



Mineralogical Organizations in Australia

Australia is home to one of the most mineralogically diverse localities on the planet, that of Broken Hill (324 mineral species, type locality for 24 of them). This extraordinary place also hosts the oldest known terrestrial mineral, the Hadean zircon from the Jack Hills. It is fitting for this country, rich in mineralogical exotica, that the last lunar mineral to be found on Earth, tranquillityite $[(\text{Fe}^{2+})_8\text{Ti}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{24}]$, turned up in Western Australia in 2011. Australia also has some of the world's greatest reserves of iron, copper and uranium as economic resources. Given the lack of Pleistocene glaciation, much of the continental bedrock remains concealed under a deep regolith cover; many more mineralogical surprises are doubtless waiting to be found. However, the lack of exposure, the sheer vastness of the country (similar to the lower 48 states of the USA in area) and the harsh desert climate prevalent over much of it, as well as the small overall population (currently just under 25 million), have kept mineral collectors relatively few in number. The professional mineralogical community is small, but punches above its weight: between 2008 and 2014, Australia provided both the former Chairman (Peter Williams) and Secretary (Stuart Mills) of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification.

Given the small population and strong cultural ties to long-established professional organisations in the UK and USA, there is no discrete mineralogical society as such. Mineralogical interests are catered for by the Geological Society of Australia (GSA) and its Specialist Group for Geochemistry, Mineralogy and Petrology, along with the mineralogical societies of the individual Australian states. The GSA is the host professional organisation for the IMA meeting that is to be held in Melbourne in August 2018.



The Chapman Collection in the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales. A world-class collection of 820 specimens, half of which are from Australian localities, half of those being from Broken Hill.

Geological Society of Australia

The Geological Society of Australia (GSA, see www.gsa.org.au) was established as a non-profit organization in 1952 to promote, advance and support Earth sciences in Australia. The GSA's members represent all Earth science professions, and come from the minerals and petroleum industries, government, research and education institutions, and consultancy groups. The GSA has a division in each state and territory, as well as a branch in the Hunter Valley. Biannual conventions are held Australia-wide, at which members may keep in touch with scientific developments, present the results of their work, and contribute to discussions on vocational and scientific topics. Specialist groups cater to different sectors of the Earth sciences, and organise dedicated conferences and excursions.

The GSA publishes periodicals for Earth scientists and the wider community. The *Australian Journal of Earth Sciences* is its official journal, which publishes papers on all aspects of Earth science. The *Australian Geologist* is GSA's quarterly member magazine and includes technical and special features, society news, conference details, regular reports, book reviews



A field excursion from 2009 by the Specialist Group for Geochemistry, Mineralogy and Petrology to Remarkable Rocks, Kangaroo Island, South Australia.

and other items of interest to Earth scientists. The e-zine *geoz* is an Australian Earth science news service available free to GSA members.

The GSA encourages and recognizes excellence in the Earth sciences through awards, such as the A.E. Ringwood and W.R. Browne Medals, as well as divisional and specialist group awards for outstanding scientific contributions. The Specialist Group for Geochemistry, Mineralogy and Petrology (SGGMP) caters to GSA members interested in mineralogy, along with a larger community of geochemists and petrologists. The SGGMP hosts its own meetings and associated field trips on a quadrennial basis, the venue rotating among the states.

State Mineralogical Societies

There are currently six mineralogical societies established in Australia, on a state-wide basis. These are in New South Wales (the oldest of the six, founded in 1975), Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia (www.mineral.org.au/socs/socs.html). All societies are based in the respective state capitals but have memberships which extend the breadth of Australia and beyond. Their membership includes both Earth-science professionals and amateur mineral enthusiasts at all levels of expertise. Although not connected by any formal constitution or agreement, the societies are informally bonded through their common ideals and interests. The societies assemble every year for a joint seminar on minerals and mineral collecting. Usually, this is held in early June, but it is flexible. In 2007, this group was expanded to include New Zealand, so the collective entity is now referred to as the *Joint Mineralogical Societies of Australasia*. The seminar venue is rotated among the states, and the host society decides on a theme topic. In 2018, the 41st joint seminar will be hosted by the state of Victoria (www.mineral.org.au/seminar/seminar18.html).

Australian Journal of Mineralogy

The *Australian Journal of Mineralogy (AJM)* was launched in 1995, is a joint publication of the six state societies, features all aspects of Australian mineralogy, and appeals to professional mineralogists, geologists and mineral enthusiasts (www.mineral.org.au/pubs/ajm.html). Articles range in scope from new mineral descriptions and the mineralogy of specific localities to mineral collections and mining history. In general, two issues per year have been published. Currently, the journal is produced in Western Australia and is a high-quality production that features excellent colour photography. For subscription information, please consult the *AJM* Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AJMPublications/) or contact the editor.



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International Mineralogical Association

www.ima-mineralogy.org

of Canada for 30 years. Hughes earned his bachelor's degree from Franklin and Marshall College (Pennsylvania, USA) in 1975, and his MA and PhD degrees from Dartmouth College (New Hampshire, USA) in 1978 and 1981, respectively. In 1980, he was a pre-doctoral Fellow at the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Young Scientist Award to Matthew Steele-MacInnis

The MAC Young Scientist Award is given to a young scientist who has made a significant international research contribution, which is taken to be a promising start to a scientific career. This year's awardee is Matthew Steele-MacInnis, an assistant professor at the University of Alberta (Canada).



Matthew Steele-MacInnis is an assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alberta (Canada). He received his BS in Earth sciences from Memorial University in his native Newfoundland in 2008, and his PhD in geosciences from Virginia Tech (USA) in 2013. He was a Marie Curie postdoctoral fellow at ETH (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule) Zurich (Switzerland) from 2013 to 2015, and then an assistant professor at the University of Arizona (USA) from 2015 to 2017 before moving to the University of Alberta.

Matt's research focuses on hydrothermal fluids and how they interact with rocks, particularly in the context of ore formation. He combines field and analytical studies with thermodynamic modeling to investigate fluid-driven processes in settings ranging from subduction zones to magmatic-hydrothermal systems to sedimentary basins. Much of his research has focused on developing quantitative tools and approaches to evaluate the physical and chemical properties of fluids, and the application of these tools in deciphering geologic processes.

Matt serves as an associate editor for the *Canadian Mineralogist*. He was the recipient of a CAREER grant from the US National Science Foundation and received the Hisashi Kuno Award from the American Geophysical Union in 2017.

UPCOMING GAC-MAC-IAH 2019 JOINT MEETING

Where Geosciences Converge

Québec, QC, Canada
12–15 May 2019

The Geological Association of Canada (GAC®), the Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC) and the Canadian National Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH-CNC) are currently preparing the GAC-MAC-IAH/CNC 2019 conference. **We invite you to mark 12–15 May 2019 on your calendar so you won't miss this event.** The conference will be held in historic Québec City, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Participants will have the opportunity to visit and discover the warmth and charms of this beautiful city and to explore its many attractive nearby natural sites. Under the theme "Where Geosciences Converge", the organizing committee wishes to promote collaboration and stimulating discussion among geologists, mineralogists, petrologists, hydrogeologists, geophysicists and geochemists. The conference will highlight the following themes:

- Geosystems and hydro-geosystems
- Resources, energy and environment
- Data science for geosciences
- Geosciences and society

Check gacmac-quebec2019.ca for more info and watch for our call for abstracts scheduled to open 1 November 2018.

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN QUEBEC CITY!

PETR ČERNÝ (1934–2018)

Petr Černý was born in Czechoslovakia and was a graduate of Masaryk University in Brno. But it was at the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague in the 1960s, while working on his PhD in western Moravia, that nurtured a lifelong fascination with granitic pegmatites. After the Warsaw Pact invasion of his home country in August 1968, he came to the University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Canada) as a post-doctoral fellow and went on to have a stellar career in the field of pegmatite research. Petr's erudite approach to these unusual rocks led to a qualitatively new level of understanding, to refined petrogenetic and mineral deposit models, and to improved classification schemes. He worked on pegmatites from the Czech Republic, Argentina, southern Africa, Scandinavia and many other regions, but the Tanco Pegmatite vein in eastern Manitoba remained his primary source of inspiration and a testing ground for new ideas. Petr retired in 1999 but continued his important work for another 18 years as professor emeritus, in spite of a rapidly progressing Parkinson's disease. His research produced over 320 publications in refereed journals, two monographs, plus numerous reports, field guidebooks and conference presentations.

Petr's outstanding contributions to Earth sciences were recognized by many professional organizations the world over. Among these recognitions, Petr was the dedicatee of three thematic issues of the *Canadian Mineralogist* (in 1998 and twice in 2012); a Corresponding Member of the Asociación Geológica Argentina (2001), awarded the Friedrich Becke Medal from the Österreichische Mineralogische Gesellschaft (1994); awarded the Logan Medal from the Geological Association of Canada (1993), the Pošepný Gold Plaque from the Czech Academy of Science (1993), the Bořický Medal from Charles University in Prague (1991), the Gold Medal and Honoris Causa Doctorate from Masaryk University (1991), the Past President's Medal from the Mineralogical Association of Canada (1984), and the Médaille A.H. Dumont from the Geological Society of Belgium (1981). Petr had the new mineral Černýite named in his honour (Kissin et al. 1978, *Canadian Mineralogist*, 16, 139-146) and, last but not least, he had his own personal hardhat at the Tanco Ta-Cs pegmatite mine in Manitoba.

In his life and work, Petr Černý was supported by his wife, Iva, and the International Mineralogical Association sends to her our condolences on this irreplaceable loss. Fellow pegmatite researchers will remember Petr as an extremely knowledgeable, friendly and helpful person who gave enthusiastic conference talks and insightful tours of the Tanco pegmatite. Both Petr and Iva were instrumental in the preservation and growth of the R. B. Ferguson Mineral Museum at the University of Manitoba, which remains an important facility for teaching and outreach.

