



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

February 2015

Pretoria Rockhound Digest

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

Clubhouse:
No. 29, 26th Street, Menlo Park, Pretoria
Saturdays 11:00–15:00, Thursdays 18:00– 21:00
website: www.pgmc.co.za

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 February 2015

- *** **Swop & Sell and Social** **7 Feb.**
- *** **Silversmithing Course** **21 Feb.**
- *** **Club Outing: Groot Marico** **27 Feb.**
- 1 Mar.

Gemboree 2015



Agates – Jozini (above and far right)



Amethyst Geodes Jozini

3-6 April



all photos H. Naudé, Jozini Outing 2013

Have you registered already??

PGMC Programme for February 2015:

(as at 29.01.2015)

Date	Event	Time	Contact Details
5 Feb.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 Lex Krabbendam, 083 449 6812
7 Feb.	Swop & Sell and Social at the Clubhouse Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open	11.00 – 16.00	Duty Members
12 Feb.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 Lex Krabbendam, 083 449 6812
14 Feb.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Committee Meeting	11.00 – 14.00 14.30 – 16.30	Duty Members – Short Shift Committee Members
19 Feb.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 Lex Krabbendam, 083 449 6812
21 Feb.	Silversmithing Course – booking essential! Lapidary Workshop open	10.00 – 15.00 11:00 – 15:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 Duty Members
26 Feb.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 Lex Krabbendam, 083 449 6812
27 Feb. - 1 Mar.	Club Outing to Groot Marico – booking essential!		Linda Stone, 082 598 9117
28 Feb.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open	11:00 – 15:00	Duty Members

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

Claus Maurer

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


Duty Roster: February and March 2015

February	7	14	21	28
Open – 11:00 am	Bernard	Lex	Bernard	Bernard
Duty Team	Stella-M. Laredo Jean Schutz	Lex Krabbendam Ada Beresford	Willem Vorster Karin Eggers	Bernard Strydom Jean Snyman
Close – 15:00 pm	Bernard	Committee	Bernard	Dieter
March	7	14	21	28
Open – 11:00 am	Will	Dieter	Bernard	Lex
Duty Team	Will v/d Berg Karin Mayerl	Dieter Heinichen Linda Stone	Stella-M. Laredo Jean Schutz	Lex Krabbendam Zelda Carey
Close – 15:00 pm	Will	Committee	Bernard	Lex

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 Duty Team allocations.

1. Membership Fees 2015

Membership fees for 2015 are now due as follows:

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

Members are encouraged to settle their fees by EFT transfers (**Pretoria Gem & Mineral Club, ABSA Bank, account no. 405 584 9839**); this is purely to save on the ever increasing banking fees and to reduce the risk of having large amounts of cash at the club's premises.

2. Indemnity Book at the Duty Desk



Please remember to sign the red **Indemnity Book** at the duty desk every day you visit or work in the club's workshop. The book is kept at the duty desk for your convenience. **Duty members** – please check that everybody signs accordingly.

3. Safety Glasses



Safety first – please note that **safety glasses** must be worn by everybody working on the grinding and polishing machines. This is for your own protection and we ask you kindly to support us with this initiative. **Safety glasses are available at the duty desk.**

4. Trim Saws



Please note that with immediate effect no stones, agates etc. may be cut on the trim saws. These saws are intended for trimming excess materials of slabs with a thickness of 5 – 6 mm only.

Any material exceeding this size must be blocked on wood and cut on the big slabbing saws available and designed for this purpose; no exception will be made and members are kindly asked to adhere to this rule.

5. Personals



Big Thank You's go to

Bernard Strydom, Zelda Carey and Jean Snyman for cleaning up the kitchen and bathrooms and one of the slabbing saws

Bernard S. again for sorting out the plumbing problem at the bathrooms and also for keeping our kitchen supplies stocked up

Lex Krabbendam and Carlo Heinz for getting the garden in shape again by cutting the grass, shrubs and removing weeds. Carlo kindly fixed our lawn mower and replaced the cutting blade for free.

Heidi Naudé tackled the Library section – replacing books, cleaning cupboards and sorting out the mess on top of them.



And last but by no means least our dependable maintenance team – **Will v/d Berg, Willem Vorster, Lex Krabbendam, Okkie Ockert, Peter Beresford and Hendrik Swanepoel** for their hard work on our second Lapidary work station. It is nearly finished and already looking fabulous.

Thank You all for keeping our club running smoothly !

6. Swop & Sell & Social, 07.02.2015

The next Swop & Sell and Social is scheduled for Saturday, 07.02.2015 from 11.00 onwards. Please bring your family and friends to introduce them to our hobby. No previous experience required - everyone can do it! All dealers and members welcome to swop and sell their goods.

7. Silversmithing Course, 21.02.2015

The next course is scheduled for **Saturday, 21.02.2015** (10h00) at the clubhouse. Please contact Bernard Strydom regarding the course project, fee and material required. Remember to book your place in advance as space is limited.

8. Faceting Course

Please contact Lex Krabbendam (083 449 6812) to arrange a one-on-one introduction to faceting.



9. Club Outing to Groot Marico, 27.02. – 01.03.2015

The time is drawing near for our yearly adventurous trip to Groot Marico!

Meeting arrangements are as follows:

- **16:15 on Friday , Feb 27** in the parking area at the Petroport opposite Groot Marico, **OR**
- **08:00 on Saturday, Feb 28** at Hannes Palm's farm, **OR**
- **09:15 on Saturday Feb 28** at the Total Garage in Lichtenburg on the Koster Road – just passed the railway bridge.

Starting of we will visit **Wessel Wessels**. He has an exceptional collection of minerals and is also a keen wall clock builder. From there, for the very first time we'll visit a site where agates, carnelians and other interesting stones can be collected. The farmer there is very generous and excited about our visit.

On Sunday we'll collect Goethite (Limonite pseudo Pyrite), conglomerate and slate.

Regarding our usual visit to the Witkop Fluorspar Mine, there is currently a change in ownership. Unfortunately we won't be able to go there unless things change.



Regarding our stay, we'll camp on the farm of our dear old friend, **Hannes Palm** (photo left).

The farm and scenery is something truly special and is situated at the eye of the Marico River. Please bring along your swimming gear to join in the fun. Be sure not to miss out on our evening "Bring and Braai" where you'll get to know your fellow adventurers.

Should you prefer other accommodation, please contact Michelle Stanton (River Bend Farm) at 082 3377 781.

For further information and confirmation of bookings, please contact me at 082 5989 117 only after 13:30 weekdays or on Saturdays 09:00 – 16:00.

Looking forward to see you at Groot Marico!

Linda Stone



10. 48th Gemboree, 03. – 06.04.2015

The Pietermaritzburg Gem and Mineral Club invites you to this, the 48th Gemboree to be held in Northern Zululand, around the Jozini area, over the Easter weekend in 2015. Your host is the Pietermaritzburg Gem and Mineral Club with support from the Natal Mineral and Gem Society.

The Northern Zululand area has a complex geological history, and specimens which can be found range from agates, amethyst, quartz to fossils. There is a wide range of scenery, and of course a number of game reserves are found in the area, which are also worth a visit. The Jozini Dam is well known for fishing competitions.

Booking forms have been distributed on 05.01.2015; please register soon to avoid disappointment.



Jozini Dam (above),



Agates/Carnelians Jozini area (photos Heidi Naudé)

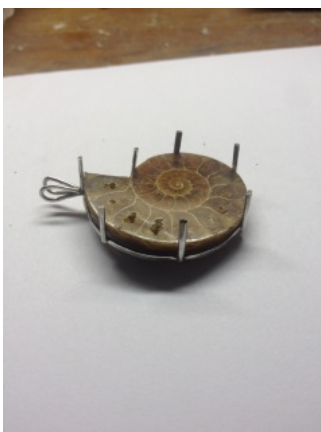
11. Tips – how to set an Ammonite by Charles Strydom, Australia



I attempted a new setting for a nice Ammonite from Madagascar. A normal bezel does not work.

Use 1.5mm half round silver for the ring as well as for the clasps and 1.0mm round silver for the Bunny Ears. Form the ring around the stone to have the outer edge more or less flush with the stone shape.

Position and solder 1.5mm clasps 10mm long to the ring. The flat on the clasp and the flat on the ring makes soldering easy. Attach Bunny Ears and polish (photo left above).



Place the ammonite on top of the ring (photo left below), bend the clasps over partly and using nail clippers nip off excess. Round the ends of the clasps with a Cup Burl or light abrasive wheel on a Dremmel. Lightly tap the clasps to fit snugly onto the stone and do final polishing. Photo top right shows the piece from the back.

Thank you Charles for sharing this with us – keep those tips coming !!!



Voila, a beautiful pendant.
(Photos - Charles Strydom)

12. Results – 2014 Southern African Gem Cutting Challenge, by Fay Pierides

Please find attached the results for the 2014 SAGCC competition.

Our judges once again, for this year, were **Kevin Hean** (Wits Gem & Mineral Club) and **Roy Brain** (Natal Mineral & Gem Society).

We had a total of 10 stones submitted this year. With the final marks not being too far apart – this is another good sign of rising standards. Both Kevin and Roy expressed their opinion that the cutting and polishing standards overall are definitely improving and becoming very good. Some of the mistakes on the faceted stones were of a somewhat more technical nature this year – interesting because that also shows progress in development.

Both judges enjoyed and appreciated the variety of stones chosen by the entrants – it shows that the entrants are adventurous in seeking out interesting material to enter. Thank you to all entered – for your time and effort in contributing to keep this competition evolving and dynamic, thereby helping us raise the bar for African based cutters.

A big thank you to both Kevin and Roy, to whom we are highly indebted, for their intellectual effort and time to help us keep the judging at international top standards.

Please contact me should you have any queries.

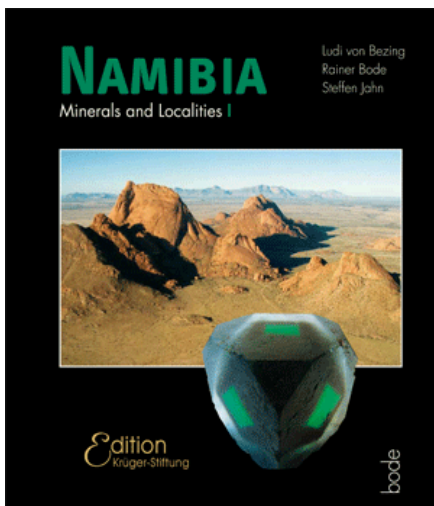
Fay Pierides



All photos courtesy of Fay Pierides



13. Extracts from the African Gems and Minerals Newsletter, January 2015



Call us now to order your copy of Ludi von Bezing's fabulous new book on Namibian Minerals – "NAMIBIA 2".

Namibia's mineral treasures on more than 1000 pages. A unique illustrated book about the most beautiful specimens ever to be found in Namibia.

7 years after the publication of the legendary book NAMIBIA by Ludi von Bezing, Rainer Bode and Steffen Jahn, we are now going to present you with an even better and even more beautiful new book. Also the section of the book about Tsumeb has been greatly extended - more outstanding pictures of killer specimens from collections all over the world turn this chapter into one of the most interesting parts of the book.

Order your copy now (tel. 076 665 1711 or 083 260 1563).