



The Mineralogical Society of Queensland Inc.

NEWSLETTER

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Office Bearers 2008 - 2009

President: Russell Kanowski 4635 8627 **Vice-President:** Ron Young 0439 616 655 **Secretary:** Tony Forsyth 3396 9769

Treasurer: Phil Ericksson 3711 3050 **Membership Secretary:** Bill Kettley 3802 1186

Management Committee: Steve Dobos 3202 6150, Sue Ericksson 0431 906 769, Theo Kloprogge 0417 949 998



Gambling

Community Benefit Fund

Queensland Government

The Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund provided \$8,565 to the Mineralogical Society of Queensland Inc. for the purchase of a laptop, computer projector and photo-micrographic equipment.

UPCOMING MINSOCQ MEETINGS, 2009

MinSocQ meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month, excepting December, at the Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society (**MGLS**) clubrooms, formally starting at 7.30pm. Anyone interested in minerals and mineral collecting is most welcome, at any meeting.

(The clubrooms are 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 parking available adjacent to the clubroom, at no charge.)

August 26: Annual General Meeting. Reports for the past year will be presented, and new office bearers will be elected for the year 2009-2010. This is your opportunity for questions, answers and discussions, as well as your own input.

Following the AGM, the evening's topic will be *Feldspars and related minerals*, led by Steve, with these minerals being the minerals of the month – please bring your orthoclase, microcline, amazonite, albite, adularia, sanidine, anorthoclase, plagioclase, cleavelandite, moonstone, and related minerals for 'look and learn'

September 30: *Digital photography, with a focus on minerals*, led by Tony Forsyth we might follow with a mineral quiz or two. Bring in your unknowns, recent finds and acquisitions – we may be able to identify some on the spot.

October 28: *Topaz* will be the topic, with a presentation by Theo; this fluorosilicate is Theo's favourite mineral, and topaz will also be the mineral of the month; we'd especially like to see your Australian topaz specimens. **First reminder:** please start amassing and bringing in items for the end-of-year auction at the December BBQ.

November 25: *Minerals from Wolfram Camp, North Queensland*, to be led by Tony. Please bring you specimens from this and nearby localities. Also for this meeting, do bring in your best samples collected on an '08 - '09 MinSocQ field trip, to be judged for the Bob Taylor Trophy, which will be awarded at the December BBQ. **Second reminder:** also please bring in donations for the end-of-year auction at the December BBQ – your unloved bits can bring tears of joy to another MinSocQ member, and it's all in aid of the Society's coffers.

December 12: *MinSocQ end-of-year BBQ*, the annual *Auction Mineralia* and award of the *Bob Taylor Trophy*, all rolled into one: commencing midday *chez* Bill and Yvonne Kettley, in the wilds of Munruben. BYO everything, including folding chairs, to be sure, to be sure, and any last minute donations to the *Auction Mineralia*.

MINSOCQ MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS Commencing at 6.00pm, prior to the monthly MinsocQ general meetings: 30 September, 25 November **2010:** 27 January, 31 March, 26 May, 28 July, 29 September

A reminder: your 2009-2010 memberships fees are now overdue – please attend to this if you have not already done so.

MICROMOB MEETINGS starting 10am

September 12: *chez* Vic Tarhanoff in Boonah – the topic will be garnets, followed by the usual problems, brags and swaps; *please note change of venue*

October 10: at MGLS clubrooms – the topic will be the arsenate minerals, followed by the usual problem, brag and swap session

November 14: *chez* Theo Kloprogge in Arana Hills – the topic will be vanadinite and related minerals, followed by a mystery field trip, and then if time permits, followed by the usual problem, brag and swap session. *Please note change of venue.* A **micro reminder:** bring in items for the auction at the December BBQ; items bigger than the field-of-view down a 'scope at 40x magnification **will** be accepted!

December - no MicroMob meeting, but we hope to see all the micro-bods at the end-of-year BBQ and auction.

2009 DATES and SHOW CALENDAR

Dates below are as accurate as currently possible, but please consider them subject to change. For updates and more details, see www.mineral.org.au, or the websites of individual clubs or organisations.

September 5: Waterloo Bay Gem Show, Hemmant Community Hall, Tingalpa Rd, Hemmant

September 5-7: Emmaville Gem and Swap Meet, at the Caravan Park, Emmaville, NSW – highly recommended. Proposed field trips - Saturday: Webb's silver mine & Gaden's copper mine (tourmaline and azurite). Sunday; Reddestone Creek (all day) for sapphires. Monday: molybdenite and quartz at mine off Deepwater Road

September 12-13: Bribie Island Gem Show, Arts Centre, Sunderland Drive, Bribie Island

September 24-28: 'Rock-On 2009' – Broken Hill Gem and Mineral Show, Broken Hill Events Centre; there will be field collecting trips

September 26-27: Sunshine Coast GemExpo, Indoor Sports Stadium, North Street, Caloundra

October 3: Beenleigh Gem Festival, Showground, James St, Beenleigh

October 10: Nambour Gem Fest, Sunshine Coast Showground, Coronation Ave, Nambour

October 24-25: Toowoomba Gemfest, Centenary Heights High School, Ramsay St, Toowoomba

November 7-8: Bundaberg Gem Fair, Bundaberg Civic Centre, Burbong Street, Bundaberg

November 21: Suncoast Gem Show, Buderim Mountain State School, 8-42 Main St, Buderim – *this is the last Qld show for 2009!*

NEXT YEAR'S PLACEHOLDERS

April 2-5, 2010: Gemboree 2010, Devonport Recreation Centre, Forbes St, Devonport, Tasmania

June 12-14, 2010: the **33rd Annual Seminar, Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia**, will be held at the Royal Society rooms behind the SA Museum in Adelaide: the theme will be *Collectors and Collecting in Australia and New Zealand*

NEWSLETTER - NEW FORMAT: As increasing numbers of MinSocQ members are receiving this and future newsletters via email, and as our newsletters will also be posted on the web ('The Australian Mineral Collector'), after an intentional delay of six to eight weeks, for open access to all, we have changed the format to a single-column layout to facilitate easier (and enlarged) viewing on-screen.

We will now publish more photos, and will also increase the resolutions in the emailed version, to allow for higher on-screen magnification. File size will be kept below 2MB, which should not be an issue for members with fast or broadband connections. Black and white hard copies will continue to be mailed to all financial members. If you are currently receiving black-and-white hard copies of this newsletter, and would like to receive coloured versions via email, and you have a broadband or fast internet connection and you are a paid up member of MinSocQ, then please contact the editor via email, and ask to be put on the MinSocQ newsletter email list.

CALEB YUE and the MHM

Most MinSocQ members will know or know of our fellow member, Caleb Yue. However, Caleb's enthusiasm for the well-being of our Minerals Heritage Museum is probably not so well known. I and the other trustees of the MHM wish now to publicly thank Caleb for his generosity in acquiring several very handsome specimens for the specific purpose of lending them to the MHM for permanent display.

When visiting the MHM at 61 Mary Street in the CBD, please take particular notice of the huge fluorite, the amethyst 'Ugg Boot' from Morocco, the beautiful Flux Mine cerussite, the large and lovely wulfenite from Mexico, the obviously cubic platinum crystal, and other fine specimens provided by Caleb. Our sincere thanks, Caleb. *Ron Young, Curator of MHM*

NEW MEMBERS: We are delighted to welcome **Costas ('Con') Constantinides** of Mt Isa, **Leslie Danby** of Tregeagle (near Lismore, in deepest darkest NSW) and **Diane and Alan Eaton** of Springwood, as new MinSocQ members. We hope to see and/or interact with them whenever the opportunity arises. Again, a warm welcome to MinSocQ!

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

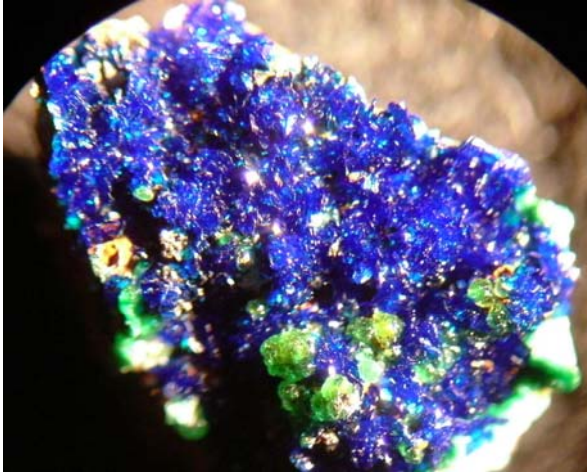
MINSOCQ MEETINGS: 24 June – The meeting was 'The Aftermath' of the Joint Seminar, with images of the event and associated field trips, discussions of what went particularly well (just about everything), and how improvements might be made to future Joint Seminars. Our new Sony data projector had its first 'outing' at a MinSocQ meeting, and perhaps not surprisingly, the first mineral image shown was that of a beryl crystal. This just had to happen!

29 July – The topic was the ferromagnesian mineral groups comprising olivines, pyroxenes and amphiboles. The meeting was lead by Theo, with additional contributions from the floor. Diopside from Mt Elliot received particular attention, as did jadeite and actinolite. [Both are forms of jade, the former a sodic pyroxene, and the latter an amphibole, also known as nephrite, with black jade (actinolite or nephrite) occurring at Cowell, on the Eyre Peninsula in SA.]

MICROMOB MEETINGS: 9 May: Held at the MGLS clubrooms. After a discussion of the Warwick show, Philip and Sue Ericksson spoke of the recent Gemboree held at Horsham; the various activities and events over the weekend as well as the field trip to Mooralla for quartz - some of the better finds were on show. The meeting moved on to the impending Mineral Seminar, and Russell spoke of the plans, timings and arrangements thus far. Several ideas were thrown into the conversation including storage ideas. At Gemboree we saw an A4 ring folder that had four sides of wood inserted to create a storage box just the right size for 1 inch boxes. Show and tell plus problems followed with a curly one from Lloyd who has an unusual specimen from Tindal's Quarry, Kyogle that needed an ID. After lunch we tried to tackle the subject of hydroxides. Confusion reigned as we exchanged information that formulas needed to contain OH and as such the field is vast. There was much discussion and very few conclusions made in general.

July 11: We started the day around the table over a cuppa. Theo spoke of his last visit with Eric Stevens. Sue E reported on her recent phone call with Vic Tarhanoff who is doing very well and looking forward to our visit soon. There was much discussion of various topics including the seminar and the newsletter format. As a 15 year birthday bonus, Mindat is offering a free download of *'Zeolites of the World'*. Steve has installed it onto MinSocQ's laptop for anyone who wants a copy - just bring along a memory stick. Steve gave a demonstration of the new Tucsen camera and laptop, but we have much yet to learn about technique. Barite, celestine and brags consumed the afternoon.





Preceding page: at left, Theo demonstrating his new equipment, and at right, self-explanatory image of Tsumeb azurite. This page, at left: 4mm cluster of azurite from Lavrion, Greece (Ericksson specimen). All images by Sue Ericksson.

August 15: Held at the Gold Coast clubrooms, discussions began over a cuppa as we spoke of the passing of Harold Crossingham and Trish Storr plus the list of 'sickies'. Talk moved to lighting, light bulbs, the types and availability of bulbs and what is best for the various microscopes and also in relation to microphotography.

Theo had his recently arrived swap bundle of minerals from the Clara mine in Germany which he displayed under his microscope using an attached camera and his laptop computer. This led to talks on microphotography and using the microscope with a laptop.

Enid Sanderman had brought along Rays' collection for us to sort through and buy pieces as Ray is now in care and there is no spare room in her new unit when she moves soon. Bev Mortensen sent a tray of specimens from the Inkerman mine, Cloncurry/Mount Isa mining district for the swaps, which most aptly included some azurites. After lunch we launched into the theme of azurite; Russell shared his research and after some discussion, Theo filled in the gaps which is always helpful. There were some very interesting show and tell azurites from a large variety of locations. *Sue E.*

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE MINERALS HERITAGE MUSEUM HELD WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2009 AT 3:00 PM AT COMALCO BUILDING, CNR. ELIZABETH & CREEK STREETS, BRISBANE

All four trustees were present: Bob Bryan, Jim Harrison, Minsoc Queensland Inc. by its appointed representative, Tony Forsyth and Ron Young. It was agreed that I (Ron) should chair the meeting. Meeting began at 3:00 pm. Apology from Steve Dobos who had been invited to attend, as an observer, by me at Jim's request.

I related how Minsoc Queensland member Caleb Yue had purchased six top quality specimens at Bill Kettley's "Home from Tuscon" show, for the express purpose of lending them to our MHM for more or less permanent display. I showed four of these specimens to the other trustees at this meeting. Tony made a very handsome Certificate of Appreciation for Caleb which I subsequently delivered to him personally.

Other acquisitions made during the year were:-

- Beryl (var. goshenite) from Pakistan purchased for \$250 at the Warwick show.
- Elbaite from Brazil purchased for \$155 from Rainbow Collections.
- "Sand" gypsum donated by B.K. Minerals (locality to be confirmed).

Bill Kettley paid \$283.25 to MHM to finalise the arrangement made between him and me *re* the sale of some duplicate specimens from the Roger Staley collection.

Tony related how he had been contacted by Robert Nixon who asked if we would accept from him a loan for display in the 61 Mary Street collection, two very spectacular cabochon sapphire specimens. One was a large (3cm diameter) "star" sapphire and the other was what he called a "trapiche" sapphire. Tony and I met him at 61 Mary Street and put both specimens into the "gemstones" section with an appropriate notation. Tony and I specifically drew to his attention the fact that there is no insurance of any kind on any of the specimens on display in the foyer of 61 Mary Street but that there are always at least two staff manning the reception desk in the foyer and they do keep a watchful eye on people viewing the presentation. Robert was comfortable with leaving his specimens on display under these conditions. Robert subsequently took the "trapiche" specimen back as he had made an arrangement to dispose of it.

Tony related how he had received a communication from the Emmaville Museum concerning the insurance of their collection and they had come to the conclusion that insurance was not a practical possibility in view of the prohibitive cost. However, it was agreed that having digital photos of the most important specimens would be a useful proposition. Perhaps we might embark on a project to photograph all of the specimens in our MHM collection.

I advised that I had nearly completed the cataloguing of our entire MHM collection when I was interrupted by the sale of our house resulting in the obvious necessity to move to a new home. Then there had been the preparation for a trip to the U.S.A. and the holiday itself. I will ensure that the cataloguing is complete before our next meeting.

I had contacted Dierdre McDonald, building manager for 61 Mary Street and she advised that she saw no reason why we could not put another display cabinet into the foyer if we should be able to acquire one. I have written to her requesting confirmation of this but have not yet received a reply.

Jim had asked for an idea of the value of the MHM collection and I advised that the audited value as at 30 June 2008 was \$117,715.

I related how Steve Dobos's talk at the Joint Seminar had been about the beryllium minerals and how I had borrowed from the Bryan/Young collection at Beaudesert the large Russian emerald and the big beryl from the Triple Chance Mine, along with several other specimens. This was done in order to have in the MHM display, which was in place during the Seminar, all of the beryl family specimens that we could gather together, the main reason for which was to reinforce Steve's talk.

When returning all of the borrowed specimens to Beaudesert I explained to Kay Bryan that it had been wonderful to have so many of the beryl family on display during the seminar and that it would be even more wonderful to have them all on permanent display at 61 Mary Street. She readily agreed that I should take the Russian emerald and the Triple Chance beryl to Mary Street which I immediately did.

Bob Bryan advised that it is provided in his will that the Bryan/Young collection be donated to the MHM. We all expressed sincere appreciation and thanks for this very generous gesture. Bob advised the meeting that it could be possible that the Bryan/Young collection be donated to the MHM in advance of that deadline (sick pun)! (*Bob's words*)

When the proposed refurbishment of the foyer of the Comalco building proceeds, it is possible that Bob's collection could be put on permanent display in "Bob's" building.

Jim is not enjoying good health at present and may not be able to attend future meetings and may even find it necessary to resign as a trustee. He asked that it be minuted that he would like Steve Dobos to be his alternate trustee. In the event of a reduction in the number of trustees Jim, Ron and Bob agreed that Tony should be invited to be a trustee. This would necessitate Minsoc Queensland appointing another member to represent it as the fourth trustee. Although that appointment is entirely a matter to be decided by MinSoc Queensland, the existing trustees would encourage the appointment of Steve as the Minsoc representative.

Thanks to Bob for the use of his office as the venue for our meeting and to Rachel and Sherry for the cuppa and the photocopying. Meeting closed at 4:00 pm.

Ron Young

GET WELL WISHES: Many of you will not know that **Ted Wearden** underwent two major operations last January, and has been undergoing episodic medication since. He attended the Joint Seminar, and a number of MicroMob meetings since the operations, and in fact was seen happily demonstrating bead making at Old Bonalbo in February!

To look at Ted, you'd never know what he's been through, but he makes no big deal of it. Whilst the medication knocks him around, he regains his former cheerful self as fast as he can; with Sue W as your personal nurse, cook and chief-of-staff, what option does Ted have? Sue W tells us that he is progressing particularly well, with hopefully only two more rounds of medication to go. Our thoughts and best wishes are with Ted for a speedy and complete recovery ... and hang in there Sue – we're plugging for both of you!

'*Nobody's indispensable, 'cept Ron*'. It was a surprise and shock to see our mate in a hospital bed. **Ron Young**, a father member of MinSocQ, and the creator and curator of the Minerals Heritage Museum has been combating a high calibre problem in Greenslopes. Almost a perpetual president, Ron held the reins for about a thousand years before subsequently being relieved of the pressure by mere mortals.

Testimony to his passion for our hobby is the impressive display in the foyer of 61 Mary Street, Brisbane - ably assisted by others, but responsible for the lion's share. His genial modesty, impeccable manners and willingness to help has established him as a luminary in our circle. Our thoughts, best wishes and prayers encourage him to return swiftly to our sanctum. Chin up Jackie. Love you Ron.



▶TRADING CORNER▶

For sale: Theo Kloprogge still has bags of micromount boxes (pictured at left). 100 boxes per bag, at \$22 per bag (price has gone up a bit due to the Euro exchange rate). Each box measures 28x28x22 mm; ring Theo on 0417 949 998 or let him know at any of the MinSocQ or MicroMob meetings if you want to buy.

For sale: Nikon binocular stereo zoom microscope. Vic Cloete now has a trinocular zoom 'scope (for photography) and the Nikon is superfluous to needs. The Nikon has a zoom range of 8 to 40x with the 10x eyepieces; a set of new 20x eyepieces is included, to provide magnification range of 16 to 80x. Asking price \$650; contact Vic on (07) 3202 7356.

Note to MinSocQ members (and even members of our sister Societies): we are pleased to accept for inclusion in the newsletter any want ads, sale ads, wanted to swap or available to swap ads, trade ads etc, on a personal, non-commercial basis. Please contact the editor for inclusion of your ad in forthcoming newsletters.

OOOPS: In the previous newsletter, v55, we welcomed Keith and Marie Cheadle as new members of MinSocQ. This was an error, in that the Cheadles have been members in good standing of MinSocQ for some years. Also, in a photo caption on the last page, Lin Sutherland's name was miss-spelled as Lyn. Further, Errol Hagelstein was mis-identified as Michael Hirst in another of the photos. The editor apologizes for all of these blunders – he'd *like* to blame someone else, but the facts are stacked against him.

VALE: It is with sadness that we report the passing of **Harold Crossingham** after a long illness on 27th July 2007. He had just celebrated his 72nd birthday. Harold was an enthusiastic mineral collector for many many years and joined MinSocQ in June 1991. Hal's passion was Micro Minerals and he would pore over a specimen and whatever book he could get hold of to try and identify it, for hours and hours. He will be sadly missed by his family and society members, especially those south of the border.

It is with sadness that we also report the passing of **Don Wilkinson**. Don had been sick for a while, and passed away on 19 June. Don was known to many of us, and had been a member of the Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society for over 32 years. He was one of nature's gentlemen, and attended our meetings and made us welcome at the MGLS clubrooms, when MinSocQ first started holding its meetings at Mt Gravatt. He will be sorely missed by all that knew him.

SEMINAR PICTURE GALLERY We were pleased to receive a CD from Doug Rumsey (Longreach), with a compilation of images from the Joint Seminar, field trips and related sightseeing. Whilst taking digital images by low available light tends to produce digital noise (or in old '35mm film speak', *graininess*), nevertheless Doug's images highlight what went on during the presentations. So here are a few of Doug's images, especially for those that could not attend. Ta Doug.



Previous page: Jocelyn Thornton (New Zealand) at Mt Coot-tha lookout overlooking the CBD; Russell Kanowski, Steve Dobos and Dirk van Hest setting up the audio-visuals; two close-ups of the mineral displays in the foyer.



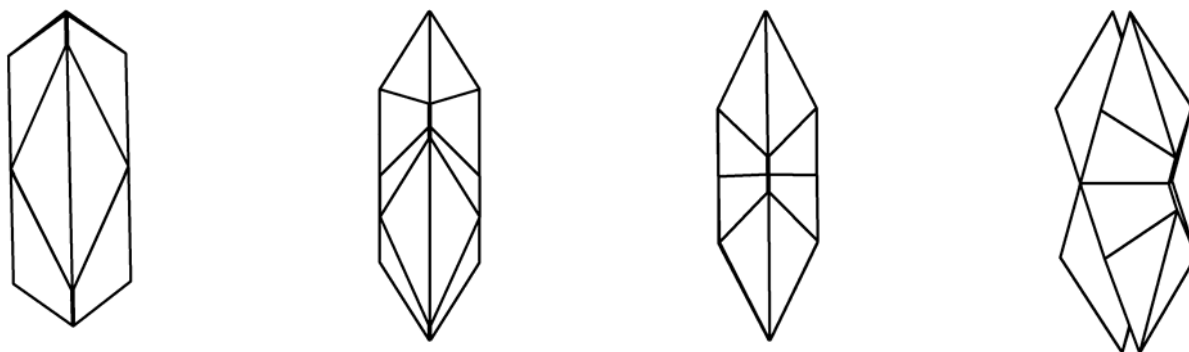
Above: Tony Forsyth's display of miner's lamps, Tony lighting a carbide lamp in his presentation, and answering questions at the end of his talk (with session chairman John Bosworth at right of image); Doug Rumsey at Laidley, before diving into the zeolite micros in the creek bed.



Above left: the end of a perfect field trip, at the Mt Kyoch Pilot Tunnel site, Toowoomba in background; at right, scene from the Laidley field trip – "There's zeolites in them there hills"

AND NOW, SOME PUZZLEMENTS: We are accustomed to seeing things in a certain way, often only because it has been a 'convention' to do so; we get used to this, and it becomes 'expected'. As an example, some years ago, the editor went back to the US for a visit, and as a souvenir gift of Australia, he took back a large map of the world, in the so called *Australian Corrective Projection*. This projection was correct in every detail, including the lettering, spelling etc, but differed only in that the south direction was at the top of an otherwise normal Mercator Projection. Most people were amazed, and would not believe that the map could be *fair dinkum*, till they had turned the map upside down.

In a similar vein, several crystal drawings are presented below, correct in every detail, except that the viewing angles are unconventional - the crystal(s) are viewed from angles that are not the 'norm'. Can you identify this mineral? No, there are no tricks, and the mineral is not an oddball, or even rare!



The macro image above, reproduced with permission from the MinSocTas newsletter, and the specimen owner and photographer, Andrew Tuma of Launceston, depicts a 32mm horizontal field of view. The image contains crystals of a fairly common mineral, in shades of blue to white, with concentric zoning. Can you identify this mineral? The image also contains a second, colourless mineral, which is relatively rare. (Give it a go anyway). The specimen comes from the Mt Bischoff tin mine near Waratah, Tasmania.

THE CANNY SCOT: Known to us all, a canny MinSocQ member was unimpressed with some of the available camping/caravan sites at Monto. After searching around, he found that the local showground had better facilities, and was altogether more suited for his refined tastes. He went searching for the 'man-in-charge', and finding a likely candidate, asked him how much a night. The reply was something like "How about ten bucks a night?" to which our Canny Scot said "That will do just fine" and forked over \$30 for three nights. Later on, talking to other campers on the site, he was informed that *they* hadn't had to pay a cent - 'cause the facilities were free. Not surprisingly, by that time, the 'man-in-charge' had vanished off the face of the earth (well, at least from Monto). There is a moral in here somewhere!