



The Mineralogical Society of Victoria
Incorporated
A0001471E

Newsletter No. 237

March 2019



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The Mineralogical Society of Victoria Inc.
P.O. Box 153
Lara, Victoria, 3212

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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, Mr Fred Kapteina,
P.O. Box 153
Lara, Vic, 3212.

General meetings are held on Wednesday evenings every two months (except January and Public Holidays). Please see the Forward Diary in this Newsletter for upcoming meeting dates and locations.

Visitors are most welcome.

Newsletter of the Mineralogical Society of Victoria
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FORWARD DIARY

PLEASE NOTE - General Meetings are held approximately every second month on Wednesday evening.

- Apr 10 GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 8:00pm, at **The South Melbourne Community Centre, Corner of Ferrars Place and Park Street, South Melbourne**
Speaker: Fred Kapteina (MinSoc) - A report on the 2019 Tucson Show
- Apr 21 No Mineral Appreciation Group meeting due to Easter
- Apr 28 Micro Group Meeting: George Lysiuk's home
Sunday Topic: Minerals from their type locality. Mindat records 5438 different species!
- May 19 Mineral Appreciation Group: **11:00am**, Nunawading Lapidary Club, Oval Way, Nunawading.
Sunday Topic – “My favourite mineral species”.
- May 26 Micro Group Meeting: George Lysiuk's home
Sunday Topic: Sulphide & sulphosalt minerals.
- June 12 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
Wednesday 8:00pm, at Royal Society of Victoria Building, Cnr La Trobe and Victoria Streets, Melbourne
Speaker: Alex Blount (MinSoc President), Topic – To be advised
- June 16 Mineral Appreciation Group: 10:00am, Nunawading Lapidary Club, Oval Way, Nunawading.
Sunday Topic – Evaporites
- June 30 Micro Group Meeting: George Lysiuk's home
Sunday Topic: A study of the Min Soc's Broken Hill micro collection.
Members are also to bring along any unusual/rare Broken Hill specimens.
- July 21 Mineral Appreciation Group: 11:00am, Nunawading Lapidary Club, Oval Way, Nunawading.
Sunday Topic: Tsumeb and other Namibian localities.
- July 28 Micro Group Meeting: George Lysiuk's home
Sunday Topic: Minerals from Central and South America.
- Aug 14 GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 8:00pm, at Royal Society of Victoria Building, Cnr La Trobe and Victoria Streets, Melbourne
Speaker: Ed Richard (Pristine Minerals), Topic – What's new
- Oct 9 GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 8:00pm, at Royal Society of Victoria Building, Cnr La Trobe and Victoria Streets, Melbourne

Speaker: Oskar Lindenmeyer (Collections Manager Melbourne Museum),
Topic – The Museum’s Collections.

Dec 11 GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 8:00pm, at Royal Society of Victoria Building, Cnr La Trobe and Victoria Streets, Melbourne
Speaker: Ian Strachan, Topic– Namibia

For any of the usual attendees to MAG meetings, if you would love a particular topic to be covered or even re-covered please let us know and hopefully it will be in time for the due newsletter.
I’m happy to substitute your topic in May or June.

MINERAL RELATED EVENTS

Apr 19-22 **55th National Gem and Mineral Show – GEMBOREE**
Rockhampton Showgrounds, Rockhampton, Qld

Aug 31- Sep 1 **42st Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia - Annual Seminar**
“Traps in Mineralogy, Pseudomorphs, Look-Alike and Fakes and Synthetics”
State Library, Perth Cultural Centre, Western Australia

NEXT ISSUE

PLEASE NOTE:- Material for the **June** 2019 Newsletter to be with Michael Hirst by **May 23rd**.

PLEASE NOTE – CHANGE OF VENUE FOR APRIL GENERAL MEETING

As the Royal Society Building was not available, our General Meeting in April (Wednesday 10th) will be at: The South Melbourne Community Centre , Corner of Ferrars Place and Park Street, South Melbourne

Parking is available out the front of the building and in the street around the Community Centre.

We will be in the room to back right of the centre (behind the kitchen) as you enter.



FROM THE COMMITTEE

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter for 2019.

We are sure you will have enjoyed the last edition of the newsletter and subsequent issues will be of equal quality under the guidance of Michael Hirst our new editor. Just to remind members that it is YOUR newsletter and we need your contributions. How about a short article on your last field trip or your visit to a Gem & Mineral Show. “What’s new in minerals” is always keenly read, so we would be looking to you Dealers or would be dealers out there to contribute in this area.

With the leaving of John Bosworth from the committee, we have found it hard to get our act together as far as the position of Treasurer/Secretary (Public Officer) is concerned as it pertains to Consumer Affairs. We also need to make changes that will simplify the role and make it less onerous for anyone stepping into the role in the future. Every effort is currently under way to have everything under control by the time of the Annual General Meeting.

The Micro Group and the Mineral Appreciation Group are both going strong with regular meetings. The forward diary in this newsletter shows that there are some interesting topics coming up. If you wish to attend the Micro Group, let John Haupt know as space is sometimes more restricted in private homes. On the other hand, the Mineral Appreciation Group, which looks at the larger specimens, welcomes all and there is plenty

of space at the Nunawading and District Lapidary Club rooms where the meetings are held.

Re fieldtrips, unfortunately, the planned fieldtrip to Mooralla in March did not go ahead due to a lack of sufficient numbers to make it a viable trip. Perhaps the fact that it was a weeklong trip to a rather remote area contributed to the lack of interest. However, we need to stress that field trips are organized for members, at their request, so you need to let the Committee know to what locations you would like to have a field trip. We will try to organize trips where possible. Please also keep in mind that all field trips will only be held outside the hot summer months.

A reminder about the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society to be held at the Royal Society building on Wednesday, June 12. Please make every effort to attend and don't be shy to nominate yourself or put up your hand to stand for committee at the elections.

Finally, membership fees for the year 2019/20 are due by March 31, 2019 and you need to be financial to stand for committee or vote at the AGM elections.

Fred Kapteina
Secretary

SHORT TALKS

As always, it is a struggle to find speakers for the Short Talks. Aside from a few regular contributors and some generous offers, it is left to the Committee to nominate people from those who we expect might be attending the General Meetings. Given the smaller numbers of attendees as General Meetings, it is also becoming nearly impossible to 'volunteer' people for short talks – as we are never quite sure who will be present! Whilst we have seen some exceptional presentations in the past year, we are regularly left without a short talk for the meeting.

We are happy to entertain ANY suggestions for alternative activities, ways to encourage more people to attend and present something... anything at all. These are your meetings so please let the Committee know what you would like to see or hear?

MUSEUM FUND

Donations to the Museum Fund are always appreciated and can be made through your annual membership renewal form, through buying or donating specimens for sale, or by contacting a Committee member at any time.

EXCURSIONS

MAR/APR FIELD TRIP

Cancelled – see From The Committee section above

PUBLICITY

Micro Group Report

By Jo Price. Photographs by John Haupt



Meeting of the micro-mineral group, Jan. 27th, 2019.

The topic was the minerals of Cloncurry-Mt Isa district.

The Great Australia Mine has produced a large range of different minerals. From there we saw atacamite; azurite; cuprite with sprays of wavellite; chalcotrichite like a spider web; cloncurryite (T.L) as pale blue sprays, some with cuprite; blue cornetite; connellite; chalcantinite; hentschelite, both as single crystals and as sprays; green gerhardtite; blue barlowite, very bright green malachite; and libethenite.



Above: Cloncurryite and atacamite from the Great Australia mine. 4mm FOV.

From the Mt. Isa mine we noted atacamite; connellite; blades of barite; botryogen; libethenite; mcguinnessite; montanite; olivenite; and good crystals of pyromorphite; spangolite; and vesignieite.

The Mt Oxide mine specimens included cyanotrichite; chalcoalumite; pseudomalachite on libethenite; leucophosphite; sieleckiite (T.L); turquoise; and wavellite.

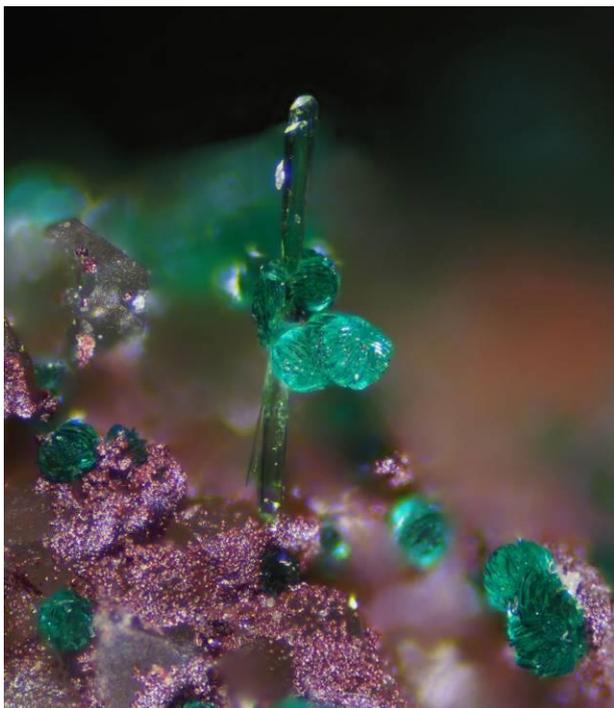
Below: Sieleckiite and libethenite from the Mt Oxide mine. 1mm FOV.

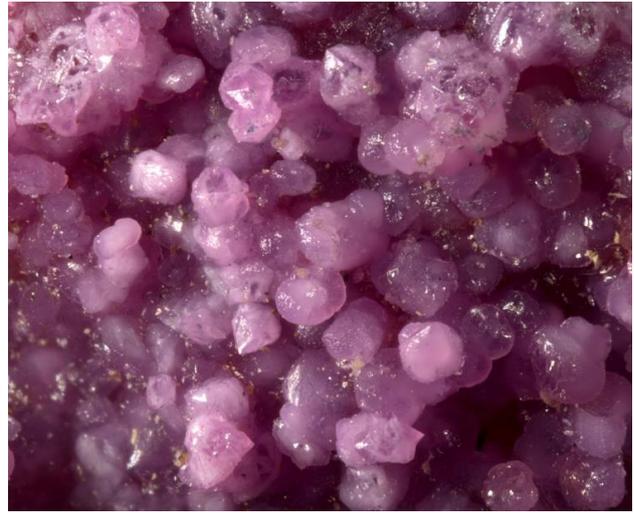
Specimens from other localities included erythrite & mansfieldite, from Mt Cobalt; connellite, Ruby Prospect; brochantite, Blockade mine, libethenite & pseudomalachite, Blue Bell mine; a nice specimen of dufrenite, from the 2 mile mine, Cloncurry; a good gypsum, from Mt. Elliott; and fine pink sprays of wupatkiite from the Lorena Mine.



Below: Pseudomalachite on libethenite from the Blue Bell mine. 1mm tall FOV.

Below right: A 2mm spray of vivid blue acicular crystals of connellite from the Ruby Prospect.





Above: Mansfieldite spheres from Mt Cobalt. 4mm FOV.

Left: Transparent pink 4mm long crystals of erythrite from Mt Cobalt.

Below: Brochantite crystals to 2mm from the Blockade mine.



February micro-mineral group meeting.

Following on from the attractive specimens we saw the previous meeting, this month's topic of minerals from the Flinders Ranges, also had many attractive minerals.

Naturally, there were many specimens of micros from the Spring Creek mine near Wilmington. These included green barrosyncosite (T.L), black springcreekite (T.L), azurite, hentschelite, dufrenite and a very nice cuprite with untarnished native copper.

From the Puttapa zinc mine were specimens of adamite, austinite, arsendescloisite, hedyphane, rhodochrosite, hetaerolite, willemite, and mimetite with smithsonite.

There were attractive specimens of azurite, barite, lavendulan, malachite, bornite, olivenite, and iridescent crystals of chalcopyrite from the Wheal Friendship, Blinman. From the Avondale mine at Lyndhurst, there were specimens of phosgenite, anglesite, wulfenite, green pyromorphite and fluorite.

Specimens from Arkaroola included carnotite and yellow autunite (Mt Painter); brochantite, ilmenite, magnetite, laumontite and stilbite, (Arkaroola bore area). From Yudnamutana there was cornubite, cornwallite, and olivenite, (Old Knoll mine); brochantite (Pinnacles mine) and aesthetic azurite changing to malachite from the Sir Dominic mine.

Other specimens included gold and atacamite (Wheal Turner); vesignieite (Linda mine); and volborthite (Paul's Consolidated).

As members can see from our reports, the micro group meetings always have many interesting specimens to look at and discuss. We welcome new attendees, the main requirement is to let the host know if you wish to attend and ideally, a microscope. The Society owns a microscope, which, if prearranged, may be borrowed for the meetings.

Below: Cuprite on native copper, Spring Creek. 4mm FOV.



Above: Tsumcorite crystals on willemite, Puttapa mine. 3mm FOV.

Below: Lustrous azurite crystals with olivenite from Wheal Friendship, 5mm FOV.



Above: Black hetraeolite crystals on adamite, Puttapa mine. FOV 2mm tall.



Below: Olivenite on cornwallite from the Sir Dominick mine. 4mm FOV.



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.

Below: Fluorite cubes on wulfenite from the Avondale mine. FOV 2mm tall.



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

By Alex Blount

The time has come to finally admit defeat! Try as we might, even with the wonders of modern technology, there are three important facts that have become apparent. 1: My photos of mineral specimens, no matter how magnificent a specimen may be, simply will not be as good as the actual specimen and will not be as good as those photos coming from the micro group. 2: There isn't enough space in our Newsletters to include photos of every specimen that deserves to be shown to the world. 3: Microsoft Word is absolutely horrible for arranging and labelling pictures. Of course, these 'lessons' also mean the best way to see the specimens is to come along to an appreciation group (or micro group) meeting for yourself.

Catching up on reports (as I missed the deadline for inclusion in the last newsletter), back in November 2018 – the meeting topic was “Minerals from the Golden Age, you decide what that means to you...”

Perhaps a bit obscure, even by our usual standards, this topic was carrying on from our Seminar in 2018 with the “Golden Age” theme but offered plenty of scope for interpretation.

One thought was the ‘great localities’ based on numbers of species and type localities. Others included ‘golden memories’ of fond collecting trips; ‘golden eras past’ when specimens from great localities were readily available to collectors; and eras when some of the ‘classic material’ was being produced from historic mining locations.

From the Ojuela Mine, Mapimi, Durango, Mexico (producer of 138 species and 6 type locality species), a diverse range of colourful specimens. Well known for the variety of wulfenite habits, including the relatively new zoned butterscotch (or ‘liquorice allsorts’ depending on your imagination), and colours of adamite it was also noted that there appears to be a general absence (or very great rarity) of silver specimens.

Another theme of the meeting was the 1960s and 1970s era when specimens from the Tsumeb Mine in Namibia were ‘relatively’ abundant. Tsumeb of course is a ‘classic’ locality known for the 293 mineral species and 72 type locality species. Producer of some of the best (or arguably the best) specimens of such

favourites as azurite, cerussite and diopside.

The golden age of classical European mining activities during the 19th century produced some impressively 'old school' specimens with some great history behind them. This also provides the only opportunity I may ever have to mention the Styggedalsgangen adit, Trak, Bamble, Telemark, Norway. A tiny working into a vein of baryte that produced some fine individual baryte crystals.



Above: Wulfenite, Ojuela Mine, Durango, Mexico



Above: Hemimorphite, Mina Ojuela, Durango Mexico



Above: Wulfenite, Ojuela Mine, Durango, Mexico



Above: Mottramite, Tsumeb Mine, Namibia



Above: Smithsonite, Tsumeb Mine, Namibia



Above: Fluorite, Heights Mine, Weardale, Durham, UK



Above: Aragonite, Styrian Erzberg, Styria, Austria



Above: Calcite, Ribber Mine, Matlock, Derbyshire, UK



Above: Baryte, Styggedalsgangen, Trak, Bamble, Telemark, Norway



Above: Siderite with quartz, Isere, Rhone-Alpes, France

After the holidays we returned in January for the much, much simpler topic of “Broken Hill”. It was universally accepted that we meant “Broken Hill, NSW” although there was always a chance someone might expand from the previous topic and look at “Broken Hill” from Northern Cape or from Zambia.

The topic was general enough that we saw material from some of the areas around Broken Hill as well as from the traditional ‘Line of the Load’ workings although it was up for debate as to how far from the township was still considered ‘Broken Hill’ given that some of the ‘Thackaringa’ localities are almost in the next State...

The ‘usual suspects’ from a locality like Broken Hill could imply that we’ve seen it all before, or that we know there is wonderful material but everyone has some... Meetings like these are always an opportunity to see what might appear from the depths of a collection and to share stories of collection (or buying) trips. How to choose the specimens to present pictures here? Hopefully some of the more unusual as well as impressive. And whilst the photos don’t convey the size of some of these specimens very well, I have spare you from the giant garnets and beryls from the surrounding areas. And unfortunately, a wonderful crystalline galena with sphalerite was too shiny for the images to work out.



Above: Cerussite, Proprietary Mine, Broken Hill, NSW

Above: Silver with Galena, South Mine, Broken Hill, NSW



Above: Rhodochrosite on quartz (var. citrine), Broken Hill, NSW



Above: Fluorapatite, Zinc Corp Mine, Broken Hill, NSW



Above: Smithsonite on coronadite, Kintore Open Cut, Broken Hill, NSW

Saving Mexico for another time all-of-its own, in February we met for the topic of “Central and South America excluding Mexico”. Central America consists of 7 countries, assuming the United Nations definition which excludes the islands states such as Cuba and the rest of the Caribbean. South America consists of 14 countries, excluding a few island territories which are effectively uninhabited (my apologies to the 20 residents of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands).

Given the long history of civilisation and mining in the regions, it was not surprising that we saw a wide range of specimens from different countries presented. However, the material was dominated by specimens from Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and some from Columbia. There was (from memory), only 1 specimen presented from Argentina (interesting volcanic haematite pseudomorph after magnetite) and it was commented upon that very little had been seen from that country. A quick search of MinDat suggests 765 species recorded from Argentina and 53 type locality species including the (well-known from elsewhere...) descloizite. Further internet searching found some interesting (quite a few of the haematite pseudomorphs) and some quite rare specimens for sale, but certainly not the volume and variety that some of the neighbouring countries have produced.

Leaving the photos to do justice to the range of specimens from Brazil, the specimens from Peru were clearly the next most dominant and the variety we saw included fine rhodochrosite, huebnerite, hutchinsonite, orpiment, enargite, bournonite, pyrite and more. From Bolivia we saw vivianites and the material from that

country must certainly be up there with the best in the world. The famous emerald beryls from Columbia; cassiterite from Bolivia and some rare copper chloride minerals from Chile. An unusual quartz on carbonised wood from the Panama Canal area was a very rare example of minerals from that country, MinDat only listing 53 recorded species and only a handful of specimen photographs.



Above: Beryl (aquamarine), Toca Da Onca, Minas Geris, Brazil



Above: Haematite pseudomorph after magnetite, Payun Volcano, Mendoza, Argentina



Above: Vivianite, Llallagua, Potosi Department, Bolivia



Above: Huebnerite on quartz, Labor Teo, Mundo Nuevo Mine, La Libertad, Peru



Above: Rhodochrosite, Uchucchua Mine, Oyon Province, Lima Department, Peru



Above: Pyrite, Huanzala Mine, Dos de Mayo Province, Huanuco Department, Peru

**Right: Rutile within quartz,
Diamantina, Jequitinhonha
Valley, Minas Gerais, Brazil**



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 or simply show up to a meeting!

SOCIETY MICRO-MINERAL COLLECTIONS

Broken Hill Collection
Iron Monarch Collection
Victorian Collection
Western Australia

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 curator Alex Blount.

LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME

Contact John Haupt on 0407345806

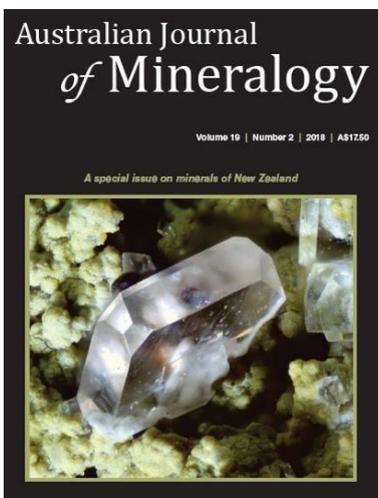
1. An educational set of 100 rock specimens prepared by Specimens & Co in Clayton. Housed in 5 trays within one long wooden box.





2.A box of A4 folders containing a wide range of articles on minerals that was collated by Val Hannah. Very useful for anyone wanting to learn more about minerals and or/for preparing talks.

AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF MINERALOGY (AJM)



The AJM team have released the next issue (Vol 19, No. 2) continuing the quality of previous issues. All Members should consider subscribing (if not already doing so!) and support your national mineralogical journal.

This is a special theme issue covering New Zealand with article topics including:

- > The cause of colour in thompsonite-Ca from Aranga quarry.
- > Tschernicite from the Waitakere Ranges
- > Pseudomorphs after euhedral nepheline from Pudding Island
- > New finds in the crystal lithic tuffs of the Lake Taupo

Subscription details can be found on the web-page and Facebook-page:

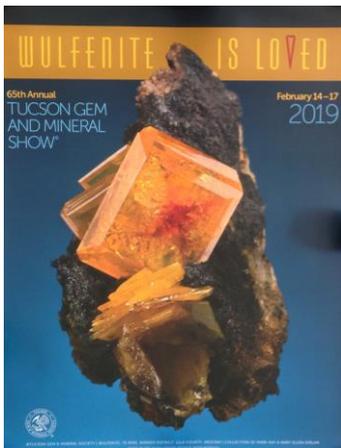
<http://www.mineral.org.au/pubs/ajm.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/AJMPublications/>

Tucson 2019

For those of you who have never been to Tucson, make sure it is on your “bucket list” of things to do. For those of you who have already been, especially if it was this year, you will be already versed in much of the following.

It is a bit confusing to refer to “the Tucson Show”. If you have been to Tucson you will know that it probably refers to the Main Show, the “Tucson Gem and Mineral Show”, TGMS, or “the main show” held at the Tucson Convention Center in February each year. “The ... Show” is confusing because there are over 40 shows in Tucson from about January 18 to February 18.



Only the TGMS has a theme each year and this year 2019, the theme was on wulfenite with the title “Wulfenite is Loved”.

This mineral dominated the majority of display cases from both private collectors and institutions and showed representative examples from all over the world. Even Australia was represented, with specimens from Whim Creek in WA.

Australia is not well endowed with showy wulfenites, such as are found in Mexico or the southern states of the USA. So it was especially exiting to be up close and personal with some of the best specimens of wulfenite in the world. Massive plates of this mineral, of up to half a meter across with individual crystals of up to 5cm were to be seen. The colours ranged from yellows to reds and shades in between as well as some green toned ones.

Some private collectors had display cases on other themes such as by country, with an excellent display by Jim and Gail Spann of top of the range minerals from China.

There were a number of minerals on display and also for sale that had been recently collected, or at least within the last 12 months. Two such minerals have come from the Ojuela Mine in Mexico, with new legrandite and kobyashevite. Other new and interesting finds have come from India, Inner Mongolia, large vivianites from Bolivia and a proliferation of quartz (grape agate) from Indonesia.



It was noticed that the amount of fluorites from China, that had dominated previous years, has substantially declined. Instead, there is now a lot of quartzes available from countries not previously represented, such as clear crystal clusters from Colombia or smoky quartz from Peru and as per previous years, amethyst from Uruguay. A bit tricky is the availability of manmade quartz crystal clusters that are water clear, almost all the way from the base to the top of the crystals. These are challenging for amateurs to separate from natural specimens. Luckily they are currently well labelled by the dealers.

The displays of the up market dealers, with their cabinets brimming with top class minerals, are also not to be missed. Prices here range from at the lower end USD200 to specimens priced to USD65000. Above this price they are usually marked, "POR", price on request. These high end specimens are not only gem crystals but can be run of the mill species but at the top of their class in size or aesthetic appeal.



For the bargain hunter, the best places are the side shows where the smaller dealerships offer their wares, or specimens offered that have come directly from the miners. The trick is hunting these places down within the limited time available.

So if you are planning to go to Tucson, do your homework prior to going. Know what you are looking for and at what show you would be likely to find what you are after. If you want to visit all the shows, just on

the off chance of finding what you are after, make sure you bring a lot of stamina.

The adventures of William Carr-Boyd

By John Haupt

A notable historic house in Mooroolbark was recently listed for sale. The elaborate house was built by famous explorer William Carr-Boyd who explored the north of Western Australia in the early 1880s, including the Carr Boyd Ranges and where he discovered a 1.22kg gold nugget.

It is one of three pre-1900s stately homes in the region and once sat on more than 17,000ha of fertile Yarra Valley land, which was subdivided over time and is now known as The Briars Estate. Perched on the top of the hill, the house offers a picture-perfect panorama of the Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Valley and is surrounded by Edna Walling inspired gardens.

A viewing platform inside the original entry tower is set at the top of a spiral staircase and takes in impressive 360-degree views.

In 1895, winemaker and original developer of the Chateau Yering Vineyard, Paul de Castella, purchased the five-bedroom house. Reporter Mikaela Day



Carr-Boyd, William Henry James (1852–1925)

A biography by Mary Durack

William Henry James Carr-Boyd (1852-1925), explorer, prospector and raconteur, was born at sea, second son of William Carr-Boyd and his wife Charlotte, née Macoboy, when his parents were travelling from England to Hobart Town. At Campbell Town in Tasmania, his father, an accomplished classical scholar, ran a successful school but, although William later gained repute in the outback as a man of letters and an authority on the classics, he appears to have had little formal education.

At 9 he was already gaining experience in the Barcoo district of western Queensland where he worked until 21 as a jackeroo. He then joined the rush to the newly-discovered diggings on Palmer River, and in 1875 went as second-in-command to William Hodgkinson on an expedition to explore country between the Diamantina River and the Northern Territory border. From this time on he contributed lively items to Queensland papers as 'Potjostler', a pseudonym suggested by the grumbling remark to Hodgkinson of his Russian surveyor that 'What with your potjostling here and potjostling there, you've given me the scurvy'.

Between intervals of exploring and prospecting Carr-Boyd was engaged in stocking stations in remote parts of Queensland and in 1880 he went in search of the brothers, Cornelius ('Syd') and Albert Prout, who had

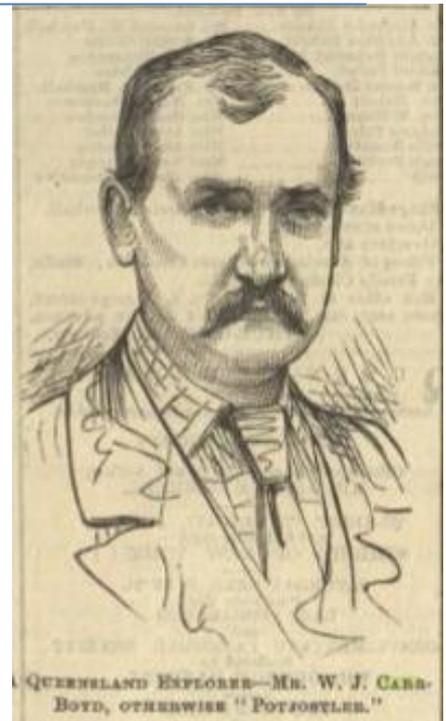


Image from The Bulletin, 24 July 1880 v.2, no.,26, p.3 (ISSN: 0007-4039). National Library of Australia

disappeared when looking for new country. The bodies of the two men were found on the Barkly Tableland, where they had died of thirst some two years earlier. In 1882 he disposed of his interests in Queensland, planning to settle in Victoria. However, in 1883 he went as second-in-command of an expedition led by W. J. O'Donnell on behalf of the Cambridge Downs Pastoral Association; their purpose was to explore the country around the Cambridge Gulf, hoping to establish a sheep station. The party of six men, including a cook and an Aboriginal boy, twenty-six horses and provisions for six months, left Katherine on 26 March. O'Donnell named the impressive Carr Boyd Range after his companion on 26 May. (*the Carr Boyd Range is 20Km south of present day Kununurra*). Carr-Boyd made several side excursions on the journey, and by 10 August he announced his intention of going on to Perth. O'Donnell reluctantly consented, and Carr-Boyd set off with his share of the rations, a horse and the Aborigine. Ten days later when he re-joined the party at the Fitzroy River, he was very weak, suffered from both dysentery and scurvy, and had feared his provisions would run out. Lack of news from the party had caused concern in both Melbourne and Perth, so the telegram telling of their safe return to Katherine was received with relief in Perth.

Carr-Boyd hurried to Melbourne and on 28 May 1884 brought a libel suit against A. D. Cotton, secretary of the Cambridge Downs Pastoral Association; the case was heard in the Supreme Court, Melbourne, before Mr Justice (Sir) Edward Holroyd. Carr-Boyd claimed £5000 damages on account of a letter signed by the defendant in the *Argus*, stating that Carr-Boyd had misbehaved himself, was drunk at the outset of the expedition, obstructed O'Donnell's policy, used bad language and deserted his comrades. The case was decided in Cotton's favour. It was at this time that he had the house built in Mooroolbark.

Soon afterwards Carr-Boyd returned to the Halls Creek area and appears to have been successful as a prospector. In 1885 he may have joined O'Donnell, who was commissioned by the Western Australian government to find a better track to the gold diggings. Next year at Jackson's Reef near Halls Creek, Carr-Boyd discovered an 11cwt. nugget which was treated in Melbourne and yielded 43ozs. of gold. (See Appendix).

He was then enjoying life; according to a contemporary, at Mary Creek in 1887 he persuaded an Aborigine to put a hole through his nose with a sharp bone and later spun many fanciful stories around the episode. From Halls Creek he followed the trail of gold throughout the colony and was among the early diggers at Coolgardie. On 27 May 1895 with two companions, three camels and provisions for three months he left Kalgoorlie and went north-east through the Warburton Ranges and on to Warrina, then the terminus of the transcontinental railway in South Australia. He later claimed to have followed (Sir) John Forrest's tracks for 'the last five years and found him never wrong'.

Although undoubtedly a good bushman and an able prospector, Carr-Boyd was better remembered as one of the great camp-fire entertainers of his generation. A man of engaging personality and unfailing optimism, he had a fine voice, a wide repertoire of songs and an amazing fund of anecdotes. In England when the publication of Louis de Rougemont's allegedly factual adventures in north Australia were causing some controversy in 1899, Carr-Boyd claimed to expose the fallacy of the Frenchman's tales, but produced others that were equally extravagant. E. H. Brewer, journalist of the *Daily News*, who in 1917 travelled with him in America, declared his mission a mystery. 'Money, he had in plenty, and he distributed it with a prodigality that was remarkable even in America. Carr didn't waste much effort on clothes. He wore a white pith helmet, dyed khaki and a two-piece suit. This suit contained twenty-four pockets, and it took the Customs officials in Victoria exactly half-an-hour to examine him ... [He] ate little, drank hugely of rum, because he said the molasses in it kept him alive'. His last years were spent at Cranbourne, Victoria. He died at Dandenong on 11 May 1925, leaving a widow Emily Harriet, née Deakin, none of their four children and very little estate, but convinced to the end that fabulous fortune awaited his discovery.

References:

Mikaela Day: The sale of a Historic Home at Mooroolbark, Herald Sun, February 11, 2019.

Mary Durack, 'Carr-Boyd, William Henry James (1852–1925)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/carr-boyd-william-henry-james-3168/text4743>. Published first in hardcopy 1969. Accessed online 14 February 2019.

APPENDIX

1. The Halls Creek Goldfield

From Halls Creek Tourism (<https://www.hallscreektourism.com.au/information/halls-creek-history>). Accessed 20 February 2012.

In 1879 Alexander Forrest first explored the Fitzroy River then pushed on in a North-Easterly direction to the Ord River. He reported that gold may be found in the East Kimberley and the land was excellent for grazing cattle. John Adams and Phil Saunders decided to test the rumour about the gold in the Kimberley and dollied a few ounces but did not find payable gold. In 1883 the government sent the second Forrest expedition into the Kimberley and on this occasion the party included Mr Hardman a geologist. Hardman marked his map with several places that gold was likely to be found. Acting on this information, Charles Hall and Jack most likely set sail in a skiff from Roebourne to Derby in early 1885. They travelled along the Fitzroy River, where they found the tracks of the Forrest party and followed the Elvire River.

Hall and Slattery found the first gold in 1885 in Halls Creek. Gold was found at dead Finish Creek to the north, 12 miles to Brockman in the west and Mount Dockrell 70 miles to the south-west. Halls party struck payable gold almost from the start. After working for a few weeks Hall returned to Derby with 200 ounces of gold and reported his find, the first in Western Australia.

Between 1885-1887 some 10,000 men landed in the Kimberley with the intention of finding gold but the conditions in Halls Creek were extremely rough with only a few finding golds of any quantity. Five thousand arrived at Wyndham and there was an endless procession from Queensland. Nobody knows how many died just getting to Halls Creek, crossing the waterless desert and crocodile infested waters - many simply turned back. When some of the men actually arrived at Halls Creek, dysentery, scurvy, sun- stroke and simple thirst took its toll. The old town of Halls Creek (14km east of the current town) was a shanty town of wood, stone, canvas, tin, bark and spinifex. Among the humpies were two hotels, a post office and a gold warden.

In the early days of the gold rush no records or statistics were recorded for either the arrivals or deaths. The Government had applied a gold tax of two shillings and sixpence an ounce. It was a very unpopular levy with the miners where gold was so hard to find in Kimberley, the diggers avoided registering and the Government had a great deal of trouble collecting the tax or statistics of any kind.

A lot of gold went out of the Kimberley via the Northern territory and it was rumoured that a gold buyer was to have taken 3,000 ounces of gold at a time out of Halls Creek. It is estimated that as much as 23,000 ounces (nearly 650 kg) of gold was taken from the fields around Halls Creek, some unofficial estimates were as high as 100,000 ounces. After the 1885 - 1887 influx many went away leaving the diggings and when gold was found at Nullagine more miners left for this new find.

2. The Carr-Boyd Gold Nugget

Article from the *Victorian Express*, Geraldton, WA on **6 November 1886**, p 5*:

"The Big Nugget: Having parted on friendly terms with the diggers, we proceeded to Hosken's Club Hotel, to interview that well-known gentleman Mr. Carr Boyd. We found him in company with a prominent Northern settler and M.L.C. and a gentleman who the M.L.C., introduced to us as Colonel Sherman, a well-known personage in Melbourne. The Colonel was an agreeable, and apparently much travelled man, who had visited our terra aurifera for mixed reasons, but chiefly, he said, for pleasure and the satisfaction of a traveller's curiosity. Mr. Carr Boyd regarded us with suspicion when he knew our business, and first protested that he did not want the papers to say anything about him. They had got him into too much hot water already. Having convinced him of the harmlessness of our intentions, which a superficial glance at us should have at once assured him of, he became polite and communicative.

Mr. Carr Boyd is a tall, rather loosely built man, apparently of about 35 years of age, with a traveller's bronze on his face, a sharp restless eye, and a rather American appearance and style of speech.

He informed us that in addition to the famous nugget, he had on board 1150lbs. weight of quartz, which he had obtained from a reef 200 miles from Wyndham, and which he expected would yield when crushed not less than 100 ounces to the ton. We accompanied Mr. Carr Boyd to the steamer for the purpose of " interviewing " both the nugget and the quartz. The nugget is about four inches long by three inches across, and is apparently almost a

solid mass of gold, waterworn, and with a little dirt on it here and there. It is a beautiful specimen and will create a sensation wherever it is seen.

Notice in *The West Australian*, Perth, WA. Friday 19 November 1886, p3*

This, Mr. Carr Boyd informed us and several others, had been found in the near vicinity of his reef, a statement which it "will be observed is not in accord with that of Mr. Ashbury. The specimens of quartz which Mr. Carr Boyd showed us were gleaming with gold and were evidently very rich. They did not consist merely of casing as Mr. Ashbury had said, but of the stone itself, and were obtained at a depth ranging from five to twenty feet. There is no doubt that if the reef bears out the promise of the specimens obtained by Mr. Carr Boyd it is a singularly rich one."

3. Carrboydite ($\text{Ni}_{1-x}\text{Al}_x$)(SO_4) $_{x/2}$ (OH) $_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$

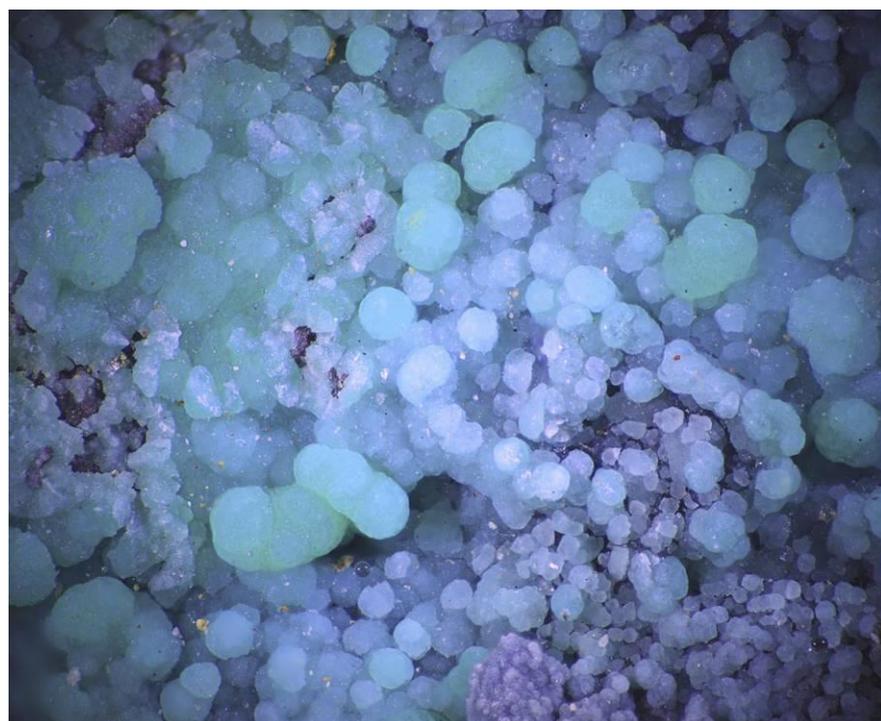
Carrboydite was first described from the Carr-Boyd Rocks Ni mine by Nickel & Clarke (1976) and was named for the mine.

The Carr-Boyd Rocks, 80km NNE of Kalgoorlie, (different to the Carr Boyd Range in the Kimberleys) was also named after William Carr-Boyd. He explored the area north of Kalgoorlie in mid 1894 during the early days of the gold rushes. (Interestingly the only interest at the time was for gold. It was not until 1969 that there were nickel rushes to the same area!!).

Carrboydite is a yellowish-green to blue-green mineral, occurring as small hemispherical 'balls' and amorphous coatings that have precipitated from groundwaters which have contacted oxidised nickel sulphides. It has also been found at the 132 North mine at Widgiemooltha.

Reference:

Nickel, E.H., Clarke, R.M., 1976: Carrboydite, a hydrated sulfate of nickel and aluminum: a new mineral from Western Australia. *American Mineralogist*, 61, 366-372.



Carrboydite from the 132 North mine, Widgiemooltha. 4mm FOV. Photo: J. Haupt. Specimen: J. Price.

**RESULT OF A CRUSHING OF
KIMBERLEY QUARTZ.**

It will be remembered that Mr. Carr Boyd took round with him to Melbourne, on his recent return from Kimberley, several hundred weight of quartz for assay, besides the 40oz. nugget. Yesterday he telegraphed as follows:—

"To His Excellency,
" Sir F. N. Broome, K.C.M.G.,
" Government House,
" Perth.

" Stone from reef crushed forty-two ounces free gold to the ton. Can I have the honour to name nugget after Lady Broome.

" W. CARR BOYD.

" Scott's Hotel, Melbourne,
November 18th."

His Excellency the Governor replied, congratulating Mr. Carr Boyd on the successful result of the crushing, and adding that Lady Broome would have much pleasure in having the nugget named after her.

*Newspapers accessed via Trove, National Library of Australia, on 20 Feb 2019.

