

# Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc

## May 2011 Newsletter

### Editorial

Thanks to all those people who have contributed articles to this newsletter.

Contributors to the newsletter should submit articles at least a week before the next meeting. Late articles may be held over to the following newsletter. Members may submit short adverts free of charge.

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### June Meeting - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011

Starting at 7:30 pm at the WA Lapidary Club rooms 31 Gladstone Road Rivervale.

**Speaker: Peter Downes**

**Topic: "The Diamond Collections of the WA Museum"**

**Visitors Welcome.**

**Light refreshments provided after the meeting.**

### 2011 Future Meeting Dates

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August Speaker: Mike Freeman Topic: "Opal"

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October Speaker(s): To be Announced Topic: To be Announced

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December mini talks and Christmas function

### Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia 34th Annual Seminar

The next Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia 34th Annual Seminar will be held in Melbourne 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011, at Gemmology House 380-382 Spencer Street, West Melbourne. The theme will be "Mineralogy into the future".

Registration forms from the Secretary.

We (Western Australia) are putting a proposal to hold the seminar in Perth in 2012 with a theme of "Rare Earth Minerals". This proposal will be put to the meeting of the joint societies at the annual seminar in Melbourne.

## Report from Club President – Stewart Cole

Allan Hart is attending the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar of the Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia being held in Melbourne June 11, 12 & 13. He will be making representations of behalf on MINSOCWA to host the 2012 Joint Societies Seminar. On rotation the next meeting should be held in Perth as the last joint meeting in WA was in 2005. Your committee has put in a lot of preparation for the seminar to increase the chances that MINSOCWA will be formally granted the next Joint Societies Seminar. Our selected topic would be Rare Earth Minerals. REMs

A lot of "proper prior planning" has been taking place to ensure our offer to host the 2012 Seminar will be successful. Logistics for hosting the seminar include:- best date to hold seminar especially for Eastern states visitors; venue; public transport to and from venue, accommodation, topic, speakers, dinner, field trip. Members will be asked to volunteer to take responsibility for sub-committees to organise the different aspects of the seminar. I will talk further about the sub-committees at our June meeting.

I have been asked what elements are considered the "rare earth elements". I and your committee propose the definition is the elements, scandium, yttrium, and the fifteen lanthanides which are elements 57-71 (Lanthanum, Cerium, Praseodymium, Neodymium, Promethium, Samarium, Europium, Gadolinium, Terbium, Dysprosium, Holmium, Erbium, Thulium, Ytterbium, Lutetium).

In addition REMs are a fairly specific topic inside the mineralogy world, I know I don't collect these minerals and I'm suspecting not many of us do, but they are currently very topical with news reports and articles in the press every day. There have been three seminars, I know of this year specifically related to rare earths with more scheduled for 2012. So I am proposing a challenge to the membership. This will take the form of a "lucky dip". Members will draw "out of a hat" an element.

You will be asked to give a short talk (5 to 10 minutes duration) at another meeting. Presentation assistance will be available. Our December meeting has a new format of "short" presentations by members. You may choose to give your REM's talk in December.

The REMs topic will be based on a mineral or minerals that have that element in its composition. For our talks we can forget about Promethium as it doesn't occur in any quantity naturally. Allan Hart has samples of the Rare earth elements and he has agreed to do a show and tell. This exercise will allow all of us a greater depth of knowledge in the REM suite of minerals.

So a tit-bit of information to brighten a dry message. A pyrophoric mixed rare-earth alloy called Mischmetall (50% Ce, 25% La, 25% other light lanthanides) or misch

The club room will now be open from 7 pm (for a 7.30 pm start).

See you on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June meeting

Regards

Stewart

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## WA Lapidary and Rockhunting Club inc. Annual Exhibition

Gemstones, jewellery, fossils and minerals.

Over two weekends in June.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011

And Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2011-05-24

At club rooms 31-36 Gladstonr Road Rivervale

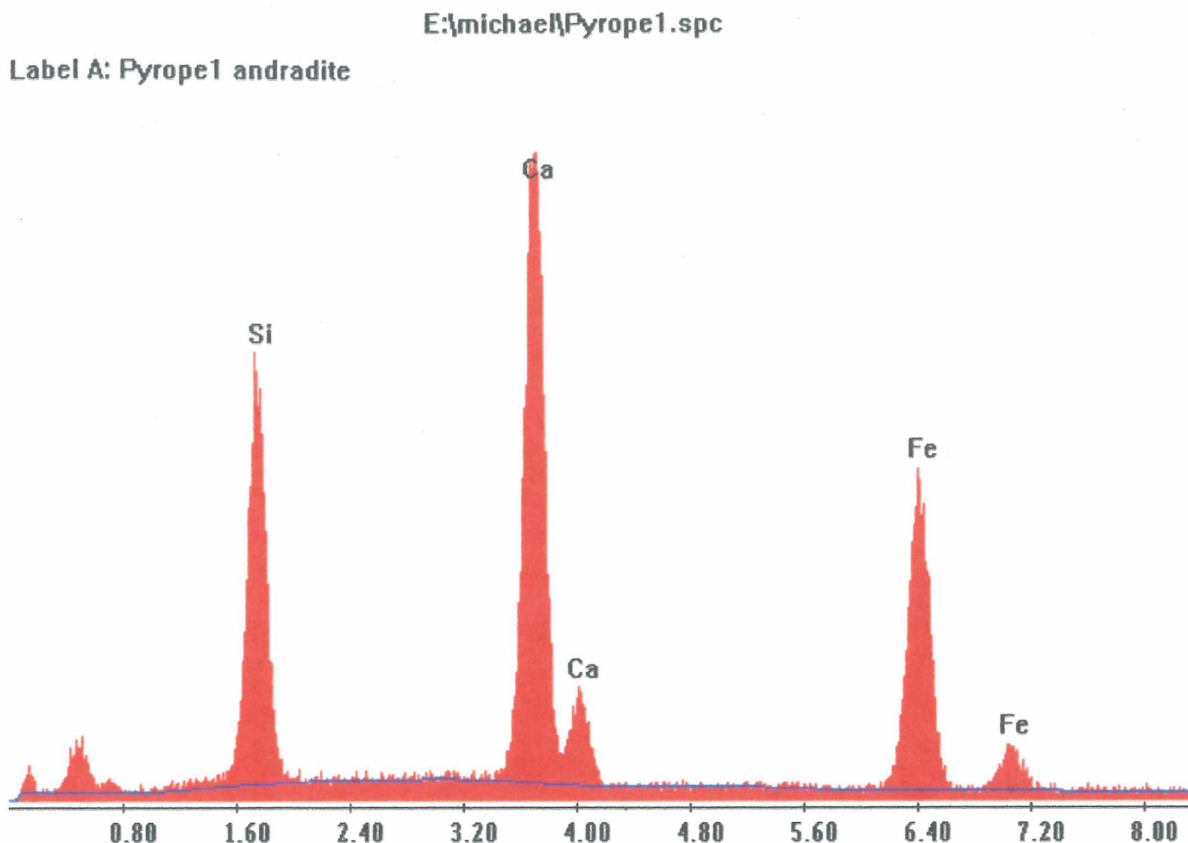
Open 10 am to 5pm Adults \$2 Children 50 cents



## Re Thoughts on mislabelled mineral specimens by Allan Hart

Having purchased "green pyrope" from Afghanistan I became suspicious, and ended up having it analysed at the CSIRO.

The results of the analysis are as follows:-



E:\michael\Pyrope1.spc

Acquisition Time:16:27:53

Date:17-Mar-2011

kV:30.00

Tilt: 0.00

Take-off:37.76

Tc:2.5

Detector Type :SUTW-Sapphire

Resolution :171.00

Lsec :3

EDAX ZAF Quantification

Standardless

Oxides

SEC Table : Default

Element	Wt %	Mol %
SiO2	40	41
CaO	32	35
FeO	28	24
Total	100	100

As this garnet contains calcium and iron the conclusion is that the so called "green pyrope" is actually andradite. For it to be pyrope it would have to contain magnesium and aluminium.  
I wish to thank Michael Verrall for doing this analysis.

## Field Trips 2011

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

If you are interested in attending these field trips please put your name on the notice board at the Lapidary and Rockhunting Club for the relevant field trip.

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

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LAPIDARY AND ROCKHUNTING CLUB INC. 31-35 Gladstone Road, Rivervale, 6103. Rivervale W.A.	
<b>PROPOSED 2011 ACTIVITIES &amp; EVENTS</b>	
June Exhibition – no trips	
July 9 <sup>th</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> long Rockhunt to Northwest Goldfields start Mt Magnet and finish Kalgoorlie	
August 14 <sup>th</sup> Moora for Chert	
Sept 18 <sup>th</sup> Hobbs Farm rocks and minerals	
Oct 1,2,3 Hyden Area for wildflowers	
Nov date to be announced bus trip to Kemerton Refinery	
Further 2010 activities and events will be published during the year	

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.

Committee Members	
Stewart Cole - President ph 0414 904 169	Ted East
Sue Koepke - Secretary/Treasurer ph 0417 990 688	Allan Hart - Newsletter Editor
Mignon Clark – Vice President / Field Trip Officer ph 0418 955 979	Vernon Stocklmayer
Susan Stocklmayer	
Society e-mail addresses	
All correspondence (excluding the newsletter): minsocwa@hotmail.com	
Mineralogical Society WA Newsletter : minsocwa.newsletter@hotmail.com	

## Meeting Nights – feedback sought

Several members have asked whether the meeting nights can be changed from the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month due to clashes with other meetings. 2 other suggestions have been made:-

The second Wednesday of the month

The third Wednesday of odd months (January, March, May, July, September, November)

Could members please email me by replying to this message indicating there preference

- 1) no preference
- 2) Keep meeting night as the first Wednesday of even months  
(February, April, June, August, October, December)
- 3) Change meeting to the second Wednesday of even months
- 4) Change meeting to the second Wednesday of odd months
- 5) Change Meeting to the third Wednesday of odd months
- 6) Change to another night

Please note the club rooms are only available on Wednesday and Friday night

Please let me know if any of these nights are inconvenient to you.

## **Sale of the Doug Ball Mineral Collection**

The following is placed in this newsletter at the request of Steve Dobos from the Mineralogical Society of Queensland.

As you may know, Doug Ball ('Mr Tumbles') lost his battle with cancer earlier this year. Lesley Ball has decided to sell off the stock in the mineral section of their store at Deepwater, NSW, including specimen boxes, mineral stands, and other related sales and display supplies.

In addition, Lesley will be selling off Doug's private mineral collection, on a specimen-by-specimen basis. These are all top-shelf specimens, Australian and International. Some of you may have seen parts of this collection, which were on display in their store in Brisbane some years ago.

Doug's collection will go on sale in Lesley's shop, on the New England Highway, in the heart of Deepwater, commencing Saturday 2nd of July. Sales will be strictly cash or credit card, but the price of some of the specimens may be negotiable.

## **Annual Subscriptions**

A reminder that subscriptions are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. Membership fees may be paid to the treasurer at the June meeting.

There is a proposal to raise the annual subscription from \$20 to \$25 to cover the increase in insurance premiums. Those members paying before the AGM will still be able to pay at the old rate.

Membership fees can be paid directly into the CBA account – contact the Secretary for details.

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