



Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc. March 2014 Newsletter

Editorial

Stewart donated an amazing quartz crystal with weird pseudo-cubic morphology from Riverside, Eddy County, New Mexico; this was won by Tim Ivanic from the Geological Survey of WA.

The policy that members may submit short adverts free of charge will remain. Additionally, it was agreed that other commercial advertisements would be accepted for a nominal charge.

Contents

	Page
Editorial	1
Contents	1
Recent Activities	1
- General Meeting, 15 th January, 2014	1
- Fifth Annual Frank Radke Memorial Auction, 19 th February, 2014	5
Future Meetings	8
- General Meeting, 19 th March, 2014	8
Proposed change of time of General Meeting	8
Future Events	9
Items of Interest	10
New Members	11
Committee Meeting	11
Field Trips	11
Committee and contact details	11

Recent Activities

General Meeting held on 15th January 2014.

The General Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Incorporated was on Wednesday 15th January 2014 at the WA Lapidary Club rooms located at 31, Gladstone Road, Rivervale (corner of Newey St).

The General Meeting was followed by an "Update on DeGrussa Minerals" by Murray Thompson and Peter Downes. They summarized their findings as:

Some new discoveries from the DeGrussa mine included native copper pseudomorphs after cuprite octahedra. These show similarities to copper pseudomorphs from the Rubtsovskoe mine in Russia. Gem quality aragonite has been found within the cuprite ore and some

crystals have been cut by Murray. Other gem materials are transparent silica-saturated chrysocolla pseudomorphs after malachite, and green-blue copper-rich dolomite.

We identified mcguinnessite coated by dolomite on a number of specimens using SEM-EDS and powder XRD analysis. Sprays of acicular blue mcguinnessite give colour to dolomite overgrowths. This appears to be the second reported Australian occurrence of mcguinnessite after the Poona mine in South Australia.

Rare mercurian silver was identified on a cuprite specimen. The mercury may have come from the oxidation of galena in the primary sulphide assemblage (similar to Cobar in NSW).

Another addition to the mineral assemblage in 2013 was small crystals of colourless hemimorphite. We are waiting on single crystal XRD analysis of a blue hydrated copper carbonate coating to clear up the identity of this unknown (possibly georgeite?).

A list of minerals identified from the DeGrussa mine is presented below.

Sulfides

Pyrite FeS_2
Chalcopyrite CuFeS_2
Pyrrhotite Fe_{1-x}S
Sphalerite ZnS
Galena PbS
Chalcocite Cu_2S

Halides

Atacamite $\text{Cu}_2\text{Cl}(\text{OH})_3$
Iodargyrite AgI

Sulfates

Brochantite $\text{Cu}_4(\text{SO}_4)(\text{OH})_6$
Osarizawaite $\text{Pb}(\text{Al,Cu})_3(\text{SO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_6$

Carbonates

Malachite $\text{Cu}_2(\text{CO}_3)(\text{OH})_2$
Azurite $\text{Cu}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$
Mcguinnessite $(\text{Mg, Cu})_2(\text{CO}_3)(\text{OH})_2$
Calcite CaCO_3
Aragonite CaCO_3
Dolomite $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$
Georgeite? $\text{Cu}_2\text{CO}_3(\text{OH})_2$

Oxides

Cuprite Cu_2O
Tenorite CuO
Quartz SiO_2
Magnetite Fe_3O_4

Phosphates

Churchite-(Y) $\text{YPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Silicates

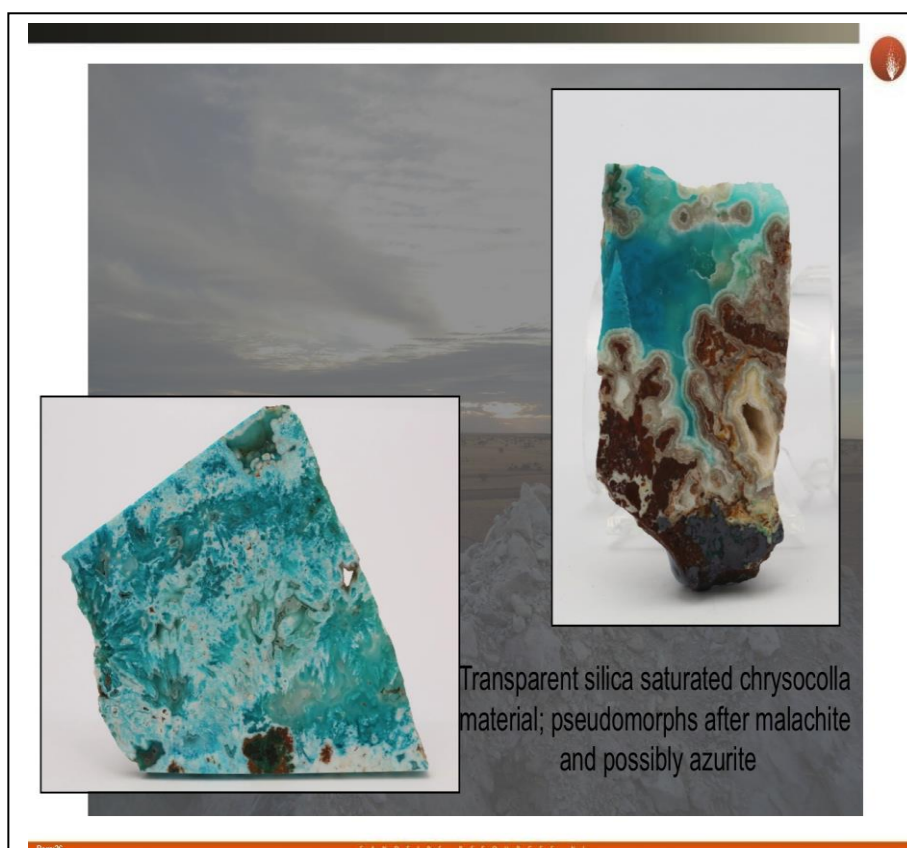
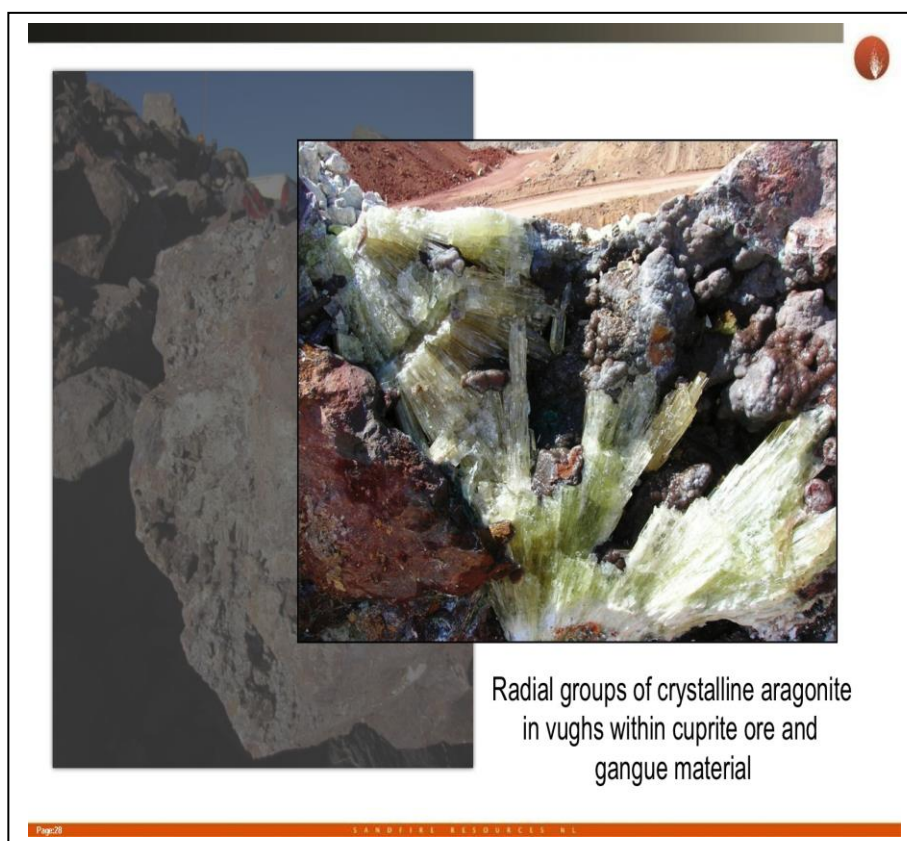
Chrysocolla
 $(\text{Cu,Al})_2\text{H}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$
Hemimorphite $\text{Zn}_4\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7(\text{OH})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$
Nontronite
 $\text{Na}_{0.3}\text{Fe}_2(\text{Si,Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$
Kaolinite $\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$

Vanadates

Mottramite (*duhamelite*)
 $\text{PbCuVO}_4(\text{OH})$

Native elements

Copper Cu
Silver Ag-Hg
Gold Au





Fifth Annual Frank Radke Memorial Auction held on 19th February 2014.

A comprehensive report of this very successful event, compiled by Kim Macdonald is presented below.

I have been asked to write a report about the auction. Over forty people turned up, and most came away with absolute bargains, at least compared to the price this material sells for with American and European dealers. By my very un-official tab I was keeping, the auction achieved an outstanding financial result. Compared with last year's auction, it was a resounding success, and should put a smile on treasurer John's face.

Firstly, we must thank those people who donated specimens and other items, including Spanish Minerals, Exclusive Minerals, CK Minerals, Sandfire Resources, Aradon, Jesaba, Crystal Habit, Crystal Universe, The Rock Shop in London Court Perth, the Department of Mines and Petroleum, Jason Bennett, John Mill, Murray Thompson, Vernon and Susan Stockmayer, Craig Bosel, and several donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Holding the auction requires a lot of work by club members, and we should thank Stewart, Sue, Clive, John, Geert, James, and probably several others I am unaware of. After an introduction by Geert, the first half of the auction was conducted by Stewart, and the second half by Clive.

Sue's promotion of the auction was relentless on social media. This led to requests by people on the eastern seaboard to place proxy bids. I was curious whether these would be so outrageously high, it would kill off bidding on the floor. It appeared most of these proxy bids didn't even reach the bargain basement prices of the auction, and had little impact generally speaking. Some lots saw rapid bidding, while others were like pulling teeth. Aesthetically pleasing specimens and those with a track record of material available tended to attract the most bids.

For this day, the auction was the world epicentre for Spanish minerals. Anyone who wanted to start a Spanish mineral collection was in luck with sixteen lots, including a tray of 54 specimens. This led to a mad scramble by yours truly to find out something about northern Spanish mineral sites. It quickly became apparent these were high quality specimens from well-known locations amongst European collectors.

There were seven specimens from the Moscona Mine, three from the La Collada area, and two from the Emilio Mine, all known for crystallised fluorite. There was also sphalerite from Las Manforas, and blue quartz from La Tuanona. In addition, two specimens showing multiple pyrite cubes on matrix saw rapid bidding, despite being commonly available material. The tray of 54 specimens was passed in, despite attracting the highest bid of the evening.

The reason for this sudden explosion of Spanish mineral specimens in Perth is one Juan Buelga, and his generosity to the club is beyond reasonable. As you read this, Juan is standing next to a drilling rig in the Great Victoria Desert. It is my view, anyone who enters the country on a work visa, carting with them a shipping container of high quality mineral specimens, should be given immediate citizenship and an Order of Australia medal. Expect to see me handcuffed to his ankle at Perth airport, should he ever decide to go back to Spain.

The contingent of Western Australian specimens was small, but high quality, and often rare. We would weep if the material destroyed in WA mines was ever known. Sandfire Resources is one bright spot, and we can only hope it inspires other mining companies here. Murray Thompson and Dr Peter Downes talk on DeGrussa at the club, the month before, highlighted how important the specimens donated by Sandfire Resources are.

Three copper after cuprite specimens were offered, described as similar to Russian material. A quick perusal of Mindat would indicate the Degrussa specimens are as good if not better, and went for a song. The copper with mcguinnessite specimen was a highlight of the show. The latter species is found at only two locations in Australia, and specimen grade only at DeGrussa. It remains to be seen if any more mcguinnessite specimens turn up at next year's auction. I suspect not.

Jason Bennett donated a goethite stalactite from the Area C iron ore mine. Specimens from Pilbara iron ore mines are almost never seen. The phallic nature of the specimen led to endless ribbing of Jason by his mine workmates, comparing it to part of Jason's anatomy. How they knew this remains a mystery. I have it on good authority (his wife), that the small size of the goethite specimen, in no way warrants comparison.

The auction saw one of the largest Australian ilmenite specimens seen. Its lack of location details however limited its value. It highlights the need for collectors to be pedantic about labelling. No-one owns a specimen as such, it is merely in your care, to be passed on later for others to enjoy.

The golden age of new species discovery in Western Australia was between the mid 1970's to the end of the 1980's. It was largely the result of several new nickel mines opening. Also at this time people like Peter Bridge, Ernest (Ernie) Nickel and others took an interest in the subject. When Ernie passed away, no-one entered the breach. The work of David Vaughan, Clive Daw (and Co) and Peter Elliott indicates there are still many new things to discover here. Clive submitted two putnisite specimens, an extremely rare species recently discovered. Some other, even un-named new to science species came along as well with the specimens.

Susan Stocklmayer took home the peanut wood, Juan started his WA collection with a desert sunset slab and the rarely seen turgite from Talling Peak went for \$30. The huge Yerilla chrysoprase went to Matthew Webb who flew in from Melbourne. It was a pleasure meeting Matthew, once infamous in central Victoria for his TV advertisements promoting his pharmacy business. He now has one of the finest private mineral specimen collections in the country. He has also donated enough specimens to universities and museums in Australia, to pay off the house mortgage of most people reading this. High end collectors like Matthew are important for the hobby. They enable specimen mining to be financially viable, leading to more affordable specimens to collectors like you and me. In reference to Matthew's YouTube video, I hope the chrysoprase talks to him.

There were several high quality Broken Hill specimens on offer, and a smattering of specimens from elsewhere in Australia, and the rest of the world. From Broken Hill a very nice small cabinet cerussite went to Deborah, two pyromorphites were obtained for a bargain; the bayldonite went to Sue, spessartine/galena and calcite to Barbara.

The three azurite sun on matrix specimens from Malbunka NT caused rapid bidding by

several people. Some other Australian specimens saw bidding crawl, like the two atacamites from Mt Gunson, molybdenite from Wolfram Camp, and Queensland erythrite.

Interestingly, Geert and Sue were often seen bidding against each other. Together the car ended up being packed with specimens and journals for the trip home, despite Sue complaining she didn't buy enough. The galena/sphalerite from Kansas saw the highest bid of the night and went to John Mills. Stewart wanted the wulfenite specimen from Mexico badly, and no-one was going to outbid him. A shocked Stewart also came away with the Laos pseudomalachite for \$55, after stating to everyone it was valued at least \$400.

Stewart's workmate, Graham, came away with a large number of specimens, including the chalcopyrite and siderite on calcite from China, the beautifully crystallised erythrite from Morocco, pyrite with great provenance from Moonta SA and sphalerite/quartz from Kosovo which saw people almost fighting each other to put in bids. The sharp Russian cuprite on silver micro also went to Graham, despite Bert trying to buy back his own specimen.

In addition, the silent auction at the back of the room contained several specimens, mineral related magazines, and equipment like scales and a microscope.

This was the first MINSOCWA auction I have attended. I am told it was about double the size for lots presented at previous auctions. It was well run, fun, and many specimens went for half the price they would elsewhere. Personally I am over the moon with the small number of rare specimens I came away with.



*Some people will do almost anything to get noticed! Part of the auction crowd, eager to bid.
Photo by Sue Koepke*



*The start of proceedings with Geert, Stewart and John completing preliminary organizational duties.
Photo by Sue Koepke*

Future Meetings

General Meeting on 19th March 2014.

Mikael Siversson will discuss “Fossil Sharks”.

Dr Mikael Siversson is a paleontologist with the Earth and Planetary Sciences Department at the Western Australian Museum. He gained his PhD in geology in 1993 from the Lund University in Sweden and he's regarded by most of his peers as the world's leading authority on Cretaceous lamniform sharks. During his scientific career, Mikael has described one new family, 8 new genera and 17 new species of Cretaceous and Paleocene sharks and rays.

General Meeting on 21st May 2014.

Marcus Sweetapple will talk on “Triplite, Triphylite, Triploidite; to Trip the Phosphate ‘Lite’ Fantastic”.

Proposed Change of Time of General Meeting

Following on from comments that the current meeting time, the third Wednesday of the month, clashed with other club and society meeting times, members were requested to indicate preferable alternate days. The outcome of this will be discussed at the next General Meeting on March 19th.

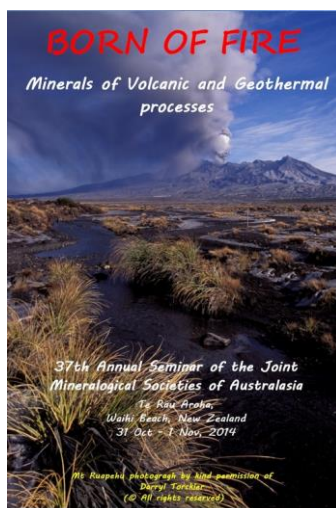
Future Events

Information on the 37th Annual Seminar of the joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia to be held in New Zealand on October 31st and November 1st 2014 is attached below.

Born of Fire **Minerals of Volcanic and** **Geothermal Processes** 37th Annual Seminar of the joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia

Oct 31th & Nov 1st 2014

Presented by
the



Venue

Te Rau Aroha, Waihi Beach, New Zealand
(Dorm accom. available – sleeping bag and pillow req'd)

Registration fee: \$80

Full time student: \$40

Fees include lunches and morning and afternoon tea.

Please register by 31 August 2014.

Note credit cards cannot be accepted.

Seminar Dinner:

Friday Oct 31st 7 pm **\$30**

NZ Micro-Mineral Symposium 24-28th Oct **\$100**

Programme:

Tuesday October 28th Free day (possibly extra fieldtrip)
Wednesday October 29th Field trip to Tairua mordenite loc and Thames
School of Mines (TBC)
Thursday October 30th Field trip to White Island (TBC)
Friday October 31st 9.00 am - 9.30 am Registration
9.30 am - 5.00 pm Sessions 1,2,3&4
7 pm Seminar dinner
Saturday November 1st 9.30 am - 12.30 pm Sessions 5 & 6
1.30 pm – 4.30 pm Micromounting,
Minerals sales and displays

E-mail and phone contact: pincha@ihug.co.nz

Rod Martin 09 4445 463

SEMINAR/SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) for badge(s):	.....	
		
Society/Club/Association:	.....	
Address:	.....	
		
		
Telephone:.....	E-mail:	.....
Full registration:	No@ \$80	.....
Speaker registration:	No@ \$0	.....
Student registration	No@ \$40	.....
Seminar dinner	No@ \$30	.....
Seminar accom. (x2 nights)	No@ \$40	.....
Field trip accom. (x3 nights)	No@ \$60	.....
NZ Micro-Mineral Symposium	No@ \$100	..... (4 nights incl food & accom.)	
Total:		\$	

Contact: **Micro-mineral Symposium/Joint Seminar**

Address: C/- Rod Martin
 5 Odette Rd
 North Shore City, 0629

For NZ participants, payment can be made either by
 payment into the Symposium's bank account (Kiwi Bank)



Glenfield
 New Zealand
 cheque, or by direct
 via the internet.

Privacy Act

The Privacy Act 1993 requires that your consent be given before your name and email details be published in the list of delegates, either for distribution to fellow delegates or any other party. If you **DO NOT WISH** your email details be included in the list of delegates, please sign below.

Items of Interest

International Year of Crystallography, 2014.

Check this out on the web. Organized jointly by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Union of Crystallography.

New Members

Stephen Turner, Trudi Segura and Alastair Ussher had their membership applications approved at the February Committee meeting.

Committee Meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 15 Colin Grove, West Perth on Saturday 15th March, 2014 at 10am.

Field Trips

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.

Planned events for the beginning of 2014 are as follows:-

March 16th. Moora Quarry.

April 18th to 21st. Easter trip to Paynes Find.

Please register with Minsocwa Field Trip organizers prior to attending any of the field trips to confirm event details.

Committee Members

The following are the committee members.

Committee Members	
Stewart Cole - President ph 0414 904 169	Nimal Perera - Social Officer/Field Trips Leader
Sue Koepke - Secretary ph 0417 990 688	Vernon Stocklmayer-Newsletter Editor ph 92919043
John Mill – Treasurer ph 0411420921, 92934664.	Ida Newton
Geert Buters - Vice President	
Society e-mail addresses	
All correspondence (excluding the newsletter): minsocwa@hotmail.com	
Mineralogical Society WA Newsletter : minsocwa.newsletter@hotmail.com	
Website: www.minsocwa.org.au	

Ken Ireland retired as Treasurer but will remain as Webmaster. John Mill is the new Treasurer.