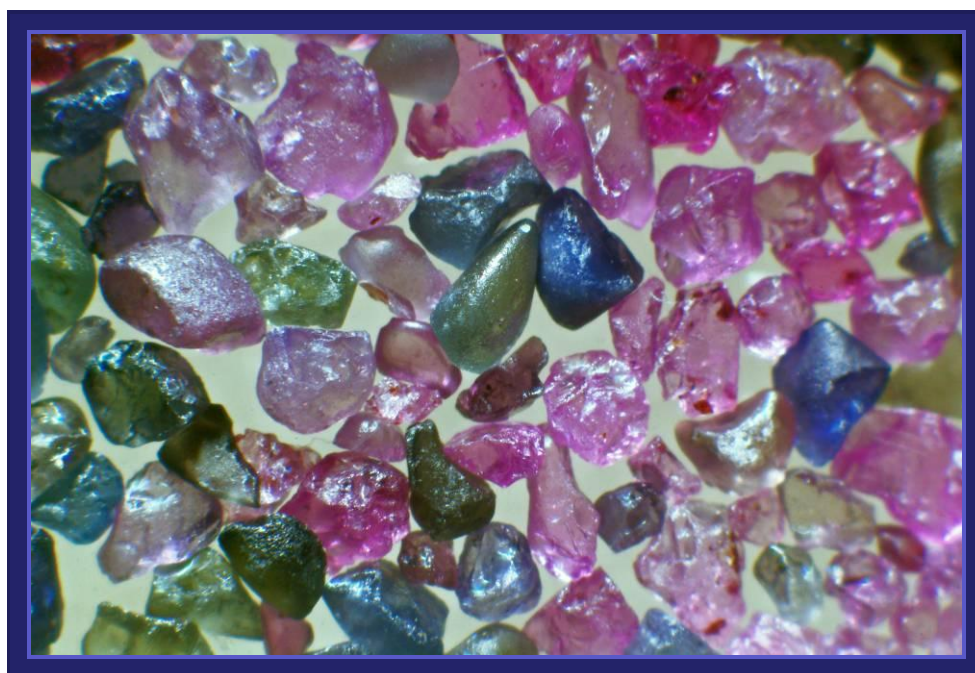




The Mineralogical Society of Victoria
Incorporated
A0001471E

Newsletter No. 210

April 2011



Corundum variety sapphire, Carapooee, Vic
12mm field of view

Print Post Approved PP332785/0015

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

Patron: Professor Ian Plimer FTSE, Hon FGS, FAIG, Hon SGA, BSc(Hons), PhD

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Vice President:	TBA	Special Projects:	Dermot Henry
Secretary:	Lia Bronstijn	Resources (incl Library):	TBA
Treasurer:	John Bosworth	Publicity	TBA
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Newsletter: Editor & Layout: Michael Hirst
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Contact Numbers: Excursions	Micro-mineral Group	Mineral Appreciation Group
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Membership Details:

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

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

Applications for membership can be obtained by writing to:-

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

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

Visitors are most welcome.

Newsletter of the Mineralogical Society of Victoria
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FORWARD DIARY

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

- Apr 10 Micro Group Meeting – Venue: Volker Hoppe’s home. Topic: Minerals containing uranium
- Apr 11 General Meeting: Speaker – Dr David Vince.
Topic: Mineralogical Adventures in China – Part 2
- Apr 17 Mineral Appreciation Group – Nunawading Lapidary Club, Silver Grove, Nunawading
Topic: Baryte
- May 9 General Meeting: Speaker – To be advised. Topic: To be advised
- May 15 Mineral Appreciation Group – Nunawading Lapidary Club, Silver Grove, Nunawading
Topic: Discredited mineral names and species
- May 29 Micro Group Meeting – Venue: George and Muriel Lysiuk’s home.
Topic: Minerals named after German personalities and/or locations
- June NOTE – There will be no General Meeting in June due to the Joint Societies Seminar being held over the previous weekend.
- June 19 Mineral Appreciation Group – Nunawading Lapidary Club, Silver Grove, Nunawading
Topic: “The Battle of Agincourt” – Minerals named after British OR French persons. (Choose your side!)
- June 26 Micro Group Meeting – Venue to be advised. Topic: To be advised.

MINERAL RELATED EVENTS

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

NEXT ISSUE

PLEASE NOTE:- Material for the June Newsletter to be with Michael Hirst by **May 18th**.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Reaching April reminds us that it is only two months to go until the Annual Seminar and that as Victoria is the host for 2011, there is still a fair bit to be done. By now everyone should have received a copy of the registration flyer, but if you are missing yours please speak to a committee member. Otherwise, if you have access to the internet, information about the Seminar and a copy of the registration form can be found on the Society website and at the Australian Mineral Collector website at:



<http://www.mineral.org.au/seminar/seminar11.htm>

As noted below, the sale of minerals donated by Ian Strachan continues and we will be bringing a few different boxes along to the General Meeting each month. The purpose of the sale is to raise money for the Museum Fund and thereby aid the Museum to purchase specimens for their collection – including a recent (and quite spectacular) mass of dravite (tourmaline) crystals on schist matrix from Yinnietharra Station in WA.

We welcome two new members to the Society so far this year and are delighted to be able to add Carol Kerslake and Gwynneth Phillips to our ranks. Welcome ladies, and we promise not to roster you in for a Short Talk just yet!

Alex Blount
President

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

SHORT TALKS

Below is the roster for member's Short Talks at the monthly General Meetings for the first half of 2011 and beyond. Remember that the talks only need to run for around 5 minutes or so (10 minutes maximum please) and can cover any topic of a 'mineralogical' nature. The "warning bell" will be appearing this year!

As we have had a few talks postponed and shuffled around, rather than keep moving everyone down the list, we will now put any missed speakers into the next available meeting (i.e. after the current schedule speakers).

Talks do not have to be technical – in fact some of the best subject material can be your own specimens, experiences and opinions on the world of minerals.

DATE	SPEAKER
Mon 11 April	Steve Sorrell
Mon 9 May	Bob Kuchel
Mon 13 June	No Meeting (Seminar)
Mon 11 July	Annual General Meeting
Mon 8 August	Peter Hall
Mon 12 September	Volker Hoppe

EXCURSIONS

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



MUSEUM FUND

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

PUBLICITY

Micro Group Report

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



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

Mineral Appreciation Group Report

Returning to part of our very first topic, in February the group looked at calcite and the many and varied crystal forms that this mineral appears in. A number of good references were available covering calcite, including *The Mineralogical Record* Vol 24 Nov-Dec 1993, *ExtraLapis English* Volume 4 (2003), and *Kristalle und ihre Formen* by Erich Offermann. We learnt that early ideas about crystal formation developed from a historical accident, where Abbé René-Just Haüy is said to have dropped a calcite specimen and discovered it broken into smaller and smaller rhombs along its cleavage planes. Thus beginning the ideas of crystal growth, unit cells and future studies of theories of mineral formation.

Over 800 crystal forms of calcite have been described, with the most common forms being rhombohedrons, and 4 different twin laws have been noted.

Of the wide array of specimens presented at the meeting, we saw the well-known-but-still-rare-and-valuable golden scalenohedral crystals from the Elmwood Mine in Tennessee; flat tabular pale-pink 'manganian' calcite from Dal'negorsk in Russia; and pale double-terminated crystals from the N'Chwaning Mine in South Africa.

PHOTO: Calcite scalenohedron from the Elmwood Mine, Tennessee, USA.



The former Bundoora quarry provided 'ferroan' calcite as balls and larger clear crystals; Portland Harbour Trust Quarry provided orange sprays of crystals; Mooralla, not generally known as a calcite locality, provided interesting calcite-coated quartz; and the Buchan area provided sprays of clear sharp crystals.

Interstate specimens making an appearance at the meeting included material from Renison Bell Mine and Beams Quarry (Flowery Gully) in Tasmania; distinct hexagonal crystals from the South Mine at Broken Hill; clear glassy crystals from Red Dome Mine in Queensland; and the typically lustrous specimens from the Cadjebut Mine in Western Australia.

And one of the many overseas examples included examples of hexagonal and pinacoid forms from St Andreasberg in Germany. Overall, informative meeting and a reminder that such a common and often overlooked mineral species still provides a lot of interest and room for future study.



PHOTO: Calcite, contact twins from Dal'negorsk, Russia.

The topic for March was the slightly unusual “Minerals named after Germans..”, which allowed a reasonable amount of interpretation. Did we include species named after German persons? Named after German localities? Named after German words? John Haupt provided an extremely useful listing – compiled from the internet – of species with some ‘German’ connection, for member to interpret as they wished.

Other aspects of the subject included such considerations as: should we include former mineral species, named after Germans, but later re-classified as other species? When exactly was Germany really Germany? For example, stolzite is named for the person who ‘drew attention’ to the mineral, Joseph Alexander Stolz who is listed as being from Teplitz in the modern-day Czech Republic. However, at different times in history, Teplitz has been considered to be within Bohemia, Austria-Hungary, Germany and Czechoslovakia. We also noted that many species, with German-sounding names, were in fact named after persons from other countries but with German heritage (and thus family name).

Examples of some of the interesting array of species presented included quartz – of uncertain name origin but possibly German; cobaltite – named for the kobold, a form of underground spirit or goblin; nickelskutterudite – the nickel portion taken from ‘kupfernickel’ (copper nickel).

‘Tiger’s Eye’ – which gains its distinctive appearance from riebeckite – named after Emil Riebeck a German explorer, ethnologist and mineralogist.

Okenite – was interestingly named for “Lorenz Ocken”, a German naturalist from Munich. The original name for the mineral was ockenite but was later shortened by removing the ‘c’. At first this appeared unusual, however it then noted that almost all references to the German naturalist provide his name as “Oken” and that he was still well-and-



truly alive at the time when the mineral name was changed. Thus it would appear that the original name for the species “ockenite” may have actually been an incorrect spelling that was subsequently corrected!

We also looked at specimens of glauberite, spessartine, goethite from Arkaroola, gmelinite from the Victorian Older Volcanics, hausmannite from the N’Chwaning Mine in South Africa and from the Harz Mountains in Germany.

Raspite from Broken Hill; philipsbornite from the Type Locality of the Red Lead Mine, Dundas, Tasmania; roselite and β -roselite; and stellerite from India and from Tambar Springs in NSW.

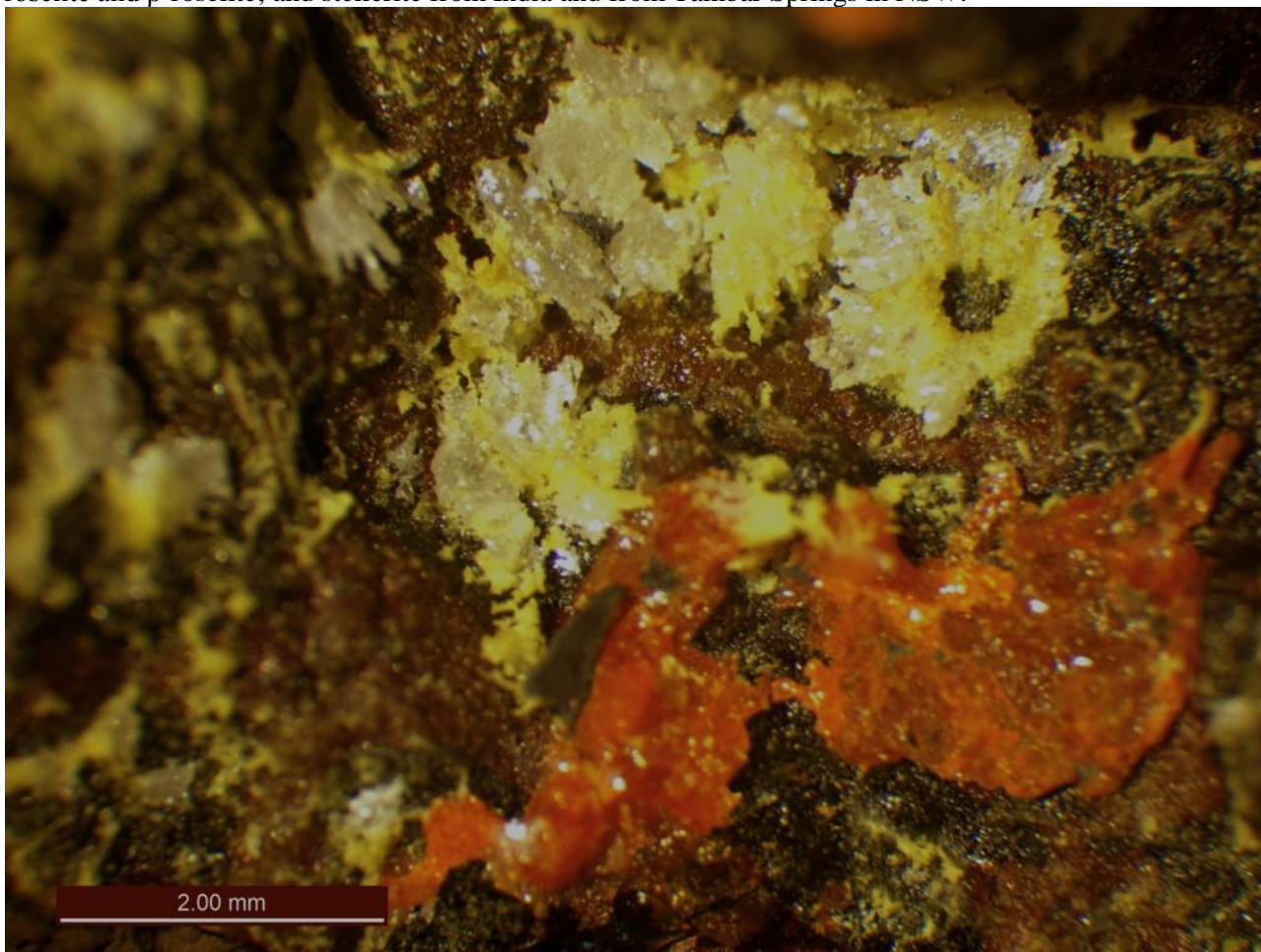


PHOTO: Philipsbornite (yellow) and crocoite from the Adelaide Mine, Tasmania. Photo is Copyright Ralph Bottrill 2006.

Lastly there were specimens of “wolframite”. Whilst no longer a defined mineral species, and with only a dubious ‘German’ heritage (‘wolf’ possibly being of German origin); both of the current end members of the old wolframite series, hubnerite and ferberite were named after a German metallurgist and a German mineralogist respectively. So even those of us who have a few specimens labeled as ‘wolframite’ could get away with bringing them along.

Members attending this group enjoy looking through their collection for specimens to bring along and to learn more about their characteristics and mode of occurrence. The group highly encourages more Society members come along to these meetings to see an every-changing variety of different minerals on display.

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

RESOURCES, NEW PUBLICATIONS & REFERENCES OF INTEREST

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

New journals, publications and newsletters received include:

The Mineralogical Record Jan-Feb 2011

Stolzite from the Sainte Lucie mine, Lozere, France (Pierre-Jacques Chiappero, Jacques Emile Dietrich, Jacques Galvier, Daniel Gol, Yves Merchadier, Eric Muller & Louis-Dominique Bayle)

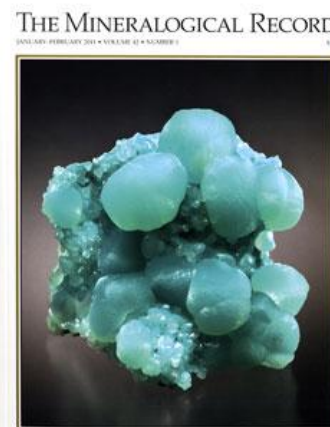
Collector Profile: Renato and Adriana Pagano (Wendell E. Wilson)

Denver Show 2010 (Thomas P. Moore)

Munich Show 2010 (Wendell E. Wilson)

The Mineralogical Record Supplement – Jan-Feb 2011

Private Mineral Collections in Italy



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

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

SOCIETY MICRO-MINERAL COLLECTIONS

Broken Hill Collection – Alex Blount

Iron Monarch Collection – Alex Blount

Victorian Collection – Alex Blount

Western Australia – Alex Blount **NEW!**

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

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

WANTED

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

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

THE MINSOC TRADING POST

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

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

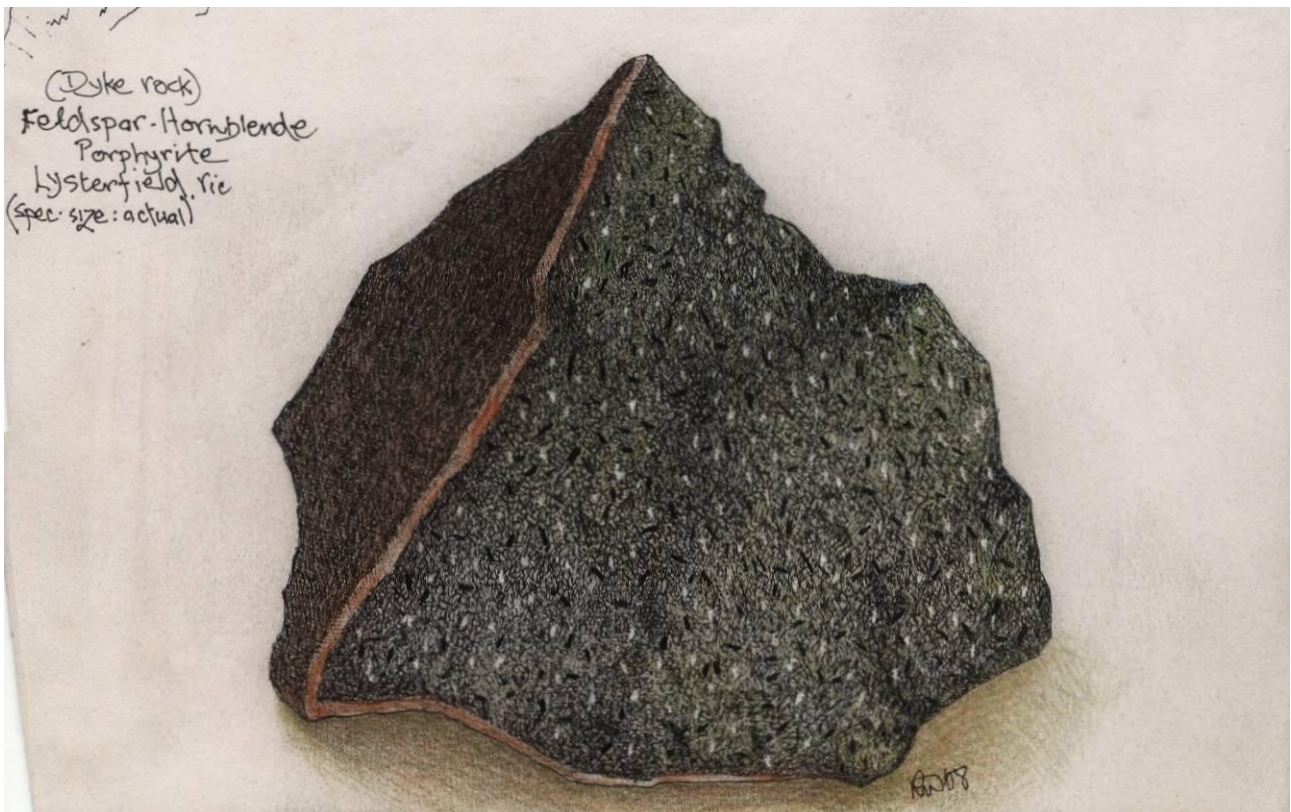
This is open to all – feel free to bring your minerals along.

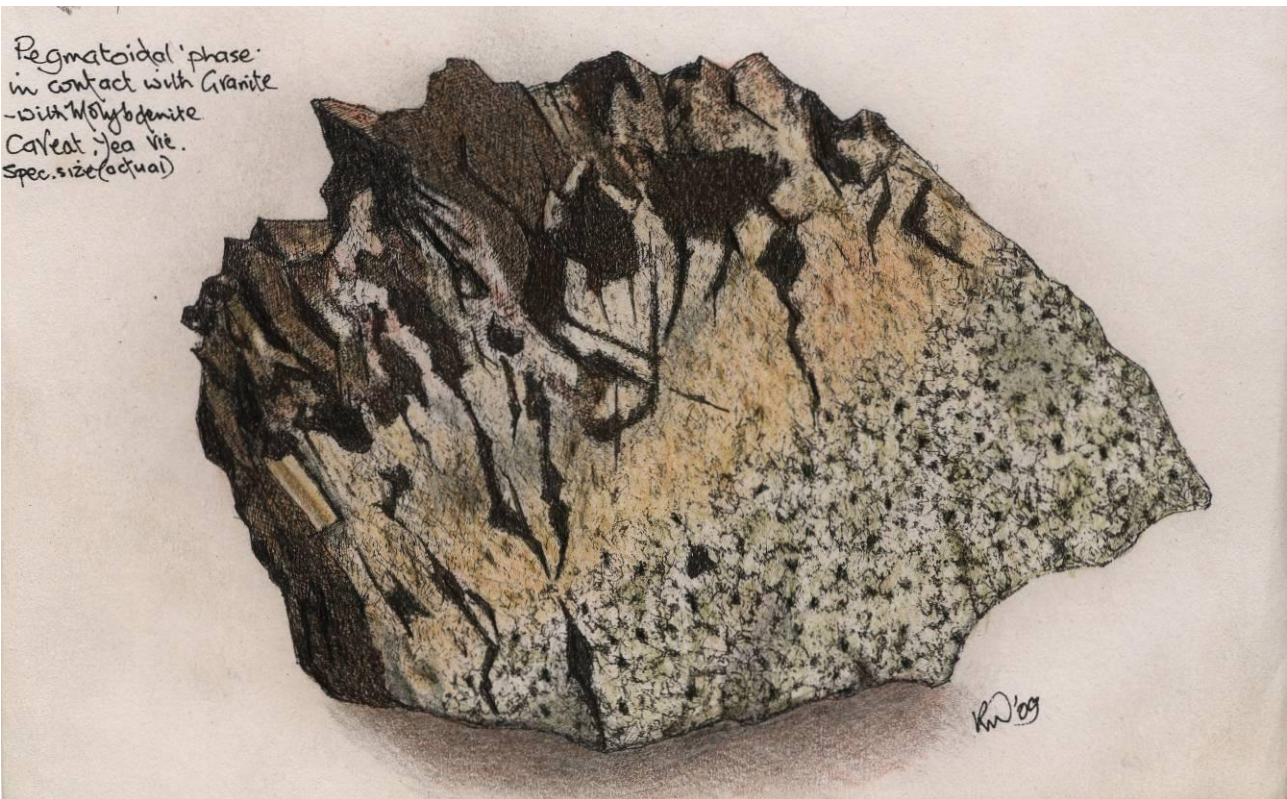
For Sale:

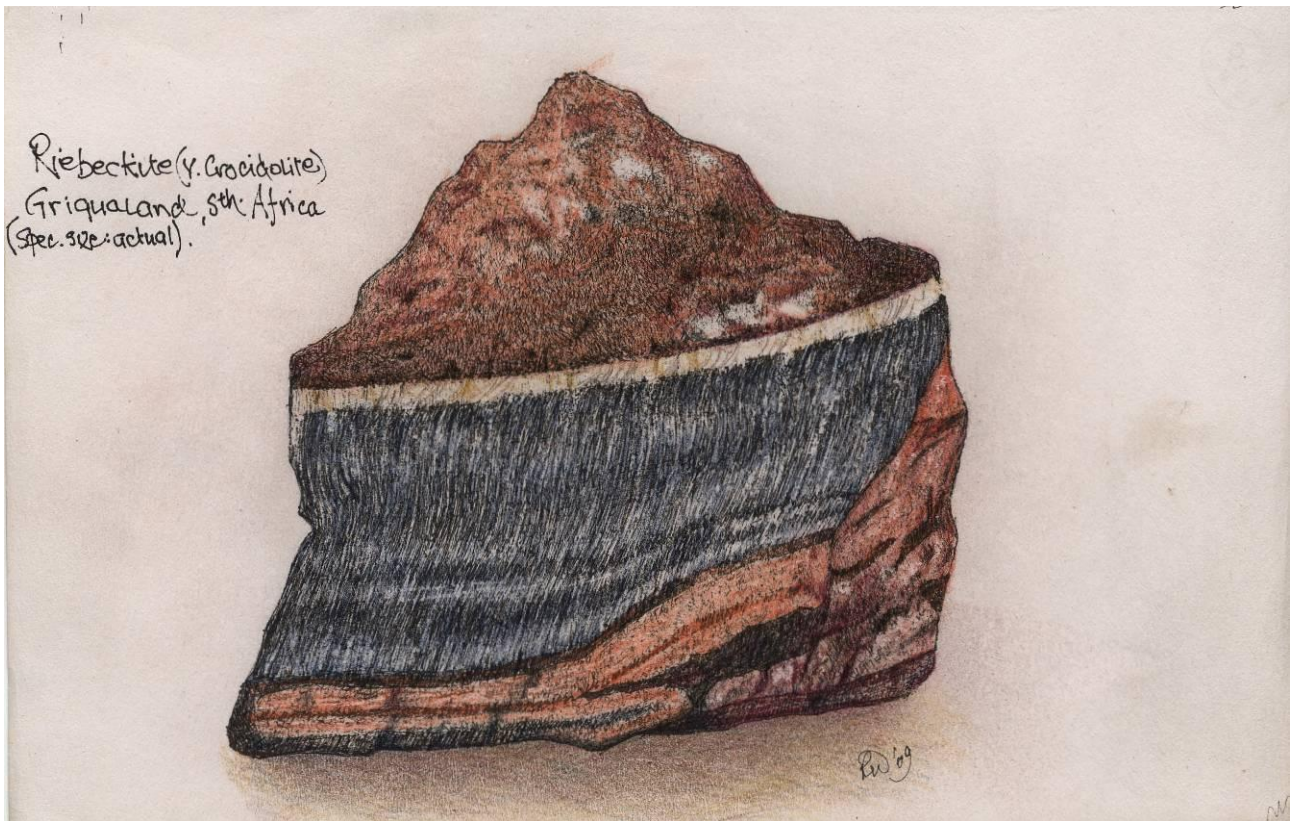
Umax Astra 1200S Scanner. Previously used on AJM. Operates with either PC or MAC (requires SCSI interface in computer and a 12 V plug pack).

Best offer

Contact John Haupt at john.haupt@bigpond.com or 9867 3059







Pencil and watercolour sketches
By Richard Wright ©

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

SOME MINES AND MINERALS OF EASTERN VICTORIA

Part 6

by John Haupt

Important note on the localities in this series of articles

Whilst I have visited many of the localities mentioned, they are mostly located in the mountainous region of Eastern Victoria. The area is remote, with few access roads suitable for normal vehicles. The 4WD tracks can be steep and rocky with washaways and fallen trees common. Some require long walks through the bush. Many of the sites are now within National or State Parks and some are covered by heritage overlays; others may be on private land. Anyone wishing to visit the area should obtain up to date large scale maps, current weather information and be prepared to encounter difficult conditions.

Wellington River Chromite Deposit

This deposit is located on Dolodrook River, a tributary of the Wellington River, approx 30 km east of Licola. It is located in a remote area near Lake Tali Karng - a popular bush walking area in Victoria (see Parks Victoria website). Lake Tali Karng is believed to have been formed about 1500 years ago when a massive rock slide collapsed into the valley damming the waters of Nigothoruk Creek and what is now known as the Wellington River. The water runs underground from the lake to emerge as the infant Wellington River some 150m below in the Valley of Destruction.

Part of the Mt Wellington Greenstone Belt, the Dolodrook inlier is an anticlinal structure with a core of serpentinitised ultramafic rocks surrounded by incomplete rings of successively younger rocks, ranging from Middle Cambrian to Silurian. They form a curved elongated belt about 5 km long trending northwest. (Crawford 2003).

The occurrence of chromite was known from the early 1900s, with some exploratory pits exposing lumps of massive chromite. Exploratory drilling and the excavation of costeans was undertaken in the 1960s, but no commercial mining eventuated. The chromite occurrence is located at the southern end of the inlier at the junction of Dolodrook River and Thiele Creek. Whilst massive, the chromite fractures and exhibits crystalline faces. Massive corundum also occurs within the inlier, with individual pieces recorded to be up to 3 cwt (150 kg). The corundum is an opaque mauve to purple colour. Common opal (hyalite) commonly coats fracture surfaces of the chromite and is of secondary origin.

References

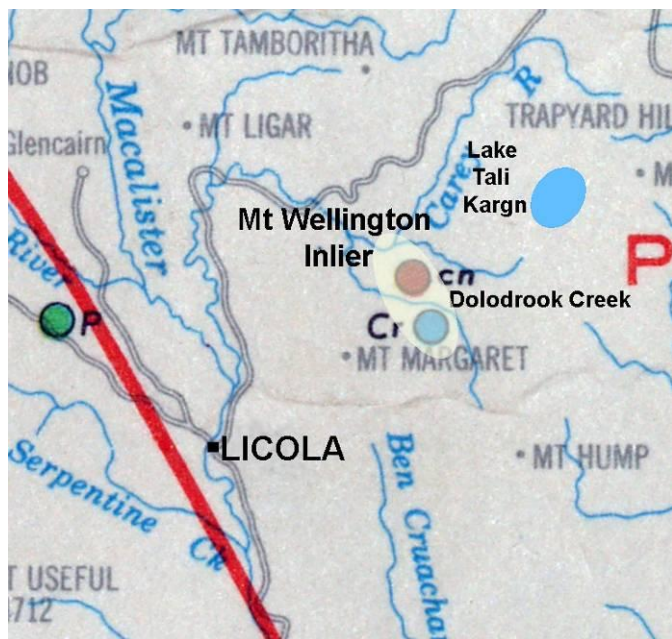
Crawford, A.J., et al, 2003: Part 3.4.1 Mount Wellington Greenstone Belt. In *Geology of Victoria* (W.D. Birch ed). *Special Publication 23 of the Geological Society of Australia*. 91-2.

.Dunn, E.J., 1909: The serpentine area, Wellington River, Gippsland. *Records of the Geological survey of Victoria*. 3(1), 65-68.

Jenkin, J., 1966: The Occurrence of Chromite in the Dolodrook River Area. Unpublished Exploration Licence Return.

Thiele, E.O., 1908: Notes on the Dolodrook Serpentine Area and the Mt Wellington Rhyolites, North Gippsland. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria*, 21, 249-267.

Web site: www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/resources05/05_0588.pdf



Left: Locality map. Cr is the chromite deposit, cn the corundum locality.

Below: View of the Dolodrook River flat with the chromite deposit.

Below: The chromite workings at Dolodrook River.

Photos taken in 1975 by J. Haupt.





**Drilling at the chromite deposit, c1960.
From the Photo Collection Earth Resources
Development Division, Dept. of Primary**



Above: Lake Tali Kargn. Photo: J. Haupt.

**Below: Chromite specimen, 7 cm across.
Photo: J. Haupt.
Specimen: Museum Victoria M42169.**





**Left: Crystalline chromite ore, 10mm field of view.
Photo: J. Haupt.
Specimen: Museum Victoria M42169.**

Below: Chromite specimen, with serpentinite (green) and hyalite (orange) coating the joint planes.

Specimen & Photo: J. Haupt.



Below: Mauve corundum specimen, 10 cm across.

Photo: J. Haupt.

Specimen: Museum Victoria M44223.

