



Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc.

May 2019 Newsletter

Contents

Editorial	1
Recent Activities	
General Meeting, Wednesday, March 13, 2019	2
Mineral Market, Sunday, March 17, 2019	4
Photographic Workshop, Wednesday, April 24, 2019	4
Upcoming Meetings and Activity Days	
General Meeting, Wednesday, May 8, 2019	5
General/ Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, July 9, 2019	5
Miscellaneous	
42th Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia – seminar	5
Committee Members	8

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. John has also added several new books to the library obtained by Angela Riganti.

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).

General Meeting, Wednesday, March 13, 2019

The door prize for the March meeting was aragonite from Morocco donated by "West Australian Crystals & Minerals". The winner was Mignonne Clark.

In the absence of a President, the March 13 meeting was chaired by Sue Koepke, the current Vice President.

The meeting was followed by a presentation from Stephen Turner on the "*The Mineral Heritage of Newmont*".

Stephen is currently Chief Geologist, Asia Pacific Region, for Newmont Mining Corporation (now officially known as Newmont Goldcorp) and based in Perth, Western Australia.

Newmont Company was initially formed by Col. William Boyce Thompson in 1916 and incorporated in 1921 as Newmont Corporation. Shares were first publically traded in 1925. Col. Thompson grew up in Montana and had an office in New York, hence the name Newmont.

For a while (1947- 1970s) Newmont operated the Tsumeb mine in Namibia with a ~30% share and recognized the depth potential of the breccia pipe which was to host the huge array of spectacular oxide mineral specimens which still attract mineral collectors today. Although Tsumeb was metallurgically complex, the mine was **very** profitable and helped established Newmont as a major mining company. Newmont also operated the Palaborwa and O'okiep mines in South Africa.

Over the next decades Newmont evolved into a global multi-commodity mining corporation with copper (Southern Peru Copper Corporation), steel (Bethlehem Steel), Atlantic Cement, coal (Peabody Coal), and Newmont Oil Company.

In 1966 Newmont geologists first recognized the potential of the unusual carbonate-hosted 'invisible gold' deposits in Nevada, later to become the world renowned 'Carlin Trend'.

In order to fight off a corporate raider in 1987 Newmont paid a substantial dividend to shareholders which incurred a ~\$2 billion debt. Soon after the share market crashed which necessitated selling off of most of Newmont's operations leaving the Nevada Gold Operations as the core holding of the 'new' gold-focused Newmont.

Today Newmont is a global gold (copper and silver) mining and exploration company.

Colonel William Boyce Thompson, who initially founded Newmont, was a prolific mineral collector and provided the American Natural History Museum with a gift of 1530 mineral specimens which formed the core of their early collection. A further endowment on his death allowed the museum to fund additional mineral purchases.

The 'Newmont Azurite' from Tsumeb was described by New York mineral dealer Lawrence Conklin as the finest mineral specimen in the world, and valued by him at \$250,000 in 1977. It was closely followed by a Grass Valley gold specimen which he valued similarly. Both

specimens were donated by Newmont to the American History of Natural History (see photographs below).

In 1999 Collectors Edge (Colorado) reached an agreement with Newmont in order to collect orpiment specimens from the Twin Creeks gold mine in Nevada. One of the best orpiment specimens was donated to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Preservation of minerals is not the principal task of mining companies but when this happens it should be encouraged and applauded as a 'gift' to future generations.



One of the world's finest mineral specimens, the Newmont Azurite is known for the large size and perfection of its crystals. Dark crystals stand on tan calcite, perfectly formed and unblemished.

American Museum of Natural History



The Newmont Gold comprises an amazing mass of superb flattened, octahedral crystals with no matrix, of 7 x 4-1/2 x 2 inches

American Museum of Natural History



Collector's Edge Minerals mined this orpiment specimen in 1999 in partnership with Newmont Gold at their Twin Creeks mine near Winnemucca. This specimen features brilliant orange, lustrous crystals up to 3+ cm.

Collector's Edge Colorado

Mineral Market, Sunday, March 17, 2019

There was a very successful mineral market held at the premises of the Lapidary Club on Sunday March 17th. Attendance statistics were as follows:

	Numbers	Revenue
Tables	16	80
Visitors	70	140
Donations		5
TOTAL		235



Mineral sellers getting ready for the market.

Photograph by Allan Hart



A tray of mineral specimens for sale.

Photograph by Allan Hart

Photographic Workshop. Wednesday, April 24, 2019

The ten members who came to the photographic workshop were entertained by two talks and demonstrations on the art of photographing minerals and crystals. Tom Lenane (who photographed rocks and minerals for the Geological Survey of WA prior to his retirement) set the ball rolling by showing us the set-up that he used for photographing minerals and also gave a few tips and tricks on photographing minerals. Tony Luha spoke on image stacking and produced a beautiful image of a twinned pyrite cube for us.

Both talks and demonstrations provided an insight into both the simplicity and complexity of photographing minerals and producing excellent, in-focus images using stacking software. Like most things in this digital age, there is a bewildering array of cameras and equipment that can be utilized and a large number of suitable software stacking programmes ranging from free to fairly expensive.

For those of you who would like to know more of the talks and demonstration, the MinSocWA Secretary, Lee Hassan has copies of Tony Luha's PowerPoint and some notes provided by Tom Lenane.

Forthcoming activities

General Meeting, May 8, 2019

After the General Meeting, Susan Stocklmayer will discuss "Amber through time, geological and scientific".

Susan, an Honours graduate in geology, was initially employed as the Mineralogist at the Geological Survey in Zimbabwe and subsequently practiced as a gemmologist in Zimbabwe and England. She moved to Western Australia in 1998 and continued working as a Valuer and as a lecturer with the Gemmological Association of Australia. Now retired, Susan has maintained close links with both the British and Australian Gemmological Associations.

From a gemmologist's stance, amber is a decorative gem material; a hard, transparent fossilised plant resin, predominantly sourced from the Baltic countries and the Dominican Republic.

More recent finds of amber worldwide, including Australia, have resulted in a flurry of research promoting ongoing debate as to the causes of massive resin exudations and links to paleoclimatic conditions. The plethora of inclusions found in, and trapped by, amber act as a geological time capsule from Carboniferous to Recent times and provides a wealth of palaeobiological and paleo chemical information, as well as being aesthetic.

General/Annual General Meeting, July 9, 2019

Please note that the Annual General Meeting has been brought forward from September to July to allow a new president to be elected prior to the 42nd Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia seminar in early September.

Members are requested to notify the secretary, Lee Hassan, of any changes to their details, especially contact email addresses, in good time for the meeting.

Miscellaneous

42nd Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia - seminar update

Traps in mineralogy: pseudomorphs, look-alikes, fakes and synthetics!

To register for the Perth seminar and related activities, go to <https://www.trybooking.com/ZVTK> and select the events you wish to attend; full guidelines on how to register are on the [MinSocWA website](#).

MinSoc members (and like-societies)	\$150
Non-members	\$185
Students	\$75
Conference dinner	\$65
Micro-mineral workshop	\$5
Swap and sell (price per table)	\$5
Registrations via TryBooking at https://www.trybooking.com/ZVTK	

PROGRAM

There is something for everyone in the program for this seminar. Topics to be covered include:

- Australian pseudomorph mineral localities:
DeGrussa (Dr Peter Downes, WAM), Greenbushes (Dr Lena Hancock, GSWA), Dundas Mine (Dr Ralph Bottrill, Mineral Resources Tasmania)
- World-wide pseudomorph localities:
Sulphosalt pseudomorphs from Peru (Dr Steve Tuner, Newmont Mining), New Zealand pseudomorphs (Rod Martin, Micromounters' Hall of Fame), euclase occurrences from Zimbabwe (Susan Stocklmayer, MinSocWA/GAA), and goethite from Egypt (Ross Pogson, Australian Museum)
- Pseudomorphs formation and experimental mineralogy:
Experimental studies and implication for metasomatism (Prof Andrew Putnis, TIGeR), genesis of tiger eye (Dr Des Lascelles, UWA), man-made minerals (David Colchester, Australian Museum)
- Gemmology traps:
The gem's trade underbelly (Gayle Webb, MinSocNSW/GAA), lab-grown diamonds (John Chapman, Gemetrix)
- Historical collections and their traps:
James Dwight Dana's visit to Australia (Ass.Prof Paul Carr, Univ. of Wollongong), traps in museum mineral and gem collections (Lin Sutherland, Australian Museum), the Clem Latz Tsumeb collection (Steven Petkovski, Geoscience Australia); A world of misidentified minerals (Peter Elliot, Adelaide University).

ACCOMMODATION

If coming from out of Perth and needing accommodation in Perth, you can avail yourself of discounted rates negotiated with the [Mercure Perth Hotel](#) and [Holiday Inn Perth](#). Both hotels are within walking distance from the state Library where the main seminar will be held. Please contact MinSocWA's secretary Lee (lee_notebook@msn.com) if you need the full details.

FIELD TRIP

We have had an overwhelming response to the Murchison field trip (over 50 people). In order to keep vehicles to a manageable number for travelling long distances in a convoy and on dirt roads, registrations for the field trip are now closed. We will however maintain a waiting list, in the event that some people may have to pull out at a later date. Please email the secretary, Lee Hassan at lee_notebook@msn.com if you wish to be put on a waiting list.

Permissions for a few of the localities are still being finalised. An email has been sent to registered participants, with details about:

- itinerary and distances to be covered - WA is a big State!
- road and access conditions - we will be travelling on sealed and unsealed roads; some sites will not be suitable for caravan access and will require ferrying
- accommodation suggestions for the trip
- conditions of access to mine sites

SWAP AND SELL – Monday, 2 September 2019

There are no tables left for the mineral market organised for Monday 2 September. Please email the secretary, Lee Hassan at lee_notebook@msn.com if you wish to be put on a waiting list.

NOT JUST MICROMOUNTS!

A MICRO-MINERAL WORKSHOP – Friday, 30 August 2019

This will be an interactive, mostly practical session that will give participants the opportunity to see some of the many techniques used for preparing and displaying small mineral specimens – this is an opportunity for all mineral collectors!

The program will kick off with a short presentation on the general principles, advantages and disadvantages of small specimens, with physical examples of resources and tools that can assist in producing enduring, high-quality results in preparing such a collection.

The remainder of the day will be a 'hands-on' session with the opportunity to select and trim (where necessary) specimen(s), and tips on suitable mounting techniques, selecting box sizes, gluing specimen to a pedestal and then into a display box and, finally, labelling.

The following will be available on the day:

- Some stereo-microscopes, lights, power cords & distribution boards, Optivisors
- Assortment of pedestals, glue, tweezers, optivisors, pins, etc
- Drying boxes, fine paint brushes, Blackboard paint
- Micro & Thumbnail boxes (cardboard). Components & frame(s) incl weights
- "Blu-tack"
- Rock Breaker, Trimmer & Tile cutter, Hammers & Chisels
- Specimen rough
- Labels (incl. Excel templates) & Guillotine

Attendees are encouraged to bring some form of magnification and lighting if possible, so that we can minimise having to share some of the microscopes and equipment.

Note: bring a 'thumbdrive' (or your email address) if you would like a copy of the Label Templates.

Start 8:45 am

Morning Tea 10:30 am (15 minutes)

Lunch 12:30 pm (30 minutes); participants to bring their own lunch

Afternoon session 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm

The 'Welcome to Perth' function hosted and sponsored by Crystal Universe (Subiaco) starts at 6:00 pm on Friday night, so closing the workshop at 3:00 pm will allow enough time for those attending to prepare for it.

MINERAL PHOTO COMPETITION – We want your photos!

Don't forget our **mineral photo competition**, coordinated by John Mill, with 3 main categories:

- Category 1 – subject less than 5 mm
- Category 2 – subject between 5 and 30 mm
- Category 3 – subject greater than 30 mm

Digital entries to be submitted by **30 June 2019** – you don't have to attend the seminar to be able to submit your photos!

Detailed guidelines are available on the [MinSocWA website](#), or contact John Mill at millrock@iinet.net.au

AUCTION

Thanks to those who have already donated items for the auction. We are still looking for more contributions – please email John Mill at millrock@iinet.net.au if you can offer some items.

Committee Members

The Committee for 2018/2019 is shown below.

President		
Vice President	Sue Koepke	0417990688
Secretary/Treasurer	Lee Hassan	93975197
Field Trip Leader	Rodney Berrell	0407081025
Committee Member/ Newsletter Editor	Vernon Stocklmayer	92919043
Committee Member	Angela Riganti	92437472
Committee Member	Peter Willems	0467040409