



Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc.

JANUARY 2018 Newsletter

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Editorial

This is the first newsletter of 2018 and introduces what is potentially a very busy year for members. Western Australia will be hosts for the 2019 Joint Mineralogical Societies meeting and, once the conference committee has been established, planning will begin in earnest.

At all meetings the Society's microscope and UV lamp are available for use by members. We finally have our own lockable cupboard located in the Lapidary Club premises and the library will be housed there together with some equipment.

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

The Committee of the MinSocWA take this opportunity to wish all members a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018.

Recent Activities

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).

Ordinary Meeting, Wednesday November 8.

The door prize of holmquistite from Greenbushes, donated by Lee Hassan was won by Angela Riganti.

The meeting was dominated by discussion on emails received from Fred Kapteina, (MinSoc Victoria) and Ralph Bottrill, (MinSoc Tasmania) about the proposed Joint Minsoc Seminar to be held in Victoria in 2018 expressing concern that the Seminar would run at a loss and asking other MinSocs to provide financial assistance and give an estimate of numbers from each state expected to attend. A motion was made that MinSoc WA offer to loan \$1000 to help out. After an affirmative, but not unanimous vote, the Secretary was requested to write to Fred and Ralph informing them of our decision to help out by loaning \$1000.00 as a gesture of goodwill and advising that 5–10 of our members are likely to attend. The letter was emailed to them on the 11th November. At the time of writing this newsletter, MinSoc Vic had arrived at a decision to proceed with the seminar over the 2nd weekend in June. However, they would like a more definite indication of those likely to attend. Please advise Lee Hassan by email (lee_notebook@msn.com) if you intend to go.

The meeting was followed by a short presentation by Angela Riganti who talked on 'Games with Gold: The sad story of Australia's finest gold specimen' on behalf of Tony Forsyth. Tony spent 18 months researching the disappearance of this magnificent gold specimen from the time of its disappearance in 1948, through the hands of several mineral dealers until its final resting place at the MIM Museum in the Lebanon. Efforts to return it to its rightful place at the Australian Museum continue.

The missing, very distinctive gold specimen.

Copied from presentation by Tony Forsyth



The meeting concluded with a short presentation by Allan Hart on the 2017 Joint Mineral Societies seminar held at Handorf in South Australia. Allan provided the following report and photographs.

The mineralogical seminar consisted of 3 days of field trips before the seminar, 2 days of actual seminar, 1 day to swap and sell minerals, 1 day to attend the Adelaide Gem and

Mineral Show and a final day for a field trip to Tom's Quarry near Kapunda, as well as a one week field trip to the Plumbago-Broken Hill area.

On Sunday (1st of October) we went to 2 mines in the Callington area. Before we left we were given handouts describing these 2 sites including a list of minerals which have been found there. On all field trips ample bottled water was available for anyone who wanted it. A minibus and 5 other vehicles (about 35 people) went on this trip. In the morning we visited the Preamimma mine. This was a copper mine with azurite and malachite being found there. In the afternoon we went to the Aclare mine. This was a silver-lead mine. On the day we found galena, arsenopyrite and possibly jamesonite.

On Monday we visited the Milendella garnet fields. Here we found black andradite and green epidote. The best garnets (both in matrix and those weathered out from matrix) that I saw were found by David Aslin. The best epidote crystal that I saw was found by Sue Wearden's grand-daughter (a very keen young collector). In the afternoon we went to the Adelaide Brighton Cement Company quarry near Stockwell to look for barite. Some iridescent goethite was also found. Afterwards we visited David Langridge's mineral sale at Nuriootpa so that people could spend some of their hard earned money to buy mineral specimens. He also had an excellent collection which we were invited to look at.

On Tuesday we went to the Wild Dog uranium mine near Myponga. We were all issued with face masks and gloves so that we could safely handle the material we found. Small groups were allowed to enter the mine and collect specimens of the yellow uranium minerals (mainly uranophane). Afterwards the specimens were tested with a scintillometer for radioactivity – some specimens were highly radioactive. Some of the group were just as interested in the abundant wildflowers found in the immediate vicinity. In the afternoon we went to Little Gorge south of Normanville. Here we split into 2 groups; some went up the scree slope to look for thorium-monazite and other minerals while the rest walked along the beach looking for ilmenite. A key identifying feature of ilmenite is that it is magnetic. On the way back to Hahndorf we had a photo stop at the Myponga reservoir.

On Wednesday and Thursday we had the actual seminar. There were 15 speakers speaking on 16 topics (one speaker spoke twice). The Wednesday was committed to topics on copper while speakers were free to speak on other topics on the Thursday. Some speakers went overtime, however the talks were informative and enjoyable. The annual dinner was a buffet held at the Old Mill Restaurant on the Thursday night. Towards the end of the evening there was an auction of some bottles of wine and a collection of minerals.

On Friday we moved to a smaller room so that people could set up their microscopes while others set up their stalls to buy and sell minerals.

On Saturday there were insufficient people wanting to take the bus to the Adelaide Gem and Mineral Club annual show so we had to make our own way there. This was a good show with a number of local dealers and at least one interstate dealer.

On Sunday a smaller number of people boarded the bus for Tom's Quarry near Kapunda. There were two reasons for the smaller number. First some people had already gone home. Second some people going on the Broken Hill trip had already checked out so they could continue their journey from Kapunda.

Tom's quarry is well known for its phosphate minerals and several of these were found on the day. Also Vince was giving away specimens from Tom's quarry and the surrounding area from the back of his car. Many thanks to Vince for his kind generosity. After this we called in to see another collection in Nuriootpa where more specimens were offered for sale.

Monday to Sunday – the Plumbago-Broken Hill trip. I did not go on this trip but from what I have heard those people who went had an enjoyable time. 19 people went on this trip and minerals collected included davidite, thorium brannerite, staurolite, and some copper minerals.

Many thanks to MinSocSA for organising the seminar and field trips.



Preamimma mine – collecting



Green epidote crystals from Milendella



Swap and sell session



Tom's quarry- searching for phosphate minerals

Stepping Stones, Saturday October 29.

Angela Riganti advised that six people accompanied her on the Stepping Stones activity on 29th October. Only two of these were from the MinSocWa; the remainder were from the WA Lapidary Club.

All of the details of this interesting foray into the history of Perth through its architectural materials were given in the October, 2017 newsletter.

Mineral Sale, Sunday December 3.

The mineral sale on Sunday was a big success with 20 members, 63 adult visitors and many children attending. There were nine stalls with a wide range of mineral specimens, crystals, cut and polished slabs, tumbled stones and handcrafted solid opal. Back issues of the AJM were also on sale. Whilst many of the specimens were for the serious collector and priced over \$100, there were plenty of polished stones and crystals priced within the budget of the

many children who attended and they all seemed happy with their purchases. Some visitors also made use of the microscope, Geiger counter and UV lamp that were set up.



Familiar faces at the Sunday Mineral sale. Both photographs by Lee Hassan

Upcoming Meetings and Activity Days

Ordinary Meeting, Wednesday January 10, 2018.

Our speaker for January is Kirsten Rempel, Lecturer at the Western Australian School of Mines, Department of Applied Geology, Curtin University, who will be speaking on “Kalgoorlieite, a new telluride found in Golden Mile ores: Discovery of a mineral”.

Kirsten is originally from Vancouver, where she began her voyage in the earth sciences, and completed a BSc at the University of British Columbia in 2002. She then headed to the French side of Canada, where she earned an MSc and PhD in experimental geochemistry with a focus on the transport of molybdenum in ore fluids, at McGill University. After a brief sojourn as a geologist with a Quebec exploration company in 2008, she began a postdoc at the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences in Potsdam, where she did experiments on subsurface CO₂ storage and metal transport in fluids. She moved to the southern hemisphere in 2012, where she began working as a lecturer in ore deposits at the Western Australian School of Mines, Curtin University. Kirsten’s research has focused on various topics in ore genesis, including experiments on metal transport in aqueous and hydrocarbon ore fluids, as well as studies of the gold deposits around Kalgoorlie, where she discovered a new telluride mineral called kalgoorlieite.

Social Function. Welcome to 2018, Saturday February 3

Susan and Vernon Stocklmayer have offered to hold a “welcome to 2018” social at their house, similar to the ones they had a few of years ago, ie BYO meat and booze, a salad (or pudding) to share and your company. We have a nice outdoor area with a BBQ, a large pool and Susan has all her gemmological paraphernalia (including both gemmological and petrological microscopes) upstairs for those who wish to bring minerals for ID or show off.

Address: 13, Cameron Close, Lesmurdie
Date: Saturday, 3d February
Time: 7pm onwards

Workshop – mineral identification using crushes, February 18.

Susan Stockmayer will run a short duration teach-in using petrological microscopes and demonstrate some techniques used for identifying minerals in a mineral crush. It would only be possible to show about 6 people at a time but Susan is willing to run two sessions (of approx. 2hrs) if there is sufficient interest. Currently, there is only sufficient interest for one session and that will commence at 10am at the Lapidary Club hall (31 Gladstone Road, Rivervale) on Sunday February 18th 2018. Susan would be prepared to run another session if there was interest and, if you would like to take part, please email Susan on nyanga@icenet.com.au (cc to lee_notebook@msn.com).

Susan has two petrological microscopes that she is willing to bring but will need a loan of more petrological microscopes on the day. It does not matter if the microscopes are old. Basic requirements are that the stage must rotate smoothly, the field of view nice and clean, the polarisers must function clearly and the lighting must be reasonably strong. Magnification for most observations is fairly low- less than x100, most microscopes have x5 or x10 eyepieces and a x10 objective is OK. Susan also needs some lamps (even small angle poise type would work OK). If you have a microscope or lamp that you could loan for the day, please contact Susan (cc lee_notebook@msn.com).

Contacts

The new Committee for 2017/2018 is shown below. Please note that the positions of Secretary and Treasurer have again been joined into a single position.

President	Stewart Cole	0414904168
Vice President	Sue Koepke	0417990688
Secretary/Treasurer	Lee Hassan	93975197
Field Trip Leader	Rodney Berrell	0407081025
Newsletter Editor	Vernon Stockmayer	92919043
Committee Member	Angela Riganti	0431 603 165