



Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc March 2009 Newsletter

Editorial

Thanks to Mignonne Clark for her help in providing information for this newsletter. Members are reminded that short adverts are provided free of charge to members.

April Meeting - this coming Wednesday (April 1st) at 7:30pm at the WA Lapidary Club rooms 31 Gladstone Street Rivervale.

Speaker: Dr Ivor Roberts "Clay, clay and more glorious clay!"

Clay minerals are extremely important to humans as they form the important component of soils but are used in numerous products from paper to ceramics.

Despite their importance, they are often ignored from a mineralogical point of view and the talk will centre on the mineralogy and uniqueness of clay minerals.

Future Meetings

Wednesday 3rd June Speaker from the Western Australian Museum

Wednesday 5th August AGM. Members – Mineral presentations

Wednesday 7th October Murray Thompson "SA Minerals" or Nimal Perera

Wednesday 2nd December Christmas Meeting Speaker Margot Willing

Correction to Previous Newsletter

The article which Margot Willing published in Volume 31 2008 Issues ¾ of *The Journal of Gemmology* was co-authored by Susan Stocklmayer and Dr Martin Wells.

Door Prize February meeting

The door prize at our February meeting was an attractive Stichtite specimen Allan has brought back from Tasmania.



Some photos of other specimens of stichtite collected from Tasmania at the same time.

The occurrence of this mineral in Tasmania has been known since 1891, but prior to 1909 it was referred to as kammererite. An analysis made by Mr A S Wesley at Mt Lyell gave it the name of stichtite after Mr Robt. Sticht.

Stichtite (carbonato-hydrate of magnesium, chrome and iron) in habit irregularly shaped masses, veins and blebs in serpentine with colours from lilac or rose-pink to deep purple. It's beauty is the contrast between the colours of the serpentine and stichtite.

Reference and full article is available at

<http://www.mrt.tas.gov.au/mrtdoc/dominfo/download/GSREC02/GSREC02.pdf>

Reminder

Minerals, mines & collectors 2009 Brisbane, Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia 32nd Annual Seminar is on Saturday 6th - Monday 8th June 2009 in Brisbane - Queensland – Australia

<http://www.mineral.org.au/seminar/seminar09.htm>

FIELD TRIPS 2009

By arrangement members of the mineralogical society are able to go on field trips organized by the Western Australia Lapidary and Rockhunting Club inc.

Please register with MINSOC Field Trip organizers prior to attending any of the following events, if you are only a current MINSOC member to confirm event details.

MINSOC Field Trip organizers Nimal Perera & Clive Daw (ph 9397 5486) (please leave a message if he is not available)

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LAPIDARY AND ROCKHUNTING CLUB INC. 31-35 Gladstone Road, Rivervale, 6103. Rivervale W.A.
PROPOSED 2009 ACTIVITIES & EVENTS
April – Easter Field Trip – 10,11,12, & 13 – Southern Cross Area various Chalcedony minerals
Mother's Day Sunday 10 th May
Sunday May 24 – Beverley area – various Silica/Feldspar minerals. To be confirmed acloser to the date.
JUNE EXHIBITIONS at club rooms - 31-35 Gladstone Road, Rivervale, 6103. Rivervale W.A. Two weekends – Saturday 13 June & Sunday 14 th June then Saturday 21 June & Sunday 22 nd June Please collect flyers for distribution to family and friends
July –Extended field trip to – Eastern Goldfields area
Further 2009 activities and events will be published during the year

A lot of organization goes into making a successful field trip – please bring mineral specimens to club meetings for a show and tell.

OS&H – Yes, occupational, safety and health applies on field trips

Please make sure you have the normal safety gear – field boots and hard hat Plus carry extra drinking water.

Take sun screen and fly repellent. Drive safely

Particularly important for group field trips:-

Please register your details with excursion organizer – name, car rego, mobile telephone

Please follow instructions by excursion organizer and if you need to leave a field trip early, advise organizer.

There are many opportunities to show case your mineral collection. Enquiries can be made with the various lapidary clubs throughout WA.

New Book

The new Catalogue of Minerals of Tasmania is now out
Copies can be purchased from Mineral Resources Tasmania:

In person:

**From our Rosny Park offices,
30 Gordons Hill Road, Rosny Park**

By mail: PO Box 56, Rosny Park, Tasmania 7018

By phone: (03) 6233 8377

Email: info@mrt.tas.gov.au

The soft-cover book has a recommended retail price of \$49.50 (including GST and post/packing). A very limited number of hard cover books are available only from MRT at \$75 (plus \$5 post/packing).

More info: [MRT Website](http://www.mrt.tas.gov.au)

Langford Park

Langford Park is close to Jarrahdale on the Darling scarp. It is now a picnic and barbeque area. It was opened in February 1975 and was named after James N Langford who was the first Manager for mines of Alcoa of Australia from 1961 to 1972.



Langford Park is the site of the ALCOA's first bauxite mine in Western Australia which was opened in 1963 and continued being mined until 1969, however, mining in the area continued until 1998. The low grade bauxite of this area could not be exported but could be economically refined to alumina at Kwinana, the final refining to aluminium metal being done initially at Bell Bay in Tasmania where there was cheap hydro electric power and later at Pt Henry near Geelong in Victoria. Aluminium has been important in Australia's history with Australia producing a quarter of the world's production of Aluminium in 1982. Other bauxite deposits being mined in Australia are at Weipa in Queensland and Gove in the Northern Territory. High grade bauxite also exists on the Mitchell Plateau in the Kimberlies.



one of the bauxite pits in the area

Original rehabilitation involved the planting of pine trees and eastern states eucalypts and were not landscaped to blend in with the jarrah forest. Today mine pits are rehabilitated using seed from the local area which consists of a mix of between 80 and 100 species with Jarrah as the main tree species.

References:

signs in the area,

Australian Encyclopedia, Australian Geographic Society, 6th edition 1996, Vol 1 pp187-189.

Committee Members

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Subscribers received the latest publication (Volume 14 Number 1) at the beginning of March

One of the featured articles of particular interest to WA MINSOC members is
“The Woodlands variscite-gold occurrence in north Gascoyne region of Western Australia” Page
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Ernest H Nickel, Robert M Hough, Michael R Verrall, Elena Hancock, Alan M Thorne, David
Vaughan

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