



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 2016

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

Treasurer: Lex Krabbendam, 083 449 6812
Secretary: Yvonne Olivier, 076 594 8914
Editor: Heidi Naudé, 072 923 2180
heidi.naude@za.bosch.com

Programme Highlights February 2016

*** **Swop and Sell and Social**

6 Feb.

*** **Silversmithing Course**

20 Feb.



Tiger's Eye – rough and natural (above) and cut and polished (below)



Gemboree 2016

25-28 March

Have you registered already?

(photos www.google.de images on Tiger's Eye and Jasper gemstones)



Jasper – rough and natural (above) and cut and polished (below)



Section I - Calendar of EVENTS:

PGMC Programme for February 2016:

(as at 29.01.2016)

Date	Event	Time	Contact Details
4 Feb.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
6 Feb.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Swop & Sell and Social	11.00 – 15.00 11.00 – 14.00	Duty Members Open to all
11 Feb.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
13 Feb.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Committee Meeting	11.00 – 15.00 15.00 – 16.30	Duty Members Committee Members
18 Feb.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
20 Feb.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open	11:00 – 15:00	Duty Members
25 Feb.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
27 Feb.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open	11:00 – 15:00	Duty Members

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

Tienie de Jager, Ron and Sebastian Gribnitz.

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

	Duty Roster February and March 2016	
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February	6	13	20	27
Open – 11:00 am	Willem	Heidi	Bernard	Lex
Duty Team	Henry Viviers Jean Snyman	Heidi Naude Yvonne Olivier	Willem Vorster Karin Eggers	Lex Krabbendam Joanne Fidos
Close – 15:00 pm	Willem	Committee	Bernard	Lex

March	5	12	19	26
Open – 11:00 am	Willem	Heidi	Dieter	Club closed for Easter Weekend
Duty Team	Len Botha Ada Beresford	Heidi Naude Yvonne Olivier	Dieter Heinichen Linda Stone	
Close – 15:00 pm	Willem	Committee	Bernard	

Please **check the dates assigned to your team** and organize “**stand-ins**” if you are not available; please refer to your latest NL for final duty allocations.

1. Membership Fees 2016

Club memberships expire on 31st December 2015; **please renew your memberships for 2016 now; only fully paid-up members are entitled to use our clubhouse facilities, attend courses and participate in club outings.** The fees for 2016 are as follows:

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

Bank deposits or EFT 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 Saturdays.

2. Personals



Obituary – Erika Windisch

As previously advised, our honorary member Erika Windisch (photo top left) passed away on 2nd January 2016. For those of you, who did not have the privilege to know Erika personally, a short summary.

Erika joined PGMC in 1964, together with her late husband Horst (photo left below), as members 3 and 4. She was of German descent, but grew up in Namibia before joining her husband in South Africa. Through her husband's involvement in the Mineral-, Micromounting and Sand collection fraternity Erika was very involved in PGMC club activities and organizing collecting outings and national mineral shows. She once told me "we never had "normal" holidays, it was always in connection with rocks and Minerals." She was a keen lapidarist and silversmith in her own right.



Together with her husband Horst, she also organized various "rock hunting excursions" into neighboring countries, such as Namibia and Zimbabwe. Her hospitality towards complete strangers was unmatched, offering accommodation and advise freely. I recall one "tour of the basement" in 2007, were Horst brought 47 (!) people into their home to view his mineral and sand collection. Amazingly Erika remained completely calm and offered everybody tastes of her home-baked German cakes and cookies. What a special day that was. Erika and Horst were a formidable team and together they served both PGMC and FOSAGAMS in unmeasurable ways.

Our sincere condolences go to their children Margot and Gerhard and remaining family, locally and abroad.



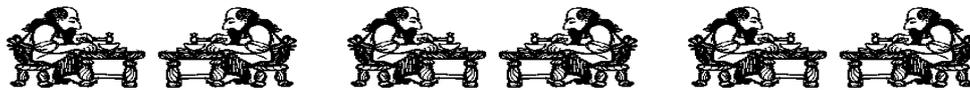
3. Swop & Sell and Social – Saturday, 06.02.2016



The first **Swop & Sell and Social** has been scheduled for **Saturday, 06.02.2016** from 11.00 onwards; all dealers welcome. Members are also invited to bring their surplus minerals and/or rock material to swop or sell. Alternatively you may bring your family and friends and introduce them to our hobby.

4. Silversmithing Course, 20.02.2016

The next course is scheduled for **Saturday, 20.02.2016 at 10.00 am** at the clubhouse. Please contact Bernard Strydom at tel. 074 850 5683 regarding the course project, fee and material required and to book your place.



February Bench Tip by Brad Smith (www.BradSmithJewelery.com)

USE YOUR THUMB - When using multiple bits in a Foredom, we often have to deal with several different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shafts sizes and of course the many different sizes of drills. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the hand-piece chuck.

So I have two ways to speed up that task. For opening up the jaws, I just remember "four", the number of turns I have to make to open the chuck just enough from the 3/32 bur shaft size to the larger 1/8 bur shaft size.



For closing the jaws around a smaller shaft, there's a neat trick. Hold the new bit in the center of the open jaws of the chuck, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the bur shaft or the drill bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.

(Attribution: "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" by Brad Smith, available on Amazon)

5. Faceting Classes

Classes are offered on Saturdays - please arrange with Peter Beresford at 012-377 0558; we have 4 faceting machines available for our members and Peter is very willing and able to help you get started. This is a wonderful "branch" of our hobby which everybody can enjoy, no special artistic skills needed. Photos below – Peter with his students at the recent Hobby Booster held at the clubhouse.





Amethyst - Modern Birthstone for February

This gemstone has been found among the possessions of royalty throughout the ages. The intense violet hue of Amethyst appealed to early monarchs. Amethyst has been found in ruins dating as far back as the ninth century, adorning crowns, scepters, jewelry and breastplates worn into battle. Amethyst is also symbolic of spirituality and piety. It has been used to ornament churches, crosses and rosaries worn by bishops and priests. Once considered more valuable than diamonds, Amethyst is a member of the quartz family occurring naturally as crystals within rocks. Major deposits are found in Brazil, Canada, Australia, India, Russia, Madagascar, Namibia, Sri Lanka and USA.

The gift of Amethyst is symbolic of protection and the power to overcome difficulties. It is said to strengthen the bond in a love relationship. Whether or not Amethyst holds such power, its stunning beauty will certainly make anyone who wears it feel like royalty! (source: www.about-birthstones.com)

Gemboree 2011

Have you registered for the Gemboree 2016 in Prieska? If not, please do so without further delay. FOSAGAMS is organizing this wonderful event for us; they are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year and have truly gone out of their way to find various collecting sites which should satisfy all participants. Communiques 1 and 2 have been distributed together with the registration form and other information, if you need additional copies please let me know and we resend the email; hard copies are also available at the clubhouse.

Our new member, Michael de Scande from Frankfort is urgently looking for a lift to this event, he would be able to come to Pretoria or Johannesburg; please contact Ina le Roux at tel. 058-813 1387 or via email at inaleroux333@gmail.com, if you are willing and able to take him along.

Don't forget to buy your "club uniform" before you depart for the Gemboree or any other club outing. We always draw positive attention with the unification and easy recognition of our club members.

PGMC Club T-Shirts



Club T-Shirts are for sale at the clubhouse!
Price: R 65; sizes: M, L, XL and XXL; colour: bottle green/yellow print.

Results for the 2015 Southern Africa Gem Cutting Challenge - SAGCC

The photo shows: Cabochon – Section A - with Port Elizabeth taking the honours this year. The stone submitted for the faceting division was a cubic zirconia - and for the section B it was a dendritic mud stone – both submitted by Rob Morgan – Durban.

Since the Faceting section and Cabochon Section B – only had 1 stone submitted in each of the 2 divisions – there was no competition there. The Cabochon Section A had a total of 5 stones submitted.

Thank you once again to Kevin Hean for his time energy and effort – his enthusiasm is so much appreciated – he not only marks but analyses the stones from a gemological perspective. If there is anybody out there who wishes to have a stone tested in any way – contact Kevin – he knows his oats!!

And lastly, thank you to the entrants who took the time to prepare and submit beautiful entries – it is really interesting to see the material that people find to cut and polish.

This year we will leave the faceting section rather more relaxed – with any stone being allowed to be submitted – I will forward the rules to everyone a bit later in the year.

We wish everyone a happy, prosperous and productive 2016. Kind Regards Fay Pierides

