



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 - May 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

Welcome to the May 2020 issue of your newsletter. We hope that all members and families are staying safe during this time. As you would be aware by now, the committee of the Mineralogical Society of WA has decided to postpone all scheduled meetings and activities until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To avoid the risks posed by COVID-19 and in keeping with current social distancing regulations, your Committee is continuing to meet 'virtually' through online video conferencing platforms to make plans for the future. We are in the process of bringing you some online talks, the first of which is now on YouTube. More details further down the page. If any members would like to contribute video recordings of talks that we can share please let any of the committee members know.

There have been some changes to the Committee recently. Lee Hassan has resigned as Secretary/Treasurer and John Mill will act as Treasurer until the Annual General Meeting. The position of Secretary is also currently vacant and Susan Stocklmayer will act as Secretary until the Annual General Meeting. Vernon Stocklmayer has resigned from the Committee but will continue to assist by consulting to the Committee. The MinSocWA Committee thank Lee and Vernon very much for their past dedication and contribution to the Society. Thank you also to John and Susan for stepping into the vacant positions until the AGM. Members are asked to start considering who they would like on the next Committee and to please consider nominating themselves for Committee positions.

Make sure you check out the advertising at the end of the newsletter to see John Mill's advert for his Monster Mineral Sale. He is selling 50 large boxes of rocks, crystals, minerals, fossils and polished agates. See John's advert for contact details and viewing arrangements.

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.

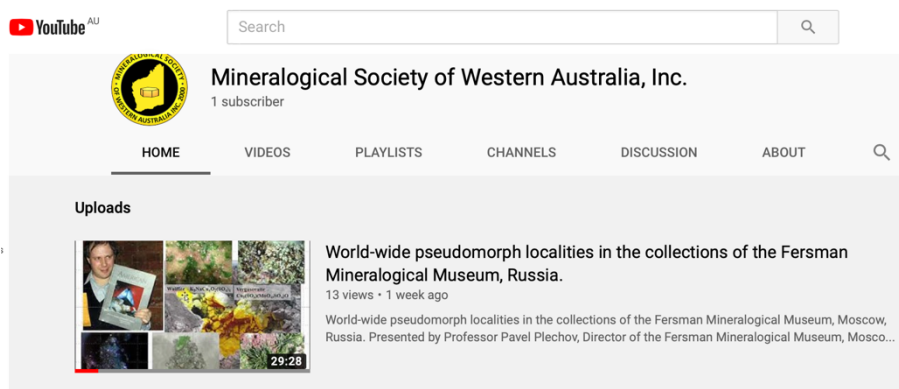
New **YouTube** channel for the Mineralogical Society of Western Australia

A new YouTube channel has been created so that we can upload some talks for you. Watch MinSocWA talks on the newly created MinSocWA YouTube Channel! The first talk has already been uploaded. Although some of you may have seen it at the seminar in Perth last year, you may enjoy listening to it again as I did. More talks and videos will be uploaded as we acquire them.

The first talk uploaded is: World-wide pseudomorph localities in the collections of the Fersman Mineralogical Museum, Moscow, Russia. Presented by Professor Pavel Plechov, Director of the Fersman Mineralogical Museum.

YouTube channel link (Mineralogical Society of Western Australia) :

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0S2TFVFIBLU-2zIEzE5VNA>



Proposed AGM for Wed 9 September 2000 (Subject to Government meeting restrictions)

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. 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

Please note that all meetings are cancelled until further notice due to Government regulations.

We are looking at the possibility of doing some virtual online talks and maybe online meetings until we can meet in person again. We will keep you informed via email or newsletter.

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.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

MEETING - General Meeting - Wed 11 Mar 2020

An Ordinary Meeting was held on Wednesday 11 March and was chaired by President, Sue Koepke.

There were two door prizes. A specular hematite from Koolyanobbing donated by Des Lascelles was won by Niels Dahl and a pyrite crystal from Burra donated by Craig Bosel was won by Lee Hassan. Thank you to Des and Craig for the generous donations.

Following the meeting Craig Bosel gave a talk titled 'Munich Gem Show'.

PLEASE NOTE: We are always grateful to receive donated items for the door prizes. We would appreciate it if members could donate anything superfluous to their collections for use at our regular meetings - especially now as we have run out of door prizes. Please contact any of your committee members if you have suitable items you would like to donate.

TALK - Craig Bosel - 'Munich Gem Show' - Wed 11 Mar 2020

Craig attended the massive 3-day Munich Show for the first time in 2019, having previously visited Tucson in 2011 and St Marie aux Mines in 2018. After covering many kilometres up and down huge aircraft-hanger-sized buildings full of minerals and gems and taking swags of photos, Craig brings you his thoughts and observations of this mega-mineral event.

Thank you to Susan and Vernon Stockmayer who submitted this summary of Craig's talk.

All photos and screenshots are by Craig Bosel.



MinSoc member Craig Bosel, speaker for the meeting on March 11th, took us on a light-hearted and fact-filled tour around the *Mineralientage Munchen* (Munich Mineral Fair) held between 25th and 27th October 2019.

The Munich Mineral Fair, one of the largest worldwide, occupies only four of the exhibition halls of the large Munich Trade Fair Centre complex. Easily accessed by a short train trip out of Munich, the well-organised layout of the halls with wide passageways appeared fairly uncrowded on the one day open only to commercial traders.

Craig's well-prepared PowerPoint presentation showed the layout of the mineral and gem halls followed by many excellent images of the specialised mineral exhibits by internationally based dealers and their companies. Other halls are devoted to gemstones and fossils. As a collector Craig's comments warned of comparing prices for samples before making purchases as there were often considerable differences in pricing, from reasonable to ridiculous, between dealers. A few of the impressive images covered such minerals as fluorite, rhodochrosite, quartz 'flowers' and azurite 'suns'.



Craig brought along a share of his purchases and supplied their prices, for our interest.

Thank you, Craig, for an excellent virtual tour.



THE MUNICH SHOW ... WORTH THE VISIT ! (BUT EVEN BETTER IF YOU'RE VERY RICH)



BRILLIANT STUFF FOR KIDS!



TIPS FOR VISITORS

MINERAL MARKET DAY - Sun 15 Mar 2020

The Mineral Market Day was held at the WA Lapidary & Rockhunting Club rooms on Sunday 15 March 2020 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. (Photo credit: All photos by Stewart Cole)







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: As one of Dr Madden's specialist areas is Carbonate Petrology I asked if he would write something with a petrological slant for this issue as we will be acquiring a petrological microscope in the near future. He hopes this article whets the appetite of club members for petrography in general. He says it is an interesting take on petrology of a technique that you don't see used too commonly anymore. Dr Madden only writes about specimens he has personally seen and he takes all his own specimen photos.

Volcanic funk

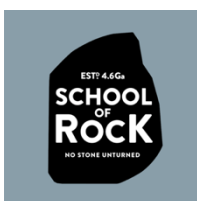
These samples are from the El Hoyazo volcanic complex in the Almería province of SE Spain; where a world famous garnet sand deposit exists. The complex consists of the eroded remnant of an aluminium rich volcanic dome (as opposed to a more typical sodium or potassium rich magma) that now forms a shallow hill. Between 15 and two million years ago there was an upwelling of mantle caused by an anomalous heat flow under what is now modern day SE Spain. The hot upwelling mantle caused partial melting of the lower crust and emplacement of large volumes of magma with variable composition that led to eruption of basaltic andesites and rhyolites.

The volcanic dome is dominated by the igneous rock dacite that was erupted around 11.9 million years ago. The products of the eroded dome now form an alluvial fan that is packed with garnets and covers an area of one square kilometre and reaches forty metres in thickness. In some places the garnets account for up to 50% of the sediment. Amongst these garnet sands are common examples of garnets embedded in volcanic dacites as seen here (see photos below) where a single large 10 mm garnet is accompanied by black hornblendes in a grey tuffaceous dacite. The origin of the garnets has been proposed as the result of one of two different mechanisms: (1) direct crystallisation from a magma or (2) inclusions (xenoliths) from previously metamorphosed mudrocks.



Amongst the fragments of rock brought to the surface are strange looking rock compositions that are so atypical of volcanic eruptions they look very out of place. The bluish coloured rock shown here (see photos above) is one such oddity. This funky looking rock is in fact not really volcanic, but rather a metapelitic garnet (pink)-plagioclase (white)-sillimanite (grey)-biotite (black)-cordierite (blue) smooosh. The garnets in this sample are also around 10 mm in size. A metapelite is a metamorphosed mudrock, and in this instance represents one of several different suites of high grade granulite-facies (very high temperature and moderate pressure) metamorphic rocks from the lower crust that were erupted at El Hoyazo. A smooosh is a highly technical petrographic term for describing funky rocks.

Mineral chemistry of rocks at El Hoyazo reveals a complex and prolonged volcanic history with multiple pulses of magmatic activity prior to eruption. In particular heat flow at the base of the crust here reached around 900 °C (or more!) at pressures of 5.5-7 kbar. During partial melting of the crustal rocks by increased heat flow the metapelites were intensely deformed and xenoliths of them were incorporated into the ascending magmas. It's important to note that the metapelites at El Hoyazo are from the Palaeozoic, having undergone prior granulite facies metamorphism hundreds of millions of years prior to getting reheated and deformed during the later volcanism and increased heat flow. A final pulse of hydrous, andesitic magma may have caused the main period of eruptions that brought these funky non-volcanic volcanic rocks to the surface along with all the garnets the area is famous for.



*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 @drhcmadden.

INTERESTING ARTICLES

Title: *Digging for Information: 10 things to consider before collecting fine minerals*

Reference: *The Arkenstone*. There are many beautiful and interesting mineral specimens to see on their web page.

Link: <https://www.irocks.com/10-things-to-consider-before-collecting-minerals>

Title: *Suggestions for Photographers*

Reference: *The Mineralogical Record*. Detailed advice for anyone wanting to learn or improve their mineral specimen photography.

Link: <https://mineralogicalrecord.com/photographers.asp>

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 are also appreciated. Please see John Mill if you have any publications you would like to donate to the library.

The Mineralogical Society of WA receives a complimentary copy of the Australian Journal of Mineralogy (AJM). 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.

The MinSocWA Committee is interested in adding the following books to the library:

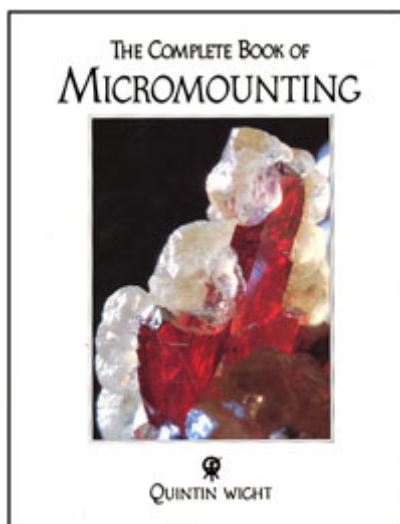
- **A Guidebook to the Pegmatites of Western Australia - Mark Ivan Jacobson**

If anyone has a copy that they would like to donate or sell to the library please email Librarian, John Mill at millrock@iinet.net.au.



FEATURED LIBRARY BOOK:

The Complete Book of Micromounting



This is a great book to read as a follow up to the workshops that Alan Longbottom has presented to members.

Author: Quintin Wight

Date Published: 1993

Publisher: Mineralogical Record, Tucson, Arizona, USA

Format: Hard cover (283 pages)

Description:

The beauty of the mineral kingdom is most exquisitely demonstrated in the smallest specimens, those requiring optical magnification to be best appreciated. Collecting these microcrystals and mounting them for easy handling and storage is a fascinating and satisfying hobby combining the keen observational powers of the scientist with the fine eye and delicate craftsmanship of the artist.

In this book Quintin Wight, a widely known and respected micromounter, author, lecturer, and member of the Micromounter's Hall of Fame, brings together the many diverse facets of mineral collecting at the microscopic level. Chapters cover the history of micromineral studies and collecting from the 17th century to the present; trading and field collecting methods; specimen preparation, identification, mounting and conservation techniques; microscopes; micromineral photography; micromounting symposia worldwide; The Micromounter's Hall of Fame; and a wide range of tools and equipment useful to the micromounter.

Also included is a color album of 165 beautiful micromineral photographs taken by some of the world's most talented and skilled specialists. These portraits amply demonstrate the unique allure of Nature's tiny mineral masterpieces.

This book was in preparation for over 20 years by the leaders in the field. Work on it was begun by Neal Yedlin (1908-1977) around 1972, and was continued by Paul Desautels (1920-1991) following Yedlin's death. After Desautels' death it was continued and finally brought to completion by the current author, and the album of micromineral photography was assembled for it by the Mineralogical Record. We can truly say that it is the "bible" of its field, and will most likely never be surpassed.

(Summary from Wendell E. Wilson, The Mineralogical Record)

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

Missing Library Publications:

During this time many people are spending time sorting out, organising and culling items in their home. If you come across any of these missing publications could you please let a committee member know so that it can go back to our library at a time when we all meet again.

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

All scheduled on-site meetings and activities are cancelled or postponed until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & 20th Anniversary Celebration of MinSocWA - Wed 9 September 2020

A decision will be made at a later date as to whether this meeting can go ahead.

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

WORKSHOP - Basic Mineral Identification for Children (Date TBC)

We still plan to hold a Children's Workshop although it may be some time away due to the current meeting restrictions. We would still like to gauge the interest in this so if there are any young enthusiasts who would be interested in a fun and educational children's workshop on 'Basic Mineral Identification' please register your interest by emailing Lesley Daniels, the Newsletter Editor at lesleydaniels777@gmail.com and we will endeavour to schedule this fun and educational workshop into our upcoming events calendar.

NEW MEMBERS

The Mineralogical Society of WA would like to welcome the following new members:

- Cheryl Armstrong

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.

ADVERTISERS

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.

The minerals will be available for inspection for the next 2-3 weeks after which they will go into storage for the foreseeable future.



Minerals, crystals, rocks, fossils, agates.



Tri-state minerals.

Supplement on Mineral Collections in Australia for the Mineralogical Record

Preparations for the Supplement on Mineral Collections in Australia for the Mineralogical Record are nearing completion and we are now calling for final submissions. There is still time left for people who have not contributed to this supplement, but time is running out!

All submissions including payment must be submitted in full by the **31st May, 2020**. Below is a summary checklist of what is required; please look at the attached guideline for full details and browse recent Supplements to the Mineralogical Record for examples:

- A recent photograph of the collection owner(s).
- A brief profile of the collector(s). Recommended 200 to 250 words covering topics such as when and why you started collecting minerals, early mentors, what you collect and why, and any other information which may be relevant or interesting.
- Photos of minerals in your collection. The supplement is on Mineral Collections in Australia and is not restricted to Australian mineral localities. All photos must be of high quality, suitable to publish in a world-renowned magazine. Poor quality submissions will be removed at the discretion of the editor. Digital photos must be at least 400dpi resolution.
- Captions for mineral specimen photographs should include: (1) Species (obsolete varietal names are discouraged). (2) Specimen size or crystal size (not magnification factor). (3) Locality. (4) Photographer. (5) Any other pertinent information.
- Payment. The cost is US\$900 per two (2) pages (single pages are not permitted) and contributors can have any multiple of double pages (e.g. 2, 4, 6) up to a maximum of 12 pages. Payments are to be made directly to Mineralogical Record. Tom Gressman (tom.gressman@minrec.com) will handle the finances; contact Tom directly when paying or if you have any questions regarding payment – include your name and that the payment relates to x pages in the Supplement on Mineral Collections in Australia. Payment can be made using PayPal (tom.gressman@minrec.com), by emailing your credit card details to Tom (details can be spread over several emails to increase security if you prefer) or phoning details to +1- 520 529 7281.
- Each single page can show from one to four photos, with half a page for your photograph and profile. See other Mineralogical Record Collector's Editions for examples of possible layouts and biographies as well as <https://mineralogicalrecord.com/editing.asp> for advice on editing conventions and <https://mineralogicalrecord.com/contributors.asp> for general contribution information.
- Submissions (excluding payment) can be made to either ausminrec@gmail.com or directly to minrecord@comcast.net. Any incomplete or late submissions will only be accepted at the discretion of the editor so get in early to make sure you are part of this amazing opportunity and be part of Australian Mineral collecting history. The supplement is expected to be published late this year.

If you have any questions, please contact ausminrec@gmail.com.

Regards from the coordination team:

Paul Carr

Rob Sielecki

Mike Stott