

THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

C/o School of Natural Science

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NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2011

The November Meeting will be held on Friday the 4th of November 2011 at 7.30 p.m. in the LZG14 lecture theatre on the ground floor of Building LZ in the Science campus of the University of Western Sydney on the corner of Victoria Road and James Ruse Drive in North Parramatta.

The November Meeting program will commence with a report on the recent **Hunter Valley Field Trip** illustrated by images of the trip activities and a display of some of the specimens collected.

The report will be followed by a lecture to be given by Adam McKinnon on : -

'Establishing a New Mine at Mineral Hill'.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

December 2nd: **The December Meeting will be the annual Christmas Social and Swap and Sell.** At the Meeting there may be a few announcements made but otherwise there will be no formal program or lecture, the evening being devoted entirely to the sale or exchange of mineral specimens and mineralogical material, books, magazines and equipment. The Meeting venue would be open some time before 7.30 p.m. so members with material to place on display for sale could arrive a little earlier to get set up.

Members are recommended to start now sorting out surplus material to bring to the Sale.

After the December Social the next Meeting will be on Friday, February 3rd 2012. The Society does not hold General Meetings in January. Meetings will be held on the first Friday of each month through the rest of 2012 except in April when Good Friday is on the 6th and the Society Meeting in that month will be held on the second Friday. Subject to circumstances some changes to the following schedule of program subjects and speakers may have to be made in due course.

February 3 rd 2012 :	Lecture by Dieter Mylius and John Chapman on the 'Landforms and Minerals of Iceland'. There will also be a sale of donated minerals for Kids with Cancer .
March 2 nd 2012 :	'Back from Tucson' report followed by a lecture, (not finalised), on :- 'Metallogenic Mapping. Locating the Mineral Deposits of N.S.W.'
April 13 th : on the second Friday.	Good Friday is on the 6 th of April 2012. The Society Meeting therefore will be held The program is not finalised but may include a lecture on 'Diamonds'.
May 4 th :	Members Mini-Auction.
June 1 st :	The Society Meeting is on the first Friday in June. Program to be advised.
July 6 th :	Lecture by Arthur Roffey on 'A Lifetime with Minerals'
August 3 rd :	Betty Mayne Memorial Lecture by Peter Williams on : - 'Gazing into the Mineralogical Crystal Ball. Where is it all Going ?
September 7 th :	'Cinnabar (Mercury) Mining in Australia' by Ken McQueen

Kids with Cancer Mineral Sale February 3rd 2012

A mineral sale to raise money for **Kids with Cancer** will be held during the first Society Meeting in 2012, on Friday February 3rd. Members are invited to start looking for surplus specimens that they could donate for this sale. Nearer to the sale date by about mid-January a list of specimens for sale would need to be prepared so in due course donors are asked to contact Jim Sharpe on (02) 9871 2502 or e-mail *sharpemin@tadaust.org.au* to advise what specimens were being donated.

The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: VICE-PRESIDENT:

SECRETARY:

TREASURER: COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Dieter Mylius John Chapman E-mail: George Laking E-mail: Graham Ogle David Colchester Arthur Roffey John Smedley Gary Sutherland Penny Williamson Tel: (02) 9477 1060 Tel (02) 9808 3481 *chapmanjr@optusnet.com.au* Tel: (02) 9636 7145 *bglaking@tech2u.com.au* Tel: (02) 9876 5224 Tel: (02) 9449 3862 Tel: (02) 9449 3862 Tel: (02) 4572 5812 Tel: (02) 9688 1284 Tel: (02) 9871 1379 Tel: (02) 4221 4075

WELCOME

Welcome to new Society member Denis O'Brien of Orange.

OCTOBER MEETING

The October Meeting was opened by the President, Dieter Mylius, who expressed regret that the scheduled **Garrawilla Excursion** field trip to the Coonabarabran area had been cancelled but suggested that this might be re-scheduled for next year.

The President noted however that there had been a very successful trip over the first weekend in September to the **Hunter Valley** or specifically to a **calcite locality** near to **Bunnan** on the Merriwa to Scone road and the following day to **Ardglen Quarry** just off the New England Highway near Murrurundi. It was noted when the party assembled first at Merriwa that it was not too efficient in car-pooling with over thirty people traveling in nineteen vehicles. Then in spite of misgivings by the President who had investigated the Bunnan site a month or two previously and had thought that there would be parking space for only about six cars, in fact all nineteen were able to line up alongside the road. Most of the members then set to work scraping the surface of the cutting or in several cases, digging large holes although as is often seen on field trips, some of the attendees made it their business from the comfort of camp chairs to watch what the others were doing. The 'workers' found an interesting variety and substantial quantity of specimens from both sites, particularly from Ardglen.

Jim Sharpe asked the Meeting that if anyone had any specimens of **native bismuth** he would like to borrow them for examination. They would be returned in due course but he was interested to examine any specimens from whatever Australian locality members might have examples.

With no more announcements being made the President asked Peter Williams to introduce the guest speaker for the evening.

<u>Peter Williams</u>: "Ken McQueen is an old friend of this Society and he has given some cracking talks to us in the past on historical aspects of several of the mining areas around Australia. The one that I remember as probably the best is the one that he gave on the CSA mine which was a real beauty. History is not necessarily his sole interest and Ken is an active geologist and works at the University of Canberra. He was associated for many years with ANU and also with C.R.C. LEME, the Co-operative Research Council for Landscape Evolution and Mining Exploration with respect to looking at strategies, using geochemical methods for the most part, in exploring for orebodies buried in deep cover. He retains an active research interest in that particular area and has just recently been in Cobar giving a seminar to Peak Mines personnel about strategies associated with exploring areas where the regolith is weathered deeply and then has been filled over.

If one goes to Cobar today it can be seen that the countryside is quite flat but the true topography is concealed and is actually quite rugged and has just been buried and filled in. How the miner will explore for concealed orebodies in that sort of terrain is really quite a fine art and Ken McQueen is probably the person that knows more about this than anyone else. In view of his connection with this Society members will know something of his deep and abiding interest with respect to the history of mining in Australia. He is a member of the Australian Mining History Society and has published extensively in that organisation's journal. Whilst he had originally intended to speak to the Society this evening on the history of mercury mining in Australia he has decided instead to speak about the Albert gold field at Tibooburra which I know a little bit about myself largely because of Ken's other presentations associated with students that have been researching in this area in connection to their work for CRC LEME".

'The Nature and Historical Development of the Albert Goldfield, Milparinka – Tibooburra, western NSW'

Professor Ken McQueen

Professor McQueen commenced his lecture by apologising that whilst he had intended to speak about mercury mining he had decided to change the subject of this evening's lecture because the mercury story is not quite finished. So he would speak about the Albert Goldfield in the Milparinka and Tibooburra area instead. He would be dealing with the discovery of the gold field, a little bit about the history and development of the gold-mining, and also about the nature of the gold and its distribution in the surface deposits. His lecture was extensively illustrated with a large series of images obtained by the speaker from old and more recent photographs of the countryside, of mining activities, of miners and prospectors, of records and periodicals from the late 1800s and early 1900s as well as a number of more recent images taken by him during visits he has made to the Albert Goldfield area over the last few years as part of his research.

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Professor McQueen recommended that members consider purchasing a copy of a booklet, '*History of the Albert Goldfield, Milparinka-Tibooburra*', a number of which he had brought in to the meeting to sell for eight dollars each with the proceeds to go for the Kids with Cancer charity. The booklet contained reprints of two articles that the speaker has written on the Albert Goldfield for the Journal of the Australian Mining History Association and would provide all of the information that he would be dealing with in his lecture this evening plus a great deal more. The reprints are from the Journal Volumes 5 and 6 of September 2007-2008.

The Albert Goldfield was proclaimed in 1881 following gold discoveries initially at Mt Poole and also at Mt Browne in what is known as the Grey Ranges of north-western New South Wales. It was a fairly late discovery and was probably one of the last alluvial gold discoveries in the colony of New South Wales. It was also the first one found in the really arid parts of Australia. A lot of the technology that the prospectors developed there was applied later on in places like Tetulpa in South Australia and in the Western Australian goldfields particularly at Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie. A map was shown indicating the location of the Albert Goldfield in the far northwestern 'Corner Country' of NSW, the towns that got established at the time of the discovery and which since then have been largely disbanded and the access routes, initially from Wilcannia.

Capt Charles Sturt had actually traversed this area during his 1844 to 1846 expedition trying to reach central Australia and possibly discover an inland sea. His party comprised about a dozen men some driving a small flock of sheep for food and their equipment even included a collapsible boat which it was thought might be needed if they found the sea. The party was trapped in 1846 for six months short of water due to a severe drought at a place called Depot Glen which was in the area later to become the Albert Goldfield . A map was shown of Sturt's journey and the speaker indicated that his route had actually passed quite close to Broken Hill. Whilst Sturt did have an interest in rocks and minerals and collected some rock specimens along the way his main interest was in looking for agricultural land so he did not find the minerals at Broken Hill or the gold near to Depot Glen. A photograph was shown of the waterhole today at Depot Glen where the Sturt party spent six months from January to July 1846. During their time there it was extremely hot and the party had to dig an underground shelter to keep cool and to sleep in. Also to keep his men occupied Sturt directed some of them to build a large stone cairn on the nearest high peak which became known as Mount Poole after James Poole who was the second in command of the expedition. Other landmarks in the area were also named after members of the party, for Sturt himself and Mount Browne after the expedition's medic.

During the enforced stay at Depot Glen James Poole had fallen ill with scurvy. Rain finally came on the 16th of July and Sturt ordered some of the party to start making its way back to Adelaide with the sick man only for him to die after half a day on the journey whereupon the remaining members of the party made their way back to Sturt. They were in a region where gold nuggets could be found lying about on the surface and they may even have stepped over some without noticing them. However this was in 1845 and 1846 when at that time Australia was not being regarded as a rich goldmining country and so no-one was particularly looking for gold. Certainly they didn't find any.

Subsequent to the Sturt expedition in 1858 when by then the gold discoveries were being made in Victoria the South Australian government sponsored a gold prospecting party to look at the Barrier Ranges. Expectation had been generated about the possible presence of gold in the Ranges due to the large number of quartz reefs. People in effect were always saying that *'there has to be gold in them there hills because of all the quartz'*. However this particular expedition was unsuccessful.

By the 1860s the area was being settled by squatters with sheep and a Duncan McBryde set up a sheep station called Mount Poole near to Depot Glen. The first discovery of gold was made in October 1880 about three miles from Depot Glen by an experienced prospector called Arthur Ashwin who found some specks. He instructed one of the station employees, John Thompson, how to wash for gold and after some time working at this Thompson had collected about 2 ounces. He took the gold into Wilcannia and in announcing his discovery a small rush ensued. It was fairly quickly decided at the time that this did not seem to be a payable gold field but interest and a few prospectors remained. Accordingly a few months later in February 1881 a group of three European miners with a number of aboriginal labourers including some women were prospecting in the Mount Poole area. They decided to head south to a place called Yango Creek, now known as Mt Browne Creek, about 10 miles south-west of Mount Poole. Since there had been some rain, and water is a big issue in this area, the party was able to work the creek and found some colours of gold after which they sat down for a rest. Then one of the aboriginal women found a five-ounce nugget lying on the surface. This sparked up the group and they set about digging some shallow pits and ended up recovering about 23 ounces of gold after about five hours of work. The leader of the group, James Evans, went into Wilcannia to announce that he had found a payable gold field and to sell the gold mostly to the local banker but one of the larger nuggets to the local jeweler for display. The announcement of the finding of the field produced another and larger rush.

A number of images were shown of the discovery area at Mt Browne and of the miners working in the area including a sketch taken from the Australian Sketcher of the time showing the prospector's claim in August 1881. When the discoveries were made the first was often referred to as the prospectors discovery and the Evans party were allowed to take out a much larger area of lease which became known as the 'Prospectors Claim'. Images were shown of the four miners and another image of the area as it looks like today or actually in 2007, taken by the speaker on one of his visits.

The discoveries fired up the first major gold rush and established what became the Albert Goldfield. By mid-March of 1881 there were nearly 1,000 diggers on the field and there had already been the first death. A Welsh blacksmith was one of a group of three miners walking to Mount Browne and in taking a short cut they ran out of water. They split up to look for water but the Welshman died from thirst.

Gold was also discovered at another nearby locality called the Four-Mile to the north-east of Mount Brown. At this time of the year however water was disappearing very quickly and in fact was always a problem on this goldfield and miners had to retreat to the nearest permanent waterhole at what became the township of Milparinka. By April 1881 conditions were still dry and although there had been a little rain there had not been enough to really prove the gold field. However there were new discoveries made to the north-east of Mount Browne first at a site called Good Friday because that was when it was discovered and then there was another discovery a little further north a few days later which they called Easter Monday. The first large nugget of about $15^{\frac{1}{2}}$ ounces was found at a locality which got called Nugget Gulley, to the west of the Easter Monday site.

There was a character named J.C.F. Johnston from South Australia visiting the area in the early period of the rush in March - April 1881 who wrote a small pamphlet called '*To Mount Browne and Back*' a copy of which is in the National Library in Canberra. Johnston was later involved in politics in South Australia but at this time he had chosen to travel to the field to report on it. The book was also subtitled '*Moses and Me*', Moses being the name of his horse!. He made some sketches for the book about life on the goldfield and wrote some comments about what was happening there. Images of some of Johnston's sketches from his book were shown to the meeting, of the township of Milparinka in its early stages of development including the hotel, which had just been erected, and some views of the miners working with their carts.

One of Johnston's sketches shows a fellow exclaiming about having been asked for four shillings to pay for a bottle of beer. The equivalent price in today's money for that bottle of beer would be \$42.60! This illustrated how expensive it was to work on the field because of the difficulty of supplying goods to this remote and arid area and accordingly the prices of goods were very high and often just unobtainable.

Among other comments Johnston printed in his small book was that 'A good place for grog is Milparinka. I fancy that a considerable number of its inhabitants would never know whether the creek had run dry or not unless somebody told them!'. Another comment was that 'Among the respectable tradesmen of Milparinka I notice a select squad of gamblers including a rouge et noir man, a gentleman with a Wheel of Fortune and a ring and spike artist'. The 'ring and spike artist' may have been a quoits player but in any event Johnston's comments showed that there were quite a number of 'hangers-on' in the township that had been attracted to the gold rush, as often happens, as well as the serious miners.

Without water the dry specking method of finding gold was the only one the prospectors could use. It was quite primitive and simply comprised walking around preferably after rain and trying to spy nuggets of gold on the surface and also raking over the shallow near surface alluvium and soil to hand-pick whatever gold was visible. In addition pans could be filled with gravel and thrown into the air for the wind to blow the fine dust away or two pans would be used, one on the ground and one containing gravel held above it and slowly tipped into the other, the fine dust blowing away as this was done. With the finer dust removed the gravel would be examined by eye for any small pieces of gold. Dry blowing machines were gradually introduced and this area was the first gold field in Australia where these machines were developed, being adapted and used later in the West Australia gold fields in Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie. In walking around the goldfield today one can see many small low mounds that were the typical tailings from the dry blowing machines.

The big issue in the early days, and in fact at most times on the field, was the lack of water preventing the miners working their claims and after the initial rush with conditions becoming bad and the water holes drying up a lot of the people actually left. There was also quite an amount of sickness on the field due to poor quality diet, bad water and among other things what was generally referred to as 'coarse living'.

When there was water the gravel would be transported to the nearest water holes and the gold extracted by panning, by sluice boxes, 'long tom' cradles or puddling in large circular troughs stirred by rolling stones around them driven by horses to crush and wash out the fine dust and mud. In general in drier conditions the miners would 'shepherd' or stockpile their ore by piling it up on their claims waiting for rain to then start processing it.

However by the end of April 1881 there was quite good rain sufficient in fact to cause flash flooding in places and a miner called John O'Keefe drowned in one of the creeks. Curiously the first person to die of thirst had been a Welshman and the first person to have drowned was an Irishman. With the arrival of good rain a lot of people returned to the gold field and by the end of May there were over 2000. Whilst the water problem had been temporarily relieved there was still a shortage of food. Supplies had to come by horse teams hauling wagons 320 klm from Wilcannia which was itself normally supplied by riverboats from the south. Unfortunately because the rain had not been sufficient to fill the Darling River into Wilcannia it was still dry and the boats could not reach the town.

Over this time on the goldfield the miners were living on mutton which they got from the squatters and were also eating a local plant that they called wild spinach which is still growing there today. Another problem that beset the field was that when teamsters were dispatched from Wilcannia with any supplies the loads included an amount of grog, spirits and beer, for which the storekeepers could get paid more than sacks of flour which was what the miners really needed. At one point some of the prospectors threatened to pull down some of the storekeepers tents and to burn or stove in the barrels of any more beer that came up. This may have been exaggerated because there seem to be no reports of any grog or beer actually being destroyed but it does show that men were desperate for food

At that time Wilcannia was quite a booming little township and for instance was the place where the Resch Brothers first established their brewing business later moving to Broken Hill and to Silverton. A few images taken from the Wilcannia Times of the period showed advertisements for gold digger's equipment, dishes and shovels etc and another image was shown of one of the famous riverboats, the 'Lady of the Lake' which used to bring supplies up the river to the town. There were also a number of images shown of sketches and photographs taken over this period of the Goldfield townships with photographs showing that by 1885 quite substantial buildings were being erected mostly out of local Cretaceous sandstone including the Albert hotel built in Milparinka which is still there and can be stayed at by the visitor.

Following the earlier discoveries prospectors moved to the east and discovered additional gold at a place they called The Granite but which is now called Tibooburra. The new site was initially fairly rewarding with some miners averaging one ounce of gold per day. By September 1881 things had settled down somewhat with the townships of Milparinka and Mt Browne established and another one at Tibooburra. There were therefore three main townships set up to supply the various scattered alluvial gold fields. At one stage Tibooburra became virtually a ghost town though today is the largest town in the area whereas at Milparinka whilst there is still a pub there is a population of only about six people. Mt Browne and Albert another small township which became established later are just ruins.

Another problem for the miners at this time was that they had no safe way to store their gold for transport to get to the Sydney Mint. So in August 1881 a gold escort was established to carry the gold initially to Wilcannia and then to Sydney. The miners were charged fourpence per ounce to transport their gold from the field to Wilcannia however in August a branch of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney was opened in Milparinka. The regular coach service from Wilcannia to Milparinka took two and a half days for the journey which is quite a good time for 320 klm by horse-coach. Professor McQueen's research has indicated that the teamsters did most of their traveling by night with only a two-hour break along the way. Hence the need for big lights on the coaches examples of which were shown in images by the speaker.

Getting equipment to the Goldfield was always a major hurdle as water was always a problem. When conditions were very dry sufficient water or fodder could not even be found for the horses so carting ore around or bringing in supplies to the area was considerably inhibited. Conditions were so bad at various times that Harrie Wood, the NSW Undersecretary of Mines at the time, made the comment in 1882 that he considered the Albert Goldfield *'one of the most testing and complexing gold fields in the history of the colony'* - but one can probably extend that assessment to the entire history of the Australian gold rushes. Prospectors in this area had pretty much everything against them. A lot of them died there due to poor diet and polluted water, from dysentery, various other diseases and typhoid particularly.

Following the early problems there was another severe drought in early 1882 which also created another food shortage mainly because it was so dry that horse teams were not able travel and get from Wilcannia to Milparinka or Tibooburra. So the New South Wales government contacted the South Australian government and requested that they send camels. Elder, Smith & Co who had camel teams available sent the first camel train to supply the Albert Goldfield from South Australia. Camels were the only thing that could get through and once the operators had them on the field camels were sent out to the horse teams that had been stranded on the road from Wilcannia to bring in the supplies. Camels had already been used quite extensively in the Eastern goldfields of Western Australia and also used before this time by explorers but this may have been the first occasion when camels were used to systematically supply a goldfield in an arid area. Apparently there is still one camel in Milparinka which is used for camel rides for the tourists!.

Gold was also discovered in quartz reefs in the Albert gold field. Two men named Richard Eades and Edward Heffernan were the first to find significant reef gold although earlier alluvial prospectors had occasionally found pieces of quartz with embedded gold so they knew that there must be reefs somewhere in the area. Reefs were first found near Warratta Creek valley a little to the north-east of Mount Poole and the finders set about trying to mine them. At this stage it was all hand mining, there were no drills or explosives available on

the field, and their shafts could only go down about 10 feet to 20 feet. However the miners could clearly see visible gold in the quartz in the reefs and by 1882 six companies had been floated to work the area which became known as the Pioneer Reef. Further discoveries were made to the north and maps were shown of the areas of the quartz reefs and the mines which became established which included the Phoenix and later the New Bendigo, the Warratta and the Rosemont. There was a lot of speculation that the reefs would prove to be very rich because they had a superficial appearance to the reef systems in Victoria at Bendigo and Ballarat. Basically the miners were looking at slate host rocks with quartz reefs which was similar to the situation in central Victoria. The miners speculated that the reefs would prove to be a very rich reef gold district but this never eventuated.

As he spoke Professor McQueen worked through a large number of images of the fields and the working mines and equipment in the 1880s interspersed with a few images taken of the field and workings today explaining the scenes and images as he proceeded. Some of the equipment still visible includes the remains of two stamp batteries which were transported at great effort at the time from Victoria but the one battery which was set up caused all sorts of problems because it was never very efficient. It was set up to do toll milling by accepting deliveries of ore from various miners and charging them for the milling. But the recovery of gold from quite rich ore which probably contained about two to three ounces per tonne was so poor amounting to only about one ounce per tonne that this did not repay the cost of the milling. Water was always a problem although some could be obtained from the deeper mines which in going down deep enough struck the water table but there was never sufficient to run the stamp battery for 24 hours. This was the only plant set up on the field to process reef gold. Much later in the early 1900s with the development of the cyanide process someone built a cyanide extraction plant on the Pioneer Reef but this was not very successful.

The alluvial gold in the Albert field is what is referred to as shotty gold meaning that it is about the size and appearance of lead shot and the speaker showed a few images of typical small nuggets. One of the things that puzzled the early prospectors was that the alluvial gold seemed to be very widely scattered in small patches with no clearly defined leads and the speaker explained some of the geological background. The gold in this area had been derived through a two-stage process unlike a situation in highlands where gold is eroded out of a quartz reef to be deposited into lower ground, a one-stage process. The Albert gold was originally eroded out during the Mesozoic period and deposited into older sediments which were then reworked into the more recent landscape. Another perplexing feature of the goldfield was that there seem to be very little gold in the reefs compared to the amount of alluvial gold. The largest alluvial gold nugget found in the Albert Goldfield was probably about 30 ounces which compared anomalously with the small amount of gold in the reefs. There was always much more alluvial gold in this field.

Most of the alluvial mining had ceased by about 1896 whilst attempts to mine the reefs continued up to about 1910 with only sporadic interest occasionally generated since then. Interestingly it is only been very recently in 2007 that any modern company has attempted to examine the old Albert goldfields. A company named Proto Resources did some drilling into the Pioneer Reef and obtained some gold intersections but apparently not sufficient to persuade them to continue. This however seems to be the first time that anyone has actually put down a drill hole anywhere in this area.

The total production of gold from the whole field was really only quite a small amount, about 1.94 tonnes and most of that produced before 1884 whilst the production of gold from the reef mining was only about 1,900 ounces. To produce the 1.94 tonnes there were about 2000 people working on the field at various stages so one can calculate that on average each person would have found about £30 worth of gold. This of course is an average; a lot of people would have got nothing and others a larger amount. Most people would still have lost money however since even having earned an average of £30 for the period over which the person was working on the field would not have provided much profit given the high costs of living there. The fare for the coach journey from Wilcannia to Milparinka for instance was £5 each way. Very few people would have made money from this goldfield. Fossicking still continues on the Albert Goldfield today, a lot of people go out there metal detecting because due to the nature of the alluvial gold being nuggety or shotty it is quite amenable to being located with a metal detector and a lot of it was close to the surface. So there has probably been quite a lot of gold found by amateur prospectors over the years.

At the conclusion of his lecture Professor McQueen dealt with a number of questions. Several dealt with the difficulties that the speaker had described for the early miners working on the Albert field. Today modern mining companies can probably profitably mine ore containing only one gram per tonne of ore whereas on the Albert Goldfield due to the high costs of operating there miners had to be processing ore which would yield them at least one ounce, about twenty-eight grams, per tonne, otherwise it was not worth their while to continue.

The speaker also mentioned that there had been some speculation about the exact chemical composition of gold from different areas of the Field since it had been noted that the gold from some areas was a lighter colour, indicating that it might have a higher silver content and he was intending to conduct more research on this. It might turn out there had been different styles of gold mineralisation in the area.

One final question dealt with the origin of the Albert Goldfield name and Professor McQueen advised that it had been named after the entire area of the 'Corner Country' of New South Wales named the Albert District. The district had most likely been so named for Prince Albert who was Queen Victoria's husband at the time the area was first explored and proclaimed.

FOR SALE

Howard Greening of Winston Hills has two large geological specimen cabinets for sale for \$200 each or \$300 the pair. They are 1.93 meters high by 1.22 meters wide and 0.615 meters deep, both with twenty-eight 9cm-deep drawers. They would repay being cleaned a little and given a coat of polish and the base of one has some dampness damage but are of quite solid construction. Being quite large anyone buying the cabinets would need to transport them with a trailer or in a large van and with two people helping loading and unloading.

Inquiries may be made to Howard Greening on telephone (02) 9639 9074

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The WINDSOR JEWELLERY, BEADING, GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Saturday & Sunday, the 26th &27th of November

At the Windsor Function Centre on the corner of Dight & Macquarie Streets, Windsor. Next door to Windsor Public School.

Saturday open from 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. & Sunday from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Admission \$5, children \$1. Light refreshments.

Displays of mineral specimens, cut & polished stones, carvings & gemstones.

SALES of jewellery, gemstones, beads, opals, mineral specimens from all over the world, tools and equipment for lapidary and beading work, metaphysical and healing crystals.

Inquiries to Peter Beckwith on 0412 333 150.

GEMBOREE 2012

AUSTRALIA'S 48TH NATIONAL GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

Easter 2012 from the 6th to 9th of April 2012.

In the Bundaberg Showground, Burrum Street, Bundaberg, Queensland. Hosted by the Bundaberg Gem & Mineral Society Inc on behalf of the Queensland Gem Clubs Association and AFLACA. Lapidary traders, tailgating stalls, entertainment, refreshments, working demonstrations, displays, lectures, tours.

Everyone Welcome

Camping available on site. Booking enquiries to P.O.Box 5886 West Bundaberg 4670 or e-mail <u>bundygemboree@yahoo.com.au</u>
