



# THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

Website: [www.minsoconsw.org.au](http://www.minsoconsw.org.au)

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

## NEWSLETTER      MARCH 2025

The March Meeting program will include a lecture to be given by Dayna McGeeney on :-

### **‘Rare and Unusual Gemstones in the Australian Museum Collection’**

The Australian Museum Mineralogy Collection currently holds 838 gemstones in its collection. These faceted and wonderful looking specimens include the expected species and varieties of rubies, sapphires, emeralds, diamonds, opal, garnets, topaz, tourmaline, spinel etc... But, within the gemstone collection are also some rare and unusual cut and polished species you wouldn't expect to see. These Collectors' Gemstones are often too soft, brittle and at times toxic – not the sort of stone you want to wear. To a talented gem cutter or gemstone enthusiast they are often a challenge to cut, own and care for future enjoyment. At times, these are ore minerals which rarely occur transparently or a striking colour, but if the environmental conditions are just right to create a crystal when faceted brings out a spectacular brilliance, strong dispersion and the awe that someone would take on the challenge to facet it.

We will look at some of these stunning gemstones exhibiting why sometimes it's all worth it.



Dayna McGeeney  
Australian Museum, Mineralogy & Petrology

At the March Meeting there will also be a talk to be given by Graham Ogle on:-

### **‘Minerals from Deposits at Otto Mountain, California’.**

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## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS and PROGRAMS**

April 4<sup>th</sup>:      The program is not yet finalized but may include a lecture on **Wulfenite**.

David Colchester will give the second of his lectures - **‘Introduction to Crystallography – Part 2’**

May 2<sup>nd</sup>:      Member's Annual Mineral Auction

June 13<sup>th</sup> :      Dioni Cendon will give his lecture originally scheduled for the February Meeting -  
**‘Rare Earth Elements (REE): Misconceptions, Oddities, and some Minerals’**

David Colchester will give the third of his talks on: - **Introduction to Crystallography – Part 3.**

July 4<sup>th</sup>: Program not confirmed

August 1<sup>st</sup> Society A.G.M. and the Mayne/Walkers Memorial Lecture.

The Memorial lecture may be given by Lindsay Gilligan, title to be confirmed.

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## 2025 SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that Society Membership subscriptions were due from January 1<sup>st</sup>. According to the Society Constitution membership is valid in any new year up to March 31<sup>st</sup> when it will be deemed to have lapsed if not renewed but would be re-instated immediately upon payment of the current year fee.

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 the member being financial at the time. Also current financial membership is mandatory for anyone to borrow books or magazines from the Library, attend field trips or sell minerals at meetings. Subscription renewal forms are available on the Society website or from the Secretary.

Members are asked to inform the Society if the details of any of their addresses, telephone number/s or e-mail etc have changed. Please keep the Society up-to-date with this information. 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.

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 member	\$5

Members are particularly recommended to pay their subscriptions by direct debit which provides a bank record of the transaction for both the payer and payee.

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

Commonwealth Bank

Account Name: - Mineralogical Society of NSW Inc.

BSB: 062016 Account number: 28023647

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## The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Dieter Mylius	Mobile: 0412 516 193
	E-mail:	<a href="mailto:dieterm@internode.on.net">dieterm@internode.on.net</a>
VICE-PRESIDENT:	John Chapman	Tel: (02) 9808 3481
	E-mail:	<a href="mailto:chapmanjr@optusnet.com.au">chapmanjr@optusnet.com.au</a>
SECRETARY:	George Laking	Tel: (02) 9636 7145
		Mobile: 0468 387 899
	E-mail:	<a href="mailto:bglaking@tech2u.com.au">bglaking@tech2u.com.au</a>
TREASURER:	Graham Ogle	Mobile: 0400 683 574
	E-mail:	<a href="mailto:quartzandsirius@hotmail.com">quartzandsirius@hotmail.com</a>

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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## The February Meeting

Since the original February Meeting program had to be cancelled the meeting was poorly attended. However about a dozen members were able to assemble informally, examine and purchase a number of mineral specimens which had been set out for display and generally discuss matters of mineralogical interest. The social meeting was enhanced as usual by the provision of an amount of snack foods by Marian Ong.

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## National Gem & Crystal Expo 2025

The National Gem & Crystal Expo has become an annual event and will be held this year on Saturday and Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> of April in the Hawkesbury Indoor Stadium, South Windsor.

The Society has again been invited by the organiser, Peter Beckwith, to participate in the Expo. It is intended to provide a Society information table which would be attended by a roster of members who would be able to answer questions from the public about Mineralogy and the Society. Demonstration materials and equipment including a microscope would be available.

In addition members are again invited to bring in specimens from their collections to display in the Expo. Illuminated display cases centrally located in the exhibition hall would be provided.

Any members who are able to provide a morning or afternoon of the two days of the Expo to 'man' the information table or provide a mineral specimen display are asked to contact the Secretary, George Laking on 0468 387 899.

The notice about the Expo is as follows : -

Over April 12th & 13th 2025 in the Hawkesbury Indoor Stadium, 16 Stewart St, South Windsor.

**'The largest indoor Gem & Crystal Expo in AUSTRALIA'**

Hosted by Australian Gem & Mineral Expo's and the Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club. There will be displays and demonstrations by the Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club as well as traders and dealers from around Australia. Items for sale by the many traders will include jewellery, gemstones, beads, opals, carvings, gem rough, lapidary cutting rough, fossils, meteorites, metaphysical and healing crystals as well as mineral specimens from Australia and all over the world.

Opening hours are 9:30 till 5:00 on Saturday and 9:30 till 4:00 on Sunday. Entry Adults \$10

For more information please contact Peter by email: [agamexpos@outlook.com](mailto:agamexpos@outlook.com)

You can also find and follow us on [Facebook Australian Gem and Mineral Expos](#)

Or Website : -AGAMEXpos

## ILLAWARRA ROCK SWAP

A number of members attended the **Illawarra Lapidary Club Rock Swap** on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February this year, some as visitors, others as vendors. Specifically several Committee members had determined to sell as much of the Godwin collection as possible at the Rock Swap and for the purpose set up a gazebo and several tables with about thirty flats of specimens on display. The sale of the collection was entirely successful with very little of the material brought back to Sydney. Thanks to the interest shown by the general public in the Rock Swap stalls, including the Society stall, and possibly to persuasive bargaining by a certain Committee member, buyers in some cases were buying entire flats and overall the sale has generated around \$1,000, ultimately to be given to the **Kids with Cancer Foundation**.

The weather in Wollongong on Sunday was very hot and bright with an encouraging number of general public milling about. Stuart Park alongside a popular local beach obviously normally attracts large crowds and has clearly been an ideal location for the Illawarra Lapidary Club to hold its regular sales there. In order to attend the Rock Swap and obtain parking nearby an early start from Sydney was essential and members arrived before 8.00 am when the limited parking areas nearest the beach were already filling up.

There were quite a number of 'stalls' arranged around the edge of the park most selling higher-quality material and jewelry than the Society stall which was definitely at the cheap end but which still attracted buying interest. Selling was quite brisk up to midday when negotiations were made with interested buyers who took away most of the remaining flats. The Rock Swap runs from 8.00 am to 2.00 pm but the Society stall had sold almost all of the collection material by midday when members broke for lunch.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Minerama, Glen Innes, New South Wales.**

Being held over the weekend of Fri 7th - Sat 8th - Sun 9th March in the Showgrounds, at Glen Innes, NSW -  
Fri/Sat 9:00am - 4:00pm, Sun 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Contact: website - <https://www.minerama.com.au>

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**Canberra Rock Swap Saturday 22 – Sunday 23 March.**

Parrot Park, in EPIC (Exhibition Park) off the Federal Highway), Mitchell, ACT.  
For information contact [canberralapidary@gmail.com](mailto:canberralapidary@gmail.com) – Norm Menadue on (02) 6258 6631

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**The Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc: Open Day Sunday 4 May.**

At 51 Meadow Street, Tarrawanna 2518. Sunday 4 May, 2025 – 9am to 2pm – Free Entry

'View the Club Rooms, purchase Mineral Specimens, Fossils, Lapidary Materials, Jewellery & more.  
Morning Tea (proceeds to the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea) and Sausage Sizzle Lunch available.'

'Download Brochure. 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>  
or Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/illawarralc/>