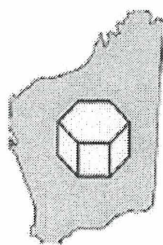


December 2007 Newsletter



Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc Newsletter

Editorial

This Newsletter is only as good as the contributions made for it. I invite everyone to submit articles, these can be as short as one or two sentences or as long as a couple of pages. People submitting articles should either have copyright ownership or permission from the copyright owners for publication. Future issues will also have a Buy & Sell section. So if you have surplus material which you want to sell then send your advert to the editor (up to 7 lines at the editor's discretion). Wants lists also welcome.

December Meeting 7:30 pm Wednesday December 5th at the WA Lapidary Club rooms
31 Gladstone Street Rivervale.

Guest speaker: Margot Willing Topic: "Diamonds and its Simulants"

30th Annual Seminar of the Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australia, Waihi Beach, 2007

This consisted of 2 days of seminar and 4 days of field trips.

Field Trip to Hendersons Quarry. This was held on the Sunday before the seminar. This was mainly of interest to collectors of micromounts with the main interest being zeolites occurring within vugs in the rhyolite. Sue managed to find Osumilite crystal, deep yellow Titanite crystals, Tridymite and tiny Hematite blades. For those not interested in micromounts there were interesting specimens of rhyolite and obsidian to collect.

Field Trip to White Island. I did not attend this trip. Only at the last moment was it confirmed that this trip was on – the problem being the weather and I believe that it was a fairly rough trip out there, although most people who went enjoyed themselves.

Field Trip to Karangahake Gorge. An enjoyable day out. A visit to the Victoria Battery and museum, and walks through tunnels of old gold mines. The only specimens collected were small silver balls amongst the slag.

The seminars were a number of talks given over 2 days on the general theme of volcanics. These ranged from technical talks on the geology to those talks discussing various minerals with excellent photos of spectacular specimens.

The annual dinner was held on the Thursday night at the local RSL club with most people attending. A very nice meal buffet style which was excellent value for money.

Field trip to Lake Rotokawa. This was held on the Saturday after the seminar. It is near Taupo. The first site we went to there was no collecting of specimens but there were some very interesting formations of sulphur – well worth preserving for future people to look at. Then to a lake with volcanic activity. After that we went to a site where we were able to collect sulphur. The sulphur was quite hot to touch with sulphur fumes around them. Specimens had to cool down before being taken away. Some of the best specimens I considered to be too fragile to travel so I left them there for someone else.

A selection of photos from these field trips are enclosed as attachments.

Next Year's Seminar

The Tasmanian Society, by rotation, is scheduled to host the 2008 Seminar. MinSoc Tasmania is considering hosting the Seminar in Queenstown, subject to the resolution of the logistical problems involved in using this west coast location. A probable theme for the Seminar would be "Copper Mines and Minerals". The suggested timing is the second week in November..

The 2009 Seminar is scheduled to be hosted by MinSoc Queensland and will be held on the eastern States of Australia Queen's Birthday long weekend in June.

In view of the fact that New Zealand had now become a Seminar host, Steve Sorrell proposed that the title be changed to "Annual Seminar of the Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia". This motion was passed

Rod Martin advised that the New Zealand Geochemical Group had recently changed its name to "The New Zealand Geochemical and Mineralogical Society" to more accurately reflect its activities.

Calendar from SA MinSoc

Greetings from the S.A Minsoc!

To mark the 2008 Gemboree at Murray Bridge the South Australian Minsoc has produced a colour calendar featuring significant South Australian localities. Each month features a different locality and shows a historical photo, a brief historical summary and a significant mineral specimen. They are available at \$15 each plus approx \$2 packaging and post for a single calendar. The calendars have been professionally produced and are of a high quality and great interest for all collectors of Australian Minerals.

I have included a copy of the front and back covers.

We would be most appreciative if you could bring the calendar to the notice of your members.

Copies can be obtained through me.

Kindest Regards from the S.A.Minsoc

David Cowen

Secretary

Links to interesting items sent in by readers

A Young Mars Most Likely to Support Life, New Mineral History Shows

http://www.brown.edu/Administration/News_Bureau/2005-06/05-109.html

Baby dinosaur herd discovered in China

http://www.nhm.ac.uk/aboutus/news/2007/september/news_12395.html?src=enews

Rubies and Sapphires

http://news.yahoo.com/s/space/20071009/sc_space/cosmicfactoriesproducerubiesandsapphires

http://www.brown.edu/Administration/News_Bureau/2005-06/05-109.html

Wanted to Buy

Wanted to buy for my collection specimens of Laurite (RuS₂) and Maldonite (AuBi)
Contact Allan Hart ph 08 6211 0006 or email allan.hart.perth@hotmail.com

Crystal Warehouse Christmas Celebrations

I have received notification that this will be on
Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th December 10am to 4pm,
at 42 Dale Place Orange Grove WA
There will be new shipment of gem stones, jewellery, etc