



Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc.

September 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 July 11, 2018.

Door prize for July: olivine crystals on fragment of volcanic bomb donated by Stewart Cole.

Winner: Craig Bosel

Professor Ray Grant presented his talk 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; he is co-author of Mineralogy of Arizona and has started the Pinal Geology and Mineral Museum in Coolidge, Arizona.

Ray took us on a pictorial trip around many of the mineral specimen sites that he had visited throughout Arizona especially those that had yielded good wulfenite crystals. Wulfenite is one of Arizona's best known minerals and, on March 22, 2017, was made Arizona's state mineral.

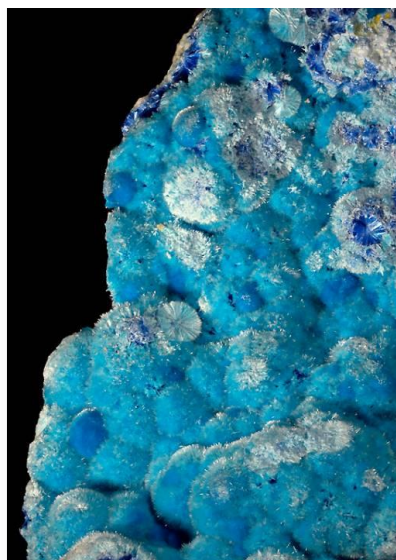
Signs of
Wulfenite,
one of Arizona's
best known
minerals



Photograph from
Ray Grant

Ray took us through numerous mines and old workings including North Geronimo, Hardshell, Grey Horse, Castle Dome region, Hilltop, Defiance, Glove, 79, Rowley, Grandview, Blue Ball, Rawhide, Hamburg and Red Cloud.

Grandviewite
New Arizona Mineral
in Australian Journal of
Mineralogy,
v.14(2), 2008



The Grandview
Mine was the
source of a new
Arizona mineral.

Photograph from
Ray Grant

The talk was illustrated by numerous photographs of magnificent wulfenite crystals as well as others such as vanadinite, smithsonite, cyanotrichite, brochantite and chalcoalumite.

The talk concluded with several examples of the fantastic prices that exceptional wulfenite crystals were traded for with the top price of \$200,000 for a Red Cloud wulfenite specimen.



Giving an idea of the prices requested for excellent wulfenite crystals by dealers.

Photograph from Ray Grant

Upcoming Meetings and Activity Days

Annual General Meeting, Wednesday September 12, 2018.

This is the meeting during which the new Committee is elected. It is time we had some new faces on the Committee and, as all positions are up for re-election, nominate somebody to stand or, better still, get somebody to nominate you.

As you may be aware, all not for profit associations must have a constitution that conforms with the Act by June 2019 and the amended constitution must be approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting or at a specially called meeting. Peter Mackintosh and Lee Hassan have had a go at amending the Model Rules of Association so that they are relevant to the Mineralogical Society of WA. Members were all emailed a draft on 21/08 for comment. These were discussed at our committee meeting on 1st September and we now have a draft constitution that can be voted on at the AGM.

Margaux Le Vaillant will talk on "Droplets and bubbles –how the formation of the supergiant Noril'sk-Talnakh nickel-platinum orebodies in Siberia connects with the greatest mass killing in Earth history".

Margaux Le Vaillant is a research scientist working with CSIRO based in Perth, Australia. Her expertise is in Geology, Ore deposits genesis and footprints, particularly magmatic nickel deposits. She completed her PhD at The University of Western Australia, looking at

hydrothermal haloes around nickel deposits, her Master at Lulea University of Technology in Sweden where she specialized in Mining Exploration, and her undergraduate in France (ENSG - prepa BCPST / St Louis).

Over the past four years Margaux worked on various research projects looking at (1) the physical processes linked to the genesis of magmatic nickel sulphide deposits, (2) the Ni prospectivity of the Eastern Kimberley, (3) the application of automated drill core logging techniques (Tessellation) in nickel systems, as well as multiple projects requiring the use of micro XRF imaging techniques.

Field trip, Friday September 7, 2018

Murray Thompson has now confirmed that the DeGrussa trip will take place on Friday 7th September. As only 13 people could go, priority was given to those who had not been before and a ballot held for the remaining two places. Those going will be flying up courtesy of Sandfire Resources and will have a 13 seater bus to take us around on site.

Those going will need to be at the Network Aviation terminal by 5am for check-in to DeGrussa. At the mine site we will have from 7.30am (plane lands) until 9.30am to have a brief overview of the geology from one of the geologists there. Collecting will be escorted by Sandfire mining and exploration geologists, together with Murray and Barry Kayes (Aradon Pty. Ltd.).

A full write-up of this trip will be given in the next newsletter.

Mineral Sale October 14, 2018

This will take place at the WA Lapidary Club from 10.30 am (9.30 am for sellers) to 1.30 pm. The entry fee will be \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members with children under 12 free. Morning tea ~~would~~will be available for a gold coin donation.

Miscellaneous

41st Annual Meeting of the Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia, Ballarat, June 10.

Angela Riganti provided the following short summary. The full write-up will be in the next issue of the AJM.

'A Golden Age of Mineral deposits and Mineralogy' was the theme for the 41st Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia, held in Ballarat, Victoria, on 9 –12 June 2018.

A cold winter weekend greeted participants to this seminar, but MinSocVictoria and the Seminar's Organising Committee were ready to warmly welcome those who made it to Ballarat. A very well appointed venue, excellent food, a lively market and evening auction (where some WA collectors managed to spend more than pocket money!) were the background to a day and a half of talks on the selected theme. Despite the short leading time to organise this seminar and the unforeseen change of venue at the last minute, the seminar had an impressive array of speakers, touching on many aspects of gold or related mineralogy (see list of speakers and topics below).

The post-seminar field trip to Mount Shadwell was a fair drive from Ballarat but the large convoy that made the journey was rewarded with a very pleasant day and a nice variety of

specimens (largely micromounts). A more detailed description of the finds at this locality will be published in the next AJM.

Congratulations to Fred Kapteina and his team for a well organised seminar!

Speakers and topics were:

Classic localities and well-travelled paths: new discoveries from the Binntal Valley, Switzerland by Professor Joel Brugger
Iron mines in Tasmania and their minerals by Ralph Bottrill
Dookie - Victoria's oldest minerals? by John Haupt
The legacy of the late John Innes: An Australian in Tsumeb by Dr Malcolm Southwood
Diamonds go with gold - but let's focus on diamonds by Dr Stephen Dobos
Observations of a mineral valuer and retailer - specimen valuations, criterion, fakes and other stuff by Anthony Bryan Forsyth OAM
Golden replicas - the historic gold nugget (replica) collection of the Australian Museum by Ross Pogson
Geology of Gold: The collection of Edward Dunn by Dermot A. Henry
Mayor Island, NZ - Review and update of mineralogy by Rod Martin
The Golden Age of Micro Mineral Photography by Steve Sorrell
Planning the way forward by Alan Longbottom

Allan Hart provided numerous photographs, a few of which are presented below.



The conference venue at the Mercure Hotel, Ballarat.

Photograph by Allan Hart



The auction, with Ralph Botterill and Steve Sorrell persuading members to part with their cash for a good cause.

Photograph by Allan Hart



The AJM table with back copies of the AJM for sale. Alan and Geert are in attendance.

Photograph by Allan Hart



Olivine concretions at Mt Shadwell.

Photograph by Allan Hart

Planning the Way Forward for Mineralogical Societies

About 20% of the membership replied to the email inviting comment to notes suggested as a starting point in inter society discussions about the future of our various societies. Comments were compiled into a single document by the secretary and then further synthesised into the reply attached below.

Planning the Way Forward for Mineralogical Societies

General comments

- *Most of the issues highlighted below are not confined to mineralogical societies. In today's world there is too much on offer that we have to compete with. For any society to succeed, it needs to either have unique offerings, or do some things extremely well and better than other groups. The overall comment would be to try a few things but do those well, rather than go off in too many directions at once and dissipate a lot of time and energy pursuing too many initiatives. Personal contacts and unique experiences will still be the winning points, though they require a lot of effort and work – especially when it comes to collecting field trips.*

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 no reason why NZ cannot be part of anything we try to do. However, an umbrella organisation would just add a level of bureaucracy. Who would run it and what would it achieve? Most respondents were against the idea of an umbrella organization.*

There is a need for a shared charter and vision.

- *Most respondents considered this unnecessary as members in different States have different interests so better if States have their own 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.

- *This is already included in the objectives of the MinSocWA constitution and this should be a requisite for all the State Mineralogical Societies. Geological heritage is the preserve of the official Government Departments. In Western Australia, anyone, including a member of a mineralogical society, can nominate a site to be a geoheritage site. Sites recognised nationally and internationally for their geoheritage value can be protected by a State Geoheritage Reserve.*

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?

- *The idea about us as a society lobbying politicians to stop mining companies "destroying" minerals and fossils is a very east coast ideal. If you start to involve yourself in politics to oppose mining company activities, you will soon be regarded as an unwelcome society. Radicalisation is not the answer. It will just generate antagonism and we will end up being lumped with those groups that antagonise mining on 'green' principles - without understanding it but enjoying the lifestyle that mining affords us. It is possible that companies will mine and process interesting minerals during their day to day operations. Rather than lobbying politicians to stop mining companies from destroying significant mineral occurrences, it would be more productive if mineralogical societies approached companies that have mines where minerals of interest could be found in their State and ask that any pockets of minerals differing from their normal run of the mill ore be put aside to be identified to see if they are of significance. In WA we have enjoyed trips to mine sites (Greenbushes and DeGrussa) to collect at their hospitality. Anyway, most of the destruction of significant mineral and fossil finds comes from unscrupulous mineral/fossil collectors and mineral dealers.*

Communication

Embrace modern technology, websites, Facebook, etc.

- *Agreed by all respondents. MinSoc WA does this already. However, regular postings are essential to keep the attention of today's younger generation and Facebook must be*

frequently updated with photos and posts of meetings held; field trips, workshops 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?

- *MinSoc WA already emails agendas, minutes and newsletters to financial members. The latest newsletter is also available on our website. Possibly all relevant information (newsletters, field trip information etc) for all member MinSocs should be distributed to the Secretaries for forwarding to members.*

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.

- *Generally considered to be Impractical and undesirable on the basis of problems with producing an acceptable video, associated costs, lack of expertise, copyright issues and the fact that videoing a talk can make a speaker more nervous. Who would pay for this? What about the majority of MinSoc members who are not AJM subscribers. Would AJM be prepared to do this?*

Write articles for local newspapers to raise awareness of, and interest in Societies.

- *Excellent point, it just takes volunteers with time and it would be more productive to give a talk at an AIG or Geological Society meeting. We have tried society fairs where publicity about the society can be shared with the public; thus far these have not been successful in gaining new members.*

Members must contribute to keep Societies alive.

- *Absolutely. There is a need for more volunteers to stand on committees and more offers of assistance from the "rank and file" Too often people have to be tapped on the shoulder, sometimes repeatedly and, even then, calls for volunteers go unanswered. There does not seem to be an easy solution on how to overcome this.*

Engage with Societies' patrons to encourage them to better promote the important role of Societies.

- *It is not the job of a patron to promote the society activities. It is a bit like asking the Doge to paint his own portrait.*

Demonstrate intent to publish.

- *Yes, in the AJM first. The Journal needs a higher profile overseas, as it could be a conduit for the Mineralogical Societies to be recognised. However, the lack of written material for publication in any medium is a problem of considerable concern. Most people are a bit apprehensive about writing for publication, often considering the value of their possible contribution being too insignificant. We need a "low brow" periodical into which people can put their observations, ideas and whatever for distribution to all MinSoc members.*

Meetings

The format of meetings may need to change to make them relevant in competition to the Internet.

- *MinSocWA has regular meetings that enable members to socialise with one another. At times the evenings tend to run rather late and an earlier finishing time could encourage new members to stay for the social interaction rather than disappearing after the talk.*

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.

- *Members can only be invited to attend a meeting. If the topic is of interest, people will come if they can but not all can make it to all meetings. Get quality speakers and people will attend. "Build it and they will come."*

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.

- *It is up to the society to be actively striving for new members and hold on to current ones. What is a junior member – a child? Herein lies a problem. Membership varies from academics to mineral collectors with an interest in minerals as the common thread. Talks that are too "high powered" and academic are not well received – so generally talks should be pitched at a level acceptable to the majority.*

Until larger attendance at meetings can be generated, societies will rely more on members providing talks.

- *Quality talks are what you need, regardless of who gives them. The more interesting the speaker, the more people will turn up. Members may be able to give interesting talks; after all they have an interest in mineralogy themselves or they would not be a member! The subject matter can cover various subjects related to minerals- preparation, preservation, identification of minerals, photography, practical instruments, mineral collecting and shared sessions helping members with identification of minerals.*

There is a role for dealers at meetings, either selling and or giving talks.

- *Talks and mineral markets are not good bedfellows and selling should be part of a mineral sale or auction separate from a meeting.*

The venue must be suitable for good mineral display, i.e., space and lighting.

- *This is done in WA.*

Visitors must be made to feel welcome. A chaperon system should be developed to ensure visitors return to become members.

- *Making visitors and new members feel at home is very important but do not favour a chaperone system. In WA visitors are welcome at meetings and activity days and committee members do try to talk with all visitors.*

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.

- *Generally disagree as it could be embarrassing.*

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.

- *Yes, MinSocs must be relevant to their members but they generally do not wish to fill out more forms .There is a close link between membership and field trips and when a field trip is planned, there is a renewed interest in the society and possibly more people attend meeting.*

Benchmark membership in each State.

- *The concept is based on the need to know which States are doing well, identify why they are doing so well and, maybe, apply their methods in other States. Over time this data can be used to establish historical trends. Generally, respondents were not in favour of this idea.*

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.

- *Should be done by States individually if there is a decline in membership. There are two main reasons in WA – lack of field trips and lack of opportunities for mineral collectors ie swap and sell days, mineral markets. If States have identified reasons these should be circulated to all member MinSocs.*

Identify the professions or backgrounds of members e.g. geologists, lapidaries, gemmologists, and target these groups as a source of recruitment.

- *WA already does this and it is a good idea as a source of speakers for talks*

Approach mineral dealers for assistance in informing customers of the existence of Societies. In particular, targeting families and encouraging their participation.

- *General agreement. Encourage dealers to be members, their commercial interest provides shared information about best presentation of minerals. No comment as to how this should be achieved.*

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”.

- *Not much enthusiasm for this idea.*

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.

- *Who from MinSocWA is involved in this? I was not aware that MinSoc WA was doing this, it has not been done through the Committee. However, it may be of great benefit for the society to ask for volunteers to give short presentations at high schools and universities within half an hour or so of the club and some members do already have contacts within schools. Remember. we are a small society with limited means.*

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?

- *Children are welcome, but we don't have the programs specifically for them, and we need members who can contribute to the society. Let's not dissipate our energy chasing kids. Children are welcome at activity meetings when minerals and equipment are on sale. They can ask questions at these sessions. If there was interest from members who have children, a workshop could be arranged especially for children.*

Use the AJM email list to contact people. This may well be a broader group.

- *Not sure that AJM subscribers would be happy with having their email shared. The point was raised because that AJM sends emails to state secretaries with the request that*

this be forwarded to their state members, but the reverse does not seem to happen. Up to State secretaries?

Field Trips

- *The issue of limited number of localities that can be easily accessed (whether because of the tyranny of distance or of restricted access) is one of the main drawbacks in attracting members. Finding a solution to this problem is not easy, as guided tours of museum or collections can only go that far to satisfy the fervour of collecting.*

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.

- *This has been done more than once in WA although it may be worthwhile to work towards developing uniform fieldtrip guidelines, rather than each state reinventing the wheel.*

Needs to be a dedicated "field trip" co-ordinator.

- *MinSoc WA already has one*

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.
- *A nice wish list, but let's not overload the volunteer. All a fieldtrip leader has to do to impress me, is organise trips. Who would have the time to do this? In Industry there would be a full-time paid employee to do this.*
 - Formally request access and send thank you's as well as feedback about the field-trip.
 - *The main role of the field co-ordinator must be to obtain the appropriate permissions before going on the trip. This includes contacting the current tenement holder and obtaining written permission to collect from their tenement. This is required by law in WA.*

Consider presenting specimens found on the day to the contact if they show interest, or other gift as a token of thanks.

- *Who would have to give up a specimen for this? WA presented copies of the AJM to the geos who showed us around the Greenbushes mine and gave a certificate of appreciation to the owners of DeGrussa.*

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.

- *This means that specimens collected on a society field trip belong to the society and not to the individual. Not many people, especially those who sell minerals, would agree with this.*

Need to remove government barriers, change attitudes of government agencies, to being more receptive to requests from Societies to access sites on Crown Land.

- *Way out of our brief. Lobbying politicians on behalf of a very small group is a thankless task. We should only set ourselves goals that are achievable. In WA under the Mining Act, people can prospect or look for minerals on vacant Crown land if they hold a Miners Right (which is available from any Mining Registrar's office or over the internet for \$25). To collect minerals on a granted exploration licence, a 40E permit must be applied for prior to entering the land unless written permission of the tenement holder has been obtained. Written permission of the tenement holder is required before prospecting on a granted Mining Lease. These regulations were developed by the Department of Mines to balance the interests of prospectors and mineral collectors with the rights of tenement holders.*

Need to re-engage with mining companies and farmers. Let them know that Societies still exist.

- *This should be done on an informal basis but don't alienate them*

Try & get mining companies or quarry operators to put material aside on site for members to go through.

- *Agreed, by all means develop relationships with individual companies and operators, where it can be of benefit.*

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.

- *MinSoc WA has mineral swap/sale sessions but not often enough for members.*

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

- *MinSocWA already does this on a fairly regular basis.*

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?

- *Possibly on an individual basis but not as a society. Dehne Mclaughlin welcomes assistance at his annual Malbunka mining campaigns. Perhaps other specimen miners would also welcome some help but this is on an individual basis and does not involve MinSocs. I do not agree with this sentiment. Essentially people pay to go digging (1200 dollars and up I think) - its a tourism and money making ploy. Its really a mine field.*

New Members

The committee approved the membership of Niels Dahl who has now provided his membership form. It also approved spouse membership for Bruce Groenewald.

We now have 55 members (50 have paid their memberships for the current financial year); 5 couples have taken up spouse membership

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	0414904169
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