



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

April 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
wcv.vorster@gmail.com
Vice-Chairman: Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
bernardstrydom@gmail.com

Admin.: Heidi Naudé, 072 923 2180
pgmcnewsletter@gmail.com



Highlights



- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| *** Enamelling Course | 1 – 4 Apr. |
| *** Swop & Sell and Social | 6 Apr. |
| *** Silversmithing Course | date t.b.c. |
| *** Gemboree Namibia | 19 – 22 Apr. |



Gemboree 2019 - Uis, Namibia

The PGMC Committee and members wish the organizers and participants of the 2019 Gemboree in Uis, Namibia a very safe return trip and lots of success for this wonderful event.

Go and get those rocks, minerals and crystals and most of all –
enjoy your time and make many new Rockhound friends!



Section I - Calendar of EVENTS:

Programme for April

(as at 27.03.2019)

1-4 Apr	Enamelling Course by Sasha Leon	10:00 – 13:00	Details in newsletter
4 Apr	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
6 Apr	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Swop & Sell and Social	11.00 – 15.00	Duty Members
11 Apr	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
13 Apr.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Committee Meeting	11:00 – 14.30 15.00 – 16.30	Duty Members Committee Members
14 Apr.	Lapidary Sunday (<i>confirm with Bernard</i>)	08:00 – 13:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
18 Apr.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683

20 Apr Clubhouse closed for the Easter Weekend!

25 Apr	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
27 Apr	Silversmithing Course – please re-confirm! Lapidary Workshop open	10:00 – 15.30 11.00 – 15.00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 Duty Members



Duty Roster



April 2019	6	13	20	27
Open – 11:00 am	Willem	Willem	Closed for Easter Weekend 	Bernard
Duty Team	Jan Oliver Joey Oliver	Willem Vorster Karin Mayerl		Dieter Heinichen Heidi Naude
Close – 15:00 pm	Willem	Committee		Bernard

May 2019	4	11	18	25	 Brilliant Diamond
Open – 11:00 am	Willem	Willem	Bernard	Willem	
Duty Team	Peter Beresford Yolanda Keyter	Alan Crawford Dina Crawford	Oliver Green Anita Havenga	Lex Krabbendam Joanne Fidos	
Close – 15:00 pm	Willem	Committee	Bernard	Willem	



We still need **members** to serve on the **duty teams** and urge **all our members to avail themselves for administrative and/or machine duty**; training will be provided.

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



1. Membership Fees 2019

Please note that Membership Fees for 2019 are now overdue and this will unfortunately be your last newsletter if your membership fee is not paid on or before 16 April 2019.

Only fully paid-up members are entitled to receive the club's correspondence, attend courses, use the club's 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).

Fees for 2019 are:

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

2. Personals



A big **Thank You** goes to **Jacques Hugo** for fixing our microscope. Members enjoy watching their thumbnail sized rocks coming to life and reveal their hidden secrets under the microscope. Thank you Jacques, we appreciate your effort.



Another big **Thank You** goes to **Alan Crawford** for fixing our trimming saw. It is running smoothly again and ready for a new "assault" by our members. The saw blade will be replaced in due course. Thank you Alan for your continued efforts with our machinery.

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. For Sale

Dieter Schidlowski has various **workbenches** and **silversmithing tools and equipment for sale**.

Please contact him at 072 395 9769 for details or to make an appointment to view, he stays in Lyttelton Manor, Pretoria. You can also talk to him on Saturdays at the clubhouse for details.



5. Enamelling Course, 1 – 4 April 2019

As advised in our previous email - **Sasha Leon** from Cape Town will come to Pretoria next week and give a detailed **enamelling course**, whereby enamelling glass powder is put onto metal surfaces to create stunning jewellery pieces. The course will be divided into 4 lessons and spread over 4 days to allow participants enough time to finish their pieces.

All materials are provided with exception of the silver pieces. No prior experience required.

Please contact Sasha at 082 824 3549 to book your place or get more information on her web page: www.slsj.co.za, The course venue will be the PGMC clubhouse.

Below are some photos of her beautiful creations (all photos courtesy of Sasha Leon).



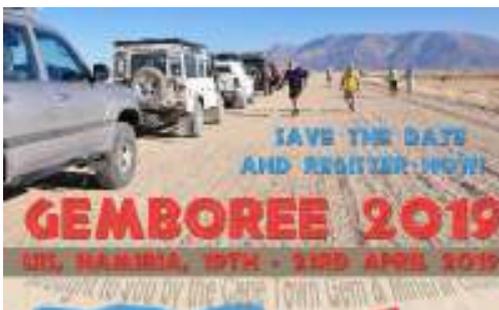
6. Swop & Sell and Social, 6 April 2019



The next **Swop & Sells** will be held on **Saturday, 6 April 2019** from 11.00 am onwards; all dealers welcome.

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

7. Gemboree 2019

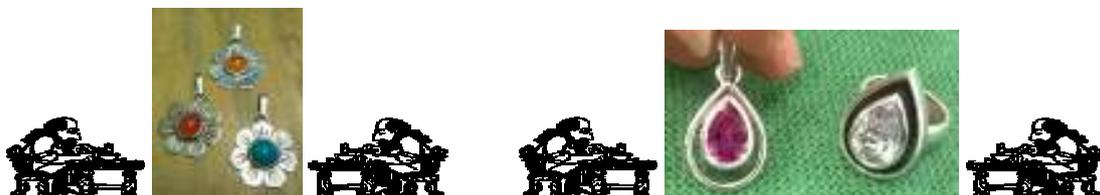


Have you registered already?

Time is running out quickly and if you snooze you will definitely loose!!! This is a wonderful experience for the whole family, and a definite highlight on every rockhound's calendar. Remember you have to be a paid-up club member (any club in SA) to participate. General enquiries or registration forms should be emailed to the Cape Town Gem & Mineral Club at gemboree2019@gmail.com urgently.

8. Silversmithing Course

The Silversmithing courses are usually planned for the 3rd Saturday of each month; unfortunately no details have been made available as yet, please check directly with Bernard at 074 850 5683.



9. Special Lapidary Sunday



Bernard Strydom has introduced a "lapidary only" work session on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Please note that this will be **lapidary work only – no cutting/slabbing of rocks, no silversmithing**. The session will run from 08:00 am to 13:00 pm and the normal workshop fee of R 15/pp applies.

Please re-confirm with Bernard beforehand as he will only open the clubhouse if requested.

10. Faceting Classes – Saturdays

Contact **Peter Beresford** at 064 384 4514 to book your faceting place on Saturdays at the clubhouse. **Beginners and advanced welcome!**

Tuition, faceting machines, laps and polishing powders are supplied by the club – working fee/session = R 30. Faceting material (mainly Quartz varieties) will be available for sale.

Birthstone of the Month – Diamond

The **white/clear Diamond** is **April's birthstone**. Formed within the earth where there is intense heat and pressure, Diamonds are simply crystallized carbon. Volcanic activity brought these gemstones to the earth's surface. Today these gemstones are found primarily in Australia, the Soviet Union and Africa. No more notable in its uncut state than a plain pebble upon the beach, the true beauty of the Diamond was not revealed until the 16th century, when gemstone cutting and polishing techniques were perfected. Their value and appeal depends largely upon how skillfully they are cut and faceted.



"Before and After"

Natural uncut Diamond / 'Brilliant' cut Diamond

A gift of Diamond is symbolic of everlasting love. There is no more convincing a promise of an enduring relationship than the brilliant gemstone that has endured in people's hearts throughout the ages.

Source & photos courtesy of: www.about-birthstones.com and www.fanpop.com

Related news from Tuscon - via John Veevaert – IGS Gem Society Newsletter 03/03/2017



Photo left - a huge crystal of diamond!

A few years ago Paul Pohwat put the crystal in my hand and it was ice cold. Diamond is one of the finest conductors of heat there is.

When it comes into contact with your skin it starts to absorb the heat and it feels just like an ice cube. Hence the nick name for diamond you've probably heard is "ice".

Note from the editor: Would you have recognized this as a diamond? Honestly?

11. PGMC Exhibition Stand – Hobby-X Show

We had a very successful exhibit at the recent Hobby-X in Johannesburg and Willem Vorster and his team's displays and demonstrations created a lot of interest amongst the crowd. This was our first time but certainly not our last and 6 new members were already recruited for the club. Willem and his team worked very hard to get the displays, tables and machinery transferred to Johannesburg and set-up professionally. We owe them a very big **Thank You** for their efforts. We also thank all the people who assisted to "man" the tables during the 4 show days – without you, this would not have been possible!



Left – the information table and Louise and Willem Kruger busy at the Lapidary Machine, middle – Rock Lamp made by the late Helmut Schönberger, right spheres and sphere machine made by Alan Crawford.



Left – Willem Vorster and Louise Kruger explaining the processing steps of cabochons, right – the faceting Station of Peter Beresford, who gave demonstrations on Saturday and had to ward-off buyers for his stone.



Left –display of rough cabochons on dop sticks, middle - various polished cabochons, right – silversmithing projects (all photos Heidi Naudé).