ii). by sending cheque or Australia Post Money Order to the Treasurer or Secretary;
- or iii). by cash or cheque delivered to the Treasurer or Secretary at any General meeting.

Members posting their subscriptions should send these to the : -
Secretary, The Mineralogical Society of NSW Inc,
58 Amazon Road, Seven Hills, NSW 2147

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BACK FROM TUCSON SHOW

Being held in the TURRAMURRA MASONIC & FUNCTION CENTRE on the corner of the Pacific Highway and Turramurra Avenue, Turramurra. Very near to the Turramurra rail station.

From 9.00 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday 3rd March & from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm on Sunday 4th March.

'New and amazing stock from the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show. A fine selection of mineral specimens, decorator pieces, faceting and cabbing, rough gemstones, beads and crystals.'

Presented by : -

Glenn Huntley of Quality Gem Rough Supplies. Mobile No: 0427 945 087
And Peter and Debbie Beckwith of Crystal Habit, Mobile No: 0412 333 150
Inquiries - e-mail Peter at *raregems@optusnet.com.au*

Leaflets describing the Show including a map of the location will be available at the Society February and March Meetings.

MINERAMA Fossicking, Gem & Jewellery Show

At the Glen Innes & District Services Club, 120 Grey Street, Glen Innes over Friday to Sunday, the 9th to 11th of March 2018. Tailgaters will be accommodated on the King George Oval behind the Services Club.

Quoted from the Website: *www.minerama.com.au*

'The Minerama Fossicking, Gem & Jewellery Show in Glen Innes is NSW's largest annual gem and jewellery show, attracting visitors and dealers from all over Australia. Held every year on the 2nd weekend in March, Minerama is perfect for all gem and jewellery lovers, rockhounds and outdoor adventurers. Guided fossicking field trips to suit both beginner and experienced gem hunters.

There are over 100+ stalls trading in gemstones, fine jewellery, facet rough, lapidary tools & supplies, crystals, beads, 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.'

CANBERRA ROCK SWAP 2018

The Canberra Lapidary Club Rock Swap will be held on the camping ground at Wagtail Way in the EPIC showground alongside Northbourne Avenue in Canberra over Saturday and Sunday the 17th and 18th of March from 8.30 am to 5.00pm each day.

Fossickers & dealers, Crystals, minerals, rough & cut gemstones, opals, fossils, jewellery.

More information from : - *http://www.canberralapidary.org.au/*

Or from the Club Show Convenor, Norm Menadue, on Tel: 02 6258 6631.

GEMBOREE 2018

The 54th National Gem & Mineral Show, GEMBOREE 2018 will be held in Willunga Park Reserve, Railway Terrace, Willunga in South Australia over Easter, the 30th March to 2nd April 2018. Inquiries may be made to the Gemboree 2018 Committee. PO Box 357 Blackwood SA 5051

Convenors: Tony Noel: 0427 242 145 and Chris Rowe: 0400 207 095
 Secretary: Alan Foote aandrfoote@bigpond.com
 Treasurer: Lyn Rowe clrowe1@bigpond.com 0414 917 236
 Competition Manager: Doug Hughes 0408 782 112
 Field Trip Officer: Kym Lochiel

SYDNEY CRYSTAL SHOW - SYDNEY SHOWGROUND : 12th MAY 2018

Now in its 4th year, in 2018 the Sydney Crystal Show will be held in the Howie Pavilion in the Sydney Showground at Sydney Olympic Park on Saturday 12th May from 10am-6pm

'Join us and many thousands of visitors over one massive day on Saturday 12th May 2018 for a spellbinding display of ancient natural treasures!. Minerals, Crystals, Fossils, Meteorites, Opals, Gems & Jewellery will be available, plus much more. Entry is \$5 for adults and Kids under 12 are free!

We invite Traders, Prospectors, Opal Dealers, Stone Dealers, quality Tailgaters and Jewellers to attend and promote your business to many thousands of new customers.

Nearly half of Sydney lives within 30 minutes of the Sydney Showground. It is purpose built for great shows and large crowds. Food available onsite. Catch the train to Olympic Park Station or drive and park in one of the 10,000 parks at the complex. There are several hotels onsite, the Ibis and Novotel are offering discounts for those attending the show. An opportunity not to be missed for traders and visitors alike.

See the website for more info: www.sydneycrystalshow.com
 Interested traders contact Sarah & Stu: rock@rockncrystals.com.au
 or by phone 02 9559 6737 or Stu 0404 470 494.
 Thank You Sarah & Stu **RocknCrystals 02 9559 6737**
rock@rockncrystals.com.au www.rockncrystals.com.au
www.facebook.com/rockncrystals www.instagram.com/rockncrystals

BLAXLAND GEM & MINERAL CLUB GEM SHOW,

The Blaxland show will be held in the Glenbrook Community Hall, Great Western Highway, at Glenbrook, NSW, (Next to Glenbrook Theatre) just west of Information Centre. over the weekend of the 18th and 19th of August 2018.
 8 am to 4 pm Daily. Entry: Adults: \$3 Children \$1.
<http://www.freewebs.com/blaxlandgemmineralclub/BGMCshow.htm>