

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to all the new subscribers to our newsletter who joined our mailing list at the Gosford Mineral Fair (Festival of Treasures). **The winner of our lucky draw for that lovely quartz crystal cluster was Mike, from the Australian Capital Territory.**

For those not aware of happenings over the weekend of the above event, an intense storm front moved in from the Pacific Ocean to treat us to 4 days of torrential rain and gale force winds.

The weather was so violent that all that part of the coast was declared a disaster zone and the authorities kept broadcasting warnings to stay away or if a resident, to stay indoors and keep off the roads.

Needless to say the weekend was not a resounding success. However not all rock kickers are easily put off by mere cyclones and we were pleased to meet many old friends and make numerous new ones.

We have been updating our stock list and included in our recent are some common minerals with some unusual features. Among them are the following:

CAVANSITE: An example of the rare, electric blue phyllosilicate so often erroneously considered zeolite. These examples are from Poona in India.

QUARTZ, PYRITE, SPHALERITE and CHALCOPYRITE: Not such an unusual mix true but check out the beautiful photos Susan has taken. You will see how the sulphide crystals have developed part way up the quartz crystals and occasionally cap them.

QUARTZ and SPHALERITE: Again not an unusual mix of minerals even though they are very formed but if you examine this item you will see how the quartz crystals form a sort of cockscomb diadem for the shiny black sphalerite.

ANTLERITE: Quite a rare copper sulphate from the Duchess Mine in the Mt Isa region of Northern Australia. Any malachite enthusiast should look at this item to compare the electric green of the antlerite with the silky green of malachite.

LOLLINGITE: Again, in itself not all that rare but this is an unusually large specimen from the base metal deposit at Broken Hill in Eastern Australia. Broken Hill is justifiably famous as a location for base metal minerals but is not well known as an occurrence of lollingite. An impressive sample which displays the indications of capillary crystallization.

Please check out all our specimens at www.aamineralspecimens.com

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