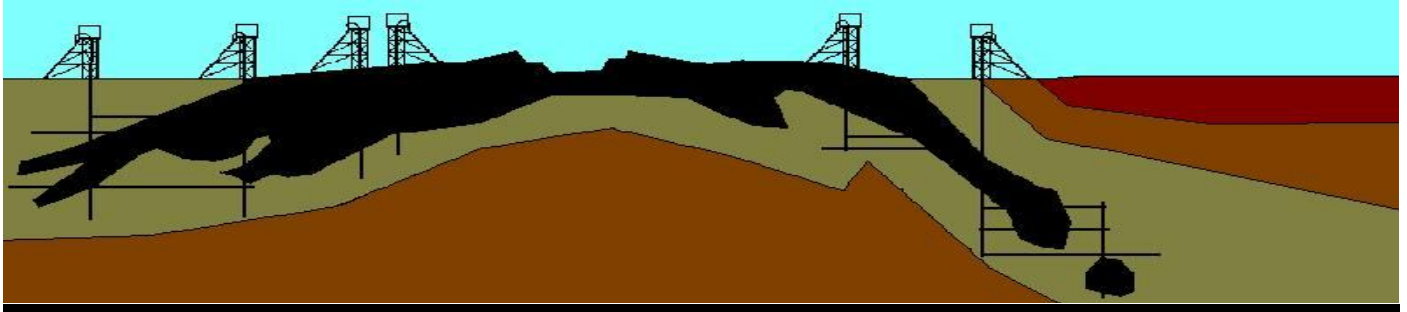


# The Line from the Lode



Volume 9, Issue 2

June 2008

The Newsletter of The Broken Hill Mineral Club Inc.

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

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

Full Membership - \$20  
Associate Membership - \$15  
Family Membership - \$35  
Child Under 16 - \$5  
Newsletter Subscription - \$5

**For Community Inc. Membership add an extra \$3.50 per person**

## Remember to carry your ID card

*Hello to All...*

Winter is upon us and the rain has come. On our last field trip I was worried that we would be blown off the hills by a sub-antarctic front but luckily for us we had quite a nice day. I was also pleased to see some feed finally coming up in the paddocks, when for so long they have been bare.

One of our guidelines in the club code of ethics is to not damage property or disturb stock. This the main reason why we have walked into some areas of late and not driven. For when the ground is bare as it has been, vehicles can cause irreparable damage to the already fragile surface.

In this issue I have included the fossicking code of ethics that the club follows. It is important that our newer members read and understand this code, as it is the primary document that allows us

to negotiate access with land and lease holders.

It is important that all members follow this code as now that we are affiliated with GEMCASA we are also bound under their code.

With GEMCASA all members should carry with them on field trips their membership card. This has your identification, while inside is the GEMCASA code of ethics (and how remarkably similar it is to ours). It is also your cover for insurance, should you have an accident while out on a club arranged trip.

On a lighter note, it is good to see some keen new members and we would like to welcome - Andrea and Mike Schultzer with a family membership and Daniel Groves and Matthew James as full members

Until next time...happy fossicking...

Trev

## New Name for the "ROCK-ON" Competition

Can you think of a new name for the ROCK-ON, for when we move it into town from Silverton. Write your suggestion on the back of an envelope along with your name and bring it along or send it to the club prior to the August meeting. The winning suggestion to be voted at this meeting will receive a BH Mineral Club surprise gift pack.

## CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

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# The importance of knowledge in the field of MINERAL collecting

In the world of mineral collecting, the key to building a top class collection is knowledge. There are three stages in collecting - the beginner, the trader and the advanced. Each stage has its own level of knowledge and expertise.

At the beginner stage you start to assemble your collection and collect large amounts of pretty rocks and "leaverite" (as in leave it right where you found it). You keep everything you find and you buy bargain boxes, while trusting that the labelling or identification advice given is correct. As your collection increases you find that your skills in identification become better and your eye for a good specimen is developed. You become fussy and start to look for those missing specimens to complete a suite or better examples of what you already have. You have reached the trader stage as you swap or sell your excess and keep only the better specimens. At the advanced stage your collection is reduced as you now keep the very best and only swap or purchase a specimen that betters what you already have.

It is an increase in knowledge that allows you to go up to each stage. Advanced collectors know the major world localities by suites and can pick a location by the style of crystallisation or the matrix of the rock. They know chemical formulae and can tell the difference between fayalite and forsterite when everyone else calls it olivine. They also have meticulous cataloguing systems and are able to locate a single specimen from their collection, mid-sentence and within a blink of an eye. Advanced collectors will also specialize in a particular species or location as it becomes their favourite. This is the case for some advanced Broken Hill collectors who only collect specimens from the district or exclusively the line of lode.

As you build your collection there are two ways to improve it, go out to the fossicking sites and hunt for yourself or frequent the mineral shows or e-bay and purchase those missing items that you are after.

## Choice 1: Go Out and Look For Yourself

If there is one rule to successful fossicking it is to know what it is you are looking for and where to start looking. To have this knowledge you must first do the background research so that you do not waste large amounts of time "in the dark".

Background researching a mineral collecting location is the best way to get the information needed. This information would include...

- ◆ what type of geology is found in the area - you won't find pegmatite minerals in a sedimentary

area and igneous terrains usually don't have fossils.

- ◆ what minerals have been found in the past and in what quantities - were the reports saying that there was plenty left or have they been exhausted.
- ◆ were the specimens found macro or micro - do you need to take your hand lens or not.
- ◆ how accessible is the site - have roads or fences changed, can you drive in or do you have to walk.
- ◆ Is the site still there - or has it been rehabilitated or covered.

Remember that some information has an expiry date as old mine sites are rehabilitated or properties change hands.

One of the best examples of out of date background knowledge I have heard is the case of the sapphires, rubies and coloured tourmalines found at Daws Diggings on Kangaroo Island - South Australia. Many gem hunters have gone looking for these wonderful specimens only to find out that the whole area has been ploughed and graded and is covered by either farmland or bushland. The samples found totalled only a few kilograms and were all less than 5 mm in size.

A lack of knowledge or obtaining the wrong knowledge will only lead to a wild goose chase and a total waste of time.

## Choice 2: Purchasing Mineral Specimens

Again knowledge is important when buying mineral specimens. At most mineral shows - the *Gemboree* each Easter is the largest in Australia and will be held at Horsham Victoria next year - there are two designated areas, the tailgaters who are trader stage collectors and the dealers, who are advanced collectors. The dealers occupy the main hall while the tailgaters are out on the oval. As a rule of thumb the cheaper samples will be with the tailgaters while the better quality specimens will be with the dealers.

The knowledge factor here is based on economics. How much are you willing to spend and how many specimens do you want to take home. Will you be happy with ten \$30 mediocre samples or will you spend \$300 on one killer specimen.

With the right knowledge you will be able to identify the specimens that are the best value for money and you will come out on top. Often you can compare prices and quality between different dealers and make an informed decision on the best piece to buy. There is one snag in this and that is that the early bird gets

## The importance of knowledge in the field of MINERAL collecting - continued

the worm and if you take too long to decide then it is inevitable that another keen eyed collector will beat you to the piece. This is definitely the case with the tailgater stands where there are many more traders and by the time you come back the piece is gone.

With the introduction of technology and the internet you can now buy specimens direct from many dealers around the world. There are several major mineral dealers with websites and quality material for sale. Some of the top dealer sites can be found via [webmineral.com](http://webmineral.com) and following this link

[http://webmineral.com/other\\_advertising.shtml](http://webmineral.com/other_advertising.shtml)

The other major method of acquiring mineral specimens over the internet is via online auction sites such as e-bay and oz-auction. With these sites there are a few things to remember.

- ◆ You must register as a user.
- ◆ You must abide by their rules and regulations.
- ◆ You must have a payment method - such as a credit card, PayPal account or linked bank account.
- ◆ You pay the postage cost on top of the purchase price.

These sites are really good to get background information. You can search for individual mineral species and compare size, quality and prices from around the world. At these sites you rely on a photograph and description so be warned that there can be some disappointment in how the specimen looks in real life. For a site like e-bay the seller has a feedback profile you can check. This will tell you how reliable the person is and whether or not they are a fair seller.

Again knowledge is the key. You need to know the usual postage costs for items from different parts of the world and the differences in services, so that you can request the service that best suits. A bargain is not a bargain if the postage cost is too high. You also need to know the site rules and regulations. I was caught once by a renowned Melbourne dealer who tried to change the postage cost after the sale went through. According to the site rules and regulations, if a seller has a mistake in their listing at the time of sale then they have to wear it. Needless to say I received the item at the originally quoted postage cost.

### Acquiring Knowledge

There are many sources of information to help you build on your knowledge of minerals. Firstly talk to other collectors that are at or almost at the advanced stage. You may find within a mineral club a mentor who will teach you the basics and help you develop your eye. This per-

son would have been collecting for many years, visited many locations and can identify in hand specimens so many more minerals than you. A good mentor will constructively correct your mistakes and show you the differences between similar minerals so that you can better your skills.

Build a good library of mineral related texts. Start with a simple mineral and rock identification guide such as the "Eyewitness Guides" or "Pocket Guides". Once you have a good reference for common minerals then get a more advanced book like the "Complete Encyclopaedia of Minerals" to cover more rarer species. Any advanced collector would have a copy of the most recent version of "Fleischer's Glossary of Mineral Species" which is the definitive checklist for all known minerals.

If you wanted to be more specific in your collection you would now start acquiring reference about the areas that take your interest. These could include fluorescent minerals, radioactive minerals, varieties within one species or descriptive mineralogies for certain locations.

For the Broken Hill collector the definitive book is the "Minerals of Broken Hill" first published in 1982 by Australian Mining and Smelting and a second edition produced in 1999 by the Broken Hill City Council. The first edition is no longer available, while the second edition can be purchased for \$80 at the Geocentre in Broken Hill.

There are also periodicals that can be subscribed to obtain recent information about minerals and collecting locations. Many of these contain articles by collectors who have visited the areas while others contain research papers and can be quite technical. Some recommended periodicals are

- ◆ The Australian Journal Of Mineralogy
- ◆ The Mineralogical Record (USA)
- ◆ The Australian & New Zealand Mineral Collector Magazine
- ◆ Gold, Gem and Treasure Magazine
- ◆ Metal Stone and Glass Magazine

The final source of mineral information is via the world wide web and the best sites to visit include.

- ◆ Mineralogy Database 1 - [www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org)
- ◆ Mineralogy Database 2 - [www.webmineral.com](http://www.webmineral.com)
- ◆ The Australian Mineral Collector - good site for Australian locations - [www.mineral.org.au](http://www.mineral.org.au)

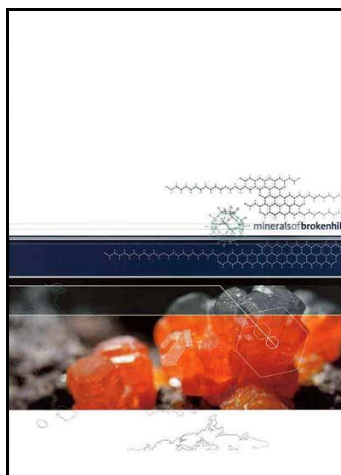
In closing I quote Benjamin Franklin - "An investment in knowledge always pays the best dividends."

# MINERAL PUBLICATIONS

As mentioned in the previous article there are quite a number of good publications available to mineral collectors. The following are all able to be bought either direct from the source, via newsagents or online over the internet.

## MINERALS OF BROKEN HILL

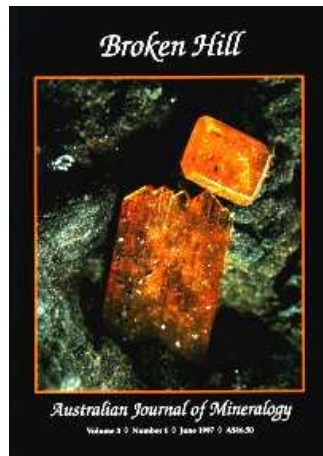
This book of 290 pages is the definitive reference on the minerals from the Broken Hill orebody. Revamped and updated from the 1982 edition this version contains many of the original full colour photographs plus many more. Also included are sections on the Broken Hill history, geology and important mineral collections. This book includes an updated list of minerals found, with the extra minerals found during open cut mining activity in the 1990's.



Available from the Geocentre in Bromide Street, Broken Hill. Price is \$80. Copies may be ordered via email [geocentre@brokenhill.nsw.gov.au](mailto:geocentre@brokenhill.nsw.gov.au)

## AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF MINERALOGY

Produced by the Museum of Victoria this publication subscription is \$28 per year for two editions. Content covers Australian mineral sites and new discoveries. Articles can be quite technical and may not suit beginning collectors. The special edition on Broken Hill is still available as a backorder. For further information visit [www.mineral.org.au/pubs/ajm.html](http://www.mineral.org.au/pubs/ajm.html) for the full list and descriptions.

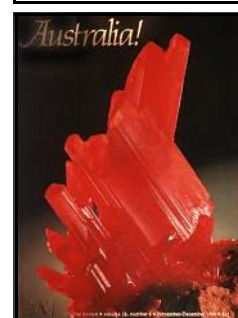
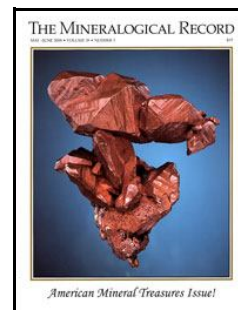


## MINERALOGICAL RECORD

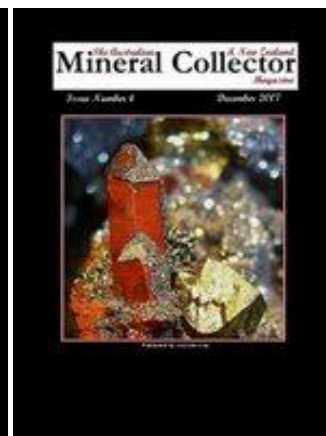
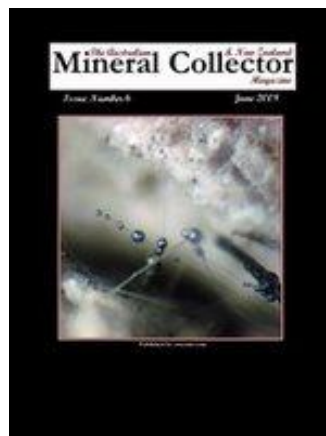
This publication is produced in America and focusses on mineral locations, discoveries and new research from all over the world. The quality of articles and photography cannot be surpassed (the Australian Journal of Mineralogy took it's format from this publication). The special edition on Australia from 1988 is available on back-order and worthwhile.

Subscription cost is US\$15 per issue plus postage, with four per year. Back issues range from US\$12 to US\$20 for the special editions.

For more information go to [www.minrec.org](http://www.minrec.org)



## AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MINERAL COLLECTOR MAGAZINE



Edited and produced by Steve Sorrell in Tasmania this publication contains articles about mineral collecting localities throughout Australia and New Zealand. It is aimed at the collector and as such has good information about site accessibility and the minerals found. There are also reports on shows and lots of full colour photos.

Copies are printed on order via [lulu.com](http://lulu.com) an online publishing company for US\$10. To obtain current issues and/or the combined 2007 issue in hardcover go to [www.lulu.com/smartarts](http://www.lulu.com/smartarts) and follow the links

### SPECIAL FOR CLUB MEMBERS

Visit the Geocentre and mention this ad to receive an extra \$5 off the retail price for the Minerals Of Broken Hill (Sec Ed) book

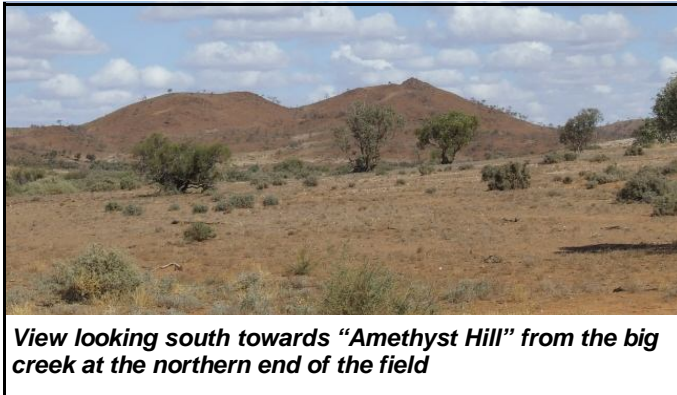


## Field Trip Reports - corona, kalabity & Thackaringa

The past three months have seen the club venture both back to known locations and try some new ones.

In April we went up to the McDougalls Well amethyst field in search of good plates and crystals of amethyst, smoky and clear quartz. We first went to the far north-western end of the field and searched some new ground for veins. After following the extension of some older diggings we were able to open up some new untouched veins that yielded small but good plates. After lunch a small party including Hal and Marg Murray and Ross and Maureen Clark found good smoky quartz plates in an area to the northeast.

While this area has been well fossicked in the past it is clear that with extra effort and the willingness to walk over a lot of ground, you can still find untouched areas that will yield good material.



**View looking south towards "Amethyst Hill" from the big creek at the northern end of the field**

In May we changed our plans to go to Adelaide and Tom's Phosphate Quarry, following a few negative reports from some of our members who had visited the site after the Gemboree in March. We inquired about going to Kalabity Station to collect chialstolites. The station manager Scott was fine with us coming out and directed us to the tower at the top of the hill behind the shearers quarters. This spot has been known as a good location for chialstolites for many years. The flank facing the shearers quarters was well denuded while the back flank of the hill yielded large crystals up to 40 mm across and 80 mm long. After we collected our share we had lunch at the shearers quarters and then decided



**Beryl in mica and feldspar from a pegmatite on Kalabity Station**

to go and investigate new ground and picked a nearby hill. Luck would have it that a small pit near the base had opened up a pegmatite with small yellow-green beryls. Further up the



**Chialstolites by the bucketful can be found on Kalabity**

hill a patch of epidote was found.

All in all a good day was had and we thank Scott the manager for allowing us on.

As we travelled back to Broken Hill we had a brief stop at a pile of road fill that had been brought down

from a pegmatite quarry. This pile of rock yielded nice yellow beryls. It would be nice to know where the pile is headed as there must be some very good crystals inside the pile and well worth the wait for it to be spread out on the road.

In June we went out to a garnet location on Thackaringa Station. This spot had been visited following last year's Rock-On and the potential was seen then to come back.

David Lord of Thackaringa station was fine with us going in provided we walked the 800 metres in from the highway and avoided his sheep, who were mid-lambing.

While the main pit here has been well fossicked and turned over the years but there are still large garnets up to 50 mm across to be recovered. Most however are pitted or broken but there were many smaller well formed glassy crystals found. Further down the flank of the hill from the main garnet pit a schist containing very nice garnets had been opened up, while on the next hill a vein containing large staurolite crystals had shed numerous dark brown glassy crystals. Find of the day goes to Terry and Carol Weber, who located a boulder in the creek that was almost entirely made of black mica studded with well formed garnet crystals up to 25 mm diameter.

Yet again this location showed that it still has the potential for future discoveries. We have only explored a small area near the pit and there are many more hills to yet be investigated.



**A nice cluster of garnets in black mica from Thackaringa Station**

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**THE BROKEN HILL MINERAL CLUB INC.**

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**FOSSICKING CODE OF ETHICS**

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1. All Members, Associates, Temporary Members, Honorary Life Members and visitors of the Broken Hill Mineral Club Inc. must adhere to this Code of Ethics.
  2. All persons shall display good manners, respect other people's property and at all times conduct themselves in a manner, which will add stature to the public image of mineral fossicking / collecting everywhere.
  3. All persons shall comply with all safety rules and precautions in the interest of personal safety. Hard hats, enclosed footwear, protective clothing and safety glasses are necessary in all underground or cliff workings or as requested by property owners / managers / operators / and field officers.
  4. Parents or guardians must closely supervise all children at all times.
  5. No members shall enter private property without obtaining the prior consent of the landowner, lessee or manager, and shall conform in all regards with the Mining Act in force at the time.
  6. Due care shall be taken not to damage property, crops, flora, fauna, Aboriginal art or natural monuments. Stock (including domestic animals) shall not be disturbed.
  7. Gates of properties must be left as found or requested by owner.
  8. Water supplies in many areas are essential to life itself; care must be taken not to contaminate or waste water in any way.
  9. Camp sites and fossicking areas are to be left clean, all rubbish removed from site and holes filled in. Campsites must be situated minimum of 200 metres from any watering place so as not to deny stock and animals access to water.
  10. Discretion must be used when collecting material, leaving some for future collectors, whilst abiding by the Dept of Mineral Resources weight limits.
  11. All fire bans must be observed. If fires are permitted, they must be extinguished thoroughly before departure.
  12. Firearms and explosives are not permitted on field trips.
  13. Permission must be obtained from the Field Officer before any pet is taken on a field trip. Pets on field trips must be controlled at all times.
  14. All persons attend all activities at their own risk and must sign the relevant indemnity form prior to entry to properties, minesites, etc.
  15. No member shall use The Broken Hill Mineral Club Inc. name to gain entry to fossicking areas for personal gain without permission from the executive. Any member returning to a field trip site without field officer's and/or owner's permission shall become liable to expulsion from the club and to any legal action pressed by the landholder; The Broken Hill Mineral Club Inc. accepting no responsibility for any such action.
  16. Any member who wilfully infringes any of the above rules shall be liable to expulsion from The Broken Hill Mineral Club Inc. and shall be personally liable for any legal action pressed by landholders as a result of their non-compliance with the above rules. The Broken Hill Mineral Club Inc. will not accept any responsibility for any such action.
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## BROKEN HILL MINERAL CLUB - 2008 / 2009 CALENDAR

MONTH	FIELD TRIP	MEETING
July 2008	<b>Woolcunda Station – Desert Rose</b> Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> – 7:00 am (140km) Bring Shovels, Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags / Boxes, Buckets. Meet – Wentworth Road in front of the Zinc Lakes.	Monday 7th - 7:30 pm  Gypsum
August 2008	<b>Purnamoota</b> Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> – 8:00 am. (40km) Bring Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags, etc. Meet – Corner Schlapp St and Nine Mile Road	Monday 4th - 7:30 pm  Feldspar
September 2008	<b>Olary District – Overnight Camp</b> Weekend 19 <sup>th</sup> / 20 <sup>th</sup> / 21 <sup>st</sup> – 4:00 pm. (220km) Bring Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags, Packing Boxes, Sleeping gear, Food, Water, etc. Meet – Adelaide Road Info Bay	Monday 1st - 7:30 pm  Rutile
October 2008	<b>Tikalina Station – Radium Hill</b> Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> – 7:00 am. (100km) Bring Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags, etc. Meet – Adelaide Road Info Bay	Monday 6th - 7:30 pm  Kyanite
November 2008	<b>Limestone Station</b> Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> – 8:00 am (15km) Bring Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags, etc. Meet – Corner Brown St and Silverton Road	Monday 3rd - 7:30 pm  Spinel
December 2008	<b>No Field Trip</b>	End Of Year Christmas Party Monday 1st - 6:00 pm Bring your “Find of the Year”
January 2009	<b>No Field Trip</b>	<b>No Meeting</b> Christmas Vacation
February 2009	<b>No Field Trip</b>	<b>AGM</b> Monday 2nd - 7:30 pm
March 2009	<b>Thackaringa Station</b> Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> – 8:00 am. (40km) Bring Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags, etc. Meet – Adelaide Road Info Bay	Monday 2nd - 7:30 pm  Staurolite
April 2009	<b>Gemboree – Horsham Victoria</b> Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> – Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April (Easter Holiday Weekend).	Monday 6th - 7:30 pm  Bustamite
May 2009	<b>Ascot Vale - Copper Blow / Sphepe Pit</b> Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> – 8:30 am. (30km) Bring Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags, Sieves, etc. Meet – Wentworth Road in front of the Zinc Lakes.	Monday 4th - 7:30 pm  Titanite
June 2009	<b>Kings Bluff - Olary</b> Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> – 7:30 am. (130km) Bring Hammers, Chisels, Carry Bags, etc. Meet – Adelaide Road Info Bay	Monday 1st - 7:30 pm  Quartz Crystal

**PLEASE NOTE:** These field trips are tentative – pending final negotiations with land / lease holders.