



# Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc July 2012 Newsletter

## Editorial

A reminder, our meetings are now held on the third Wednesday of odd months, often with other activities on the intervening months.

We have just hosted the annual seminar of the Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia. This was a huge success due to the hard work of the committee and others who helped out. A special thanks to J.Lynn of Crystal Universe and Mark Creasy for the very successful cocktail parties which they held. .

Many thanks to those members supplying articles for this newsletter.

Members may submit short adverts free of charge.

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## July Meeting

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012 Speaker(s): Speaker: John Blockley

Topic: "Northampton Mineral Field: Western Australia's first mineral boom"

Visitors Welcome

A light supper is supplied after the meeting.

## 2012 Future Meetings and other Activity Dates

**Please note these dates are the third Wednesday of the month.**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2012 (informal meeting) Microscope session. Members are invited to bring specimens to view under the microscope. Members are also invited to bring along any rare earth minerals which they might have.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012 Annual General Meeting

Speaker: Melvyn J. Lintern, CESRE, Topic: "The gold and calcrete story 25 years on - what have we learnt?"

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012 Speaker: Peter Downes Topic: TBA

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## **Report on Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia 35th Annual Seminar**

**By Alan Longbottom**

### Seminar

Friday's Micro session provided the ideal start for an enthusiastic Seminar. This was pushed into top gear by Steve Dobos with his introduction to Rare Earth Elements on Saturday morning. The array of presenters that followed all added diversity and insight into the REE theme of our seminar.

Our tea breaks and evening gatherings gave some opportunity to socialize and discuss thoughts flowing from what we had just heard and I know many arrangements for follow-up contacts were made. This is an important flow-on for a Society as scattered as ours.

### Field Trip

Threatened by severe weather before it even started, and with the first site flooded and the second scuttled by concerns of narrow roads and slippery conditions, the field trip got off to a hastily re-arranged start. Ted and Tom were able to arrange a visit to the original gold discovery location in Southern Cross for us to see a pictorial history and hear from the current lease-holder, the plans for further mining there. We also got an insight into the physical and financial pressures on small-scale miners today.

Day 2 saw us ahead of schedule so a stop at the Bullabulling site was possible on the way to Coolgardie. Any long-abandoned small emerald mine on a main highway is going to be picked almost clean but 'if you look you might get lucky', and that proved to be the case. The convoy moved on to Coolgardie where some opted to leave their vans at the caravan park and others set up camp for a couple of nights at the Londonderry pegmatite quarries.

There was never going to be sufficient time to look over all the material though various micas, natrojarosite, garnets and small quartz and feldspar crystals, even columbites were not difficult to find. I should have followed Larry for some of the less common species. The nightly UV hunts for fluorescent specimens (made possible by Geert and Sue) proved very successful and were great fun. A quick drive to 'Giles Columbite-beryl prospect' on Thursday afternoon provided schorl in matrix, columbite, beryls and spodumene.

With some reluctance we dragged ourselves away from Londonderry to make sure of being settled in Kalgoorlie in time for the visit to the Geological Survey Core Library. I had been there on the 2005 field trip but was pleasantly surprised to see the expansion of buildings and displays since that time. Our tour though the facility, and the fantastic evening meal, organized by the Staff made this one of the highlights of the field trip. Particular thanks are extended to Charlotte and Wayne .

Lynas Corporation's Mt Weld REE mine was the next organized appointment but the trip north to Laverton provided a great opportunity to soak up some of the early mining history at Menzies and Gwalia/Leonora. Indeed, the "Time to Go" hooter got quite a workout before we moved on to Laverton.

The Mt Weld visit, thanks largely to Brendan Shand, was of the same high level of learning and enjoyment as the Core Library (and nobody had trouble with the breathalyzer). The geology of the orebody, described during the Seminar, came crystal-clear in the field and the generous opportunity to examine to the operation at first hand was enjoyed by all.

The remaining days were well-filled with trips to a number of inactive deposits with a chance to collect a wide diversity of specimens such as emerald, facet grade Andalusite, tektites and chrysoprase for lapidary purposes. The wildflowers and historic buildings continued to lead the camera buffs astray and I even managed a few land snails, spiders and beetles. All things considered I had an enjoyable time, as I believe did others on the trip. Our final evening dinner, in the appropriate historic Menzies hotel, was a perfect finale.

The weather may have been better but it certainly could have been far worse. It was good to renew old friendships and to develop new ones. The seminar and field trip combined to light up my enthusiasm to start planning for Sydney and beyond.

### Conclusions

Participants were given a good balance of the history, current methods and future trends within the mining industry, as well as the opportunity to collect mineral and lapidary specimens.

Social opportunities were well catered for

# Micromounters Symposium



## Crystal Universe Cocktail Party





## The Seminar



Registration Desk



Stewart Cole - Welcome



Official Opening by Rt Hon Dr Michael Nathan MLA



Steve Sorrell (white tee shirt) shows his artwork



Lunch time



The lecture theatre



Panel Discussion – most speakers

## The Dinner and Auction



# Mark Creasy's Social Event





## The Mineral Market



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### **New Members**

Welcome to new members Tom Bateman, Jason Bennett, Frank Fewster, Margaret Fewster, Andrew James, Barry Kayes.

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### **Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia 36th Annual Seminar**

The next Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia 36th Annual Seminar will be held in Sydney in June 2013. Further details will be announced as they become available. New Zealand will be hosting the seminar in October 2014

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## Field Trips 2012

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.

<p>THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LAPIDARY AND ROCKHUNTING CLUB INC. 31-35 Gladstone Road, Rivervale, 6103. Rivervale W.A.</p>
<b>PROPOSED 2012 ACTIVITIES &amp; EVENTS</b>
August 19 <sup>th</sup> Rockingham Eco Centre
Sept 16 <sup>th</sup> Toodyay for crystals
Sept 29 <sup>th</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> & Oct 1st Moora & Bindi for chert & anthophyllite
Nov 18 <sup>th</sup> Club Auction
Further 2012 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.

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Committee Members	
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