

**Parliamentary Joint Committee on
Native Title and the Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Land Fund**

OPERATION OF THE NATIVE TITLE ACT

**Inquiry Into The Effectiveness Of
The National Native Title Tribunal**

Submission No:31

Received 15 April 2003

Mr Anthony Forsyth

President


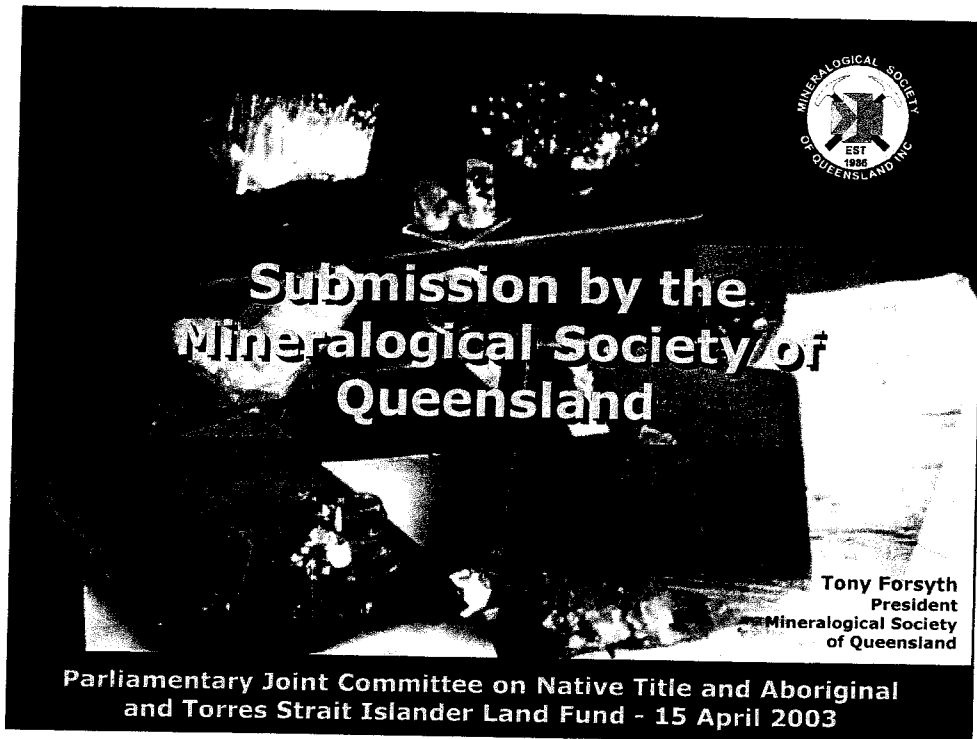
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**Submission by the
Mineralogical Society of
Queensland**

Tony Forsyth
President
Mineralogical Society
of Queensland

**Parliamentary Joint Committee on Native Title and Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund - 15 April 2003**

Who are we?



- The Mineralogical Society of Queensland is a non-profit organisation which was formed in 1986 and incorporated in 1990
- Our group consists mainly of amateurs who collect mineral specimens for hobby, educational, scientific and display purposes
- We have approximately 70 members in Queensland
- Our society is one of six similar affiliated state mineralogical societies

What does our society do?

- We collect mineral specimens and appreciate them for their crystal formations and how they occur in their natural state
- In many cases these specimens do not have an intrinsic \$ value – such as gem or economic minerals (*sapphire, opal, gold etc.*)
- However, they can have educational, scientific or aesthetic values that make them collectable
- Our society conducts field trips during the year on which members collect specimens
- Society field trips are governed by a code of ethics which address safety, environmental and legal issues based upon the Queensland Lapidary and Allied Craft Clubs Association (QLACCA) model

What does our society do?

- Our society seeks to educate the general public, and to showcase the society through displays of mineral specimens
- We have conducted displays in conjunction with 'Queensland Science Week' and have held long-term displays at the Queensland Museum
- We currently have displays at the University of Queensland and Minerals & Energy House



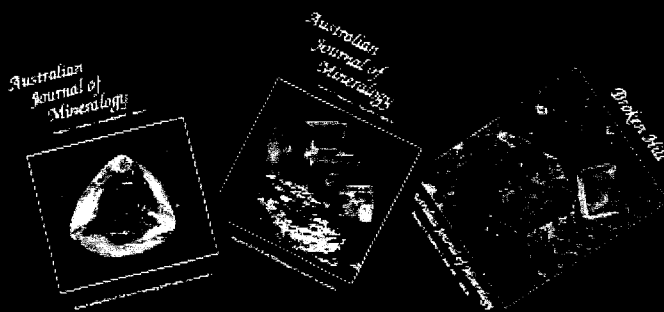
What does our society do?

- Our society has also founded and administers the **Heritage Mineral Museum (HMM)**
- The HMM is a select collection of mineral specimens which have been purchased by the society, or donated by individuals and mining companies
- The HMM's stated aim is to preserve what is a rare, limited and fast disappearing natural resource. The HMM is a legal entity with tax deduction status
- The HMM presently has no permanent home, but are hopeful of obtaining a venue for long-term display



What does our society do?

- The six Australian societies participate in a joint conference held annually
- The societies publish an internationally recognised journal twice a year



Who collects minerals?

- Mineral collecting in Queensland involves some thousands of people each year
- This estimate is based upon:
 - QLACCA has over 2000 registered club members, many of whom collect mineral specimens
 - Many mineral collectors are not registered members of clubs but are active in the pastime
 - Many collectors journey from interstate or overseas to collect in Queensland because it is a resource-rich state which has large areas of land presently available for collecting

Who collects minerals?

- Mineral specimens are internationally recognised for their scientific, heritage and aesthetic values



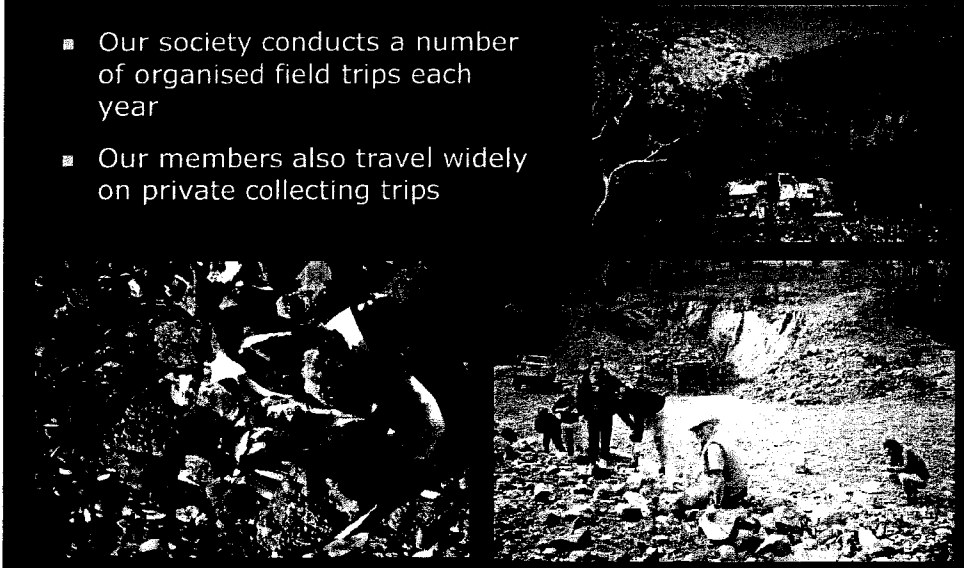
Who collects minerals?

- The worlds largest Gem and Mineral show is held in Tucson, Arizona
- The annual show and associated events attract an estimated 100,000 visitors and 4000 dealers
- This year the event was estimated to generate US\$68m (AU\$113m) for the Tucson economy



What is our interest here?

- Our society conducts a number of organised field trips each year
- Our members also travel widely on private collecting trips



What is our interest here?

- Lands of interest to collectors include:
 - Mine sites (*both active and abandoned*)
 - Extractive Material sites (*quarries, gravel pits*)
 - Mineralised lands (*Crown and privately held*)

- Our society recognises that portions of these lands will be subject to Native Title claims
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What is our interest here?

- Access and collecting privileges on these lands is already subject to relevant Federal and State laws
- Our society would petition against any changes to ownership of those lands that would lessen our current access and collecting privileges
- We would ask the committee to:
 - View our hobby as an appropriate, benign endeavour conducted on those lands
 - Appreciate that our hobby has benefits to a wider Society
 - Take this into account when any future disposition of these lands is determined and allow us to have a say in future negotiations

Nature's wonderful art

Thank you

