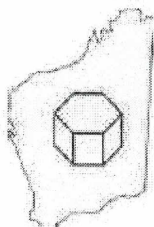


## June 2008 Newsletter



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.

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*June*  
**April Meeting** 7:30 pm Wednesday June 4th at the WA Lapidary Club rooms 31 Gladstone Street Rivervale.

Guest speaker: Group presentation Topic: "Greenbushes and Donnybrook field trip".

Everyone is invited to bring along specimens from Greenbushes (this trip or previous trips) for a show & tell. You are also welcome to bring a microscope if you have one available.

### Field Trip Report

Mukinbudin Trip (Anzac long weekend trip) by Noel Walkley

12 cars arrived in the caravan park by lunch time on Friday 25 April 2008, By the time everyone had said their hellos & set up camp it was time to have lunch. About 1:15pm we set off for the Felspar Quarry just about 5 kms out of town. Some found a bit of shade to park in but as it was not a very hot day it was not a problem to be out in the sun, We set off on foot across the road to get over the fence & start looking for those special pieces that we all hope to find on these trips, there were soon people scattered far and wide on the site with eyes down, banging rocks with hammers, or just picking up any likely bits that might make a nice cabochon. A couple of nice pieces of smokey quartz were found & also two pieces that were parts of larger crystals but they had been broken up in the mining operation. There were plenty of areas to walk over, the Quarry covers a very large area. By about 3pm almost everyone was back at the cars for a cuppa & a chat & to show what they had collected, after about 45 minutes here it was decided as no one wanted to go back to do more fossicking we would head back to camp for a happy which turned out to be nearly 2 hrs. Somewhere during the afternoon Libby lost a gold bracelet so Bernie went back out to the Quarry with his metal detector to see if they could locate it but no luck so it might turn up when someone else out there walking around looking on the ground.

This morning we left the caravan pk about 9:10 am with a brisk cool wind blowing to go out to the Calcining site to look for some crystals of smokey quartz & any thing that looked interesting. On arrival everyone scattered in all directions, most went down into the deep quarry where there were some nice pieces of rocks found, it was also a bit warmer down there. After about an hour or so most were back at the cars for a morning tea break & to show what they had picked up. There were a couple of nice smokey quartz crystals found, although they were only part of a bigger crystal. Also there were some interesting small rocks found on the surface that when cracked open revealed a smooth cavity inside containing a small amount of fine sand. After lunch we went out to Lake Brown to look for gypsum crystals, as there was quite a bit of water in the lake the crystals have not grown very big but there were some that were worth picking up, you had to dig them out of the salt crust. About 3:30pm we called it a day and came back to camp. It was decided to have a BBQ tea tonight

so we started cooking early so as not to be too late in the cold. With tea over by about 6pm we all sat around having the usual after dinner chat until everybody started getting the yawns. Sunday morning a nice cool morning looked good for driving around looking at the touristy sites in the area. We moved out at about 10 past 9 after helping a lady member with her camper trailer after she had tried to put the outer dusk cover on inside out & wondered why the zip wouldn't work. Eight cars went on the trip today. We were going around the scenic drive to look at four rock sites which are all a little different. They are Yanneymooning Rock, Elachbutting Rock, Beringhooding Rock & De-Eranning Rock. Elachbutting Rock the name is thought to mean 'that big thing standing' which is understandable as it is a very large rock. It was probably the most spectacular as it has a very large piece that was dislodged during the Mekering Earthquake in 1968, this has created a tunnel that you can walk through. It is about 40 meters long & quite high it looks like it fell 2-3 meters so it must have made quite a thud when it happened. Yanneymooning Rock had a very old stone well near by it was built with what looked like limestone blocks & it was still containing water. This was also our lunch stop, after which some of the group departed to make their way back to Perth as they have work tomorrow. Ho Hum some have all the excitement. A few of us went for a walk to the top of the rock where we saw a couple of pools of water but there were no small shrimps in these may be the wrong time of year. From here we went to Beringhooding Rock where there is a water catchment that collects water from all over the rock & channels it into a large concrete tank that was built in 1937 at the cost of 10,000 pounds and it holds two and a quarter million gallons, this is the largest rock water catchment tank in Australia. This tank is covered by a galvanised iron roof which is supported by wooden poles. Our last stop was at De-Eranning Rock where there is a large rock water catchment tank that once had a roof over it but is now in poor condition & looks like it is not used for anything. From here at about 4pm we headed for camp as it was starting to look like rain, we could see it in the south and by the time we reached the caravan park there were a few large drops on the windscreen.

### **Purple Diamonds**

The last meeting reported purple diamonds from Canada. These were found in the James Bay region of Quebec. This deposit is a conglomerate, approximately 2,700 million years old, which extends 4 Km along the strike and up to 500 meters wide. Before you get your hopes up too high of obtaining one of these purple diamonds, there were only 9 purple diamonds with the largest being 335 x 379 x 225 microns which works out to be just under half a carat. Purple diamonds are extremely rare with an expert (Alan Bronstein) estimating that there are less than 100 in the world, which is about the same number as orange coloured diamonds. Before this most purple diamonds were believed to have come from Russia.

### References

Rob Bates 13 March 2008, Purple Diamonds -- in Canada? - Cutting Remarks - Blog on JCK Online

<http://www.jckonline.com/blog/870000287/post/1480023348.html?nid=3491>

New Quebec Diamond Discovery Contains Rare Purple Diamonds : Financial News – Yahoo

[http://biz.yahoo.com/cnw/080303/metalex\\_purple\\_diamond?.v=1](http://biz.yahoo.com/cnw/080303/metalex_purple_diamond?.v=1)

<http://geology.com/news/2008/purple-diamonds-discovered-in-quebec.shtml>

Rare purple diamonds discovered in Quebec by SooToday.com Staff

[http://www.sootoday.com/content/news/full\\_story.asp?StoryNumber=30573](http://www.sootoday.com/content/news/full_story.asp?StoryNumber=30573)

Mining Firms Discover Rare Purple Diamonds in Quebec

<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7010236653>

Israeli Diamond Portal Reports: Purple Diamonds Recovered in James Bay

11 Mar 2008-05-28 <http://www.prlog.org/10056171-israeli-diamond-portal-reports-purple-diamonds-recovered-in-james-bay.html> - 24k

### **Books for Sale**

Minerals of Broken Hill (Worner and Mitchell, 1983). This is the now scarce first Broken Hill book, not the 1999 book. Very good condition, ex. Prof. P. Ypma collection. \$150.

Chiastolites from Bimbowrie, South Australia: Memoirs of the Royal Society of South Australia. A rare original reprint by Sir Douglas Mawson from 1911, includes 10 black and white plates and a colour plate. Slight fading of front cover, otherwise mint. \$50.

Several glass cabinets (large and small) with lights for mineral displays. Will sell cheap. Ask for details.

Contact Ben (0448 797 294) or [ben@westernmetals.com.au](mailto:ben@westernmetals.com.au)

**Articles from the internet (thanks Stewart for providing the links – I have given a summary of the great andesine scam)**

### **Jewelcutter.com - The Great Andesine Scam by Gary Kratochvil**

**HomeCut GemstonesRoughArticlesLinksContactGem Weight Estimator**

#### **The Great Andesine Scam**

**Written by Gary Kratochvil**

Gary claims that most red andesine (or andesine-labradorite) on the market today has been treated, and that the green andesine and bicolor andesine all fall into the same treatment methods. He is not against treatment as long as it is disclosed and believes that failure to do so is fraud. He claims the only proven deposits of natural red labradorite are in Oregon.

His reasoning for claiming it is treated is:-

There is no rough material available (rough material would expose that it is treated)

Pictures of the mine are inconsistent of where it is supposed to be.

(eg trees above 219,000 feet in Tibet).

A company bought a large quantity of yellow labradorite from Mexico but had none for sale at Tucson.

Certificates saying material is andesine omit to say the colour is natural.

There are at least two types of treatments being performed. One treatment uses labradorite that already has copper in it. The copper is what is giving this treatment its colour. The material is heated to diffuse the copper particles into the rest of the stone.

The next treatment that we believe is being used involves the diffusion of copper and iron into labradorite.

He claims to have indisputable proof there is at least some treated labradorite that is being marketed as natural red andesine or red andesine-labradorite. He suggests one method of telling the difference between natural and treated stones after they have been faceted or cabbed is to use refractive index (the treated stones having a lower refractive index).

For more details read the full article in:-

[http://www.jewelcutter.com/articles/andesine\\_scam.htm](http://www.jewelcutter.com/articles/andesine_scam.htm)

Gemlab research newsletter 04/2008 reports on phenakite being represented as diamond and even fooling some diamond testers. Buyers are warned. See the link for photos and how to tell the difference.

[http://www.gemlab.net/website/gemlab/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Research/Gemlab-Newsletter-04-2008-forPDF.pdf](http://www.gemlab.net/website/gemlab/fileadmin/user_upload/Research/Gemlab-Newsletter-04-2008-forPDF.pdf)

### **How to Make/Modify and Use an Alcohol Lamp**

**by John Gustav Delly, Scientific Advisor, McCrone Associates, Westmont, IL**

<http://www.modernmicroscopy.com/main.asp?article=78&page=1>

The following item sent by Stewart Cole

**Diamonds from Outer Space: Geologists Discover Origin of Earth's Mysterious Black Diamonds**

Black, or carbonado, diamonds, came from outer space, geologists have discovered.

If indeed "a diamond is forever," the most primitive origins of Earth's so-called black diamonds were in deep, universal time, geologists have discovered. Black diamonds came from none other than interstellar space.

In a paper published online on December 20, 2006, in the journal *Astrophysical Journal Letters*, scientists Jozsef Garai and Stephen Haggerty of Florida International University, along with Case Western Reserve University researchers Sandeep Rekhi and Mark Chance, claim an extraterrestrial origin for the unique black diamonds, also called carbonado diamonds.

Infrared synchrotron radiation at Brookhaven National Laboratory was used to discover the diamonds' source.

"Trace elements critical to an 'ET' origin are nitrogen and hydrogen," said Haggerty. The presence of hydrogen in the carbonado diamonds indicates an origin in a hydrogen-rich interstellar space, he and colleagues believe.

The term carbonado was coined by the Portuguese in Brazil in the mid-18th century; it's derived from its visual similarity to porous charcoal. Black diamonds are found only in Brazil and the Central African Republic.

"Conventional diamonds are mined from explosive volcanic rocks [kimberlites] that transport them from depths in excess of 100 kilometers to the Earth's surface in a very short amount of time," said Sonia Esperanca, program director in the National Science Foundation's Division of Earth Sciences, which funded the research. "This process preserves the unique crystal structure that makes diamonds the hardest natural material known."

From Australia to Siberia, from China to India, the geological settings of conventional diamonds are virtually identical, said Haggerty. None of them are compatible with the formation of black diamonds.

Approximately 600 tons of conventional diamonds have been mined, traded, polished and adorned since 1900. "But not a single black/carbonado diamond has been discovered in the world's mining fields," Haggerty said.

The new data support earlier research by Haggerty showing that carbonado diamonds formed in stellar supernovae explosions. Black diamonds were once the size of asteroids, a kilometer or more in diameter when they first landed on Earth.

**The Crystal Warehouse** have advised new stocks including a very limited stock of polished specimens of Argentinian RHODOCHROSITE, Russian EUDIALYTE and a small amount of Russian CHAROITE including a 11.7 kilo block which is on sale at retail \$1600.00....

AVAILABLE IN OUR WAREHOUSE THIS SATURDAY 31st MAY (10am - 4pm).

Also available on the day are some Double banded variegated TIGER EYE slabs, as well as, TIGER IRON, MOOKAITE and BRAZIL AGATES direct from our very own private stock.  
SOKLICH TRADING COMPANY, 42 Dale Place, Orange Grove, Western Australia  
T +61 8 94591449, F +61 8 94931059, E [mail@soklichtrading.com.au](mailto:mail@soklichtrading.com.au) [www.soklichtrading.com.au](http://www.soklichtrading.com.au)

**W.A. Lapidary & Rockhunting Club Inc Annual Exhibition 2008**

14/15<sup>th</sup> June & 21/22<sup>nd</sup> June 2008 at clubrooms cnr Gladstone Rd & Newey St Rivervale

Open 10 am to 5pm. Admission adults \$2, children 50c.

Displays minerals, gemstones, fossils, silverwork, faceted stones, photographic exhibition.

Sale of specimens.

**The 31st Annual Seminar of the Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia**

6th-7th November 2008, Zeehan, Tasmania

The theme is Copper Mines & Minerals, with guest speakers from Tasmania, interstate & overseas. It will be held on Thursday 6th & Friday 7th November 2008, in the historic Gaiety Theatre, Zeehan.

Expressions of interest for speaking, selling, advertising, sponsorship or attending are welcome. For further details contact:

Marnie Pope (Sec.): [pope00@ozemail.com.au](mailto:pope00@ozemail.com.au)

Or Ralph Bottrill: [rbottrill@mrt.tas.gov.au](mailto:rbottrill@mrt.tas.gov.au) Hon. President Mineralogical Society of Tasmania

PO Box 424, Kingston, TAS 7051 ph: (03) 62338359

Field trips for the three days leading up to the Seminar (3-5th Nov)

The Zeehan gem and mineral fair will be held on the two days following (Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th November).