



THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

Website: www.minsocnsw.org.au

Please address all correspondence to :-
The Secretary, 58 Amazon Road, Seven Hills, NSW 2147

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2023

The March Meeting will be held in the clubrooms of the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club at 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville, on Friday the 3rd of March at 7.30 pm.

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

”The New Minerals Gallery at the Australian Museum”.

and a talk by David Colchester on :-

‘A Simple Ph Field Test to help in Mineral Identification’.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS and PROGRAMS

April 14th : (The meeting will be on the second Friday in April, after Easter). There will be a lecture to be given by Graham Ogle on ‘The Punta de Su Seinargiu Mine in Sardinia; - Kingsgate’s Cousin’.

May 5th : Member’s Annual Mineral Auction.

The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Dieter Mylius	Mobile: 0412 516 193
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VICE-PRESIDENT:	John Chapman	Tel: (02) 9808 3481
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	Peter Beddow	Tel: (02) 8810 8446
	David Colchester	Tel: (02) 9449 3862
	Geoff Parsons	Tel: (02) 9548 3289
	Mark Walters	Mobile: 0421 012 647

2023 Society Membership Subscriptions

Members are reminded that Society Membership subscriptions were due from January 1st. Please look to attending to your subs. Income from membership subscriptions is essential for the routine functioning of the Society. Insurance policies are carried 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. Also current financial membership is mandatory for anyone to attend field trips or sell minerals at meetings.

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.

Subscription renewal forms are available from the Secretary or Treasurer at any Meeting or are on the Society website. A form will accompany this Newsletter. 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.

Fees are as follows : -

Adult membership, Sydney metropolitan area	\$30
Adult membership, country or interstate	\$25
Child/youth (under 18 years), or student member	\$20

Family members (spouse/partner and children only) can be admitted for membership at the additional cost of \$5 each. The name of the family member must be provided for the record and members are recommended to inform the Society if any of their details, e-mail addresses etc, have changed since last year.

Members are particularly recommended to pay their subscriptions by direct debit which is the most convenient method of payment and which also provides a bank record of the transaction for both the payer and payee. Receipts are not issued for direct debit payments. The payer should enter his or her name into the description or memo line in their bank account direct debit window so that the Society will know from whom the payment has been made. The phrase 'Minsoc sub' would not be sufficient to identify the member.

To direct-debit the Society account the details are: - Commonwealth Bank

Account Name: - Mineralogical Society of NSW Inc.
BSB: 062016 Account number: 28023647

FIELD TRIP to Tumut

A proposed fieldtrip for Friday 31st, Saturday 1st April and Sunday 2nd April for interested members to visit the McAlpine Mine in the Tumut region. This mine was last visited by the Society in 2018 and we would like to go there again. The mine is about 4.5 hours from Parramatta. We may visit the Mount Paynter mine near Jingellic as a scoping activity.

Members on the field trip need to be SWMS accredited and have a current Fossicking Permit,

Accommodation: Camping State Forest or Tumut township.

Contact Mark at markwalterstafe@gmail.com closing date 17th March



McAlpine Copper mine (Photo: Denis O'Brien 2018)

AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF MINERALOGY

The Australian Journal of Mineralogy is asking for help in three areas:

1. A volunteer to be Secretary – the main responsibility is to keep minutes for 10 or so meetings per year, lasting 1.5-2 hours, generally held by Microsoft Teams on early Friday afternoon Sydney time (this could be discussed)

(Alan Longbottom currently has this role as well as Subscription Manager and he would appreciate some support). If you are interested, please contact Sue Koepke / Angela Riganti / Alan Longbottom at secretary@minsocwa.org.au or pgms@minsocwa.org.au

2. They would like an article from each state similar to the “Simpson and Simpsonite” article in Volume 20.2 (see <https://www.ajmin.org.au/product-page/v-20-2> for the Contents reference) – for us this would be on an eponymous mineral from NSW
3. Submissions of photographic essays are also very welcome

The FEBRUARY MEETING

At the commencement of the Meeting Mark Walters reported that a **Field Trip** would be made to **Mt Tennyson** over the following weekend. He had been negotiating to make arrangements for some time and had been thwarted by the weather on occasion.

The Society **Micro-mineral Group** would meet at Dieter Mylius's house at Berowra Heights on Sunday the 26th of the month. The Group would be studying zeolites.

The President referred to the forthcoming **National Gem & Crystal Expo** to be held at the Hawkesbury Indoor Stadium in south Windsor over the weekend of the 9th & 10th April. Peter Beckwith had sent an invitation to the Society again this year to set up an information table at the Expo and members were invited to help set up and supervise the information table and also provide specimens for display cabinets.

Brian Holden advised that last year the Expo display area had five display cases but this year up to twelve cabinets and exhibitors were needed.

Members able to help set up and supervise the information table or provide specimens for display at the Expo were recommended to contact the secretary, George Laking.

Dieter Mylius finally advised members that a lecture at the next Society Meeting in March would be given by Ross Pogson who would describe the **new Minerals Gallery** at the **Australian Museum**. He recommended that members should visit the Museum to see the new gallery, there was material now on display which had never been seen in public before.

With no more announcements the President asked the first speaker of the evening to deliver his talk.

‘An Eventful Field Trip to Muttama in 1983’

John Chapman

The speaker advised that an article in the Society *Mineralogical News* newsletter from October 1983 had been brought to his attention with particularity a report of a field trip to Muttama in the Cootamundra area made in August that year. The trip had been notable in indicating how dedicated some fossickers can be even when the weather is substantially inclement because some of the trip attendees managed to get onto the fossicking site and do some digging in spite of the ground being soaked.

Others were not so lucky and John Chapman had decided that it would be interesting for him to read to the Meeting the report about the trip. The article was written by Simon Knight who was the Society Treasurer at the time. Barry Cole was the Society President in 1983 and there were two Vice-Presidents, Albert Chapman and Gary Sutherland.

The text of the report is reproduced following: -

FIELD TRIP TO MUTTAMA 27 – 28th AUGUST, 1983

By Simon Knight

We risk the danger of bush fire so great we daren't let our smokers smoke, we risk life and limb by descending hundreds of meters down chasms. We even risk our sanity by following each other along never ending shortcuts for hour after hour. Now we can add one more peril to the joys of mineral collecting – the peril of floods!

I'm told that over two inches of rain fell in the Cootamundra area on Friday night and Saturday morning the 26th and 27th of August. On the Saturday both Doug Austen and myself got ourselves thoroughly bogged in the mud of Muttama Hill, me being pulled out by Fiona Smith and Philip Theodore with the mighty Susuki, while Doug being out of earshot at the time was left to dig himself out with the help of Alice.

All of this pales into deepest insignificance when compared to the adventures of those prudent (?) souls who decided to travel down on the Friday. Noni Primrose had just about reached the turn off from the Coolac road only to be turned back by the police who advised that the road was impassable due to floods ! A long drive back to Cootamundra caravan park to witness the caravans being towed to higher ground away from the rapidly rising river; a night starting in her tent and finishing wrapped around the gear stick of her car interrupted by foraging dogs, cat fights and the sounds of two inches of water lapping around her tent was just too much and the warmth and comfort of a friend's house in Canberra proved a far stronger attraction than a few measly old quartz crystals stuck in the mud at the top of a hill in the rain.

The medal for supreme sacrifice must, however go to Barry Cole, our much esteemed President who, having driven hundreds of kilometers from Sydney along the Hume Highway, thence to the Muttama Road, up the reef creek past 'Avoca', 'Tasma' and 'Hillview' stations came to the second to last creek crossing before the camp site. You remember the two inches of rain that fell that I mentioned before? Well, that portion of it that fell on Muttama Hill decided to take that exact amount in time to cross the same creek crossing that Barry was on. He drove into the fiord with six inches of water lapping around his wheels, the water started to rise, the engine stalled, the water continued to rise, the car started to move sideways, the water still rising. What has to happen when an irresistible force meets a not so immovable object? You're right! Barry had to flee for his life while his car was swept down-stream to be recovered hundreds of meters away on the following Monday.

Nor should we forget one of our latest members, Trent Liang, who managed to convince his family that a five kilometer walk from the first ford, where Mrs Liang, deciding that discretion being the better part of valour had left the car, was well worth it. Come to think of it, a man with powers of persuasion like that should do well at committee level.

It would be nice to say that after all this that quartz crystals of museum quality were found in great abundance – sadly this was not the case. To be fair, there were only two of us digging deep into the hill where the best specimens were found last time, the others preferring to work through the weathered material in the top foot or so where the picking were more abundant but less spectacular.

Would I go again? Sure I would, it could never be as bad a weekend as that in a hundred years could it?

After reading out the Muttama article John Chapman and a few members exchanged comments and anecdotes about other, more successful- or less traumatic, visits to Muttama over the years, evidenced by some quartz specimens brought in by members for display.

Historical Notes:

The Mineralogical Society commenced publishing a Newsletter named the '*Mineralogical News*', from inauguration in August 1975. The newsletters provided Society information, meeting program/s, other Society news and information on forthcoming events. In addition the newsletters always carried a number of articles mostly contributed by members.

The '*Mineralogical News*' issue No 85, October 1983 for instance, contains in addition to the report about the Muttama trip, articles by Albert Chapman, Sir Howard Smith and Ross Pogson.

There is a considerable archive of interesting articles, reports and stories in the old '*Mineralogical News*' newsletters and some time ago Ed Zbik set himself the task of scanning all the newsletters and converting them to digital format. Some of the remaining newsletters kept in storage, and now around forty years old, have blemishes and faded printing in places and Ed has tried to find copies which are in as pristine a condition as possible. He is still hoping to find a copy of issue No 50.

The Newsletters were printed in B5 format and published monthly, excluding January, for eight years to mid-1983 and then quarterly up to 1986. A News-sheet commenced publication being issued in all the months when there was not a Newsletter and from 1986 when the newsletters ceased publication the News-sheet became monthly. In 1987 the Newsletter was revived by the late professor Laurie Lawrence with the name changed to the *Mineral Magazine* and continued with issues to July 1992. The *Mineral Magazine* presented strictly mineralogical articles and not any Society news, programs or events. The '*Mineralogical News*', and the *Mineral Magazines* were all numbered consecutively up to Number 107. After October 1990 the News Sheet was re-named the Newsletter which has been continued permanently since then.

‘Collecting in Nevada, USA’

Terry Hogarth & Lynne Webb

The main lecture for the evening was given by Terry Hogarth and described a mineralogical, fossicking and general sight-seeing trip that he and Lynne made to the U.S.A. some years ago. The trip combined visits to Tucson, to fossicking sites in Nevada and a considerable amount of travelling for general tourist sight-seeing and visiting places of interest over a large area of the western United States. The lecture was extensively illustrated with over 120 photographs.

Unfortunately the sound recording of the lecture was not adequately audible and the speaker's explanations about the sites visited could not be made out completely. A summary will not be provided here but after more work on the recording will be presented in a later Newsletter.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc 2023 ROCK SWOP

Sunday the 12th of March from 8.am to 2.00 pm in the Stuart Park, North Wollongong.
Stalls selling crystals, minerals, fossils, jewellery, equipment and books.

2023 CANBERRA ROCK SWAP

Being held over Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th of March in the Parrot Park, EPIC, Canberra.

Saturday: 8.30am to 5pm; - Sunday: 8.30am to 4pm. Entry free.

A map of the venue, registration forms for campers and stall-holders is available

Norm Menadue: Events Manager, Canberra Lapidary Club

P : 02 6258 6631 M : 0407 718 347 Em : nmenadue@optusnet.com.au

www.canberralapidary.org.au

GEMBOREE 2023

The 59th Gemboree, the National Gem & Mineral Show, will be held over Easter – from the 7th to the 10th of April in the showgrounds at Dayboro, a country town about 45kms NW of Brisbane.

For more information: www.gemboree2023.com.au.

The NATIONAL GEM & CRYSTAL EXPO 2023

The **National Gem & Crystal Expo** is being held over the weekend of the 22nd & 23rd of April in the Hawkesbury Indoor Stadium on Greenhills Way, off Stewart Street, South Windsor.



THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Membership fees are due from January 1st

Please provide your full name, postal address, telephone number/s and e-mail address (if available). Members with e-mail capability will receive the Newsletter and other information only by e-mail.

NAME:

POSTAL ADDRESS:

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Telephone (ah)..... (bh).....

(mobile).....

E-mail address

FEES: Adult membership, Sydney metropolitan area \$30

Adult membership, country or interstate \$25

Child/youth (under 18 years), or student member \$20

Additional family members (spouse/partner and children only) can be admitted for membership at the cost of \$5 each (after the first member's costs as per the list above). If applying for additional family members, please list the name(s) here:

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New members joining from May 1st in any year are deemed to be financial for both the current and the whole of the following year.

Options for payment

1). ***Direct Credit / bank transfer to the Society's account***

The account details are: -

Commonwealth Bank:

Account Name: Mineralogical Society of NSW Inc.

BSB: 062016 Account number: 28023647

Please put your name in the Memo line when making a direct debit/bank transfer so that the Society will know who the payment is from. If any of your address or telephone details have changed you should provide those details on this form and return it to the Treasurer - either : -

1) at the next General Meeting,

2) by e-mail to quartzandsirius@hotmail.com

3) by post to the address below

2). ***Cheque or Australia Post Money Order sent with a completed renewal form to : -***

The Mineralogical Society of New South Wales Inc.

58 Amazon Rd,

Seven Hills,

NSW 2147

3). ***By cash or cheque delivered to the Treasurer or the Secretary at any General meeting.*** Members however are strongly urged to pay subscriptions by direct debit only as this will provide bank records of the payment for both the member and the Society.