



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

December 2018 / January 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

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| *** Swop and Sell and Social | 1 Dec. |
| *** Silversmithing Course (to be confirmed) | 15 Dec. |
| *** Special Lapidary Sunday | 16 Dec. |



**The clubhouse will close on 20 December 2018
and re-open again on 10 January 2019.**



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| *** Swop and Sell and Social | 12 Jan. |
| *** Silversmithing Course and Lapidary Sunday | t.b.c. |


Section I - Calendar of EVENTS:

Programme for December 2018

(as at 27.11.2018)

1 Dec	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Swop & Sell and Social	11.00 – 15.00	Duty Members
6 Dec	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
8 Dec	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Committee Meeting	11:00 – 14.30 15.00 – 16.30	Duty Members Committee Members
13 Dec	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
15 Dec	Silversmithing Course – please re-confirm! Lapidary Workshop open	10:00 – 15.30 11.00 – 15.00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 Duty Members
16 Dec	Lapidary Sunday (note new times)	08:00 – 13:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
20 Dec	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683

Duty Roster:

December 2018	1	8	15	22	29
Open – 11:00 am	Willem	Heidi	Bernard		
Duty Team	Jan Oliver Joey Oliver	Yolanda Keyter Peter Beresford	Linda Stone Dieter Heinichen	Closed for Festive Season	
Close – 15:00 pm	Willem	Committee	Bernard		



Programme for January 2019

(as at 27.11.2018)


12 Jan	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Swop & Sell and Social	11.00 – 15.00	Duty Members
17 Jan	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
19 Jan	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Committee Meeting	11:00 – 14.30 15.00 – 16.30	Duty Members Committee Members
24 Jan	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
26 Jan	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open	18:00 – 21:00	Duty Members
31 Jan	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683

Duty Roster:

January	5	12	19	26	
Open – 11:00 am		Willem	Heidi	Lex	
Duty Team	Closed for Festive Season	Oliver Green Anita Havenga	Alan Crawford Dina Crawford	Karin Mayerl Willem Vorster	
Close – 15:00 pm		Willem	Committee	Lex	

1. Membership Fees

Membership Fees can be paid via EFT bank transfer to: Pretoria Gem and Mineral Club, ABSA Bank, acc. number: 405 584 9839; or alternatively paid at the clubhouse on Thursdays or Saturdays.

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

Please note that only fully paid-up members are entitled to use our clubhouse facilities, attend courses, participate at the Gemboree or any other club outings and receive the club's monthly newsletter.

2. Postponement of Annual General Meeting 2018

The decision to postpone the Annual General Meeting again was not taken lightly by the Committee. We sincerely apologize for this but ensure all our members that the situation is under control – our finances are safe and sound, the current committee members will carry on with their duties until the next election and the club will function as usual.

As you might have heard our treasurer did not continue with her duties and after some considerable delays the club's computer and financial documents 2016/2017 were only returned at the end of April 2018 to us. Thankfully Lex Krabbendam and Jeanne Wentzel agreed to re-do the 2016/2017 financial statements and also tackle the 2017/2018 documents. Unfortunately those were not ready for presentation on 24 November and since the club's finance reports are an important part of any AGM we thought it best to postpone the meeting until we have the audited information on hand.

The Committee is urgently looking for volunteers for the current vacancies "treasurer" and "secretary". If you have basic accounting skills please come forward and help us to keep the financial administration up-to-date. Thank you for your assistance and understanding – the Committee.

"A club is its members, not its committee which must be an aide to those members."

3. Thank You's



A very big **Thank You** goes to our chairman **Willem Vorster** for transporting the used machines bought from Olly Roon to the clubhouse. If you attended the recent auction you will understand that this was not an easy task. Some of the machines are very big and heavy and poor Willem worked himself to the bone to ensure that all items arrived at the clubhouse in time for the auction – **thank you Willem** – you made sure that the auction was a big success!



Another big **Thank You** goes to our new member **Theuns Koekemoer** for cleaning the white slabbing saw inside and out. What a pleasure to cut with this machine again, and the new odourless cutting oil organized by **Bernard Strydom** works very well. Thank you both for your efforts.

4. Condolences



Bruce Cairncross informed that David Minster passed away recently. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

5. Swop & Sell and Social

The next **Swop & Sell** sessions will be held on **Saturday, 1 December 2018** and then again on **12 January 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.

6. Silversmithing Course

The Silversmithing courses are usually planned for the 3rd Saturday of each month; details will be confirmed as soon as they become available, so check your email inbox regularly. Remember to pre-book your place with Bernard at 074 850 5683 in advance, you don't want to miss out!



7. 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.

8. 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.



Tanzanite – Modern Birthstone for December



Tanzanite has replaced Zirconia as the official birthstone of December and it also represents the twenty-fourth wedding anniversary stone.



December babies may be in a hurry to trade in their Zirconia for the far superior Tanzanite, but care has to be taken in the appropriate setting of Tanzanite jewellery. Because of its softness (6.5 on the Moh's scale), it is not suited to be worn every day and should be protected from possible shocks and scratches. Stick to diamonds for engagement rings and other jewellery pieces that are typically worn every day.

This sexy stone is best reserved for the lobe of the ear, the hollow of the neck, or the soft swelling of cleavage.



This treasure from the cradle of humanity holds all the qualities of Africa – the passion, the intensity, the openness and the diversity, the clarity of endless blue skies yielding to the warmth of a sun setting over distant horizons. In the shimmering depths of Tanzania history, and a whispered promise of a future of open hearts and spirits uplifted - the alchemy of Africa.

(Source: www.suite101.com)



9. Gemboree 2019 – Reminder to book early Accommodation is limited!

**SAVE THE DATE
AND REGISTER NOW!**

GEMBOREE 2019

UIS, NAMIBIA, 19TH - 23RD APRIL 2019

brought to you by the Cape Town Gem & Mineral Club

Join us in Uis, Namibia for the 2019 Gemboree. Uis is at the heart of a number of excellent collecting sites, and local miners and traders will be attending the gemboree to offer an exciting array of minerals and specimens for purchase.

A variety of accommodation options are available on a first come, first serve basis, so be sure to complete the attached registration form, pay your deposit to secure your preference and send the proof of payment and completed registration form to

gemboree2019@gmail.com

Namibia has that relaxed camping atmosphere, and Gemborees are always great for socialising after a hard day's collecting

Excellent collecting opportunities

Roadside stalls to browse through

Need more info?
More details of the exciting line-up of activities and excursions will be announced in the weeks to come. We are making special arrangements for the issuing of Export Permits. Email us on gemboree2019@gmail.com for any urgent questions pertaining to registration.

10. Past Auction at the clubhouse.....



Look at the wonderful selection of mineral specimens, rocks and slabbing/lapidary material you missed out on at the past auction held.

Not to mention the secondhand machinery, the top item being this phantastic Ultratec faceting machine with loads of accessories in all the drawers. The smaller machines (faceting trim saw with preform grinding wheel, normal trim saw and another home-made faceting machine) were also wrapped-up quickly.

However, if you have some space available there is still a tumbling station with 8 drums, a massive slabbing saw (60 cm blade), a heavy duty grinding station and a vibrating flat lab for polishing big slabs or rock faces.

Interested? Come to the club to view and discuss with Willem, we are open for offers!



Wishing you all a peaceful Festive Season and a good start into 2019. Enjoy the holidays and travel safely.