



# 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

**May 2016**

**Pretoria Rockhound Digest**

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

**Clubhouse:** no. 29, 26<sup>th</sup> St., Menlo Park  
Saturdays 11:00–15:00, Thursdays 18:00– 21:00  
**Website:** [www.pgmc.co.za](http://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 May 2016

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|---|--------|
| *** Swop and Sell and Social                | 7 May  |
| *** Club Outing: Piet Smit's place, Midrand | 8 May  |
| *** Silversmithing Course                   | 21 May |

### **Emerald – Traditional Birthstone of May** (amongst others)

**Emerald** is a variety of the mineral beryl ( $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_3)_6$ ) coloured green by trace amounts of chromium and sometimes vanadium. Beryl has a hardness of 7.5–8 on the Moh's scale.

Most emeralds are highly included, and their toughness (resistance to breakage) is classified as generally poor.

Emeralds have been mined by the ancient Egyptians as early as 3000 BC from a source near the Red Sea, later renamed as "Cleopatra's Mines". The name derives from the Greek word smaragdus, meaning green gemstone.

Other localities include Afghanistan, Brazil, Columbia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe any many more countries.

(Source and photo: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com))



5 carat Emerald - Muzo, Columbia

## PGMC Programme for May 2016:



(as at 21.04.2016)

Date	Event	Time	Contact Details
5 May	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
<b>7 May</b>	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open <b>Swop &amp; Sell and Social</b>	11.00 – 15.00 11.00 – 14.00	Duty Members Open to all
<b>8 May</b>	<b>Club Outing – Piet Smit’s Place, Midrand</b>	09.30 – 12.30	Willem Vorster
12 May	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
<b>14 May</b>	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open <b>Committee Meeting</b>	11.00 – 15.00 15.00 – 16.30	Duty Members Committee Members
19 May	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
<b>21 May</b>	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open <b>Silversmithing Course – booking essential</b>	11.00 – 15.00 10.00 – 15.00	Duty Members Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
26 May	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
28 May	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open	11:00 – 15:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683

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

**Kristi & Claire Braun, Vitek Kozlowski, Stas Majewski, Jan Sihlangu**  
and **Martha & Riekert du Plessis** (re-joined)

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

	<p><b><i>Duty Roster</i></b> <b><i>May and June 2016</i></b></p>	
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May	7	14	21	28
<b>Open – 11:00 am</b>	<b>Heidi</b>	<b>Dieter</b>	<b>Bernard</b>	<b>Willem</b>
Duty Team	Heidi Naudé Yvonne Olivier	Dieter Heinichen Linda Stone	Henry Viviers tba	Willem Vorster tba
<b>Close – 15:00 pm</b>	<b>Willem</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Bernard</b>	<b>Willem</b>

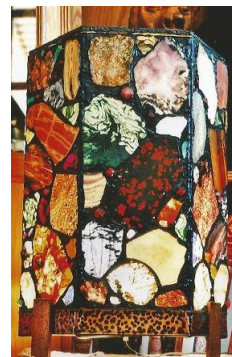
June	4	11	18	25
<b>Open – 11:00 am</b>	<b>Lex</b>	<b>Bernard</b>	<b>Bernard</b>	<b>Heidi</b>
Duty Team	Lex Krabbendam Joanne Fidos	Bernard Strydom Karin Mayerl	Len Botha Ada Beresford	Heidi Naudé Yvonne Olivier
<b>Close – 15:00 pm</b>	<b>Lex</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Bernard</b>	<b>Heidi</b>

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. Personals



Birthday wishes go to our dear member no. 10, **Helen Burri** (photo left), who turned **90** recently. Helen, from all of us at the Pretoria club – many happy returns and good health for the years to come. We hope you had a good day with your family and friends.



Helen was introduced to the hobby by her late husband Otto Burri, and quickly got “hooked”. In the late 1960’s Otto bought a diamond saw and built a grinding and polishing machine. The garage was quickly converted into a workshop, where they spent many hours perfecting their skills – cutting and polishing semi-precious stones.

Helen was very gifted in designing jewellery and her creations earned her many accolades and awards (see news clip right).

Otto’s ability to cut perfect 1 mm thin slabs got them started with lamp making (photo top right). This venture turned later into a fully-fledged business. Their lamps adorn homes and embassy offices in Europe, America and as far as Japan.

They attended many outings, hobby fairs and Gemborees together and truly “left their mark” in the Gem and Mineral community.

Helen, we wish you all the very best for the years to come.



### She’s top stone polisher

THE Bloemfontein Cabo Club Trophy has been won by Mrs Helen Burri of Bloemfontein for gaining the most points for stone polishing.

Mrs Burri was awarded 385 points over a period of three years, while second place went to Mr R. A. Jooste, of Koffiefontein, with 285 points.

Mrs Burri says that her interest in semi-precious stones started 10 years ago when she and her husband were visiting Lesotho. They were so astounded by the amount of agates which they simply picked up in the district that they decided to start a stone collection. About three years later her husband was able to buy a diamond saw with money which he had won.

As stone collectors, Mr and Mrs Burri exhibited their collection at a hobbies fair and many wanted to order stones in settings from them. This set the Burris thinking!

They made inquiries as to the availabilities of settings and what originated as a hobby has now become almost a full-time occupation. A club was started three years ago to assist lone collectors with advice, basic knowledge of stones, and to organise trips to districts where semi-precious stones are available.

Mr and Mrs Burri had to glean all their information and knowledge from books. The Cabo Club, wishing to overcome similar difficulties, offers its assistance to interested persons through Mr D. P. Jacobs — phone 80510, or Helen and Otto Burri — phone 72869.


Mrs Helen Burri of Bloemfontein, winner of the Bloemfontein Cabo Club trophy, seen here working on a lamp decorated with semi-precious stones which she prepares herself.

(all photos & information courtesy of Helen Burri and Alta Griessel)

### 2. Membership Fees 2016

**Please renew your memberships for 2016 urgently; only fully paid-up members are entitled to use our clubhouse facilities, attend courses and participate in club outings.**

We thank those of you who renewed timeously ☺. 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.

### 3. Personals



**Get Well Wishes** go to **Rita Wulff**, who is fighting a brave battle against cancer. **Felix** and **Rita** our thoughts and prayers are with you both during this difficult time and we hope to see you both at the club soon again.



## Section III - Club Activities:

### 4. Swop & Sell and Social – Saturday, 07.05.2016

The next **Swop & Sell and Social** will be held on **Saturday, 07.05.2016** 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.

### 5. Club Outing to Midrand (Piet Smit's place) 08.05.2016

Willem Vorster and Lex Krabbendam have organized a club outing to Piet Smit's place in Midrand on Sunday, 08.05.2016 at 09.00 am. We will mostly obtain various lapidary material. Exact details, including the meeting place, will be advised closer to the date.

Please advise Willem Vorster (076 612 4888) or Lex Krabbendam (083 449 6812) if you like to join.

### 6. Silversmithing Course, 21.05.2016



The next course is scheduled for **Saturday, 21.05.2016 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.

Photo left – project of last month's course – photo courtesy of Bernard Strydom.

### 7. 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 required. So come and book your classes now!