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'Suiseki Australia'

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**The next suiseki workshop will be held on the 18th April at Ray's Nursery starting at 9am.
Hope to see you all there?**

Dear Members,

I hope you have all had a relaxing Easter break with family and friends?

Hopefully, all the very hot and humid weather is behind us, and we can relax and enjoy our workshops without suffering from the horrible heat and humidity that we have endured over the last few months? At last month's workshop we had to pack up at lunch time as the heat was unbearable and the humidity..... ugh!! So here's cheers to autumn!!

I think most of us spent indoors with the air conditioner on full blast to get some relief. I don't think I can remember such a long and extended period of severe heat and humidity. There was no escape except venturing out to go food shopping at the shopping centre where the air conditioning was. Then it was back into our cars to go back home and as soon as the groceries were put away, all doors and windows in the house were closed and the air conditioner was working hard to keep us cool. Usually, this sort of weather goes on for a few weeks but this year it went on since December till now. I went out every morning very early to check on my bonsais to make sure they were well hydrated but alas a few burnt leaves but they are now starting to recover.

So, this month I am looking forward to getting back to some normal routine on working on daizas for my stones.



George's 'food stones'.....a 'cheese' platter.

DISPLAYING WITH A DAIZA AND SUIBAN

By Alan Rochester

When displaying a suiseki, consideration must be given to whether a suiban or daiza is to be used. In most classifications either can be used as for example a mountain stone displayed on a daiza can be classified as an island stone in a suiban tray. This doesn't mean that you can't place a mountain stone in a suiban tray. It's a personal preference. Also, you can display in accordance with the seasons.... In winter you can display on a daiza where in summer the display can be set in a suiban tray with water. A suiban must also suit the stone. A powerful suiseki can be placed in a rectangle or oval tray with thick deep sides, a lip on the edge, heavy straight legs and designs on the outside of the tray. A softer looking suiseki should be placed in a more delicate tray with thinner walls, shallow, oval and plain without patterns.

When displaying in a suiban the tray should be filled with fine pebbles, the more delicate and smaller the suiseki is, the finer the pebbles. The colour of the pebbles should complement the suiseki. White sand or pebbles are not used as it is considered too bright and distracting. Water is also added but this is optional, again it depends on the classification. Sometimes only water is used especially if the tray is glazed with colours that represent an ocean or lake. The colour of the suiban should not compete with the stone, bright coloured suibans are usually not used, colours of pastels, browns, blues, greens and greys bring the more popular. Copper trays are also used.

Displaying in a suiban tray gives the feeling of space and is visually pleasing if the stone is placed correctly in the tray. The correct placement of the stone is that it is placed about 1/3 in from the edge of the tray, either to the left or right depending on the high point of the stone. If the high point is on the left, then it is placed on the left side of the tray. The stone should not look as if it's sitting on the sand or pebbles, it should be buried just enough to suggest there is a bigger part of it under the sand.... the 'iceberg effect! The sand or pebbles must be even in texture and colour and when on display it must be smoothed out to be overall even, this is done traditionally with a feather, or one may use a very soft paintbrush.

In displaying on a daiza, one must be careful that the daiza is the right proportion to the stone. A tall, heavy powerful suiseki can have a heavier daiza, where a stone that is low, softer contours and not as powerful must have a shallow and fine daiza. The colour of a daiza should be dark, either the natural colour of the timber or a stain can be applied. The daiza must be carved to fit the stone's base exactly with the walls being narrow and the legs positioned below the heavy points of the stone.

If a suiseki is displayed correctly, whether on a daiza or in a suiban, one can appreciate the power of nature in a small stone that is before them. If you can look at a stone that represents a mountain and imagine that it is many kilometers away with maybe an eagle soaring high above one of its plateau or a coastal shore stone with waves pounding away at it or even indigenous people of an ancient land living high up in the caves of a mountain, then you have succeeded in the art of suiseki. The feeling you get when someone next to you can see the same as you, is one of instant pleasure and if you are the owner of that suiseki, the pleasure of sharing your stone with others can only be felt by the experience.



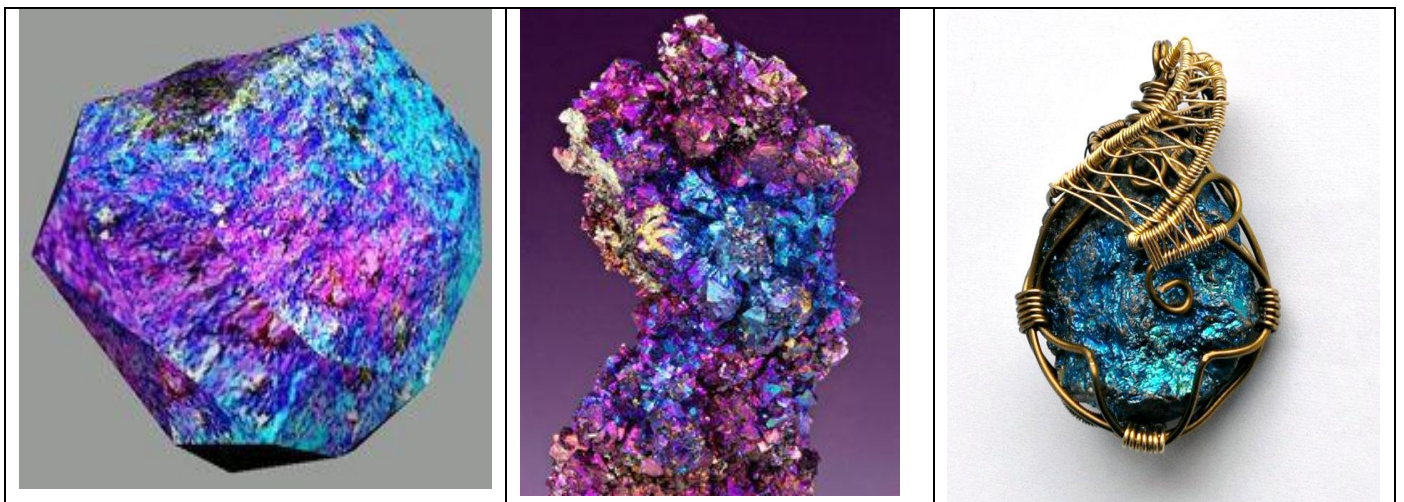
STONE OF THE MONTH – Bornite (also known as Peacock Ore and Chalcopyrite)

Bornite also known as Peacock Ore and Chalcopyrite is a sulfide mineral and has copper-red colour on fresh surfaces that tarnishes to iridescent shades of blue to pinks and purple. Its nickname is Peacock copper. It is important as an ore for its copper content.

Sometimes it is found with a silver content.

It occurs globally in copper ores including the west coast of Tasmania and in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

It is part copper and part Pyrite also known as "Fool's Gold". The name "Chalcopyrite" is derived from the Greek words chalkos, "copper" and pyrites, "strike fire".



Some examples of the beautiful colours that are present in Peacock Ore. Even made into jewellery.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT – A friend of mine received this hand painted stone for her 60th birthday by a relative of hers and in real life it is exquisitely painted. I was taken back with it and what a wonderful way of making a personal handmade gift?

(We all have these obsolete stones with a flat surface, and if you are handy with a paint brush, see what you can achieve as shown in the photo above.)

See you all at the next workshop on the 18th April.

Till then, take care

