

# THE LINE FROM THE LODGE



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The Newsletter of The Broken Hill Mineral Club Inc.

PO Box 747 Broken Hill, NSW. 2880. (ABN:11502101481)

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS

2009 Annual Membership to the Broken Hill Mineral Club Inc. is as follows

Full Membership - \$25  
Associate Membership - \$15  
Family Membership - \$40  
Child Under 16 - \$5  
Newsletter Subscription - \$5

## CHRISTMAS 2009 EDITION

Welcome to the last edition of the club Newsletter for 2009.

This year has been an eventful one with the clubroom being finished to the point that it could be utilised for our meetings and we have started the work to set up the machinery and begin cutting and polishing workshops.

We have also had donations of display cabinets from the Geocentre following their refurbishment, which we have modified and setup for our own displays in the room.

The field trips over the past year have been very well attended. The various locations all yielded quality material and all who went were able to add to their collections. There were some very good finds and some not so good. It's amazing how good the specimens look in the field but then when you get them home they turn into garden rocks. This year a few of our new members were able to hone their skills in selective fossicking and after several trips they finally worked out the difference between a piece worth taking home and a piece of "leaverite".

Next year's field trip calendar has been set and is included in this newsletter. Once again we will visit some old favourite spots and there are some new areas that are just begging to be explored.

Our Rock-On show this year was a great success and well patronised by the mineral collecting fraternity. A full report is included in this edition of the newsletter.

Finally, to finish the year we will be having our Christmas Party on the first Monday - the 7th - in December. This year we have organised a dinner at the Silver City Chinese Restaurant, on the corner of Oxide and Crystal Streets. The meal will be subsidised by the club and if you are wishing to attend, we ask that you let Les Creswick know so that we can organise final numbers. Les' contact details listed are below.

So as we head into 2010 we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope that you find that killer specimen on one of our field trips next year... TD

PS. Membership renewals are due prior to the AGM in February - Renewal Form attached at the back of this edition.

## CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

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## Does It Pay?

**The following article was first published in the November 1901 issue of the *Mineral Collector*. Written by noted Mineral Dealer from that time - Charles H. Pennypacker, he considers the question of why there is such a difference in the retail prices of minerals. A question still very topical in today's mineral market. Article sourced and provided by Peter Black**

Every collector of minerals has to answer this question. I regret to say that too often the reply is so full of circumlocution and explanation, that the questioner doubts the sincerity of his scientific friend, who has made the mistake of "too much language". The collecting of minerals does pay, and the answer to this query should be a square "Yes" as plain and solid as a trip-hammer.

It all depends on the collector. If his is of a narrow, grasping, suspicious, nature; if he has a mean, stingy soul, which measures every action in human life by the scale or the yard-stick, his labors will consist of a lot of "turnpikes" which will be just as contemptible as was their owner in life.

One good specimen for which a good price was paid by the first purchaser will grow in value at the rate of five percent interest compounded. Show me the man who begins to growl about the price before he says a word about the quality of the specimen, and I will point to you one of the throng of flyblown mineralogists who lag in the way of those who believe that it is impossible to get something for nothing.

In the three decades that have passed, again and again has one of these "penny wise and pound foolish" people asked me how it was that all the fine things went to the Bement collection, I would reply: That's an easy one! You belong to the skin-flint fraternity. You are always afraid that you will pay too much for a mineral, and when you find out that some other collector has secured a better specimen than yours at a less price than you paid, you mourn as one without hope.

None of these traits exist in Mr Bement. He long since understood the situation. There is no standard of value; there *is* no rule whereby specimens may be assessed. Many circumstances govern and modify the demand and supply. Only about one dealer in five lays up any treasures on earth. The other four are like the collectors, they fall into the notion that numbers count ahead of quality, and retain boxes of rubbish and call it "stock" or a "cabinet."

Yes! First class examples increase in value, at

the rate of five percent compounded. But there is another view to take of this case. A genuine student of nature learns how to keep well. He understands the dangers of gluttony; neither does he become a freak on fasting. If he learns the lessons of the rocks, he realizes the meaning of a crystal in creation's plan. He becomes philosophic and acquires that even disposition which preserves the symmetry of his soul.

The late William S. Vaux was in London and went into the mineral Store of Bryce M. Wright. There had just arrived a consignment of zeolites from Poonah, India. It had been made by a civil engineer who had been engaged in railroad building in that region. The Philadelphian was amazed. St. Andreasberg in the Harz Mountains had afore time turned out rose-coloured apophyllites which seemed to have the rays of a sunset, but these specimens from the hills of Hindustan surpassed them all. He wanted to see all the old dealer had. Mr. Wright said in a tone that smacked of the Cumberland "pits": "Well, Mr. Vaux, you can take what you want and you will see the prices on the labels! I cannot unpack boxes which won't be touched until these reach a low stage." It was evident there was a best and a second best. While he waiting for the Poonah "things" to be packed, he suddenly remembered that his cabinet in Philadelphia yawned for a rhomb of Iceland Spar. Oh! Yes said the old Cumberland miner, what size? With that he lifted a curtain behind the counter and there was, a huge mass, about three feet square, from which the chisel and mallet could excavate the article. "How did you get that?" Bought it from the captain of a vessel.

The only depressing factor in the situation is the lack of public and general interest in scientific collecting. There is some reason for this to be found in the deficiencies of the individual sometimes. Make your conversation interesting. Keep abreast of the times. Take a group of quartz crystals or a polished smithsonite and place them on the parlor mantel along side of some wild Japanese dream, and observe how much attention your specimen will get.

My conclusions are that collecting minerals pays:

## Does It Pay? (CONTINUED)

- ◆ In increase of cash value.
- ◆ In gain to health and strength
- ◆ In the cultivation of an inquiring spirit and in general knowledge

Provided

- ◆ You select the best.
- ◆ Destroy a mean streak of selfish economy
- ◆ Grow in grace and manhood and a broadened view or your duty to fellow man

I should not have written thus had I not had this, question thrust at me by people who could not distinguish a crystal from a sky-rocket, yet could see a dollar in the middle of a mud-hole on the darkest night: and by some sucking scientists who want the best, are unwilling to pay for it, and are dreadfully afraid of being "stuck" in some fifty cent purchase requiring hours of thought and diplomacy.

These festering and pestering souls are mineralogical mosquitoes and geological gad-flies. They don't seem to know that there are several things in this world of love and beauty and long life and fun, which cannot be appraised.

The law of general average hinges all things even at last. If the wayfaring mineralogist develops freakish notions, such as seeking a vegetable pasture exclusively, or refusing to consume chloride of sodium, or living on one meal a day, or drinking south-running water, he is "called hence" in the morning of his day, and the world continues to do business at the old stand.

The study of the natural sciences ought to expand the mind and enlarge the ability to grasp intellectual problems. And yet there is always somebody who will stop at a church door, halt at a jail door, pause at a court-house door, tarry at the door of his sweetheart's home, and ask the question: Does it pay'?

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Editors Note: The views in this article are the Authors. Collecting minerals can be enjoyable and rewarding, both as the emotional gratification of having a nice piece for yourself and also as a financial investment. Whichever reason one person has to collect minerals, the common factor for all true collectors is an appreciation of the specimen to a point that they wish to keep it as theirs. Even if the price is high, if you really want it, you'll pay.



**Three example of where it does pay to collect quality mineral specimens as an investment.**

**Above:** Spessartine garnets on smoky quartz from China. While small samples of these are commonly available, good quality specimens are reaching \$500 or more.

**Below:** 4cm spessartine garnet from Broken Hill. Quality garnets like this are rare and can fetch up to \$1500.

**Bottom:** A sample containing 2cm pyrite cubes on matrix, from Spain. Originally purchased at \$25 but is now valued at around \$80 - \$120 after fifteen years.



## GEM and Mineral Show : ROCK-ON 2010

Our Rock-On show this year was a resounding success with a great turn up of traders and collectors from all over Australia. The move to the Events Centre at the racecourse and a move away from the long weekend proved advantageous as we were able to attract for the first time mineral dealers who had not been to our show before. In saying this we saw many of the past traders once again make the effort to come up to our show, and we thank them for their continued support.

What was the most memorable thing about the show...DUST!! On the Friday the dust arrived and stayed all day. As a result many of the traders who had booked an outdoor site decided to take advantage of the reserve space inside the main hall and set up shop indoors. This then filled the hall and made for a fantastic sight indeed. The hall itself was just the right setting for this type of event as it had all of the facilities and enough floor space for all the traders and displays, without too much overcrowding.

Over the course of the show we had many extra activities including a treasure hunt for the kids, a "guess my weight" competition of a large mass of galena, a raffle of an artwork and a leadlight lamp, and an auction with items donated by the various traders. Food and drinks were provided primarily by the Saint's Rugby Club and we thank them for their service over the weekend.

While the weather kept the public support down on Friday and Saturday, Sunday saw a much higher attendance from the locals, to conclude with around 1000 people coming through the doors for the weekend.



**Above:** Peter Beckwith of Crystal Habit at this stall



**Left:** Gus Paskalis, holding an old time Broken Hill Smithsonite

**Below:** General view across the main hall

**Below Left:** A very nice old time Broken Hill cerussite and anglesite, on Ashleigh Watt's stall.



The following two days of field trips saw a very good attendance with over 50 people signing up to come along. Both days were very successful with every person who came, finding material worthy of addition to their collections. We must thank Andy Treloar of Tikalina Station and Trevor and Colin Clare of Limestone Station for allowing us access to their properties.

With the success of this year's show, it was decided at our November meeting to make it an annual event and trial it for the next three years. As a result the dates for next year's Rock-On will be Friday the 24th to Sunday the 26th of September, once again to be held at the Event's Centre, with field trips on the following Monday and Tuesday.

# GEM and Mineral Show : ROCK-ON 2010



**Above:** Cut crystal "diamonds" and pianos on "Wire Wrapped Creatives" stall.



**Above Right:** Brian Spicer of "Wire Wrapped Creatives" at his stall



**Right:** Frankie and Ken Mills minding the Club Information Table.



**Middle Right:** Ross Clark serving at his stall.

**Below Right:** General view across the main hall.

**Below:** A table of amethyst from the Northern Territory



## BROKEN HILL MINERAL CLUB - 2010 CALENDAR

| MONTH            | FIELD TRIP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | MEETING                                                                                                                         |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>February</b>  | <b>No Field Trip</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>AGM</b><br><b>Monday 1st - 7:30 pm</b>                                                                                       |
| <b>March</b>     | <b>Fairy Hill Copper Mine</b><br>Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> – 8:00 am. (50km)<br>Bring Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags, etc.<br>Meet – Sydney Road Info Bay                                                                                                        | <b>Monday 1st - 7:30 pm</b><br><b>Mineral - Chrysocolla</b>                                                                     |
| <b>April</b>     | <b>No Field Trip</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Monday 5th - 7:30 pm</b><br><b>Mineral - Stilbite</b>                                                                        |
| <b>May</b>       | <b>Mundi Mundi Station Area</b><br>Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> – 8:30 am. (50km)<br>Bring Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags, Sieves, etc.<br>Meet – Corner Brown St and Silverton Road                                                                                | <b>Monday 3rd - 7:30 pm</b><br><b>Mineral - Actinolite</b><br><b>Presentation - T Dart</b><br><b>BHP &amp; THE LINE OF LODE</b> |
| <b>June</b>      | <b>Purnamoota Station</b><br>Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> – 7:30 am. (40km)<br>Bring Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags, etc.<br>Meet – Corner Schlapp St and Nine Mile Road                                                                                            | <b>Monday 7th - 7:30 pm</b><br><b>Mineral - Dravite Tourmaline</b>                                                              |
| <b>July</b>      | <b>Wertago Station - Overnight Camp</b><br>Weekend 17 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> – 7:00 am. (220km)<br>Bring Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags, Packing Boxes,<br>Sleeping gear, Food, Water, etc.<br>Meet – Tibooburra Road near Rifle Range.              | <b>Monday 5th - 7:30 pm</b><br><b>Mineral - Azurite</b><br><b>Presentation - TBA</b>                                            |
| <b>August</b>    | <b>Corona Amethyst Fields</b><br>Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> – 7:30 am. (90km)<br>Bring Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags, etc.<br>Meet – Tibooburra Road near Rifle Range.                                                                                           | <b>Monday 2nd - 7:30 pm</b><br><b>Mineral - Smoky Quartz</b>                                                                    |
| <b>September</b> | <b>Gem &amp; Mineral Show: ROCK – ON 2010</b><br>Show Dates - Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> - Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup><br>Field Trips - Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup><br>Broken Hill Racecourse & Event Centre                                 | <b>Monday 6th - 7:30 pm</b><br><b>Mineral - Hedenbergite</b>                                                                    |
| <b>October</b>   | <b>Olary District – Overnight Camp</b><br>Weekend 15 <sup>th</sup> / 16 <sup>th</sup> / 17 <sup>th</sup> – 4:00 pm. (up to 220km)<br>Bring Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags, Packing Boxes,<br>Sleeping gear, Food, Water, etc.<br>Meet – Adelaide Road Info Bay | <b>Monday 4th - 7:30 pm</b><br><b>Mineral - Andradite</b><br><b>Presentation - TBA</b>                                          |
| <b>November</b>  | <b>Barrier Colorado Copper Mine Area</b><br>Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> – 8:30 am (30km)<br>Bring Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags, etc.<br>Meet – Corner Schlapp St and Nine Mile Road                                                                              | <b>Monday 1st - 7:30 pm</b><br><b>Mineral - Atacamite</b>                                                                       |
| <b>December</b>  | <b>No Field Trip</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>End Of Year Christmas Party</b><br><b>Monday 6th - 6:00 pm</b><br><b>Mineral - Find of the Year</b>                          |

**PLEASE NOTE:** These field trips are tentative – pending final negotiations with land / lease holders.  
Demonstrators and Guest Speakers are also tentative, pending final confirmation of availability.

# BROKEN HILL MINERAL CLUB INC. (ABN:11502101481)

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2010

### TO THE TREASURER:

*Please find enclosed my 2010 subscriptions for membership to the BROKEN HILL MINERAL CLUB INC.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERSHIP NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

|                          |                                 |         |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Full Membership                 | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Associate Membership *          | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Junior Membership (12-16 years) | \$5.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family Membership **            | \$40.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Newsletter Subscription only    | \$5.00  |

*\* Only residents outside of the Broken Hill district may apply for Associate membership.*

*\*\* Family membership includes family members living at the same residential address only.*

Enamelled Club Membership Badge – with blue background  
yellow writing and cerussite motif – @ \$ 3.00 each

Quantity (please circle)    1    2    3    4    5



### Committee Use Only

Receipt Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Records Updated: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed

Treasurer

Secretary