

Mineralogica Tasmanica



**THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER
NO. 74, AUGUST 2010**

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Meetings Are held on the second Friday of each month at 7.00pm,
in the first year lecture theatre, Geology Dept., University
of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. Visitors are most welcome.

Membership fees \$15: single, \$20: family (includes 4 newsletters/yr)

Patron: Professor Ross Large, University of Tasmania

Website: <http://www.mineral.org.au/socs/taspg001.html>

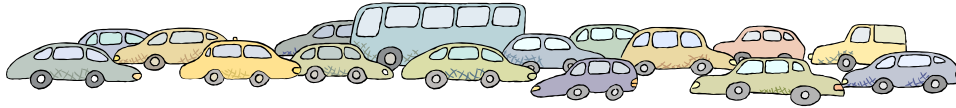
ABN: 49 582 252 658

*The Mineralogical Society of Tasmania is a member body of the
Tasmanian Lapidary and Mineral Association Incorporated.*



*Analcime, Cape Grim, Tasmania.
Ralph Bottrill specimen and photo. FOV 25x35mm.*

PROGRAM / EVENTS



13 th August	Meeting: Bill Baker: Saxony
28 th August	Field trip: Bridgewater
4 th September	TLMA mtg in Launceston
10 th September	Meeting: Tony Joyce: Brett's big adventure
19st September	Field trip: ?
8 th October	Meeting: Quiz night/Soapbox?
17th October	Field trip: ?
?2-14 th November	<i>Arizonan Club excursions, Zeehan</i>
5-7 th November	<i>Zeehan gem & mineral Fair</i>
12 th November	Meeting: Ray Grant
21 or 28 th November 2010	Xmas function (?)
Dec?	Field trip: Weld River?
December 2008:	No meeting

TLMA programs: see p. 5

Italicized items are non-MST events: ask Ralph for contacts.

Nb: Most trips are tentative dates. PLEASE CONFIRM field trip details and your attendance, at least two days in advance, with a nominated **Field Trips Officer** or contact the president.

Thumbnail Boxes

We have a supply of these available now.
Clear Lid, white or black base

From \$1.60 each, with quantity discounts.

Size (Metric): 38mm x 38 mm x 32 mm
Base Size: 38mm x 38 mm x 11m



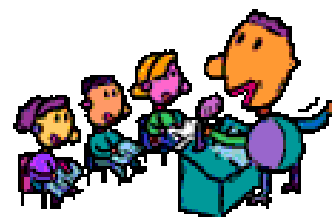
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Recent MST affairs

On the 12-14th June some of us (the Popes and myself) attended the JAMMS Symposium in Adelaide (see p. 13).

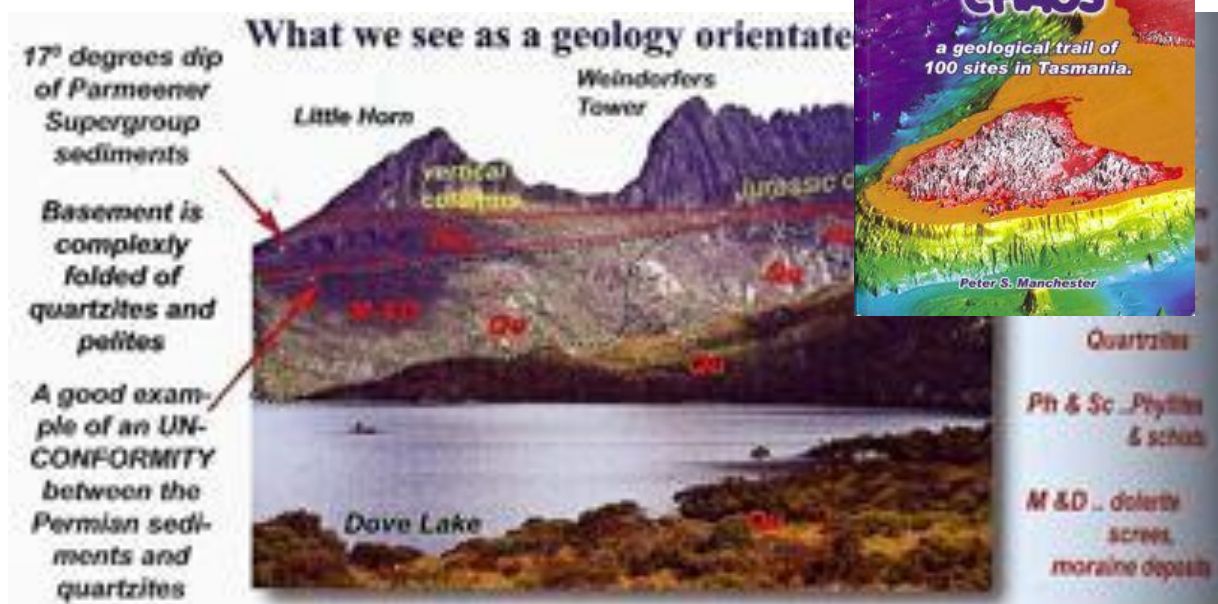
On the 18th June we had our monthly meeting and Bill Baker spoke on Saxony and its minerals.

On the 19th July we had our monthly meeting and AGM, plus a talk on tourmaline by Peter Manchester.



Created from Chaos

A geological trail of 100 sites in Tasmania, written by geologist, teacher, photographer and our own MST member Peter Manchester, this excellent book has just been released. This is a well illustrated description of 100 of the best and most accessible geological features in Tasmania, written for the layman. This is a book that we should all take with us on our trips to help us understand our landscape and its formation. They are available in some bookstores now for \$60, but members of the society can get copies for \$50, plus \$8 postage if required (contact Peter on milingandi@vision.net.au or Marnie or Ralph will take orders).



MST LIBRARY

Interesting articles in journals recently received include:

Micronews (Canada)

44 (4): Internet resources, Mt St Hilaire

Taslap (Lap Club Tas)

(June 2010): Fake Fossils, Opal

Mineralogical Society of Vic Newsletter

Aug '10: Some mines and minerals of E. Victoria

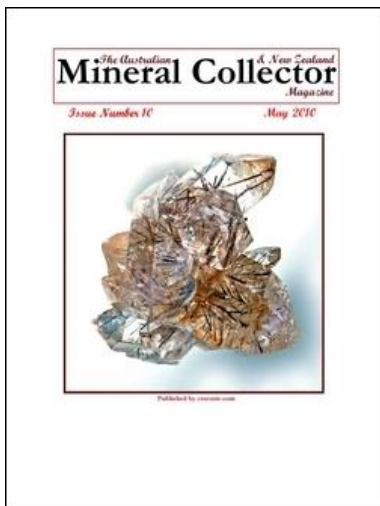
Mineralogical Society of NSW Newsletter

Aug 2010



Many interesting articles occur in these newsletters; please don't hesitate to ask to borrow these, or any of our books. We also hold many mineral-related books and some videos and CD-ROMs. A catalogue is available from Michael Pope (pope00@ozemail.com.au, ph 03 62442023), who also curates a photo album for the Society; all relevant donations (eg. from field trips) are most welcome (electronic or hard-copy, but please add some details).

ANZ Mineral Collector magazine



Issue 10 contains articles on:

Editorial - Mineral Magazines and all that...

News Release - Angastonite

Sceptre Quartz Crystal Inclusions

Down Under Trip Report

Purchase options:

The first is to order directly through Lulu in the same way as in the past. High quality printing and a cost of \$US12.50 plus postage:

See: <http://www.lulu.com/smartarts>.

The second option is through a printing facility in Melbourne, Australia. The quality is still good, but not quite as high as Lulu.

The benefit, particularly for Australian and New Zealand subscribers, is the lower cost which is \$AU12.50 post paid in Australia, and \$AU15.00 post paid to New Zealand. To take up this

option, orders will need to come through Steve Sorell: steve@crocoite.com.

The third option is an electronic one. Each issue can be downloaded directly from Lulu.

Cost for this option is \$US5.00.

TLMA NEWS

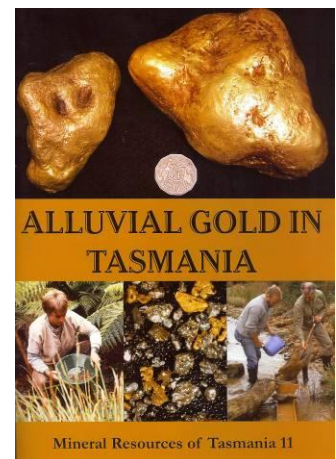
Tasmanian Lapidary & Mineral Association Inc.

Nigel Burch (Treasurer) noted that the profit of \$23,114.47 included Grants from Devonport Council and Events Tasmania. All 6 Tasmanian clubs received an equal share for the labour that their members provided to help run the GEMBOREE. This has since been contested by some clubs and the funds have been returned for re-distribution, probably based on the number of workers from each club. This will be discussed at the next meeting, along with other related issues about management of this event and TLMA in general. We welcome any thoughts on these issues that we can pass on at the next meeting.

The TLMA is looking into changes to the Constitution and anybody with any thoughts should submit their ideas to Ralph, Marnie or the TLMA President (Neil Newman) in advance, so there can be a discussion at the next meeting on **Saturday 4th September in Launceston**, which is also the date of the AGM.

Alluvial gold in Tasmania

The revision of this book is now out, and contains more information on prospecting requirements, nuggets found in Tasmania, and updated information on all the alluvial goldfields in the state. . It contains 28 pages, including a map of the main goldfields and GPS locations and information on all known alluvial gold locations. It costs \$7.70 and is a must-have for all gold prospectors. We can show you copies on request (via Ralph).



Australian Journal Of Mineralogy

The latest issue of this great journal (15/1-2) is due out soon, as a special issue on Gold in Tasmania . For more information see: <http://www.mineral.org.au/pubs/ajm.html> . We can show you copies on request and provide subscription forms (\$28/yr). The journal is a must-have for all Australian mineral collectors and mineralogists. It is of a similar standard to the Mineralogical Record, but the focus is on articles on Australian minerals and localities. Any contributions, advertising, suggestions can be directed through the editor Dermot Henry (dhenry@museum.vic.gov.au) or the president. The second Tasmanian issue is still in prep. Several back issues of the AJM are available from the society for discount prices to members (via Ralph).



T.L.M.A. FIELD TRIPS 2010

The trip leaders MUST be contacted with 2 days prior to the trip.
Please remember the T.L.M.A. Code of Ethics at all times.
Stone swaps can be held at field trips – check with trip leader.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Information</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Leader</u>
August 15	Mt. Bischoff	Cancelled!	NWTMC	Sam Caberica 6425 4340
September 12	Moina	Safety gear Topaz, Quartz	D.L.C.	Ken Donaghy Ph 64 241303
October 10	Milton	Pick, Shovel Wood, Agate	L.C.T.	Pam Sawyer 6263 3237
November 6 & 7	Zeehan	Gem & Mineral Show		Kim Dunstan 6471 6553
November 14	Lune River	Pick, Shovel, Probe Agate, Wood, Fern	L.C.T.	Rod Hewer 6248 7669

**NOTE: Safety Gear = Hard Hat, Safety Glasses, High Visibility Vest,
Steel Cap Boots, (Under 18 not allowed in working mines)**

RememberNo Safety Gear.....No Participation

EXHIBITION 2011

The Hobart Gem and Mineral Spectacular 2011 **Tasmania's Hidden Treasures**

Grandstand Hall, Hobart Showgrounds, Glenorchy

Saturday 19th March 11.00 am – 5.00 pm

Sunday 20th March 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

The next Gem and Mineral Exhibition will be held in the Glenorchy Showgrounds, greater Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. This is the principal gem and mineral show in Tasmania, jointly run by the Mineral Society and the Lapidary Club of Tasmania, now held every year.



A Catalogue of the Minerals of Tasmania

by R S Bottrill and W E Baker

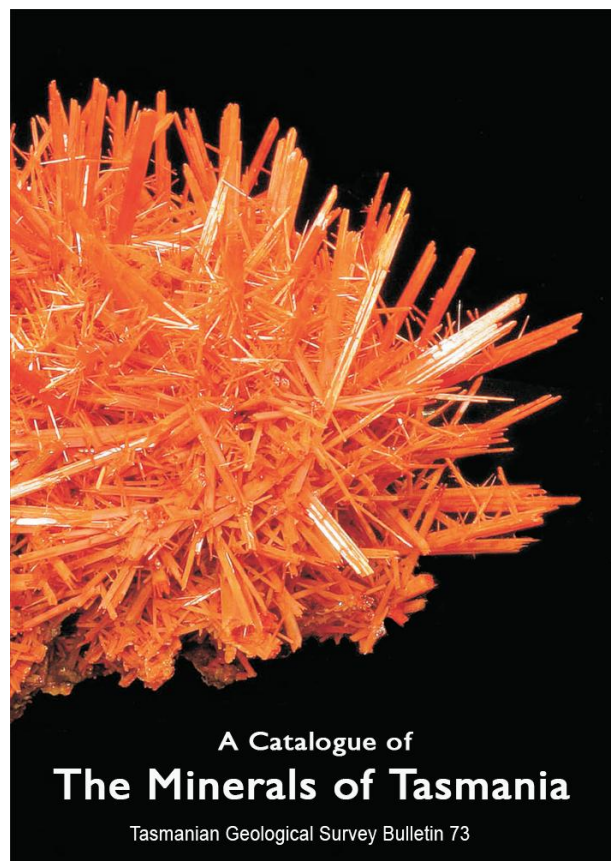
Catalogues of the minerals found in Tasmania have been kept since almost the earliest days of mining and have been of invaluable assistance to prospectors, mineral explorers, mineralogists and collectors. The catalogue was first published by the Tasmania Department of Mines in 1910, and was extensively revised in 1969. Since then the improvements in technology and further investigations of minerals and mineral deposits have not only increased the number of identified species and data on mineral occurrences, but have also invalidated many previous 'species'.

The new Catalogue, published in late 2008, extensively updates the previous catalogue. A total of 753 minerals are described, comprising 483 confirmed species, 162 unconfirmed species, 72 variety or invalid names, and 36 series and group names. All entries in the 1969 catalogue have been re-evaluated and are now reclassified as to their known or likely validity.

Species invalidated or doubted from the 1969 listing have been retained, with comments. The new 254 page A4-size catalogue includes information on mineral occurrences and 314 colour photographs of Tasmanian mineral specimens. The soft-cover book has a recommended retail price of \$49.50 (including GST and post/packing). A very limited number of hard cover books are available only from MRT at \$75 (plus \$5 post/packing).

More info: see MRT Website:

<http://www.mrt.tas.gov.au>



How to get a copy

Copies can be purchased from Mineral Resources Tasmania:

In person:

From our Rosny Park offices,
30 Gordons Hill Road, Rosny Park

By mail:

PO Box 56, Rosny Park, Tasmania 7018

By phone:

(03) 6233 8377

Email:

info@mrt.tas.gov.au

Some will also be available to collect in Hobart from the Mineralogical Society for a small discount – please contact Marnie (pope00@ozemail.com.au).

Cerussite, Magnet

RUTILE

(Excerpt from Baker & Bottrill, 2008: Catalogue of Minerals of Tasmania Mineral Resources Tasmania)

Rutile TiO_2 is the most common of the five polymorphs of titanium dioxide, the other main ones being brookite and anatase. The mineral is tetragonal and generally yellow to red-brown or black in colour, dependant mostly upon the iron content and crystal size, It is found in many igneous and metamorphic rocks but is particularly abundant in many heavy mineral sands and sandstones. The common white pseudomorphs and coatings on ilmenite, known as leucoxene, have been identified as being in part a very fine-grained aggregate of rutile or anatase. It is an ore of titanium, mostly extracted from beach sands.

Important localities previously reported include Claytons Rivulet, Penguin and Arthur Rivers on north-western Tasmania. At Naracoopa on King Island, a large deposit of beach sand containing over 2% rutile has been mined. The mineral is also associated with cassiterite in many of the north-eastern alluvial deposits and it has also been found associated with quartz crystals at Moorina and other places. Occasional well-formed crystals have also been reported from Claytons Rivulet, near Ulverstone. A very dark variety sometimes called "nigrine" occurs at Rocky Cape and similar material with a reported specific gravity of 5.94 is associated with cassiterite on Cape Barren Island. The high specific gravity value could indicate a considerable content of niobium and tantalum although in this case it is probable that the sample used for determination was contaminated with cassiterite. Rutile was also plentiful in the auriferous alluvial deposits at Lymington, near Cygnet. It was reported to contain up to 0.2 % WO_3 in the **Mt Lindsay** skarn, (Kwak, 1982).

Rutile, with magnesian ilmenite rims, is recorded from a granulite xenolith from the Cenozoic Table Cape volcanic vent (Sutherland, et al., 2005).



References

- Kwak, T. A. P., 1982. The geology and geochemistry of the zoned Sn-W-F-Be skarns at Mt. Lindsay, Tasmania. Unpub. Rept. to Aberfoyle. Ltd. [TCR 82-1805].
- Sutherland, F. L., Pogson, R.E. and Raynor, L.R., 2005. Table Cape vent xenolith suite, northwest Tasmania: mineralogy and implications for crust-mantle lithology and Miocene geotherms in Tasmania. *Pap. Proc. R. Soc. Tasm.* 139: 7-22.

MINERALS FOR BEGINNERS



Mineral Matters 2

By Mike Jagoe

Testing Minerals: an aid to identification.

After a while when you have seen lots and lots of mineral material you will find yourself knowing the mineral's name by just looking at it. However now and again you will be 'stumped' and may have to rely on some quick tests to help you *zoom in* to get it correct, or even worse you may have to ask an 'expert'!

To avoid this terrible situation, *learn the following.*

COLOUR STREAK and LUSTER

COLOUR

Colour is the easiest mineralogical 'tool' to master because it is just that, the actual colour of the mineral as you see it; however it can be a deceptive tool. The normally accepted colour of a particular mineral is the colour it exhibits or shows 9 times out of 10.

Quartz for example is normally accepted as being clear like glass or white (with fine fluid inclusions) but with the addition of minute amounts of some elements the colour can change. With a little iron as an impurity you can get purple amethyst. Heat this to around 550°C and you get yellow citrine.

Corundum is another well-known mineral that occurs in a number of colours. If it is a dirty brown to grey and there is lots of it, because of its hardness we use it in grinding wheels. If it is a beautiful glassy clear blue it is known as the gemstone sapphire and if it's red it's a ruby. More often than not the tiny impurities that can change the normal colour of a particular mineral are caused by a group of metallic elements known as the transition elements. Some of these metals are: iron, copper, chromium, titanium and manganese as can be seen in the periodic table shown at the end of this section. Note: a handy reference diagram.

If you can remember your High School Chemistry:— very, very simply these elements have their outer orbits or shells only partly filled with the normal number of electrons they 'like' i.e. 8 so they go swapping electrons – emitting and absorbing photons and energy and this is reflected in the absorption or reflection of light, thereby changing their colour. Remember Ferrous iron (Fe^{2+}) and Ferric iron (Fe^{3+}) - also iron 2 and iron 3. Copper Cu^{2+} and Cu^{3+} and all that stuff No? - well that is about the long and short of it. Scientific *Gobbledygook*.

As you learn more about your minerals you will find hundreds of minerals that stray from the norm due to impurities in the mineral's normal mineral structure.

Some people can't even spell it correctly - colour v color!!

STREAK

Streak is a far more reliable 'tool' to use as far as *colour* is concerned. As mentioned above colour can vary a lot but when the mineral is pounded into a fine powder the colour shown is a far more reliable 'colour' than that shown by a coarse lump of the particular mineral.

Now we don't go pounding our precious mineral specimen to a pulp to determine what it is (was!) no we use a 'streak plate'. This is a piece of hard porcelain tile with a dull mat surface, not a nice shiny surface. The idea is to drag a corner or the mineral across the streak plate this, hopefully leaving a fine powdery line or 'streak' of the mineral.

Although streak is a useful tool with some minerals I personally don't use it very often. The classic mineral that one tends to learn about when being taught about a mineral's streak is hematite, it has a very characteristic cherry red streak, even when the mineral is black. Quartz has a white streak, as does amethyst and citrine and all the host of other 'quartz' minerals, and most silicates.

LUSTRE

Lustre describes how a mineral appears to reflect light, particularly how brilliant or dull the mineral is. The terms applied to lustre are:

Metallic - like the shiny surface of a metal. – Many ore minerals like galena, pyrite and gold have a metallic lustre.

Sub metallic – not quite so shiny - eg magnetite

Vitreous – looks like broken glass - Quartz and a lot of minerals have this lustre.

Adamantine - brilliant or diamond like. - Cassiterite, diamond

Resinous - looks like resin or sap- sphalerite, amber.

Silky – silk-like - gypsum

Pearly – looks like a pearl - micas

Greasy - looks like grease or oil - serpentine

Pitchy – looks like pitch or tar. Minerals with this lustre are often radioactive (eg. Uraninite)

Waxy – looks like wax or a candle. - chalcedony

Dull or earthy – looks like earth - kaolinite

Lustre is regarded as reasonably important in identifying many mineral it is used a lot in some special cases e.g. sphalerite, cassiterite, chalcedony and to place your mineral into specific groups e.g. metallic, vitreous etc.

More next time.....

Periodic Table

Group #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Period																		
1	1 H																	2 He
2	3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
3	11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
4	19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
5	37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
6	55 Cs	56 Ba	*	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
7	87 Fr	88 Ra	**	104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Uut	114 Uuq	115 Uup	116 Uuh	117 Uus	118 Uuo
* Lanthanoids	57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu			
** Actinoids	89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr			

This common arrangement of the periodic table separates the lanthanoids and actinoids from other elements. The [wide periodic table](#) incorporates the [f-block](#). The [extended periodic table](#) adds the 8th and 9th periods, incorporating the f-block and adding the theoretical [g-block](#).

Element categories in the periodic table

Metals					Metalloids	Nonmetals			Unknown chemical properties
Alkali metals	Alkaline earth metals	Inner transition elements Lanthanides Actinides		Transition elements		Other metals	Other nonmetals	Halogens	
<u>Atomic number</u> colours show <u>state</u> at <u>standard temperature and pressure</u> (0 °C and 1 atm) Solids Liquids Gases Unknown					Borders show natural occurrence Primordial From decay Synthetic (Undiscovered)				

2010 ADELAIDE JAMSS SEMINAR

(from J. Bosworth, MSV)

The 33rd annual Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia Seminar was hosted by The Mineralogical Society of South Australia on 12 to 14 June. The venue was the Royal Society of South Australia rooms conveniently located behind the South Australian Museum in the arts precinct of North Terrace. This section of North Terrace contains several attractive sandstone structures which house, amongst other things, the State Library and the Art Gallery of South Australia

The rooms at the Royal Society are not particularly large and there is a capacity of 60 people in the lecture room. Registrations were at this level with nine Victorian delegates attending the Seminar. The Seminar ran smoothly and the organising team headed by David Cowen, Peter Kellar and Allan Pring are to be commended for their efficient efforts. The Seminar dinner was held on Saturday evening in a private room at the historic Earl of Leicester Hotel, Parkside which was built in 1859. It is a short drive from the city. David Cowen put his stentorian voice to good effect in conducting an auction during the course of the evening.

The theme of the Seminar was “Australian Collectors and Collecting 2010” with talks confined to 20 or 35 minutes. The list of speakers and topics were:

Saturday

Early Broken Hill Collectors – John Rankin

J H Dunstan and his collection – David Cowen

So you want to start a mineral museum – a short history of the Minerals Heritage Museum – Ron Young

Mawson’s Minerals – Don McColl

New minerals from old collections – Peter Williams

Early Literature on Australian Mineral collections – Allan Pring

Edward John Dunn; geologist and collector – Bill Birch

The Fletcher Collection at the Western Australian Museum: A 19th century gem – Peter Downes

Sunday

Mineral Collecting with the Canadian Museum of Nature – Joel Grice

A lifetime of collecting unusual minerals – George Stacey

The Simpson collection and other WA collectors – Alex Bevan

D A Porter a little known collector who concentrated on the New England district of NSW – Ross Pogson

Important mineral collections in the Tasmanian Museum – Ralph Bottrill

Brian Shelton and the Waverley Gem Club National Exhibition – John Bosworth

Mineral collections Why bother? – Dermot Henry

A swap and sell session was held on Sunday morning with plenty of interest shown by participants. Some of the recently found new species of kapundaite and IMA 2009-016 from South Australia were eagerly sought from Vince Peisley and Peter Elliott.

A one day field trip to Mount Malvern was held on the Monday while an extended trip left on Tuesday to Paratoo and Mutooroo.

The 2011 Seminar will be hosted by The Mineralogical Society of Victoria with a probable title of “Mineralogy into the Future”. A small Committee will be formed shortly to commence working on a suitable venue and programme for the Seminar.

THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES OF AUSTRALASIA -AGM

Annual Meeting held at The Royal Society of SA on Saturday, 12 June 2010

Present: Ralph Bottrill – MSTAS
Russell Kanowski, Steve Dobos – MSQ
Peter Elliott, Allan Pring - MSSA
Allan Hart, Frank Radke – MSWA
John Bosworth, Dermot Henry, Bill Birch - MSV
Jocelyn Thornton – New Zealand

The meeting was chaired by John Bosworth.

The Victoria Society, by rotation, is scheduled to host the 2011 Seminar and John Bosworth indicated that MinSoc Victoria is happy to host the event. The Seminar will be held over the Australian Queen's Birthday weekend which will be 11 - 13 June. The topic being considered is "Mineralogy into the Future". Future information will encompass some recommended accommodation close to the venue which will be at either The Royal Society of Victoria or Museum Victoria dependant on cost of the venue.

The 2012 Seminar is scheduled for Western Australia and Alan Hart indicated that MinSoc WA has already started to think about the event. It is likely to be held over the eastern States Queen's Birthday weekend.

John Bosworth

VALE RON YOUNG

Ron Young passed away at 12.05 am Tuesday morning, at St Vincent's Hospital, Kangaroo Point. Ron had spent a beautiful and serene last day, surrounded by Jacki, his daughters and friends, with his favourite Beethoven piano concerto playing in the background.

Ron had been president of MinSocQ for nine years, and has been vice-president all the years thereafter. Ron was well known to mineral collectors throughout Australia. As we all know, Ron was a truly wonderful, caring and unselfish person, full of enthusiasm for the things and people near and dear to him. It is a measure of the man that over the last year, and especially in his last few weeks, Ron was concerned for his friends and relatives, the Minerals Heritage Museum and MinSocQ, with no complaints or bitterness at the hand that fate had dealt him. We of MinSocQ mourn his passing; we will miss him, but we will remember him forever.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Jacki and to Ron's family.

Steve Dobos

MINERAL PUNS

From Larry Rush

A chunk of Halite walks into a Police Station and reported that he was assaulted.

A mineral collector walks into a bar with a pail of crushed dolerite, and says "I'll have a beer, please, and one for the road".

A mineral collector fell off of a quarry wall, and suffered serious injuries. He woke up in the hospital and cried "Doctor, doctor, I can't feel my legs!" The Doctor replied "I know, that's because we had to amputate both of your arms."

A Chemist trying to create a transparent mineral stirred Calcite into Sulphuric Acid, but the result was nothing to look at.

What do you call a fish fossil with no eyes? A fsh fossl.

A Chlorine ion bumps into an Iron ion on the street and the Chlorine says "Are you all Right?".... "No, I lost an electron". "Are you sure?" "Yes, I'm positive!"

My portable UV light went dead, so I took it to the hardware store, and got new batteries, but they didn't work. No wonder they were "free of charge"! Still, I was "delighted". (My counsellor suggested I find another outlet for my anger).

I asked the bookseller if my latest Fleischer Mineral Species issue was guaranteed and he said "Obsoletely!"

I really didn't want to rappel down the Swiss Alp to find the Fluorite pocket, but I was roped into it. (To appreciate rope jokes, you have to be taut!)

Did you hear the joke about the prehnite pocket high up the side of the quarry wall? NO? Well, it was over your head, anyway!

Taking your children mineral collecting often puts them on their pest behaviour.

A collecting friend got lost in a mine, but used his cell phone to reach me at the adit. That was a close call!

I was wondering why the falling piece of ledge was getting bigger and bigger. Then it hit me!

The rockhound sat down on his chisel and got a little behind in his collecting efforts! He was arrested for throwing dynamite down the mine shaft, but when they saw his gold specimens, they dropped the charges.

In a recession, the mineral collecting business is always picking up.

Old mineral collectors never die, they just slowly petrify!

Larry