



## THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

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

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### NEWSLETTER      OCTOBER 2020

**The October Meeting will be the Annual Joint Mineralogical Societies Seminar and will be held by virtual mode during day hours from 10.45 am for a total of about four hours each day over Saturday and Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2020. The program comprises two sessions of one and a half hours each either side of midday with a one hour lunch break. The Seminar will end on Sunday afternoon with an open discussion.**

An Invitation accompanied by the full Seminar lecture schedule has been e-mailed to all members.

Eleven speakers representing most of the Australian State Mineralogical Societies and New Zealand will deliver lectures on a wide range of subjects as follows : -

Adam McKinnon:	The Dominion and Federation Discoveries, Nymagee, NSW;
Rod Martin:	Vanadium Minerals of Aranga Quarry, NZ;
Dermot Henry:	The ICI Collection of Museum Victoria;
Trevor Dart:	Minerals of the Broken Hill and Olary Areas;
Ralph Bottrill:	Tungsten Mines of Tasmania;
Susan Stockmayer:	Updating Simpson's Minerals of WA;
Steve Sorrell:	Minerals of the Ballarat Gold Region;
Steve Turner:	Ringwoodite and the Jules Verne Connection;
John Haupt:	Lake Boga - A Notable Australian Mineral Locality;
Bill Birch:	Wedderburn and Ellerslie: A Tale of Two Meteorites;
Nicholas Hebert:	A Journey in the World of Blue Spinels.

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### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

**November 6<sup>th</sup>** : The program for November is still to be finalised but should include a talk and lecture, presumably still to be held by virtual mode.

**December 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>: The Society Annual Christmas Social and Swap n' Sell.**

The date of the Christmas Social is still to be confirmed but it is definitely intended that the Social will be held. Since the pandemic restrictions are likely to be still in force to a degree the Social may be held during the afternoon of Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> or Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of December probably within the grounds of the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club building on Fullagar Road, Wentworthville.

**2021:** There is currently no information about whether Society Meetings can resume being held in the Parramatta and Holroyd Lapidary Club building but with the gradual relaxation of pandemic restrictions this may be possible by February in the New Year.

**February 5<sup>th</sup> 2021:** A schedule of Society Meeting programs is being organised commencing with the first Friday in February and continuing with first Friday meetings throughout the year. An exception would be in April when Easter occurs over the first weekend and the Society meeting would be held on the second Friday.

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## The SOCIETY COMMITTEE

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## FIELD TRIP PROGRAM

With the number of community acquired COVID cases hovering around zero the Society Field Trip Program will be resumed. Ed Zbik has continued gathering information and planning for future trips. Members can also nominate sites and localities they may want to visit.

Date	Locality	SL: Site Leader AL: Asst. Leader
TBA	Cordillera, Tuena, camping at Tuena Common Option, Lachlan River, Narrawa, between Crookwell & Boorowa Open to all members. Limit 10	?
TBA	Lowes Mount SF, camping in forest, includes UV night walk Open to all members. Limit 10	SL: Greg Andrew AL: Denis O'Brien
TBA	Rye Park, Walla Walla Open to all members. Limit 10	SL: Denis O'Brien
TBA	Gumble and localities Open to all members. Limit 10	SL: Denis O'Brien
TBA	Other sites of member's choice arranged and lead by members. Open to all members. Limit 10	?
TBA	Whipstick Mo Pambula	SL: Martin Rosser

Date	Locality	SL: Site Leader AL: Asst. Leader
2021	Open to all members. Limit 10	AL:
Oct 2021	Manuka Field Trip SWMS Certified members Only	SL: John Chapman AL: Edward Zbik

Trips will be on short notice. When an opportunity opens, plans will be made to do a field trip within 7-14 days. The SOCIETY'S FIELD TRIP COVID SAFETY PLAN applies on field trips above until cancelled. Limits may change as advised by government authorities.

#### MANUKA MINERAL REVIEW from past field trips.

Members who collected at Manuka in the past years in 2017 and 2018 may check their minerals for the following species.

Mineral	Mindat	Geo Survey NSW	AJM V18 N2	Formula
Acanthite*			√	Ag <sub>2</sub> S
Anglesite	√			PbSO <sub>4</sub>
Baryte			√	BaSO <sub>4</sub>
Calcite		√		CaCO <sub>3</sub>
Cerussite	√	√		PbCO <sub>3</sub>
Chalchophanite		√		ZnMn <sup>4+</sup> <sub>3</sub> O <sub>7</sub> ·3H <sub>2</sub> O
Coronadite	√			Pb(Mn <sup>4+</sup> <sub>6</sub> Mn <sup>3+</sup> <sub>2</sub> )O <sub>16</sub>
Dolomite	√	√	√	CaMg(CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>
Galena	√	√	√	PbS
Goethite	√	√		α-Fe <sup>3+</sup> O(OH)
Gypsum	√			CaSO <sub>4</sub> · 2H <sub>2</sub> O
Jarosite	√			KFe <sup>3+</sup> <sub>3</sub> (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (OH) <sub>6</sub>
Marcasite	√	√		FeS <sub>2</sub>
Plumbogummite		√		PbAl <sub>3</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> )(PO <sub>3</sub> OH)(OH) <sub>6</sub>
Plumbojarosite	√			Pb <sub>0.5</sub> Fe <sup>3+</sup> <sub>3</sub> (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (OH) <sub>6</sub>
Pyrite	√	√	√	FeS <sub>2</sub>
Pyrolusite	√	√		Mn <sup>4+</sup> O <sub>2</sub>
Quartz	√	√	√	SiO <sub>2</sub>
Siderite		√		FeCO <sub>3</sub>
Silver	√	√		See acanthite
Smithsonite	√	√		ZnCO <sub>3</sub>
Sphalerite	√	√	√	ZnS

\* Primary silver ore

## The SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September General Meeting of the Society was held by virtual mode. It was opened initially by the Vice-President, John Chapman, but 'chaired' virtually by the President, Dieter Mylius, who was in White Cliffs.

Doug Collier reported on a recent visit he had made to **Batemans Bay** and the **Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society Museum**. The museum was currently housing the Batemans Bay Lapidary Club geology collection, following the loss of the club's premises after the bushfires in the nearby Mogo area around the end of last year. Doug recommended that the museum was well worth visiting for anyone passing through and entry was only \$5.

Graham Ogle advised that there would be a virtual **Micro-mineral Group meeting** next Saturday at 1.00 pm. He would send an e-mail notice out to interested members. There would be short talks to be given by Dieter Mylius and Steve Sorrell. Arrangements could possibly be made to hold future meetings at a member's house with some people attending 'live'.

Ed Zbik reported that he was continuing to gather information and make arrangements for holding short-notice **Field Trips** depending on pandemic regulations and low community spread allowing small parties to assemble. For the immediate future the trips would probably be to Lowes Mt and Tuena.

Dieter Mylius described the progress so far about the forthcoming **Virtual Mineralogical Seminar** arrangements for which were developing well with a number of speakers and a range of lecture subjects lined up. He then listed the lectures and lecturers noting that the program was near to full with just one or two periods still to be filled.

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**'Our New Website'      [www.minsocnsw.org.au](http://www.minsocnsw.org.au)**  
**Graham Ogle**

Graham Ogle described the new Society Website which was now open for members and anyone to access. The Committee had been considering for some time making arrangements to provide a new and re-designed Website. Recommendations and a proposal had been made to the Committee over a year ago and after discussions the decision was taken to contract Graham Ogle's son Toby to undertake the work.

Toby Ogle had designed the original Website and then updated it some seven years ago. He was now a professional Web designer and last year the Committee had asked him to provide a draft for a new site which upon being presented and discussed had then been accepted. The work had commenced with an amount of regular input and suggestions from Committee members.

The website updating and redesigning had been completed, was now open for members to access and Graham Ogle proceeded to describe the extensive new features and facilities of the site stressing that the content was an ongoing project with more material, images and reports intended to be constantly added and/or updated. The Website image was projected on to the Zoom program screen for members to view as he spoke and took the viewers through all the sections.

There were nine sections listed across the Home page of the site. Each one if 'clicked' on would open up and was illustrated by a different mineral. Items of information followed below the heading and the image many of which if further 'clicked' upon would open up to provide more information or images.

Yet more titles and information would appear as the viewer scrolled down and many of these would open up yet further if clicked on. Most images of minerals in the Gallery and Micro-mineral 'pages' had been taken by John Chapman and Dieter Mylius. All of the images could be enlarged if required.

Comments were invited from members and also an invitation to offer any information in due course which a member might feel would be useful or relevant to be added to the site.

The meeting was handed over to Noel Kennon who was to provide the next lecture.

## **'Fleischer's Glossary of Mineral Species'**

### **Noel Kennon**

Noel Kennon had delivered his lecture on Fleischer's Glossary of Mineral Species a month before to the Society Micro-mineral Group and he had been prevailed upon to expand it a little and give the rest of the Society members the opportunity to hear it. As he spoke he displayed and referred to a number of images projected onto the common screen of the lists of minerals, groups, features and selections of mineral specimens and polished gemstones which he was describing.

At the present time the list of known minerals contains over 5,000 species and each year researchers are adding about a hundred more. Every one of those minerals has a specific name. Unfortunately over the years a number of names, well-known or not, have become established but may refer to substances which are not specific minerals. Many names commonly used may refer to mineral groups. The speaker insisted that the Glossary is the final authority for the name and composition of a mineral. If it is not listed in the Glossary it is not a mineral.

The publisher of the Glossary is the Mineralogical Record of Tucson, Arizona and the most recent issue was Number Twelve, 2018 which lists 5,084 minerals. The next issue is expected in 2022 and there are already another 245 minerals to be added to it. The Glossary is divided into two sections. The first one lists all the minerals by name alphabetically with their chemical composition, crystal system, type locality and may provide references to articles about the mineral which have appeared in the Mineralogical Record. The second section lists 295 mineral groups according to their common composition or structural features.

Michael Fleischer (1908 – 1998) was an American chemist and mineralogist who published a large number of articles on the chemistry and names of minerals. From 1959 to 1974 he was chairman of the IMA Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names, a position he held until 1974. During that period he commenced compiling the *Glossary of Mineral Species* which was first published in 1971. For the 1991 and 1995 issues, (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>), he was assisted by Joseph A. Mandarino.

A few curiosities in the listings were noted. Some minerals were provided with two accepted name spellings, such as barite and baryte. Liquid mercury was listed as a mineral whereas in solid form, below minus 40C, it was not. On the other hand, liquid water was not a mineral whilst as ice it was.

As an example of the unreliable use of names of minerals or groups the speaker described a number of names which were in common use but which did not appear in the Glossary. Therefore he advised, they should not be used when describing specific minerals. Asbestos is not listed because it refers to a group of several minerals with specific names. Crocidolite is not listed because it is a name for the fibrous form of riebeckite, an amphibole group mineral which is listed.

As the speaker insisted, we know all this because it is there in the Guide. He then proceeded to describe twelve groups of minerals noting that the names of individual species within a group were not always correctly used.

Mica is not a mineral but a large group with four subgroups and sixty-one species. The garnet group has five subgroups and thirty-three species. In speaking about the garnet group Noel Kennon displayed a few images of fine polished garnet gemstones. He noted that precisely identifying different garnet specimens and giving them their correct name could be very difficult given the variabilities in composition, features and colour etc.

The zeolites are a particularly large group with seventeen series covering 101 species. Some of the species within a subgroup are very similar and may not have specific names such as the merlinoite sub-group with the three types referred to as merlinoite-Ca, merlinoite-K and merlinoite-Na.

The beryl group provided a number of names but emerald, heliodor, goshenite, bixbyite, aquamarine, and morganite are not minerals, they are all variety names. Similarly gem corundum provides the non-mineral names sapphire and ruby.

Then there was the quartz group providing the varieties of amethyst, citrine, smoky and rose quartz. The mineral name is specifically quartz, the varieties should be referred to as quartz var amethyst etc. Noel Kennon suggested that what he called the 'hoi polloi' would refer to the substances by their variety names whilst the mineralogist should correctly call them all quartz – variety- ... etc.

The television program 'Prospectors' was referred to. The series was made for the Weather Channel in America and has also been shown in Australia. The episodes have shown a family group of prospectors searching for amazonite and smoky quartz in the Pikes Peak area of the Colorado Rocky Mountains in the USA. Amazonite is what the prospectors were calling the specimens they were finding but the correct mineralogist would call them microcline which is in the feldspar group.

The tourmaline supergroup comprises fourteen subgroups and thirty-two species with a great variety in colours and in its minor constituents. The listing of tourmaline varieties has sometime changed between Glossary issues. Hence years ago the tourmaline variety liddicoatite would be found listed alphabetically under 'L' but in the 2018 issue it is under 'F' having been re-named Fluor-liddicoatite, (elbaite subgroup). A number of articles in the Mineralogical Record describing various important sources of tourmaline in the World were described, the speaker on one occasion having communicated with the editor of the Record, Wendell Wilson, to check some facts in an article and was pleased to receive a prompt and helpful reply.

At the end of his lecture the speaker engaged in a discussion with the members about mineral nomenclature and dealt with a number of questions.

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