



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 2021

The May Meeting will be held by virtual mode on Friday the 7th of May at 7.30 pm.

The program at the May Meeting will include a lecture to be given by Ralph Bottrill on :-

‘The Mt Lyell Mines in Tasmania’

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

The May meeting will be held by virtual mode but from June it is hoped that all meetings for the rest of the year will be held at the **Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club**, - Subject To Confirmation.

June 4th: The Member’s **Annual Mineral Auction**.

Unfortunately whilst COVID restrictions have been greatly reduced, (although the two-square-meter distance requirement is still in force), the Society has to allow for the possibility of some restrictions being re-imposed at short notice. Accordingly whilst it is hoped that ‘live’ meetings at the Lapidary Club can re-commence from June a change in the pandemic regulations may mean that the program would have to be altered and the **Mineral Auction** deferred to a later date.

In the meantime and hopefully with no change or increase in pandemic regulations it is recommended that members with specimens to sell should proceed on the basis that the **Auction** will be held as scheduled here. Accordingly members are invited to select sales specimens up to about one dozen per member. A list of these should be sent to Haley Bambridge on e-mail :- haleybau81@tpg.com.au in good time up to a week before the meeting. Once all lists are received a master list with lot numbers will be compiled and vendors notified which numbers their specimens had been allotted. They would then write the numbers on the individual specimen labels.

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

July 2nd : There will be a lecture to be given by Ian Graham on :- ‘**The Geology and Mineralogy of Bowdens, the Largest Undeveloped Silver Deposit in Australia**’. The program will include a mini-talk to be given by David Colchester on: - ‘**Datolite from Albion Park**’.

Aug 6th: The Society **A.G.M.** will be held in August as normal to be followed by the **Mayne/Walkers Memorial Lecture**. The lecturer and subject are yet to be finalised.

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>
TREASURER:	Graham Ogle	Tel: (02) 9869 1416
	E-mail:	<i>quartzandsirius@hotmail.com</i>
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Peter Beddow	Tel: (02) 8810 8446
	David Colchester	Tel: (02) 9449 3862
	Geoff Parsons	Tel: (02) 9548 3289
	Edward Zbik	Mobile: 0401 538 480
	E-mail:	<i>edward.zbik@bigpond.com</i>
	Haley Bambridge	Mobile: 0413 100 344
	E-mail:	<i>haleybau81@tpg.com.au</i>

ROCK SPLITTER

Ed Zbik would like to know the location of the Society rock-splitter tool. The Society has acquired a few tools and instruments from time to time as the need arose and which were loaned out to members when requested. Someone is currently in possession of the rock-splitter and may have forgotten that they were using and still have it.

Whoever has the rock-splitter please inform Ed on Mobile: 0401538480 or e-mail edward.zbik@bigpond.com

SOCIETY LIBRARY

Book Donations into the library

John Tottenham, a long-time member from Horsham, Victoria, donated a number of books for the library. The Books are about Gold, prospecting, and history of localities where this mineral was sought and extracted. Many of the books have detailed maps identifying mines, shafts, pits, quarries and most importantly, mullock heaps.

Using MinView, Mindat and DIGS and their equivalent in each of the Australian States, major and minor minerals can be identified within each locality. The historic mud maps are often 99% more accurate than GPS coordinates provided by various internet sources.

Accession Number ¹	Title	Author	Accession Number ²	ISBN
1632 Book	Mines, Shafts and Reefs, An insight into the Bowling Alley Point, Hanging Rock and Nundle Goldfields.	Tom McClelland	1997	0 958666 1 1 3
1632 Book	Hill End Gold	Malcolm Drinkwater	1982	0 9592 845 0 8

Accession Number ¹	Title	Author	Accession Number ²	ISBN
1633 Booklet	Minerals of the Burra Mine, South Australia, Special Publication No 11	Mines and Energy SA	1971	0 7308 0108 X
1634 Booklet	Beryl	Minerama Series	1993	0 646 15585 2
1635 Booklet	Molybdenite	Minerama Series	1992	0 646 11349 6
1636 Booklet	Wolframite	Minerama Series	1996	0 646 15582 2
1637 Booklet	Topaz	Minerama Series	1995	0 646 25599 1
1638 Booklet	Cassiterite	Minerama Series	1994	0 646 15585 2
1639 Booklet	Sapphire	Minerama Series	1999	
1670 Booklet	Fluorite	Minerama Series	1997	0 646 15582 2
1671 Book	Maryborough Victorian Goldfields History	James Fleet	1975/1980	0 9597173 0 7
1672 Book	The Hill End Story	Harry Hodge	1965/1966	0 9598994 4 8
1673 Book	Tin at Tingha	Helen Brown	1982	0 9593003 0 9
1674 Book	Frontiers of Gold	Brian Hodge	1979	0 9596573 1 2
1675 Book	Fool's Gold	Brian McGowan	2006	0 7344 0884 6
1676 Book	Gold of Harrietville	Brian Lloyd	1982	0 9598391 6 X
1677 Booklet	Discover South Australia's Mining Heritage Trials			
1678 Book	The Glint of Gold, A History and Tourist Guide of the Gold Fields of the Central West of New South Wales	Kerrin Cook & Daniel Garvey	1999	095 772 0904
1679 Book	Croydon Gold, An Illustrated History of Croydon, North Queensland	Glennville Pike	1986	0 9593783 3 2
1680 Book	Australia's Age of Iron	R. Iand Jack & Aedeen Cremin	1994	0 424 00158 6
1680 Book	River of Gold, The Wild Days of the Palmer River Gold Rush	Hector Holthouse	1967	0207 187789
1681 Booklet	The Story of Gulgong	Eileen Maxwell	1982	0 9597274 1 8
1682 Book	Gold on the Murchison	P.R. Heydon (O.A.M.)	1986	0 85905 066 1
1683 Book	Gympie Gold	Hector Holthouse	1973	0 207 12577 5
1684 Book	Built on Gold. Recollections of Western Mining	G. Lindesay Clark	1983	0 85572 137 5
1685 Book	The Golden Years of Rushworth & Whroo	Joyce Hammond	1978/1981	0 9596478 2 1

KEYS:

Accession Number¹ : “Book” is a soft cover hard cover book, “Booklet” is a thin A5 sized publication.

Year² : A single year is the year of publication; two years indicate reprinted year.

Loan: Contact the Librarian, Edward Zbik, if interested in any of the above books
e:mail: Edward.zbik@bigpond.com

FIELD TRIPS

No confirmed field trips for the month of May 2021. There may be some short notice field trips to small occurrences if access is granted.

Notice: Native Dog Creek, west of Oberon, has been closed to fossickers in the State Forest managed plantations due to the discovery of an endangered species found alongside the creeks. Numerous “No Fossicking” signs have been placed throughout the area.

If visiting a State Forest, historical mining information about the area can be provided.

The APRIL MEETING

The April Meeting was conducted in virtual mode and chaired by the Society Vice-President, John Chapman. It was attended by about thirty members.

Initially after welcoming all members who had connected in to the Meeting the Vice-President advised that the next Society Meeting in May would still be by virtual mode. Excepting any changes to the pandemic restrictions the June Meeting would be held ‘face-to-face’ at the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club and would be the **Annual Mineral Auction**. The July Meeting, also to be held at the Lapidary Club, would include a lecture about the **Bowdens Silver Deposit** by Ian Graham. The Bowdens deposit is about 26 klm to the east of Mudgee near the village of Lue.

The Vice-President also reminded members about the forthcoming **43rd Joint Mineralogical Societies Seminar** to be held over the Labour Day weekend of the 2nd to 4th of October on the theme that had been intended for 2020 of ‘**43 Shades of Silver**’. It is hoped that an extensive Field Trip will be included in the program and that the sites to be visited would include Manuka and Northparkes.

Ed Zbik reported on recent a **field trip to Cordillera** at the end of March. The ownership of the property including the Cordillera mine had changed and Ed had to take some time tracking down the new owner. Once that had been done and access permission obtained a small party had a good day fossicking on Cordillera Hill. Later Ed, Dennis O’Brien and one other member made an investigative trip to the Boorowa, Rye Park and Kangiara area to look at some potential collecting sites for future trips.

Graham Ogle announced that the next meeting of the **Micro-mineral Group** would be on Sunday the 18th of April at 1.00 pm and would be held at the Lapidary Club on the theme of ‘Tasmanian Minerals’. A meeting of a small group would be unaffected by pandemic social distance regulations.

With no more announcements the Vice-President introduced the speaker for the evening, Society member Paul Melville who lives in Darwin and was speaking from there.

BROWNS DEPOSIT RUM JUNGLE: A HISTORY OF COLLECTING 1970 - 2012

Paul Melville

The locality of Rum Jungle is located about 100 kilometres south of Darwin and a few kilometers from the small town of Batchelor in the Northern Territory. The locality derives its name from an incident when a thief stole 750 ounces of gold from miners after getting them drunk with rum.

Historically some mineralisation in the area was noted in 1869 but it was not until the late 1940s that a prospector named Jack White found copper, lead and uranium-containing 'green minerals' which prompted further investigations. The Rum Jungle Mineral Field was found to be a deposit of lead, copper, cobalt, nickel and zinc with some uranium. Mining commenced in the 1950s up to 1971 when the work was discontinued but very conveniently for collectors there was no decision made to rehabilitate the site which has since been a rich source of fine mineral specimens. Several major collecting projects have been allowed by the mine management and undertaken since 1971 yielding many specimens mainly of malachite, cerussite and pyromorphite although some 56 minerals have been identified from the site.

Paul Melville described his lecture as having arisen mainly from the exploits of a collecting program that he and the Rum Jungle mine geologist commenced at Browns Prospect in 2010. Initially he provided some of the history of the area and the development of the mine leading up to late 2010 when the latest of several collecting projects was allowed and the speaker happened to be in the right place at the right time. He has managed to collect large amounts of minerals from Browns Prospect and contributed detailed articles to Mindat on the finds. The lecture was illustrated by over 150 images of the mine workings, the open pits, collecting sites and particularly of the minerals recovered.

A number of collecting episodes had been organised over the years at Browns Prospect and the speaker listed these, - From his notes :-

1969: The Pauley Brothers, Gerry and Tony, successfully negotiated with CRA to excavate for specimens at Browns in late 1969. They reportedly removed over two tons of malachite-cerussite.

1973: The Museum Section of the Bureau of Mineral Resources (BMR) was given permission by CRA to excavate a portion of the oxidised zone to study the secondary mineralisation and collect specimens. This project took place in early August of that year and lasted for one week.

1977: This excavation carried out in July was a 'joint venture' between the BMR and the National Museum of Victoria. The pit was much larger than in 1973 and reached a depth of approximately 5.5 metres. The entire oxidised body was exposed. Both digs were organised and supervised by Don McColl of the BMR. McColl's article on Browns was published in the Australian Mineralogist and The Mineralogical Record (1979 and 1980)

2010: Paul Melville visited the Browns project mine site in May 2010 and was introduced to the Compass Resources Mine Manager. A proposal was made involving specimen recovery and marketing, which would benefit the company financially. The proposal was accepted and that was the beginning of what was to become a very productive session of specimen collecting and preservation. A quantity of the specimens recovered were taken to the 2011 Tucson Show and sold well. Later sales of Browns specimens were made at Denver in 2011, Tucson in 2012 and Munich 2013.

Among many other images were ones shown of letters sent by the Pauley Brothers to Albert Chapman in 1970 offering specimens for sale and also letters from CRA to Albert in 1973 inviting him to attend and recover specimen material from 'the dig' which Don McColl was supervising.

A further letter from CRA to Albert noted that he had recovered specimens, some of which had been donated to the British Museum. Among many other collectors who had worked at the 1970s digs were Harvey and Joan Henley, Dehne McLaughlin and Demetrious Pohl.



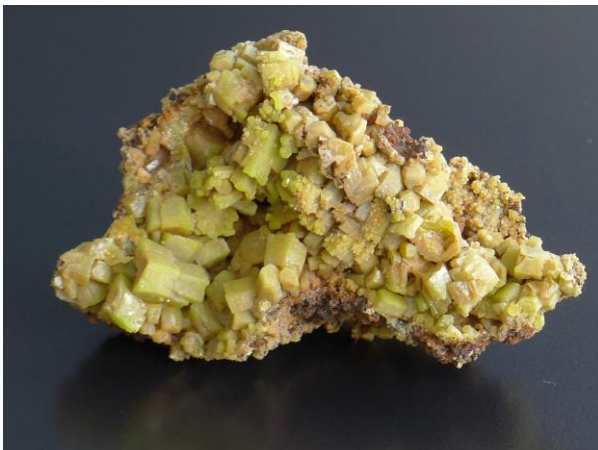
Collecting in the 1977 excavation.



P. Melville specimen, collected Harvey Henley 1977



D. Pohl specimen collected 1973



Pyromorphite. Collected Dehne McLaughlin 1989. Carousel Pocket.

At the end of his lecture Paul Melville dealt with a number of questions, including one about the Woodcutters mine at which he had worked and advised that he had prepared a PowerPoint description of that site which could be the subject of another presentation.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

LISMORE GEMFEST 2021

The annual Gemfest is being held in the Lismore showgrounds on Alexandra Parade in Lismore over the weekend of Saturday May 15th and Sunday May 16th 2021. Entry \$5 Adults 1 Children (under 12) Cash Only. Open from 9:00am – 5:00pm Saturday 9:00am – 3:00pm Sunday. Camping within the showgrounds is available upon application.

Information on the Gemfest from the Lismore Lapidary Club Website : -

'The Annual Lismore Gemfest was started in 1990 by the Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club Inc. Since then it has evolved into one of Australia's largest Annual Gem and Mineral shows with over 140 Tailgaters and Dealers over two massive days of selling and displaying Minerals, Gems, Fossils, Jewellery and Equipment from all over the world. The Gemfest is Celebrating 30 years in 2021 and is a major fundraiser for the Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club.'

Canberra Lapidary Club Winter & Spring Gemcraft & Mineral Shows

To be held in the Exhibition Park (EPIC) - Mallee Pavilion
 Winter Show : Sat 29 May Sun 30 May 10am to 5pm 10am to 4pm
 Spring Show : Sat 30 Oct Sun 31 Oct 10am to 5pm 10am to 4pm

Gem, Mineral, Jewellery & Lapidary dealers. Sales of minerals, fossils, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, lapidary equipment & supplies, opals, beads.

Bankstown Gem and Mineral Expo

Over the 5th & 6th of June 2021 in the Arena Sports Club, 140 Rookwood Road, Yagoona, Sydney.
