Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Inc.

To encourage mineralogical study by amateur and professional alike and, in so doing, discover, document and preserve the Earth's, and in particular Western Australia's, natural history

NEWSLETTER 115
June 2026

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

Welcome to issue 115 of the MinSocWA Newsletter. We trust you will enjoy the content we've put together for you.

First, we would like to give a well-deserved round of applause to Craig Bosel for his incredible work organizing the Quiz Night on Tuesday, 23 June! His behind-the-scenes efforts ensured a truly seamless experience for everyone. Thank you, Craig, for making the evening such a success!

We are pleased to report that our President's call for volunteers at the March meeting was answered! Ida Newton has kindly agreed to take on the role of Membership Secretary, Peter Pring has accepted to fill the position of Field Trip Coordinator, and Francine Payette has assumed the role of Newsletter Editor. Thank you so much to Ida, Peter and Francine for volunteering!

Other roles on the committee are also vacant, and we do need your help to keep the Society going. If you are interested in contributing, please contact James at president@minsocwa.org.au

Francine Payette

Newsletter Editor

May 2026 Talk — From natural minerals to modern magnets

Summary of the talk on magnetism. Illustrations and photos by Francine Payette

Natural magnetic minerals, like lodestone, have captivated humanity for thousands of years. From these natural rocks, let's explore how permanent magnets were created. Key themes covered:

Magnetism – Magnetic minerals – Magnets – Applications and uses – Testing magnetism in minerals

Magnetism… since when?

The history of magnetism spans millennia, tracing back to the discovery of naturally magnetic lodestone in antiquity. The phenomenon was first documented by ancient Greeks and the Chinese, who utilized its directional properties. In 1600, English scientist William Gilbert revolutionized the field by discovering that the Earth is one giant magnet.

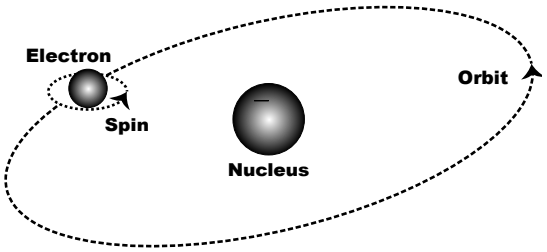
A timeline of these historical milestones highlights the following key points:

- Ancient Greece: The word "magnet" originates from *magnētis lithos* (meaning "magnesian stone"), derived from the Magnesia region in Greece (modern-day Turkey). Philosopher Thales of Miletus made the first documented observations of magnetism around 600 BCE, noting that lodestone attracted iron.
- Ancient China: The earliest literary reference to the phenomenon appeared in a 4th-century BCE book. The Chinese developed the first compasses for geomancy and navigation, with widespread maritime use recorded by the 12th century.
- The Scientific Era: English physician William Gilbert published *De Magnete* in 1600. He proved that the Earth itself has a magnetic field and operates as a giant magnet, establishing the scientific foundation of geomagnetism.

What is magnetism

Magnetism is a physical property that allows objects to attract or repel each other through a magnetic field.

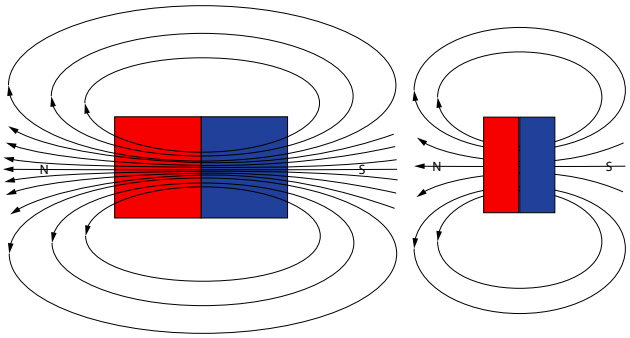
Magnetism comes from the motion and interaction of electrons. Electrons create magnetic moments by orbiting the nucleus and spinning on their own axes. Materials become magnetic when a large proportion of these electronic magnetic moments align. This alignment creates a single, collective magnetic field that exerts forces on other objects.[1]



In physics, magnetism is expressed through the concept of magnetic field. There are two different, but closely related vector fields which are called 'magnetic field'. These are written as B and H.

- H (**Magnetic Field Strength**) is the 'applied' field generated by external currents. It represents the effort to magnetize. Measured in ampere per metre (A/m).
- B (**Magnetic Flux Density**) is the actual, total magnetic field inside a material. It represents the result. Measured in tesla (T) or gauss (G), where 1 **tesla** (International System Unit) equals 10,000 **gauss** (cgs system).

Magnetic flux density means how crowded the magnetic field lines are in a certain space: crowded lines = strong field, spaced-out lines = weak field.[2]



Examples:

- Earth's magnetic field: ~0.00005 tesla
- Small fridge magnet: ~0.005 tesla
- Strong neodymium magnet: ~1 tesla (10,000 gauss)
- MRI machine: 1.5 to 3 tesla

Can we block a magnetic field?
Short answer: no. However some protection exists through magnetic shielding, which redirects magnetic field lines around a protected area rather than blocking them.

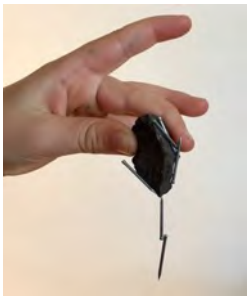
Types of magnetism

Magnetic materials are classified into four categories based on their atomic structure and how they respond to an external magnetic field.

1. Ferromagnetic materials: materials like iron, nickel, cobalt, and some rare earth elements (REE) exhibit strong magnetism due to the strong alignment of their atomic magnetic moments. Ferromagnetic minerals include iron-rich oxides and sulfides such as magnetite, maghemite and pyrrhotite.
2. Paramagnetic materials: materials with unpaired electrons that are weakly attracted to a magnetic field. Examples of paramagnetic minerals include chromite, siderite, some iron-bearing silicates.
3. Diamagnetic materials: materials with all electrons paired, resulting in a weak repulsion from a magnetic field. Key examples include graphite, quartz, topaz.
4. Antiferromagnetic materials: these materials appear non-magnetic under normal conditions because their internal magnetic fields cancel each other out. Goethite is a common example.

Magnets

First known magnets were naturally occurring **lodestones** that are naturally magnetized pieces of the mineral magnetite (Fe_3O_4). Only a small amount of the magnetite on Earth is found magnetized as lodestone. The process by which lodestone is created has long been an open question in geology. Microscopic examination of lodestones has found them to be made of magnetite (Fe_3O_4) with inclusions of maghemite (cubic Fe_2O_3), commonly with impurity of some metal ions.



Nails attracted by a lodestone

The Earth's magnetic field (at 0.5 gauss) is too weak to magnetize a lodestone by itself. The leading theory is that lodestones are magnetized by the strong magnetic fields surrounding lightning bolts. This is supported by the observation that they are mostly found near the surface of the Earth, rather than buried at great depth.

Artificial magnets

Artificial magnets were first developed in the early 18th century. The concept of creating artificial magnets is attributed to Englishman Servington Savery around 1730.

There are three main types of magnets: permanent magnets (like those made from neodymium or ferrite, retain their magnetism), temporary magnets (like iron nails, only become magnetic when placed near a magnetic field), and electromagnets that use electricity to create a magnetic field.

Permanent magnets are classified into several types based on their composition and magnetic properties. The most common types include Neodymium (NdFeB), Samarium–Cobalt (SmCo), Alnico, and Ferrite (ceramic) magnets.

The **first commercial magnets**, developed in the 1940s, were primarily made from iron, nickel, and aluminium, forming what are known as **Alnico magnets**—composed primarily of aluminium (Al), nickel (Ni), and cobalt (Co), hence the acronym al-ni-co. Alnico offers good corrosion resistance, but it has a low coercive force, which means it can be easily demagnetized.

Alnico horseshoe magnets with keeper. Small: 3x3 cm, large: 6x9.5 cm.

Ferrite magnets were first produced in the 1950s. They are cost-effective, corrosion-resistant, permanent magnets composed of iron oxide and either strontium or barium carbonate, manufactured via sintering. Flexible fridge magnets share this core material but replace the rigid ceramic structure with a flexible polymer or rubber binder.

The first **rare earth magnets** manufactured were samarium–cobalt (**SmCo**) magnets, which were developed in the late 1960s. They are made from an alloy of samarium, cobalt, iron, copper, hafnium, zirconium, and praseodymium. They are extremely difficult to demagnetise and have a high resistance to corrosion.

Neodymium magnets were developed independently in 1984 by General Motors and Sumitomo Special Metals. They are the strongest type of permanent magnet available commercially.

A 12x12 mm N52 disc-shaped neodymium magnet.

Neodymium Magnets, also known as NdFeB, NIB, or Neo magnets, are the most widely used type of rare earth magnets. They are made from an alloy of neodymium, iron, and boron with the $Nd_2Fe_{14}B$ tetragonal crystalline structure. They have an elaborate manufacturing process of vacuum melting, milling, pressing and sintering. Their weakness: poor resistance to corrosion if not coated.

Magnet strength

Gauss and **pull force** are related measures of a magnet's strength, but they represent different aspects. Gauss quantifies the magnetic field strength, while pull force measures the actual force a magnet exerts to attract or hold an object. While a higher gauss value generally indicates a stronger magnetic field and potentially greater pull force, other factors like magnet size, shape, and the material being attracted also influence pull force.

Commercially available permanent neodymium magnets are classified by an alphanumeric **magnet grade**. The magnet grade represents the strength and performance characteristics of a magnet, commonly denoted by a letter followed by a number, such as N35 or N52—the higher the number, the stronger the magnet. Size also matters: for the same **magnet grade**, a larger magnet has a higher **pull force** because it contains a greater total volume of magnetic material, generating a stronger overall magnetic field. More magnetic material means more lifting capacity. When comparing two magnets of the same grade, the one with the larger dimensions will naturally support heavier weights.

The table below (modified from www.stanfordmagnets.com) illustrates the pull force and gauss of standard neodymium magnets.

Magnet Grade	*Shape and size*	*Gauss*	*Pull force (kg)*
N35	10x3mm	11700	1.5
N42	10x3mm	12800	2
N52	10x3mm	14500	3
N35	20x3mm	11700	3.6
N42	20x3mm	12800	4.5
N52	20x3mm	14500	6

Safety precautions / Storage and handling

Neodymium magnets, while quite strong, can also be brittle—leading to the risk of flying chips if magnets collide rapidly or unexpectedly. Due to their strength, unprotected neodymium magnets may attract ferrous particles from their surroundings; therefore, they should be kept in closed containers.

Two small neodymium magnets (8x3 mm) shattered upon rapid impact with a large 12x12 mm magnet.

Due to their exceptional strength, frequently used neodymium magnets can easily attract stray ferrous particles from their surrounding environment, as illustrated here.

Garnet crystal (7x7 mm, 0.87 g) picked up by a 12x12 mm N52 disc-shaped neodymium magnet, the arrow points towards stray ferrous particles attracted by the magnet.

As neodymium magnets are very susceptible to moisture, it is important to store them in low-humidity, low-moisture environment, at near room temperature.

Handling magnets, especially strong rare earth magnets, poses risks including damage to electronic devices and data, and harm to individuals with pacemakers or other ferromagnetic implants. To stay safe, keep magnets away from sensitive devices and individuals with implants, and maintain a safe distance in a clear, organized workspace.

The magnetic field of this N52 neodymium magnet can pass through biological tissues

Applications and uses

Applications of magnetism in geology include geophysical mapping (map subsurface structures); mineral exploration (to locate magnetic ore bodies like iron and nickel); track plate tectonic movements (understanding Earth's history).

Geomagnetic surveys do not typically use permanent magnets. Instead, they use **magnetometers**.

- **Optically Pumped Magnetometers**: these sensors use light (lasers or lamps) to align electrons in vapor cells (cesium, potassium, or rubidium).
- **Proton Precession Magnetometers (PPM)**: these use a hydrogen-rich liquid (such as kerosene or water) and a polarizing current to create a temporary magnetic field.
- **Fluxgate Magnetometers**: these sensors use a ferromagnetic core (such as mu-metal or permalloy) wrapped in coils.

Identify and test magnetic minerals

Luckily, we can safely test minerals without high-tech lab gear. For that purpose magnets are the best tools for sorting and identifying materials. They quickly identify magnetic minerals (like magnetite) from non-magnetic ones, and can even help spot weakly magnetic specimens like garnets.

Tools and methods

Direct method: A rod-shaped neodymium N52 12x12 mm with a metal bolt as handle. Responses can be picked up, dragged or have no reaction.

A compass can also be useful and easy to use. Bring the mineral close to the compass. A magnetic specimen will deflect the needle, pulling it to point directly at the mineral.

Rhodochrosite crystal (1.4 cm in length, 1.65 g) picked up by a 12x12 mm N52 disc-shaped neodymium magnet.

Pendulum method: A pair of magnets (2 N52 8x3 mm) snapped over a suspended thread. Useful for large specimens that are too heavy for pick up or drag.

Flotation method: The specimen under test floating on a raft (Styrofoam works well) in water. For specimen with weak magnetic response or for diamagnetic material.

Conclusion

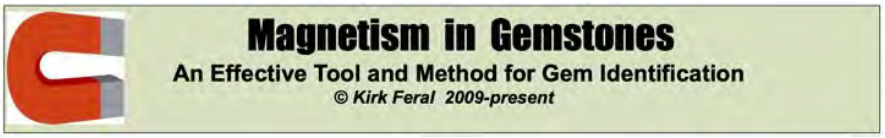
Testing magnetism in mineral specimens is not an exact science. There are too many variables that will affect the results: pull force of the magnet, size of the specimen, its shape (with or without flat surface), etc. But that is ok, as testing magnetism can be seen as a first step in the process of mineral identification.

[1.] Illustration modified after www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-eps/metallurgy/research/Magnetic-Materials-Background/Magnetic-Materials-Background-2-Origins-of-Magnetism.pdf.

[2.] Illustration modified after Martin Kroon, 2023. *Strong vs weak field* in REED: The manual, Conference: European Space Mechanisms and Tribology Symposium, Figure 11.

Further readings

- For how specific gemstone species behave in a magnetic field, refer to the foundational data and magnetic susceptibility indexes compiled in *Gemstone Magnetism*.



- For minerals collectors looking for specialized resource or references dedicated to identifying and evaluating iron-rich minerals based on their magnetic susceptibility, refer to the *Collector's Guide to Magnetic Minerals* on www.astrowest.com.

APRIL 2026 ACTIVITY — Mineral Market

A mineral market was held in the Main Hall of Forster Community Centre in Cloverdale on Saturday, 11 April. The event provided an excellent networking and trading hub for enthusiasts to buy, sell, or exchange items related to geology, mineralogy, mining, and unique mineral specimens.

We welcomed about 100 visitors to the mineral market! Here is how they discovered our event.

How did you hear about the Mineral Market	
Instagram	3
Facebook	5
Other Social Media	2
Newspaper	1
Word of Mouth	12
Lapidary Club	6
Street Signage	26
Geologist	1
Student	2

Images below courtesy of Allan Hart.

Setting up.

Forgot your loupe? No worries!

Some lovely specimens of WA variscite.

Busy buyers!

Fieldtrip — The Dowerin Chrysoberyl deposit

Compiled by Peter Pring. Photos by Peter unless noted otherwise.

The property owner and mining lease holder Murray Anderson and his son Rob hosted a small group of WA Mineralogical Society members for a visit to this deposit on 12 April 2026. The Dowerin Chrysoberyl deposit sits on the Anderson family farm which is on the southern outskirts of the town of Dowerin. This reconnaissance visit aimed to verify the general geology of the occurrence and nature of the minerals present, comparing that with various historical reports and mentions in reference books.

General overview of the Dowerin Chrysoberyl occurrence, looking northwest.

The Dowerin pegmatite veins are hosted in a granulite-facies quartzofeldspathic gneiss of Archean age on the southwestern margin of the Yilgarn Craton. The area surrounding the pegmatite is mapped on the Kellerberrin 1:250 000 map sheet as *Banded quartz–magnetite–grunerite gneiss (metamorphosed banded iron) (Ahf)*. While no magnetite was observed in the field, the magnetite / banded iron noted on the map sheet may explain the doughnut shaped magnetic feature that surrounds the pegmatite: three other similar magnetic features occur immediately to the west and northeast, all of them positioned on the east-west-trending dolerite dykes that traverse the region.

The Dowerin pegmatite has been exposed in shallow workings and trenches. Having been left open for some time, the base and walls of these openings have been covered with scree and washed in sediments. Given the depth of weathering in the area, only minor patches of fresh pegmatite were available for inspection. Bevan and Downes (1997) report that the pegmatite consists of varying amounts of biotite, andesine (plagioclase) feldspar, quartz, schorl tourmaline, almandine garnet, and intensely folded lenses of banded cummingtonite–actinolite–biotite schist. The small (<1 mm) bright green actinolite crystals contain trace amounts of nickel.

What is believed to be small (3–4 mm) chrysoberyl crystals, were found during the visit within the biotite-rich zones of the pegmatite; however, nothing that was gem quality was found. Other minerals observed in and around the pegmatite on the day included actinolite (mistakenly thought to be fuchsite on the day), garnet (almandine), biotite (in schist), and tourmaline.

Folded gneissic host rock.

Almandine garnet.

Schorl Tourmaline.

Actinolite band in biotite schist.

Nicolas and Renee inspecting the pit walls.

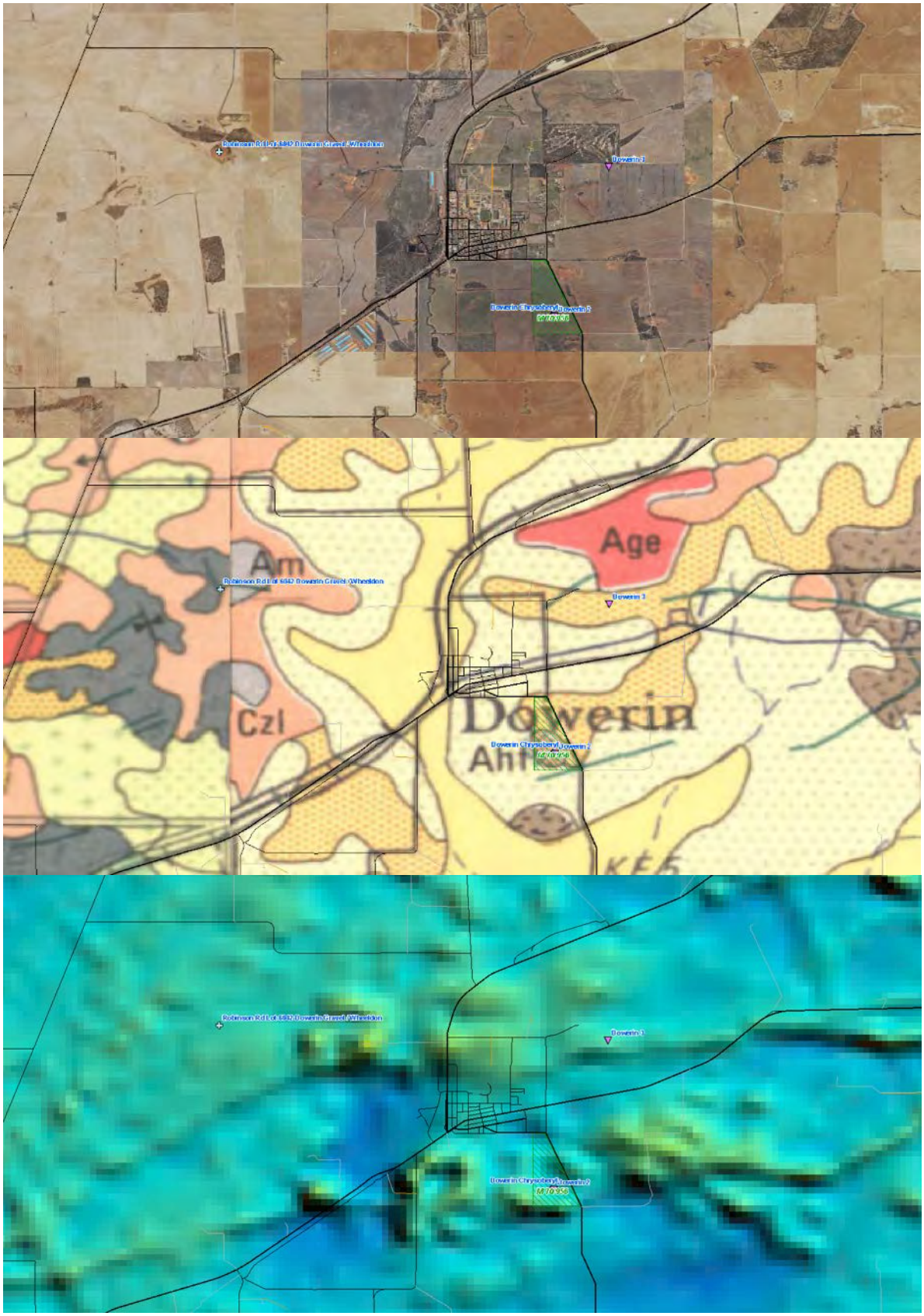
Biotite pocket within the pegmatite that produced several small chrysoberyl crystals.

James inspecting a trench.

The MinSocWA crew in the Commercial Hotel, Dowerin, for a cool drink and curry after the site visit.

Dowerin is a two-hour drive from Perth, with good roads all the way, and it is easily achievable as a day trip. Access on site is via farm tracks suitable for most vehicles however the pegmatite is in the middle of a cropped field and would not be accessible during the cropping season. With the permission of the

Andersons it may be an option for future visits to the site by groups from the WA Mineralogical Society, during the non-cropping season (usually December to April).



Location of the Dowerin Chrysoberyl prospect and related mining lease M70/956, on Landgate Aerial Imagery; 1:250 000 Geology and Magnetic Anomaly, from DMPE GeoVIEW WA site.

Linkedin Posts

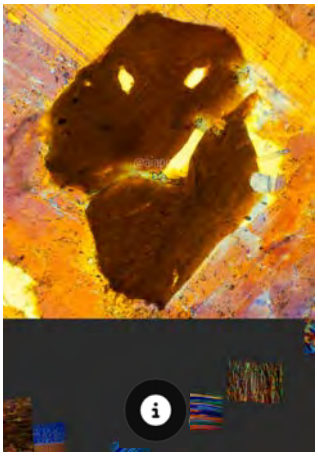
Thin Sections in Wonderland

By Andrei Ionut Apopei, Associate Professor at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iaşi, Romania

If you appreciate the beauty of minerals, you'll love looking at thin sections. It's the ultimate way to unlock a rock's history while enjoying some of the most vibrant, natural art on Earth.

To obtain the description of the interactive petrographic slide you want to explore, select it and once selected, click the button.

'Thin Sections in Wonderland' home page.



Left: Meet the 'golem' of the magma chamber–biotite crystal looking down the [001] direction (basal section) in granodiorite, FOV c. 1 mm.

To explore this stunning visual journey through geological thin sections, follow https://geology.uaic.ro/andrei.apopei/wonderland/

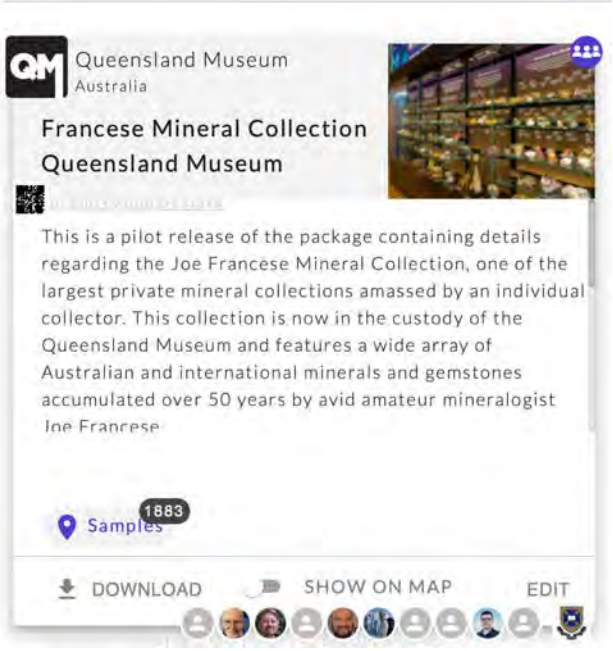
or

Thin Sections in Wonderland

Images and description of the 'golem' from 'Thin Sections in Wonderland'.

Francese Mineral Collection Queensland Museum

The Queensland Museum is pleased to announce the initial release of their mineral data package for the *Joe Francese Collection* on the *AuScope EarthBank* platform. This pilot publication makes 500 curated geological specimens from the collection discoverable online, providing researchers, industry and the geoscience community with access to a unique mineralogical dataset. The *Joe Francese Collection* is one of the largest private collections amassed by an individual. It features a wide array of Australian and international minerals and gemstones from a diverse array of geologically significant locations. Many specimens come from significant mineral sites and mines that are no longer accessible or producing quality specimens.



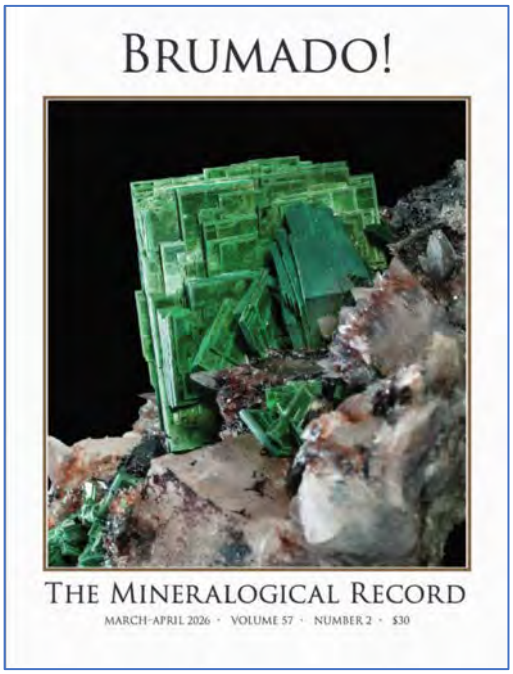
Joe Francese's wish was that this collection be used, and made accessible, for research and education, and also for the enjoyment of the general public.

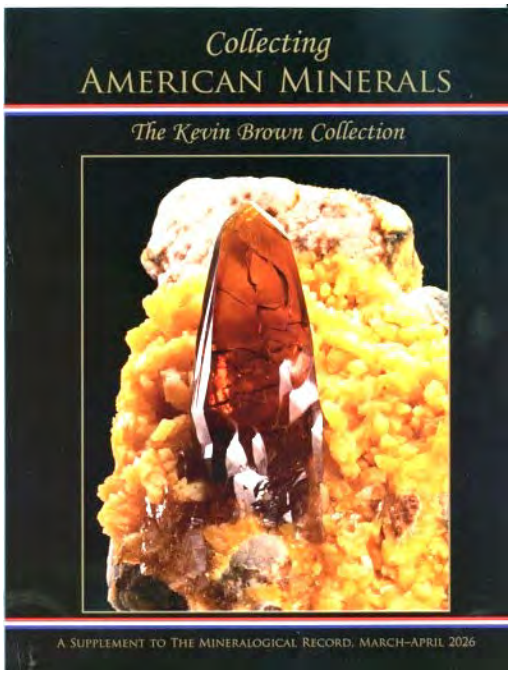
Link via LinkedIn: https://lnkd.in/gKUbdpgc / External link: https://doi.org/10.58024/AGUQ3F7313AB

From your Library

The MinSocWA Library has received exciting new journals, ready to borrow by Members.

- Rocks and Minerals Volume 101, No.2 March/April 2026. Featuring pegmatites from Japan.
- Rocks and Minerals Volume 101, No. 3 May/June 2026. Featuring quartz from Brazil.
- The Mineralogical Record Volume 57, No. 2 March/April 2026. Brumado!
- The Mineralogical Record – Collecting American Minerals – The Kevin Brown Collection. A Supplement to the Mineralogical Record, March – April 2026.

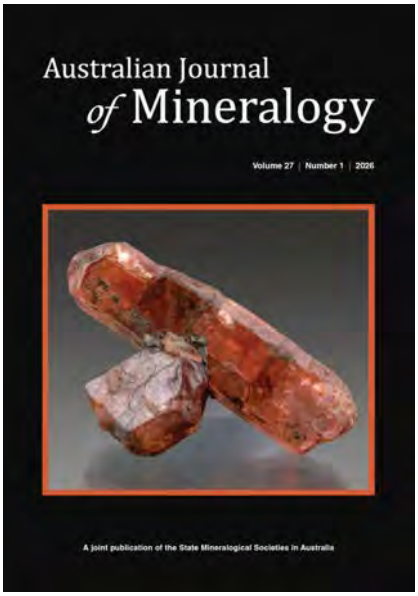




Please contact John Mill if you wish to borrow an item.
The catalogue is available on our website.

Australian Journal of Mineralogy

AJM Volume 27, Issue 1 at the printer!



The first issue of the Australian Journal of Mineralogy for this year [27(1)] is being printed as you read this.

Topics covered include:

- the Mount Turner porphyry copper–molybdenum system in the Georgetown region of North Queensland with its suite of arsenates including the rare zincgartrellite;
- the unusual suite of rare-earth carbonate minerals from the Paratoo copper mine in South Australia;
- an overview of the Glen Smith Collection of Broken Hill minerals now housed at Geoscience Australia on behalf of the National Museum of Australia… and much more.

We encourage you to subscribe, if you don't already, and spread the word about AJM new digital subscription.

AJM now available digitally

For those short of space or the younger, tech-savvy generation who wants everything at their fingertips, the AJM group is now able to offer a digital subscription to the Journal.

Since December 2025, readers can also enjoy a **digital edition**. The QR code below provides instant access to the new subscription options. All existing subscriptions remain valid, but members now have more choice than ever. Whether you're short on shelf space or prefer to read on the go, the Journal is now at your fingertips.

Upcoming events

July Mini-talks – Wednesday, 8 July 2026
Lapidary Club Hall
7.30pm (venue open from 6.30pm for socialising)

- Craig Bosel — First discovery of crystalline cerussite at the Magellan lead mine (now Rosslyn Hill mine)
- Steve Turner – The Jade Gorge, UNESCO Itoigawa Global Geopark, Japan
- Update on preparations for the 49th Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia seminar to be held in Perth in September 2027.

Visit our events webpage to keep abreast of upcoming events https://minsocwa.org.au/events-mswa/

Perth Gem & Mineral Show 2026!

The Perth Gem & Mineral Show (PGMS) sub-committee is pleased to report that planning of the 2026 show is going ahead smoothly.

PGMS 2026 will be held on 6-7-8 November, at the Perth Convention & Exhibition Center (Pavillion 6).

The event will showcase many of the wonders that the mineral, gem, fossil and geoscience communities and collectors have to offer.

Many activities are available for kids.

NB each ticket is valid for the entire duration of the show.

If you missed out in 2025, start planning your attendance for 2026 now!

Visit PGMS webpage for more details.

Upcoming events from other organisations

GAA
Gemmological Association of Australia
Western Australian Division

Interested to know more about gemmy minerals?

GAAWA is offering an excellent line up of short courses designed for our community. Whether you want to learn more about gemmy minerals or dive into new topics, there is a short course for you.

Check out GAAWA available courses.

- **Course: Introduction to Antiques:**
  Date: Sunday August 30, 2026 9.30am – 3.30pm, $195 members/ $250 non-members
  Enrol at https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1516338

- **Course: Introduction to Coloured Gemstones:**
  Date: Sunday November 22, 2026, 9.30am – 3.30pm, $195 members/ $250 non-members
  Enrol at https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1523375

GAAWA short course discount: For 3 or more people attending the same course from a business, or as a group of friends, there is a discount of 15%. If any attendees are GAA members, then they personally can have the advertised member rate (discount about 20%).

2026 Quiz Night

On Tuesday night 23rd June a pleasing new record of 8 tables of 6 gathered in the Herdsman Tavern for a meal and 10 rounds of Quiz questions from 7–9pm. This is the third time we've had such a gathering, after a pause last year. Craig Bosel was Quizmaster, with two of his daughters Karen and Jasmine ably carrying out the judging duties.

The overall winners this year were the 'ULTRAVIOLETS' led by Frank Doedens with a final score of 80.5 out of a total 107, and they also showed their mineral identification prowess by winning the Table Quiz as well 😊. It was a very tight finish for second place, with the 'CROWN JEWELS' (Susan Stocklmayer-team contact) at 78 points just pipping 'OF QUARTZ WE CAN!' (James Sherbourne) at 77 points and the 'QUIZZARDS OF OZ' (Leonie Rennie) at 76. Well done everybody, as the questions were purposely harder this year, and only two teams managed getting full marks in a round, i.e. the CROWN JEWELS in the 'Minerals and Gems' round, and 'OF QUARTZ WE CAN!' with 'Current Affairs and Politics' questions.

MinSocWA Quiz Night Scores June 23rd 2026	General Knowledge 1	Food & Drink 2	Minerals & Gems 3	True or False ? 4	Movies 5	Austra-liana 6	Current Affairs & Politics 7	Geography 8	Human Anatomy 9	History 10	Total	*Final Rank*	TABLE QUIZ
ULTRAVIOLETS	7.0	8.0	9.0	8.0	5.5	7.0	9.0	10.0	9.0	8.0	**80.5**	***1st***	**18**
PYRITES OF THE CARIBBEAN	6.0	5.0	4.0	9.0	10.0	9.0	6.0	3.5	7.0	5.0	**64.5**		**14**
CROWN JEWELS	9.0	5.0	11.0	7.0	7.0	9.0	8.0	9.0	8.0	5.0	**78.0**	***2nd***	**10**
OF QUARTZ WE CAN!	9.0	6.0	5.0	6.0	10.0	7.0	10.0	9.0	8.0	7.0	**77.0**	***3rd***	**17**
QUIZTALS	6.0	6.0	3.0	8.0	6.0	2.0	6.0	2.5	7.0	6.0	**52.5**		**3**
PRECIOUS STONES	7.0	2.0	5.5	1.0	8.5	6.0	8.0	4.5	7.0	7.0	**56.5**		**17**
PERFECT CLEAVAGE	9.0	6.0	7.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	8.0	7.5	7.0	6.0	**68.5**		**6**
QUIZZARDS OF OZ	8.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	9.5	6.5	6.0	**76.0**	***4th***	**8**
max possible >>	*11*	*11*	*11*	*10*	*11*	*10*	*10*	*11*	*11*	*11*	***107***		*24*

Examples of questions many teams struggled with are 'What is the anatomical name for the 'funny bone'? which Google informs is 'the ulnar nerve' …a trick question! And 'True or False, is a golf ball the fastest recorded object in sports?' FALSE (it is a badminton shuttlecock!). Teams were asked to think of a funny answer if the question had them stumped, and the funniest answer came from PERFECT CLEAVAGE … the question 'In Greek mythology, who is forever fated to roll a stone up a hill, only to have it roll back down again?' … their answer 'Mick Jagger' 😊. The Quiz Night will return in 2027, hope to see you there.

Welcome to new members

We have welcomed the following new members since March 2026:
Lee Ahmat / Rin Bunn / Alexander Burns / Clare Carney / Chani Cheng / Paul Hardie / Graham Jenkins
Elias Schrejeck / Sarah Walker
This brings our membership to a total of 126.

We are sad to report the passing of MinSocWA's oldest member, 95-year-old Olive Johnson, a fixture at our markets. Our condolences to Derek and her family.

All members are asked to ensure that their contact details are up to date. If your details change, please let us know so that you continue to receive all MinSocWA communications – membership@minsocwa.org.au

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2025/2026

President	James Sherborne	president@minsocwa.org.au
Vice President		
Secretary	Angela Riganti (Acting)	secretary@minsocwa.org.au
Treasurer	Vino Vigneswaran	treasurer@minsocwa.org.au
Committee Member/Librarian	John Mill	millrock@iinet.net.au
Committee Member	Nicolas Hébert	aminenh3@gmail.com
Committee Member/Social Media	Renee Wee	reneewee8@yahoo.com
Committee Member	Susan Stocklmayer	baobab46@dodo.com.au
Field Trips	Peter Pring	fieldtrips@minsocwa.org.au
Membership	Ida Newton	membership@minsocwa.org.au
Newsletter Editor	Francine Payette	newsletter@minsocwa.org.au
49th Joint Seminar	Murray Thompson	seminar@minsocwa.org.au
PGMS Secretary	Nicola Italiano	contact@perthgemmineralshow.com

Patron - *Mark Creasy*

MinSocWA meetings

Meetings of the Mineralogical Society of Western Australia Incorporated are usually held at **7.30 pm on the second Wednesday of every odd month**[1] at:

WA Lapidary & Rock Hunting Club rooms 31 Gladstone Road, Rivervale (corner of Newey Street)

The venue will be open from 6.30 pm for refreshments and socializing.
[1] Note the January meeting is usually the 3rd Wednesday.

MinSocWA LINKS

Web	http://www.minsocwa.org.au
Facebook Group	https://www.facebook.com/groups/minsocwa
Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/MINSOCWA
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/MINSOCWA
YouTube Channel	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0S2TFVFIBLU-2zlEzE5VNA

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