



Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc.

November 2014 Newsletter.

Contents.

	<u>Page</u>
Editorial	1
Recent Activities	
- Annual General Meeting on 17 th September, 2014	1
- Mineral Photography Workshop on 19 th October	4
Future Meetings	5
Other Items of Interest	5
38 th Annual Seminar of the Mineralogical Societies of Australasia	6
New Members	7
Committee Meetings	7
Field Trips	7
Committee Members	7

Editorial.

The door prize at the Annual General Meeting held on 17th September 2014 was donated by Stewart Cole and won by Susan Stockmayer.

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

Recent Activities.

The General and Annual General Meetings of the Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Incorporated are currently held at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of every second month at the WA Lapidary Club rooms located at 31, Gladstone Road, Rivervale (corner of Newey Street).

Note that, as from January 2015, General Meetings will be held on the **second** Wednesday of every second month, commencing on the 14th January 2015.

Annual General Meeting on 17th September, 2014.

After the meeting Susan and Vernon Stockmayer spoke on "A Geotourist in Namibia".

Susan and Vernon Stockmayer, both geologists, have made several visits to Namibia over Mineral Society Of Western Australia Incorporated. November 2014 newsletter.

the last decade or so looking at the geology, mineralogy, geomorphology and wildlife in this fascinating country.

Namibia, with an area of nearly 850 000 sq. km and a population of around 2 million, lies on the west coast of Southern Africa between South Africa and Angola and to the west of Botswana. It is mostly arid to semi-arid with the only perennial rivers, the Orange, Kunene, Okavango, Zambezi and Chobe marking international boundaries with neighbours.

It is this relatively low rainfall and small population that have restricted extensive commercial farming allowing, instead, for huge tracts of virtually pristine vegetation providing abundant food and habitat for a large mammal population. Tourism and mining (diamonds and uranium) provide the main source of income for the country.

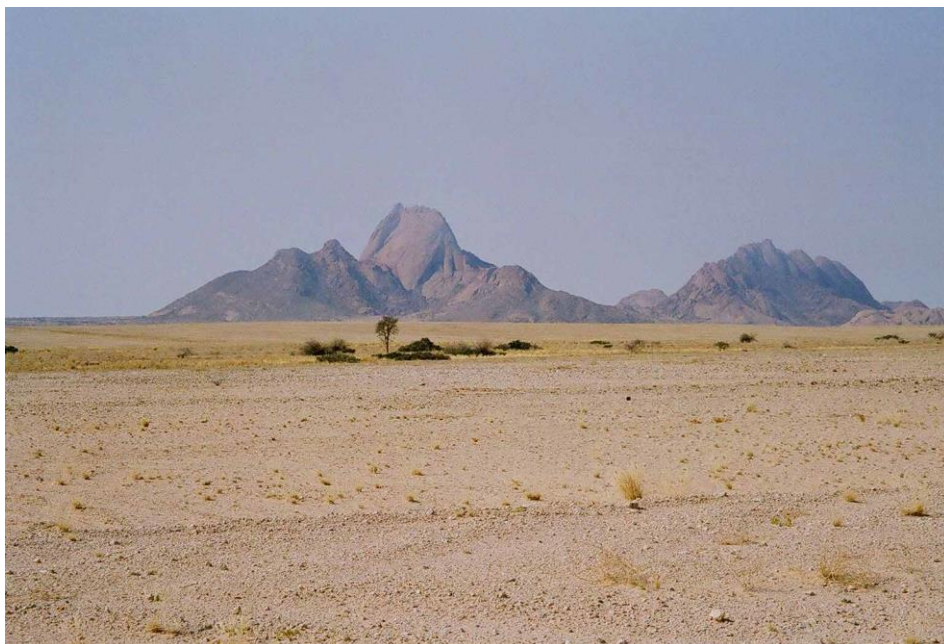
The photographic tour began in the stark country of the Luderitz area in the south where diamonds are recovered, both offshore and onshore, from reworked fluvial material transported down the Orange River. Much of this area has restricted access but the old ghost town of Kolmanskop (the site of the first diamond discovery in 1908) can be visited.

Moving northwards past spectacular scenery where unconformities can be traced for tens of kilometres, one arrives at the Fish River Canyon which is second only in size to the Grand Canyon of the USA.

The Fish River Canyon, Namibia



The famous Namib Desert extends for some 1600 km with the better known area of mobile dunes of fine red sand extending northwards from Luderitz to the Kuiseb River immediately south of Walvis Bay. Access into this part of the desert is via the ephemeral Tchaub River which debouches into the salt and clay pan known as Soussesvlei, a well-known tourist area.



Klein Spitzkoppe

Granite inselbergs rising abruptly out of the surrounding plain.



Klein Spitzkoppe

Roadside mineral sellers with a large variety of generally bruised or otherwise damaged mineral specimens. Prices are low but quality is poor.

Inland from Swakopmund is a large area around the small towns of Usakos and Karabib that contains numerous pegmatites as well as a series of igneous intrusions possibly formed by the African continent moving over the Tristan da Cunha hot spot. The pegmatites provide magnificent samples of green and watermelon tourmaline as well as aquamarine whilst the igneous complexes, such as Spitzkoppe, are the sources of numerous minerals such as blue topaz, fluorite and jeremejevite ($\text{Al}_6\text{B}_5\text{O}_{15}(\text{F},\text{OH})_3$).

North of the Karabib-Usakos area lies the Etosha Pan, a huge salt pan lying within one of the largest and most famous game reserves in the world. The small black dolomite hill at the Halali Camp exhibits classic elephant-skin weathering.

To the south-east of Etosha is the Tsumeb Mine that, unfortunately, has been closed for some 20 years. Over the years, this base metal, underground mine has supplied mineral collectors with beautiful specimens of copper, lead, zinc and vanadium ores. Tsumeb is most famous for its fantastic azurite crystals.

The Waterberg Plateau comprises virtually flat-lying Karoo sandstones forming a discrete steep-sided plateau rising sharply from the surrounding virtually featureless plain. Because of its isolation and high, steep sides the plateau is used to protect and breed endangered animal species.

The tour ended with photographs of two meteorites; the larger, Hoba, in-situ at Grootfontein and a group from the Gibeon strewn field, on exhibition in the capital, Windhoek.

Mineral Photography Workshop on Sunday 19th October.

Thanks to Bert Macray for the following report.

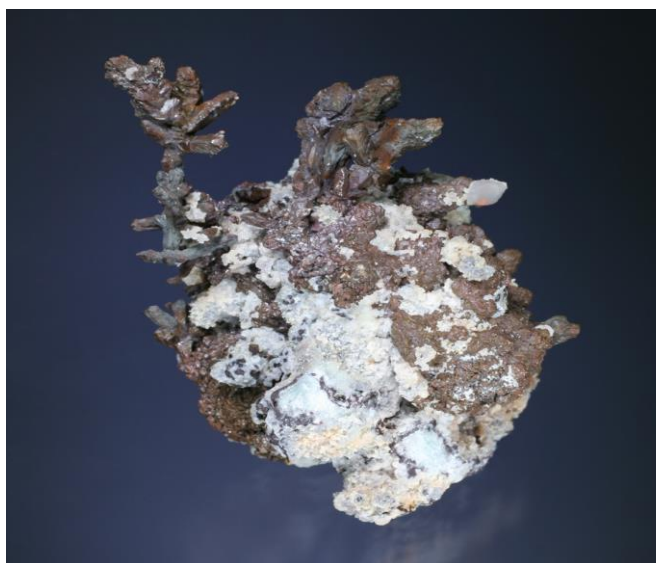
The photography workshop run by Juan Fernandez Buelga of Spanish Minerals on Sunday 19th October focused on the photography of the more visible minerals and their crystalline forms.

From the use of a simple DIY glass topped platform to inexpensive LED lighting bought on the internet, Juan showed Minsoc members how to create an affordable set up to maximise the potential to create quality photographs of their specimens.

Through trial and error, the careful adjustment of lighting with the aid of numerous reflectors creates controlled reflections to highlight the crystal faces. This aspect was clearly demonstrated to us as a black tourmaline crystal transformed in appearance on the stage resulting in a truly fine photograph.

The workshop was well attended and both novice and more seasoned photographers gained valuable knowledge from a very experienced photographer. Thanks Juan!

Examples of photographs of mineral specimens.



Native copper from DeGrussa.

Sample courtesy of the Rock Shop



Quartz crystal.

Sample courtesy of Sue Koepke

Future Meetings.

General Meeting on 19th November, 2014.

After the General Meeting Kirsten Rempel from the Department of Applied Geology, Curtin University, will discuss “Gold Transport in Hydrothermal Fluids”.

Other Items of Interest.

Information Required.

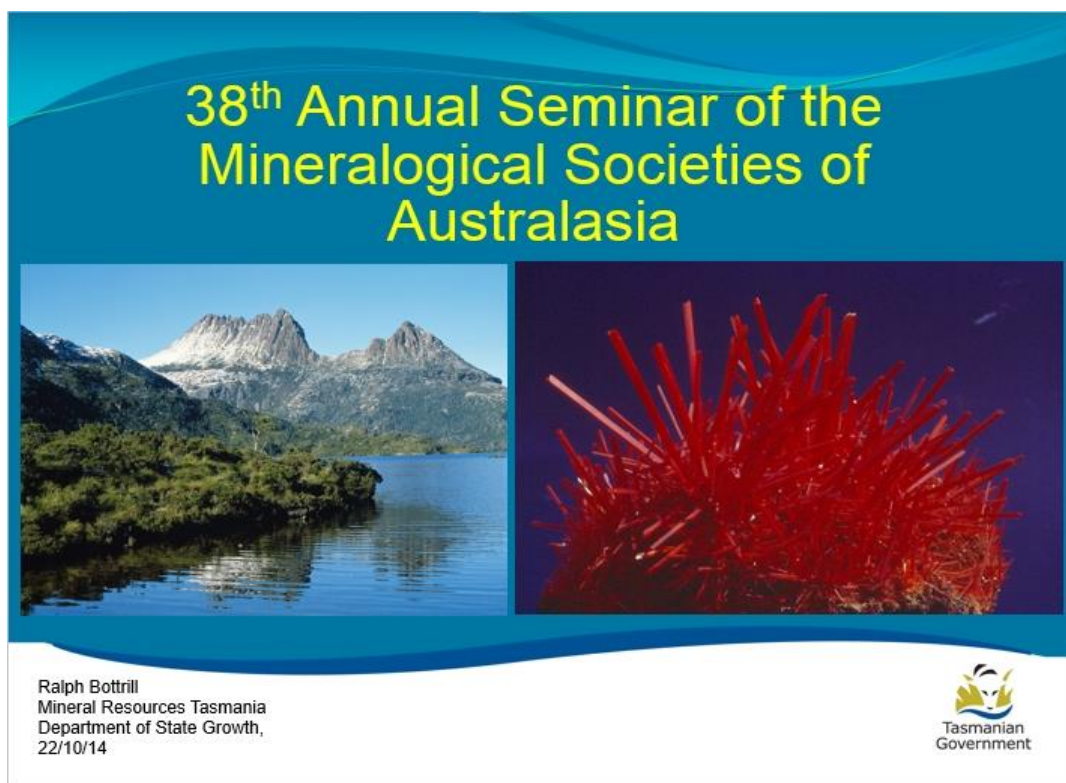
The Geological Survey of Western Australia has advised that the reprint of the bulletin “Gemstones of Western Australia” has nearly sold out. Rather than do another reprint they are considering a second edition, modifying the present volume and incorporating new data such as an index. If anybody has information that can be used, could they please contact the Newsletter editor? We are looking for items such as:

- Errors that can be corrected
- Gemstone types not yet mentioned
- Gemstone localities not yet mentioned
- Corrections to GPS or similar locality data

Please remember that we are dealing with material that has been used to make items of jewellery or small *objets d’art* and not mineral specimens as such.

38th Annual Seminar of the Mineralogical Societies of Australasia.

Allan Hart supplied the following information on the next Annual Seminar in Tasmania.



38th Annual Seminar of the Mineralogical Societies of Australasia

Ralph Bottrill
Mineral Resources Tasmania
Department of State Growth,
22/10/14

Tasmanian Government

The slide features a blue background with a white wave-like border at the top and bottom. The title is in large, bold, yellow-green font. Below the title are two images: on the left, a landscape with snow-capped mountains and a lake; on the right, a cluster of bright red, needle-like mineral crystals. The contact information and logo are in the bottom left and right corners respectively.



Tasmania
November 2015

Venue: Grindlewald Conference centre,
Launceston, northern Tasmania

Dates: 1/11/2015-12/11/2015

Tasmanian Government

The slide has a blue background with a white wave-like border at the top. The title is in large, bold, light green font. Below the title is the venue and dates information. To the right of the text are three images: an aerial view of a bay with a white beach, a close-up of orange and green mineral crystals, and a close-up of dark, angular mineral crystals. The contact information and logo are in the bottom right corner.

New Members

The Committee accepted the application for membership made by Elisa Wood-Ward.

Committee Meetings

The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 29th, 2014. Meetings are held at 15, Colin Grove, West Perth.

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.

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 minsocwa committee members for the forthcoming year.

President	Stewart Cole	0414904169
Vice President	Ida Newton	
Secretary	Sue Koepke	0417990688
Treasurer	John Mill	0411420921 or 92934664
Field Trip Leader	Juan Fernandez Buelga	0416316321
Newsletter Editor	Vernon Stocklmayer	92919043
Member	TBA	

Society e-mail addresses are:

All correspondence (excluding newsletter)	minsocwa@hotmail.com
Mineral Society of WA Newsletter	minsocwa.newsletter@hotmail.com
Website (Ken Ireland)	www.minsocwa.org.au