

Mineralogica Tasmanica



**THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER
NO. 71, NOVEMBER 2009**

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THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA:

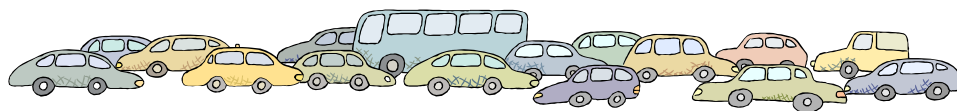
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Meetings Are held on the second Friday of each month at 7.00pm, in the first year lecture theatre, Geology Dept., University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. Visitors are most welcome.
Membership fees \$15: single, \$20: family (includes 4 newsletters/yr)
Patron: 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.



*Bluish fluorite crystals to 12mm on ferroan magnesite, with some white morinite, from the Mt Bischoff mine, Waratah (from our last field trip).
Ralph Bottrill specimen and photo. FOV 50mm.*

PROGRAM / EVENTS



13th November Meeting: Zeehan show and tell

22nd November: Xmas function (see p. 5)

January trip: TBA

12th February 2010 : Meeting (TBA)

[Gemboree 2010, Devonport \(2nd – 5th April 2010\)](#) (see p. 12)

[Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Hobart, 10th-11th April 2010](#) (see p. 13)

6-7th November 2010

Zeehan fair & trips?

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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Recent MST affairs

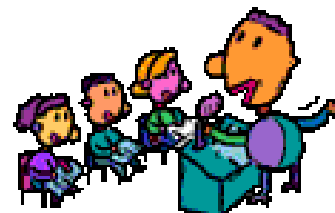
On the 14th August the meeting held a panel discussion on Mineral Photography, hosted by Steve and Ralph (who are now awaiting all the new photos to be submitted).

On the 11th September the Meeting included a presentation on Forensic Geology and Mineralogy by the President, to help our members evade the law.

On the 9th October Mike Jagoe gave a fascinating presentation on Adamsfield and osmiridium, going back from his early collecting days.

On the 22-25th October we held a very successful Field Trip to Western Tasmania (see p.14).

On the 7-8th November many of us went to the Zeehan fair, and some of us manned a successful MST stall (see p.7).



MST LIBRARY

Interesting articles in journals recently received include:

ANZ Mineral Collector magazine: #9; see below

Australian Journal of Mineralogy: 14(2); see below

Mineralogical Society of Qld Newsletter 56 Aug 2009:

Micronews (Canada) 43(3); 43(4) Spinel, hogbomite

NWTMC (July-Sept 2009): Field Collecting

Mineral Oddities magazine: 2(1)

NZ Micromounting Newsletter 71: Beryl, labelling, digital microscopes

Mineralogical Society of Vic Newsletter Oct 2009: Cornwall, Danas

Mineralogical Society of WA Newsletter Sept 2009: Mali; Hafnium

Mineralogical Society of NSW Newsletter April-July 2009: Tucson, Laos; George Smith; Copper minerals, Burra

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

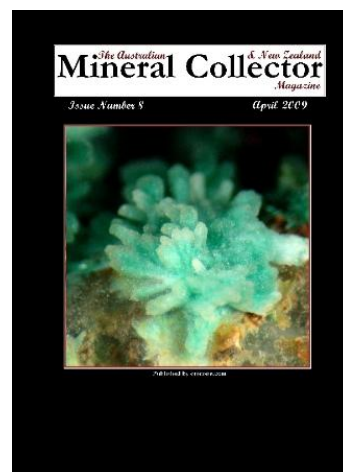
Issue 9 contains articles on Broken Hill gahnite, Harts Range kyanite, field trips to Namibia and Madagascar and more. It is full colour, and 28 pages.

New pricing structure: This issue is the first that provides a number of 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.

The latest TLMA meeting was in Launceston on 5/9/09; the main issues are summarised here.

- The next Tasmanian Gemboree (Easter 2010) in Devonport is in prep., and volunteers will be needed. The co-ordinator is Pam Carter, 91 Gravelly Beach Rd, Blackwall, 7275, ph 0409 372 858, Email: carternnap@bigpond.com.au
- More information is requested for our website: <http://www.tasmanianlapidary.org.au>

The next TLMA meeting will be held in Launceston on 5/12/09: please contact us or come along you are interested in helping with the Gemboree or any other matters.

TLMA FIELD TRIPS 2009

The trip leaders **MUST** be contacted within 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 the field trips: Check with the leader.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Information</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Camping</u>
Dec 13th	Mersey Lea	Jasper, Bucket Shovel Pick	LCNT L'ton	G. Linger 63 678143	Kimberley Hot Springs BBQ & STONE SWAP

REMINDER...

NO SAFETY EQUIPMENT...

NO PARTICIPATION...

MST XMAS BBQ

All the BBQ sites at Tynwald Park were booked so Tony Joyce has booked the BBQ site on the New Norfolk Esplanade next to the Bowls Club from 12 - 2 on Sunday 22nd November. Its close to the river which is good for riverside walks and a walk around the cliffs which may be fossiliferous.

After the BBQ we can call in at the Crystal Gallery at D.V. Gifts and then move on to The Big Tasmanian Rock Shop. For those with a palaeontological inclination we can then visit a fossil site on the highway between New Norfolk and Granton. Strongly recommended would be boots or gumboots, eye protection, fluoro vest, supermarket green bags for loot and a heavy hammer. Optional items could include a hard hat, material for wrapping specimens and a chisel.



A Catalogue of the Minerals of Tasmania

by R S Bottrill and W E Baker

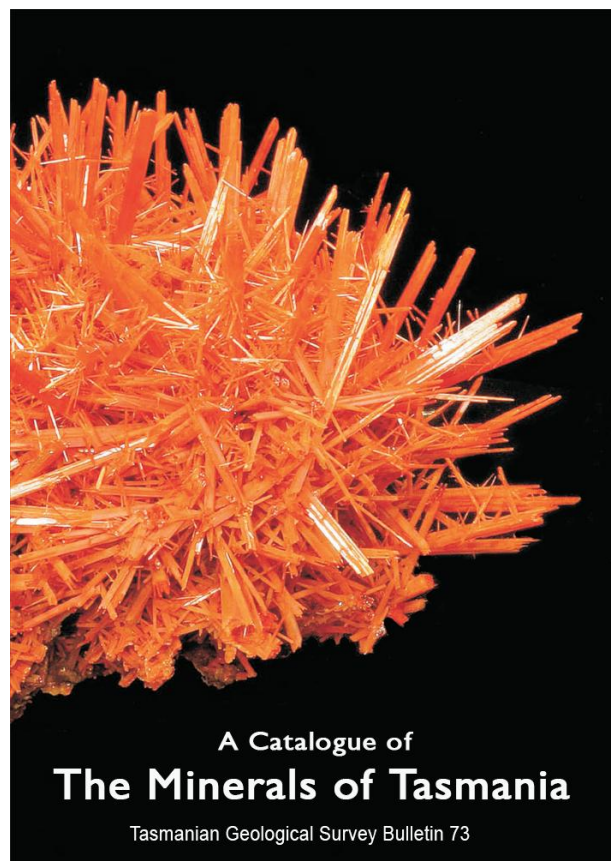
Catalogues of the minerals found in Tasmania have been kept since almost the earliest days of mining and have been of invaluable assistance to prospectors, mineral explorers, mineralogists and collectors. The catalogue was first published by the Tasmania Department of Mines in 1910, and was extensively 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

THE ZEEHAN GEM AND MINERAL FAIR

Marnie Pope

Photos by M. Jagoe, R Bottrill

Fine weather was forecast for the weekend (7-8th November 2009), and it got even warmer as the days progressed. During Friday 32 stall holders started setting up with a wide variety of displays. On Friday evening a few of us BBQ'd in the Caravan Park camp kitchen and talked late into the evening.



On Saturday morning the final setting up was done before the general public were allowed into the School Sports Stadium at 10 am.

MJ photo

Ambros had a fine display of high class minerals including silver and rhodonite from Broken Hill and some nice Tsumeb minerals.

Boris & Chrystine's set up included local and imported specimens with many carvings of the local Serpentine/Stichtite to tempt people, and a new agate find.

John Wylie of Robilt machinery was able to help out with faceting and lapidary supplies.



MJ photo

Some nice crocoites from West Comet and Platt Mines were displayed by John Bishop and Bruce Stark and on Sunday morning they reduced all specimens to ½ price, so many bargains were had.

Christo and 'Bear' had many tempting local and overseas specimens.

Matthew and Elizabeth Latham didn't want to take anything home, so their well priced self-collected Tasmanian minerals were eagerly snapped up.

Sam Caberica always has a nice selection of self-collected Tasmanian minerals to choose from, as well as a few overseas ones this time.

Stella & John Woolfe from Wynyard had some brilliant 'one off' overseas minerals mingled amongst their other local and imported specimens and carvings.



RSB photo

Victorian visitors Janice and Chris Ah Yee tempted us with their wide range (and knowledge) of fossils, some self collected.

Ross Jones, - The Manfern Man, always worth spending time with Ross, because you never know what he may have tucked away.

Nice to see Shane Richardson and his son bring an assortment of temptations along from their shop at Beaconsfield, (including some interesting old Luina minerals).

The travelling Tasmanians Neville and Kaye Byard had a very nice selection of cut precious and semi- precious stones and jewellery on display.

Adelaide Mine miners Adam Wright & Richard Wolfe had their A++ specimens of crocoite on display, and by the end of the weekend the \$3,000.00 crocoite piece had a new home.

Lights and glass – Dehne and Maureen – what more can I say, each specimen better than the last one, and in the centre of the display that big lump of gold.

“The Big Tasmanian Rock Shop” lived up to its name with Tony bringing a big selection of material, you name it, he had it. He has a new store in New Norfolk (see attached notice).

Peter Harris showed the visitors a new way to display their favourite animal, - on a lacquered slab of stone or wood, certainly different.

Peter Willems had quite a good range of specimens for sale in his showcase.

The Stanley shop “Sticks & Stones” owners had a warm welcome to Z G & M F. Caroline bought more than she sold, but would like to welcome all MST members to visit her shop when in the area (see attached notice).

MRT, manned by Ralph (with help from the Popes) sold the usual books and maps etc., but he was in constant demand to identify specimens.

MST table had an assortment of loupes, gimmicks, etc, but the ‘Kids Lucky Dig’ was very popular. Ralph had accidentally left the ‘polystyrene dirt’ at home, but Tony came to the rescue with a supply, many thanks Tony.



Quartz, Mt Read, Bruce Starke. Winning entry, Tas mineral competition; photo: RSB



Quartz-Agate stalactite, Lune River, collected by Nigel Ellis; photo: RSB



B. Pope photo

Business was brisk on Saturday, but the heat slowed the trade late in the afternoon, so we were pleased when it was time to 'cover over' and have a quick freshen up before heading to the Heemskirk Hotel at 6 pm for pre dinner drinks and the now customary buffet. Time for a coffee before driving to the Footy oval for the Fireworks display at 9 pm. The display was brilliant with lots of ooh's and aah's, but now, not as long due to the financial downturn of the mining industries' support, - but still very good.

Sunday trade was a little quieter, but the weather was hotter. Gavin Linger had a display of local and overseas specimens, while Rod Hewer displayed Fern and Agates, and Malcolm Eastley's display of Fluoro minerals had one and all fascinated.

Ralph, Boris & Christo were asked to judge the competition minerals, with Bruce Stark winning the Best Tasmanian Mineral section with a Red Quartz from Mt Read and Adam Wright taking out the Best Overseas Mineral section with a Chinese Cassiterite.



The Lucky Door and Raffle prizes were drawn with many happy winners. We then packed up and with goodbyes said to the locals and other traders we were soon homeward bound.

10mm Tetrahedrite on chalcopyrite, Mt Lyell mine. A Wright specimen and photo (sold by Bruce Starke at the fair)

Many MST members were spotted visiting the Fair – Steve S, Andrew Tuma, Mike Jagoe, John Newlands, Colin & Bianca, Laurie & James Bourke, Heinz and Jutta Roser. Unfortunately Ambros was not feeling very well late on Saturday afternoon so decided to pack up and drive home on Sunday morning. We hope he is feeling better now.

This is Tasmania's main annual gem and mineral show, and next year will be held on the Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th November. It is a great place to see what new minerals are coming out, and there is always something new there. It is an annual Community event that will always be on the 1st weekend after the Melbourne Cup, and attracts about 1000 people. For more information on next November's fair, contact Kim Dunstan (0364716553) or Joan Dunstan. (0364716479). Email: kimdunstan@activ8.net.au

Many thanks to Marnie and Barry for all their hard work with both the MST and MRT stalls! Both should return a good profit to MST.

Pickles



MAGNESITE

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

This mineral usually occurs in white, very fine-grained, compact masses that often yield porcellanous conchoidal surfaces when fractured. It also occurs as coarser-grained granular beds with white to pale yellow or grey colour, and in some hydrothermal veins.

It is locally common as a rock-forming mineral and includes relatively pure deposits within Precambrian dolostone horizons

within the Arthur Metamorphic Complex in the northwest of Tasmania. Several large

deposits occur in the Corinna - Savage River - Arthur River area and include the Lyons River, Main Creek, Arthur River and Pinner deposits. The magnesite-rich rocks locally contain abundant dolomite and minor quartz, calcite and talc. At the Savage River and Granville mines, it occurs in irregular bodies and layers with serpentine, chlorite, magnetite and talc. Other reports included occurrences in serpentinite at Heazlewood; Meredith Range; Parsons Hood; Dundas and Trial Harbour. It occurs in small amounts with stichtite at Stichtite Hill, Dundas.



Savage River (R Bottrill)



Mt Bischoff (R Bottrill)

Analyses of fine to coarse-grained, vein carbonates at the Mt Bischoff mine, with large crystals down to botryoids, indicate they vary from ferroan magnesite to magnesian siderite (Halley and Walshe, 1995). Recent work indicates most are magnesite. . Veins of some off-white to pale brown carbonates, including well-formed crystals to 25mm in vughs, associated with blue fluorite, have a composition of about $(\text{Mg}_{0.6}\text{Fe}_{0.3}\text{Mn}_{0.1})\text{CO}_3$.

Australian Journal Of Mineralogy

The latest issue of this great journal (14/2) is now out, with an article on Kolitschite (see below) and more . 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. Other upcoming issues are Gold (November 2008?) and possibly Gem minerals. Several back issues of the AJM are available from the society (via Ralph).



Sticks and Stones Shells and Bones

I have in stock at the moment some unprepared Queensland crab, ammonite and shell fossils, also some beautiful malachite/azurite/chrysocolla specimens from the Congo and a spectacular piece of scolecite/fluorapophyllite (this is display only as I can't bear to part with it but it's worth a look :-). Also some lovely large pieces of Mangano- Calcite, polished slabs of rhodonite, ocean jasper and chevron amethyst and so much more! I am also happy to try and source items.

Caroline Gillam
27 Church Street
Stanley TAS 7331
sticksandstones@internode.on.net
Shop 03 64581133 Mobile 0408555406



The Big Tasmanian Rock Shop.

100 Ring Road New Norfolk
Enter Ring Road from The Avenue.
Its in the same building as the New Norfolk Tip Shop.

Rock shop is open on Fridays and Saturdays only.
Other times by appointment.
Will not be open for the Zeehan Gem Show weekend.
Tip Shop is open every day.

25% off all MINERALS for Minsoc members 22nd November only.

Crystals
Fossils
Jewellery
Gemstones
Minerals
Seashells
Rough Rock
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Tumbled stones
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Tektites
Dream Catchers
Cards, Books, Gifts and more.

Ph: 6261 3327 / 6261 3354
tony@sunshinetas.com



GEMBOREE 2010

The next Tasmanian Gemboree will be held over Easter 2010: 2nd – 5th April. The site will be in Devonport, northern Tasmania, Australia. This is the principal gem and mineral show in Australia, held every year in various parts of the country.

The co-ordinator for Gemboree 2010 is Pam Carter,
Email: carternnap@bigpond.com.au
91 Gravelly Beach Rd,
Blackwall, 7275,
ph 0409 372 858,
[Gemboree Poster](#)



Campsites

Please note that powered sites are not available at the Gemboree campground, but generators will be permitted.

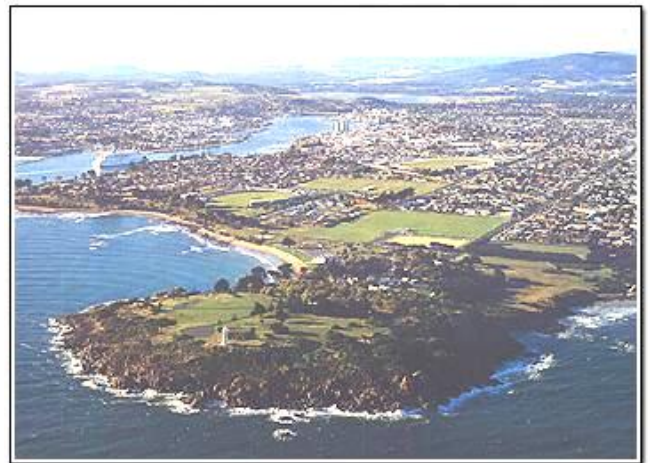
[Campsite Registration.pdf](#)

Fossicking

Some official trips will be organised over Easter ([Gemboree 2010 Field Trips form](#)).

Some designated [fossicking areas](#) in various parts of Tasmania will be available anytime, for gems and minerals.

Anyone wishing to fossick in Tasmania, outside the designated fossicking areas, is advised to obtain a [Prospecting Licence](#) from Mineral Resources Tasmania.



Devonport, Tasmania

For flights, boats or accommodation bookings please contact:

Devonport Visitor Information Centre

on 1800 649 514 and mention the Gemboree to staff.

DOWNLOAD FORMS:

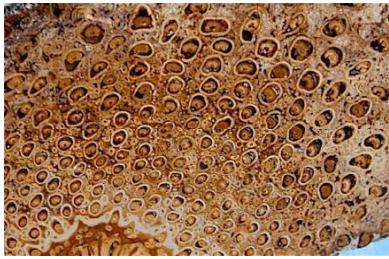
[Competition Entry form.pdf](#)

[Competition Schedule & Information.pdf](#)

[Gemboree 2010 Tailgating form.pdf](#)

[Gemboree 2010 Non-competitive display entry form.pdf](#)





The Lapidary Club of Tasmania Inc.



Supported by

The Mineralogical Society of Tasmania

Present

The Hobart Gem and Mineral Spectacular 2010 Tasmania's Hidden Treasures

Saturday 10th April 11.00 am – 5.00 pm

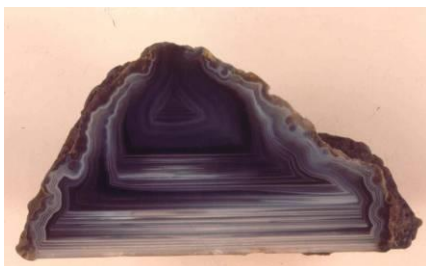
Sunday 11th April 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

**BOARDWALK GALLERY – WREST
POINT.**

**Jewellery, Gemstones, Crystals, Displays, Fossils, Minerals Panning for
real Gold and Sapphires,
Raffles, Books, Demonstrations....and SALES.**

Admission: Adults \$5 Children \$1

For further information Ph. Rosemary Aheimer (03)62491408



**Volunteers from MST are needed for
this event – please contact Ralph or
Marnie**



KARA, HAMPSHIRE, MT BISCHOFF, AND DUNDAS FIELD TRIP

23rd, 24th and 25th of October 2009

By David G J Dieckfoss and Ralph Bottrill, plus extra photos by Michael Pope and others

Day 1 - Friday 23rd Kara

Kara is an operating open-cut mine, located 40 km south of Burnie, producing magnetite and minor scheelite. It operates in a series of skarn deposits associated with Devonian granites intruding Ordovician limestones. Over fifty minerals have been recorded in the open cut but it is famous for excellent andradite specimens and for being the subject of the book “Minerals of the Kara Mine, Tasmania” Steve Sorrell and Ralph Bottrill.

Thanks to Neville from Tasmania Mines Ltd. who met our sizable group of fifteen (*Brett Chandler, Peter Willems, Bob Beattie, Marnie Barry and Michael Pope, Barbara Schreiber, Shane Dohnt, Stella and John Woolfe, Colin Steedman, Bianca Porteus, Ralph Bottrill, Ron Gregory and David Dieckfoss*), and patiently allowed us to fossick for an extended period in the open cut. The weather was perfect, the company pleasant and the rhythmic sounds of tap tap tapping were occasionally interrupted by cries of “Andradite”!!!



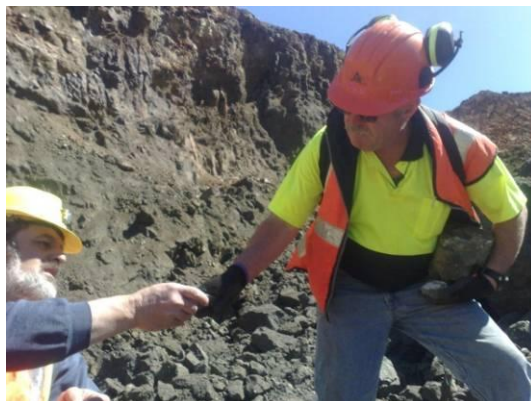
Inductions talk with Neville



Devonian granites intruding Ordovician limestone.



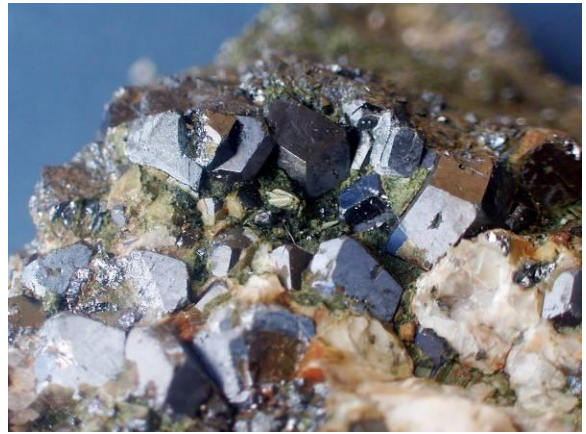
Andradite (garnet)



Ralph asking Ron for help identifying minerals



Calcite, Kara



Magnetite, Kara



Andradite, Kara



Time to go!

Hampshire Silver Mine

After a brief detour to find some Wollastonite in Wollastonite creek we were led in search of the Hampshire Silver Mine which has great historical significance as it probably our oldest remaining intact silver workings (from 1876). We were informed by Ralph that it was a short stroll down a country lane and across a small trickle of a creek. Ralphs credibility suffered yet again (*Hey –what a lot of fuss – just a normal day in the bush for Ron and I! – Ed.*). The Mine however, once we found it was brilliant. We discovered two water logged adits, water logged shafts and at the end, several satisfied water logged troglodytic explorers. (*Not many minerals though : Ed.*).



A small “trickle” of a creek



Happy troglodytes



Back at the River.



Bobs Boots (Stella Wolfe photo)

Day 2- Saturday 24th Bischoff

Mt Bischoff is always a favourite with Min Soc but this time it was an absolute Fluorite frenzy!!! The group was joined by Elizabeth, Charles, Matthew Latham and Sam Caberica who fell to work with a vengeance.

Fluorite Frenzy



*Sam's usual position
Upper benches*

We started off in the upper part of the open cut on the benches where Chris was a little concerned about the number of prospectors and the nearness of a very long drop to the bottom.



After convincing the party to move down to the bottom of the pit the first large Fluorite crystal was found which sparked a vigorous frenzy of picking, poking prodding and prising. Lunch was completely ignored by the majority of the party as fluorite after fluorite was released from Bischoff's tight grip.



Sam ordering us off his patch?

Even Marnie suffered for her excess! "I have 4 bandaged fingers, the result of digging in mud looking for fluorites" She was rewarded for her efforts by finding some



brilliant specimens.

Marnie with some good finds

Peter Willems said
"How great Bluestone mines were to us,

giving up their time to take us in and go pretty much where we wanted to within the mine” . (*Peter was charged excess luggage on the trip home.*)

We later found some rarer minerals including morinite, sellaite, beryl, topaz and (?) bertrandite in our finds.



Peter Picking



Thanks again to Chris and Bluestones Mines for their continued support of the Mineralogical society and all mineral collectors.

Brett was happy with his great pocket of fluorites



Bobbing for Fluorites



Fluorite on magnesite

Day 3- Sunday 25th RED LEAD!

What a great day. More people have probably been in outer space than have been underground in the Red Lead mine!

The gossan of the Red Lead Mine was discovered in 1890 and the mine that was established in the next couple of years was probably the first recorded occurrence of crocoite in the Dundas district (it was found near Heazlewood some years earlier)..



Shane the tour guide

Shane purchased the mine in 1986, and has worked it since for crocoite, initially continuing with the open cut, and more recently with the plan of opening up the lodes below surface to reduce environmental impact and to access potentially rich areas too deep for open cut mining.



Ron seeking the seam



The sky's the limit?

Shane showed us the best spots to dig for crocoites and the crew set about the task of revealing the beautiful orange mineral with great vigor. After collecting on the surface for an hour or so Shane took a few of us down to explore the old adits.



Michael and Ralph underground in the old adits



Ron Gregory said “For me the weekend was historical as there were people all around me bashing rocks all day & I did not feel out of place at all!”

Thanks to all who made the weekend so memorable!



Red Lead crocoite found on the day