



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 Ph/Fax: (07) 3202 6150



No. 55

June 2009

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 Klopogge 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 photomicrographic 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.)

July 29: *Olivine, pyroxenes and amphiboles* – from igneous and metamorphic settings; these minerals and mineral groups will be the minerals of the month – so if you have some good ones, bring 'em so we may 'look and learn'

August 26: *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 may 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.

November 25: *topic to be announced*, but do bring in your best samples collected on an '08 - '09 MinSocQ field trip, to be judged for the Bob Taylor Trophy, to be awarded at the December BBQ.

December 12: *MinSocQ BBQ* – venue to be confirmed

MINSOCQ MGMT. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Commencing at 6.00pm, prior to the 2009 MinSocQ meetings: 29 July, 30 September, 25 November.

MICROMOB MEETINGS starting 10am

July 11: at MGLS clubrooms – the topics will be the minerals barite and celestine (celestite), followed by a shortened problems, brags and swap session. Steve will run a tutorial on our new Tucsen digital eyepiece camera, driven by our new notebook.

August 8: at the Gold Coast clubrooms – the topic will be azurite, followed by the usual problems, brags and swaps; *please note change of venue*

September 12: chez Russell Kanowski in Toowoomba – the topic will be garnets, followed by the usual problems, brags and swaps

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

November 14: at MGLS clubrooms – the topic will be vanadinite and related minerals, followed by the usual problem, brag and swap session

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.

June 27: Gold Coast Gem Show, Pizzey Park, Miami

July 7-8: Atherton Lapidary Club Show, Atherton Showgrounds

July 11-12: Hervey Bay Gem and Mineral Club, Hervey Bay High School, Beach & Maryborough Rds., Pinalba

July 18-19: Townsville Gem and Mineral Show, 96 Mooney St., Gulliver

July 25-26: Cairns Mineral and Lapidary Gem Show, 129 Mulgrave St., Cairns

August 1: Ipswich and District Lapidary Club Show, Ipswich Showgrounds, Warwick Rd, Ipswich

August 7-9: Kybong Rock and Mineral Fest, Lobwein Rd. & Bruce Hwy., Kybong

August 7-9: Anakie Gem Fest, Anakie

August 15-16: Central Queensland Gem Show, Monto

September 5-7: Emmaville Gem and Swap Meet, at the Caravan Park, Emmaville, NSW – this event is highly recommended, with collecting trips to boot

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: Caloundra Gem Show, Indoor Sport Stadium, North Street, Caloundra

2010 PLACEHOLDER - June 12-14: 33rd Annual Seminar, Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia, in Adelaide: the theme will be *Collectors and Collecting in Australia and New Zealand*

32nd ANNUAL SEMINAR OF THE JOINT MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES OF AUSTRALASIA – BRISBANE, 5-9 June '09

Well, it's been and gone; if you missed it, the abstract volume, in colour, can be read or downloaded in its entirety from The Australian Mineral Collector website, (www.mineral.org.au/seminar/images/abstractsfinal.pdf)

Tony Forsyth had gone to considerable effort to publicize the Seminar, with brochures at local and interstate gem and mineral fairs, and at GAA Queensland. Additionally, many of the delegates commented favourably on the Seminar emails, and the timely Seminar updates. Arrangements for Seminar accommodation, and favourable pricing, were also much appreciated, especially by interstate delegates.

The event began on Friday morning, with tours of the University of Queensland's Experimental Mine and the pilot plants at the Julius Kruttschnitt Mineral Research Centre, Indooroopilly. Unfortunately, the underground mine tour was cancelled pending a safety inspection following recent underground works, but the above ground tours were informative and thoroughly enjoyed by all 12 in attendance. Our thanks to JKMRRC, Eric Muhling and Jon Worth for the tours (we owe them some 'red') – and to Steve for organizing it.

The Seminar kicked off on Saturday morning, at the theatre and three adjacent ante-rooms, Queensland Museum. It was officially opened by Bob Bryan, our Society's Patron. The venue was first-class, and very favourably received, especially by our out-of-state delegates. The audio-visual facilities were top notch, and we did not have to resort to our new back-up equipment, though our new notebook had some serious use beforehand. Our thanks to the Museum, and to Melissa, Matthew and Evan from the Museum's Heritage Catering for all their help prior to and during the event. Our thanks also to Judy Forsyth for her non-stop behind-the-scenes effort in cleaning up and re-setting the tea room facilities between sessions.

The 32 page seminar abstracts were printed in colour and bound, setting a new benchmark for future Seminars; they were very well received! Tony Forsyth did a great job, and MinSocQ thanks Bob Bryan and Caleb Yue for the financial support which enabled the colour printing and binding.

The Seminar was attended by 57 delegates, representing ACT, NZ, NSW, SA, Vic, WA and of course Qld. It was great to see a significant number of MinSocQ country members. A contingent of 5 delegates from the Queensland Division of the Gemmological Association of Australia also attended the session on Queensland gemstones and beryllium minerals. Considering the global financial crisis, the swine flu epidemic, other competing events, and the proximity in time of the previous Joint Seminar in Zeehan, the attendance was quite pleasing.

The Seminar content was well balanced, and not too focussed on any one topic, ranging from mining history, famous mineral localities, handling of minerals, collections, and of course a good dose of minerals. Tony's session at the end of Saturday's proceedings, on early mine lighting was enjoyed by all, it was quite illuminating! From all accounts, the delegates were well served, and all comments and other feedback were quite favourable.

The Seminar Dinner was held at the Ship Inn, South Bank, attended by 52 delegates and spouses. The venue and the quality of the food were excellent (some even managed to score two desserts – but you had to be quick!) The Seminar placemats became 'collector items' – only a few were left on the tables, and these had been 'used' by the more enthusiastic diners.

Sunday morning commenced with the AGMs of the Joint Societies, and of the AJM; MinSocQ was

represented by Russell, Tony and Steve. One of the topics was the distribution of the newsletters of each state to members of sister societies in other states (and NZ!) This had been raised last year at Zeehan, but not settled satisfactorily. After constructive discussion, the 'Queensland Plan' was adopted:

(i) Each state (and NZ) will continue to publish their own newsletters, and distribute accordingly – no change here, each state makes its own arrangements as before

(ii) The newsletter editors will forward copies to each other, so that sister societies may extract and re-publish articles of common interest, with the appropriate acknowledgements, in future editions of their own newsletters. MinSocQ had already made this arrangement with three states.

(iii) After a suitable period (6 to 8 weeks for MinSocQ), each state is invited to place its newsletter on The Australian Mineral Collector website, thereby making them freely available to all that may be interested. The time delay is to provide the members of each society an advantage and return for their membership or subscription.

Moving on to the next Annual Seminar, **it was resolved that the 2010 Annual Seminar will be held in Adelaide, hosted by MinSocSA, 12-14 June.** (Never let it be said that we do not provide advance notice. Keep these dates in mind, and do attend if you can. We will provide details as they become available.)

The Sunday Seminar sessions also went off very well, concluded by Bill Birch with the uranium minerals in the Lake Boga Granite, and the insights these may provide for the safe storage and disposal of reactor wastes. (It is, we are reliably informed, quite fortuitous that this same topic was featured on ABC TV's *Catalyst* program the following Thursday. Whilst Bill may well have been wearing his favourite lead underwear for the Lake Boga Granite quarry shots, it did not seem to slow him down one bit!)

The mineral bazaar on Monday morning went very well, with much swapping, trading, and give-aways of microspecimens. We understand that Rebecca and Larry Queen's gold, apatite and pyrite specimens from PNG were in great demand.

The two display cases in the atrium were stocked with samples from the Minerals Heritage Museum, and from the collections of several MinSocQ members. They were greatly admired and photographed; the Be minerals were on the mark, relating directly to one of the presentations. A display of mining lamps, relating to another presentation, was also on the mark, and much photographed. Thanks to Ron and Tony for organizing these.

The Toowoomba field trip followed the bazaar, and some 29 hearty souls turned up at the pilot tunnel's excavated rock stockpile to collect zeolites and carbonates. We had perfect winter weather for the collection trip (take note all you southern delegates –

Queensland weather IS perfect all year round – even in winter!!) and most people found specimens of interest.

It was particularly pleasing to see youngsters on site – let's hope their interest in minerals continues (and that they might become future MinSocQ members.) Also pleasing to see were Jocelyn Thornton from NZ, and a new MinSocQ member, from NSW, Errol Hagelstein. Our thanks to Murray Peacock, District Director, Main Roads Department, Darling Downs Region, Toowoomba District Office, for this and previous permissions to visit site, and to Russell for organizing the trip.

You may be interested in some tunnel detail here. A future 42km long bypass of Toowoomba is being planned which includes twin three lane tunnels approx 715 metres long through the Toowoomba Range escarpment about 90 metres below the New England Highway near Mt Kynoch. A major geotechnical investigation comprising around 130 drill holes resulting in over 2000 metres of drill core was carried out, however the geology of the area was found to be extremely complex. The pilot tunnel was constructed by AVKO Mining Pty Ltd at a cost of \$4.5 million to provide additional geotechnical information to assist with the design and cost estimates for the future tunnel and to allow potential tenderers (when federal funding becomes available) to properly assess the geotechnical conditions likely to be encountered. These data will form the basis of their construction offer for the tunnels. In excess of 3500 cubic metres of material was excavated during this operation and it is this material that was the focus of our collection trip.

Tuesday's collecting trip to Laidley Creek also went very well; the weather was close to perfect, with only occasional wind gusts roaring up the valley. There was water in the creek, but no one got bogged. 23 turned up, and no-one went away empty handed; there was much swapping and donation of samples all round. MinSocQ brought along a microscope, and a rock splitter, which were in great demand. We were pleased to see Jocelyn and Kelsey Smith again, as well as Dirk van Hest, and a new MinSocQ member, Paul Wedgbury. Thanks to Sue and Phil for organizing this.

Overall, the Seminar was deemed to be very successful, possibly the best that MinSocQ has ever hosted. We even had a Victorian saying 'I had no idea that a MinSoc could organize a seminar so well'. There was an unexpected positive outcome: it was gratifying to welcome new members to MinSocQ, six of whom joined as a consequence of their attendance.





Above: Eric Muhling of the Experimental Mine between Robert Kuchel (Vic.) and Sue Koepke (WA). Previous page: Jon Worth of JKMRC addressing the visitors. 2 Photos by Russell Kanowski.



Seminar mineral display in the atrium with nice specimens from the MHM collection, and others on loan from MinSocQ members. Ron Young photo



Delegates assembling for the opening of the Seminar on Saturday morning, Queensland Museum Theatre; Bob Bryan, MinSocQ Patron, at lower left, Theo Kloprogge in white t-shirt in centre



Setting for the Toowoomba collecting trip, at the excavated rock pile, Mt Kynoch. All Toowoomba photos by Russell Kanowski



MinSocQ president Russell Kanowski, with tie, welcoming delegates to the Seminar. 2 photos by Tony Forsyth



Kirsten Kloprogge, Kelsey Smith and Andrew Kloprogge collecting minerals and having fun on the Toowoomba field trip



Michael Hirst (Vic.), with handlens, temporarily forgetting his onerous duties as the MinSocV newsletter editor, and Ted Wearden (NSW) belting the daylight out of a reluctant rock to free up a zeolite micro specimen



Collecting in Laidley Creek; Jocelyn Thornton (NZ) and Doug Rumsey (Longreach Qld) standing, Theo Kloprogge (Qld) with back to camera; Sue Ericksson photo



Another glorious winter day in Queensland; Barbara Kuchel (Vic.) in foreground, Toowoomba in the background



Laidley nerve centre, with rock-breaker, microscope, reclining chairs, and in shadow, state-of-the-art equipment for cuppa preparation; Sue Ericksson (Qld) is sitting at the 'scope, Errol Hagelstein (NSW) standing behind her



Jocelyn Thornton (NZ) looking for the best zeolite, and from Brisbane, (L to R) Brad and Michelle Smith and Theo Kloprogge, discussing the deeper meaning of life



Michael Hirst (Vic.) using rock-breaker, and Elethia Brady (Townsville Qld) at right, watching Sue Wearden (NSW, in lime green jacket) to make sure the cuppa meets Queensland quality standards. 2 photos by Russell Kanowski

NEW MINSOCQ MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome 7 new members to the Society, and hope to see the locals at our monthly meetings regularly, and the interstate members as frequently as their travels permit :

Keith and Marie Cheadle, Maclean, NSW
Greg Dainty, Bowraville, NSW
Errol Hagelstein, Coffs Harbour, NSW
John Hoffman, Lismore, NSW
Lance Lewis, Toowong, Qld and
Paul Wedgbury, Kenmore, Qld

In a similar vein, so to speak, many of us frequently bump into Alan and Diane Eaton at mineral and gem shows. We were delighted that they could attend the Seminar, and we'd love to see them more frequently, whenever the opportunity arises.

WHAT ELSE HAS BEEN HAPPENING

MinSocQ Management Committee has been meeting every month since February, to organize the 32nd Annual Seminar. They are now taking a break till July.

Gambling Community Benefit Fund – well, we were successful in our application for funds! Steve did much of the masterminding and organizing, ably assisted by Russell (who obtained an ABN for MinSocQ, and obtained two letters of support), Phil (who gave Steve the final push, and who got the books ready for audit), Ron (who organized the audit and found the Certificate of Incorporation and obtained a letter of support), Tony (who got the Tax File Number), and Theo (who provided a letter of support). Thanks also go to Donna and Melanie Dobos for picking up many of the letters of support (there were 8 in all) and for much of the required running around. Finally, thanks to MGLS and Steve Clark, for their support. It truly was a team effort!

We have acquired the Lenovo notebook, Sony data projector, Canon G10 camera, Tucsen digital eyepiece and parfocalizer, and the hyperfocal software. We await delivery of the Zarf adapter for the Canon G10.

The Tucsen digital eyepiece is primarily for MinSocQ members to use on their own binocular 'scopes, as it does not require a trinocular microscope. It will be available for loan, to paid up members of MinSocQ.

Steve Dobos is currently preparing a set of 'how to' sheets, and will provide demonstrations and instructions to the MicroMob.

MicroMob - The February 09 meeting was held at the home of Sue and Ted Wearden at Old Bonalbo on Saturday the 14th – Valentine's day, and a birthday for one member. A cake was presented to celebrate these two occasions and those with birthdays around that day helped Andy blow out the candles (and they were Philip, Jan and Theo).

Despite the drought-breaking rain, there were ten members from Queensland and NSW sitting around the microscopes in the shed as the veranda was too wet. Inside another nine folk discussed and crafted the day away with bead making demonstrated by Ted.

There were a lot of swaps, brags and problems solved before lunch, with the afternoon given to topaz. Theo gave a basic talk on topaz before the show and tell started. There were some remarkable specimens to show ranging from a blue crystal about three cms to micro pinks and clear.

Some time was spent on photography practice, especially of Andy's brag specimens, despite his quite unreasonable talk about copyright. While the NSW folk stayed over for a Sunday session as well, the QLDers showed less staying power and quit in the late afternoon. But still, a great event; and thanks to Sue and Ted for hosting it!



Sue Ericksson photo of 'The Dolphin' – actually Andy Toole's specimen of a photogenic 3mm molybdenite spray in quartz from Kingsgate.



Ted Wearden demonstrating finer points of glass bead making to Kathy Danby of the Casino group; Sue E photo..

The March meeting was held at the MGLS clubrooms on Saturday the 14th with fourteen attendees. It was wonderful to see the tables covered by eleven

microscopes. It was good to have John and Elethia Brady back for a visit with us too.

After general discussions we moved on to the tourmaline family of minerals. Theo led the discussions with a presentation to which others added their pieces of research and asked questions. Larger dravite and elbaite specimens were on display as well as several micro size specimens. After lunch we had some problems solved as well as viewing of the brag tourmaline specimens.

Gatton Club asked us to present a microscope display at their annual show on Saturday 21st. Thanks to all the members who were able to come along with their scopes. We had six microscopes set up around the table and as usual, it created quite an interest with the general public. Brochures for the up-coming seminar were available as well as membership information on our Mineralogical Society. A few people took information with them so maybe we will see a new member or two. Sue Ericksson.



MicroMob at MGLS – ‘Men at Work’ – Russell K, Theo K and Phil E at the ‘scopes, Andy T with back to camera; March 09; Sue Ericksson photo

BK Minerals - Back from Tucson Extravaganza: This event was held on 28th March, with changed date due to a late change of date by a competing event. A good number of MinSocQ stalwarts attended on this fine day, and by all accounts, it was very rewarding. The following missive has been provided by Señor Kettley:

POST GRACIAS’Z

Many many thanks to all our friends from MinSocQ who helped make our ‘Back from Tucson Show’ a success. This year Yvonne and I extended our annual pilgrimage, starting in Hong Kong, and hopping into China for a quick shift. From there we flew to the UK, and spent time with family, taking day trips to Leeds to see the armoury (highly recommended), had a punt on the river in Cambridge and did penance at Peterborough Cathedral.

Next stop ‘The Big Apple’ where we did all the touristy things, the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, buggy ride through Central Park in the snow (where if I had been a brass monkey I would now be appendage-less). A five minutes walk from our hotel to see Mamma Mia at the Winter Garden on Broadway, and the most expensive but incredibly delicious meal at *Thalia’s*.

On to Tucson via Dallas - Fort Worth. Three weeks plus a couple of days in a motel room is not my idea of paradise, but apart from a minor dental problem and a crap exchange rate, all went well. We loaded up with goodies and headed ‘ome. Another three weeks imprisonment in my sheds boxing, labelling and pricing and we were ready for the big day. *Amor* to my buddies George, Tony, Jimmy, the lovely Judy and my gorgeous daughter for all their help. Apologies to Peter and Denise who, unaware that Gatton had changed their show date consequently altering mine, flew from Noosa in their Lear Jet a week early, only to find us not at all in. In fact we were out. Indeed at Gatton. Bummer.

We had excellent weather, excellent company and an excellent return, reducing the family debt considerably. Adding icing to the cake, we attended the National Gemboree at Horsham and won the Best Dealer Stand Trophy for the third time. All in all, not a bad start to the year, so ... gracias a la vida, y mi amigos. Bill & Yvonne

OOOPS In the previous newsletter, Phil and Sue Ericksson, in recounting their travels, stated that ‘It was good to see some nice Australian minerals in the Museum of Natural History in London, including a crocoite donated by Ann and Noel Kennon from Dapto in NSW’.

The Erickssons have provided the following correction: The Kennons only *delivered* the specimen, but it was actually donated by Richard Wolf and Adam Wright of the Adelaide Mining Company. Apologies from the Erickssons.

Caveat Emptor! Something we don’t want to see happening: It’s come to our attention that over the Easter weekend, a sometime dealer or tailgater of minerals was selling quartz crystals at Torrington, supposedly sourced from Kingsgate.

From several sources, including one of our own members, it is almost certain that said crystals were in fact from Brazil or Arkansas, but definitely not from Kingsgate. Similarly, the same dealer was selling pale beryl crystals, supposedly from Heffernan’s mine near Torrington, but in all likelihood, probably from Pakistan.

From reports received, it seems likely that the misrepresentation of the specimens’ provenance was to obtain a higher price, as good specimens from famous Australian localities are highly desirable and do fetch a premium.

Intentional misrepresentation constitutes fraud. As always, Buyer Beware! If not familiar with Kingsgate and Heffernan’s specimens, or indeed those from other renowned Australian localities, ask someone who is.

We hasten to point out that this dealer was not Keith Gregson, nor Rob nor Vicki Merrick.

▼TRADING CORNER▲

For sale again: Theo Klopogge is about to take delivery of bags of micromount boxes (pictured below), 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.



Nikon binocular stereo zoom microscope for sale: 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.

Here is an article by John Hoffman of Lismore, one of the organizers of:

The Lismore Gemfest, 16th - 17th May, 2009

Lismore Gemfest is held at the Lismore Showground, North Lismore, on the North Coast of NSW on the 3rd weekend of May annually (always the weekend after Mother's day). It was commenced in 1990 by the Lismore Gem & Lapidary Club Inc.

The 19th Lismore Gemfest was recently held in the rustic showground settings nestled amongst rolling subtropical hills, as is typical of the Northern Rivers hinterland. And what a marvellous mineralogical event this has developed into. There were 26 dealers in the main pavilion including some that attend the National Gemboree. Another pavilion hosted the Rainbow Region display of minerals and gemstones put together by the Lismore club in 7 cabinets each displaying

minerals in the 7 colours of the rainbow. This area also hosted information booths, club sales and lapidary demonstrations by the Lismore, Byron Bay and Casino clubs.

Remarkably for a town that boasts no mining activity or large population base, the show attracted 112 tailgaters from almost every State and Territory, with a huge range of Australian and worldwide minerals. Specialities included gem minerals from Afghanistan and the New England region of NSW, exquisite samples from the former Reg Taylor collection (Mullumbimby NSW), some interesting new Chinese material, hundreds of Mooralla quartzes etc. etc.

Lismore Lapidary Club members were accommodating and approachable in their yellow Gemfest vests and t-shirts, and the weather was a warm and perfect 25 degrees. Children's activities included gem sieving, sand sieving and lucky dips. MinSocQ members attended in mass, and for those who have never been to this show, you have missed what is being acclaimed as the best and largest mineral, crystal and gem show of its kind in Australia, *bar none*.

Lismore Lapidary Club members include the former Treasurer of the Gem & Lapidary Council of NSW, several Minsoc NSW members of over 30 years, the founders of several NSW lapidary clubs, plus past Gemboree faceting and gem craft champions. Their depth of experience in the Australian gem/mineral industry and associated management skills has helped elevate this show to eminent status.

Over 4,000 people came through the gates over the weekend and visitors, tailgaters and dealers had a magnificent time. Other observations include the visitation to this year's show by the proprietors of Hettie's Rock Shop in NZ, and also staff of the Australian Museum, Sydney and several MINDAT forum members. The latter have placed their own observations about this show on this international mineral website (refer www.mindat.org).

Indeed, the last Lismore Gemfest was superb, and the weather was perfect. From personal experience, it is well worth attending. It is a peculiar twist of fate that just a few days after the event, Lismore was inundated by the same intense rain event that swamped SE Queensland, and NE NSW. The Lismore showground, awash with minerals a few days earlier, was awash with turbid water, and the town came close to being evacuated. Fortunately, no minerals were drowned. Ed.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

Attached is the 2009-2010 MinSocQ Membership Form; filled out and accompanied by fees, these are due on the 1st of July 09, not 2010! Don't forget to add the QLACCA insurance levy, if that applies to you. Please print or detach the last page, and go and do what has to be done. Your prompt attention is appreciated. ☺☺☺☺

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.



MEMBERSHIP FORM 2009-2010

Please use this form to apply for or renew membership of the Mineralogical Society of Queensland Inc.

Name(s):

Address:

Postcode:

Phone No. (.....).....

Mobile No.

email:@.....

(members supplying an email address will receive an extended version of the society newsletter with additional content as well as a postal copy)

Please Note:

QLACCA have negotiated a group member insurance policy. To fund this, an Insurance Levy applies to all members aged between 16 and 80 years. If you already pay the Insurance Levy via membership of another QLACCA affiliated organisation, please state the name of the organisation on your application. Our society also contributes separately to the QLACCA Public Liability Insurance Scheme which is included in your membership fees.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FEES:

ordinary \$20

Junior (under 18) \$10

Family \$34

Country/Interstate \$16

PLUS the QLACCA Insurance Levy \$5.00

ADD to the Membership Fee the Insurance Levy amount PER ADULT MEMBER

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP FEES 2009-2010

Membership Fee: \$

Fees are due and payable on 1 July 2009.

Insurance Levy: \$

Persons who are not financial are not covered by

Personal accident and Public liability insurance

Total: \$

If you have not included the \$5.00 insurance levy with your fees, please include the organisation name which collects this fee on your behalf:

I am/We are members of:

.....
Signature

...../...../.....
Date

Please return your fees (cheque payable to: **The Mineralogical Society of Queensland Inc.**) with this completed application form to:
**The Treasurer, PO Box 15020, City East,
Mary Street, Brisbane Qld 4002**

AND NOW TO FILL THE END PAGE ... SOME MORE SEMINAR PHOTOS, all bar the last, by Ron Young

..... AND THE DINNER WAS ENJOYED BY ALL, SOME ENJOYING IT EVEN MORE THAN OTHERS



Seminar showcase, with the more aesthetically pleasing specimens, including some magic zeolites and a ripper fluorite cluster at front centre



Overheard, George Stacey (ACT) to Sue Koepke (WA): 'Leave it alone Sue ... it's mine, and I won't spill it ... I never waste a good drop'. John Haupt (Vic.) looks on, bemused



*The **other** seminar showcase, with more exotic samples, including a scientifically far more important collection of Be minerals on the left side*



L to R: Vic Cloete and Theo Kloprogge (Qld) with Lyn Sutherland and Gayle Webb (NSW) discussing the role of red wine as a transport mechanism for small gemstones



Pete Williams (NSW, on left) answering questions, under the watchful eye of the session chairman, Bill Birch (Vic.)



The anatomy of miner's safety lamps, from his collection, and as shown in the presentation; Tony Forsyth (Qld)