



# The Mineralogical Society of Queensland Inc.

## NEWSLETTER

Postal: PO Box 15020 City East. Brisbane. Qld 4002.

Internet: <http://www.mineral.org.au>

Editor: Steve Dobos [sdobos@bigpond.net.au](mailto:sdobos@bigpond.net.au) Ph/Fax: (07) 3202 6150

**No. 51 updated**

**May 2008**

**Office Bearers: 2007-08**

**President:** Russell Kanowski 4635 8627

**Vice-President:** Ron Young 3807 0870

**Secretary:** Tony Forsyth 3396 9769 **Treasurer:** Phil Ericksson 3711 3050 **Membership Sec:** Bill Kettley 3802 1186

**Management Committee:** Sue Ericksson 0431 906 769, Theo Kloprogge, George Brabon

### UPCOMING MINSOCQ MEETINGS

Minsoc meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month, excepting December, at the Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society clubhouse, formally starting at 7.30pm. (The clubhouse is located at the very end of Carson Lane, which is off Logan Road, Upper Mt Gravatt, on the left as you are heading north towards the city, directly opposite McDonald's. There is plenty of handy parking available, at no charge).

**May 28:** Preceding the general meeting, there will be a short special members' meeting to ratify the society's new constitution, as previously advised in a special mailout.

The speaker for the general meeting to follow will be Dr Paulo Vasconcelos, Head of Earth Sciences, University of Queensland; his presentation will be titled *Anahi ametrine revisited*. Paulo has spoken to MinsocQ some years ago on ametrine, and it was one of the more memorable presentations. The mineral of the month will be coloured quartz, but if you have interesting clear or even 'white' quartz, then by all means bring the specimens.

**June 25:** The speaker will be Ron Young, and his topic will be *The Minerals Heritage Museum – its founding, its collection, its displays, and its future*. The MHM is a part of MinsocQ, and we can all do our bit to promote it and its collection. You can start by coming to the meeting, and participating in the discussions! The minerals of the month will be Queensland minerals, so bring your Queensland specimens .... and in case you were wondering, donations to the MHM will be very welcome!

**July 30:** No formal speaker, but the topic will be minerals of the New England area of NSW (that's just south of the border, on the steppes of Mexico) and especially minerals of the Torrington-Emmaville area, and the cassiterites of Elsmore. You can guess the minerals of the month, so please bring your treasured New England minerals for all to view and discuss.

**August 27:** Annual General Meeting. The AGM will be followed by a presentation by Theo Kloprogge, entitled *Pseudomorphs – what are they and how do they form?* Of course, the 'minerals' of the month will be pseudomorphs, so if you got 'em, you bring 'em, please.

### 12 JULY: FIELD TRIP TO TOOWOOMBA PILOT TUNNEL STOCKPILE

Please note that the visit and collection trip to the Toowoomba Pilot Tunnel stockpile site (previously scheduled for 14 June) will now be run in conjunction with the Micromount session in the afternoon. Meet at 9:00am at the Tourist Information Centre in James Street and **proceed as a group** to the Tunnel site for the required site induction before we are allowed to enter the site. Following the collection trip we will return to Tom Taylor's residence for lunch and the afternoon Micromount session. Directions to Tom's will be provided at the morning session.

#### BACKGROUND

The work site is a Main Roads designated worksite so **all** visitors must comply with Queensland Government Workplace Health and Safety regulations including a **mandatory site induction**, as the usual policy is not to allow unescorted visitors onto secure sites. I have however been able to come to a compromise with our Workplace and Safety Officer and she has agreed to provide me with the necessary site induction on the condition that I in turn run through this with MinsocQ members to ensure compliance with government policy.

#### BASIC REQUIREMENTS

(1) Minsoc members must arrive as a group and shall undergo the site induction, otherwise they **will not be allowed** on site. Visitors must sign to acknowledge they have received the induction and sign in and out of the site proper.

(2) All visitors **must** wear personal protective equipment (PPE) comprising **long sleeved** shirts/tops/vests, broad brimmed hat, safety boots (or stout boots), safety glasses and sunscreen

(3) No rubbish (food scraps etc) to be left on site.

(4) Russell will bring a first aid kit to site.

(5) Bring plenty of water.

(6) You will need to bring the usual hammers, chisels etc necessary for collection in a hard rock environment.

Most of the above is standard practice and common sense so there should be no surprises with the above requirements.

As there has been special dispensation made for us we do not want to blot our copy-book so I ask that members wishing to participate comply fully with the above requirements. In the event of the WH&SO paying us a visit and finding that we are ignoring the requirements we will be asked to leave and yours truly will probably receive a rocket, as I will be responsible for the safe conduct of all members attending.

Russell Kanowski – President, MinsocQ

---

## MINSOC MGMT. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Commencing at 6.00pm, prior to the MinsocQ meetings, on 28 May, 30 July, 24 September .... 2008

---

## 2008 MICROMOB MEETINGS starting 10am

The chosen topic will usually be the morning's focus, followed by 'problems' and swaps in the afternoon .....

**June** – no meeting

**July 12**, at the home of Tom Taylor, in the afternoon, following the Toowoomba Pilot Tunnel trip in the morning. The topic is *Tasmanian collecting sites*, but may be re-focussed on the specimens just collected.

**August 9**, at the home of Glenys and Lloyd Sinclair, the topic will be *Levyne*; contact Sue Ericksson or Russell Kanowski for the address, and how to get there

**September 13**, at the Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society Clubroom. The topic will be *Pseudomorphs – what they are and how they occur*

**October 11**, at the Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society Clubroom. The topic will be *Fluorescent Minerals*

---

## 2008 SHOW CALENDAR

*For updates and more details, see [www.mineral.org.au](http://www.mineral.org.au)*

**May 31:** Mt Gravatt Gem Show, Club Rooms, 1873 Logan Road, Mt Gravatt

**June 21:** Deception Bay Gem Show, Community Hall, Crnr Bayview Tce & Bailey Rd, Deception Bay (*Confirmed – this is the correct date and venue*).

**June 28:** Gold Coast Gem and Craft Show, Pizzey Park, 80 Pacific Av., Miami

**July 12 & 13:** Hervey Bay Gem Show, Hervey Bay High School, Crnr Beach & Old Maryborough Rds, Pialba

**August 1 to 3:** Kybong Rock and Mineral Fest, Lobwein Rd, Kybong, just off the Bruce Highway on the

way to Gympie, about 1.5km past the Matilda Truck & Travel Stop at Kybong

**August 2:** Ipswich 7 District Lapidary Club Annual Show, Bundamba State School, Ipswich Rd, Bundamba

**August 14 to 17:** Anakie Gemfest, Anakie, Central Qld

**August 29 to 31:** Yarraman Treasure Quest, Yarraman

**September 6 to 8:**, Emmaville Gemfest & Swapmeet, at the caravan park at Emmaville, NSW

**September 6**, Waterloo Bay Gem Show, Hemmant Community Hall, 31 Tingalpa Rd, Hemmant

**September 27 & 28:** Caloundra Gem Show, 9 Caloundra Rd, Caloundra

**October 4:** Beenleigh Gem festival, Beenleigh Showgrounds

**October 11:** Nambour Gemfest, at the Nambour Showground, Coronation Avenue, Nambour

**November 6 & 7:** Annual Meeting of the Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australia and New Zealand, hosted by the Mineralogical Society of Tasmania; venue will be the Gaiety Theatre, Zeehan, Tasmania. The theme will be *Copper Mines and Minerals*.

The Annual Seminar will be preceded by field trips on 3 to 5 November. The Zeehan Gem and Mineral fair will be held post-seminar on 8 & 9 November.

For more detail, go to Tony's website – *The Australian Mineral Collector* at [www.mineral.org.au](http://www.mineral.org.au), and click on the *Joint Seminar* link (in yellow on the left of the home page).

There should be quite a good MinsocQ presence, and Tony Forsyth will be a speaker. Book your accommodation now, as it's filling up fairly rapidly.

---

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING .....

The 2007 end of year barbeque was held at the home of Andy and Helen Toole, and an extremely pleasant afternoon it was! 19 MinsocQ members and spouses attended, and we were especially pleased to see Vic and Vilma Tarhanoff from Blantyre, and Lloyd and Glenys Sinclair from Casino.

As in the past, George Brabon was the consummate barbequemeister, roasting the dead meat to perfection. After the feasting, Ron Young conducted the customary auction with his usual aplomb. There was a wide range of goodies for auction, donated by many to the cause, and included lots of minerals, books and periodicals, plants, assorted 'stuff', and, would you believe it .... *fossils*. The auction raised some \$630 for MinsocQ, and it was fun! The Bob Taylor memorial trophy for the best specimen collected on a MinsocQ field trip in 2007 was won by Russell Kanowski, shown in the picture ....

Again, our heartfelt thanks to Andy and Helen for the venue.



### MinsocQ meetings .....

**30 Jan 08:** Topic for the evening was phosphate minerals, and discussions were led by Russell Kanowski (who had also prepared a handout) with plenty of contributions from the floor; went well, with good attendance for a January meeting

**27 February 08:** Tony Forsyth gave a PowerPoint presentation on miner's lamps, with many of his own lamps on show; some attendees also brought their own lamps to display. It was very well received and very well attended; seems that many of us collect more than just minerals; It was great to see Lex Johnston, and others from the Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society.

**26 March 08:** Steve Dobos gave a PowerPoint presentation on sulphide minerals and their formation. Attendance was down due in part to the Murray Bridge Gemboree, but for those attending, Ron Young ran a mineral identification quiz – always good fun, and instructive.

**30 April 08:** Theo Kloprogge gave a PowerPoint presentation on oxide minerals (and as he often does, brought a selection of books and magazines from his personal mineral library). The presentation was followed by a minerals quiz; the meeting was well attended.

It is pleasing to see young Dirk van Hest attending regularly, as well as Bev Mortensen from Jimboomba and Denise and Peter Whitehead from the Sunshine Coast making the effort to get to the meetings when they can. They are most welcome, and we hope to see them as often as they can make it!

---

### MICROMOB MEETINGS .... Sue Ericksson

**January:** Our first meeting for 2008 was held at Mount Gravatt Lapidary Society clubrooms (MGLS). The day commenced with the usual New Year catch up over morning tea. Overseas swapping was discussed as I have made contact with a Belgian interested in swapping Australian and New Zealand specimens. The talk then turned to phosphates and in particular South Australian phosphates. Russell presented his research then several articles from old mineral magazines were handed out for further discussion.

After lunch it was off to the scopes for show and tell of the various South Australian phosphates. A lot of time was spent identifying and in some cases correcting the labels on some of these specimens. Sue also had for show the first swap parcel from Francis in Belgium - all were magnificent specimens with quite a few I had never seen before.



*Apatite and cyrilovite, Iron Monarch Quarry, Iron Knob, SA; Andy Toole specimen, SE photo, filed of view (FOV) 7mm*

**February** The meeting was held again at MGLS clubrooms on Saturday the 9th with ten members attending the meeting. Many discussions started the day including the GAA/GJI open day, mineral photography and lighting suitable for said photography which lead into the theme topic of erythrite and others in the vivianite group. Various sources of information were shared and a variety of specimens were tabled to support the discussions

Problems then played a part in discussions with problems of lining the mounting boxes as matt paint is hard to find in the stores now. Sue W suggested using Jo Sonya folk art paints which have a suitable matt

black paint and is waterbased for easy cleaning of the paint brush.

The afternoon wound up after viewing each other's phosphates under the scopes and checking problem specimens, some of which were named and some weren't



*Crandallite after wavellite, Tom's Quarry SA; Russell Kanowski specimen, SE photo, FOV 4mm*



*Annabergite, Lavrion, Greece; Sue E specimen and photo, FOV 5mm;*



*Erythrite, Mt Cobalt, Qld, Andy Toole specimen, SE photo FOV 8mm*

## **Micromounters - The Gathering of the Clan, October 07, New Zealand**

*In the last newsletter, we published the recollections of Sue and Philip Ericksson on the Joint Seminar of the Mineralogical Societies of Australia and New Zealand, held at Waihi Beach, North Island, New Zealand, in October 07. Presented below are their recollections of the Micromounters gathering, immediately preceding the joint seminar.*

We stayed with Pat, a long time friend in Auckland, for two nights before we headed down to Waihi Beach on Friday morning. We left home at 9am and wandered down via Ngatea where we stopped at Wilderness Gems. We have been there before and it used to be a very good, interesting place of gems, mineral and lapidary items - not so now. The old boy that used to run the business has passed on and the family are trying to run the place with what seems to be very little knowledge or interest; such a shame. We arrived at Waihi in time for lunch then did a tourist cruise of the district before reporting in at the Waihi Beach camp site which is about 7 km out of Waihi.

The camp site is run by the Anglican church and seems set up basically as a school camp with four twin rooms (leaders rooms), lots of bunk rooms for four to eight people in each room, plus a separate chalet sleeping up to six people (with ensuite), and two separate units sleeping four in each, complete with ensuites. Quickly the catch cry of the week became 'Who's got the key?' After getting our gear into one of the leaders rooms we all pitched into getting the dining room set up for meals and the Gymnasium room set up for the microscopes.

By 5pm most of the campers had reported and settled in. We all had to provide our tea so there were a lot of cars drifting off down to the local takeaway before the Wine and Cheese evening got started. It was an evening of catching up with old friends with a lot of chatter and laughter. There were 31 New Zealanders, 10 Australians, 2 Americans and 2 English registered attendees. Some of the Aussies and Americans chose to stay at a B&B next door and just turn up for the activities and lectures, but that was mainly for the Australian Seminar which was the second half of the week.

Saturday morning started cold and windy, most appropriate for a day indoors going through the swap table, sorting through the swap boxes sent by Mark Asher (American micromounter) and sharing stories. There were three rock breakers working overtime. After a light lunch (that rapidly became known as a normal meal) the competitions began. We set up 'The Best New Zealand Specimen' which was won by Pat Byrne with a ferrierite from the Coromandel Peninsula NI NZ. Carol Davies won second with a quartz cluster from Muzzle Station, Upper Clarence River, Maryborough SI NZ. Then it was set for 'The Best Overseas Specimen' which was won by Judy Rowe with a calcite from Bundoora Quarry (in Melbourne). 'The Best Field Trip Specimen' from the previous year's symposium was

won by David McDonald with a phillipsite from View Hill Quarry Oxford SI NZ.

A new photo competition started this year. We put our entry on CD for Rod Martin to download onto his Laptop. The photos were put on a slideshow for everyone to view and vote on. The winner was Mat Singleton with a photo of an Aragonite from Aranga Quarry Northlands NI NZ. After the competitions were finalized it was back to the swaps until dinner time. Despite the very late and very small roast chicken dinner the merriment continued. Rod presented a lecture on Henderson's Quarry, Mount Ngongotaha, Rotorua. The competition winners were announced and the awards were presented before the 25th Anniversary cake was cut. It was beautifully decorated by Rods' daughter - a mine with three trucks laden with (chocolate) rocks driving up the slope and into the opening.

Sunday started as a wet, cold and windy day but it was an early start as we had to make our picnic lunch before hitting the road for Rotorua about two hours away. Thankfully the weather changed in our favour as we progressed towards the quarry. It was a beautiful day with beautiful scenery as we all looked for the elusive osumilite, mullite, tridymite, pseudobrookite, as well as edenite, ferriedenite and phlogopite. Then it was back to camp to start the frantic search through our collects to see what we had actually found.

After another light tea Steve Sorrell presented the talk he gave at Tucson 2007. It was titled '*Minerals from Downunder.... and Under Downunder*'. After introducing Australia, the states and some of the cuddly animals, the dangerous and the cute, he worked through the states giving an overview of what to find where showing the location and photos of some of the minerals. He finished by saying '*You are only young ONCE but you can ALWAYS be immature*'. Steve then did a presentation on Tucson 07, showing scenes of the general area, the Executive Inn and the tents outside, shuttle stops, the mineral and fossil markets, the Clarion Inn and more, plus some of the minerals in the Australiana display including a showcase of George Stacey's minerals. He also spoke of the Micromount symposium and some of the personalities that were attending it.

Monday was auction day so straight after breakfast the dining room was cleared and set up for the auction while the rest of us rushed back to the microscopes to do more sorting, breaking and packing. The auction started at 10am. Bidding was quite spirited at times, resulting in a record \$2,529 being raised to help subsidize future symposiums.

Group photos preceded another scant meal then it was back to the microscopes. As the day wore on some more Aussies arrived for the forthcoming seminar. Slowly the microscope area began to be dismantled as people packed up to leave and these chairs were taken back to the Chapel ready for the Seminar lectures. The formal welcome to the newcomers and a farewell to the

working micromounters took the form of a Wine and Cheese evening after a light tea.

Despite the fact that Tuesday started as a wet and windy day, the trip to White Island departed at 6.30am. It is a two hour drive to Whakatane where they met the boat. It was a very rough boat trip but most who went were pleased to have gone. There was at least one female who was begging to be put off the boat soon after it left the jetty though. Of those left behind some drove around the Coromandel Peninsula while others spent the day in Waihi and some had a day in Katikati with friends. That night we had the best meal we had had in days. The cook excelled herself. The evening was spent looking at mineral photos as several laptops were fired up.

Wednesday morning we all assembled for a quick briefing on the Karangahake Gorge before heading firstly to the Victoria Battery. It was about a twenty minute drive from camp back towards Auckland. In the Golden Days there were a lot of gold mines and batteries throughout the northern end of the Gorge. The Victoria battery has been restored in part by volunteers, some of whom met us in the tram to take us up to the museum/transformer house. From there we walked up the hill to view the eight roasting pits that were used for over two years to heat the quartz to make it more crushable. The rock was loaded from the top along with wood and the fires remained alight the entire time. We were then taken for a walk through the tunnels below these pits to see where and how the quartz was removed to be taken to the stampers for crushing.

The museum was set up well with lots of photos of the old days as well as having lots of equipment that had been used then. After lunch we moved on to view the Owharoa falls and collect rock from the type locality of owharoaitite from a roadside quarry. We moved on then to another walking area where we were able to walk among more battery sites, view the deep gorges, walk through some of the tunnels carved out by the miners and read a lot of the history. (The Department of Conservation has been very busy in this area). Another good day wound down with Happy Hour when Russell joined us. After tea Harry and Christine Critchley presented a slideshow on fossicking in Greece, and in particular the Lavrion region, which was most interesting.

---

## SELECTED 2008 MINERAL & GEM SHOWS

**Minerama, March 2008:** Held at the Glen Innes Services Club, and an adjacent back paddock, was both well 'stocked' with the usual dealers and their wares, and many tailgaters. Basking in perfect (even warm) autumn weather, it was by all accounts well attended and well received.

Bill and Yvonne Kettley's Mineral Emporium was inside, with interesting specimens from Tucson '08. (This included a nice old tantalite crystal from WA, which your editor purchased at great cost. It seemed to have gone from WA to USA decades ago, purchased in Tucson '08

by Kettles the Magnificent, and brought back to our fair shores, increasing in value, so it would seem, at each stage of its travels to and from the US .... but probably mostly on the last leg....so there Bill, see what happens when you stir up the editor!) Also inside was Grumpy Gregson (a MinsocQ member from Torrington, known to some as Keith); outside tailgating were Trevor Kitto, George Brabon and many others. There seemed to be a brisk trade.

Ron Young turned up and went on the Kingsgate Field trip, and his recollections are printed below:

**THE KINGSGATE FIELDTRIP:** My Kingsgate experience began when I arrived in Glen Innes at 7pm on Friday evening. I asked a taxi driver to point me to a halfway decent cheap motel, which he did. I found the motel and the receptionist lady noticed my Quartz T-shirt (*no, the T-shirt is not made of SiO<sub>2</sub>, it just has a picture of a quartz crystal on it*) and asked if I might be going to the Kingsgate fieldtrip. I confirmed that I was, and asked her to point me to a nice Chinese restaurant. She told me that there is a good place just around the corner so I went there and enjoyed a particularly nice meal. The hostess noticed my Quartz T-shirt and asked if I might be going on the Kingsgate fieldtrip! I confirmed that I was and she said she had two young exchange student girls who badly wanted to go on the trip but didn't know how to go about getting involved. I advised that she had 'hit the jackpot' as I would gladly take them as long as they turned up tomorrow, Saturday, at the Services Club at the 9.30 am departure time.

At 7.30 on Saturday morning the motel lady brought me some baked beans on toast and mentioned that her husband had been on the Kingsgate fieldtrip yesterday and that he had had to be at the Services Club at 8 am to register for the trip, which departed at 9.30. At 8 am he was the 18<sup>th</sup> to register for the Kingsgate trip which had a maximum contingent of 20. I immediately abandoned my baked beans and shot off to the venue and became about 30<sup>th</sup> in line to register for the Kingsgate trip, one of the four field trips on offer, and registration for all of which was generated from the one queue. In about 10 minutes the queue had lengthened to about 60 people. I eventually got to the front and became No. 21 of the maximum 20 contingent for the Kingsgate trip. A line had been ruled under No. 20.

For the first time in my life I pulled rank and advised that my friend Brett O'Donovan (a head honcho for Auzex, which owns the lease) was to lead the fieldtrip and had personally invited me to attend. This worked and I became No. 21 of 20. I then explained the story of the two girls from the Chinese restaurant. The registering person became enlivened by the fact that he knew Mrs. Springer, the owner of the restaurant, very well, so, 'yes' the two girls could come as long as I was prepared to accept responsibility for them. So they became Nos. 22 and 23 of 20. The two girls duly turned up at the Services Club at 9.30 and off we went in a convoy of 10 vehicles, arriving at Kingsgate at 10am.

After a brief induction course conducted by Brett we checked out the old workings and saw the extent of one

of the holes left where a quartz pipe which had intruded the granite, had been mined out. The mind boggles at the extent of the labour which must have been expended by the old timers to get the molybdenite out of this rock. The ore occurs around the periphery of the quartz pipe where it contacts the granite. The quartz and the granite are very hard and getting the moly out must have been incredibly hard work without the benefit of modern machinery.

Brett then showed us the open cut of the quartz pipe on which work is currently being done and explained how drill holes at one metre intervals are trying to establish the outline of the pipe and the richness of the ore. Spoil from the open cut has been dumped in several large mounds and potential ore has been piled up in a number of smaller mounds. We were invited to fossick in the ore mounds and were asked to keep in mind the fact that moly is worth about US\$80 per kilo so the taking of several specimens each was perfectly OK, but it was 'not on' to nick off with a bucket full of lumps of moly.

We spent about two hours looking for and collecting specimens and it was quite impossible not to find some decent samples. No one found a beautiful molybdenite rose perched on a smoky quartz crystal, but everyone found some quite decent specimens.

This was the first time that my two offsidiers from the restaurant (one Chinese and one Japanese) had ever been 'in the bush' and both had a quite delightful experience, going home with some nice specimens of molybdenite. We all got back to the RSL and I dropped the girls back at the restaurant and then spent a few hours at the show catching up with friends including Bill and Yvonne, Frank and Linda, Keith Gregson, Greg Dainty and others.

All day I had been thinking to myself that I would head off to Tenterfield where I knew of a cheap motel. I'd stay the night and have a leisurely trip home on Sunday.

I did head off to Tenterfield and still felt pretty chirpy when I got there about 6pm so I decided that I'd head off to Stanthorpe. Well, there was no accommodation in Stanthorpe, for it was the weekend of the biannual Apple and Grape Festival. So I headed off to Warwick, but there was none there either, due to 5 weddings and a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party. I finished off staying the night at Toowoomba – an interesting end to a pleasant day.

**Warwick March 08:** Held at the Warwick Showgrounds on the Easter Weekend, again on a perfect, almost hot autumn day (and providing rich pickings for our radar-equipped constabulary, who came close to crucifying at least one Brisbanite who had sped down to the action, and tried to speed home again in the arvo.) The principal dealers were off at Gemboree in Murray Bridge, S.A., so the insiders were depleted – but Phil Perkins from Toowoomba was there to take up the slack, with both Chinese goodies, as well as selected specimens from an old Australian collection.

Outside were George Brabon and Trevor Kitto, doing their thing; Grumpy Gregson was also there, and he had acquired a nice Japanese Law twinned quartz, encrusted with microgoodies, from Biggenden no less! George was eyeing it off in the morning, and your editor was dithering around, trying to stretch his budget, but by the time he finally made the decision to buy, it had gone, purchased by Stuart Walker. Stuart kindly gave permission to have its picture taken, and it appears below; each arm of the twin is about 22mm long.



**Lismore, May 08:** By many accounts, one of the best attended Lismore shows, with many tailgaters, many of whom had excellent material to sell. A perfect autumn first day, though it did rain much later. Inside was Bill and Yvonne Kettley's Mineral Emporium, with Kettles the Magnificent in fine form, and Frank and Linda Cheshire, plus most of the usual others (who, to their eternal shame, are not members of MinsocQ and so will not get a mention...nevertheless, Chris Benotic from Mexico had some fine pieces, including more expensive *burls* and *toumlins*.)

Outside were Ron Young, George Brabon, Trevor Kitto and Phil Perkins (who will join MinsocQ if we send him the forms!). Grumpy Gregson of the Torrington Rock Shoppe had also set up a double stall and had quite a professional display (and he, can you believe it, was also selling *fossils*.....shame, shame! So was Kettles the Magnificent, but we can almost forgive him for that, as we would not like to see him starve to death!)

**Now for some items of mineral trivia compiled by Theo:**

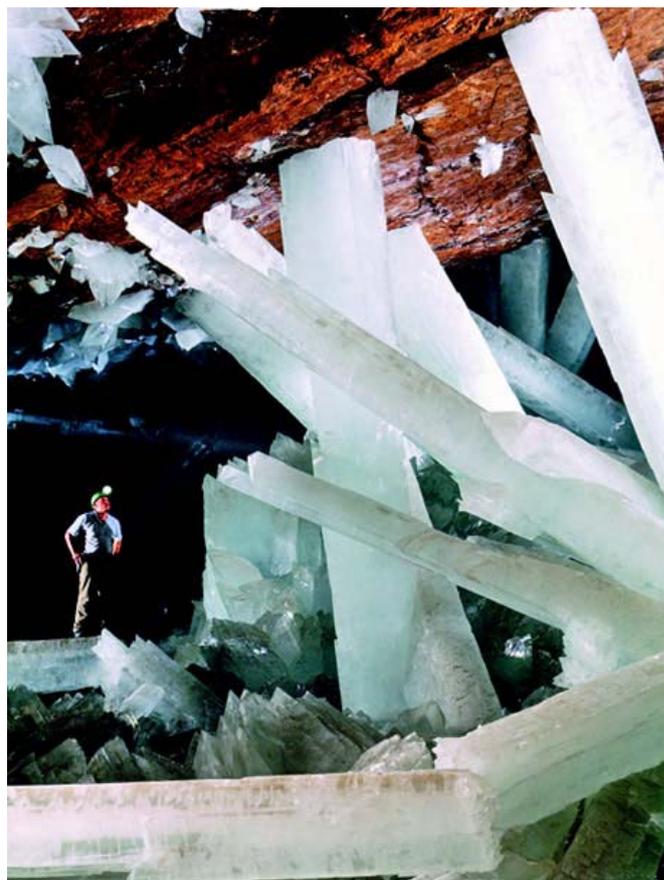
Did you know that Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727) had an early interest in minerals as well. He had read about other collectors' travels, describing many of the mining districts in central Europe, and decided to assemble a collection. In 1669, the year he was appointed a professor at Trinity College, Cambridge, Newton learned that a young friend of his, Francis Aston, would be making a tour of Europe. Newton wrote to Aston requesting that he bring back for him specimens of *"antimony [and] of copper oares, of tin, of iron, of lead, of quicksilver, of lapis lazuli and of zinck... with notes upon them shewing what oares they are & form whence they came."*

Did you know that prehnite was the first mineral species named after a person? The German Hendrik Prehn (1733-1785) was a military man who served for many years in South

Africa. Upon returning to Germany he brought his mineral collection with him, including specimens of a new species from the Cape of Good Hope which Werner subsequently named prehnite in his honour.

Did you know that Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), principal author of the American Declaration of Independence, third president of the United States, and an influential political philosopher, was a man of widely diversified interests, and also collected minerals? He had an interest in mathematics and natural sciences, and studied foreign and classical languages (becoming fluent in French, Greek, Latin, Spanish, Italian and Anglo-Saxon). In time he became interested in the study of law as a force for social and cultural development, and after 5 years of study was admitted to the bar.

Though impressive, his political career was far from absorbing all his energy. He retained his early love for mathematics and natural science. He even attained some fame as an palaeontologist. At his personally designed plantation ('Monticello') he built a small museum, acquiring for it many of the products of the New World, including mineral specimens and fossils. Annoyed by the claim of the French Naturalist Buffon that all American species were somehow inferior to those of the European continent, he sought plenty of examples to prove otherwise. He enjoyed geological field work and prospecting. His interest in minerals was of an entirely practical nature, based on their utility to manufacturing. Monticello has been thoroughly preserved and restored today as a unique national landmark. But, regrettably, all of Jefferson's mineral specimens are gone.



As something for the Macromounters, the above photo is of giant gypsum crystals in the Cueva de los Cristales (Cave of Crystals), Naica Mountain, Chihuahua, Mexico; the largest measures 11m in length. (Photo: Javier Trueba, Madrid Scientific Films) There are even bigger crystals known. A single beryl crystal was discovered in Malakialina, Madagascar, 18m long by 3.5m diameter, and weighing some 355 tonnes, but wait, there will be more to come ..... Ω