

Mineralogica Tasmanica



**THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA INC
JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER
NO. 85, JUNE 2014**

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THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA INC.

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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.*

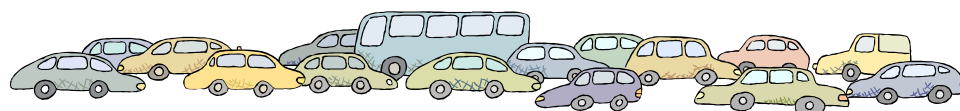


Flattened quartz group with abundant red hematite inclusions and a creamy dolomite; a faden-like floater.

Prince Lyell Mine, Mount Lyell Mines, Queenstown district, Tasmania, Australia

35 mm x 25 mm x 10 mm

PROGRAM / EVENTS



Date	Event
June 13	Meeting: Steven Barratt & John Newlands: Jane River
July 11	Meeting: Auction night and AGM
Aug 8	Meeting: Popes; Radium Hill
<i>Sept</i>	<i>TLMA meeting Launceston</i>
Sep 13	Meeting: Nic Jansen: portable mineral analysers?
Sep, ?	Trip: Rossarden ?
Oct 11	Meeting: Andrew McNeill: Mining in Tasmania
Oct.	Trip? NW?
Nov 8-9	<i>Zeehan Gem & Mineral show</i>
<i>Oct 28 - Nov-1</i>	<i>Mineral Symposium, NZ</i>
Nov/Dec	Christmas Function
<i>Dec 7th</i>	<i>TLMA meeting Launceston</i>

Possible topics for people to volunteer for: A member to give a short talk about a favourite collecting location, local or mainland or overseas, member to bring along specimens for us to look at, again ten minutes plus the monthly presentation. Members to give a short talk about a "buying" experience, if they got a good deal or were very disappointed with the purchase, would they do it again or not. Also bring along specimens to show us.

Italicized items are non-MST organised 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.

TLMA trips programs: see p. 4

T.L.M.A. News and Field Trips 2013

Tasmanian Lapidary & Mineral Association Inc.



(TRIPS MAY BE CHANGED, CHECK WITH TRIP LEADER)

DATE		LOCATION	For	Club	TRIP LEADER	CONTACT
Aug	17 th	Milton	Agate	LCT	P. Sawyer	62633237
Sept		Beaconsfield			Query	
Sept	6 th	TLMA AGM Launceston				
Oct						
Nov	8-9 th	Zeehan Fair		TLMA	K. Dunstan	
Nov	23 rd	Lune River	Fern/Agate/ Wood	LCT	R. Hewer	62487669
Dec	6 th	TLMA Mtg Launceston				

The trip leaders **MUST** be contacted with **2 days** prior to the trip.

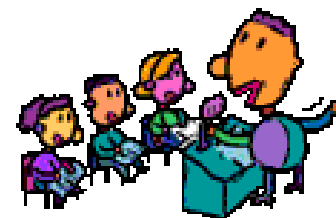
Please remember the **T.L.M.A. Code of Ethics** at all times.

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.

The last TLMA meeting was held in Ulverstone on June 7 The next TLMA meeting will be in Launceston in September. The Tasmanian Gemboree is still planned for 2016, and is still in need of volunteers, so please contact us if you can help?

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Recent MST affairs

On the 14th February, Graham Rowbottom spoke on: “West Coast related collection of Mining Certificates, Postcards and old Stamp related items”

On the March 14 Meeting Ralph Bottrill spoke on: The tin mines of Tasmania.

The 2014 Hobart and Devonport gem and mineral shows were held successfully in March and supported by MST members; they are illustrated on pages 13 & 14.

On April 6 we had a Field Trip led by John Newlands to the Maydena-Styx area; a report is in progress for the next newsletter.

On the April 11 Meeting Dave Duncan spoke on the Diamonds of India.

On the May 10 Meeting Ralph Bottrill spoke on: Geology of Gemstones in Tasmania.

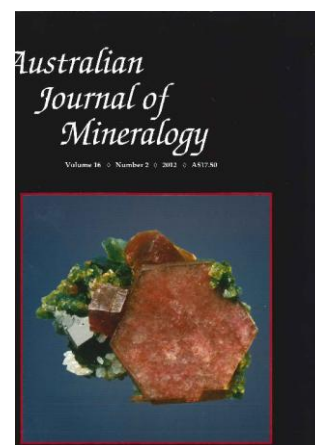
On May 17 we had a successful Field Trip to Boral Bridgewater: see p.19.

Australian Journal of Mineralogy

The latest issue of this great journal (16/2) is now out (see below). 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 (e.g. “What’s New”), advertising, suggestions can be directed through the editor Dermot Henry (dhenry@museum.vic.gov.au) or via 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).

AJM Volume 16(2):

- JH Dunstan Collection, SA Museum.
- Wittichenite Mt Gunson, SA.
- Zeolites: NSW, Vic.
- Ferrolaueite, USA.
- Woods mine, NSW.
- J O’Dwyer Collection.



MST Library

Interesting articles in journals recently received include:

Micronews (Canadian Newsletter)

Microscope (NZ)

Mineralogical Society of SA Newsletter

Mineralogical Society of Vic Newsletter

Mineralogical Society of SA Newsletter

Mineralogical Society of Vic Newsletter

Mineralogical Society of NSW Newsletter:

Mineralogical Society of Qld Newsletter

Mineralogical Society of WA Newsletter

Australia and New Zealand Micromineral News



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).

Australia and New Zealand Micromineral News

The fifth and sixth issues of the Australia and New Zealand Micromineral News are now available online. The link is [Australia_and_New_Zealand_Micromineral_News](#).

You can choose to read online or download.



#5: Microscope bases, Muldiva mines, Chillagoe, Qld., Annual Seminar and micromount meeting, Various shows

#6: Crystal surface features, Dookie, Hobart show, Gemboree, Ballarat show, Microphotography

Cygnet trip and Christmas function

The MST Xmas outing was held on **Saturday 30th November 2013** to the Cygnet area. After meeting the group at Cygnet, consisting of RSB, Popes (3), Jon & Trevor Tickner, Kim & Carrie Eagling, Diana Giblin, Sasha & 5 yr old daughter Alysha(?), Bishac & Lexie Polanski, we visited the Geological Trail features including various Sanidine Porphyry Dykes, and fossil beds near Wheatleys Bay/Poverty Point.



Poverty Point

Time was spent fossicked at Drip Beach for Black and White agates, and we were fortunate that the tide was fairly low and some nice specimens were found. A few members even panned for gold, with no success.



Drip beach

Later in the afternoon (5'ish) we headed to Mike Jagoe's residence for a BBQ. While the food was being cooked many of the members took advantage of the chance to look at Mike's great mineral



*Flow-banded syenite
with large sanidine*

display in the house. We were spoilt by Mike adding salads, homemade apple pies, and meringues to the table. Susie (Mike's dog) enjoyed Bruno's company even sharing her bone with him. It was a lovely outing with splendid weather.....many thanks Mike!

Marnie Pope.



*Drip Beach
agate
Collected
Marnie Pope,
Polished
Mathew
Latham,
Photograph
Mathew
Latham*

Australian rock garden

Moving Tasmania to Canberra in chunks!

The last several months have been a busy time at the National Rock Garden, beginning with the opening of the Federation Rocks display, by the ACT Chief Minister, in October last year. That opening was the very successful, and the culmination of many months work, despite the theft of one of the rocks, containing gold in quartz from Bendigo.

The Tasmanian contribution comprised two dolerite columns, organised, collected (at HBMI Leslie Vale quarry) and shipped under the direction of Ralph and described below.



Lin Sutherland standing on a relocated bit of Tasmania

Mount Wellington Dolerite

AGE: Middle Jurassic, 160-175 Ma

LOCATION: Leslie Vale, near Mt Wellington, south of Hobart,

FORMATION: The dolerite was injected as multiple dykes and thick sheets (sills) of magma into layers of late Carboniferous to Triassic sedimentary rocks of the Tasmania Basin, once covering most of the island. When the magma cooled and crystallised, regular vertical cracks propagated through the sills forming polygonal columns, which form an iconic “organ pipes” landscape above Hobart and many other mountain and coastal areas of the state. Altogether, these multiple intrusions comprise one of the world’s largest magma intrusions.

SIGNIFICANCE: Dolerite is unusually widespread in Tasmania, and is referred to as ‘the rock that made Tasmania’. The presence of these same dolerite sills in Antarctica and South Africa contributed to our understanding of the history and breakup of the Gondwana supercontinent, of which Australia was the easterly part.

Donated by the Government of Tasmania and HBMI/Hazell Bros Quarries





Trip to Northwest

Ralph Bottrill

In January we had a 3-day field trip in the Deloraine-Devonport-Moina-Wynyard-Penguin areas. Several of our club members ventured up to the northwest to meet some of our NW members for some fossicking. We visited the Long Hill dolerite quarry near Deloraine and the Franklin River area (barite and copper mines) on the way: slim pickings but some interesting finds still. The next day we looked at some spots near Moina and Coates Pit near Wilmot, where we found some good zeolites in basalt, plus apophyllite, Peridotite (olivine-rich) xenoliths and some strange smokey quartz xenoliths in Tertiary basalt!

Perhaps the most popular spot visited was the Doctors Rocks area, where we panned some gold and osmiridium on the beach, and had a look at the old Neptune silver mine, also on the beach.

On the way home I checked on the basalts in the canal at Liawenee, where I found some good chabazite, apophyllite and tacharanite. A great, varied trip, thanks to all!





Doctors rocks



Barite mine near Pt Sorell

Hobart Show

March 15-16, Photos by Michael Pope



Devonport Show

March 22-23 2014, Photos by Michael Pope,



A fun day in the Derwent Valley - 2014

On 23rd February, four members, plus two grandchildren, responded to Tony Joyce's invitation to spend '*a fun day in the Derwent Valley!*'

I must confess to having spent little time in New Norfolk in the past, as we have normally just been just passing through, en-route to other destinations. It was also our family's first visit to Lachlan, a picturesque valley of hobby farms and grassy paddocks. There is almost no trace of its past life as a centre for berry farms and hop fields.

What a magic day: balmy and still, with not a cloud in the sky. As we drove, eldest grandson, Lucian, kept an eye on the clock. On arrival Tony and Mary's house in Lachlan, we were informed that the journey had taken 1 hour and 4 minutes, which was much longer than my estimate of 45 minutes!

We were greeted by Tony and Mary and treated to morning tea and an inspection of Tony's 'in-house' specimens. (Tony implied that these were much depleted, as he had been transferring things to the rock shop, to clear out the house, in preparation for its possible, future sale.)

After morning tea, Tony led us to the nearby Myrtle Falls. This was an easy walk via road and bush track, with plenty of ripe blackberries to keep youngest grandson, Ellis' hunger at bay. The falls are a series of small waterfalls & rapids. Not spectacular, but well worth noting as a destination for a future family picnic.

The walk was followed by a relaxed lunch at the Patchwork Café. This venue is another well-kept New Norfolk secret, and is worth another visit. The cafe is centered in the old wooden chapel in the grounds of Willow Court, and has live music from 1:00 to 4:00 every Sunday. We spend a very pleasant hour,

or so, dining and chatting under the trees, whilst listening to a lively, 4-piece Traditional Jazz band.

Lucian was anxious to move on to the rock shop but, fortunately, there were enough old relics and nick-nacks strewn around the grounds to keep him occupied until the others had finished their desserts and coffees.

Finally, in the early afternoon, we departed for Tony's *Big Tas Rock Shop*. Room after room of minerals, rocks and fossils! We visited every one. At the end of the day, we all departed, well satisfied, clutching our little boxes of treasures.

Many thanks Tony and Mary for your welcoming hospitality and your patience.

This trip was an enjoyable addition to the Society's normal fare of digging dirt and breaking rocks.

Bob Beattie



Picture

1: Marnie Pope, Diana Giblin & Tony Joyce at the top of Myrtle Falls



Picture 2: Sue and Ellis Beattie, Myrtle Falls. Note the rock in Ellis' hand!



Picture 3: Lucian Beattie amongst the rapids, Myrtle Falls



Picture 4: Our relaxed lunch, under the trees.



Picture 5: My treasure: Pyrrhotite, with Siderite & Calcite, Renison Mine

Bridgewater Field Trip Report trip

Saturday 17th of May saw the annual Minsoc Field Trip to the Boral Quarry at Bridgewater.



Michael Febey, Mathew and Elizabeth Latham.

The weather was intermittent showers and gusty winds, when 15 eager rockhounds including Steve Sorrell meet at the Quarry gates around 9am. After filling out the safety inductions the Quarry manager escorted us down into the Quarry to the third bench, where there had been a recent shot from the southern wall, bringing down material from high above. After a few safety pointers we were let loose, sledge hammers in hand.

It wasn't long before vughs of cream and white banded spheres of Calcite were located in the boulders of Basalt, some Spheres being over 25cm across. Mike Febey located a productive boulder and after some lengthy work extracted some nice specimens. I managed to find a similar boulder that provided specimens of yellow and white Calcite, brown glossy Siderite, a single vugh of Calcite with 10mm white Barite crystals and a vugh of blue botryoidal Chalcedony around 65mm across— something rare at the site.

We toiled away through the showers until 11.45 when we headed up to the 2nd bench for a quick look, where we visited the zone of vughs that we collected from on previous trips. Nearby were basalt columns with crusts of fine Pyrite on them and in another spot pieces of grey/blue Opalite/chalcedony with agate like banding were found, which had fallen down from high in the face above. We headed out a bit after 12.30 pm.

The mineralized rock was by no means plentiful but I think all who attended found some good specimens.

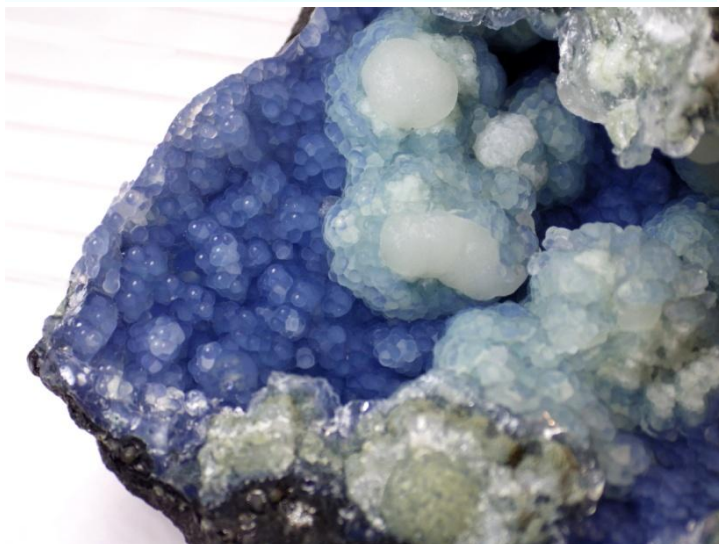
Mathew Latham



20mm calcite ball with Siderite



Calcite on Siderite ~45mm



Hyalite/chalcedony? FOV ~60mm

Beams Brothers

Quarry Field Trip

Report

June 8th 2014

After awaking to a cold and frosty morning we set off to meet up with the rest of the group at the Glengarry shop, the trip was organised by the Devonport Lapidary Club and 21 participants assembled from as far away as Hobart, Smithton, Sheffield and Devonport.



After signing in I led the convoy around to the main Quarry near Flowery Gully, to be met by Robin our “guide” for the day, again in convoy we drove up the muddy access road to the pit and after instructions from Robin began our fossicking.

The Quarry is Ordovician Limestone with various forms of Calcite crystals, Aragonite, some Pyrite and Galena with minor Cerussite sometimes being found. In the upper Quarry remnants of Cave formations are also found in the form of banded Travertine.

Most of the group were Lapidary enthusiasts and the rest being Minsoc members, 7 in all. It was a beautiful sunny day making the crystals really sparkle. There was plenty of rock to look at and in one particular pile brown “vuggy” rocks provided nice Bladed Calcite and minor Galena for all. There was much activity in extracting these and everyone had a good time finding nice specimens. I wandered over to the other side of the Quarry and found brown calcite crystals and one nice specimen of iridescent pyrite.



What was in that hole? - it sparked a lot of interest!

Around lunch time the Minsoc group headed up to the top pit for a look, again plenty of Calcite with some nice banded Travertine being added to the spoils, after lunch and with our time up we all headed home.

Elizabeth Latham



Photos by M Latham and M Pope

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11th July, 2014 @ 7:45pm

Notice is hereby given that the AGM of the MST Inc. will be held on Friday, 11th July at the Lecture Theatre at the University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay, starting at 7:45pm.

AGENDA

1. Attendance book & apologies
 2. Minutes of 2013 AGM
 3. Business arising
 4. President's report
 5. Treasurer's report
 6. Election of Office Bearers
- Meeting Closed.

8pm: General meeting open for business.

Mineralogical Society of Tasmania Inc Committee Nomination Form

I nominate for the following position

President	<input type="checkbox"/>	Field Trip Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/>	Librarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary / Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter Editor	<input type="checkbox"/>

Nominated by: Signed:

Seconded by: Signed:

I am willing to accept the nomination for this position:

Nominee:Date:

This form is to be lodged with the Secretary no later than 30 June 2014

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