



THE
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF
NEW SOUTH WALES INC

C/o School of Natural Science
B.C.R.I. Parramatta Campus, Western Sydney University
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NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2017

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

The program will commence with a mini-talk to be given by David Colchester on : -

‘Ever heard of Quodons?’

The talk will be followed by a lecture to be given by Noel Kennon on : -

Quartz

Members are invited to bring in specimens of Quartz to display and help illustrate the lecture

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

December 1st : **Christmas Social and Swap n’ Sell.**

The Christmas Social will comprise the now well-established program for the final Meeting of the year with the evening being devoted entirely to the sale of mineral specimens and mineralogical material, books, magazines and equipment. There will also be the substantial and comprehensive range of refreshments and drinks provided for which members attending the meeting will be asked to pay an appropriate fee. The Meeting would be officially opened at 7.30 pm possibly with a few brief announcements but the Club rooms would be open from about 6.30 pm to allow time for members with material for sale to get set up.

2018: The Society does not hold General Meetings in January and the first Meeting in 2018 will be on February the 2nd. Meetings will be held on the first Friday of each subsequent month through the year. Subject to circumstances some changes to the following schedule of program subjects and speakers may have to be made in due course.

February 2nd 2018: Speakers will present talks on : - **‘Tolwong – Collecting for Mountain Goats’**. The speakers will include Dieter Mylius, David Colchester and Ed Zbik.

There will be the **Kids with Cancer Sale** at the February meeting. Members are invited to donate specimens for the sale. Specimens should be labelled with the name and source location etc and also the price. There is no need to notify the Society in advance about which specimens are to be donated, please just bring in the donations to the meeting; a table will be set aside for the sale.

March 2nd 2018: Lecture to be given by Graham Ogle on : - ‘**The Fluorescent Minerals of Sterling Hill**’. There will also be a talk to be given by Dieter Mylius on : - ‘**Mineral of the Month – Garnets**’.

April 6th 2018: The program will include a number of talks on ‘**Pyrite**’. Presenters will include John Chapman, Peter Williams and Brian England.

May 4th 2018: Member’s annual **Auction**.

June 1st 2018: Lecture to be given by Kevin Capnerhurst on : - ‘**The New Minview. On-line Mineral Deposit Data**’.

The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

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The OCTOBER MEETING

The October Meeting was opened by John Chapman in the absence of Dieter Mylius, who along with a number of other members was attending the **Mineralogical Seminar** in Hahndorf, South Australia. There were no announcements about field trips although John Chapman advised that Ian Graham had been asked to try and arrange a visit to the **Manuka mine** copper and quartz deposit site that he and two of his students had described during their lecture at the September Meeting. The Society was hopeful that a visit might be arranged although there were some safety concerns in regard to mercury contamination of parts of the site.

Graham Ogle announced that the monthly meeting of the **Micro-Mineral Group** would be held at his house a week from the following Saturday and the group would be studying calcite and associated minerals.

John Chapman announced that members Jerry and Teena Taylor-Edwards had sold their house in Sydney and were moving to Elizabeth Beach, a little south of Forster/Tuncurry, in the Myall Lakes area of the North Coast. He wished them all the best for their move.

Brian Holden reported on the **Emmaville Gem Fest** which was held the previous weekend and in spite of concerns that it might have to close down it was well-attended this year. There were about fifteen tail-gaters with a field trip arranged to the Willows site. John Behrens also reported that the **Inverell Gem Show** would be held later this month. The show arrangements would include about six-seven days of fossicking trips.

Mineral Deposit Types – Tin

John Chapman

The first talk of the evening was following on from previous talks given by John Chapman on types of mineral deposits. Initially he referred to basic host rock types, granites and pegmatites, greisens, rhyolites, altered granites and skarns, noting that the vast majority of mineral deposits are hydrothermal. Given the presence of water, usually extremely high temperature and the appropriate chemistry of the environment, minerals may be dissolved, moved and precipitated in some concentration elsewhere. So the hydrothermal process involves a fluid source, the right chemistry and a heat source. Such processes are seen most notably in granites forming pegmatites which may be significantly mineralised. The speaker also referred to skarns which were originally carbonate rocks become partially silicified by contact with granite intrusions and then later subjected to hydrothermal action which further replaced some of the carbonate with other minerals.

Significant tin deposits may also be alluvial where the tin mineral, most often the oxide cassiterite, has been eroded from the host rock and transported by flowing water action some distance from the original deposit or elluvial where the mineral has been eroded but largely left in situ near to its origin. Elsmore in New England is such a deposit.

The largest producers of tin in the World at the present time are China, followed by Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand with Australia currently a minor producer. Australian tin deposits referred to were mainly in the New England area, Elsmore, Torrington, Tingha, etc, and notably a very large deposit at Taronga just north of Emmaville with thirty-six million tons of ore. Others referred to were Ardlethan in southern NSW, deposits in the Cobar area and Renison Bell in Tasmania. There are however other substantial deposits of tin in Australia not yet being fully exploited or opened up and the speaker referred to several of these, notably the Doradilla deposit, north of Cobar, a mineralized calc-silicate skarn with a 'strike' length of 16 klm. The tin is mainly in the form of malayaite, the calcium tin silicate, which is currently too energy-expensive to process although there are a number of other metals occurring in the host skarn such as nickel and copper minerals.

Through his talk John Chapman was able to refer to a number of projected images explaining the subject and also a variety of tin specimens which he and other members had brought in to display.

The second speaker for the evening was Mark Walford who is a son-in-law of Jim Sharpe. He is currently the Head Teacher in Science at the Cumberland High School in Carlingford. In introducing him John Chapman advised that the speaker had originally qualified in Geology at UTS and before taking up teaching had spent a number of years working for Alcan and then in mineral exploration in Indonesia.

‘Searching for Gold in Kalimantan’

Mark Walford

Initially Mark Walford explained a little more of his background, having become interested in geology in his youth examining the different types of rocks in the Lane Cove river valley near his home and has been collecting rocks and minerals ever since. At school in Epping Boys High among other teachers he was taught for a period by Graham Ogle’s brother Doug. Whilst at the school groups were taken on many field trips which sparked up his interest further. Accordingly upon completing school he applied to study Applied Geology at UTS which he considered to be an excellent course but which has sadly been discontinued.

Obtaining a job at Alcan led the speaker to work at a number of sites throughout NSW such as Peak Hill and with an EL, (Exploration License), spent some time conducting geochemical sampling in such places as a sheep farm near Murrumbateman. Sampling would be conducted by marking out a grid pattern and then taking samples at specific intervals. Collections of samples would then be sent for assay hopefully with results not being returned with the letters BLD, (Below Level of Detection). After some time in Australia the speaker moved for a period to Indonesia to conduct mineral sampling there. He had taken a large number of photographs of his time in that country although unfortunately none of minerals and also apologised for the images being some thirty years old. He first briefly described the general geology of Indonesia referring to the feature of plate tectonics having formed the Indonesian archipelago of 13,000 plus islands and then referred to more specific geology providing different rock types and mineral deposits.

Commencing a description of his trip into the interior of Kalimantan images showed Mark Walford along with colleagues loading up a boat with equipment and provisions. Travel in the island was largely to be conducted by river. The speaker compared his expedition to that depicted in the 1979 ‘Apocalypse Now’ film, hopefully without expecting to encounter any seriously hostile locals although apparently the use of blow-darts and head-hunters still existed at that time. A large number of photographs had been taken as the exploration party made its way upriver, usually staying in local accommodation overnight or for a few days and diverting constantly into tributaries to sample stream beds for signs of gold. Inland Kalimantan is dense equatorial jungle with high temperatures, high humidity and was swarming with wildlife, copious numbers and varieties of insects and notably ‘millions of’ macaque monkeys. During his time there the speaker did not see any Orang Utans but smashed open and eaten durian fruits were signs of their presence.

Along the route taken by the geologists the photo montage showed many views of the countryside, mostly jungle, and of the local people, their villages and domestic activities, working, cooking etc, and of the exploration party at stages camping and engaging in presumably off-duty activities such as fishing. Finally there were images of the exploration team having returned from their Kalimantan river trip and relaxing in some degree of comparative luxury in their company’s residential property in a suburb of Jakarta. During their trip in Kalimantan the team had not found any gold but had taken many notes and numerous photographs.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ILLAWARRA LAPIDARY CLUB INC

2017 JEWELLERY GEMS & MINERALS FESTIVAL

Saturday November the 4th, 9am – 4pm, and Sunday November 5th, 9am to 2.30pm.

At Heininger Hall, Ribbonwood Centre, 109 Princes Hwy, Dapto

Entry: Adults \$3, children under 12 years free`

Featuring: Gemstone Faceting, Cabachon Cutting, Silvercrafts, Jewellery Making and Valuations, Mineral Group, Club and Fossicking Information, Refreshments, Raffle and Kid's Games.
 Dealers Selling: Lapidary Supplies, Minerals, Jewellery, Crystals, Findings, Fossils. Beads and Opals.
 Enquiries: Lynne 0428310697 <http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/>

The **NEWCASTLE LAPIDARY CLUB** is holding their annual
GEM and JEWELLERY FAIR

Over Saturday 11th (9am – 4pm) and Sunday 12th (9am – 3pm) of November at the Newcastle Basketball Stadium, 27 Young Road, Broadmeadow, Newcastle.

'There will be demonstrations of jewellery making, faceting , as well as many stalls selling a variety of tools, jewellery, craft and gems and minerals. This is new venue with more stalls, in an indoor, spacious well-lit location with plenty of all-weather parking. . Parking and Entry are free and there will be canteen facilities available throughout each day.'

Inquiries to Jeff Lewin on Ph (02) 4952 9611, Fax (02) 4952 8057 or email newlap@gmail.com

CANBERRA LAPIDARY CLUB SPRINGCRAFT & MINERAL SHOW

Over Saturday and Sunday the 11th & 12th of November 2018 at the Mallee Pavilion, EPIC, Canberra.
 Dealers and displays of jewellery, gemstones, fossils, rocks, mineral specimens and lapidary supplies.
 Entry fee: \$5, refreshments available.

Inquiries to Show convenor, Norm Menadue on:- (02) 6258 6631 or Lapidary Club on:- 02 6260 5322

WINDSOR GEM & MINERAL FAIR

Over Saturday and Sunday the 25th and 26th of November 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.

'Jewellery, gemstones, beads, opals, gem rough, carvings, fossils, crystals and mineral specimens from all over the World. Sales, dealers and displays. Entry fees \$7 for adults and children under 18 accompanied by parents are free. There will be a lucky door prize of a 9ct gold and sapphire pendant awarded after a raffle draw on Sunday afternoon. The Show is proudly supported by the Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club.'

For more information contact Peter Beckwith on 0412 333 150 or e-mail : - peterrare@optusnet.com.au

MINERAMA Fossicking, Gem & Jewellery Show

At the Glen Innes & District Services Club, 120 Grey Street, Glen Innes over Friday to Sunday, the 9th to 11th of March 2018. Tailgaters will be accommodated on the King George Oval behind the Services Club.

Quoted from the Website: 'The Minerama Fossicking, Gem & Jewellery Show in Glen Innes is NSW's largest annual gem and jewellery show, attracting visitors and dealers from all over Australia. Held every year on the 2nd weekend in March, Minerama is perfect for all gem and jewellery lovers, rockhounds and outdoor adventurers. Guided fossicking field trips to suit both beginner and experienced gem hunters.

There are over 100+ stalls trading in gemstones, fine jewellery, facet rough, lapidary tools & supplies, crystals, beads, fossils, mineral specimens, arts, crafts and more. Whether you are after a two-dollar special, a gemstone of world-class quality or a unique piece of jewellery you'll find it at Minerama.'

Website: www.minerama.com.au

GEMBOREE 2018

The 54th National Gem & Mineral Show, GEMBOREE 2018 will be held in Willunga Park Reserve, Railway Terrace, Willunga in South Australia over Easter, the 30th March to 2nd April 2018.
