

Mineralogica Tasmanica



**THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER
NO. 76, FEBRUARY 2011**

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All correspondence to: **P.O. Box 1111, Rosny Park, Tas., 7018**

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.*

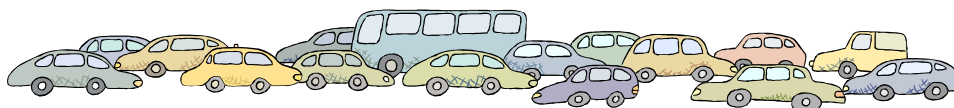


*“Watermelon” Elbaite, Penneshaw, Kangaroo Island, South Australia.
Sue Bottrill specimen About 8mm diam..*

FLOODS

We do hope all Min Soc members (and friends and families) have weathered the storms and floods with little loss. Perhaps there will be some compensation with a few gems, gold etc. getting washed out?

PROGRAM / EVENTS



MST PROGRAM 2011

February 11	Meeting: Mexican caves/quiz night
February	Field Trip: Arizona (contact Ralph)
February 19	Trip: Weld River (Huon)
March 11	Meeting: Mike Jagoe – minerals of Ontario
March 12-14	Field Trip WC?
March 18-20	Hobart Exhibition
March 25-27	Latrobe Gem & Mineral show
April 8	Meeting: Ross Large: Witwatersrand gold fields
April	Field Trip?
May 13	Meeting: Dave Duncan - Zeehan
June 10-13	Mineralogical Symposium, VIC
June 17	Meeting: Ralph – Gold Fever II
July 8	Meeting: Auction/quiz night & AGM
August 12	Meeting: Ambros Kissling - Sweet Home mine
September 9	Meeting: Ralph - Tucson talk
September	Field Trip? Bridgewater
October 14	Meeting: TBA
October	Field Trip? NW
November 11	Meeting: TBA
November	Field Trip TBA
December ?	Xmas Function TBA

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 27nd November we held our Christmas function, combined with our 20th anniversary, a great night (see below).



MST 20TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND CHRISTMAS PARTY.

M. Pope

This was held on the evening of Saturday 27th November 2010 at Brookfield Vineyard at Margate. The venue had a lovely setting amongst the vines with outdoor seating and beautiful views along with a brilliant sunset, the mood was set for a fantastic evening. Alas, mother nature intervened with a rainy afternoon and evening, but undaunted we settled into the cosy interior room with enjoyable background music. Twenty one people attended including our Patron (Prof) Ross Large and his wife Marley.

El-presidento Ralph gave a short entertaining speech on the formation of the society twenty years ago when founding members thought it a good idea for those friends who were interested in minerals to form a Tasmanian Mineral Society.

An enjoyable 3 course meal proceeded a mineral quiz with undefined parameters by quiz master Graham Rowbottom. About 25 mineral specimens that were up for auction were passed along for perusal, before spirited bidding started by auctioneer Graham, aided by Ralph. Some specimens went for a bargain, while others were eagerly fought over, one member so intent on getting the specimen he repeatedly bid against himself. Commission on sold and donated minerals raised \$43.60 on the night.

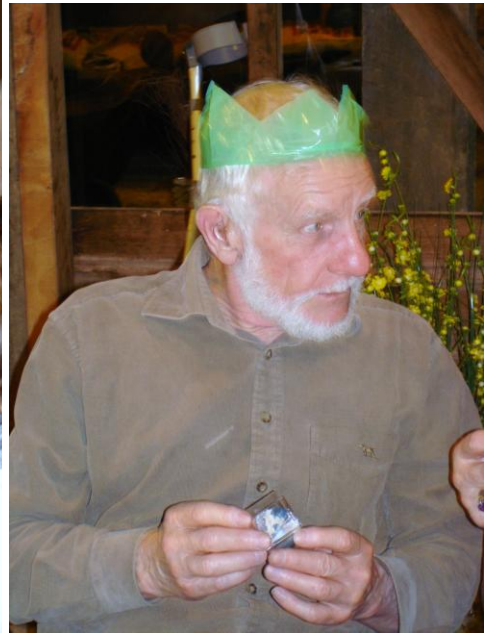
Thanks to all members and partners who attended for making this special event an evening to remember.



More Christmas dinner photos.

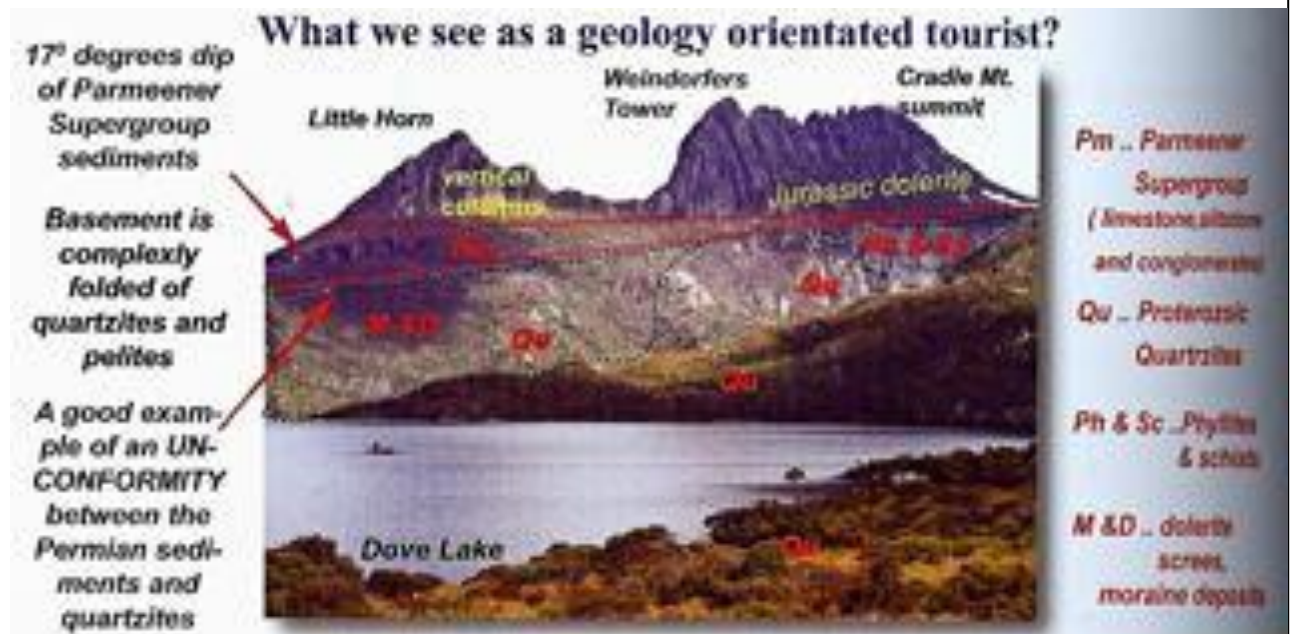
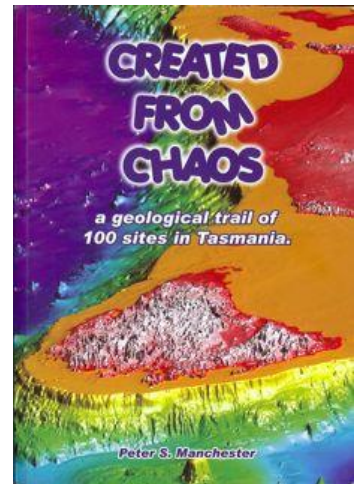


“What do you mean you donated some of my favourite specimens to the auction!”
“Well, you seemed to have plenty more!”



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 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). its formation.



MST LIBRARY

Interesting articles in journals recently received include:

Minerals (Newspaper for mineral collectors)

1: Adelaide mine; Gold; e

Broken Hill Mineral Club

11(2) : Ilmenite, Zircon; Websites

Mineralogical Society of Vic Newsletter

Dec '10: Limestone Ck mine, Victoria

NW Tas Min Club

(Jan 2011): Field trip programme

MICRONEWS (Canada)

45 (1) Microfossils, packaging



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). .

The Mineralogical Society of WA is planning to host the 2012 Joint Societies seminar in Perth, Western Australia. The seminar theme will be around Rare Earth Minerals (REM). We are inviting your comments, feedback and expressions of interest.

Regards,
Sue Koepke minsocwa@hotmail.com
Secretary/Treasurer
Mineralogical Society of WA Inc.

Thumbnail Boxes

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

From \$1.80 each, with quantity discounts.

Size (Metric): 38mm x 38 mm x 32 mm

Base Size: 38mm x 38 mm x 1



T.L.M.A. NEWS AND FIELD TRIPS 2011

Tasmanian Lapidary & Mineral Association Inc.



The last meeting was held in Zeehan on 6/9/2010. The next meeting will be held in Latrobe on 27/3/2011. A list of trips has been compiled for 2011 (see below).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Information</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Leader</u>
February 6 th Sunday	Deloraine	Fossils. Pick & bucket.	L.C.N.T.	Gavin Linger 63 678143
February 27 th Sunday	Campbell Town	Market.	L.C.N.T.	Gavin Linger 63 678143
March 19 th - 20 th	Hobart	Gem Show	L.C.T. Inc Hobart	Rod Hewer 62 487669
March 26 th -27 th	Latrobe	Devonport/Burnie Gem Show	D.L.C.	Neil Newman 64 270492
April 17 th Sunday	Milton	Wood & Agate Pick & Shovel	L.C.T. Inc. Hobart	Kurt Aheimer 62 491408
* April 22-25 th	Bathurst. NSW.	GEMBOREE		
May 14 th -15 th	Gladstone	Quartz Pick & Shovel	L.C.N.T.	J. Ames-Smith 63 442092
June 12 th Sunday	TBA	Information Day	BG&MC	Nigel Burch 64 346264 0416195316
July 10 th Sunday	Calder Penguin	Agate & Jasper Pick & Shovel	D.L.C.	Neil Newman 64 270492
August 21 st Sunday	Flowery Gully	Calcite, Pick & Shovel	NWTMC	Sam Caberica 64 254340
September 18 th Sunday	Little Swanport	Agates & Wood Pick & Shovel	MinSoc Tas	Barry Pope 62 442023
October 16 th Sunday	Milton	Wood & Agate Pick & Shovel	L.C.T. Inc Hobart	Pam Sawyer 62 633237
November 5 th -6 th	Zeehan	Gem & Mineral Show		Kim Dunstan 64 716553
November 20 th	Lune River	Agate, Wood, Fern Pick & Shovel, Probe	L.C.T. Inc Hobart	Rod Hewer 62 487669
December 3 rd Saturday	Campbell Town	TLMA BBQ Swap Meet	TLMA	Gavin Linger 63 678143

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.

Note: Safety Gear = Hard Hat, Safety Glasses, High Visibility Vest, Steel Cap Boots.

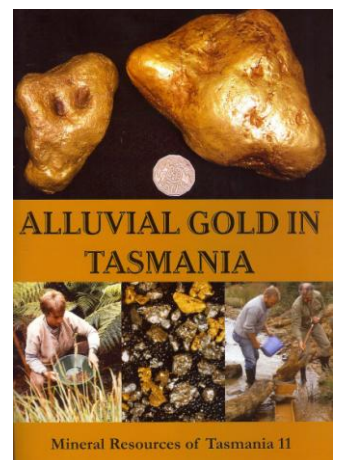
Australian Journal Of Mineralogy

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).



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).



ANZ Mineral Collector magazine

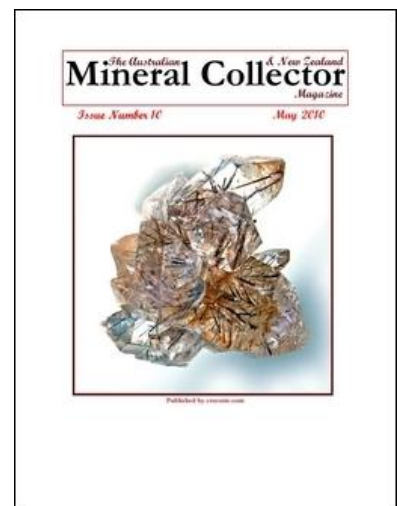
Issue 10 contains articles on:

- 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.



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 Showground, 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.



For further information:
Ph. Rosemary Aheimer
(03) 6249 1408



THE LATROBE GEM & MINERAL FAIR

Organised by Devonport Lapidary Club

This event will be held at the Latrobe Memorial Hall in Gilbert St (next to the Council Chambers) in Latrobe from 9am to 4pm

Saturday and Sunday March 26-27 2011.

There will be trade tables, gem, crystal and mineral displays and working demonstrations of gem faceting and rock polishing and activities for kids. Free tables will be provided to the Tasmanian gem and mineral clubs for sale and display.

Entry is \$2 per adult, and children under 18 are free.

For further information:

Neil Newman nnewman@internode.on.net ph: 03 6427 0492
And Nigel Burch nigelfburch@yahoo.com.au mob: 0416 195 316

A Catalogue of the Minerals of Tasmania

by R S Bottrill and W E Baker

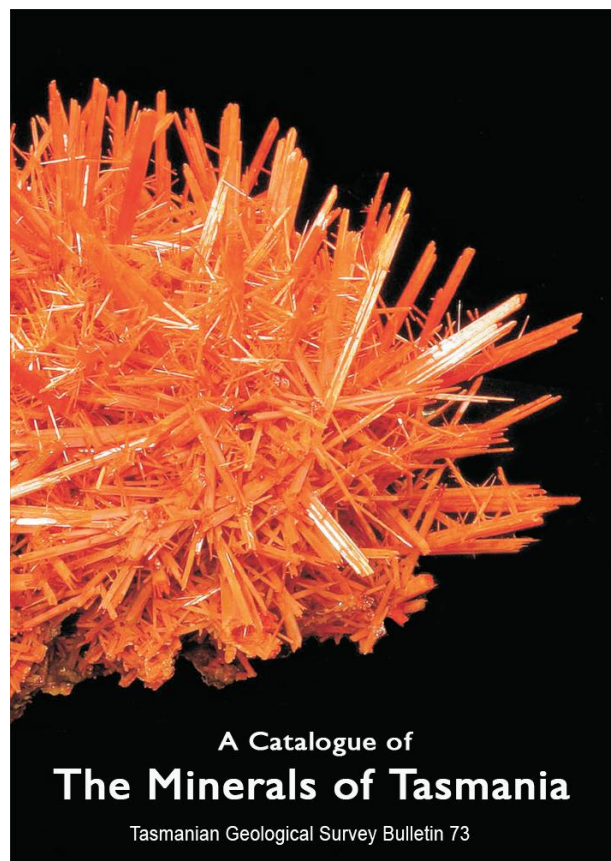
Catalogues of the minerals found in Tasmania have been kept since almost the earliest days of mining and have been of invaluable assistance to prospectors, mineral explorers, mineralogists and collectors. The catalogue was first published by the Tasmania Department of Mines in 1910, and was extensively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

JOINT SEMINAR 2010 – POST SEMINAR FIELD TRIPS, PT 2

Steve Dobos

(with thanks to Steve and the Min Soc of Qld for permission)

(Continued from No. 75)

Picking up from the last newsletter, we had decided, in view of the numerous things we wanted to accomplish at Broken Hill, to extend our stay by a day, and depart for home on Tuesday the 20th of June. Previously, Trevor Dart had supplied me with a list of names and contacts, for collections to visit, and on Sunday night, I made final arrangements for Monday the 21st. (As previously mentioned, Judy and Tony headed off on Monday morning, for a longer trip home, with unexpected *free excitement*).

So, Monday morning saw Allan Hart, Barbara & Bob Kuchel, Sue & Phil Ericksson, Erroll Hagelstein, Russell Kanowski and Sue Wearden - *the Gang of Nine* - meet at White's Mineral Art Gallery & Living Mining Museum. (Donna and Lois had gone off to do their own thing). Our host Kevin White was quite a character, with much personal history, having been a miner in Broken Hill. The gallery re-creates the atmosphere of the underground, with sections of ceilings and walls sprayed with crushed ore, still sparkly after all these years. He made us welcome, and we sat and watched early film footage of Broken Hill and mining, imparting a sense of long history, at times contentious with strikes.

We then toured the galleries, piqued by 'paintings' made with crushed ore - the art aficionados would scoff - but they were interesting. Also on display was mining equipment as used underground, equally interesting. There were souvenirs for purchase, and for once, not everything was made in China. Moreover, there were lots of generally low end mineral specimens, and we were treated to a view of Barbara getting all excited over gypsum specimens. Several of us did in fact buy specimens. We could have stayed much longer, and were in fact told that we could come again later, free of charge, but we had to move on to keep our second appointment.

We assembled at the home of Ross Clark, whom we had met earlier on our field trips. Ross had his collection to view, and much material to sell, as he was preparing to move to the North coast of NSW. Ross made us very welcome, with tea, coffee and cake. Ross was extremely accommodating, having put out many boxes of specimens on the back deck for viewing, photography and selling...and we had a ball doing just that, in perfect weather! There was an abundance of high quality specimens from Broken Hill and environs, as well as from further afield, and those for sale were all at very reasonable prices.

If I remember correctly, Barbara was immediately drawn to gypsum specimens, literally quivering with delight, and emitting appropriate vocalizations. I was busy ferreting out Triple Chance and other beryls to buy, and very satisfied I was. Allan Hart appeared to be in heaven, not knowing which way to turn, what to photograph and what to buy. I must mention that Allan's hand-held scintillometer is now on our GCBF wish list, and said device was used to demonstrate that indeed davidite should not be kept in pockets. Several tasty rhodonites, davidites, cerussites, along with much much else, were purchased by the gang, enlarging and enriching our collections, focusing on Broken Hill material that is now hard to come by. It was also highly enjoyable and informative to discuss with Ross the provenance and features of many specimens, the likes of which

most of us had not seen. A fantastic morning ... we didn't want to leave. Many thanks Ross, from all of the gang!



At Ross Clark's: Ross's treasures - Allan Hart photo; rhodonite (and we were to see quite a few this day) - Russell Kanowski photo; parallel growth quartz (but not twinned) Olary province, some 17cm tall - Steve Dobos photo; gypsum - Bob Kuchel photo.

We broke for independent visits to the Geocentre, the Railway Mineral and Train Museum, last minute shopping, and lunch. A smaller group visited the Railway Mineral and Train Museum first whilst other went to the Geocentre. There was much of historical value at the Railway Mineral and Train Museum, including the buildings themselves; incredible heritage value, but we did not have much time, and could not do the museum justice. The principal attraction was of course Tess Alfonzi's mineral collection, now housed here. (Tess and Dominic Alfonzi opened and then operated the Triple Chance mine for many years). Her collection here was somewhat neglected, covered by a thin sheen of dust (from last year's dust storm, see newsletter v57, Oct 2009). That in itself did not detract, but what made me somewhat dejected was that the display appeared to be missing some of the more spectacular beryl crystals that I still remember from the original collection. [I had viewed the original collection at Triple Chance in 1969, at Tess's invitation, and I had spoken to Dominic Alfonzi prior to our trip (he now lives at White Cliffs), and so my memory is not playing tricks].



This beryl intergrowth at the Railway Mineral and Train Museum may have deep spiritual significance, and perhaps is even indicative of what the 'gummint' is trying to do to us. It has no particular crystallographic significance, as beryl does not twin; larger prism is some 9cm long - Seve Dobos photo.

On to the Geocentre, but again, just for a lightning visit. A small number of generally spectacular Broken Hill minerals, some quite large - very well displayed and lit, with informative labels. A quick look at the 'Silver Tree' epergne, one of the display centerpieces (again, see newsletter v57). We could have spent hours there, and will, next time at Broken Hill.

Next on our list was the collection of Milton Lavers; we were expected, and Milton was charming. He led us through a shed in his back yard, with a twinkle in his eyes, past tablefuls of generally fifth rate specimens, and mineral 'junk' ... we were not impressed. Milton opened his display, and then we were! And how! Milton's collection is the fruit of a lifetime's labour-of-love, featuring numerous superb specimens collected or acquired by Milton, some dating back many decades, and even pre-dating Milton. Whilst several specimens from the general area were on display, the bulk of the collection comprises the minerals from the Broken Hill line-of-lode, especially species from the extensive oxidized zones.

To my mind, several factors contribute to the repeated re-definitions of 'wow-factor' that this display exuded. Firstly, many of Milton's specimens were simply world class in their own right, and many many more were best-of-type for Broken Hill. You name it, Milton had it, in spades. After a while, it almost became too much - where do you turn, and what do you look at, in the presence of such quality, such rarity and such beauty? Milton was kind enough to remove the glass panels on many of his cabinets, to allow us to take close-up photos (and without reflections). I myself was torn between taking numerous photos, and simply sitting and admiring the mineral beauty around me - after a little while, I chose

the latter, and gave up on the photos. I freely confess that for once, I lost my infatuation with pegmatite minerals, and as for Milton's beryls ... well, I don't even remember if he had any. We seemed to be wrapped in our own little worlds, even then not knowing what we liked best.



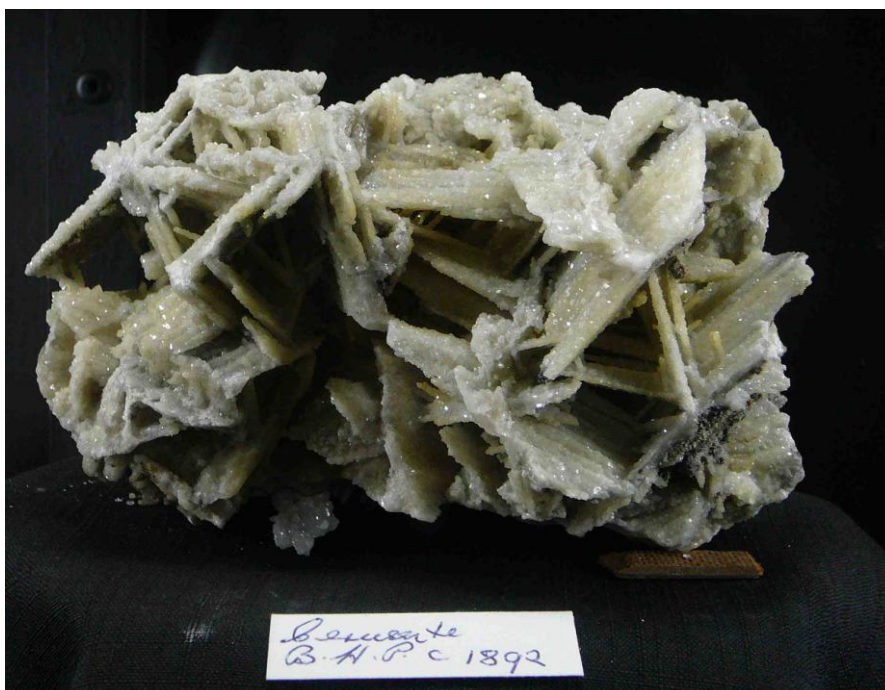
Milton's collection: Bob Kuchel, trying to deciding what to photograph, but awed by the display - Allan Hart photo; a sample of one of the many display cabinets, made even more stunning by the dark room and good lighting - Russell Kanowski photo.

Milton was a font of knowledge, with a story or history for each specimen. Even though several of us had seen the collection some time ago, you could never get enough time for all of it to soak in. The few photos here simply do not do the collection justice. What more can I say? *Mineralia Stupenda!* Words will never do Milton's collection justice, so if ever you get a chance, you must go and see it. Again, we ran out of time. Milton, from all of the gang, many thanks. You have invited us back, and if any of us are at The Hill, we *will* take up your invitation.



More of Milton's collection: Another part of a stunning cabinet, native copper as it's rarely seen.

As an aside, earlier on this day, Trevor Dart was interviewed live on ABC radio, about the concept of a permanent mineral collection to be set up and displayed in Broken Hill, to preserve *The Hill's* mineral heritage. They would even like to claw back some key specimens on exhibit in museums, or in private collections, elsewhere in Australia. Trevor and members of the Broken Hill Mineral Club want this dearly, and though it will take considerable time and effort, I have no doubt that we will see action on this front. Their first target, not surprisingly, is Milton's collection. I am happy to relay that since our visit, Milton has indicated that he does not want his collection to leave Broken Hill. Go BHMC!



Clockwise from top left, johannsenite (probably in solid solution with hedenbergite), pyrosmalite. Left; cerussite - but note the date! Russell Kanowski photos.

Below: one of Milton's smaller cerussites - Russell Kanowski photo.



Part of one of John O'Dwyer's cerussite shelves below



Next on our list was the collection of John O'Dwyer. Some of us had introduced ourselves to Johnno last May at Lismore, where he was tailgating. Of course we were made welcome. Johnno's specimens were top-shelf-top-end, very well displayed and lit, and fortunately, there were not nearly as many on display as in Milton's collection. It was much easier to focus in on our individual favourites, to stand there and quietly drool. (I suspect there was a mop nearby, to be used once we departed). How can I describe this display? Fabulous!

John O'Dwyer carbonates below - Russell Kanowski photos.



I decided to forego my usual dietary habits for a while to 'free up' some funds, and purchased a very cute hedenbergite, while the rest of the gang took photos, and marveled at the specimens. Barbara, I think, was fraught with indecision over a large but delicate gypsum cluster. In the end, she didn't buy it, and Bob may have had something to do with that. By the way, Johnno has a website,

www.odwyerminerals.com, and you can view many more of his superb minerals there. Thanks again John for the opportunity to view your display - we hope to see you in Lismore in 2011.

Night was falling, but we had one more stop to make. We were greeted by Bernard and Marjorie Williams at B.M.W. Minerals - nothing to do with *Bayerische Motoren Werke AG!* We were made welcome, both Bernie and Marjorie being very friendly and open - MYO tea and coffee to boot. Most minerals on display were for sale, at very reasonable prices, mainly sourced from all over Australia, but with a hit on Broken Hill and environs. Again, we indulged - there were in fact some choice little specimens for sale - and I think we were all satisfied with the proceedings, judging from the satisfied grunting noises that seemed to permeate the night air. I certainly was.

We did not have the opportunity to meet up with Frank Pace, nor to see his collection - he was working on this day. But perhaps it's just as well, we really did *none* of the collections justice in the one day, and one more collection would have been too much. To Allan, Barbara and Bob, we really enjoyed your company, and hope that you had an enjoyable time being part of the MinSocQ gang. See you in Melbourne next year!
