



Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc November 2012 Newsletter

Editorial

Many thanks to those members supplying articles for this newsletter.

Thank you to Crystal Universe for the door prize of malachite from Rum Jungle at the September meeting.

The policy that members may submit short adverts free of charge will remain.

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Recent Activities

Annual General Meeting, 19th September.

Including the speaker, we had 28 people attending the 12th AGM held on the 19th September, which is a new record for our small Mineralogical Society.

Following the AGM, Melvyn J. Lintern, Principal Research Scientist for the CSIRO gave a talk on "The gold and calcrete story 25 years on - what have we learnt?" Audience questions and comments afterwards attest to the subject matter being of significant relevance to many of the members and visitors. No doubt the calibre of our guest speaker attracted the record 27 attendees to this AGM, ranging from hobbyists, prospectors and mining lease holders right across to geologists and earth scientists.



Melvyn J. Lintern
addressing members
and guests at the 12th
AGM held on 19th
September.

Photo: S.Koepke

September Toodyay Excursion.

An excursion held on the 16th September to Toodyay comprised members of the Mineralogical Society, the Rivervale Lapidary Club and the Friends of the E.de C. Clark Museum combining on a day visit to an area where quartz crystals are located. The site is within the municipal area at the top of a small hill.

In perfect springtime temperatures a group of about thirty drove in convoy to the location and then selected their sites for digging. The crystals occur loose within the top levels of the soil and surface rubble, being concentrated laterally within a rubble zone at about 40cm below surface.

The various groups of fossickers were spread out under the trees covering an area of about 50m square and all had some success (Photograph)

The quartz crystals vary in size and are usually less than 30mm in length and approximately 15mm diameter, although some of 50mm lengths were also recovered. They occur as single and twinned individuals (vertical composition plane), some in clusters and most crystals show one perfect termination, but a few doubly terminated crystals were found (Photograph).

Whilst many crystals are of cloudy appearance, many are transparent with a bright vitreous lustre like those of Herkimer quartz. They are predominantly prismatic in habit with obvious asymmetrically developed rhombohedra, a few with pyramid forms and most with striated prism faces.

Internal features include many small fractures that are often iron stained and appear a light brown colour; some fractures display spectral colour reflections. Liquid inclusions are common; they appear in any direction and show bright mirror-like reflections as crystals are examined under a light. Some are two phase inclusions with a tiny gas libella also present in the fluid vacuoles.

Many crystals show phantom growth (interrupted growth) with the enclosed terminations usually the site of iron oxide granules. Iron oxide inclusions are common, with three crystal habits observed:

- Single crystals of platy habit that are opaque, usually less than 1mm in length that are likely to be hematite or ilmenite.
- Curled cockscomb groups (vermiform), these show a reddish brown colour in reflected light and are probably goethite.
- Fine aggregates of opaque granules with a micaceous habit; these appear silver in reflected light and are probably hematite.

Toodyay Excursion September 2012



**Group of enthusiastic ‘fossickers’ searching for quartz crystals.
Photograph: Allan Hart**



**A typical 25mm twinned,
terminated quartz crystal from
Toodyay.**

Photograph: Allan Hart

October Microscope Session

The microscope session held on 17th October was attended by 8 enthusiasts who shared the 5 microscopes available to examine numerous mineral specimens that contain inclusions. A rare treat was the meteorite section (300 microns) containing inclusions brought by our visitor Katie Dyl, a postdoc in the Applied Geology Department at Curtin University.



Photograph by S. Koepke

November Mineral Workshop

Despite the wild weather, seven Society members and two guests attended the workshop on Sunday 4/11/12 at the WA Lapidary and Rockhunting Club rooms in Rivervale to hear Ted Fowler's talk on "Care and preservation of minerals, both macro and micro". Ted provided the following account of the day.

One of the most important aspects of our hobby is labeling mineral acquisitions as they are acquired, and also maintaining a catalogue of your collection. Various methods of packing minerals for transportation to minimize damage were discussed. Also shown was the extra care needed to avoid any contact with delicate, acicular crystal specimens.

Various ways of cleaning specimens were discussed together with the need to check solubility as there are over 280 minerals slightly to readily soluble in water. We discussed methods for trimming specimens, the various tools required, and should we use Clive's hydraulic rock breaker on a large matrix specimen on display?

Storage and display ideas were tabled and we learnt that most minerals are like wine – they like to be kept cool, dry and in the dark!

Damage can be caused by humidity or light [affecting photosensitive minerals like cuprite, proustite or vivianite], from attack by insects [silverfish and "museum" beetles], or attempts to remove accumulation of dust by washing. Several ways of reducing these hazards were discussed, as all need to be addressed by both macro and micro mineral collectors.

Finally there was a note about mineral courtesy – always ask permission before handling another collector's material or specimen.

After the talk, members kept 5 microscopes in constant use and the workshop closed by 3pm.

November Meeting

There will be a General Meeting on **Wednesday 21st November 2012** at the WA Lapidary Club rooms located at 31, Gladstone Road, Rivervale (corner of Newey St)

Starting time: 7:30 pm

Speakers: Peter Downes and Murray Thompson

Topic: Minerals of the DeGrussa copper-gold mine, Western Australia.

In April 2009, Sandfire Resources discovered the high-grade DeGrussa VMS (volcanogenic massive sulphide) copper-gold deposit located about 150 km north of Meekatharra in Western Australia.

Visitors Welcome

A light supper will be served after the meeting.

2012/2013 Future Meetings and other Activity Dates


Please note that, unless otherwise specified, these dates are the third Wednesday of the month.

Crystal Universe, Subiaco, is hosting a "Welcome to 2013" party on 11 January 2013 for all MinSocWA members.

Wednesday 16th January 2013. Speaker: Ken Ireland. Topic: "Talc, its mineralogy and wonderful diverse applications.

29th March to 2nd April, 2013. Gemboree. Murray Bridge, SA

The Mineral Society of WA Annual Memorial Frank Radke Mineral Auction.



Mineral Society of WA Auction - 5th December

The Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc. is holding it's 4th Annual Frank Radke Memorial Mineral Auction.

A wide variety of mineral specimens, artifacts and ephemera will be on the block!

Light Nibbles and Refreshments Provided - Door Prizes – Reduced Memberships available on the Night

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

When: Wednesday, 5th December 2012
Where: 31 Gladstone Road, Rivervale
When: Doors open for Bidders' Registration at 5pm, Auction 6:30 - 7:30

Sellers: Required to preregister and submit catalogue information prior to the close date of 21st November, 2012.
Overflow items may (yes, may) be assigned to the Silent Auction tables. Society commission is 15% on all items sold.

Bidders: Registration fee of \$5 cash at the door. Settlement is on the spot and cash only for purchases.

PLEASE NOTE: Only registered sellers will be accepted. Registrations close Wednesday 21st November.

Crocoite, Red Lead Mine Tasmania. Donated by Crystal Universe Pty Ltd

Interested persons should write to MinSocWA@gmail.com for data on a link for registration.

Society Notices

Volunteer required

We need a member as 'second in charge' of electronic equipment (laptop and projection equipment) at meetings, in case person in charge/custodian of equipment is unable to attend meeting. Please contact Stewart Cole if interested.

Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held at 15 Colin Grove West Perth on December, 6th.

New Members

Welcome to new members Peter Macintosh, Sarah Hepburn and John Mill.

Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia 36th Annual Seminar

The next Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia 36th Annual Seminar will be held in Sydney on Saturday 8th June to Monday 10th June 2013. Details, as supplied by the Secretary, George Laking, are shown below.

The MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.S.W. Inc

As you are aware the 2013 36th Australasian Mineralogical Societies Joint Seminar is being hosted by this Society over the Queen's Birthday long weekend, Saturday 8th to Monday 10th of June 2013, next.

The theme is to be: -**'The Wonderful World of Minerals'**

The Seminar will be held in the Eastwood – Ryde Leagues Club in Ryedale Road, Eastwood, which we have decided upon since it is a fairly central location in Sydney but well away from the CBD area with adequate parking nearby and well served by public transport. All Seminar activities other than field trips or Australian Museum and private collection visits will be held in the Club which has substantial convention and catering facilities. Activities will include the Seminar dinner on Saturday evening 8th of June and mineral and micromount displays and sales probably on the Sunday afternoon and Monday the 10th of June. Interstate visitors and attendees from outside Sydney will be advised about suitable accommodation in the Eastwood area which has a number of hotels. It is hoped that there will be field trips to one or more locations held in conjunction with the Seminar but details have not yet been finalised.

Our Committee has been deliberating for some months already about Seminar arrangements and we have already spoken to or lined up a number of speakers including several from interstate. However this e-mail is to invite all the other Australasian societies to suggest or nominate any other speakers who would be able to deliver a lecture. (If we get too many we may have to start saying 'thank-you, - maybe the following year').

Field Trips 2012/2013

The Social Officer/Field Trip Leader is seeking Expressions of Interest from Members for two proposed activities planned for 2013. Any suggestions for other day/weekend/longer field trips are welcome.

Short Course on geological map reading and basic interpreting.

Contents: Starting from very basics of using a compass and topological map reading / navigation to using a geological map to 'fossick' more effectively. Two half-day sessions of four hours each held at Lapidary Club on Sunday from 1pm and a field exercise family picnic day near Perth.

Dates suggested *mid-March to late April 2013.

*Please indicate if you would prefer other dates or days and how flexible that availability may be.

Expressions of Interest by January 21st to Secretary by email or on an Expression of Interest Form.

Enrolment Nomination with a \$20 per person contribution to offset costs of learning materials closes January 22nd due to time/cost required to provide learning resources.

Class and activities strictly limited to 12 people ONLY and a "first in - first served" basis for both Expression of Interest and Enrolment Nomination (\$20 cost)

Fieldtrip, 2013. MSWA Upper Gascoyne Region

Field Trip Proposal for 2013 - a MSWA planned 10 to 12 day Tag-along field trip * to the Mt Phillips 1: 250,000 sheet area.

To facilitate particular fossicking interests; Nominee Parties may leave and re-join main group at own volition * and main group will offer support.

Proposed dates in 2013 last week of August - early September –subject to Shire road and river crossing clearances

Probable start point from Gascoyne Junction located about 180 km east of Carnarvon which is approx. 1100 km north of Perth. Plan on an additional 1000 km travel in the Gascoyne Field 'circuit'.

We can use the Community Resource Centre in GJ and we will be seeking Station accommodation in sheds and cottages at Pastoral Stations

Roads are usually suitable for ordinary 2 WD and trailers and off road caravans although four wheel drive would be advantageous in some remote fossicking spots – however we will have capacity to 'ferry' people into sites and across rough areas.

Expected to travel through Gascoyne Junction, Bidgemia, Yinnetharra, Mt Phillips, Cobra, Pastoral Station (cattle) areas to Mount Augustus..

Station stay accommodation will be sought as necessary for participants who prefer not to free camp – we can provide hot showers

Firmly limited to a maximum of 20 vehicles; a tag-along tour maybe with bus and cook; flexible arrangements with regards to leaving and re-joining main MinSocWA field trip party

Nomination requires a non- refundable 'planning contribution' of \$50 per person to MSWA – maps, aerial photos, transceiver and satellite phone back-up hire etc.

Nominations close March 28th 2013. Contribution to MSWA will be \$150 after that date.

Western Australia Lapidary and Rockhunting Club Inc.

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.

Committee Members

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| Committee Members | |
| Stewart Cole - President ph 0414 904 169 | Tom Bateman – Social Officer/Field Trips Leader |
| Sue Koepke - Secretary ph 0417 990 688 | J. Lynn Sutherland |
| Ken Ireland - Treasurer | Peter Macintosh |
| Geert Buters - Vice President | |
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| | |
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| Newsletter Editor (not on committee) – Vernon Stocklmayer | |