



The Mineralogical Society of Victoria
Incorporated
A0001471E

Newsletter No. 208

December 2010



Ilmenite, Bundoora, Vic
2mm field of view

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The Mineralogical Society of Victoria Inc.
P.O. Box 12162
A'Beckett Street
Melbourne Vic. 8006

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Membership Details:

Joining Fee	\$5.00		
City Adult Member	\$25.00	Country Adult member	\$20.00
City Family membership (2 adults & children under 18)	\$35.00	Country Family Membership (2 adults & children under 18)	\$30.00
Student Member (full time)	\$15.00	Newsletter only	\$15.00

(N.B. - Country membership - more than 50 km from Melbourne G.P.O.)

Applications for membership can be obtained by writing to:-

The Secretary, Ms. Lia Bronstijn,
P.O. Box 12162,
A'Beckett Street,
Melbourne, Vic, 8006.

General meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month (except January) commencing at 8.00 pm at the Royal Society of Victoria, 8 Latrobe St. Melbourne.

Visitors are most welcome.

Newsletter of the Mineralogical Society of Victoria
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FORWARD DIARY

PLEASE NOTE:- General Meetings of the Society are now held on the second Monday of each month, 8:00pm at the Royal Society Building.

- Dec 5 End of Year BBQ, from 11:30am. Stanley Park, Waterfalls Road, Macedon
- Dec 13 General Meeting: Speaker – Rafika Ismail, Melbourne University. Topic: Argon dating of volcanoes in Western Victoria.
- Dec Mineral Appreciation Group – No Meeting for December.
- Dec Micro Group – No Meeting for December.
- Jan 2011 No General Meeting
- Jan 16 Mineral Appreciation Group – Nunawading Lapidary Club, Silver Grove, Nunawading
Topic: Favourite self-collected specimens (and be prepared to tell a story or two!)
- Jan Micro Group Meeting – No Micro Group Meeting for January.
- Feb 14 (Mon) General Meeting: Speaker – To be confirmed. Topic: To be confirmed.
- Feb 20 Mineral Appreciation Group – Nunawading Lapidary Club, Silver Grove, Nunawading
Topic: Calcite (and describe / discuss one crystal habit)
- Feb 27 Micro Group Meeting – Venue to be advised. Topic: The scheelite and scorodite groups.

MINERAL RELATED EVENTS

- Apr 22-25 47th Australian Gemboree. Bathurst Showgrounds, Bathurst, NSW
- Jun 11-12 33rd Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia Seminar. Melbourne, Victoria.
Hosted by The Mineralogical Society of Victoria. Topic: “Mineralogy into the Future”

NEXT ISSUE

PLEASE NOTE:- Material for the February Newsletter to be with Michael Hirst by **January 26th**.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

We have almost reached the end of another year and again it seems that it was only a little while back that we were thinking 'must get into sorting out all those minerals in the shed this summer'. But of course that was last summer and those minerals are still there awaiting our attention over the holidays!



By the time this edition is sent out the annual BBQ will have been and gone, so we hope everyone who attended had a nice day out in the bush and plenty of news and specimens were traded around.

With the opening of the fine new exhibitions at Museum Victoria and our turn to again host the Joint Societies Seminar in June, 2011 should be a good year for publicity and spreading the word about all things mineralogical. The committee is in the planning stages for the Seminar and anyone who might have ideas about activities, speakers or offers to assist in the preparation will be most welcome.

Alex Blount
President

Special thanks to Jon Mommers (www.earthstones.com.au) for providing the printing services and allowing us to present the Newsletter in colour.

SHORT TALKS

Below is the roster for member's Short Talks at the monthly General Meetings for the remainder of 2010. Remember that the talks only need to run for around 5 minutes or so (10 minutes maximum please) and can cover any topic of a 'mineralogical' nature. And if anyone would like assistance with putting together a 'Powerpoint' computer slideshow, please let a Committee member know.

DATE	SPEAKER
Mon 13 December	Jo Price
January 2011	(No Meeting)
Mon 14 February	Judy Rowe
Mon 14 March	Volker Hoppe
Mon 11 April	Steve Sorrell
Mon 9 May	Bob Kuchel

EXCURSIONS

No collecting excursions are planned for the immediate future, pending the identification of suitable locations. As previously mentioned in this Newsletter and at Society Meetings, we rely on our Members to suggest new places to visit and let us know of any old favourites that you are keen to return to.



MUSEUM FUND

As hopefully members will know by now, the Society is selling a selection of mineral specimens donated by Ian Strachan. The proceeds from the sale are being held in the Societies museum fund, which is made available to the assist Museum Victoria in the purchase of specimens for their collection.

PUBLICITY

Micro Group Report

The topic for September was: Minerals of New South Wales, excluding Broken Hill minerals and zeolites.



The variety of species tabled was very good indeed, and the following are just some of the specimens that drew comment:

Raspite and stolzite, almost clear, Cordillera Mine, Tuena; a diamond crystal, MacQuarie river, Wellington; well formed green pyromorphite, Kangiara; green prehnite with calcite rhombs, Prospect; beryl var. emerald, Emmaville, & green beryl from Thackaringa; chromite, Wagga; vesuvianite in wollastonite, Barraba; wilkinsonite (rare), Coonabarabran; a very aesthetic specimen with malachite coating arborescent copper, Mineral Hill; calcite showing pink fluorescence, Ben Lomond; hemimorphite, Woodlawn; black spinel, Glen Innes; and a spiral 'barrel' labelled stibnite from Hillgrove, like boulangerite but which we thought might be jamesonite as it has been recorded from there.

This was a great topic and as usual it gave us lots to discuss and fieldtrips to re-visit. We also enjoyed seeing Volker's video of his recent trip to Namibia, the magnificent game parks and animals and not least the fascinating arid countryside.

There was no meeting in October.

The Group welcomes new members. Our meetings are informal and tea, coffee and cake are provided. It's only necessary to bring your lunch, microscope and any minerals you may have for the day's topic.

No minerals? No problem – come anyway as many minerals will be tabled for all to see, but if you haven't attended one of these meetings before, do let the host of the day know you are coming so that there will be enough seats for everyone.

Mineral Appreciation Group Report

No meeting was held in October and the topic for the November meeting was a double-header: fluorite and examples of each crystal system.

We had started looking at the crystal systems back in May 2004 with the isometric minerals, so the November topic was a good one for revising what we had covered previously and a chance to dig out some good 'representative' examples of crystal forms. Given the other topic for the day, fluorite was well-represented for the isometric group, but we also saw some good examples very cubic looking of pyrites, especially the Spanish variety. Tetragonal minerals included wulfenite, apophyllite and cassiterite. Hexagonal minerals saw examples of vanadinite, schorl, bastnasite, and a number of the beryl varieties. The 'is it actually a system of its own' trigonal/rhombahedral class saw some specimens of calcite, uvite, tourmaline, haematite and corundum. Orthorhombic's included celestine, aragonite, danburite and topaz whilst the monoclinic minerals included azurite, crocoites, orthoclase, vivianite, gypsum and sphene. Lastly, the triclinic class was represented by kyanite, rhodonite, albite, anorthoclase, microcline and several others. Whilst the topic generated a good range of different mineral species, a key point was that it generally required people to bring well-crystallised examples, so some very fine material was presented for study.

PHOTO: fluorite, purple octahedrons, Navidad Mine, Durango, Mexico.

The other topic for November, fluorite, gave



everyone a chance to show off some of their more colourful items. An oversight by the organizer meant that we didn't look at the fluorescent aspects of the specimens, but the variety of pieces and colours was impressive anyway in normal light. Green, blue and yellow fluorites from the UK were matched against large green, clear and purple material from China. Well-formed purple octahedrons from Mexico contrasted nicely against white matrix and a rare pink French octahedron or two were also impressive. Also in the category of 'less commonly seen' were a couple of specimens from Germany including from Freiberg and the Clara Mine. An array of the 'standard' but no-less spectacular deep purple fluorites from the tri-state areas of the USA, with their associated sphalerite and calcites make attractive pieces in various sizes and combinations. Interesting water-clear material from Spain, complex purple 'mushroom' shapes from Myanmar, zoned green-purple crystals from Namibia and spheres in orange and brown from the Nasik District in India provided contrasts the usual forms.



And of the Australian material presented, we saw clear to pale green material from Luina, clear crystals on quartz from Oakleigh Creek and, well formed material from Mt Bischoff in Tasmania. Of the mainland examples there were small crystals from locations in the Northern Territory, and specimens from Wolfram Camp (Qld) and Arkaroola (SA).

PHOTO: fluorite, Elmwood Mine, Tennessee, USA.

Members attending this group enjoy looking through their collection for specimens to bring along and to learn more about their characteristics and mode of occurrence. The group highly encourages more Society members come along to these meetings

to see an every-changing variety of different minerals on display.

The meetings are an open show and discussion format and all society members are welcome to attend. Meetings typically aim for people to arrive around 10:00am for a 10:30am start, allowing time for people to unpack specimens. If you wish to attend, have any questions or have suggestions for topics you would like to see covered then please catch up with Alex Blount.

RESOURCES, NEW PUBLICATIONS & REFERENCES OF INTEREST

If any Society members become aware of new publications relevant to mineralogy or existing items that they feel would be of benefit to members, please feel free to let a committee member know. Where appropriate, the Society can look to obtain copies for inclusion within the library.

New journals, publications and newsletters received include:

The Mineralogical Record Sep-Oct 2010

The Sakoany celestine deposit, Mahajanga Province, Madagascar
(Wendell E. Wilson)

A final visit to Minas Gerais: 2009 (Guido Steger)

The heart of the Munich Show: Johannes Keilmann (John Sampson
White)

Distorted South African minerals (Wendell E. Wilson)

Fluorescent Hillside! (Wendell E. Wilson)

Rocks & Minerals – Sep-Oct 2010

Creede: The Last Wild West Silver Mining Camp in Colorado (Tom
Rosemeyer)

THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD



Colorado Mineral Treasures from The Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois
(Karen A. Vendl and Mark A. Vendl)
Mineral Treasures of the World Exhibition, Beijing, China (John Rakovan)
Flat Specimen Photography Using a Flatbed Scanner (Robert J. Lauf)
The Historical Mineral Collection of Philipp Franz von Siebold in Leiden, the Netherlands
(Tokuhei Tagai and Akiko Kanaya Mikouchi)

The library has several issues of the Extra Lapis – English series, which are easy to read and provide exceptional photography and articles of interest on the specific topics. The subjects/issues to date include:

Madagascar; Emeralds; Tourmaline; Gold; Calcite; Pakistan; Elba; Beryl; Fluorite; Opal; Garnet; and Bolivia.

The library is open for borrowing at every monthly meeting – so why not check it out next time.

The library shelves are now in approximate order. There are lots of fascinating books on mineralogy and related topics, just waiting for members to borrow and enjoy them – so, happy hunting and good reading!

SOCIETY MICRO-MINERAL COLLECTIONS

Broken Hill Collection – Alex Blount
Iron Monarch Collection – Alex Blount
Victorian Collection – Alex Blount
Western Australia – Alex Blount **NEW!**

The collections currently contain over 600 micro-mineral specimens from their respective regions. We are always looking for new donations of specimens (preferably mounted but not essential), especially from new or recent finds, but updates or multiples of existing species are also appreciated.

The collections are available to all members to borrow on a monthly basis and they provide an excellent way to compare your own material from field-trips with ‘already identified’ reference specimens. If anyone wishes to borrow the collections or peruse a copy of the catalogue, please catch up with the curators listed above.

WANTED

Mineralogical Record Back Issues Vol 2 No 2 & Vol 2 No 5 for the **MinSoc Library**.

Please contact any committee member if you can assist with these.

FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA *GEOLOGY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP*

Meetings take place at 8pm at the FNCV Clubrooms at 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn, 3130 (Melway 47 K10) Further information on the talks and excursions is available from Clem Earp 9885 1548 AH or Noel Schleiger 9435 8408 AH.



Details of field trips appear in the issue of the *Field Nat News* published the month before the date of the excursion. As a voluntary organisation funded entirely by our members’ subscriptions, we welcome visitors but there is a charge of \$2 per non-member for each meeting and \$5 per excursion attended to help cover our costs. Members of affiliated clubs pay \$2.50 for excursions.

Membership: Joint/Family \$85, Single \$65, Concession \$50, Student \$25. Further details from FNCV Office 9877 9860.

THE MINSOC TRADING POST

Society members can submit brief descriptions of specimens, equipment or other mineral related items that they wish to sell, swap or give away.

At General Meetings there are often some minerals for sale after the meeting.

This is open to all – feel free to bring your minerals along.

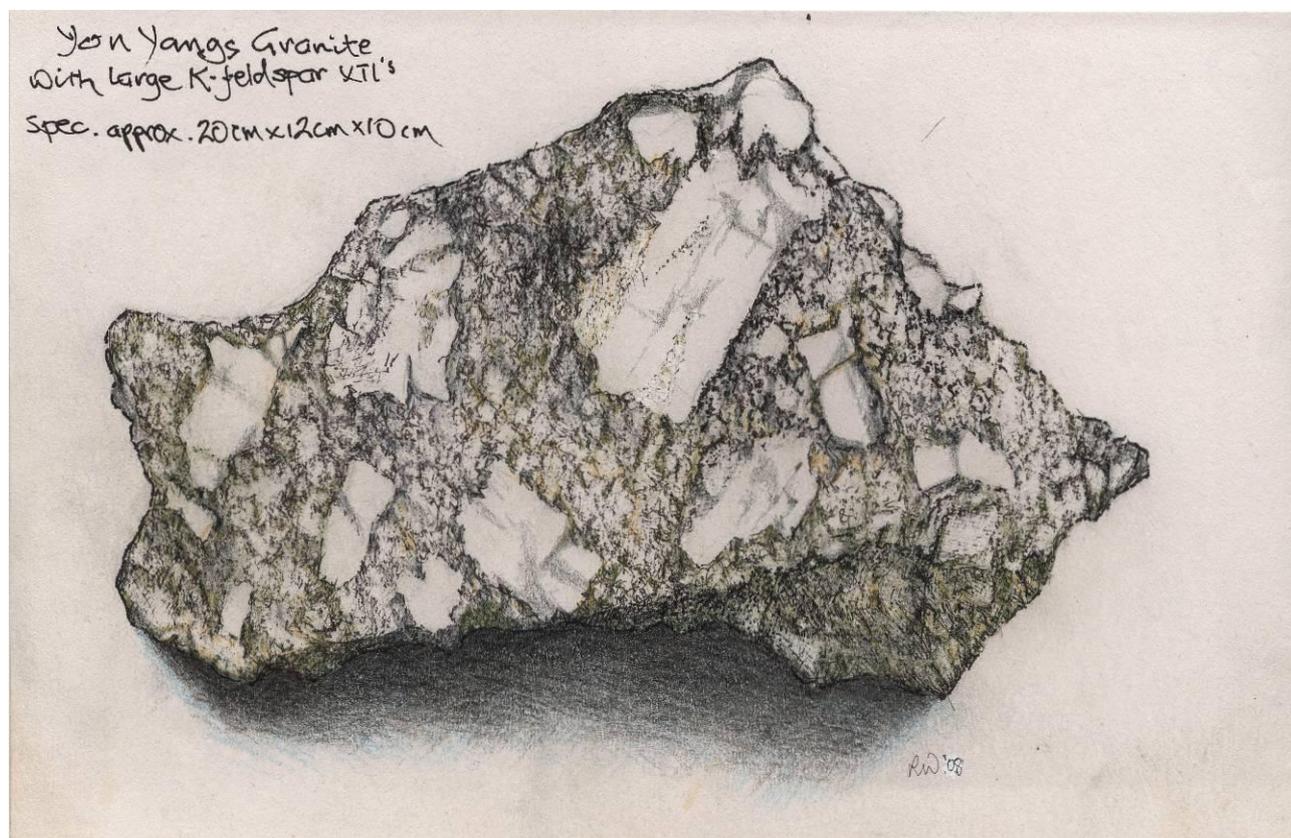
FOR SALE

Minerals of Broken Hill published by Australian Mining and Smelting Co in 1982.

This is the first Broken Hill mineral book and it is in original condition.

Price \$70.00 plus postage.

Contact John Haupt (03) 9876 3059 or john.haupt@bigpond.com.



Pencil and watercolour sketch
By Richard Wright ©

Many thanks to Richard Wright for offering his sketchbook to the Editor to copy, and providing permission to use his sketches in the Mineralogical Society of Victoria Newsletter.

SOME MINES AND MINERALS OF EASTERN VICTORIA

Part 4

by John Haupt

Limestone Creek

Limestone Creek is a tributary of the Murray River near the NSW border in East Gippsland (see accompanying map). Alluvial gold was found in Limestone Creek and worked during the 1880s (the yellow area on the map). Limestone outcrops in the area were known in the 1850s and its possible source of marble for buildings was recognised. In 1889, James Stirling, the government geologist based at Omeo, conducted a survey of the area and it resulted in a large area being set aside as a Limestone Reserve. An attempt to quarry marble at Stony Creek was made in 1907, when Charles Summers from Benambra extracted 4 tons of marble which he sent to Melbourne for exhibition. However the remote locality and high cost of transport precluded any further quarrying. E.J. Dunn of the geological survey visited the area in 1907 and reported on the marble deposit and several minor prospects of gold and lead.

In 1925, Mr D. Toland prospected several gossan outcrops in the area and reported the occurrence of silver-lead mineralization. A survey by Mahoney in 1936 confirmed the occurrences and recorded the occurrence of pyromorphite and galena in the Limestone Hut gossans. More recent rock sampling and stream sediment analysis by several exploration companies have not identified any significant mineral resource.

I made a couple of visits to the area in the 1980s and found the pyromorphite locality, which consisted of a couple of overgrown small pits and scattered heaps. Whilst small, the pyromorphite forms as green to yellow crystal sprays to 5 mm across on limestone stockwork and are particularly attractive when viewed under the microscope. Small pieces of galena were also collected and traces of hemimorphite and aurichalcite indicate the presence of zinc and copper.

The rock strata along Limestone Creek consists of Cowombat Siltstone and is generally poorly exposed. It is dominated by grey, black & green, massive to finely banded siltstone interbedded with conglomerate and lenses of limestone (Sheehans Bluff Limestone) outcrop in discontinuous low cliffs, downstream from Jim Spean Creek. Several significant cave formations occur in the limestone. The copper-lead-zinc mineralisation is associated with this member (Fergusson & VandenBerg, 2003).

References:

Cochrane, G.W., 1982: Copper, Lead, Zinc and Barium Deposits of Victoria. *Bulletin of the Geological Survey of Victoria*, 61, 38-41.

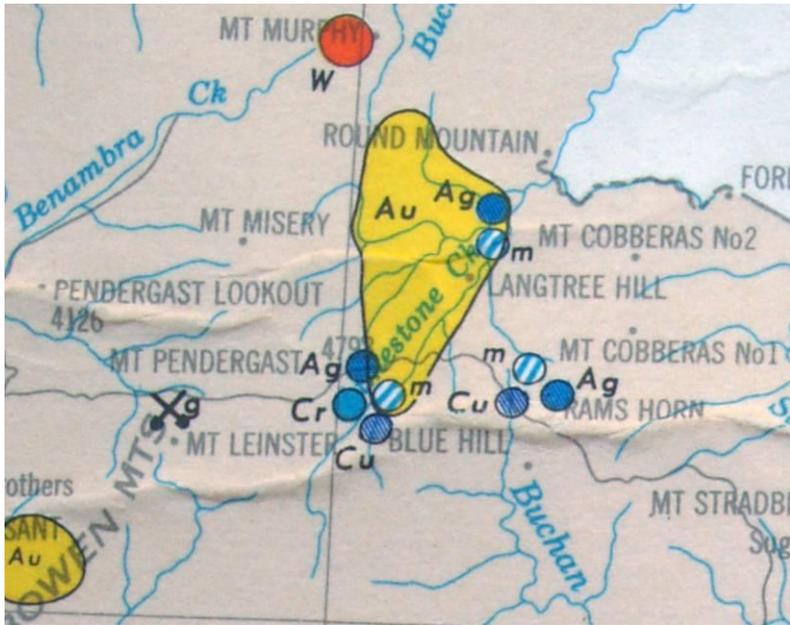
Dunn, E.J., 1907: Omeo & Limestone Creek, County of Benambra. *Records of the Geological Survey of Victoria*, 2 (2), 130-137.

Fergusson, C.L., & VandenBerg, H.M., 2003: Ch 4 Ordovician, in *Geology of Victoria*, Geological Society of Australia, Special Publication 23, 135.

Mahoney, D.J., 1936: Ferruginous gossans in the Limestone Creek district. *Records of the Geological Survey of Victoria*, 5 (2), 265-266.

Whitelaw, H.S., 1954: Some limestone & marble deposits in East Gippsland. *Mining & Geological Journal of the Geological Survey of Victoria*, 5 (3), 23-24.

Stirling, J., 1889: Report on the marble deposits at Limestone Creek. *Report of the Mining Registrars, Victoria*. Sept. Appendix E, 78-81.



Locality map of Limestone Creek showing the goldfield (yellow), the silver-lead deposits (Ag) and marble (m). The junction of the Murray River and Limestone Creek is at the start of the dotted line.

Below: Views of the silver-lead prospect at Limestone Creek. (pyromorphite locality) in 1981. Photos: J. Haupt.





Charles Summers at the marble quarry at Stoney Creek, 1907.

All photos from the Picture Collection. State Library of Victoria.



Left: Bullock team hauling a 4 ton load of marble blocks from Limestone Creek to Benambra, 1907.

Below: Bullock team in the main street of Benambra, 1907.





Group of pyromorphite crystals, 5mm across, from Limestone Creek.

All photos & specimens: J. Haupt.



Left: Fibrous cluster of aurichalcite from Limestone Creek. 4 mm FOV.

Below left: Hemimorphite crystal group, 1 mm across, from Limestone Creek.

Below right: Pyromorphite crystal group, 2 mm across, from Limestone Creek.

