



Pretoria Gem & Mineral Club

established 1957

Affiliated to the Federation of Southern African Gem and Mineralogical Societies

Registered as non-profit organization – SARS 9830/639/14/3

June 2019

Pretoria Rockhound Digest

Pretoria Gem and Mineral Club
P.O. Box 36 888
Menlo Park
Pretoria 0102

Clubhouse: no. 29, 26th Street, Menlo Park
Saturdays 11:00–15:00, Thursdays 18:00– 21:00
Website: www.pgmc.co.za
Bank: ABSA Bank, Acc. No. 405 584 9839

Chairman: Willem Vorster, 076 612 4888
wcs.vorster@gmail.com
Vice-Chairman: Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
bernardstrydom@gmail.com

Treasurer : John Morgan
Admin.: Heidi Naudé, 072 923 2180
adelheid.naude@gmail.com



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| *** Swop & Sell and Social | 1 June |
| *** Silversmithing Course | 15 June |
| *** Collection Outing to Vivo (Limpopo) | 19 – 22 June |



Another beautiful sphere produced by our member Alan Crawford.

The sphere measures approx. 15 cm in diameter and the material used is dolomitized Serpentine from the Valtaki collection site.

Congratulations Alan on another beauty produced for your collection.

Photo: Heidi Naudé



Programme for June

(as at 28.05.2019)

1 June	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Swop & Sell and Social	11.00 – 15.00	Duty Members
6 June	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
8 June	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Committee Meeting	11:00 – 14.30 15.00 – 16.30	Duty Members Committee Members
13 June	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
15 June	Silversmithing Course – confirm with Bernard Lapidary Workshop open	10:00 – 15.30 11.00 – 15.00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 Duty Members
16 June	Lapidary Sunday – confirm with Bernard	08:00 – 13:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
19-22 June	Collection Outing – Vivo (Limpopo) Details inside this newsletter.		Linda Stone, 082 5989 117
20 June	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
22 June	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open	18:00 – 21:00	Duty Members
27 June	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
29 June	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open	18:00 – 21:00	Duty Members



Duty Roster



June 2019	1	8	15	22	29
Open – 11:00 am	Dieter	Willem	Bernard	Alan	Peter
Duty Team	Dieter Heinichen Linda Stone	Jan Oliver Joey Oliver	Willem Vorster Karin Mayerl	Alan Crawford Dina Crawford	Peter Beresford Heidi Naudé
Close – 15:00 pm	Dieter	Committee	Bernard	Alan	Peter

July 2019	6	13	20	27
Open – 11:00 am	Lex	Oliver	Bernard	Willem
Duty Team	Lex Krabbendam Heidi Naudé	Oliver Green Anita Havenga	Dieter Heinichen Linda Stone	Jan Oliver Joey Oliver
Close – 15:00 pm	Lex	Committee	Bernard	Willem




We still need people to serve on the duty teams and ask all our members to avail themselves for admin. or machine duty; training will be provided.

Please advise Willem or Bernard if you are willing to help, thank you.



1. Membership Fees 2019

	R 500	Principal Member
	R 450	Pensioner (over 60's)
	R 100	per additional Family Member
	R 30	Joining Fee (new members only)

Only fully paid-up members are entitled to receive the club's correspondence, attend courses, use the workshop facilities and participate in club outings.

Payment should be made to Pretoria Gem & Mineral Club, ABSA Bank, account no. 405 584 9839, or cash at the clubhouse (Thursdays or Saturdays).

A very warm welcome goes to our new members who joined recently:

😊😊 **Johan Grobler, Suzette Weideman, Marinus and Mauritz Verster.** 😊😊

May your association with our club be productive and enjoyable.

2. Personals



Our sincere **Condolences** go to **Dina Crawford** on the recent passing of her father. Alan and Dina, our thoughts and prayers are with you.



Our **Condolences** also go to Erica Ochse and her family on the passing of her husband **Dirk Ochse**. Dirk hasn't been a member for some years, but some of you might still remember this quiet and eccentric artist and his wicked sense of humor.

3. Ongoing Reminders: Indemnity Book and Safety Glasses



Please remember to sign the **Indemnity Book** at the duty desk every time you visit or work in the club's workshop. The book is kept at the duty desk.

Duty members – please check and ensure that everybody signs accordingly.



Safety glasses are **compulsory** for everyone working on the lapidary grinders, polishers and trim saws. Safety glasses are for sale at the duty desk or any decent hardware store. Members must bring/keep their own safety glasses.

4. News from FOSAGAMS

Linda Stone (President FOSAGAMS) advised that a new club has been founded – **the Richtersveld Gem and Mineral Club**. They may be contacted at: richtersveldgemandmineralclub@gmail.com. We wish Werner Smit and his team a productive and successful future.

The "**Kwela**"-team (TV channel 144 **kykNET**) is currently filming a documentary on the **small miners** in Namibia with the assistance of Mike Thygesen, owner of Desert Gems in Swakopmund.

Frank Farquharson, former chairman of the Natal Mineral and Gem Society has passed away.

Professor Marian Tredoux, a wellknown geoscientist has passed away.

Please refer to the recently distributed FOSAGAMS newsletter 2 2019 for the full articles/reports.

5. Swop & Sell and Social

The next **Swop & Sell Open Day** will be held on **Saturday, 1 June 2019** from 11.00 am onwards at the clubhouse; all dealers welcome.

Members are invited to bring their own minerals, rocks or other related items to swop or sell. Bring your family/friends and introduce them to our club and hobby.

6. Silversmithing Course

The next Silversmithing course has been scheduled for **Saturday, 15 June 2019 starting at 10:00 at the clubhouse.**

Details of the planned project such as materials required and costs to be expected will be advised as soon as possible.

To book your space please phone or w-app Bernard Strydom at 074 850 5683.



7. Faceting Classes – Saturdays



Opal rough - Madagascar
(photo www.toprocks.com)

Want to learn how to facet a gemstone like this?

Contact **Peter Beresford** at 064 384 4514 to book your class on Saturdays at the clubhouse.

Beginners/Advanced welcome!

(Photo right courtesy of Len Freeman)



Opal - Madagascar, 9.885 ct,
18x14mm cut by Len Freeman

8. Early Announcement – Outing to Ollie Roon, Hartbeespoort



We are one step closer to scheduling this fantastic opportunity to buy this collection (30-40 years) of Ollie Roon (89). The outing will be scheduled on a Sunday. The material available includes various Serpentine, Jasper (red, black, brecciated, fancy), Transvaal Jade, Chalcedony (brown, black and exceptional blues), Verdite, Buddstone, Puddingstone, Unakite, Aragonite, Petrified Wood, Stichtite, Amazonite, Agates (KZN, Zimbabwe, Bloemhof, Hobhouse), Amethyst, various mineral specimens and half tumbles stones. The material ranges from fist size to very big and caters for the normal lapidarists to the egg and sphere makers or even garden landscapers! Date will be announced soon!!!

9. Collection Outing – Vivo (Limpopo)

The outing:

Our exiting Vivo (Limpopo) outing to the Limpopo Province will start on Wednesday, June 19th at 11:00 and end in the late afternoon of Saturday, June 22nd.

We will meet at the “Delicious Tearoom” next to the garage on the left hand side of the Alldays – Swartwater Road, Alldays from where we will take off.

Minerals to be collected include agates, calcite, copper related minerals, garnets, magnesite, apricot coloured marble, green quartz, pyralspite, quartz, ruby corundum and unakite. Dealers from Zimbabwe will be selling the following: agates, alexandrite, red garnet, moonstone, rhodolite, ruby corundum, black and blue sapphire and tourmaline.

We will also visit the Mapungubwe National Park and Heritage Site.

Some of the roads we'll be travelling on are dirt roads. It is advisable to wear the appropriate gear since we are covering some rough terrain. Please keep in mind that snakes are commonly found in this area. The malaria mosquito has been detected as far as Mopani, be sure to take precautionary measures.

Please take the necessary precautionary measures if you suffer from any specific medical condition.

Available Accommodation:

We will be staying on the farm “Beeston 785MS”. The owner, Desmond Delport (also a keen mineral collector), says the farm is situated on top of the Soutpansberg and can be reached by travelling for 10km on the N1 from Louis Trichardt towards Musina. Turn left onto the Bluegumsport Road and continue for 10km; turn right at the farm gate and proceed for another 2km – make sure that you close all the gates.

Note: There is no electricity and no cellphone reception!

Room accommodation:

1. **Old-world Gable House**, bathroom, small kitchen, freezer to be shared by everybody
 - 1.1 Living Room with one double bed
 - 1.2 Room with three single beds.
2. **Wendy House**, size 4 x 3m, with one double bed and two single beds.
3. **Mountain Hut**, it can only be reached by 4x4 vehicle and is approx. 2.8km from the gable house. It consists of two rooms and a toilet/shower room. The ground-floor houses the kitchen and living area and the upper-floor can accommodate five to six people. The kitchen and toilet/shower room must be shared by everybody.
4. **Igloo** – situated close to the mountain hut (same type as used by road workers). It is five meters in diameter and has three single beds inside.
5. **Camping and Caravanning** – more than enough space for camping; ablution and kitchen facilities at the gable house.
6. **Alternative accommodation** – please check on the LekkeSlaap website.
7. **Room and Camping Rates:** Desmond confirmed that he will not charge anything for the accommodation on his farm. We are very grateful for this.
8. **Bookings** – must be made through me; provide names, surnames, cell numbers and booking details for yourself and every additional person in your group. This information should be sent either via WhatsApp or SMS to me at 082 5989 117.

9. Closing Date for bookings is 15th June.

For any additional queries please contact me directly at the above number – see you all at this wonderful outing!

Linda Stone, Outing coordinator

10. Gemboree 2019 – Uis, Namibia



Patrick and Goedele van den Bon, long-standing members of our club, recently attended the Gemboree organized by the Cape Town Club in Uis, Namibia. They kindly forwarded some of their photos for publication. Thank you Patrick and Goedele we appreciate this kind gesture.

A big Thank You also from the PGMC committee for taking the Gemboree banner to Namibia for the Cape Town Club.



Left – convoy travelling.....

Right – the recently re-opened tin mine at Uis has brought some prosperity again to this little town.



Left – the indigenous "Gemtrees" and roadside stalls of the small miners.

Right – Malcolm briefing the group at a collection site.



Left & right – Rockhounds of all ages and sizes happily digging at the fluorite mine, to search and find those different coloured fluorite specimens.

