# Mineralogical Society of Western Australia (inc.)

April 2003 Volume 4, Issue 2

## President`s Report

I was unable to attend the most recent fieldtrip to Mundijong due to ill-health. However I am told a very good turnout of members had an enjoyable time at what is both an historical mineral deposit and one that sits in our backyard.
The next lecture in our series on mineralogical topics will be by Roger on mineral classifications and their history a most interesting and relevant topic. Further information on field localities will be announced shortly as well as a series of guest speakers.
I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting.

## Anzac Day Long Weekend Field Trip to the Mt Mulgine Molybdenite deposit..

**This will depart on the Friday morning.**
**All details will be available at the next meeting for those members who are interested in attending.**

Molybdenite

| Physical Properties | |
|---|---|
| Cleavage: | [0001] Perfect |
| Density: | 5.5 |
| Diaphaniety: | Opaque |
| Fracture: | Sectile - Curved shavings or scrapings produced by a knife blade, (e.g. graphite). |
| Habits: | Foliated - Two dimensional platy forms., Massive - Uniformly indistinguishable crystals forming large masses., Disseminated - Occurs in small, distinct particles dispersed in matrix. |
| Hardness: | 1 - Talc |
| Luminescence: | None. |
| Luster: | Metallic |
| Magnetism: | Nonmagnetic |
| Streak: | greenish gray |

## Forward Diary 2003

**April 2rd**
**Club Meeting**

**Guest Speaker Roger Staley**

**June 4th**
**Club Meeting**

***August* 6th**
**Club Meeting**

**October 1th**
**Club Meeting**

**December 4th**

## Newsletter Contents.

# Monday Morning in Mundijong

## *Summary of a Mineral Collecting Trip to the Mundijong Lead Mine*

### by Susanne Koepke

*This article is dedicated to my dear friends Jill and Paul Harding. Paul unexpectedly passed away 6 weeks after this excursion, following a workplace accident. At the time of writing this summary in October, we did not know that it was to be Paul's last mineral collecting trip.*

"So what is it again you want to do? Look at rocks – for two hours?" enquired a perplexed Mrs. Court, when I answered her question as to how long we intended to stay on the property. That anyone would want to spend more than 5 minutes looking at 'old stones' must have appeared quite absurd to her. I went on to explain that we are members of the West Coast Lapidary and Mineral Club as well as the Mineralogical Society of Western Australia, and as such we are interested in a variety of mineral specimens no matter how small, especially from historic locations such as Mundijong. Having assured Mrs. Court that we would not damage any fences, not interfere with any of their fine-looking cattle nor obstruct their driveway since we planned to arrive in one vehicle only, our small group of four[1] was eventually given permission[2] to enter the site of the Mundijong Lead Mine[3] as planned the following morning, Monday 30th September, 2002.

The Mundijong lead-zinc mine is approximately 3.2 km east of the Mundijong railway station and 0.8 km east of the South Western Highway (around 45km south of Perth). It can be reached by turning east off South Western Highway into Pruden Road (unpaved), crossing a disused railway line, then entering Yarrabah Stud (phone Ken Court on 08 9525 5323 for permission to enter). Several hundred metres further along the bitumen 'driveway' we found a small 'parking bay' on the high (southerly) side of the road, with a medium sized boulder that had a commemorative plaque attached to it close by. On the low (northerly) side, beyond a barbed wire fence and surrounded by lush grass, a small disturbed area abutting a narrow creek was visible from the road – we had arrived at the site.

It wasn't long before we had scrambled through the fence and were found examining rock and mineral samples. Massive quartz bearing sphalerite and galena was easily identified, while copper carbonates proved a little more challenging. We also found plenty of gneiss, which we generally ignored, and some vughy material that was eagerly investigated. We collected in a shallow costean and on small dumps either side of it, as well as inspecting scattered rocks nearby. On the other side of the creek, the ruined remains of what must once have been a small house adds to the historical appeal of the location.

Our finds of the day included damaged quartz crystals, microcrystalline quartz, sphalerite, galena, a little pyrite and some copper carbonates. On a previous visit in 2001, I have also collected tiny orange quartz crystals on matrix, crystalline quartz in yellow, clear and grey shades, small pyrite cubes in azurite and malachite, tiny azurite crystal blades on malachite with pyrite, possibly cerussite (to be confirmed) and a further 2 unidentified crystals on matrix.

The Geological Survey of Western Australia *Mineral Resources Bulletin 9: The Lead, Zinc and Silver Deposits of Western Australia* (1971, p.199) also mentions fluorite in association with ore minerals in the reef, while E. Simpson in *Minerals of Western Australia* makes reference to cerussite associated with smithsonite "in the upper portions of the lead-zinc lode" (vol.1, p.402). Although the Geological Survey of WA described a vertical shaft with several levels, earlier local enquiries resulted in advice that the shaft had been filled in, hence we carried out no further investigations but enjoyed our lunch sitting in the shade, before following Nimal's directions to a nearby disused quarry where we spent the afternoon.

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[1] Jill and Paul Harding, Sue Koepke and Nimal Perera took part in the mineral collecting trip

[2] It should be noted that the prospect is on an Imperial Grant.

[3] Lat. 32° 19' S, long. 116° 01' E.

***Mineralogical Society of Western Australia [inc.]***

***Index to Newsletters 2000 to 2002***

**Author list:**

**Author list cont.**

Reeve, John cont.

Western Australian minerals feature at the Tuscon Show: (2002), 2(4), 3

**Mineral List**

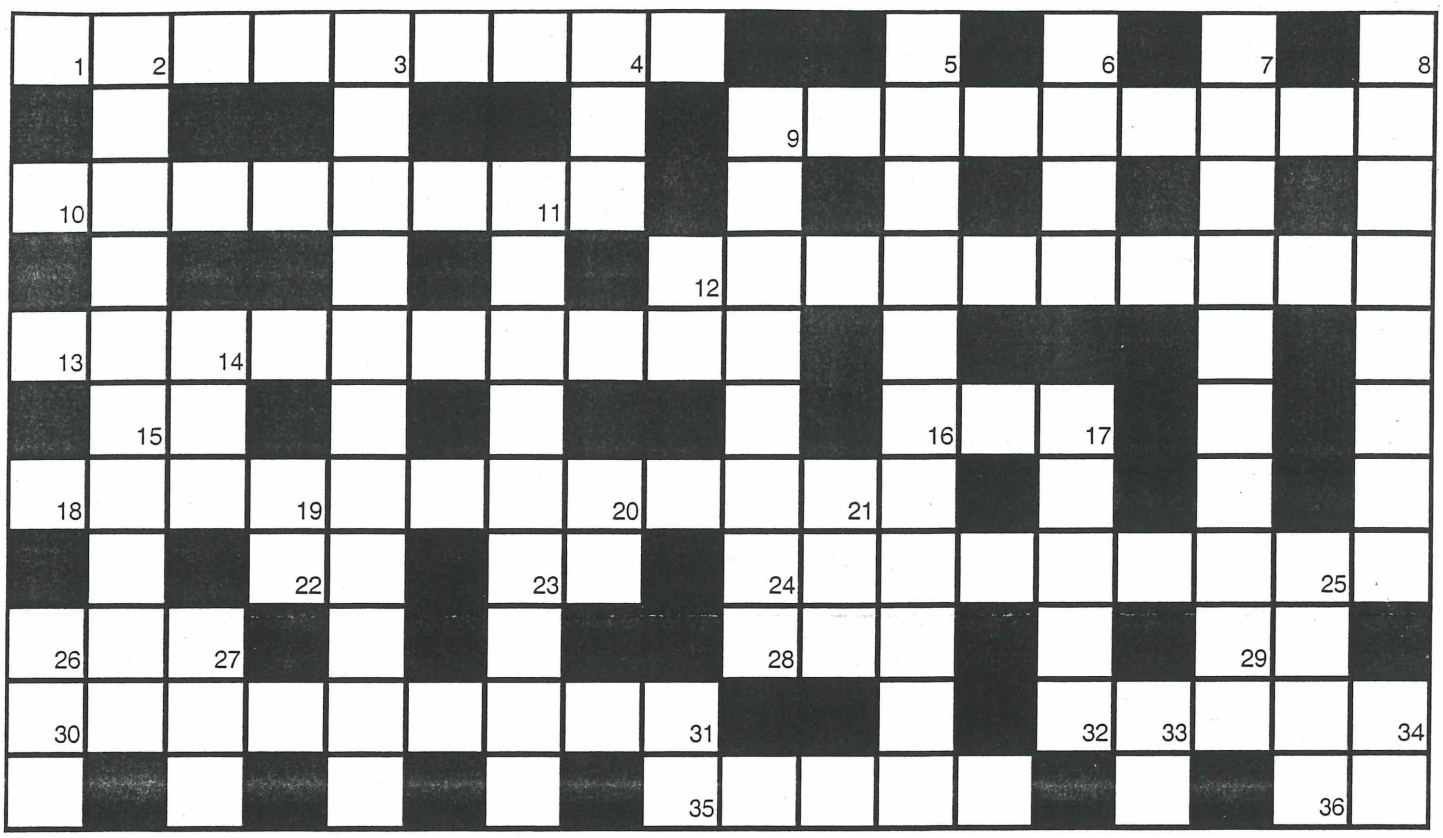
[Western Australian localities only]

| | |
|---|---|
| Albite | Cattlin Creek 2(2),3<br>Greenbushes 1(2),5<br>Johnson Well 3(4),4<br>Paynes Find 3(3),2<br>Ubini 2(5),4 |
| Allanite | Karloning 3(5),2 |
| Amblygonite | Cattlin Creek 2(2),3 |
| Apatite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Arsenopyrite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Augite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Beryl | Cattlin Creek 2(2),3<br>Greenbushes 1(2),5<br>Paynes Find 3(3),2<br>Wodgina 3(1),4 |
| Beryl var. emerald | Riverina 2(6),3 |
| Biotite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Cassiterite | Cattlin Creek 2(2),3<br>Greenbushes 1(2),5<br>Ubini 2(5),4<br>Wodgina 3(1),4 |
| Chalcocite | Telfer 2(4),2 |
| Chalcopyrite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Columbite | General article 2(3),4<br>Greenbushes 1(2),5<br>Paynes Find 3(3),2 |
| Copper | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Corundum | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Crocoite | Cometvale 2(5),5 |
| Diopside | Greenbushes 1(2),5<br>Walgidee Hills 2(2),4 |
| Dravite | Yinnietharra, 1(1),5 |
| Elbaite | Cattlin Creek 1(2),3 |
| Enstatite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Epidote | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Ernienickelite | Siberia 2(4),4 |
| Fergusonite-(Y) | Karloning 3(5),2 |
| Ferridravite | Yinnietharra, 1(1),5 |
| Fluorapatite | Walgidee Hills 2(2),4 |
| Foggite | Milgun Station 2(5),5 |
| Gahnite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Gibbsite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Goethite | Greenbushes 1(2),5<br>Siberia 2(4),4 |
| Gold | Greenbushes 1(2),5<br>Kennyville Mining Centre 3(4),2 |
| Holmquistite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Holtite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Hornblende | Greenbushes 1(2), 5 |
| Ilmenite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Jeppeite | Walgidee Hills 2(2),4 |
| Kaolinite | Greenbushes 1(2), 5 |
| Kyanite | Greenbushes 1(2), 5 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Lepidolite | Cattlin Creek 2(2),3<br>Johnson Well 3(4),4<br>Paynes Find 3(3),2<br>Ubini 2(5),4 |
| Magnesite | Siberia 2(4),4 |
| Magnetite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Manganocolumbite | Cattlin Creek 2(2),3<br>Ubini 2(5),4 |
| Manganotantalite | Ubini 2(5),4 |
| Microcline | Cattlin Creek 2(2),3<br>Greenbushes 1(2),5<br>Johnson Well 3(4),4<br>Paynes Find 3(3),2<br>Ubini 2(5),4 |
| Microlite | Cattlin Creek 2(2),3<br>Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Monazite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Montebrasite | Cattlin Creek 2(2),3<br>Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Mossite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Muscovite | Greenbushes 1(2),5<br>Johnson Well 3(4),4<br>Paynes Find 3(3),2<br>Ubini 2(5),4 |
| Nimite | Siberia 2(4),4 |
| Nontronite | Siberia 2(4),4 |
| Opal var. hyalite | Paynes Find 3(3),2 |
| Potassic fluororichterite | Walgidee Hills 2(2),4 |
| Povondravite | Yinnietharra, 1(1),5 |
| Priderite | Walgidee Hills 2(2),4 |
| Pseudorutile | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Psilomelane | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Quartz | Cattlin Creek 2(2),3<br>Greenbushes 1(2),5<br>Toodyay 3(2),1 |
| Rutile | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Scheelite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Schorl | Cattlin Creek 2(2),3 |
| Shcherbakovite | Walgidee Hills 2(2),4 |
| Siderite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Sillimanite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Spessartine | Paynes Find 3(3),2 |
| Sphalerite | Cattlin Creek 2(2),3 |
| Sphene | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Spinel | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Spodumene | Cattlin Creek 2(2),3<br>Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Staurolite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Stibiotantalite | Cattlin Creek 2(2),3<br>Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Tantalite | General article 2(3),4<br>Greenbushes 1(2),5<br>Johnson Well 3(4),4<br>Paynes Find 3(3),2<br>Wodgina 3(1),4 |
| Tantalopolycrase | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Tapiolite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Tin(?) | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Topaz | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Tourmaline | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Triphylite | Cattlin Creek 1(2),5 |
| Turquoise | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Wadeite | Walgidee Hills 2(2),4 |
| Widgiemoolthalite | Widgiemooltha 2(4),4 |
| Wodginite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Wolframite | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Wulfenite | Uaroo 2(4),2<br>Whim Creek 2(4),2 |
| Xenotime | Greenbushes 1(2),5<br>Karloning 3(5),2 |
| Zinnwaldite | Ubini 2(5),4 |
| Zircon | Greenbushes 1(2),5 |
| Zircon var. cyrtolite | Karloning 3(5),2 |

# Sue's First Mineral Crossword



## Across

1 Pink Beryl
9 Secondary Lead mineral
10 A Zeolite
12 Fossil Starfish (Cretaceous - Oligocene)
13 A term applied to minerals occurring as aggregates with rounded surfaces
15 Chemical symbol for Chromium
16 Formula for Alabandite (Manganese Sulphide)
18 Greenish grey rock-forming mineral
22 Chemical symbol for Indium
23 Chemical symbol for Bromine
24 Boghead Coal
26 Equal (prefix)
28 Geological time unit
29 Chemical symbol for Sodium
30 Mesozoic Ammonites
32 Impure form of Corundum used as abrasive
35 Ratio of refraction
36 Chemical symbol for Niobium

## Down

2 A Feldspar
3 A rare Lithium mineral
4 Not 'pay dirt' but ' _ _ _ dirt'
5 Coarse type of pyroclastic material
6 Element of Galena
7 A Feldspar
8 A radioactive granitic pegmatite mineral
9 A Zeolite
11 Extinct marine Arthropods
12 Chemical symbol for Calcium
14 Threefold (prefix)
17 A rock produced by low-grade regional metamc
19 Chemical symbol for Nickel
20 Chemical symbol for Iridium
21 Residual masses of rock usually capping hills
25 A small lake formed in a cirque
26 Cold mineral
27 Constitutes the material worked for the purpose of extracting a metal from it
31 Chemical symbol for Silicon
33 Chemical symbol for Magnesium
34 Chemical symbol for Ytterbium



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# MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)

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**Membership Details:**
Joining Fee $5.00
Adult Member $20.00
Newsletter only $15.00

An application form for membership can be obtained by writing to: -
The Secretary, J. Reeve
Mineralogical Society of Western Australia (Inc)
13 Buchan Place, Hillarys, W.A. 6025

Ordinary meetings of the Society are held on the Ist Wednesday in February, April, June, August, October and December in the W.A.Lapidary and Rock Hunting Club rooms 31 Gladstone Street Rivervale, commencing at 7.30pm. The January meeting will involve social activities at a time and place to be notified.

**Visitors are most welcome**

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Newsletter of the Mineralogical Society of Western Australia
13 Buchan Place, Hillarys, 6025
Western Australia, Australia

## OUR SOCIETY's MISSION

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.

## OBJECTIVES

Whilst focusing on the minerals of Western Australia, the overall objectives of the Society shall be:

(a) To advance the science of mineralogy.
(b) To disseminate knowledge of minerals, their occurrence and associations.
(c) To establish and maintain a register of mineral species and their occurrences in Western Australia.
(d) To increase knowledge of related fields of earth science.
(e) To keep members abreast of developments in mineralogy.
(f) To encourage an appreciation of the aesthetic value of minerals.
(g) To promote the proper care and preservation of mineral specimens.
(h) To promote the conservation of the geologically unique and of the environment in general.
(i) To provide a means of contact between professionals and amateurs in the various fields of the earth sciences.
(j) To foster a sense of cooperation and understanding between individuals, institutions and resource companies in the field of mineralogy.
(k) To provide a forum for debate and discussion on matters relating to mineralogy.