GAA NSW AGM 2021

**Report - Curator of Specimens**

**Inventory**

The recording of lists of stored gemstones and minerals was completed in mid-2020 and the data entry completed by late in the year. Many thanks are due to Yma ten Hoedt and Lisa Doherty for many hours of work on the data entry, and also to the many volunteers who gave their weekend time over the last few years to examine, identify and record information on the huge number of specimens. The inventory is stored on a number of Excel files, so that until a formal database is constructed, teachers and staff can locate desired specimens.

**Gemstone and mineral storage and display in the new building**

The mineral display cabinets which are portable are being transferred from the old building, and displays are planned for the top floor members’ area and also in laboratory spaces and the reception area. The teaching and non-teaching collections of gemstones and remaining minerals will be stored initially on the top floor adjacent to the large laboratory space.

**Future work**

There are many unlabelled and unidentified gemstones and minerals. When settled in the new building, a series of identification workshops is planned, so that these specimens can be documented and placed in the collection. These workshops would be of benefit to students to develop their ID skills.

When these items have been added to the inventory, there will be much work to sort items which are suitable for teaching and display, with examination of these to record properties and inclusions to prepare for database construction.

Dr Cheryl Murdoch

Curator of Specimens