



Pretoria Gem and Mineral Club

Affiliated to the Federation of Southern African Gem and Mineralogical Societies
Registered as non-profit organization – SARS 9830/639/14/3

April 2015

Pretoria Rockhound Digest

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

Clubhouse: no. 29, 26th St., 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: Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
bernardstrydom@gmail.com
Vice-Chairman: Willem Vorster, 082 880 0506
wcs.vorster@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jeanne Wentzel, 082 449 5450
Secretary: Elmarie Coetzee, elmariec1@gmail.com
Editor: Heidi Naudé, 072 923 2180
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Programme Highlights April 2015



*** Gemboree 2015 - Jozini

3 – 6 Apr.

*** Silversmithing Course

18 Apr.

Wishing all the Gemboree attendees an exiting and safe return trip to Jozini.



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PGMC Programme for April 2015:

(as at 23.03.2015)

Date	Event	Time	Contact Details
2 Apr.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
3-6 Apr	Club Outing: Gemboree 2015 - Jozini	see prev. NL	Pietermaritzburg Club

Please note the Clubhouse will be closed over the Easter Weekend !

9 Apr.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
11 Apr.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Committee Meeting	11.00 – 14.00 14.30 – 16.30	Duty Members – Short Shift Committee Members
16 Apr.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
18 Apr.	Silversmithing Course – booking essential! Lapidary Workshop open	10.00 – 15.00 11.00 – 15.00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 Duty Members
23 Apr.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
25 Apr.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open	11:00 – 15:00	Duty Members
30 Apr.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683

A very warm welcome to the new members who joined recently:

Magda & Kacper Josefowicz, Johann van der Westhuysen, Anton & Esme Jordaan,

May your association with the club be enjoyable, long and productive.


Duty Roster: April and May 2015

April	4	11	18	25
Open – 11:00 am		Heidi	Bernard	Willem
Duty Team	Closed - Gemboree Easter Weekend	Hendrik Swanepoel Karin Eggers	Lex Krabbendam Zelda Carey	Willem Vorster Marion Blair
Close – 15:00 pm		Committee	Bernard	Willem

May	2	9	16	23	30
Open – 11:00 am	Lex	Dieter	Bernard	Bernard	Willem
Duty Team	Will vd Berg Karin Mayerl	Dieter Heinichen Linda Stone	Len Botha Ada Beresf.	Henry Viviers Jean Snyman	Hendrik Swanep. Karin Eggers
Close – 15:00 pm	Lex	Committee	Bernard	Bernard	Willem

Please **check the dates assigned to you** and organize “stand-ins” for the dates/times you are not available. We are still looking for **additional duty volunteers (machines & admin.)**, please contact Bernard Strydom if you are available and willing to help. Please note that the Annual Duty Roster 2015/2016 will be reviewed monthly; therefore refer to your Newsletter for final Duty Team allocations.

1. **Membership Fees 2015** are **now overdue**, please settle as soon as possible:

	R 470	Principal Members
	R 415	Pensioners (over 60's)
	R 80	per additional Family Member
	R 30	Joining Fee (new members only)

Bank transfers can be made to: Pretoria Gem & Mineral Club, ABSA Bank, account no. 405 584 9839); cash payments can be made at the club on Thursdays or Saurdays.

2. **Indemnity Book at the Duty Desk**



Please 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 that everybody signs accordingly.

3. **Safety Glasses**



Safety glasses are **compulsory** for everyone working on the lapidary grinders, polishers and trim saws with immediate effect. Members are requested to buy their own safety glasses either at the duty desk or at any hardware store.

4. **Personals**



This big 😊 **Thank You** 😊 goes to **Will van den Berg** and “**his maintenance team and helpers**” for finishing the second lapidary table at the clubhouse. Ten members are now able to grind and polish their cabochons simultaneous. All the grinders have been overhauled, a new watering system installed and a water-cooled trim saw was integrated. Polishing can be done on the traditional felt wheels or on a leather pad. **Well done to all involved.**



Another big 😊 **Thank You** 😊 goes to **Will van den Berg** for the installation of the new flood lights at the front of the clubhouse. This will make the arrival and departure of our members, especially on Thursday evenings, much easier and safer, since the whole front parking area is now well lit.

Will also **donated his Microscope** to the club! Another big 😊 **Thank You** 😊 for this to him. Our prices mineral specimens can now be viewed to the finest details.



Another 😊 **Thank You** 😊 goes to our new member **Dr. Michael Fidos**, who donated empty ammunition cartridges to the club for use by our lapidarists.

The cartridges are mounted on wood and make perfect “dop-sticks” for the grinding and polishing of cabochons.



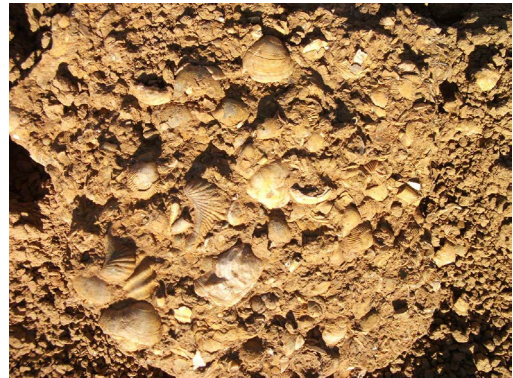
And last but not at all least – a **very special Thank You** goes to our vice chairman, **Willem Vorster**, for his tireless efforts in helping new members cut their stones, mounting them and then giving firsthand instructions and assistance until they make their first successful cabochon. **Willem**, we don't say it often enough, but you are a “**real Gem**” and loved by all at the club!

5. Club Outing: 48th Gemboree, 03. – 06.04.2015

The second communiqué including the program have been distributed to all registered participants by the Pietermaritzburg Gem and Mineral Club. The exiting program includes various outings for “spinning quartz”, amethyst geodes, fossils, visits to agate dealers and then the tombola and auction at the Gemboree venue.



Photos by Heidi Naudé, outing 2013 Amethyst Geode (left), Fossils (right)



Remember to bring you hats, gloves, sturdy shoes, picks/hammers, spades, bags and clothes for all weather conditions. **Let's go rock hunting !!!**



6. Swop & Sell & Social

Please note that there will be no **Swop & Sell and Social in April** due to the clubhouse being closed over the Easter weekend; the next session is planned for 02.05.2015.

7. Silversmithing Course, 18.04.2015

The next course is scheduled for **Saturday, 18.04.2015** (10h00) at the clubhouse. Please contact Bernard Strydom regarding this course project, fee and material required. Remember to book your place in advance as space is limited.

8. Faceting Classes

Our faceting section is now in “full swing” – if you interested to try your hand at cutting stones, please contact Lex Krabbendam at (083 449 6812) or Peter Beresford at (012-377 0558) to make an appointment. Due to the time involved classes are only offered on Saturdays and by prior arrangement.



From Ashes to Diamonds



There's a company in Switzerland called Algordanza that will turn your ashes into a diamond for your family.

Article submitted by Dieter Heincichen

Algordanza - the Rhaeto-Romanic expression for "**remembrance**" - offers a new kind of burial by transforming unique diamonds out of the ashes of beloved deceased. **Algordanza's** memorial diamonds are personified commemorations of a beloved person, a symbol of personal closeness, imperishability and love.

Algordanza's memorial diamonds are absolutely unique and are solely generated from the cremation ashes handed over - without any additives and admixtures. Every production step is completely documented. The diamond will be passed on together with a certificate indicating the chemical analyses of the ashes.

Editor: As the saying goes – Diamonds are truly forever !!!!.

9. Outing Report to Groot Marico, 28.02. – 01.03.2015

What a surprise awaited those who already arrived at Hannes Palm's farm on Friday! It was raining and everyone was so excited especially after all the drought reports in the North West. As fate would have it, the skies opened and once again showered us with rain like on so many of our previous visits. Pitching a tent in the rain isn't one of the easiest tasks, but everybody joined in and in no time at all we were well organized and ready for what awaited us.



Photos: Janet Saad www.fosagams.co.za / Gallery/ Pretoria Gem and Mineral Club

After the arrival of the rest of the group at Lichtenburg on Saturday morning, we set off to visit Wessel (photo above left) and Louise Wessels' home and viewed his wonderful collection of Smithsonite (Namibia), Tourmaline (Namibia), Rhodochrosite and Manganese (N'Chwaning N.Cape), Azurite (Morocco), Prehnite, Aragonite, Amethyst (Calvinia) and many more. Wessel also has an interesting collection of fluorescent minerals. He is keen on making objects d'art from semi precious stones. Louise entertained us with soft drinks and eats for which we were very thankful.

After that we went to a new farm to collect carnelians, agates, flint and very interesting olivine. There was also lovely orange (flame-like) chert. The farmer kindly took us to two collecting sites.

On returning to the Hannes' farm everybody paid a visit to the eye of the Marico River (photo right above). Carlo Heinz entertained us with his lovely guitar playing and well known songs at the camp fire. We were just done with our braai when the skies opened again!

On Sunday morning we went to the Conglomerate site and afterwards to the Goethite site. Hannes brought a ladder which helped the 'miners' to go down 'our' quarry (photo left below). Many goethite squares of all sizes were picked up.

From there we walked to the Autumn Slate quarry (photo right below) and collected the most beautiful coloured slate - many of them looking like natural oil paintings.



Photos: Janet Saad www.fosagams.co.za / Gallery / Pretoria Gem and Mineral Club

10. Outing Report to Groot Marico continued.....

Our special thanks to Wessel and Louise Wessels, the farmer and Hannes Palm on whose farm we camped. Hannes serves as a true inspiration to all of us, always enthusiastic and energetic. Also thanks to Carlo Heinz for the entertainment and acting as the tail-end Charlie at the various trips

Linda Stone

Outing coordinator



Photos: Janet Saad www.fosagams.co.za / Gallery / Pretoria Gem and Mineral Club



Editor: **Special thanks also to Linda Stone for organizing/leading this outing on behalf of the PGMC.**

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