



Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc.

*To encourage mineralogical study by amateur and professional alike
and, in so doing, discover, document and preserve the Earth's
and in particular Western Australia's natural history.*

Newsletter - July 2020

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Mineralogical Society of WA, Inc.

Meetings held at the WA Lapidary & Rockhunting Club rooms
31 Gladstone Road, Rivervale (corner of Newey Street)

Registered Society No. A1009304P

EDITORIAL

Your July newsletter will be a little briefer than normal due to the Covid-19 situation. At this stage the WA Lapidary & Rock Hunting Club rooms are still closed. **The meeting on Wednesday 8 July will be held at Level 1 in Building 500, Curtin University at 7:15pm.**

As mentioned in the last newsletter there are currently some vacant positions on the committee. Please consider who you would like on your 20/21 committee. The Society operates on the efforts of the members so if you are able to nominate for any of the vacant positions please consider doing so.

Positions vacant:

- **Treasurer** - John Mill is acting as Treasurer until the AGM.
- **Secretary** - Susan Stockmayer is acting as Secretary until the AGM.
- **Committee member**

A reminder that membership fees are due by 30 June 2020. Please see email from Susan Stockmayer dated 17 June 2020 for payment details.

Monster Mineral Sale

John Mill is selling 50 large boxes of rocks, crystals, minerals, fossils and polished agates and still has plenty left that he wants to find new homes for as he doesn't have room to store it all. See John's advert at the end of this newsletter for his Monster Mineral Sale and for contact details and viewing arrangements.

Proposed AGM for Wed 9 September 2000

This year is the 20th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Mineralogical Society of Western Australia. The plan of the Committee is that this AGM will be a special celebration with a catered social event after the official AGM meeting in lieu of a talk. It will be a chance for members to spend some time with each other catching up. We plan to have an MC for the evening and a presentation on the 'History of the Society' over the last 20 years including lots of photos and stories of field trips, workshops and other events over that time.

Members are asked if they could please submit photos and stories for the presentation and for possible use on social media and our proposed new website. We would like to start gathering these stories now to give us time to coordinate the PowerPoint presentation and the evening agenda. Please submit your stories and photos to any of the Committee members. Contact details towards end of newsletter. Photos can be in any format such as digital, prints and slides which we will digitise for the presentation. The success of this project really depends on members' submissions and contributions so please hunt through your old photos and share any stories with us for the 20th Anniversary celebration.

Meetings

The General and Annual General Meetings of the Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Incorporated are usually held at **7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every odd month** at the WA Lapidary & Rockhunting Club rooms located at 31 Gladstone Road, Rivervale (corner of Newey Street).

At all meetings the Society's microscope, UV lamp and refractometer are available for use by members.

If any members have any requests or suggestions on what they would like to see in the newsletters please contact the Newsletter Editor. Contact details are included in this newsletter.



SCHOOL OF ROCK - DR ROBERT MADDEN

Dr Robert Madden is an avid science communicator writing small geology vignettes, geology stories and educational resources on his social media account "School of Rock".

This segment of our newsletter shares some of Dr Madden's incredibly interesting articles and photos.

You can follow Robert's 'School of Rock' for more geoscience content on Instagram @drrhcmadden.

Editor's note:

Dr Madden only writes about specimens he has personally seen and he takes all his own specimen photos.

Russians, rubies, oxygen and glaciers.



Ruby is the gem quality version of corundum turned red by chromium impurities. Corundum is found in a range of metamorphic rocks (schists, gneisses and marbles) as well as some low-silica igneous rocks and pegmatites. Shown here is a rock composed of black biotite, pinkish garnet, waxy calcite and deep purple corundum (ruby) from the tiny intercontinental island of Khit Ostrov in the far west of Russia.

Geochemical analyses of oxygen isotopes contained in these rubies reveal the rock's metamorphic history. The protoliths that formed this beautiful specimen were likely Neoproterozoic (2.8-2.5 Ga) sediments that underwent a first stage of total metasomatism (hydrothermal alteration; 2.3 Ga), completely rearranging the chemistry and mineralogy of the original rock. A second stage of high-pressure amphibolite metamorphism some 1.9-1.8 billion years ago produced this rock in its final form complete with rubies.

What is interesting here is that at 2.3 Ga the Earth was in the grips of a global glaciation. The initial stages of hydrothermal alteration that this rock records occurred under the influence of glacial waters likely in a shallow fumarole field (imagine all the volcanic steam vents and geysers on Iceland or in Yellowstone and you'll get the picture). To distill this right down: a global ice age may have been directly responsible for this literal gem of a rock, now that's cool (pun intended).



*Dr Robert Madden
Sedimentology research in Namibia.*

Dr Robert H.C. Madden has been looking at rocks and minerals for the last 17 years. Robert's specialities lie in carbonate sedimentology and petrology as well as exploration geology, particularly porphyry-epithermal and MVT systems.

He is also a Fellow of the Geological Society of London and a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists with a rich, global portfolio of geological experience.

Robert is an avid science communicator writing small geology vignettes, geology stories and educational resources on his social media account "School of Rock".

You can follow Robert for more geoscience content on Instagram @drrhcmadden.

INTERESTING ARTICLES

Title: *Tanzanite - Biggest find at Tanzanian mine*

Reference: *BBC News - 24 June 2020*

Link: <https://www.bbc.com/news/amp/world-africa-53148612>

Title: *Earth Rocks and Moon Rocks Are More Different Than We Thought*

Reference: *EOS Earth & Space Science News*

Link: <https://eos.org/articles/earth-rocks-and-moon-rocks-are-more-different-than-we-thought>

If any members have any interesting articles they would like to share with other members through the newsletter please email your submission to Lesley Daniels (Newsletter Editor) at lesleydaniels777@gmail.com.

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF WA LIBRARY

The Mineralogical Society of WA library comprises numerous books, reports and journals that have been donated by members. Currently there are over 150 publications housed in a lockable cupboard in the WA Lapidary & Rockhunters Club premises. To access the books please see the Librarian, John Mill. Members are encouraged to borrow books from our library. Donations of books and other relevant publications are also appreciated. Please see John Mill if you have any publications you would like to donate to the library or email John at millrock@inet.net.au.

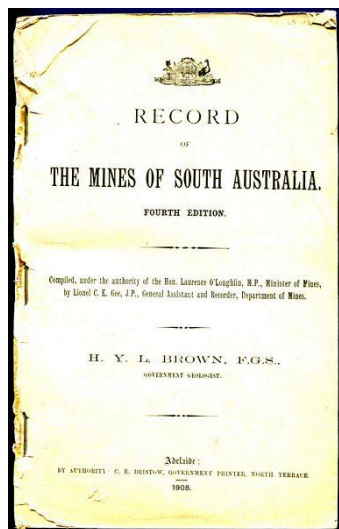
The Mineralogical Society of WA receives a complimentary copy of the Australian Journal of Mineralogy (AJM) which are available for members to borrow. These journals cover a wide spectrum of articles on mineralogy, ranging from descriptions of new minerals to book reviews, museum news and items of general interest to mineral collectors. MinSocWA members are regular contributors to the AJM.

Please note that the library is closed until we meet again at our regular venue.



FEATURED LIBRARY BOOK:

Record of The Mines of South Australia, 4th Edition



Compiled, under the authority of the Hon. Laurence O'Loughlin, M. P., Minister of Mines, by Lionel C. E. Gee, J. P., General Assistant and Recorder, Department of Mines.

Author: Brown, H. Y. L. (Henry Yorke Lyell), 1844-1928 (Government Geologist)

Date Published: 1908

Publisher: C. E. Bristow, Govt. Printer of South Australia

Description:

Founded in 1836, South Australia was the first state in Australia to be founded by free settlers, rather than by the housing of British convicts.

During the years prior to settlement, South Australia was visited often by whalers, who used Kangaroo Island and Encounter Bay as ports.

In May 1841 mining started at the Wheal Gawler (Glen Osmond Mines), this was the first recorded metal mine in Australia. During the following years, the copper mines of Kapunda (1842), Burra Burra (1845) and Moonta-Wallaroo (1861) helped save South Australia from possible bankruptcy.

However, salt (NaCl) was first exported from the state (from a locality on Kangaroo Island) in 1827, some seven years prior to the state being founded.

Contrary to many history books, the first recorded gold mine in Australia, from which a payable lode was mined, and to which public attention was directed, was the Victoria Gold Mine (January, 1846), some 6 years prior to the 1851 gold-rushes (Bathurst Plains, N.S.W. followed later by Ballarat and Bendigo Vic.).

Contains 'A Short Account of the Chief Geological Features of the State', 'Early History of South Australian Mining', 'Mineral Phosphates' and five other sections.

References: Mindat, Google Books, Abe Books.

If you like this month's 'Featured Book' please borrow it from our library and enjoy it!

Missing Library Publications:

The following publications are still missing from the Society's library.

Could all members who have borrowed books please check to see if you have any unreturned books you may have forgotten to bring back.

Copper Mines and Minerals. Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia, 31st Annual Seminar, 3rd - 7th November 2008, Zeehan Tasmania. Pope M, Bottril R. 2008. State Mineralogical Society of Tasmania.

Russian Alexandrites. Schmetzer K. 2010. Schweizerbart Science Publishers: Stuttgart.

The Australian Geologist: Newsletter No 93, December 20, 1994. Geological Society of Australia Inc.

The Australian Gemmologist Vol. 24 No. 6 April-June 2011. The Gemmological Association of Australia.

UPCOMING EVENTS - MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

Venue updates will be sent to members via email.

MINERAL APPRECIATION GROUP - Wed 1 July 2020

With the COVID-19 restrictions finally easing, Ruth and Craig Bosel cordially invite you to a MinSocWA "Mineral Appreciation Group" gathering on Wednesday evening **1st July 2020 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in their home at 3 Tallow Ramble, Edgewater, WA**

Craig has assembled an impressive, colourful display of Australian and worldwide mineral specimens for your viewing pleasure, so if you are more interested in macro- rather than micro-specimens, you won't be disappointed.

The main focus would be on Craig's mineral collection, and general discussions on what folk see / ask questions etc.

As visitors take turns going through the mineral room, others would be sitting around the table chatting, or looking down the MinSocWA microscope etc.

For the evening's theme, participants are invited to bring along their favourite Australian mineral specimen for 'show and tell'.

Tea/coffee/refreshments/nibbles will be provided by our hosts, so please only bring yourself and your minerals!

RSVP please to Ruth and Craig via craig.bosel@westnet.com.au would be appreciated. Please note that numbers are limited, so reply early to get a seat!

We look forward to catching up with you and seeing your favourite Australian mineral specimens!

GENERAL MEETING - Wed 8 July 2020

There is a change of venue and start time for this meeting and talk. The General Meeting and Talk on Wed 8 July will be held at Level 1 in Building 500, Curtin University at 7:15pm. (See map below) Parking is free after 5:30pm.

Following the meeting there will be a talk by Kari Pitts.

The Society's microscope, UV lamp and refractometer will be available for use by members.



TALK - Kari Pitts - 'The Use of Mineralogy in Forensics' - Wed 8 July 2020

Kari Pitts will present her talk after the General Meeting.

Members of the public are very welcome to attend. Door charge is \$3 for MinSoc members and \$5 for visitors and includes tea/coffee and light supper.

FIELD TRIP - Donnybrook - August 2020

The Committee is planning a field trip to Donnybrook for a weekend in August to be confirmed. When details are available members will be notified via email and the website.

AGM & 20th Anniversary Celebration of MinSocWA - Wed 9 September 2020

See Editorial section of this newsletter for further details of the proposed 20th Anniversary celebration.

VIRTUAL SEMINAR - 3 & 4 October 2020

As the October 2020 Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia Seminar has been postponed to October 2021 due to Covid-19, it has been decided by their Committee to hold a Virtual Seminar on 3rd & 4th October. The MinSocWA Committee are planning to host an Activity Weekend for members to enjoy the Virtual Seminar together. Further details will be forwarded to members when available. Following is a call for papers and Virtual Seminar details received from the NSW Committee.

INVITATION

Virtual Mineralogical Societies Seminar October 3 & 4, 2020

Call for papers

As you are probably aware, due to the global COVID-19 situation, the 43rd Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia Seminar, "43 Shades of Silver", planned for October 3-5, 2020 has been postponed to October 2021.

As it is disappointing to have nothing this year, in its stead, the Mineralogical Society of NSW will be hosting a virtual seminar on the Zoom platform to be run over two half days, October 3 and 4.

The seminar will have an open mineralogical theme, with presentations limited to 20 or 25 minutes each, and ideally be a PowerPoint presentation, to which the presenter can talk. Each day there will be approximately 6 talks with a limited time for questions, as well as a break for morning tea and lunch. All this can be enjoyed from the comfort of your own home, or in small gatherings, viewing a larger screen. No flights, long car trips, accommodation or expenses needed. We envisage a starting time of 10 or 11am Eastern Standard Time, to make allowances for time differences across Australia and NZ.

At this time MinSoc NSW is inviting all state and NZ societies or clubs to suggest one or two experienced and engaging speakers to present a topic of their choice, to share their wealth of knowledge in the mineralogy and related fields. The presentations will be live like a regular seminar, yet can be presented from anywhere in the world, as long as there is a WiFi connection.

Please let us know your intentions at your earliest convenience, to allow us to put a program together that hopefully will be informative and entertaining.

So if you have a topic and speaker, please use the contacts below to book your slot. Let us know if the Saturday or Sunday is preferred. We will try to accommodate the wishes of as many speakers as we can.

Thank you

Contacts:

George Laking, Secretary, MinSoc NSW, Email: bglaking@tech2u.com.au

Dieter Mylius, President, MinSoc NSW, Email: dieterm@internode.on.net

John Chapman, Vice President, MinSoc NSW, Email: chapmanjr@optusnet.com.au

MEMBERSHIP & NEW MEMBERS

Members are asked to ensure that all your contact details are up to date with the Secretary. If you change your email address or phone number please let us know so that you continue to receive all MinSocWA communications.

There are no new members of the Mineralogical Society of WA since the last newsletter.

Current membership to date now stands at 67 members.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2019/2020

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--|
| President | Sue Koepke | 0417 990 688 | minsocwa@hotmail.com |
| Vice President | Angela Riganti | 9243 7472 | tormalina@bigpond.com |
| Secretary | Susan Stocklmayer (acting) | 9291 9043 | baobab46@dodo.com.au |
| Treasurer | John Mill (acting) | 0411 420 921 | millrock@iinet.net.au |
| Field Trip Leader | Peter Willems | 0467 040 409 | pjwillems90@gmail.com |
| Newsletter Editor | Lesley Daniels | 0432 322 659 | lesleydaniels777@gmail.com |
| Committee Member | Susan Stocklmayer | 9291 9043 | baobab46@dodo.com.au |
| Committee Member | Position vacant | | |

Patron - Mark Creasy

MinSocWA LINKS

Web: <http://www.minsocwa.org.au>
Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/minsocwa>
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/MINSOCWA>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/MINSOCWA>
YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0S2TFVFIBLU-2ziEzE5VNA>

ADVERTISING

Members may submit short advertisements free of charge. Additionally, commercial advertisements will be accepted for a nominal charge. If you are interested in submitting an advert to the newsletter please contact the Newsletter Editor, Lesley Daniels.

The Australian Journal of Mineralogy



The Australian Journal of Mineralogy now has its own website. It can be found at <https://www.ajmin.org.au>. It lists all the issues of the journal, and visitors can use the site to pay for subscriptions, or purchase past issues. There is a free index, and a PDF of the now out-of-print V1.1, also free of charge. It has photo galleries, a mineral events calendar, handy links, and more.

Monster Mineral Sale

At Last! John Mill has sold the family home and is moving to a 3 bedroom apartment at Ascot Waters with his wife Ann. While this is all very well and good, it means that he has to dispose of some 50 boxes of rocks, crystals, minerals, fossils and polished agates that are now surplus to requirements.

These include crystal and mineral specimens from a wide range of locations including Broken Hill, Eleura, Tri-state USA, Agate Creek Queensland, Luanshya Zambia and many other locations.

Given the current problems with the Corona Virus and social distancing, you can ring John on 0411 420 921 or email him at millrock@iinet.net.au to arrange a corona-safe inspection.

Minerals, crystals, rocks, fossils, agates

