



# Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc.

## July 2015 Newsletter.

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### Editorial.

The door prize at the General Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May was a gypsum var. selenite crystal cluster from WA, donated by Stewart Cole and won by Dragan Ilic.

At all meetings the Society's microscope and UV lamp are available for use by members.

The Society has a library from which members may borrow free of charge. The library is housed at Stewart's office in West Perth, and the catalogue is available from the Secretary.

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.

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

#### **General Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.**

After the meeting, members and guests were treated to a double-header with two talks

presented by fellow members.

Firstly, John Mill spoke on “My excellent Tucson adventure – how those Yankees took all my money, and filled my bags with rocks”. This was followed by Clive Daw talking about “A Prospector’s Perspective”.

John Mill graduated with a Fellowship Diploma in Geology from RMIT in 1970 and completed a Master of Geoscience at Macquarie University, majoring in mineral economics, in 1986. He commenced employment with Metals Exploration NL and after working for some 20 years as a geologist throughout Australia and in Zambia, he purchased Bedshed Balcatta in 1989 in a career changing move but retained an active interest in geology as a contractor/consultant for various companies. John is now retired but maintains a keen interest in geology, travel and landscape gardening.

Clive Daw, from a farming family, was born in Cottesloe in 1936 and educated in Perth and at the Denmark School of Agriculture. He spent the first ten years of his working life in the agricultural industry, but the next 15 years saw him in a range of jobs including earth moving, road haulage, mining and prospecting, the last of which took him as far afield as Russia and the USA and involved a wide range of mineral resources. The following 23 years he spent as a building engineer, property and asset manager. Clive has been a full-time professional prospector since the start of the nickel boom in 1965, and worked extensively in the Yilgarn as well as in the Kimberley and Pilbara. He remembers the early days well.

Thanks to Jason Bennett for the following summary.

The club members and guests at the general meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 were treated to two talks by two of its well-known members. First up was our Treasurer, John Mills, who gave us an account of his recent trip to the USA and the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. The ‘Tucson’ event is a collection of around 40 shows, over two weeks. This year it was from the 1<sup>st</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> of February, and John was there for the last four days (the climax). John estimates that he saw only a quarter of all of the shows on offer over those four days, with specimens ranging from US \$15 to \$175,000. Everything was available, from minerals to gems to fossils to table tops! Lots of beautiful cabinets were on display as well. John then showed us some photos from his trip through Arizona afterwards, and the tourist sites on offer.

Second up was Clive Daw, who gave us an account of his experiences as a prospector in WA over the last 50 years. His talk began with a history of the first discovery of nickel in the eastern goldfields, which then transpired into a nickel boom starting in 1965. Clive was quick to the scene, and started pegging claims where he identified ultrabasic rocks in outcrop using a compass and a 1:250,000 topographic map. Clive managed to place some successful claims early on, which allowed him to use some light aircraft to access more remote places. Clive must have nine lives, as I lost count at the number of incidents and near crashes Clive recounted! We also heard about political intrigue, court cases, thieves and other dishonest prospectors.

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Both John and Clive had some samples to show us after their talks. Thanks John and Clive for an informative evening!

### **Activity Night on 3<sup>d</sup> June, 2015.**

The committee is currently researching the idea of purchasing a 'pre-loved' Hand Held X-Ray Fluorescence device for use of the club members, and on field trips. As many members may not have seen, or heard of, one of these devices, we have arranged for one to be available as a demonstration at this activity night.

In a nut-shell, XRF technology determines the chemical composition of a sample, without any destructive methods! Geert provided an article in our last newsletter, where he used it to identify some elusive pegmatite minerals, for further reading.

The Society's Leica microscope and UV lamp was also available for use.

About a dozen members and friends spent the evening having samples analyzed by Jason, examining micromounts and using the Leica microscope which now seems to be working correctly.

The results from the XRF testing were a bit disappointing and inconclusive and it is apparent that considerably more evaluation would be required before an informed decision can be made whether to purchase one.

### **Future Activities.**

#### **General Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.**

The General Meeting has been CANCELLED.

### **38<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar of the Mineralogical Societies of Australasia.**

Hi All

The Registration form for the **Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia 38th Annual Seminar to be held in Northern Tasmania in November 2015** is now available on the website at

<http://tasmanianlapidarymineral.weebly.com/joint-australian-mineralogical-societies-seminar-tasmania-2015.html>

Registrations with full payment required by 31/8/15.

### **Committee Meetings**

The committee meetings are scheduled to be 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	

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Website (Ken Ireland)	<a href="http://www.minsocwa.org.au">www.minsocwa.org.au</a>