



The Mineralogical Society of Queensland Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Postal: PO Box 15020 City East, Albert Street, Brisbane. Qld 4002.

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

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

No. 57

October 2009

Office Bearers 2009 - 2010

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



UPCOMING MINSOCQ MEETINGS, 2009 - 2010

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 bottom 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 immediately adjacent to the MGLS clubrooms, at no charge.

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 Mineralia* 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*.

January 27, 2010: *The many habits of quartz*, presented by Ron Young – faden, gwindel, crocodile, twisted crystals, flattened crystals and the rest. Got any quartz with uncommon or rare habits? Bring 'em in!

February 24, 2010: *Geology and the minerals of the Iramafimpa Mine, Eastern Highlands, Province, PNG*, to be presented by Larry Queen, if he is not out of state, otherwise, there is a plan B in place.



MINSOCQ MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS Commencing at 6.00pm, prior to the monthly MinSocQ general meetings: 25 November 2009 and then in 2010: 27 January, 31 March



MICROMOB MEETINGS starting 10am

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.

January 9, 2010: *chez* Sue and Ted Wearden, at Old Bonalbo – the topic will be the *minerals of Elsmore NSW*, followed by the usual problem, brag and swap session.

February 6 (yes, the first Saturday of the month on this occasion), 2010: chez Helen and Andy Toole, at Holland Park - the topic will be the *minerals in the Laidley creeks*, followed by the usual problem, brag and swap session.

March 13, 2010: the day will probably start with a collecting trip to the Mt Kynoch Pilot Tunnel at Toowoomba, and then, chez Cheryl and Russell Kanowski (also at Toowoomba), the topic will be the *mines and minerals of the Cloncurry district*; there may not be much time for the usual *après-midi du brag*, but time will be made for numerous cuppas

2009 - 2010 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.

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

6 & 7 March 2010: North Brisbane Gem and Jewellery Festival, Aviation High School, Widdop St., Hendra

12-14 March 2010: Minerama, Services Club, Glen Innes

20 March 2010: Gatton Lapidary Club Show, Gatton Showground (to be confirmed) as well as: NELFC Annual Gem & Craft Show, Armidale Showground

April 2-4 April 2010: Easter Rock Swap, Warwick Showground

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*



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

MinSocQ Annual General Meeting, 26 August: The AGM preceded the general meeting, and we were delighted to welcome Diane and Alan Eaton, recent new MinSocQ members. Apologies were received from Elethia and John Brady, Glenys and Lloyd Sinclair, Sue and Ted Wearden, Denise and Peter Whitehead, Jacki and Ron Young, Bill Kettley, Jan Lippold and Doug Rumsey.

There being a quorum, minutes of the previous AGM were read and accepted; Russell presented his president's report for 2008-2009 (reproduced in full below); Phil presented his treasurer's report, and Tony presented the highlights of the meeting of the trustees of the Minerals Heritage Museum (presented in full in the previous newsletter). All office bearer positions were then declared vacant, and there being no new nominations for any position, all positions were filled in sequence by the previous office bearers (as appears in the masthead of this newsletter) by acclamation. Tony Forsyth was re-appointed as MinSocQ's representative on the board of trustees of the MHM.

George Brabon raised the issue of field trips, and now that we are over the hurdle of the Joint Seminar, a weekend field trip to Kingsgate will be a high priority item for the management committee. There may have to be some sacrifices, as during spring, there are a large number of shows and gatherings competing for the available weekends. The AGM was declared closed at 2010 hours.

Mineralogical Society of Queensland Inc. President's Report – August 2008 To August 2009

It is with great pleasure that I present the President's report for the period August 2008 to August 2009. The Society has continued to meet at the Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society clubrooms in Carson Lane, Upper Mt Gravatt.

We are grateful to the Mt Gravatt Lapidary Society for allowing MinSocQ to continue to use their facilities. Despite having a varied and interesting program there has unfortunately been no appreciable increase in the number of members attending meetings.

During the past year we received a comprehensive account on how to purchase minerals on eBay presented jointly by Steve Dobos and Tony Forsyth. Over the remaining months we conducted joint discussions about various minerals or mineral groups with a set theme being nominated for the particular month. The micromount group is continuing to meet under the capable leadership of Sue Ericksson with numbers attending the meetings varying from 5 to 12. Meetings this year were held mainly at Mt Gravatt clubrooms. Keep up the good work Sue.

I was fortunate (together with 7 other members of our society) to attend the 31st Annual Seminar of the Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australia which was held in Zeehan, Tasmania on 6-7th November 2008. This event was attended by about 70 delegates, and despite the less than agreeable weather, the lectures, field trips, and the Zeehan Gem and Mineral fair were all well attended.

We have achieved two significant goals over the past year:

- The first was our success in achieving a grant from the Queensland Government Community Gambling Benefit Fund for the amount of \$8,565 which allowed the Society to purchase a laptop computer, data projector and photomicrographic equipment. This grant was successful after a huge amount of work - mainly from Steve Dobos who prepared the submission and following advice that our submission was successful, purchased the equipment and set it up for use by the Society.
- The second achievement was the planning and running of the successful 32nd Annual Joint Seminar of the Combined Mineralogical Societies of Australasia. The theme of Minerals Mines and Collectors provided the opportunity for the presenters to speak on the topics near and dear to their hearts. Despite the fact that this event was only 7 months after the 2008 seminar in Tasmania the event was still attended by about 60 delegates. The event was successful due to the hard work put in by various members of the management committee and it was pleasing to hear many comments complementing MinSocQ on the success of the event. We were very fortunate to have perfect weather for the duration of the seminar which added to the enjoyment of the associated field trips. In particular special thanks go to Tony Forsyth for producing the superb Seminar Proceedings booklet.

Steve Dobos continues to produce what I believe is a Newsletter second to none in mineralogical circles throughout Australia. A protocol for distribution of the newsletters from the various state societies was agreed at the AGM of the Joint Mineralogical Societies held at the seminar this year. I encourage all members to submit articles of interest to him to ease the burden of the editor's role. Thanks Steve for all your hard work in producing a first class publication.

The past year has been extremely busy with organisation of the seminar, and unfortunately as a result, only one field trip was held – that being to the Pilot Tunnel stockpile at Mt Kynoch north of Toowoomba.

According to our records there are four members eligible for 10 year membership of MinSocQ due at this time. Those members are: Philip Ericksson, Sue Ericksson, John Brady and Elethia Brady. Our congratulations go to these members on becoming eligible for Ten Year Membership of MinSocQ .

On a sadder note our thoughts are with the families of three past members Vilma Tarhanoff, Hal Crossingham and Trish Storr, who passed away over the last year. Their contributions to MinSocQ will be remembered by all members.

Once again I wish to thank the management committee for their support over the past year – your assistance and encouragement have made my task much easier. In closing I would like members to welcome the incoming management committee and to afford them the support given to the past committees.

Russell Kanowski, President, MinSocQ 2008-2009

MinSocQ General Meeting, 26 August: The AGM was followed by a short presentation by Steve on the feldspar minerals, being part 1 of 2. The main issues for explanation and understanding were simple solid solutions (in this case K-spar KAlSi_3O_8 and albite $\text{NaAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$, leaving coupled substitutions for the next feldspar presentation) and then turning to un-mixing or exsolution, for those feldspars that cooled slowly. It was a logical step to take this phenomenon to perthites and antiperthites, and then on to labradorescence. For quenched feldspars, there is no opportunity for exsolution, and illustrative samples from Springsure were available (courtesy of Bev Mortensen),

along with a faceted example. Several members brought their feldspar specimens, to illustrate key points, and allow all of us to recognize exsolution lamellae; 'amazonites' outnumbered all other feldspars on display.

MinSocQ Management Committee Meeting, 30 September: Apologies from Ron Young who was in Canberra, and Bill Kettleby who had done himself a grievous back injury. Meeting began early, to update and sort out the membership list, and target for special treatment those 'previous' members who have not yet renewed for 2009-2010. Correspondence was dealt with, and you will note the addition of *Albert Street* to the society's address on the masthead to this newsletter. A financial position update was presented by Phil, including requirements for acquittal of our GCBF grant, to be completed by Steve. Aspects of our newsletter circulation were discussed. Now that increasing numbers are receiving it in glorious colour via email, to save money, and effort, we will be polling members who no longer wish to receive black-and-white hard copies via Australia Post (or 'snail mail').

MinSocQ General Meeting, 30 September:

The formal part of the meeting was a presentation by Tony Forsyth on *Digital Photography*, via PowerPoint and digital photographs, no less. This was finely balanced, not too technical, and illustrated key points such as the depth-of-field versus aperture, the need for optimal exposure to ensure no blown pixels (by slight underexposure of images having bright points), and exploded the myth that a digital camera's megapixels constitute the sole criterion for digital image quality. Tony also had a superb illustration of *The Camera Never Lies (at least before digital photography and image manipulation)*, but without a scale or size reference, there is a risk that we may interpret the specimen sizes incorrectly. In the image below, note the miniature display cabinet immediately to the right of the data projector!



Micromob Meeting, September 12: This was held at the home of Victor Tarhanoff, his daughter Vanita and her fiancé Michael, near Boonah. We had a wonderful rollup much to the surprise of our hosts ... in fact they were a little overwhelmed for a while. It was standing room only with fourteen of us circling in their lounge room. After setting up and the usual cuppa Russell led the discussions into our theme of garnets including a handout of the basics; Steve and Theo then rounded off the discussions covering crystallography, occurrences, associated minerals, localities, and uses including garnet sand blasting. Questions were posed and discussed before we moved onto microphotography and light sources. Steve demonstrated a new 2 watt single LED system available from a Southport supplier for \$37, and took orders for a 'bulk' purchase.

Swaps were brought by a few members including Vic Cloete, who had a tray of conichalcites from Lorena Mine, Pumpkin Gully near Cloncurry, and two trays from the New Cobar Mine at Cobar. These trays contained such goodies as azurite, mimetite, hematite, gartrellite, bayldonite, and segnitite. For those that missed out there is plenty left for our next meeting.

Russell gave a positive report on Ron Young's progress post surgery. The possibility of a field trip to Mount Kynoch and to Kingsgate were both discussed. Then it was show and tell time so all the garnets came out to play. This was interrupted by a lunch break but fairly quickly resumed before Steve gave a slideshow presentation from Doug Ramsey that covered the recent Seminar at the Museum plus the field trips from that weekend, using our new data projector and laptop. We were also treated to the awesome splendour of the giant gypsum caves at Naica in Mexico.

The day finished with a quick look through a paddock of fern fossils that can found at Boonah. We thank Victor and Vanita for welcoming us into their home. It was wonderful to be able to 'chat minerals' with Vic again.



Top left: Russell presenting his handout on garnets, flanked by Steve on left and Theo on right. Top right: rapt attention from Tom and Ted at front, Michael, Sue W, Errol and Lloyd at back. Bottom left: Vic Tarhanoff, our host, with Theo in t-shirt. Bottom right: Errol absorbing the goodness out of his micro specimen. Sue Ericksson photos.

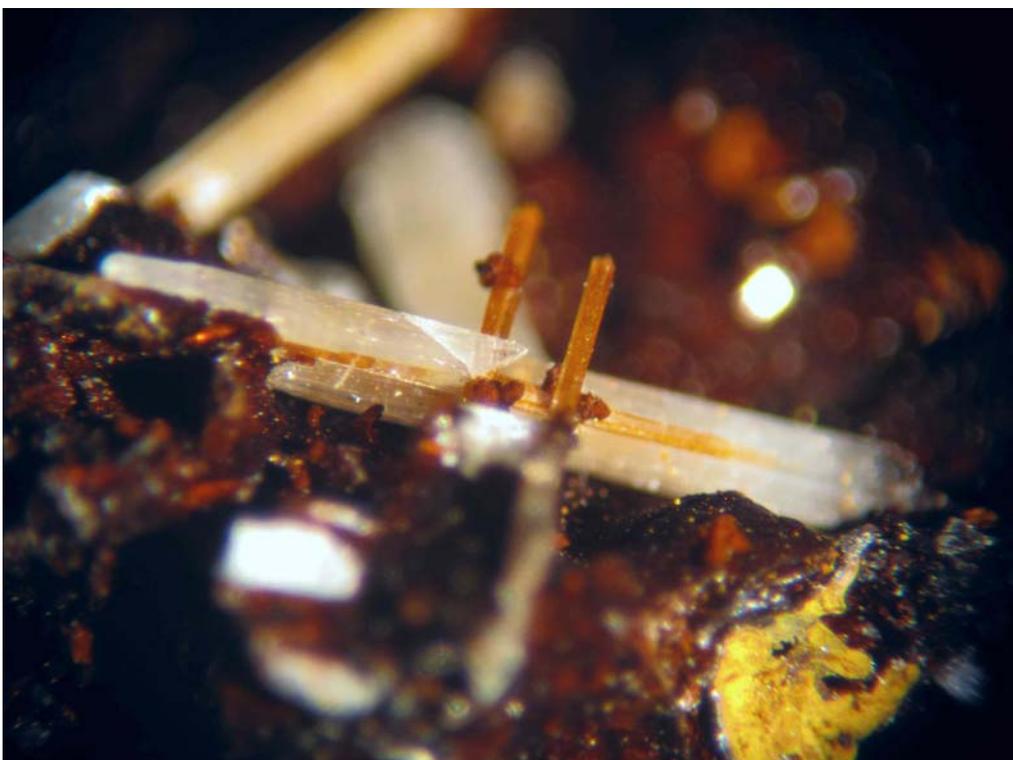


Micromob Meeting, October 10: Held at the MGLS clubrooms, with a warm body count of 14; it was great to welcome Kathy and Les Danby from NSW, (along with the Sinclairs and Weardens, also from the deep south). The topic was *arsenates*; group discussions revealed many minerals in this category, but few samples in attendance.

The digital copy of *Zeolites of the World* had been updated by Steve, and missing pages inserted from relevant scans of the Ericksson's hard copy (thanks Sue and Phil). The 'completed' and updated file was distributed to all who had a memory stick; the file now sits on the Society's laptop for distribution, but this is not the end of the zeolite story (see below). There was much socializing, helped by a veritable torrent of tea, and of course the occasional brag 'down the tubes'. We were happy to see Ted Wearden in better spirits after his course of chemo.

Ron Young, followed by Jacki, turned up at the end, and it was great to see them, albeit fleetingly, at a Micromob event. More to the point, both patients are doing well, and we wish them all the very best!

Zeolites of the World is no longer 'complete'! Blast and damnation! Science marches on, and we present an update from Theo: Very recently, a new zeolite was approved with the name **flörkeite** (VIII/J.25-65) with a chemical composition of $K_3NaCa_2[Al_8Si_8O_{32}]\cdot 12H_2O$. This until now very rare alkali-aluminosilicate is a new potassium-rich zeolite in the phillipsite series. It was found in a calcium-rich xenolith from the Bellerberg near Ettringen in the East Eifel, Germany. The limestone xenolith contained blue haüyne and wollastonite plus small vugs with milky white tobermorite crusts, partly overgrown with thaumasite. Upon these sit crystals of ellestadite, gismondine, colourless willhendersonite and, as originally described, 'abnormal phillipsite', now identified as flörkeite. It occurs in short prismatic crystal elongated along [100], as well as thick tabular crystals smaller than 0.6 mm. Main forms are {010} and {100}, also {001} and {20-1}. Flörkeite is triclinic, transparent, with white streak and vitreous lustre, no fluorescence under UV light, nominal cleavage, possibly (001). Crystal axes: $a = 19.96 \text{ \AA}$, $b = 14.27 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 8.704 \text{ \AA}$, $\alpha = 88.37^\circ$, $\beta = 125.08^\circ$, $\gamma = 89.57^\circ$, $D = 2.26 \text{ g/cm}^3$. The name is in honour of the German mineralogist and crystallographer Otto Wilhelm Flörke (born 1926) for his work on quartz polymorphs, who in his spare time studied Eifel mineralogy in some detail. [Lengauer, C. et al. (2009) Eur. J. Mineral. 21 (in press); IMA 2008-036].



At right: Andy, Tom, Phil and Russell trying out the Tucson eyepiece camera on Russell's binocular 'scope, all smiling as the image magically appears on the laptop (outside the image).

At left: Sue Ericksson about to take her first photo-micrograph on the Society's new Canon G10 camera and ZARF adapter, all attached to the Society's Olympus trinocular 'scope, waiting for final approval from Sue Wearden.

The image is of cerussites from the Tui Mine, Te Aroha, North Island, New Zealand; the horizontal dimension in the field-of-view is approximately 3mm.

Two brief travelogues from Ron Young: *A Bonus In Beverly Hills, May 09*

In May (seems ages ago now) Jacki and I flew to Los Angeles to visit my daughter Michelle and her family. Before we left, Phil Ericksson was thoughtful enough to let me know that there was to be a big mineral show at Costa Mesa in mid-May. It transpired that Costa Mesa was about a one hour drive from LA, so Michelle took me and Jacki

to check it out on Saturday 16th May. I don't know how it ranks in size or importance among the Californian mineral shows, but it seemed to me to be about the equal of our biggest shows – more dealers than our Gemboree, but fewer tailgaters.

Because of Phil letting me know about the show, and because of my seemingly permanent love affair with hyalite, I bought some pretty nice hyalites from Ken and Rhonda Kajewski in Toowoomba to take with me. I told the first dealer to whom I showed the hyalites that they fluoresce a brilliant apple green under short wave UV, so he tried it out and immediately bought the largest specimen. I then showed the rest to a lady dealer from New Zealand, telling her about the fluorescence. We went into a bathroom, turned out the lights, and turned on the UV. Sure enough, they too fluoresced a brilliant green, so she bought the lot at my asking price.

This then left me with some money to spend so I started to do the rounds of the dozens of rooms full of minerals. There were hundreds of beautiful specimens, and as usual, they were impeccably presented by the American dealers. After a while I ran across an Indian dealer who had a number of zeolites including the most beautiful specimen I have ever seen. It was about 20cm long and 12cm wide, with pinkish heulandite, green apophyllite, little 'mirrors' of clear apophyllite, apricot stilbite, and spiky crystals of white calcite, as depicted below.



I was delighted to buy it, along with a pretty nice smaller piece, with the proceeds of the hyalite sales. This Costa Mesa show was no Tucson, but just a nice big and friendly three-day show. We all had a very pleasant and interesting day, highlighted by the acquisition of a beautiful specimen.

Broken Hill, September 09

As most of you know, I have had a bit of a health problem recently, and am now having chemo treatment. Fortunately, I am experiencing virtually none of the possible unpleasant side effects, so I was delighted to be able to fly to Broken Hill, most specifically to see Milton Lavers and his fabulous collection of Broken Hill minerals.

The trip itself was interesting in that the Sydney to BH flight was via Dubbo in a 33-seater two engine turboprop plane, a Saab 340. We took off late from Sydney because they didn't know until the last minute whether we could make it through the dust storm. The plane's normal speed is a bit above 500kph, but because of the dust-laden wind, it was struggling to maintain 450kph. We had to refuel in Dubbo, and with a full load of passengers, and a necessary maximum fuel load, some baggage had to be left behind for later delivery. I subsequently learned that

the newspapers for BH were also left behind, for the same reason. The two hour trip took four hours; the poor little plane bumped and struggled along, until we finally arrived at 10.30 instead of 8.30. However, I experienced no ear problems, as 10,000 feet seemed to be the ceiling for the entire flight.

Anyway, Milton's collection is truly amazing, and if you've not had the opportunity to see it, I guarantee that you won't be disappointed if you get the opportunity. Milton's collection comprises some 3,000 specimens, ranging in size from thumbnails to large museum pieces. The colours are stunning: many shades of green pyromorphites, red rhodonites, white cerussites, his famous and fabulous green anglesites (one specimen collected over a hundred years ago, but not by Milton), and pink rhodocrosites, to list just a few. It is just too much to absorb and comprehend in one viewing, but the accompanying images will provide an indication of what there is to see. Milton is a charming host, a true gentleman, and is happy to talk about the specimens for as long as you like.

The fourth Broken Hill Gem and Mineral Show (**Rock-On 2009**) was being held at the racecourse so obviously I went to see it. So far the show has been held in alternate years, but the committee is planning to make it an annual event. I was delighted to see some old friends immediately after entering the hall: Brian England, Allen Arnold, Peter Beckwith, Milton of course, and others. I was particularly pleased to be able to fulfil an assignment for my friend Steve, namely the purchase of a nice Thackaringa beryl some 25cm long and tapering down from 7cm diameter at the larger end. (Oh yes, I also bought several nice specimens for myself!)

I estimate that there were some 25 dealers, no tailgaters, and unfortunately, not a lot of customers. The dust storms probably put a lot of people off from making the trip. The show was held in a large hall, getting towards the size of the Gatton hall, and I could easily look around and see any of the people I know at any time. However, there were a great many very fine specimens to be seen, including some truly beautiful native silvers from Morocco, presented by Peter Beckwith, and many lovely Broken Hill specimens shown by local enthusiasts.

The City of Broken Hill can hardly be said to be beautiful, but it is truly a wonderful place to visit. There is a wealth of different architectures in both ordinary dwellings and in public buildings; the streets are unusually wide, not too many traffic lights, and lots of public parks. The GeoCentre displays a pretty nice collection of minerals, and has a very interesting video of the geology of the BH area. It also houses the famous Silver Tree, an epergne (table centrepiece) crafted for the Melbourne International Exhibition in 1880; it contains 8.5kg of silver and stands 66cm high – a beautiful and unique must-see item.

Here endeth my little exposé on Broken Hill. I strongly recommend that you put Broken Hill on your must-do list, particularly if you can organize to go at the time of the Gem and Mineral Show. *[Should you want to drive to the 2010 Joint Seminar in Adelaide (12-14th June), then a stop at Broken Hill on the way down or back is too good an opportunity to miss. Ring ahead – Milton and Betty would be happy to arrange a viewing of the collection. There are other fine private collections for which viewings could also be arranged - Ed.]*





Previous page: Rock-On 2009. Above left: dust storm front at Broken Hill (from Dirk van Hest, who got it off the 'net from someone) – and we Brisbanites thought we had it bad! Above right: Allen Arnold, Ron and Milton Lavers at Rock-On. Immediately above: Milton's rhodonites from the North Mine; Below left: Milton's bustamite from the Zinc Corp Mine, and below right: a part of Milton's pyromorphite display, from the Blackwood Open Cut. All photos (bar top left) from Ron Young.





Milton's smithsonite on cerussite, collected in 1903; the Silver Tree epergne at the BH GeoCentre



▼ **TRADING CORNER** ▲

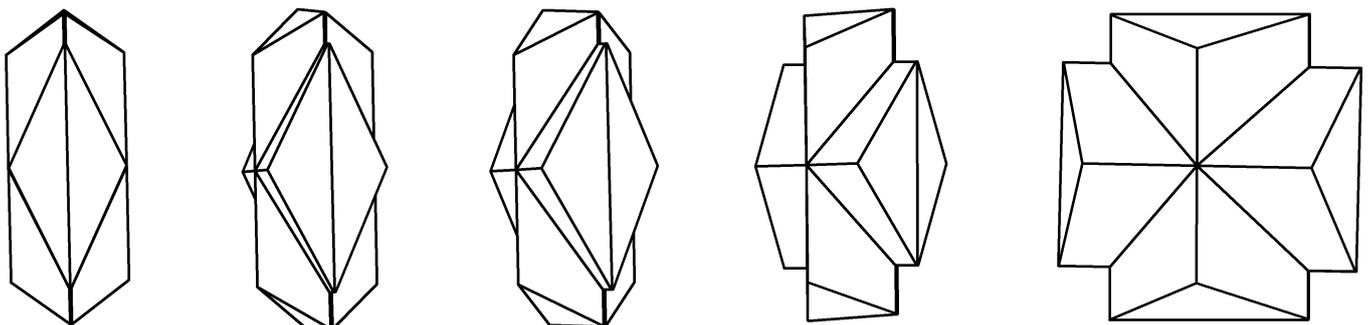
For sale: Theo Kloprogge still has bags of micromount boxes (pictured at left). 100 boxes per bag, at \$22 per bag (price has gone up a bit due to the Euro exchange rate). Each box measures 28x28x22 mm; ring Theo on 0417 949 998 or let him know at any of the MinSocQ or MicroMob meetings if you want to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

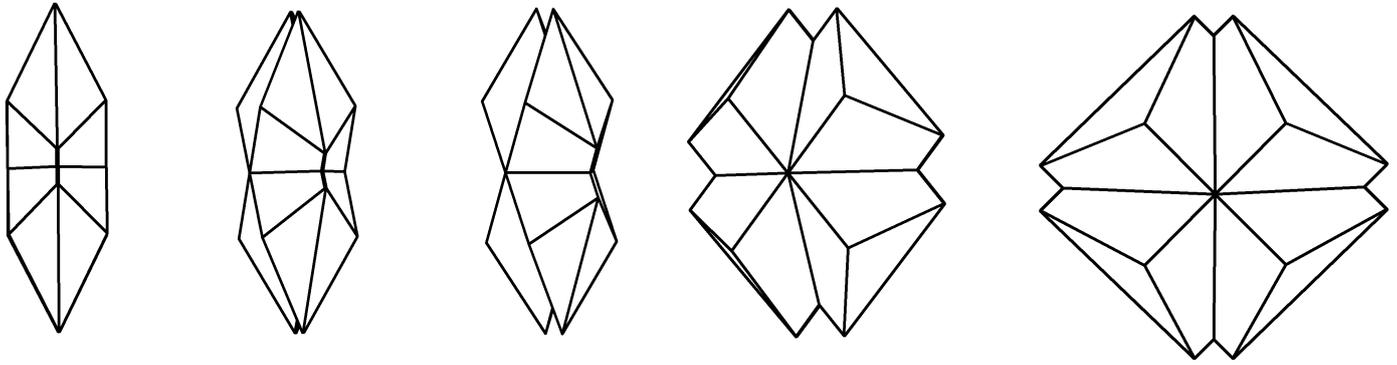
For sale: Olympus binocular stereo microscope, Model SD-STB3. This has two magnifications, 10x and 30x, via objective changeover knob. It has a powered transilluminating base, with built-in 20W halogen light (not currently working – may need new globe). 'Scope otherwise in very good condition; excellent image! Asking price \$300 – contact Enid Sandeman (07) 5531 4995.

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.

AND NOW, LAST NEWSLETTER'S PUZZLEMENTS: First, the colour photo was of blue beryl (not, unfortunately, the scandium-bearing beryl bazzite) and colourless sellaite, (MgF₂), from Mt Bischoff; a number of readers who have seen the image in *The Minerals of Tasmania* got that right. We also presented several crystal drawings of a mineral that should be known to all of us, except that the crystal(s) were depicted from unconventional viewing angles. As you will see from the additional drawings below, the mineral is staurolite – in fact the very staurolite twin that is the logo of MinSocQ, appearing in glorious shades of brown and reddish brown in the masthead of this newsletter!





THE BASAL PEDION ... or the funny bit at the end of the newsletter

Move Over All Used Car Salesmen: Tony Forsyth found a lengthy 'advertorial' from a crystal dealer in India. Reprinted below, with only formatting changes, is the summary from said article. We might ask the more experienced quartz collectors for comment soon. In the interim, maybe we can learn a few new secrets here.

Some common and encore use of Himalayan Crystal:-

1. The Crystal must be clean & charged by the expert as per their rituals before the start use of Crystal. After any exercise dip the crystal in salt water minimum 2 to 3 hours, before next use.
2. Pendulums of natural shaped Crystal should be worn.
3. To install a Crystal cluster minimum 2.25 Kg(single piece or qty e of your lucky No) in a glass utensil in home (in every room), office, shops, commercial sites, clinic or vehicle, etc for PROSPERTY and mind stuability. Cluster not to shift place before five months.
4. Try to install the cluster in sunny window where the cluster can absorb, reflect and refract the sun light is bringing its warmth and richness in side.
5. The cluster in use to absorb negative energy must be cleaned every week. Dip the cluster into salt mix water minimum for two to three hours.
6. Charge other crystals (after cleaning in salt mix water) by putting them on already cleaned and charged crystal clusters, for one night.
7. You can even select a specific Health issue or for prosperity and you can use Himalayan Crystal program to select the appropriate topic. The crystal healer assists by sharing their love and healing energies.
8. Install 2 nos of Himlyan NATURAL Crystals clusters, minimum 250 gram in Window and doors to kept negative power away.
9. During Meditation Himlyan Natural Crystal (minimum .250 kg) can be placed in front in meditation practice or can be hold in the hands.
10. Find a space in which to meditate/work, it need to a place where you feel comfortable and a place away from disturbances. If you are using an office/shops/clinic or busy area try to secure it from disturbances for as long as you will doing meditation/work.
11. Before this there is no hard and fast rule, where you should place your crystal and what is the minimum qty required. You should place crystal as mention above.
12. Crystal Cluster have a better ability over small single crystals to retain the energy integrity, because of this cluster are able to retain more negative energy before need to be cleansed again.
13. Pendulum/pendent used by the healers not less than 50gm
14. Generally healers can must use crystal during treatments as an additional source of energy.
15. Healers using the Himalayan crystal, leads to better quality of life for their clients.
16. Himalayan crystals encourages self-love and compassion towards others.
17. The Himalayan crystals users feeling more positive, confident and better able to cope.
18. With the help of Himalayan crystal any can dealing better with stressful peoples and situations.
19. Himalayan crystals reduced tension and anxiety, boosted energy levels, and feeling of inner clam, contentment and serenity.
20. Himalayan crystals accelerates the natural healing process, and bring a sense of purpose.
21. Himalayan natural crystals alternatively treatment could be a combination of accurate and speedy healing with smile.
22. If guests touches the crystal clusters commonly, or replaced regularly in these cases cluster must got recharged for the proper results.
23. The pendulum/pedant fall on some dirty area, user must got it cleaned and recharged.
24. Single Himalayan Crystal natural pendulum/pedant Worn on the Body minimum to 10 gram in weight, for adults.
25. Instal Single Himalayan crystal (minimum 500gm in single piece or equiel to your lucky number) Close to the Body.

26. For cleaning of throat chakra or any problem of throat, the length of pendulum chain is near to throat.
27. Chakra balancing, Simple way to place a crystals on the whole chakra, place, place the crystal first on lowest chakra and move upward, while removing the crystals always remove the highest one first.
28. The purpose of laying the crystals is to release etheric, emotional, mental or spiritual blocks.
29. Himlyan natural crystals can not only help with emotional healing, but with self-expression, creativity, meditation and immune system.
30. Placed Himalayan crystal within areas where there is negative energy to bring harmony and uplift men
31. At the beginning of healing session you should hold the natural shaped crystal in your hand in whichever hand feel right to you, Now make yourself comfortable in an easy sitting take your time, bring client problem into your mind, then the terminated side crystal be directed towards that part of clients body which you believe to be most in need of healing.
32. Many of patient regularly fall fast sleep, it is very that you bring them back to the present in as relaxed manner.
33. For best result in Absent/Distant healing the natural shaped crystal for the purpose are used slowly and for no other propose.
34. During day/time not doing healing must carry the healing crystal around with you in your pocket, so that the energies and vibration of your crystal will continue to provide you energy.
35. During healing must focus on the need of the soul.
36. After treatment crystal must dip in the salt water minimum 2 to 3 hours, before next use.

But wait, there's more! and is even funnier and it's about vivianite

Vivianite is a ferrous or divalent iron phosphate of composition $\text{Fe}^{2+}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2 \cdot 8(\text{H}_2\text{O})$. It is monoclinic, and when first 'brought to light', pristine specimens are colourless, transparent to translucent. Vivianite has a lustre ranging from vitreous (when relatively fresh and unaltered), through pearly, to dull or earthy. It is photochromic, in that during exposure to light (especially sunlight with a significant UV component), and to oxygen (in air), the ferrous iron ions begin to oxidise to ferric iron ions, eventually generating the mineral metavivianite ($\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{Fe}^{3+}_2(\text{PO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 6(\text{H}_2\text{O})$), by 'losing' protons. These are facts the funny bit is to follow read on

During this oxidation process, vivianite usually turns pale green, then progressively darker green, (quite attractive, even emerald-green), then green-blue, dark blue, blue-black, and finally, 'opaque' black. It is commonly accompanied by a change in lustre, eventually becoming quite dull, even if well crystallized. It is amazing how some mineral dealers and some tailgaters will leave vivianite exposed to sunlight, and when questioned about its colour, will then reply that vivianite really is black. Others will tell us that black vivianite is the 'rare' variety!

Isobel Johnstone (GAA Qld) brought to attention an article on Mindat, written in 2006 by Alfredo Petrov, and since revised (<http://www.mindat.org/article.php/137/A+Scientific+Study+of+the+Absorption+of+Evil+by+Vivianite> or just Google *vivianite evil* and follow the link there.) We quote the key elements of the article for your edification:

My favourite explanation for the instability of vivianite came from a couple of lovable young mystical counterculture types I met at the Tucson Gem and Mineral show. They had bought several Bolivian vivianites from me at Tucson in 2003 and came back for more in 2004. "*The last ones we got turned black already*", they told me with a happy - even gleeful - expression. "*Did you leave them in a sunny window?*" I asked "*You mustn't expose them to bright light*". Turns out they wanted their vivianites to turn black and were delighted when the hoped-for phenomenon really happened. Apparently, vivianite gradually gets darker and darker by absorbing "evil energies" from its surroundings. After it gets black one has to throw it away and go buy a fresh one. I hadn't known this before but, as an occasional exporter of Bolivian vivianite, I thought it was a wonderful discovery! This unexpected and valuable property of vivianite will surely expand the market for it, and Bolivia will finally have a near monopoly on a natural resource that the rest of the world will be standing in line to buy (especially considering the amount of evil our current administration has discovered lurking in evolutionary biology textbooks, sex education classes, the Iranian government, embryonic stem cell labs, gay weddings).

The practical application of these two processes is that we can suggest two alternative courses of action for preserving the transparency and colour of pristine vivianite crystals:

1) Keep them in the dark. That doesn't mean "shade"; it means in a closed cotton-lined box in a drawer, not in a glass case. Let the great unwashed masses *oooh* and *aaah* over your green tourmaline, emerald and forsterite; they don't need to see your green vivianites. Reserve the vivianite for short-term viewing by your connoisseur friends ... a few minutes exposure indoors once in a while isn't going to noticeably hurt it. Alternatively,

2) Keep all evil out of the house. Meditate. Burn incense. Avoid nasty thoughts about your mother-in-law. Don't be jealous of your neighbour's new car or boat. Before your next cocktail party, remove from your guest list any devil worshippers, drug dealers, pedophiles, terrorists, politicians, used car salesmen and lawyers.

