



Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc.

JUNE 2017 Newsletter

Contents

Editorial.....	1
New Members.....	3
2017/18 Annual Membership Subs Due.....	3
Received from other MinSoc's.....	3
Australian Journal of Mineralogy back issues for sale	3
New Subscriptions - Australian Journal of Mineralogy.....	3
Reminders, including MINDAT	4
RECENT ACTIVITIES	6
Talk given Wed 8th March 2017 ... "Variscite and associated phosphate minerals from the Mt Deverell deposit, Milgun Station, WA" – Peter Downes.....	6
Talk given Wed 10th May 2017 ... "Geotourism and virtual tours @ the Geological Survey of Western Australia" – Angela Riganti (for Jean Johnston)	6
Mineral Appreciation Group (MAG) Meeting Sunday 28 th May – Clive Daw's place	7
UPCOMING INTERSTATE ACTIVITY.....	9
40th Joint MinSoc's of Australasia Seminar – Hahndorf, SA - Sep30th – Oct6th 2017	9
UPCOMING MEETINGS AND ACTIVITY DAYS	10
Next General Meeting: Wednesday, 12th July 2017 at 7:30pm.....	10
August activity: Greenbushes Mine FIELD TRIP	10
Future Meetings in 2017.....	11
Contacts	11

Editorial

Hi again, and welcome to the third MinSocWA newsletter for 2017. Time flies and we're nearly halfway through the year already ...so the membership subs are again due for the 2017-18 year. I thought I'd use this editorial to inform members who may not be aware of the presence of a few facebook groups they may not be aware of and might want to join. With the explosion of social media in recent years the mineral collecting fraternity have not been slow to jump on the bandwagon. I still remember what a huge gimmick it was buying a mineral specimen off the internet in 2009 using eBay. How things have changed!



Anyway, back in late 2012 some friends of Pat Gunderson and Nigel Richardson in the Eastern states started a facebook group called 'The Australian Crystals and Minerals Group' [<https://www.facebook.com/groups/australiancrystals/>]. It has now grown to over 14,270 members, although the actual number of active contributors is well under 100.



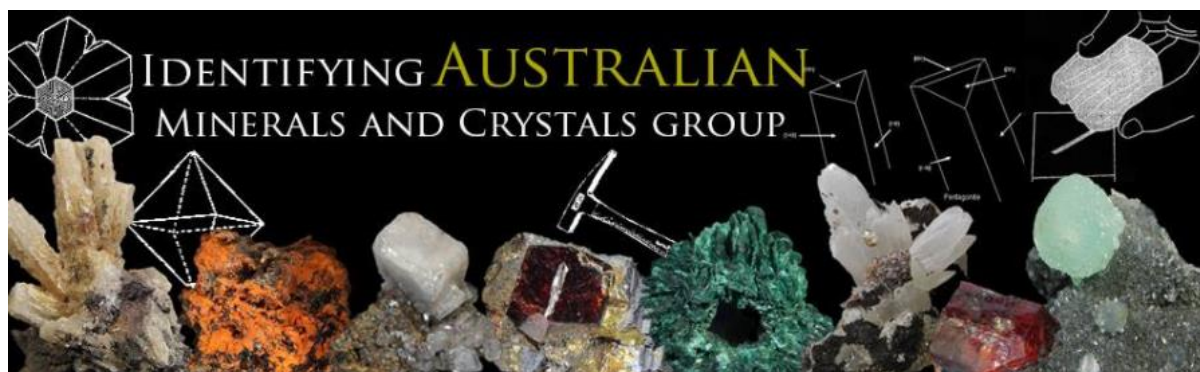
It's a great site to see examples of Aussie mineral specimens, ranging from the very average through to 'the best of the best' of museum-grade specimens. Definitely worth joining (it's free of course).

In its own words ... "The focus of the group is to share information, help/inspire collectors, share photos, news and discoveries that are specific to Australian Minerals in their natural state, please keep your posts related to this. Posts that feature non-Australian minerals will be removed. Whilst we welcome members from all walks of life, please keep discussions and comments outside the realm of metaphysical healing properties of crystals. There are plenty of other groups for such discussions. No lapidary or polished items except cut and polished agates and thunder-eggs."

We experimented with selling specimens on the site, but ended up opting for a dedicated sister-site (also worth joining) [<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ACMsales/>]. Great for the disposal of specimens you no longer want to keep e.g. duplicates.



Another site was created to answer the questions that were coming in requesting help in identifying individual specimens from photos [<https://www.facebook.com/groups/identifyingAMC/>]



regards Craig Bosel – Honorary Editor



New Members

No new members to report since last newsletter, but can advise that our existing financial membership is (a record!) 56 persons.

2017/18 Annual Membership Subs Due

The committee would like to remind members that the annual membership subs are due by the 30th of June. New members please fill in the form on the website. Please use the following account details to pay your annual \$30 renewal into the Commonwealth Bank, whilst not forgetting to put YOUR NAME in the transaction reference. Many thanks.

Account: Mineralogical Society of WA Inc.

BSB: 066 124

Account: 10168786

Received from other MinSoc's

The May newsletter from the NSW MinSoc is now available on their website at http://minsocnsw.org.au/newsletters/MinSoc_Newsletter_May17.pdf

Australian Journal of Mineralogy back issues for sale

A reminder, back issues of the AJM are still for sale at a sizeable 30% discount for a limited time. See Geert Buters at the next MinSoc meeting on July 12th.



Photo Credit: Craig Bosel

New Subscriptions - Australian Journal of Mineralogy

Another reminder, the Australian Journal of Mineralogy Vol. 18 No.1 is in print and coming out this month - 72 pages chock full of all things mineralogical in Australia.

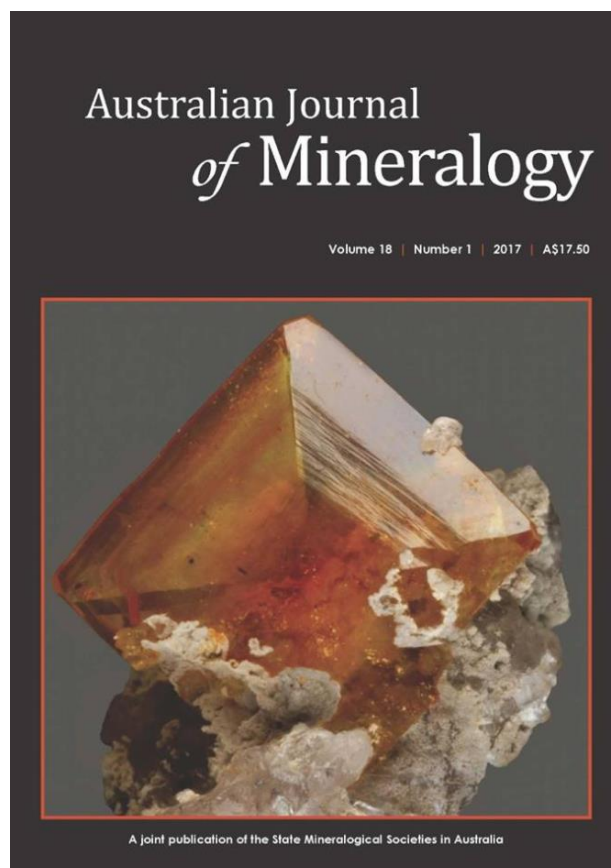
If you want to subscribe, but have not got around to it, please do it now!

A subscription is only \$32 in Australia, or \$39 overseas.

After the subscription mail-out is complete, single copies will cost \$17.50 plus \$9.50 postage and handling (in Australia).

Don't pay \$27 for one issues, get two issues for \$32.

Subscribing is easy – just contact ajm.secretary.treasurer@gmail.com



Reminders, including MINDAT

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 Cole's office in West Perth, and the catalogue is available from the Secretary.

Local member Tom Bateman reminds everyone that the amazing Mindat website has a wealth of information for collectors, including an excellent article by Rock Currier (before his recent passing) on making labels for mineral specimens (not reproduced here for copyright purposes), see <https://www.mindat.org/article.php/1263/Making+Labels+for+Mineral+Specimens> It's incredible how the site has grown. Here are some recent statistics (over 720,000 photos!) ...



Statistics

These stats were generated at 15:06:07 3rd Jun 2017GMT and will be regenerated every 6 hours.

Minerals

Total IMA valid species	5,097
Total synonyms	36,145
Total varieties	1,676
Other	6,938
Total entries	49,856

Localities

Total localities	281,005
Total localities (excluding regions)	240,315
Mapped (coordinates added)	161,883
Mapped (estimated coordinates)	80,728
Total Mapped	242,611
Mapped (coordinates added, excluding regions)	150,600
Mapped (estimated coordinates, excluding regions)	55,017
Total Mapped (excluding regions)	205,617
Percentage of localities mapped	86.34%
Percentage of localities mapped (excluding estimates)	62.67%
Percentage of localities mapped (excluding regions)	85.56%
Distinct users who have added/edited localities	1,251

Mineral occurrence at Localities

Total records	1,015,437
Unique localities with minerals recorded	161,926
Average number of minerals per locality	6.27

Photos

Total number of mineral photos	721,456
Total number of locality photos	55,697
Total number of other photos	24,013
Total photos	801,166
Distinct users uploading photos	2,418
Photo of the Day photos	4,128
Average image size (Mpix)	2.31 Mpix
Total megapixels	1,857,616 Mpix
Average image file size (KBytes)	899.60 KB
Total image file size (GBytes)	689.39 GB

Articles

Total articles	771
Distinct article authors	127

Galleries (User Edited)

Total galleries	717
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RECENT ACTIVITIES

Talk given Wed 8th March 2017 ... "Variscite and associated phosphate minerals from the Mt Deverell deposit, Milgun Station, WA" – Peter Downes

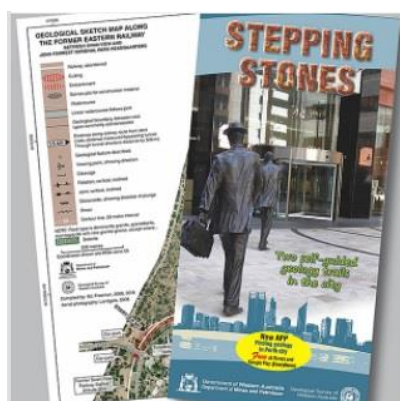


Photo credit: Peter Downes

Unfortunately the Rivervale meeting hall was double booked and already occupied by another group that night, so patron Mark Creasy kindly opened his premises to MinSocWA for the 20 'die-hard' members and visitors who relocated to hear Peter's talk.

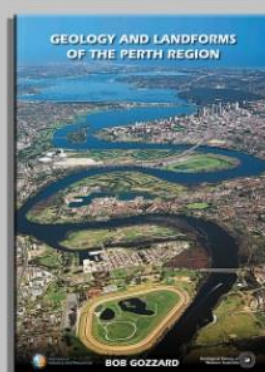
Talk given Wed 10th May 2017 ... "Geotourism and virtual tours @ the Geological Survey of Western Australia" – Angela Riganti (for Jean Johnston)

Geotourism is 'tourism that focuses on geology and landscape as the basis for providing visitor engagement, learning, and enjoyment' (Governing Council of the Geological Society of Australia, 2015). The Geological Survey of Western Australia (GSWA) develops geotourism products that can help the traveller to genuinely experience the magnificent geological heritage of the State. Angela kindly filled in for her colleague at late notice and gave us a good insight into what resources are out there now (some examples below, from <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Geological-Survey/Geotourism-1402.aspx>)



Geological walks

A pamphlet, a map, and an app will guide you on geology walking trails in Perth and the hills.



Geology and landforms of the Perth Region

The Perth Region has coastal landscapes, river-valley landscapes, and forested hilly landscapes that reflect the diverse geology beneath.



Rottneest Island — a geology guide

Rottneest Island tells the story of sea-level changes over the last 140 000 years.



Photo Credit: Craig Bosel

Angela presenting on Geotourism to the members attending the 10th May general meeting

Mineral Appreciation Group (MAG) Meeting Sunday 28th May – Clive Daw's place

Long-time member Clive Daw kindly opened his home in Roleystone for a bunch of us to enjoy viewing his excellent collection and enjoy his family's hospitality on a recent balmy Sunday afternoon. A number of microscopes were set up for the occasion as well. Photos from the event:



Photo credits: Craig Bosel

Clive shows off a favourite WA emerald in matrix whilst Bill takes a break from the microscope



A good time was had by all



Clive's thorough and neatly hand-written labelling was a credit to him. A specimen without a label is regrettable, as locality is important to record for the future and adds value to a mineral collection.



UPCOMING INTERSTATE ACTIVITY

40th Joint MinSoc's of Australasia Seminar – Hahndorf, SA - Sep30th – Oct6th 2017

Please find attached the flyer for the 2017 40th Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia Seminar to be held in the picturesque village of Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills.

Those interested in contributing a presentation at the Seminar can email this address (Ben.Grguric@samuseum.sa.gov.au) and are recommended to copy in the current President of the SA Mineralogical Society, Harold Gallasch (gallasch@bukartilla.com.au).

Please feel free to forward the flyer and invitation to mineral clubs and other interested parties or individuals in your state.



SEPT. 30TH – OCT. 6TH 2017
ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA

40TH JOINT MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES OF AUSTRALASIA SEMINAR

Copper Minerals - Copper State

The 2017 seminar will take place over 2 days, the 4th & 5th of October with various activities including field trips scheduled from Oct. 1st through to the 6th. This will also coincide with the Adelaide Gem & Mineral Club show on Oct. 7th & 8th. Additional field trips are also planned for the 9th – 14th Oct. to the north of the state and to locations and collections in and around Broken Hill.



The Mineralogical Society of
South Australia Inc.
GPO Box 1089, Adelaide, 5001.
<http://www.sa-minsoc.websayle.com.au>



**Noted speakers on
a range of topics**

**Adelaide Gem &
Mineral Show**

Field Trips

**View Mineral
Collections**

Mineral Buy & Sell

**+ loads of other
great places and
activities to check
out nearby !**

The Seminar will be based in the historic German settled village of Hahndorf, only 30 mins drive by car from Adelaide City. A range of accommodation options are available including at the seminar venue. The theme is "Copper Minerals - Copper State" given South Australia's early copper mining history. A list of lectures & guest speakers will be provided in due course. A number of field trips to copper, uranium and phosphate deposits are currently being planned. You could also choose to visit one of the dozens of wineries in the region and there's much more to do and see !!

**FURTHER DETAILS WILL
BE MADE AVAILABLE ON
THE AUSTRALIAN
MINERAL COLLECTOR
WEBSITE**

www.mineral.org.au

OR

**Contact : Harold Gallasch
(08) 8388 7218
gallasch@bukartilla.com.au**

bukartilla.com.au

A draft seminar program is now available. Contact me for a copy if you need it, at craig.bosel@westnet.com.au

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND ACTIVITY DAYS

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

Next General Meeting: Wednesday, 12th July 2017 at 7:30pm

... at the premises of the WA Lapidary + Rockhunting Club at 31 Gladstone Road, Rivervale, WA.
A \$2 door charge applies

Talk Subject and Speaker: 'The Mt Thirsty Cobalt Deposit - WA' – Brad Underwood

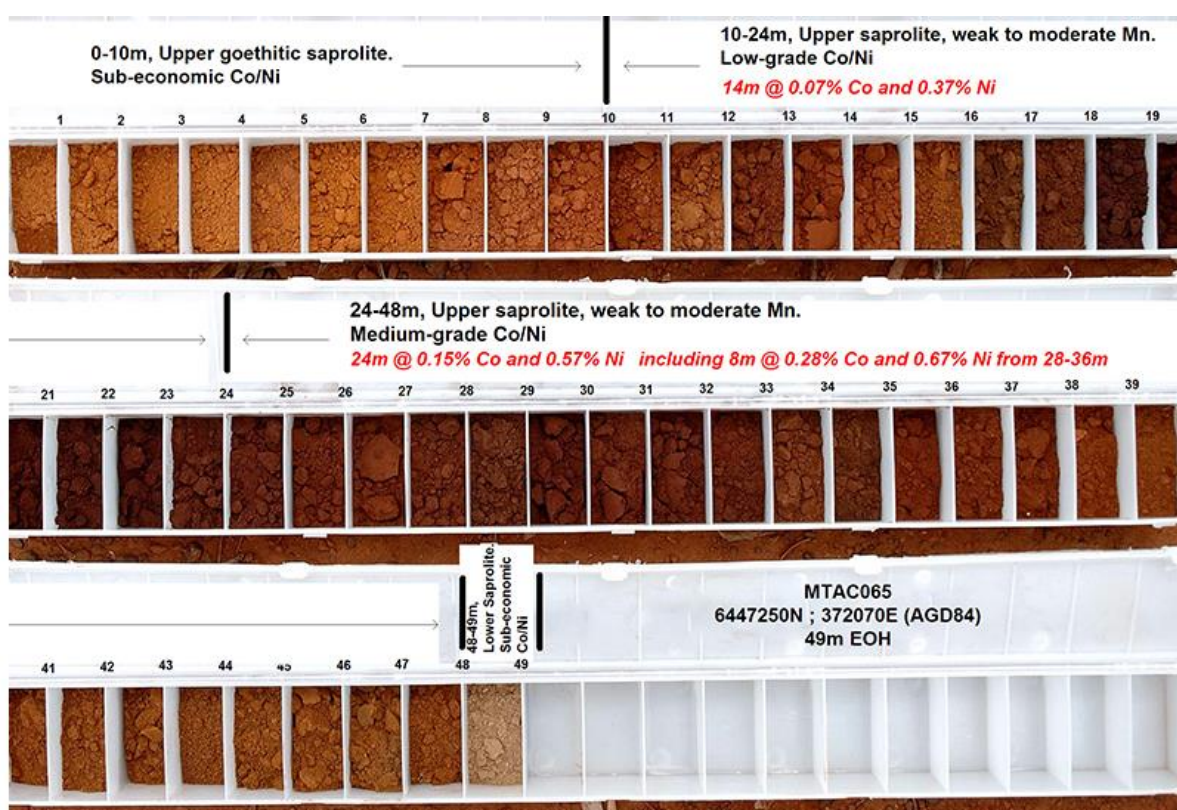


Photo Credit: Craig Bosel

Mr Brad Underwood is a Senior Project Geologist working for Mark Creasy on this deposit and we look forward to hearing more about it.

August activity: Greenbushes Mine FIELD TRIP

Person in Charge: Lee Hassan lee_notebook@msn.com

Date: Monday 7th August, 2017

By now all interested members will have registered with Lee for this field trip and she will be communicating details with all concerned by email.

Please pay attention to the website <http://www.minsocwa.org.au/activities.html>, your emails and social media <https://www.facebook.com/MINSOCWA/> for further updates on coming events.



Future Meetings in 2017

Activity Night: Phosphate Minerals –Show and Tell

Venue: WA Lapidary Club, Rivervale

Date/Time: **To Be Confirmed** but *probably* Wed Aug 16th @ 7:30pm

Person in Charge: Ida Newton idanewton@iinet.net.au

Bring along your phosphate specimens for a relaxed educational evening of show and tell. Examples might include apatite, saleeite, turquoise, carnotite, erythrite, vanadinite, variscite, wavellite, pyromorphite, vivianite, lazulite, xenotime, purpurite, sholzite, etc ... a colourful bunch for sure.

Wed 13th Sept: AGM Speaker: Des Lascelles - 'Mineralogy of Banded Iron Formations'

Wed 8th Nov: Speaker TBA

Contacts

FYI, the committee members for FY17 are:

President	Stewart Cole	0414 904 169
Vice President	Vernon Stocklmayer	08 9291 9043
Secretary	Sue Koepke	0417 990 688
Acting Treasurer	Craig Bosel	0478 633 810
Field Trip Leader	<i>vacant</i>	
Committee Members	Ida Newton Angela Riganti Lee Hassan	



Photo Credit: Craig Bosel

FOOTNOTE: Things were humming along at the recent Annual Exhibition of the WA Lapidary and Rockhunting Club Inc on the opening day (Saturday, 13th June). Plenty of good material was for sale from various vendors including our illustrious former MinSoc Treasurer, John Mill! If you look closely you'll see MinSoc Secretary Sue Koepke perusing one of his specimens. She reported finding a few bargains 😊