



# THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

C/o School of Natural Science  
B.C.R.I. Parramatta Campus      University of Western Sydney  
Locked Bag 1797      Penrith South DC      N.S.W. 1797  
Website: [www.minsocnsw.org.au](http://www.minsocnsw.org.au)

## NEWSLETTER

**APRIL 2009**

**The April Meeting will be held on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April at 7.30 p.m. in the LZG14 lecture theatre on the ground floor of Building LZ in the Science campus of the University of Western Sydney on the corner of Victoria Road and James Ruse Drive in North Parramatta.**

There will be a description of the **Mineralogical Society Website** by Graham and Toby Ogle

followed by a lecture to be given by John Rankin on : -

**‘Early Collectors - George Smith’.**

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## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Subject to circumstances some changes to the following schedule of program subjects and speakers may be made in due course.

May 1<sup>st</sup>:      Members Mini Auction.

June 12<sup>th</sup>, (Second Friday): Minitalk by Jim Sharpe on ‘Malachite, Azurite and Pseudomorphs’  
Followed by lectures on ‘Gold’ by Paul Meszaros or on the ‘Burra Mine’ by David Colchester.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> :      Talk by Bruce Myles on ‘Zircons from Malawi’ and Lectures on the ‘Burra Mine’ by  
David Colchester or on ‘Gold’ by Paul Meszaros.

August 7<sup>th</sup>:      Society A.G.M. and the Betty Mayne Memorial Lecture to be given by Peter Williams on  
‘The Sunny Corner Silver Mines’.

September 4<sup>th</sup>:      Lecture on ‘The History of Copper Mining in NSW’ by Dereck Dolstra.

October 9<sup>th</sup>, (Second Friday): Lecture on the ‘Minerals of Mt Vesuvius’ by Graham Ogle.

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## The MAY MEETING MEMBERS MINI AUCTION

Members who intend to enter specimens for sale in the May Mini-Auction are advised to send their list of minerals for auction to Jim Sharpe by the 18<sup>th</sup> of April or alternatively bring lists along to the April meeting. This is so that a catalogue can be prepared and distributed in time for the auction. Lists of minerals should provide the seller's name, and details of the specimen/s, mineral name and locality etc.

Details to Jim Sharpe. E-mail: [sharpemin@dodo.com.au](mailto:sharpemin@dodo.com.au) , phone (02) 9871 2502 or post to 190 Ray Rd Epping 2121, - **not later than 18<sup>th</sup> April.**

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## Oberon field trip report Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2009

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March the Society undertook a field trip to the Blue Hill quarry south of Oberon. The initial plan to first visit the Hargraves basalt quarry had to be cancelled because of quarry operational reasons. So it was straight on to the Blue Hill quarry (not quite so straight for those who got lost in the early morning mist).

The mist cleared revealing a beautiful day for collecting and in all 26 members and visitors turned up. As predicted it was hard work and pickings were moderate with a few good smokey quartz crystals found, including a small, doubly terminated beauty. Whilst some of the trip attendees had traveled from Sydney on Friday and stayed overnight in Oberon there were also a number of day trippers who turned up during the day with a total of over two dozen people working in the quarry at various times throughout Saturday.

The day ended with a barbeque dinner at the Oberon dam and a later gathering for drinks and chocolate. In all, not a very productive trip for specimens but a very pleasant and sociable weekend away.

John Chapman  
March 2009

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## 2009 SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FEES

There are still a number of 2008 members who have not renewed their subscriptions for 2009. Fees were due from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 and members are urged to attend to their financial status promptly. The Committee will have to start sending reminders to non-financial 2008 members although it would be much easier if members checked their financial status themselves and paid subs accordingly.

**Any members unsure of their financial status should check with the Treasurer, Jim Sharpe.**

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## WITH REGRET

It is with regret that the Committee was informed that Society member Barry Salkilld had passed away last month. R.I.P. Barry.

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## THE SOCIETY COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Arthur Roffey	Tel: (02) 4572 5812
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Gary Sutherland	Tel: (02) 9871 1379
SECRETARY:	George Laking	Tel: (02) 9636 7145
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:bglaking@tech2u.com.au">bglaking@tech2u.com.au</a>	
TREASURER:	Jim Sharpe	Tel: (02) 9871 2502
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	John Chapman	Tel (02) 9808 3481
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:chapmanjr@optusnet.com.au">chapmanjr@optusnet.com.au</a>	
	David Colchester	Tel: (02) 9449 3862
	Dieter Mylius	Tel: (02) 9477 1060
	Graham Ogle	Tel: (02) 9876 5224
	Peter Williams	Tel: (02) 9685 9914

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## WELCOME

Welcome to new member Hadley Wood of Thornleigh

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## MARCH MEETING

A the commencement of the Meeting the Society President, Arthur Roffey, reminded members to sign the **attendance book** as they came in. The book was a record of their attendance and if the member was one of those who had paid for Personal Accident Insurance and suffered an accident at or on the way to or from a Meeting leading to an insurance claim, then the member might need to refer to the attendance book to verify that they had attended.

The President further announced that at the last Committee meeting of the Society it had been proposed and accepted that the Society should donate \$500 to the **Victorian Bush Fire Appeal** through the Red Cross and that the President was notifying the members that this had been done.

Jim Sharpe reminded members about the forthcoming **May Mini-Auction** for which he had been notified already of a number of specimens for sale by members but needed more to fill the target sale number of 70-80 specimens. In particular he hoped to be offered for sale a few items from a wider number of members thereby providing a wider range of specimen types. Members with material that they may wish to sell were urged to contact Jim Sharpe at his home address or by telephone with the specimen details and before 18<sup>th</sup> April so that he would be able to compile a catalogue of the sale items in time for the Auction.

Jim Sharpe also took the opportunity to thank the members who had donated specimens for the February **Kids with Cancer Sale**. All the specimens had been sold and this had raised **\$808** and Jim further thanked all the members who had bought the specimens and contributed to the charity.

John Chapman referred to the forthcoming **Field Trip to the Oberon area**. Starting at 8.00 a.m. on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March it was intended to visit the Hargraves Quarry near Oberon, the geology and mineralogy of which has been described in an article in the A.J.M. Volume 8, Number 1, June 2002 by Ian Graham, David Colchester and Ross Pogson. Minerals found there had included apophyllite, phillipsite, aragonite and small crystals of gem-quality olivine. The party would only be able to work at the Hargraves Quarry for about three hours and would then move on to the Blue Hills Quarry, also known as Shooters Hill quarry, for the rest of the day and probably return to the same site on Sunday morning. There had been recent operations at the quarry

which had exposed some specimen-bearing rock and there had been subsequent finds of quartz crystals. Members wishing to attend the Trip who had not already notified John Chapman were urged to speak to him this evening and register their interest.

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Peter Beckwith was asked to deliver the first part of the report on the :-

### **2009 Tucson Mineral Show.**

Peter Beckwith referred to the minerals on sale at Tucson this year country by country. Looking at material from Europe the speaker had found little new that had come out this year although there were a few collections, mostly minor with one major and showing a number of old specimens from classic locations. Moving on to look at material from the Middle East and subcontinent it was noted that the Pakistanis and Afghanistans were showing a typical array of aquamarines, spectacular pieces but at spectacular prices. One new find from this region was shown to the speaker by an Australian contact at the Show of uvarovite crystals which were said to come from 'the northern border areas' of Pakistan. This was apparently a new location and has produced a number of quite large 3-4 cm non-gemmy crystals. India has continued to produce zeolites in great quantity but of unexciting quality, especially all the apophyllites but the speaker found an Indian dealer with nicer material from a source said to be Dahnori in Aurangabad although in later checking the location through the Google Internet search system the places do not match.

There was not very much new material at the Show from Chinese sources although one reason for this that Peter Beckwith was told was that Chinese miners and mining companies were running out of dynamite and some operations were being wound back. In spite of this the speaker had managed to find some interesting fluorite specimens that appeared to be full 'floaters', bearing no contact growth point and had bought some of these. There were also a few specimens of whitish-green barite crystals from a new location in the Edong mining district. An interesting story had emerged from Vietnam where a farmer had been ploughing and found a large rock which he dug out and in contacting the right people was visited by a buyer accompanied by a number of security guards and several suitcases of money to purchase the 'rock' which had turned out to be a 50lb spinel crystal of predominately cutting grade. One of the stones cut from the 'rock' was later sold for \$4,000,000 !.

There were a few new finds from South America, of very heavily etched white goshenite beryl specimens and some small intense pink topaz crystals on quartz which due to their scarcity are very expensive. A few Mexican mines have been worked for specimens producing a range of adamites, wulfenites and mimetites and there has been a recent find of cuprian adamites, which the speaker managed to acquire a few of. A mining area in the north of Mexico just south-east of Bisbee has produced a number of fine specimens of malachite pseudomorphs after azurite, quite brilliant and affordable.

The recession seems to have brought out a few older specimens and collections from the U.S. and there were a number of displays of older material. An interesting conversation that Peter Beckwith had with some of the characters at Tucson was with two fellows from New Mexico named Brian Huntsman and his mate Massey, - a large man apparently well named after the tractors. The two men had made a find in the Bingham area at a site called the Fish Stick Pocket of blue on purple fluorites that Peter Beckwith had also bought a number of.

Finally the speaker acknowledged that he would not have managed to get around to all the dealers in Tucson and may not have found out about all that may have been new but felt that he had covered this year's Show reasonably well. One point that he noted was that there was quite a lot of Australian material for sale including an amount of crocoite and a number of Australian opal dealers and American dealers selling Australian opal but since the prices on specimens were all in U.S. dollars the Australian visitor would advisedly not buy Australian specimens there.

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The second report of the evening was given by Penny Williamson on the **Tucson Main Show**.

The report commenced with aerial views of the parts of western America which the speaker had passed over on her journey to Tucson. The city was shown to be situated in a wide, flat, valley fairly well surrounded by mountains and hills on most sides. Penny Williamson noted that the hotel where she was staying in Tucson charged a minimum of US\$80 per night plus 14% tax over the Show period but annoyingly by the end of the Show the tariffs were dropping to \$40 and some places may have been even cheaper.

The speaker proceeded to show a large number of slides of displays in the main Show and views of aspects of Show activities. Penny Williamson also managed to take a few trips around the city and out into the immediate countryside. One site visited outside the city was a disused airplane park and air museum where some 4,750 planes, mostly military including fighter jets and helicopters but also a number of civilian planes are 'mothballed' by being covered in insulating sheet but otherwise parked in the open. Finally there were a few views of the Show exhibitors packing up to leave, an obviously oft-repeated job which most of them were apparently very adept at.

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Peter Williams was asked to introduce the third speaker for the evening, Arnold van der Heyden whom he had first met in the late 1980s when Arnold was the geologist at the MMM mine at Broken Hill. At that time the company had acquired the leases originally owned by Broken Hill South Ltd and had commenced to open cut the Kintore and Block 14 sections and Peter Williams had wanted to conduct dating studies on specimens from these workings. In the course of the visit it was established that Arnold was clearly a keen mineral collector and connoisseur of minerals and at the end of his time at MMM had arranged an on-site auction sale of specimens he had collected over the period. The sale was attended by Peter Williams and Jim Sharpe with most of the specimens being bought for 'ridiculous prices' by the likes of Milton Lavers and other notable collectors.

Since his time at Broken Hill Arnold van der Heyden had moved around the world working for a number of companies and was currently working for a consulting geological company based in Eastwood which provides assessments of mineral resources. Arnold has been very helpful over the years providing research and study material to Peter Williams for his students and has maintained a long professional collaboration with Bill Birch at the Museum of Victoria especially on the minerals of Broken Hill and which has culminated in the publication of a series of excellent articles. Just latterly Arnold has been spending some time in his professional capacity examining the Sepon gold mine in Laos which he was to speak to the members about this evening (**summary of talk will be found in "Meeting Talks" Section of website**).

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## **GEMBOREE 2009**

**Over EASTER 2009: Friday to Monday, the 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of April**

The 45<sup>th</sup> Gemboree this year is being held in the Wimmera Field Day Site, Longerenong Road, Doon, 12klm from Horsham, Victoria, hosted this year by the Horsham & District Lapidary Club.

The Site includes the large Moore Pavilion which will house most of the dealers and displays and there is ample room over the Site for a large number of tailgaters and campers.

Inquiries can be made to the Gemboree Committee at 22 Hutchesson Street, Horsham, VIC 3400. Accommodation inquiries by internet on Google at [totaltravel.com/theWimmera](http://totaltravel.com/theWimmera), or to [tourism@hrcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:tourism@hrcc.vic.gov.au), or to the Horsham Visitor Centre, [www.horshamvic.com.au](http://www.horshamvic.com.au) or by freecall to 1800 633 218.

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## 19th Annual LISMORE GEMFEST

Presented by the **Lismore Lapidary Club** over Saturday and Sunday the 16th and 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2009 at the Lismore Showground, Lismore. The Club display will again follow the theme of the '**Rainbow Region**'. The Show will feature handcrafted jewellery, Gemstones and Minerals, Rare Fossils and Meteorites, Metaphysical and Healing Crystals, Stalls and displays undercover, Demonstrations of Lapidary Crafts, free parking, refreshments available, Show entry fees \$4.

The following information on the Gemfest has been provided by the organisers.

'GEMFEST is one of the largest Lapidary, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil shows in Australia. Last year there were 27 dealers in the main pavilion and more than 100 tailgaters in the show grounds. The Show offers fantastic opportunities to select that special piece of jewellery, beautiful crystals, opals, beads, mineral specimens, rare fossils and lapidary related equipment and material. It is always a fun weekend to join in the many club activities and demonstrations by club members from Lismore and neighbouring clubs. These include sphere making, PMC demonstrations, opal carving, jewellery making, silversmithing, faceting and wire wrapping.

There are so many beautiful items on sale with so many choices – a special mineral specimen, jewellery ready to wear or select, such as a beautiful exotic, cut or faceted gemstone and then take it to a jeweller in the main pavilion, select a gold or silver setting and have it set on the day.

There will be a variety of top line commercial dealers (housed in the main pavilion) as well over 100 tailgaters (hobbyists and stallholders who trade on the grounds in the open). All of these participants aim their displays at the jewellery, mineral and lapidary field.'

Dealer and general inquiries may be made to Bruce Copper at :-

The Lismore Lapidary Club, P.O.Box 743, Lismore, N.S.W. 2480,

by e-mail to [bcopper@bluemaxx.com.au](mailto:bcopper@bluemaxx.com.au)

or general information on <http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au>.

Inquiries about tailgating may be made to Jan Thompson at the same address or by telephone to (02) 6621 4703.

Information leaflets and tailgating registration forms for the Gemfest have been provided by the organisers. Copies of these will be at the next (N.S.W.) Society meeting or available from the Secretary, George Laking.

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## 32<sup>ND</sup> JOINT MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES OF AUSTRALASIA SEMINAR JUNE 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> 2009

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Seminar is being held this year over the usual period of the Queen's Birthday long weekend in June, from Saturday 6th to Monday 8th of June. Associated activities will be held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of June. The Seminar will be hosted by the Queensland Mineralogical Society on the theme **Minerals, Mines & Collectors** and held in the Theatre of the Queensland Museum, Southbank, Brisbane. Seminar presentations will be held through Saturday and Sunday with a Swap and Sell held on the Monday morning. The Seminar dinner will be held on Saturday night at a venue within easy walking distance of the Museum. Registration will be \$60 per person, \$30 for students and the Seminar dinner \$35 per person. Field trips have been organised for Friday the 5<sup>th</sup>, Monday the 8th and Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Queensland Mineralogical Society has distributed parcels of Seminar information and registration forms to all state societies. These will be mailed to (N.S.W.) Society members receiving hard-copy Newsletters or can be accessed by Internet-enabled members from the Queensland Mineralogical Society Website, - '*The Australian Mineral Collector*' or through the Website [www.mineral.org.au](http://www.mineral.org.au). The forms will also be available at the Society General Meetings or by mail from the Secretary, George Laking, however members wishing to attend this year's Seminar are advised that registration forms **must be received by The Queensland Mineralogical Society by April 30<sup>th</sup> next.**

The following details about the Seminar have been reproduced from the Queensland Mineralogical Society information leaflet.

**Seminar Registration:** Registration forms are being distributed. The cost is \$60 for delegates or \$30 for students and the Seminar dinner is \$35. Delegates wishing to sell or swap at the mineral bazaar on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June can indicate this on the registration form and also whether they wish to participate in any of the other field trip and Museum visit activities. The registration forms with fees must be received by The Queensland Mineralogical Society, P.O.Box 15020, City East, Brisbane, QLD 4002, by April 30<sup>th</sup> next.

**The Seminar venue:** The Queensland Museum theatrette, Southbank, is situated on main transport corridors and is easily accessible by bus or train from the CBD or an easy 10 minute walk from the CBD across Victoria Bridge. Also within the precinct is the Queensland Art Gallery, State Library and the newly opened Museum of Modern Art. Adjoining the Museum is Southbank itself, with over 80 hectares of gardens, walking paths, restaurants and a large swimming lagoon. Entry to all areas is free.

**The Seminar dinner:** The Queensland Mineralogical Society has booked a private function room at the Ship Inn, an historic hotel dating from the 1880's. Located within Southbank, it is about a 10-minute walk from the museum through the Southbank gardens to the Ship Inn, or one stop on the rail line which is about 100 metres away. The Ship Inn looks over the Queensland Maritime Museum which houses a number of displays, as well as an historic dry dock holding the decommissioned frigate HMAS Diamantina.

**The Minerals Heritage Museum:** For those delegates in Brisbane before or after the seminar, a visit to the Minerals Heritage Museum is worthwhile. Located in the foyer of 61 Mary Street in the Brisbane CBD, it has four large cabinets of mineral specimens on display. These include many high quality Australian pieces. The display can only be accessed Monday to Friday between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm (not on public holidays). A selection of MHM specimens will be on display at the seminar venue.

**Field Trips:** There will be field trips on Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> to the Julius Kruttschnitt Mineral Research Centre in Indooroopilly, home of the University of Queensland Experimental Mine. On Monday June 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a trip to Laidley, about 80kms west of Brisbane for creek fossicking and on Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup> to Toowoomba to fossick on dumps from a road tunnel.

Inquiries may be made to: - The Queensland Mineralogical Society Inc.  
P.O.Box 15020  
City East Brisbane QLD 4002

Russell Kanowski President, MinSoc Qld  
and Seminar convenor  
Tel: 07 4635 8627  
Mb: 0407 390 758  
eM: [kanowfam@icr.com.au](mailto:kanowfam@icr.com.au)

Tony Forsyth Secretary, MinSoc Queensland  
Tel: 07 3146 1779 (Bus Hours)  
Tel: 07 3396 9769 (After Hours)  
Mb: 0419 661 962  
eM: mineral@gil.com.au

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## 2009 FESTIVAL OF TREASURES

Presented by the Australian Fossickers Association over the Queen's Birthday Long Weekend.

Friday JUNE 5<sup>th</sup> to Monday JUNE 8<sup>th</sup> 2009

9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on Monday.

The **Festival of Treasures** Show has been held for a number of years in the Gosford Showgrounds but is now to be held on a site on the corner of Hue Hue Road and Wyee Road, Wyee, N.S.W. The site is central to the Wyee area and a short way from Wyee rail station but motorists please note, whilst the Sydney to Newcastle freeway is a short distance from the Show site there is not an exit there and cars would need to turn off the freeway further south at the Tuggerah or Toukley turn-offs.

Featuring: Meteorite display by G.E.O. Discoveries, Central Coast Lapidary Club display, gemstone, jewellery, fossil, mineral and other collectable sales and dealers, 'Tailgate Alley' sales and small dealers. Free car parking, refreshments, entry \$3.

Inquiries to the Australian Fossickers Association,  
P.O.Box 9095, Wyee, N.S.W. 2259  
or telephone 02 4399 2457.

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## **BLAXLAND GEM & MINERAL CLUB GEM SHOW**

Over Saturday and Sunday August 15th and 16th 2009. 8 am to 4 pm Daily

In the Glenbrook Community Hall, Great Western Highway, Glenbrook, NSW  
(Next to Glenbrook Theatre), Just west of Information Centre.

<http://www.freewebs.com/blaxlandgemmineralclub/BGMCshow.htm>

Displays of lapidary work and gem, mineral and crystal sales.  
Refreshments available. Entry: Adults: \$3.00, Children \$1.00.

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