



Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc.

Jan-Feb 2016 Newsletter

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Editorial

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the New Year! 2015 was a highly successful year for the society, with the amazingly generous Degruessa field trip, and a series of fascinating talks delivered following our general meetings.

The committee is working hard to make 2016 just as exciting. We have lots of events that we are currently planning, and these will be communicated as soon as they are confirmed.

I would also like to remind anyone who has not yet completed the quick questionnaire on the newsletter to do so as soon as possible. I will have a few copies at the next general meeting, and I will close the online version on the 20th January. I have received 9 responses at the time of writing this newsletter... come on everyone! Again, [here is the link to complete it online](#).

See you all at the next meeting,

Jason

Reminders

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, commercial advertisements will be accepted for a nominal charge.

New Members

At the first committee meeting for the year, Rodney Berrell was accepted for membership. Welcome Rod! We hope to see you at the next General Meeting!

Carbon Mineral Challenge

You may have noticed an email from Sue Koepke just before Christmas, forwarding on an email inviting us, as a mineralogical society, to join the Carbon Mineral Challenge. The idea is to find and identify as many of the 145 carbon bearing mineral species estimated to remain undiscovered by 2019. You can read more about it [here](#) and [here](#). So, when you are out bush over winter, keep your eyes peeled for anything that looks unusual!



Ultrasonic Cleaner

John Mill has just purchased an ultrasonic cleaner from Supercheap Auto for \$107.00. It is a plastic model with a number of functions but probably not quite as robust as the stainless steel professional models. John has cleaned up some of his Degussa specimens with some success and is very happy with the purchase. Sue Koepke has also purchased the same model, and has posted some pictures on facebook for those interested.

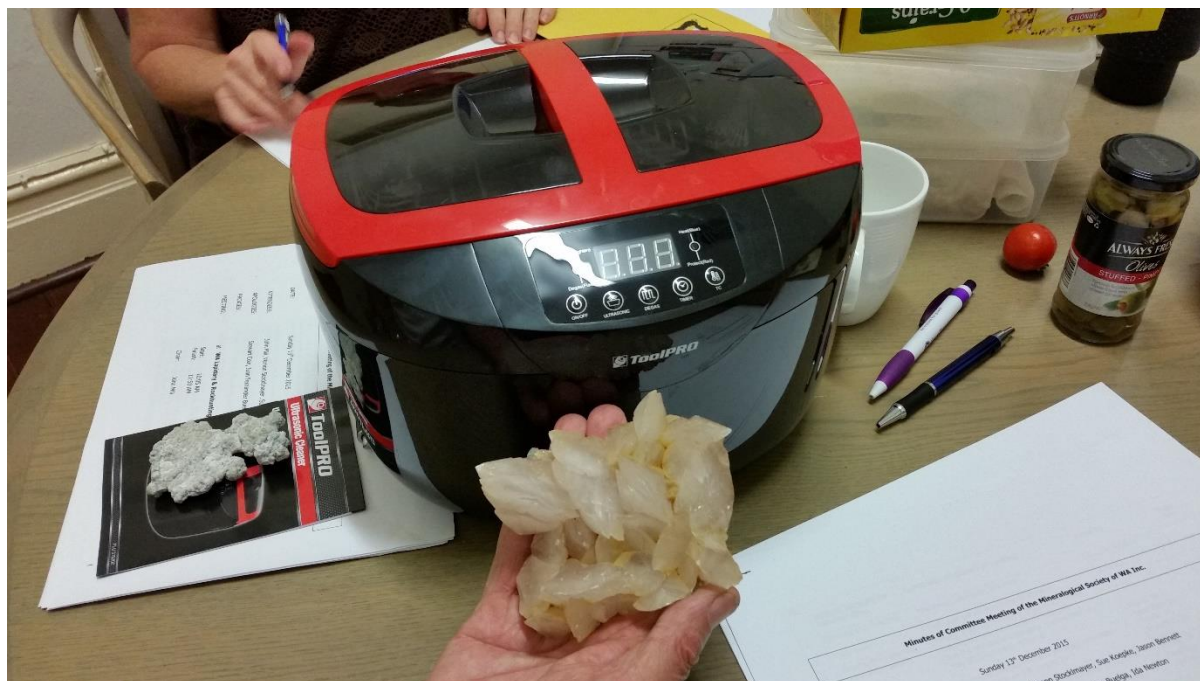


Figure 1: A very happy John with a very clean selenite cluster, and the rather smug cleaner in question.

Sue also mentioned that it was suggested to her to devise a hanging basket, rather than to use the plastic tray that it comes with. This is because the transducers are glued on to the underside of the bucket, and reducing vibrational contact with the base should increase longevity.

It should also be noted that our esteemed President commented that the usual commercial ultrasonic cleaners are available online for a similar price. The editor notes that these are, however, *ugly*.

Recent Activities

Activity Day – Sunday 13th December 2015

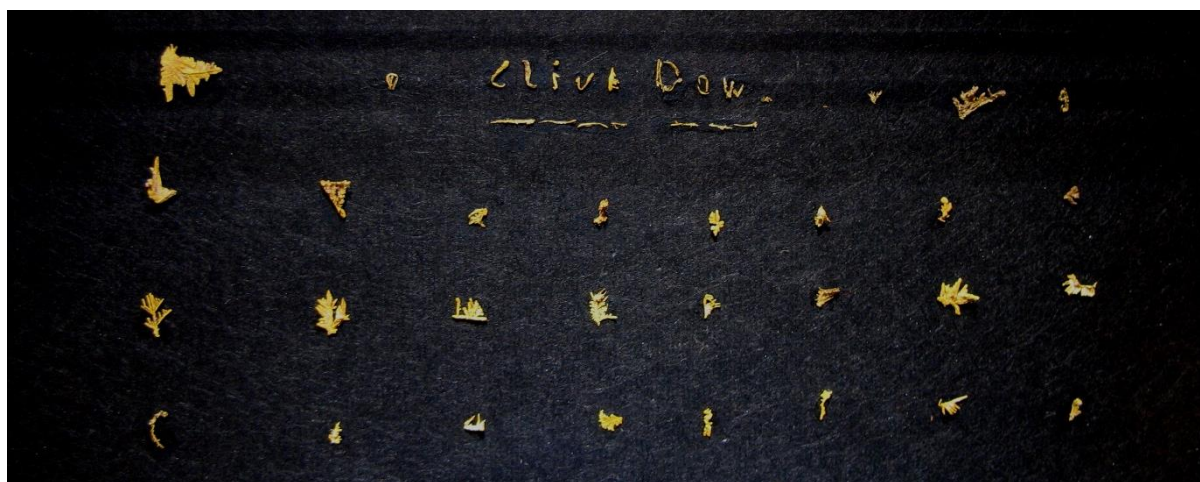
Summary by Jason Bennett

The final activity day for the year was well attended. There was lots of lively discussion and show and tell, as usual. A clear highlight from the day was Clive's collection of gold crystals from Donnybrook, WA. The original idea was to start preparation of an article on DeGrussa minerals, collected from our trip last year. However, due to the author's distractibility (Ted had his putnisite collection available for appreciation....) not much happened on that front. It was noted though, that more work is required to process, sort and mount the material collected from the trip, and that we all need a bit more time to get our collections in order.

All in all, an excellent end to the year!



Figure 2: Our highly esteemed editor (right) clearly not working on an article as he said he would.



*Figure 3: No Prizes for guessing the owner of these beautiful fern gold crystals from Donnybrook, WA.
(FOV is about 5cm from memory)*



Future Activities

Many activities for the year are still in planning, please pay attention to the website, your emails and social media for further updates leading up to the events.

General Meetings

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 odd month at the WA Lapidary Club rooms located at 31, Gladstone Road, Rivervale (corner of Newey Street).

Wednesday 13th January: Activity Night - Pseudomorphs

The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th January at the WA Lapidary Club rooms. There will be no speaker following this meeting, rather an interactive activity night with a focus theme of PSEUDOMORPHS. Bring along your pseudos, the trickier the better!

Wednesday 9th March: Speaker - TBA

We are currently awaiting confirmation for the speaker for March, but as usual the meeting will be held at the WA Lapidary Club rooms, on Wednesday 9th March.

Activity Days

Tuesday 26th January: Welcome to 2016/Australia Day BBQ

A separate email invitation will be sent for all members to come with their partners, for a barbecue and to observe the Australia Day fireworks display.

Date TBA January: WA Museum Welshpool Visit

A trip to see select specimens from the WA Museum's mineral collection housed in Welshpool is also being organised. It will be held on a weekday late morning and should be finished by lunch time. Details will be emailed to members once confirmed, places will be limited so it will be a first-in best-dressed scenario.

Date TBA February: Speaker - TBA

The activity night planned for February has been moved to January's General Meeting, and we are currently organising a talk for February in lieu of the usual speaker following general meetings. Further details to come.

Contacts

The committee members for FY16 are:

President	Stewart Cole	0414 904 169
Vice President	Ida Newton	
Secretary	Sue Koepke	0417 990 688
Treasurer	John Mill	
Field Trip Leader	Juan Fernandez Buelga	0416 316 321
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