



Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc.

July 2018 Newsletter

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Editorial

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. The library is currently housed there together with some equipment. To access the books please see the Librarian, John Mill.

The policy that members may submit short advertisements free of charge will remain. Additionally, 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 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 May 9, 2018.

At the meeting it was agreed that the door fee would be increased to \$3 to compensate for the increases in the costs of hall hire and insurance.

After the meeting Sidy Morin-Ka presented a talk on 'The not so Rare earth minerals'.

Sidy joined the Minerals Geoscience Branch of the Geological Survey of Western Australia (GSWA) in 2012 where he undertook research on the hyperspectral characteristics of rare earth elements focusing on mineralization in Western Australia. Currently, he is involved in the development of a platform that delivers information about ore minerals.

Sidy provided the following summary of his talk.

REE are used in many applications and are critical in a lot of technologies such as hybrid and electric vehicle, computers and mobile phones, magnets and catalysts in many industries.

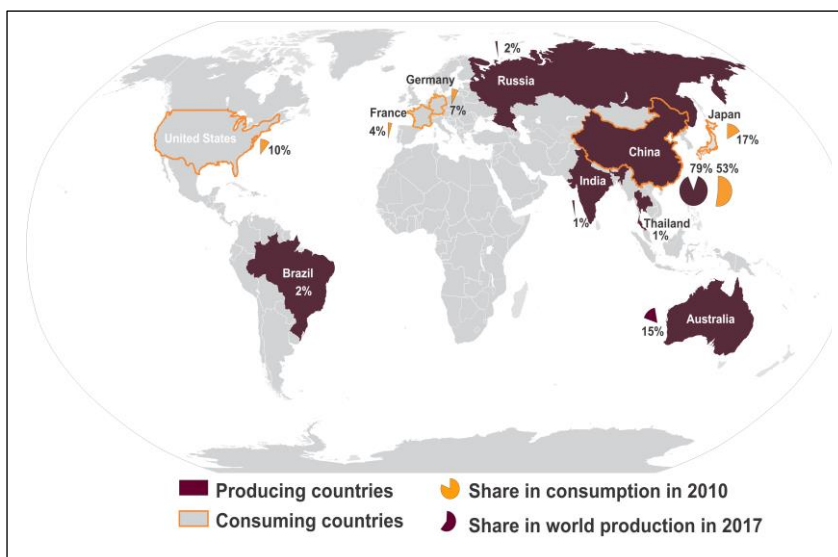
Rare Earth Elements (REE) are 15 elements from the periodic table. They include yttrium and the lanthanides. The name 'rare' is misleading as the rarest of them lutetium is more abundant in the crust than silver or gold and the most common cerium is more abundant than copper and nickel.

REE are often divided in two groups the lights and the heavies, LREE and HREE respectively. The reason is that the REE will segregate in two different mineralogy and behave differently during fractionation. This is due to their difference in atomic weight and radii size. The LREE are more frequent than the HREE and therefore have a lower economic importance.

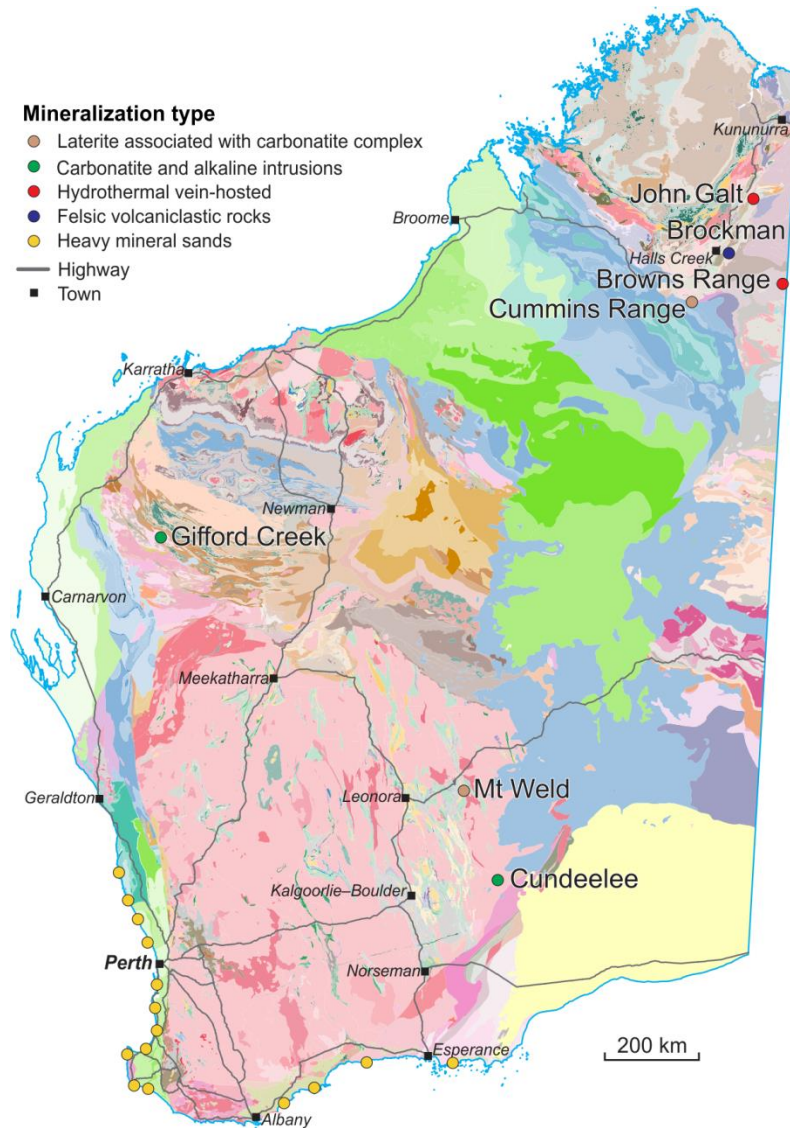
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	39
La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu	Y
138.91	140.12	140.91	144.24	(145)	150.36	151.96	157.25	158.93	162.50	164.93	167.26	168.93	173.04	174.97	88.906
LREE							HREE								

More than 200 minerals contain REE but most are rare and non-economic. Only a handful of REE minerals can be recovered economically; Monazite, bastnäsite for the LREE and xenotime for the HREE, being the most common ones. Also, REE can be hosted in rock-forming minerals where they substitute for major ions, such as apatite.

REE are found all around the world on all continents, however only 5 countries are producing them currently. China almost monopolised the market with 79% of the production and 53% of the consumption.



Australia is well placed as second world producer at 15% and will increase in the near future. WA is the only state in Australia currently producing REE. All the production comes from the Mt Weld deposit and is LREE enriched. In the year coming Browns Range will become the first HREE producing mine outside China.



Upcoming Meetings and Activity Days

Ordinary Meeting, Wednesday July 11, 2018.

Professor Ray Grant will speak on "Wulfenite, Arizona's State Mineral, Arizona Collecting Adventures and new happenings in Arizona minerals".

Ray Grant has a Ph.D. in geology and has retired after teaching geology at Mesa Community College in Mesa, Arizona for 31 years. His published works include articles on Arizona mineral localities, and he is co-author of Mineralogy of Arizona and has started the Pinal Geology and Mineral Museum in Coolidge, Arizona.

New members

Shane Stanfield's application for membership was accepted by the Committee.

Miscellaneous

The AGM of AJM Publications Inc., Ballarat, June 10, 2018

Over the past year the committee has brought our Journal back to bi-annual publication with issues V18.1 & 2. Issue V19.1 will be out later this month, and the editor is hoping to make V19.2 a NZ special issue. While this may give the impression that we are getting plenty of copy, unfortunately that is not the case. We still struggle for content, so please keep sending us your articles.

Final subscription numbers were 382 for V18.1, 375 for V18.2, and currently we are running at 359 for V19.1. That last number will increase, but while we achieved a 30% subscription improvement for V18.1, the momentum did not carry through. Between issues there is an attrition rate of about 30, so we need to find at least that many new subscribers just to maintain numbers.

To promote the journal we have sold AJMs at the Hahndorf seminar, and will be doing so again at today's mineral market. Alan and Joy Longbottom ran a stall for us at the SA Gemboree, and we have been offered a free table at next year's Rockhampton Gemboree. We tried to get a table at the IMA conference in Melbourne in August, but, even after a discount, the fees were beyond ridiculous. Mail-outs are always an effective way of increasing numbers, but building mailing lists does not get easier over time. Anyone who thinks they may be able to assist in that area, please see me after. And, of course, AJM remains very much reliant on the promotion of the journal by the State Societies.

Thanks to strong advertiser support and adequate subscriptions, our publication activity has run at a healthy surplus. Back copy sales have been strong, but unprofitable, because of the cost of storage. By pulping stock and making special offers the stockpile size has been reduced over the year. We have now come to an agreement with one of our advertisers, where he stores the back copies in return for free advertising. The storage cost for next year will be reduced from \$1822 in cash to \$600 in kind.

During the year AJM Publications became a Registrable Australian Business (RAB). ASIC requires any State incorporated body operating outside its State boundaries to be either a company or a RAB. The latter is cheaper and less onerous, so that is the way we went. It means that if ever another State takes over the management of AJM, all they need to do is change the names and addresses. The registration is for ten years.

Our Vice-President, Vernon Stockmayer, is currently updating the Judy Rowe/John Haupt index. The project should be finished by the end of the year, and we are considering various distribution options.

We are also looking at making pdf's of all past issues. Unfortunately we do not have copies of the out-of-print issues, and if anyone can help us with those, we would be most grateful.

And the committee has been considering options for Website development, but more of that later.

To end, I would like to thank my fellow committee members, the board of editors, all our contributors, the many advertisers, and everyone else who did their bit for AJM this year.

Very much thanks to you all, this has been a very successful year.

The Committee remained as:

President / Editor	Peter Downes
Vice President / Assistant Editor	Vernon Stocklmayer
Secretary / Treasurer	Geert Buters
Committee Member / Marketing Manager	Sue Koepke
Committee Member / Publications Manager	Angela Riganti

Planning the Way Forward for Mineralogical Societies

The following was forwarded to all the Mineralogical Societies of Australasia for comment:

“Elevate the profile of Mineral Societies

- Consider establishing an umbrella organisation to auspice state Mineralogy Societies (Societies). (Should NZ be invited to join to make an Australasian Society?) We have the Australian Journal of Mineralogy, why not an Australian Mineralogy Society?
- There is a need for a shared charter and vision
- Consider including as an objective that Societies are committed to protecting Australia’s unique geological heritage through activities such as investigation, identification, documentation, preservation and protection.
- Societies need to lobby politicians to stop mining companies destroying significant mineral and fossil finds. Mining companies have a responsibility to protect our geological heritage. We need to educate and change attitudes. We hear of travesties happening to our mining history, destruction of fossil and mineral finds by mining companies. Should we radicalise by initiating hash tag responses to raise awareness, e.g. #mineralstoo, #fossilstoo, # rockstoo etc. mimicking the #metoo campaign?

Communication

- Embrace modern technology, websites, Facebook, etc.
- Information must be online, up to date and accessible by members. You shouldn’t have to go to a meeting to get information e.g. agendas, minutes, newsletters, field trip info, guidelines?
- Video the talks given at meetings and seminars. Subject to the agreement of the speaker, these can be viewed online, or distributed as a DVD with the AJM or be used in the absence of guest speakers at Societies meetings.
- Write articles for local newspapers to raise awareness of, and interest in Societies

- Members must contribute to keep Societies alive
- Engage with Societies' patrons to encourage them to better promote the important role of Societies
- Demonstrate an intent to publish

Meetings

- The format of meetings may need to change to make them relevant in competition to the Internet
- An increase in the level of attendees will be necessary to make requesting professionals to give talks less embarrassing. Members need to be made aware that someone sitting in a chair at meetings looks better than an empty chair. Members must try to be regular attendees at meetings.
- Meetings must be well organised, run on time, be interesting. Try & get guest speakers, in order to attract new members and hold onto current ones. There must also be time for "junior" members.
- Until larger attendance at meetings can be generated, societies will rely more on members providing talks.
- There is a role for dealers at meetings, either selling and or giving talks.
- The venue must be suitable for good mineral display, i.e., space and lighting.
- Visitors must be made to feel welcome. A chaperon system should be developed to ensure visitors return to become members.
- New members must be encouraged to give a 5minute talk on how they started with minerals, or if not yet, why they joined and what they hope to get from the society.

Membership

- Identify what it is that make the Societies relevant to their members. For example, undertake a "market" survey to find out what members want.
- Benchmark membership in each State.
- Identify reasons for growth or decline in year on year membership in each State. Learn from each other's' successes or failings to identify and implement strategies to retain and increase membership.
- Identify the professions or backgrounds of members e.g. geologists, lapidaries, gemmologists, and target these groups as a source of recruitment.
- Approach mineral dealers for assistance in informing customers of the existence of Societies. In particular, targeting families and encouraging their participation.
- Approach Field Naturalist Clubs (FNC) in Australia to see if they are interested in linking in with Societies. Some FNC have "geology specialist interest groups" and "junior groups".
- Target schools teaching science. Currently, the Federal Government is implementing the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiative in schools. The Western Australia Mineralogy Society is establishing a small group of members who will be available to teaching staff to support implementation of STEM in the area of geology and mineralogy.
- Children these days are tech savvy and you might find they enjoy participating at meetings if you get them to do presentations, and who knows, this may encourage them later on to become members?
- Use the AJM email list to contact people. This may well be a broader group.

Field Trips

- Need guidelines around collecting trips - appropriate behaviours, weight and size limits, leaving no trace behind, respecting the site, avoid exploitation, take out only what you can carry, insurances, attire, gear etc.
- Needs to be a dedicated “field trip” co-ordinator.
- Only a minor part of the role of the ‘field-trip co-ordinator is arranging field-trips. Must maintain:
 - a ledger of collecting sites
 - Ledger should detail site locality, specimen finds, contact details, dates of site visits and a log of phone calls to contact to make sure we aren’t forgotten
 - Contact names, addresses and phone numbers of farmers, property owners, quarry & mine managers, site geologists and other current details.
 - Maintain and cultivate the contacts. Follow up regularly even if not planning a field-trip to their site.
 - Formally request access and send thank you’s as well as feedback about the field-trip.
 - Consider presenting specimens found on the day to the contact if they show interest, or other gift as a token of thanks.
- Consider donating nice specimens collected on field trips to museums and educational institutions. This would aid in heightening the awareness of Societies and could result in these organisations inviting Societies to participate or assist in their field activities.
- Need to remove government barriers, change attitudes of government agencies, to being more receptive to requests from Societies to access sites on Crown Land.
- Need to re-engage with mining companies and farmers. Let them know that Societies still exist.
- Try & get mining companies or quarry operators to put material aside on site for members to go through.

Workshops

- If field trips can’t happen, we need to innovate to keep members interested, e.g. members could bring boxes of material collected years ago for members to go through and keep.
- Micro sessions or a “mineral appreciation” type get together with an emphasis on education
- Specimen trimming, cleaning preparation, cataloguing and labelling. Existing members usually have processing equipment and excess material.

- Mineral photography

Other

Take the lead from Qld where amateurs now support palaeontologists in fossil digs and preparing fossil material for display. Could Minsocs become a group of amateurs who can help geologists, academics, museums etc. with their workload?"

If you have any comments please email them to the editor, Vernon Stocklmayer, at nyanga@icenet.com.au; cc to the Secretary, Lee Hassan at lee_notebook@msn.com. The comments will be compiled and included in the next newsletter and forwarded to Fred Kapateina, Secretary MinSoc Victoria.

Contacts

The 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 Stocklmayer	92919043
Committee Member	Angela Riganti	92437472