



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 MAY 2018

The May Meeting will be held on Friday the 4th of May at 7.30 pm in the clubrooms of the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club at 73 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville.

Member's Mini-Auction

The program at the May Meeting will comprise the Annual **Member's Mini-Auction**.

There may be a few announcements made at the commencement of the Meeting but otherwise the entire evening will be devoted to the Auction. The Meeting will start at the normal time of 7.30pm so members bringing in specimens for sale are recommended to arrive by 7.00pm to set out their specimens. After any announcements the Auction will commence immediately. A list of 63 specimens will accompany this Newsletter and the Auction may last to between 9.00 and 9.30pm. There will probably be a fifteen-minute break about half-way through the auction.

Members please note that transactions must be conducted entirely between the vendor and purchaser. The Society takes no commission on the sales and will not enter into any transaction arrangements.

During the Auction if someone feels that bidding on any of their specimens is not proceeding high enough they can bid for the specimen themselves to take it back.

In addition a number of trays of minerals can be sold by silent auction. Members can bring in a tray to leave for display on a table accompanied by a bid form which will be provided. Please label your specimens, trays or boxes clearly. There will be no need to notify the Society in advance about trays being brought in for sale as they will not be listed.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

June 1st : There will be a talk by Simon Tanner on : - '**Broken Hill Rock On – A Review**' and a lecture to be given by Graham Ogle on : - '**The Fluorescent Minerals of Sterling Hill**'.

July 6th: Lecture by Keith Compton on – '**What's New in Mindat**'.

August 3rd: **Society A.G.M.** and the Betty Mayne, Edna and Harold Walker Memorial Lecture.
The Memorial lecture this year will be given by Professor Patrick De Decker on :-
'The First Geological Map of England and Wales'

September 7th: There will be a lecture by Jeff Davis on : - **Elements That Make Up Minerals**'.

October 5th: The program will include talk a by Professor Peter Williams on :- ‘**Misleading Mineral Locations**’. The talk will be followed a lecture to be given by Ross Pogson on : - ‘**The Molong Pallasite Meteorite**’

November 2nd: Lecture to be given by Glen Cathers on : - ‘**The Sepon Copper Mine, Laos**’.

December 7th: **Christmas Social and ‘Swap n’ Sell’.**

FIELD TRIPS MAY - SEPT 2018

All minerals collected by the Society in the Bungonia State Conservation Area and Milton National Park must be turned over to The Australian Museum or Western Sydney University for examination.

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

NOTE: THE PROGRAM MAY CHANGE DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS.

Date	Locality: Check MinView, DIGS and Mindat for minerals and site information	Leader
19 th – 20 th May	Bungonia SCA Block Up – Remote Area – overnight bush camping - Open to all members – NPWS Science License conditions apply	Edward Zbik
<i>Note: Visit to McAlpine Mine near Tumut rescheduled for later in the year.</i>		
23 rd June	GeoScience Canberra Visit, limit 10, afternoon Open to all Members. Arrange your own accommodation	Steven Petkovski
23 rd -24 th June	Paddy’s River, Corrin locality, Canberra (may be subject to change) Open to all Members. Camping or Canberra Accommodation	Edward Zbik
28 th – 30 th June	Morton National Park – Tolwong Mine – Remote Area – overnight bush camping - Open to all members – NPWS Science License conditions apply	Edward Zbik
September October	October Long Weekend – Broken Hill Rock On – with field trips with the Broken Hill Mineral Group – Details to follow.	TBA

Dates for Bungonia/Tolwong mine/s may change due to weather conditions on above dates. Register with Ed Zbik to be kept informed.

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 License 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 three days in the bush.
A minimum of six members is needed to revisit Tolwong. If interested, call Ed.
The Society Science License expires 30th June 2018.

BUNGONIA SCA

If three members propose preferred dates over a minimum of two days, (weekday or weekend other than a scheduled field trip dates) a trip to Bungonia SCA can be arranged.

Bungonia SCA Block Up – Remote Area – overnight bush camping. Open to all members – NPWS
Science License conditions apply.

Future Field Trips

Ed is looking for assistance in running and organising field trips. If you know of a site you'd like to visit, be it a site you have already visited or a new site you know of or have found on MinView, Mindat, DIGS or another media publication, call Ed.

Those undertaking Safety Works Methods Statement Certification can gain an extra year Certification by leading a field trip to either a commercial, non-commercial, private property or State Forest locality. Those currently certified can extend their current certification by leading a field trip.

WELCOME

Welcome to new members:- Daphne Beumont of North Turramurra,
John Zupan of Carlton
and Mark Walters of Hornsby.

The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Dieter Mylius	Tel: (02) 9477 1060
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	Simon Tanner	
	Edward Zbik	Tel: (02) 9638 6586
	E-mail:	<i>ecjz@optusnet.com.au</i>

THE APRIL MEETING

At the commencement of the Meeting David Want who is also a member of the **Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club** reported that the Club would be holding an **auction** on Saturday week to sell mineral specimens from a large collection an amount of which was then on display in cabinets in the meeting room.

The Lapidary Club constitution required that a sale would be initially open to Club members only and the collection would be on display for a month to give Club members time to make purchases. After that the specimens would be on general sale. In the meantime David Want asked for any advice from Society members to provide estimated valuations on any specimens in the collection which they felt were worth at least \$50 and to make a list of those. Members were also asked to provide or confirm identifications on some of the specimens where some of the information was doubtful or lacking.

Graham Ogle reported that the next **Micro-Mineral Group meeting** would be held at John Chapman's house in Ryde on the theme of 'Lesser-Known NSW Localities'.

Ed Zbik outlined the schedule for **Field Trips** over the next few months, three being planned to be held within the current month over the next three weekends. The first would be a three-day trip to Tolwong to camp in the area, the next weekend to Bungonia and over the final weekend there would be a 6-7 day trip to the Manuka mine in central NSW. At the time, about ten members had registered to go on the Manuka trip.

After substantial arranging and negotiating by Ed Zbik with the Manuka management members attending that trip would be allowed to stay on the mine property in the mine workers accommodation. The mine was currently on 'care and maintenance', not under operation and with no workers on site. Apart from fossicking on the Manuka dumps there would be visits to a number of other sites in the area. These might include Mineral Hill, the Hera and Tritton mines, Nymagee and Girilambone. Ed reminded members attending trips that some sites visited would be in operation and the managements would expect visitors to be adequately equipped with robust clothing, steel-toe-capped boots, hard hats and high visibility vests.

Adam McKinnon provided information and advice about some of the sites to be visited noting that the Hera mine had been undergoing development and that it might be possible for visitors to be taken underground. He also recommended that if anyone had a strong UV light they should bring that along to locate scheelite and described a number of other minerals which could be found, notable base-metal sulphides, galena, chalcopyrite, sphalerite and pyrrhotite. He particularly recommended that members always wear reflective vests.

Peter Beckwith reminded members that the next **Windsor Gem & Mineral Show** would be held over the 16th and 17th of June next and apologised for there being a number of promotional leaflets already distributed about the Show which gave the year date of 2017 instead of 2018. This was a mis-print, corrected leaflets had been ordered and would be distributed.

With no more announcements being made Dieter Mylius introduced the evening symposium on Pyrite.

'Pyrite. –How, Why & Where'

The first speaker in the symposium was Professor Peter Williams who introduced the mineral and proceeded to describe the chemical and crystalline structure. Pyrite is ferric sulphide, FeS₂, and is a cubic mineral but with some special features. The speaker particularly pointed out that sulphur combined in minerals may display the feature of catenation where the sulphur, or sulphide ions, will form chains. Whilst a single sulphide ion would have a valency of ⁻² chains of sulphur ions can form with an overall collective valency still of just ⁻². In the laboratory compounds with chains of sulphur up to nine atoms long have been formed and also a number of compounds called polysulphides with variable compositions depending on the length of the chains. This feature influences the structure of pyrite which is one of the more simple polysulphides.

Professor Williams described a few other minerals, mostly containing sulphur the structures of which were also influenced by catenation and then described the structural differences between pyrite and marcasite.

In pyrite the disulphide ion bonds to two separate iron ions the iron being ultimately connected to six sulphur atoms to form an octahedral arrangement. In marcasite the disulphide ion does not have the two sulphur atoms bonding to two separate irons, only one of the sulphurs bonds to one iron. This leads the mineral to form an orthorhombic structure.

The feature of catenation is not confined to minerals containing sulphur and others include minerals containing arsenic, molybdenum and selenium. Notably arsenopyrite is another catenated mineral. The pyrite structure is preserved in a large number of other cubic minerals and a smaller number of orthorhombic species. Professor Williams finally referred to the feature in some pyrite specimens of there being striations on alternate sides of a cube specimen. This was caused by the cube form predominating in the growth of the crystal but with traces of the pyritohedron form appearing as striations.

The second speaker for the evening was Brian England who has provided the following notes on his lecture which was extensively illustrated by projected images of notable specimens of pyrite.

Significant World Pyrite occurrences.

Following is a brief description of some of the World's most prominent pyrite localities

ASIA- TURKEY

Trabzon in the black Sea Region

In 1978 a large lot of loose sharp octahedral crystals to 2.5cm diameter was collected and marketed in Europe but these have not been seen on the market since.

AUSTRALIA

Leadville NSW

The Leadville skarns have produced Australia's best pyrite specimens. Crystals to 3cm associated with white quartz were common in vughs in the sulphide ore bodies, especially in the Eastern Lode where specimens up to 30cm across were found. Most crystals were smooth-faced or less commonly striated cubes. Pyritohedra were rare. Leadville pyrite typically had a bright silvery colour and was inherently unstable. Most specimens collected during the most active mining period between 1932 and 1935 have decomposed and very few have survived.

Wilmot, Tasmania

A very small number of specimens associated with muscovite and coarsely crystalline kaolinite were found in veins in granite intersected by tunnels excavated during the construction of the Mersey-Forth Hydro Scheme around 1970. Lustrous striated cuboctahedra reached 3cm. This find would hardly have been significant except for the fact that it is the only documented occurrence of perfect octahedral cleavage in pyrite.

EUROPE – ITALY

Rio Marina mine on the Isle of Elba

This deposit has been exploited since Etruscan times, with modern commercial mining ending in the 1980's. However, many places remain open to collecting. It is one of the great World localities for pyrite associated with hematite. Crystals show all possible forms and the mine is well known for extremely complex habits as well as iron cross twins. Many specimens have proved unstable, although pyritohedral crystals seem to have

survived intact. Cabinet size groups of pyritohedral crystals to 8cm on hematite matrix were seen at Munich Show in 2012 and at the Tucson Show in 2013.

EUROPE – SPAIN

Ambasaguas and Navajun in La Rioja Province

At Ambasaguas initially pyritohedral crystals were found scattered in marl. Then in the mid 1990's floater singles and groups of cuboctahedra to 3cm were being marketed. Other forms present included octahedron, dodecahedra and diploid in exotic combinations as well as iron cross twins.

Ambasaguas was upstaged by the sharp cubic crystals in marl from Navajun, 176 kilometres to the south, which were first marketed in 1976. These continue to be abundant, making this one of the World's greatest ever pyrite localities. Stacked groups of cubes have reached a metre in size. Matrix specimens are common but most have been carefully repaired. In 1992 cuboctahedra in marl from Navajun appeared on the market. Some of the quarries in the Navajun area are open to collecting.



LATIN AMERICA – PERU

Casapalca

This mine is best known for tetrahedrite, often with pyrite as pyritohedra to 2.5cm forming the matrix. Enargite, sphalerite, chalcopryite and calcite are associated minerals.

Huanzala

This has been amongst the World's best pyrite localities in terms of both quality and sheer tonnage of specimens since underground mining began in 1968. Individual crystals reach 20cm in groups up to 100Kg. Cubes, octahedra and pyritohedra are common forms. The greatest pockets were found in the late 1980's. Thousands of crystal groups were offered in the United States in 1989. Generally, there are no associated species.

Quiruvilca

These mines reached peak supply in the early to mid-1970's and so are amongst the earliest of the Peruvian mineral districts to appear on the international market on a large scale. The octahedral pyrite from here was the World's best until later discoveries at Huanzala. Enargite and apatite are frequently associated minerals. Another distinguishing feature of Quiruvilca pyrite is the presence of pyrite microcrystals on the faces of the larger crystals. Habits include pyritohedra, octahedra, dodecahedra and cubes.

San Cristobal

These polymetallic mines have been worked since the start of the 20th Century and have produced some of Peru's finest pyrite specimens. Specimens typically comprise pyritohedra or cubes perched on quartz crystals.

FORMER SOVIET UNION – RUSSIA

Beresovskoe Gold mine, near Yekaterinburg

Mining for gold began here in 1750 and the area is still actively mined on a moderate scale. It is the type locality for crocoite. Pyrite is the most common sulphide in the auriferous quartz veins. Specimens can be

spectacular with crystals to 22cm lining vughs. Striated cubes are the predominant habit. Pyrite from Beresovskoe is rare on the international market but can sometimes be found at local markets.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sparta, Illinois

Unusual specimens comprising flat discs with crystals radiating from a central core have been known since large scale collecting began in the early 1950's. Confirmed as pyrite by XRD, the discs occur in carbonaceous shales associated with coal seams. They were very common between 1960 and 1970 and were popular beginner specimens. They are rarely seen today. Most have proved unstable, sometimes explosively!



Spruce claim, Washington

Pyrite and quartz crystals lining mud-filled pockets abundantly scattered in a brecciated granodiorite are exposed on cliffs in the northern Cascade Range east of Seattle. Large lots were offered for sale in 1977 and the mid 1980's. The pyrite is unstable and many specimens have disintegrated.

Buick mine, Bixby, Missouri

In April 1974 a pocket of pyrite bars to 32cm long in pyrite sand was found during the construction of a haulage tunnel. They are probably overgrowths on capillary pyrite crystals. Only 25 were recovered and today they are commanding extraordinary prices.

Brian England
6th April 2018

At the end of his lecture Brian England answered a number of questions which led for a few minutes to a more general discussion with input and comments contributed by members including the speaker on pyrite localities within Australia and particularly New South Wales.

The discussion also touched on the problem of 'Pyrite Disease' which most collectors of pyrite would be unfortunately familiar with when they find that some of their specimens had disintegrated. Suggestions about possible bacterial action and obviously chemical action were made but the consensus seemed to be that no-one knows the reason.

The third main speaker for the evening was Peter Beckwith who related some of his own experiences in collecting pyrite which was one of his favourite minerals and in the course of his lecture displayed a number of images of his more notable specimens. He had travelled over much of Australia collecting and in taking up dealing in minerals had added a great deal of the World to his travels. This had also provided him with the opportunity to acquire a larger variety of examples of the mineral, also illustrated. In the course of his talk the speaker was able to provide a number of aspects of interest about his collecting history including occasional humorous anecdotes.

Finally a few members addressed the Meeting to describe a number of specimens which they had brought in for display and something of their experiences in acquiring them. Gary Sutherland had brought in quite a variety and seemed to be able to relate something humorous about most of them.

John Chapman described one experience from many years ago when he and Harvey Henley were in Cobar and made contact with an old Spanish miner who had worked at the CSA mine. Upon visiting the miner it was found that his house was "filled with pyrite everywhere, every surface in the house was covered in

pyrite. A forty-four gallon drum in the miner's shed was three-quarters full of pyrite crystals". The miner was not willing to sell any of his numerous specimens but was persuaded to part with a few in exchange for other minerals. A few months later John Chapman visited the miner again to find that there had been a development. The old miner had apparently travelled back to Spain in the meantime and acquired a young wife. When the miner opened his door to the visitor John found that there was not a single pyrite specimen to be seen at all!!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club Inc. Open Day Saturday 5th May 2018.

'We are pleased to advise that Blaxland Gem & Mineral Club will be holding its Annual Open Day on Saturday 5th May 2018, details are as follows:

Saturday 5th May 2018. From 8am to 3pm at 15 the Valley Rd, Valley Heights, NSW 2777.

Displays and sales of Lapidary work, rocks and slabs.

Demonstrations on cutting, grinding and polishing gemstones.

Refreshments available. FREE ADMISSION.'

SYDNEY CRYSTAL SHOW - SYDNEY SHOWGROUND

12th MAY 2018

Now in its 4th year the Sydney Crystal Show will be held in the Howie Pavilion in the Sydney Showground at Sydney Olympic Park on Saturday 12th May 2018 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.

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.

Entry is \$5 for adults and Kids under 12 are free!'

'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

28th LISMORE GEMFEST 2018

The 28th Lismore Gemfest will be held in the Lismore Showgrounds, Alexandra Parade, North Lismore, over the weekend of the 19th and 20th of May next. Saturday from 9am to 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 3pm.

'Lismore GEMFEST is the biggest annual event in the country devoted to lapidary and allied arts and is organised by the Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club Inc. Exhibitors come from all parts of the country and range from amateurs to the most experienced professionals. Everything from rough stone for cutting, through to finished jewellery in all price ranges, along with mineral specimens, fossils, gold nuggets and meteorites are to be found on display. There are gem sieving activities for children, demonstrations of jewellery making and other craft activities.

A range of food outlets are available, along with free parking in the Lismore Showground. Visitors from outside of the local area can enjoy special deals for camping on site. There is something for all ages and tastes at this event. Come once and we are sure you will become a regular.'

Further information from : - bruce.copper@bigpond.com, Telephone 02 6688 8280, Or from the Website : - www.gemclublismore.org.au

CANBERRA ROCK SWAP 2018

The Canberra Lapidary Club Winter Gem Show will be held in the Mallee Pavilion Exhibition Park, (EPIC), off the Federal Highway in Canberra over Saturday and Sunday the 26th and 27th of May from 10.00 am to 5.00pm each day.

'Dealers will be selling jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, fossils, rocks, mineral specimens, opals, beads & beading supplies, and lapidary equipment & supplies. There will also be displays of Members' collections, demonstrations of cabbing, faceting & jewellery making. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Entry fee: \$5 adults, \$10 family, \$2 children/concession.

BANKSTOWN GEM AND MINERAL FAIR

Over Saturday the 2nd and Sunday the 3rd of June

The Arena Sports Club, 140 Rookwood Road, Yagoona NSW 2199.

Hosted by the Bankstown and Districts Lapidary Club and Crystal Habit.

'Traders from around Australia will be displaying their wares as well as displays and demonstrations by the Bankstown & Districts Lapidary Club. Items for sale by the many traders there will include Jewellery, gemstones, beads, opals, carvings, gem rough, lapidary cutting rough, fossils, meteorites, metaphysical and healing crystals and mineral specimens from all over the world.

A great day out for the whole family. Adults \$7, kids with parent/s are free! Plenty of parking available at the venue. Opening hours are 9:30 till 5:00 on Saturday and 9:30 till 4:00 on Sunday. For more information please contact Peter at raregems@optusnet.com.au or phone mobile 0412 333 150.'

THE JOINT MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES OF AUSTRALASIA 41st ANNUAL SEMINAR

The 41st Annual Joint Seminar will be held over the Queen's Birthday long weekend of the 9th to 12th of June. It will be hosted by the Mineralogical Society of Victoria and held in the Mercure Hotel & Convention Centre, 613 Main Road, Ballarat. The theme for this year's Seminar will be : -

‘A Golden Age of Mineral Deposits and Mineralogy’

The Seminar program will comprise 1½ days of formal sessions to be presented by great speakers, experts in their fields. The speakers will include Ralph Bottrill, Joel Brugger, Steve Dobos, Tony Forsyth, John Haupt, Dermot Henry, Alan Longbottom, Rod Martin, Ross Pogson, Steve Sorrell and Malcolm Southwood.

The Sunday afternoon will be available for micro collectors in conjunction with a swap and sell session. The last two days are allocated to field trips. The first, on Monday the 11th of June, will be to the well-known locality of Mt Shadwell. The second locality will be visited on Tuesday 12th June, and is tentatively the Mineralogical Reserve at Dookie.’

Registration forms can be down-loaded from the Mineralogical Society of Victoria website www.minsocvic.org.au under "Society News, 2018 Seminar". The (NSW Society) secretary George Laking will have copies.

Registrations will cost \$150 and \$50m for the dinner. They are due by 10th May 2018.

Contact and information from: Fred Kapteina, Secretary Mineralogical Society of Victoria Inc.
Registrar & Treasurer Seminar 2018, email: fkaptein@bigpond.net.au

WINDSOR GEM & MINERAL FAIR

Over Saturday and Sunday the 16th and 17th, of June at the Windsor Function Centre, on the corner of George and Dight Streets, Windsor. Saturday 9.30 am to 5 pm, Sunday 9.30 am to 4 pm.

Members please note:

A batch of leaflets was printed for the forthcoming Windsor Show and tabled at the last Society meeting which gave the dates for the Show as the 16th & 17th of June 2017. This was a mis-print and the date should have been the 16th & 17th of June **2018**. A replacement and corrected batch of leaflets has been supplied.

A bi-annual fair hosted by The Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club and Crystal Habit, the show will have a number of traders from around Australia displaying their wares as well as displays and demonstrations by the Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club.

Items for sale by the many traders there will include Jewelry, gemstones, beads, opals, carvings, gem rough, lapidary cutting rough, fossils, meteorites, metaphysical and healing crystals, mineral specimens from all over the world. A great day out for the whole family. Adults \$7, kids with parent/s are free! Opening hours are 9:30 till 5:00 on Saturday and 9:30 till 4:00 on Sunday. There is also a great lucky door prize for one lucky person who comes!

For more information please contact Peter Beckwith at raregems@optusnet.com.au or by mobile phone 0412 333 150'

BLAXLAND GEM & MINERAL CLUB GEM SHOW

Saturday and Sunday, August 19th and 20th 2017 in the Glenbrook Community Hall, Great Western Highway, Glenbrook, NSW. (Next to Glenbrook Theatre), just west of the Information Centre.

From 8 am to 4 pm daily. Entry: Adults: \$3 Children \$1

Displays of lapidary work and gem, mineral and crystal sales.

Refreshments available.

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

PARRAMATTA & HOLROYD LAPIDARY CLUB'S GEM & MINERAL SHOW

From Friday to Sunday 14th, 15th & 16th September 2018.

73 Fullagar Rd, Wentworthville.

9am to 4pm each day.
