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'Suiseki Australia'

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**Our next suiseki meeting/workshop is on the 22nd August at
Ray's Nursery starting at 9am.**

Dear Members,

Not long to go before this cold weather goes away for another year so we can get out there and enjoy a bit more sunshine and warmth. Getting up on these cold mornings is not much fun and it takes a while to get going. Sometimes I feel I have lost half a day trying to get organized to go outside to get things done in the garden. When I was younger it never bothered me but now my old bones are letting me know that things have changed. At least I still have my bonsais and suiseki to keep me busy and interested instead of just sitting in front of a warm fire!!

As we all have many obsolete small stones that were collected years ago, it was decided at our last meeting that this month those who would like to partake in a 'hot-glue gun' daiza workshop can do so. If you decide otherwise, you can still go ahead and carve the daizas for your larger stones.

These hot glue gun daizas do not take too long to make and then we will give them for 'FREE' to the children who attend **The School of Bonsai Show on the weekend of the 17th and 18th of October** held at Ray's Nursery.

In the last couple of years, we have done a similar thing by wrapping our small stones and offering them to the children from a Lucky Dip for free. The looks on the faces of the children were priceless and many of them kept coming back for more. So, this year we thought we would do something a bit different by doing the hot-glue gun daizas.

Many years ago, we were told by Lindsay and Glenis Bebb who travelled a lot, and they told us that in fact in China there are shops that do sell stones with the hot glue gun daizas. These 'daizas' are usually done with black glue sticks to make them look like black painted carved and more expensive daizas. To me, this makes suiseki available to all walks of life to enjoy and appreciate displaying them in their homes.

In all walks of life there are trends that we all can attain so we can appreciate different artforms and trends, and this includes stone collecting.

If we, as a club, can enthuse stone collecting as an artform/hobby, then we would have spread the word on this very rewarding so called 'hobby' or 'passion'!!

Till next time,
Brenda

A THOUGHT FOR THIS MONTH

'A suiseki is a piece of art and it requires the hands of a master to show its most noble features in a display'.

- Willi Benz



Above: Here are a few examples of hot glue gun daizas I did a few years ago

P.S. OUR DISPLAY AT THE SCHOOL OF BONSAI SHOW

This year our theme we will be displaying small stones on tiered stands complete with a soe (accent plant). Not only do these stands have to have stones, but it would also be nice to include other small items e.g. very small decorative pots, small ornaments and maybe a cascading plant. In Willi Benz's book 'Bonsai, Kusamono, Suiseki – a practical guide for organizing displays with plants and stones'. He has some wonderful ideas to be guided by, so I will bring these books to show you at our next meeting. Another great reference book is by Richard Turner, Thomas Elias and Paul Harris called 'Contemporary Viewing Stone Display'.



Port Macquarie Coastal Geotrail – by Jan Briggs

Picture of the coastline at Rocky Beach courtesy of Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

The Port Macquarie Coastal Geotrail is a 4 km walk along the coast from Shelly Beach to Rocky Beach that tells the story of plate tectonics and how Earth's crust was formed. The geotrail features rocks formed by volcanoes,

microscopic marine animals, ocean currents, and extreme temperatures and pressures up to 100 km below Earth's surface. The Port Macquarie Coastal Geotrail provides a unique scientific recreational experience for the local community, including school groups, and for visitors to the Port Macquarie–Hastings region. The collaborative Geotrail project was led by the University of Newcastle. The Geological Survey of NSW (GSNSW) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have had significant input. Take yourself on the Port Macquarie Coastal Geotrail tour by downloading the free NSW GeoTours app on your smartphone or tablet ([Android](#) and [Apple](#)). Key points of interest on each of the tours have been geo-tagged to pop up when you reach the site.

Geotrail brochure

A brochure including a map of the geotrail tells the story of how the area was formed and highlights the geology along the way, so visitors can identify various rock formations and learn how they came to be formed. The brochure is [available for download](#) or is free at the [Sea Acres Rainforest Centre](#), 159 Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie or at The Greater Port Macquarie Visitor Information Centre, 30–42 Clarence Street, Port Macquarie.

Accessibility

The Port Macquarie Coastal Geotrail is accessible by foot or by vehicle. You can travel in the same direction as the oceanic plate was moving, from Shelly Beach and Sea Acres to Rocky Beach and Town Beach, or you can do the reverse. Alternatively, you can drive to key stops that are accessible from nearby carparks, or use public transport to the Sea Acres Rainforest Centre.

5 Geological Wonders You Can Find in Port Macquarie

Date 13.08.2018 Author Department of Planning and Environment

Volcanoes, microscopic marine animals, ocean currents, and extreme temperatures. They're probably not the first thing that comes to mind when you think of picturesque Port Macquarie but behind every rock on the coastline lies a story harking back several hundred million years. Whether you're a seasoned geologist or just curious about the origins of NSW's beautiful Mid North Coast, you're bound to be surprised by what you can find. To celebrate the launch of the Department's [GeoTours app](#), here are five geological wonders (listed below) you can find in [Port Macquarie](#).

1. Volcanoes under the sea

At southern Shelly Beach, you can see rocks that formed at the start of their plate tectonic journey across the ocean. These rocks, called ocean crust, are made of a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock called basalt. This type of rock forms in mostly underwater (or submarine) volcanoes in places like the mid-ocean ridge.

Once upon a time around this area, the basalt flowed out of submarine volcanoes as molten lava that cooled in the shape of pillows. Sometime after the first cooling episode, new molten basalt was injected into the ocean floor crust as long, thin fingers called dykes. In some locations, basalt first cooled slowly deep in the earth forming big shiny feldspar crystals, before later flowing out onto the seafloor and forming the smaller surrounding dark crystals.

2. Death on the seafloor

In the middle of Shelly Beach, rocks called chert formed part way along the plate tectonic journey. After the ocean crust basalt was formed, it travelled away from the mid-ocean ridge and began to collect sediment on top. This sediment mainly formed from tiny marine organisms such as radiolarians that lived near the surface of the ocean. After death, their skeletons rained down on the sea floor. They collected in layers above the basalt. These layers formed from variations in the type and amount of marine skeletons and the amount of external sediment added. When thick layers of sediment built up, pressure and chemical changes converted the fossil skeletons into the rock we call chert. As the chert was transported towards an ocean trench, it commonly slumped and slid, forming sinuous folds. Fossils known as conodonts (jaw structures of oceanic eel-like animals) can be used to date the chert, which at Port Macquarie is around 460 million years old.

3. Sediments moved from land to sea

On the northern side of Nobby Head, you can see sediments that were eroded from volcanoes and deposited nearby in the ocean. The sediments were transported by gravity-driven (or turbidity) currents downslope into a trench, where they accumulated with the marine chert in deposits called turbidites. If you were to swim out to sea 460 million years ago, and dive way down to the ocean floor, you'd see a trench at the deepest part of the ocean floor,

alongside a chain of volcanoes. Here the ocean plate and the sediments riding on it descending into the subduction zone, where they experienced increased heat and pressure. There they underwent slumping, sliding, folding and faulting.

4. Down the subduction zone

The rocks now at Flynn's Beach once descended into the earth down a subduction zone and affected the mantle rocks around them. The original mantle material surrounding the basalt was transformed into a rock called serpentinite, which has a soft greasy feel and is usually bright green. This colour is due to the original dark mantle minerals transforming into greenish minerals such as lizardite and antigorite as a result of heat and water produced during subduction. Serpentinite was formed at depths of 1–60 km, where pressures are low but temperatures are relatively high (350–600°C). Due to stress in the earth, or shearing, the serpentinite has a strongly aligned texture called cleavage. It also contains unsheared, large dark fragments of the transformed mantle, making it look like green fruit cake on cliff faces. You can see exposed serpentinite at the southern headland of Flynn's Beach.

5. Rare rocks from deep Earth

If you look down on Rocky Beach from the clifftop, you can see the rocks that represent the end of the plate tectonic journey. Around 460–490 million years ago, after travelling thousands of kilometres across the ocean, these rocks were dragged down (or subducted) as part of a crustal plate to depths around 104 km below the surface, and to temperatures around 570°C. We know subduction happened due to the special rocks and minerals found here. They only occur deep in subduction zones and include rocks like blueschist and eclogite. These are very rare to find on Earth's surface today. Blueschist is a deep blue colour and has beautiful minerals such as phengite, which has been folded during the subduction event. Eclogite is an emerald green rock composed of attractive minerals such as omphacite and lawsonite.

- There are only 10 recorded occurrences of lawsonite eclogite in Phanerozoic orogenic belts, globally, and Port Macquarie is one.
- This is possibly the oldest known occurrence (early Cambrian) along with a similar occurrence in Spitsbergen in the Arctic.
- Formation and preservation requires cold subduction to mantle depths and rapid exhumation.
- Here in Port Macquarie Lawsonite eclogite and omphacite are the only occurrences documented in Australia

You can see and learn more about these geological wonders by downloading the [NSW GeoTours app](#) for [Android at the Google Play store](#) or for [Apple at the App Store](#) and head to the stunning [Port Macquarie Coastal Geotrail](#).

VSANA August Update

www.vsana.org

For the latest updates, please go to the VSANA website.

Looking forward to meeting up again on the 22nd August for our hot glue gun daizas and getting more information on our suiseki display at The School of Bonsai Annual Show.

Till then, stay warm!!

Brenda