



CAPE TOWN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

FOR THE STUDY OF ROCKS, MINERALS & CRYSTALS

50th
ANNIVERSARY
1962-2012

mineral chatter

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

DIARY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
JANUARY	26	10h00	Club opens
FEBRUARY	2	10h00	Open Day – Minerals, crystals, gems on sale
	9	14h00	Monthly Meeting – details to be confirmed
	16		Workshops open on request VREDENDAL FIELD TRIP
	23		Workshops open on request
MARCH	2	10h00	Open Day – Minerals, crystals, gems on sale
	9		AGM



Our birthday girls:

Pat Pearce turned 96 on 12th January, 2013

Bella Hawkins turned 2 on 13th January, 2013

What's inside this month?

- Committee Corner
- FOSAGAMS newsletter
- Events and Report Backs
- SA Gem Cutting Challenge results





COMMITTEE CORNER

This is the first newsletter of 2013, and we wish all our members a very good New Year in all respects. The club opens again on 26th January at 10h00, and should you wish to call in and help with any chores, or simply to say “hello”, we shall be pleased to see you. If you hope to use a workshop that day, please contact the relevant supervisor a few days beforehand to see if he is available.

⊗ *Our 50th Anniversary party in December was a great success and the auction raised R5805 for club funds. Sixty five current, honorary, and previous members attended. TVJ has written up a report on the event (see below) and we have put together a separate supplement of photos for our members.*

⊗ *The Annual General Meeting will be held on 9th March. If you have any special item that you would like put on the agenda, please send it to Jo in writing as soon as possible. It must go through the 9th February EXCO Meeting before coming up at the AGM.*

⊗ *Subs invoices have either already gone out by email, or they accompany this newsletter if posted. All memberships lapsed on 1st January, regardless of when you renewed or joined last year, (unless you joined for the very first time after 1st September, 2012). Please pay your subs as soon as you are able. Thank you to everyone who has already paid. The March 2013 Mineral Chatter will be the last issue sent out to lapsed memberships, and you do need to be a paid up member to vote at the AGM in March.*

⊗ *Our congratulations go to our Honorary Life Member, Pat Pearce, who turned 96 on 12th January. We look forward to seeing her at another club meeting before too long. Likewise, happy birthday to our youngest member, Bella Hawkins, who turned two on 13th January.*

⊗ *We are extremely saddened to announce the death of Ted Immelman on 10th January this year. He was 74. He was a long term member of this club, and known internationally for his superb collection and knowledge of Tsumeb minerals. Maurice Conradie has written a short note on him further below. Our sympathies and thoughts go to Trish at this time. There are no details regarding his memorial service as yet. We will send out a separate notice when we have the information.*

⊗ *Congratulations also to Martine van der Westhuysen who was awarded a silver medal in the faceting section of SA Gem Cutting Challenge, close on the heels of Roy Brain from Durban (who won the US Faceting Masters last year). Details are also below.*

⊗ *Another field trip to Vredendal has been arranged for the 16/17th February. Graham and Craig Harrison had a great find there last September and have written an account of it for us. If you are interested in going to Vredendal again, please contact Ken or Carol as soon as possible and they will send you the relevant details. (kcoleman@telkomsa.net – 021 558 6308) **The cut-off date for booking is 11th February - you may not just pitch up at the site on the day and hope to attend the field trip.***

⊗ *Don't forget to register for the Gemboree in Lesotho this Easter, if you wish to attend. Full details were sent out to you by email last December. gemboree.co.za is the site to visit for these and further details, as well as the registration form. **See the notice at the end of this newsletter, just received.***

⊗ *The SA Lapidary Magazine Vol.44, No.3, is now available for collection from our Library. Amongst other articles, it has an account by Malcolm of the 2012 FOSAGAMS tour of Namibia. This magazine is about to be revamped and have a change in editorship. Please see the newsletter below from Linda Stone, President of FOSAGAMS, regarding this.*

☸ *Don't forget that we have a very good library waiting for your use with a wide spectrum of books from geology, jewellery, faceting, lapidary work, and rocks and minerals, as well as current copies of the Mineralogical Record. Ask Duncan or Carol for assistance.*

☸ *Traders – please remember that you must let Marion know every month whether or not you are taking a table on Open Days. Her number is 084 6060 233, or mcoleman05@gmail.com*

☸ *If you have a very good photo of any special mineral specimen you own, please send it in to Jo so that it can be featured in a new “Mineral Photo of the Month” section in this newsletter.*

☸ *Or, if you went anywhere interesting that was of a mineralogical or geological nature these holidays, please write up an account of your travels for us – the personal accounts of outings are always very enjoyable for members to read. Or alternatively come and show us a slide show of the photographs you took.*

We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

EXCO

TED IMMELMAN

Last Thursday, the renowned vascular surgeon, Professor Edward Immelman, died. To us fellow club members, he was affectionately known as Ted – a loyal member of the Mineralogical Society for 40 years, a passionate collector, and an authority on Tsumeb minerals second to none.

Ted had an in depth knowledge of Tsumeb and its minerals – he knew the when, where and how of every mineral discovered there. He was always generous and approachable in sharing this knowledge. I often heard “show it to Ted” when there was any doubt about a mineral that was being discussed. In fact I have on occasion heard him referred to as Mr. Tsumeb.

His outstanding Tsumeb collection was sold last year and is making an impact at International Mineral Shows.

Ted's enthusiasm rubbed off on every mineral collector who came into contact with him. His encouragement and inquiring mind had a huge influence in the Mineralogical Society as a whole.

As a member, as a collector, as a friend – we shall miss him dearly.

Our deepest sympathies go to Trish, Robert, Grant, and their families.

Maurice Conradie

FOSAGAMS Newsletter 10/2012

South African Lapidary Magazine

1. Resignation of the editor, Allan Fraser

It is with regret that I have to inform you that Allan Fraser has resigned as editor of the South African Lapidary Magazine. His consulting business has grown tremendously and he intends furthering his education on a part time basis.

As we all know, the magazine was dear to Allan's heart. He devoted a lot of his time to the magazine turning it into the magazine it is today.

We wish Allan every happiness in his future endeavours. This is however not a goodbye as Allan has promised to contribute articles to the magazine in future.

2. Appointment of the new editor, David Minster

David agreed to become the new editor. He is widely known as a person with a large field of interest. David wants to reflect this in the magazine. He is already working on some interesting ideas. David sent the following CV:

By way of introduction, especially for those of you who have never met me, a brief synopsis.

I first became interested in the lapidary world as a young kid, I wanted to build a cat's whisker crystal set radio so my dad brought me a piece of galena from the shop, the radio worked but the galena fascinated me more and so began a lifelong hobby, profession and passion. I started collecting mineral specimens and tumbled stones, it is actually amazing what you could find around Pretoria and Johannesburg back in the early 1960s. As an adult I went into the family business as a goldsmith, ended up dealing in minerals and gemstones as well, I bought a lot from Mara's Gems in the Pretoria CBD and became firm friends with Luis and Mara Leite. My first specimens as that I acquired to sell as a dealer were from the first spectacular rhodocrosite find at the Kalahari manganese fields in 1974, I can't think of a better introduction to the business than that. My real interest though, was gemstones so I moved into the gemstone business, then realized that I didn't really know anything about what I was selling so the next quest was for knowledge. I passed the Gemmological Association of Great Britain's gemology diploma exam in 1979 after which I became a fellow of the Association. Around about then I also invented a few new gem testing technologies like the yellow LED light source for refractometers and the use of the Barkhausen effect for distinguishing between natural and synthetic diamonds, thereby ushering in the use of modern electronics in gemmology. In 1986 I went to live in Idar Oberstein, the centre of the European gem industry where I did the German Gemmological Association's Gemmology course. I returned there in 1990 to get their advanced professional diamond Grading diploma course and the Pearls, amber, Coral and other organic gemstones diploma. During the course of these studies I got to meet, and befriend some of the top people in the gemmological and mineralogical worlds. I had also developed a new profession, gemstone faceting, carving and cabochoning so I got to meet some of the top gemstone cutters in the world as well. During this period I got to see some of the best public and private gemstone collections in Europe. I also began photographing Minerals, gemstones and jewellery around about then, my pictures appeared in magazines and calendars around the world as well, as being the guest speaker at the Gemmological association of great Britain's AGM in 1997 where I gave them a 3D slideshow and talk on gemstones and inclusions in gemstones. Some of my earlier pictures also made it into the Minerals of South Africa book by Bruce Cairncross and Roger Dixon. Even though I no longer am in the trade I keep myself up to date with new developments in the field, write a lot, and have done a few stints as editor of other publications including a guest editor stint for the American Prometheus Society's Gift of Fire Journal. I also still give talks on gemstones and even find time to go on Gem Club outings at least once a year. **David Minster**

David will also be the spokesperson for FOSAGAMS on Radio Talk 702. We wish him well and are looking forward to his tenure as editor.

Name change of the South African Lapidary Magazine

The name of the magazine will for the time being stay as it is. Ray Biram expressed his concern regarding the change of the name of the magazine citing costs re. changing invoices, banking, the layout of the magazine etc. This will be discussed at the FOSAGAMS AGM to be held at the Lesotho Gemboree.

SA GEM CUTTING CHALLENGE

The judging for this competition took place at the beginning of December and the results were as follows:

Faceting: Any type of Topaz may be used, except the heat-treated variety – design of choice		
Gold medal	Roy Brain	Durban
Silver medal	Martine van der Westhuysen	Cape Town
Bronze medal	Jose Portero	Pretoria

Cabochons		
Division A - stones harder than 7 on Mohs scale		
Gold medal	Derek Scotney	PE
Silver medal	Colin Towers	PE
Bronze medal	Rob Morgan	Durban
Division B – stones softer than 7 on Mohs scale		
Gold medal	Colin Towers	PE
Silver medals	Charles Newton, Rob Morgan	Durban
Bronze medal	Mirek Fajer	Durban



The website for this competition is underway and as soon as it is finished, the photos and detailed results will be loaded - I will let everybody know once it goes live.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Colin Towers from PE for his amazing win in the Gemini Geelong Competition in Australia. Karien Grobler from Pretoria, Derek Scotney and Donae Stone from PE, also had the courage to enter and scored very well. This is a legendary cabochon competition - the judges are incredibly strict. You four made us proud – well done.

Regards, **Fay Pierides** Owner and Convener - S.A. Gem Cutting Challenge

Martine's 5.9ct Clear Topaz

CLUB EVENTS



Monthly Meeting 8th December 2012. This was the final Monthly Meeting of the year and also an anniversary celebration of the club's 50th year. There was a good turnout of members and a number of old friends present - sixty five in all. No speakers were invited but Malcolm Jackson gave a short history of the club. To give a festive atmosphere 1960s music was played, and photos of the club and its members of days-gone-by were visible both in a display case and a computer slide show, (some members are looking a bit older these days), and balloons were scattered about the floor.

Displays of quartz were exhibited by some members in response to a request to make the day a great Quartz Fest. These included crystals of all sizes, including several giant Jan Coetzees, lapidary carvings in blue lace agate, spheres of various coloured stones, and cabochons and faceted gemstones.

Dave Hawes had donated a chunk of Loeriesfontein rock, studded with minute "Herkimer diamonds". Everyone present at the party was given a free raffle ticket, and Annette Schram was the lucky winner who could then spend her holidays "mining out" the tiny quartz crystals.

A super feast was then laid on by the committee and Margaret Jackson, with financial help from Rob Smith, and ice cream donated by Gino Gallon. Pat Pearce cut the anniversary cake made by Jo Wicht. Among the great foodstuffs, I thought the delicious sausage was worth a special mention.

After this an auction was held with 50 diverse lots on offer (all donated by club members). Jan Wicht was the auctioneer assisted by Ken Coleman. The goodly sum of R5805 was raised (seemingly?) without the need of a shill. (A shill is an employee of the auctioneers, who bids along with the best of them, to raise the bidding prices). The top lot was a magnificent faceted smoky quartz necklace made and donated by Jim Florence, a former chairman of the club. It was bought for R1,200.00.



At this stage your correspondent departed, but it looked like most folk were in no hurry to leave and were staying on to braai, so it must have been a great party enjoyed by all who attended.

Happy New Year to all. **TVJ**



Inspecting the auction lots



Feasting

(A separate supplement of more photos and some club history will be sent to CT club members by e mail)

INFORMATION WANTED



Does anyone know where ocean jasper, leopard-skin jasper, dalmatian jasper, Kambamba jasper (sometimes wrongly called “nebula stone”) and pudding-stone jasper come from? And how any of these amazing minerals were formed? And how ocean jasper, Kambamba jasper and our own local Buddstone got their names? If you do, please let Trevor know. (Better still – please write it up for this newsletter – and with photos too – Ed)

< Madagascan ocean jasper frog by Jo

VREDENDAL TO BE RE-VISITED

Many of the members of the Cape Town Gem & Mineral club have made a few visits to this area over the last few years. We all know the site as one that is nothing short of a lot of hard work for a few quartz crystals! Over the latter part of 2012 things were just that “little” tougher at the site as no further blasting had been done for some time, which was severely hampering new digging opportunities!!

This may have explained the rather small turnout at the final field trip organized by the club in September 2012. In addition to a few diehards there were a few new members that were willing to take their chances at the site. After the safety briefing the “new guys” were shown where the most promising opportunities might be and the “old hands” were left to their own devices to try figure out something new as to where there might be a pocket that had been overlooked on previous trips.

After a morning’s hunting to no avail, Craig and I opted to take a break in the shade of a massive boulder for lunch. As we sat there we both simultaneously realized we were literally sitting on a pocket of crystals! To set the scene for those that have been there before, one has to imagine a perfectly flat area, lots of room to move around



without risk of rocks falling on your head, plenty of shade and shelter from the wind and sun and easy digging. We quickly set about excavating one of the largest pockets of crystals we have yet found at the site. Not only were there many specimens (all our packaging was used, we packed as many as we could in the back of the vehicle and under the seats in the front of the car) but the size of the specimens just got bigger and bigger!!

In total, an estimated 150 pieces were retrieved from that single pocket in the afternoon. These included many with a light iron oxide coating giving the crystals a natural “rainbow” when reflected in the sunlight, a good number with both rutile and dolomite, as well as feldspar associations and of course large clusters of well-terminated quartz specimens on matrix.

We would like to thank the club and field trip committee for arranging the trip – we both certainly look forward to returning there sometime in 2013 in order to continue from where we left off in our special “piece of paradise”.
Graham & Craig Harrison

Another visit to Vredendal for current members of our club has been arranged for the weekend of 16/17 February. Contact Carol & Ken Coleman a.s.a.p for full details and to book your place. The cut-off date for bookings is 11th February. You may not just arrive at the site and hope that you will be allowed to attend.

PGMC: Urgent - Gemboree Accommodation – Reminder

Hello Rockhounds,

The Gemboree committee has finalized all preparations for the rally to Pitseng.

There have been some adjustments to the programme and venues since the invitations were sent out. Final details will be sent individually to all participants. Lesotho had a lot of rain so far this season, and we hope that we will be spared during the Easter weekend, as too much rain makes all non tarred roads muddy and inaccessible until dried out.

PGMC is under pressure from Aloes Guest House to conclude the bookings for the Gemboree as soon as possible. They advised that Easter is a very busy time in Lesotho, and they cannot afford to have vacant accommodation during this period.

They have already a full waiting list, as this is a popular venue for that time of the year.

The Gemboree details on our website will be updated and finalized shortly and will supply you with all the information on the Gemboree events and outings.

Finalize your bookings as soon as possible, as we will not be able to process participants once the resort cancels the unconfirmed accommodation reservations.

Your Gemboree Committee

CONTACTS

LAPIDARY WORKSHOP: Contact Charlie Scharfetter on charliescharfetter@gmail.com or 083 700 6777.

FACETING WORKSHOP: Contact Duncan on 084 757 983

TRADERS: Contact Marion on 084 6060 233.

LIBRARY: Available on Open and Meeting days. Ask Carol or Duncan to unlock for you.

ADVERTISEMENTS

MINERAL MARKET (Trading as African Art & Gemstones). Established more than 25 years ago. We have an extensive range of African and global mineral specimens and products. We also stock an excellent range of African Art/curios. Phone Maria or Rolf (geologist) on 0824582432 for personal service or visit our shop in Simon's Town, 126B St George's Street. www.mineralmarket.co.za

Duncan Miller is the official southern African regional representative for **ULTRA TEC FACETING MACHINES** (www.ultratec-facet.com) and agent for **GEARLOOSE LAPIDARY PRODUCTS** (www.battlap.com). So if you are considering buying an Ultra Tec or Gearloose's innovative polishing materials, contact Duncan for a quote including shipping, tax, clearance fees, etc. 084 757 9830 or embo@telkomsa.net. You can read the latest Ultra Tec newsletter at <http://www.ultratec-facet.com/Sometimes/somenew.htm>

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For vast range of semi-precious beads and cut stones at excellent prices contact **Vadim Petzer** of the 101 Jewellery Emporium at 082 7714954.

Advertising is free to members. Contact Jo to place an ad.

FAVOURITE REFERENCE WEBSITES

MINERAL SPECIMENS:

<http://www.e-rocks.com> www.mindat.org www.galleries.com <http://www.mineral-forum.com> www.minerals.net
www.webmineral.com www.mineralogicalrecord.com <http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/> www.irocks.com
<http://www.the-vug.com/vug/vugfakes.html> (FAKES) www.mnh.si.edu/vtp/1-desktop/ - tour of Smithsonian

GEOLOGY:

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/> <http://geology.about.com/library/bl/images/blmineralindex.htm> geology.com

FACETING & GEMS:

www.artcutgems.com <http://www.gia.edu/research-resources/gia-gem-database/index.html> <http://fasttex.ctl.utexas.edu/vargas/>

LINKED SOCIETIES

We exchange newsletters with the following societies. Should you be interested in reading any of them please contact Jo who will e-mail them onto you. If you wish to join any of the clubs, or attend their lectures and outings, please contact the person listed below:

USA FACETING GUILD – Contact Duncan (embo@telkomsa.net) to join the faceting group if you want to receive these newsletters. This is open to Cape Town Gem & Mineral Club members only.

THE CAPE NATURAL HISTORY CLUB - Visit www.capenaturalhistoryclub.co.za Contact Eleanor 021 762 1779

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY - Contact Lia at xtrahand@iafrica.com

FRIENDS OF SA MUSEUM - Contact Maxine Davies 021 481 3913 (Wednesdays & Fridays only) samfriends@iziko.org.za

W.CAPE BRANCH OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SA - Saranne Cessford E-mail – gssa_wcb@worldonline.co.za
website: <https://sites.google.com/site/gssawcb/>

2013 MEMBERSHIP FEES

TOWN MEMBERS: **Single:** R290 e mail (R30 extra if newsletter is posted)

Family: (Principal/partner/with dependent children under 21) R370 e mail (R30 extra if newsletter is posted)

COUNTRY MEMBERS: (Living more than 50km as the crow flies from central Cape Town) **Single:** R215 e mail (R30 extra if newsletter is posted)

Family: (Principal/partner/with dependent children under 21) R260 e mail (R30 extra if newsletter is posted)

STUDENT/AFFILIATE: (Age under 25, registered full-time at *bona fide* college or university, or dependent child of existing member) R145 e mail only

ONCE OFF JOINING FEE FOR NEW MEMBERS: (R20 per application, single or family)

If you ask for the newsletter to be posted to you (even if you have e-mail) you must please pay the extra R30.

Club bank a/c for payments is ABSA - Table View - code 334409 - account no. 40-5975-5822 Payments must be made to THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA not CT Gem & Min. Please make a direct payment where possible, and identify your transaction with your name as the beneficiary reference.

YOUR 2012/3 COMMITTEE

Chairman	Malcolm Jackson	021 551 8009	jacksonhome@telkomsa.net
Vice Chairman	Ken Coleman	021 558 6308	kcoleman@telkomsa.net
Treasurer	Remo Ciolli	021 975 6059	remo@ciolibros.co.za
Assistant to Treasurer	Carol Coleman	021 558 6308	kcoleman@telkomsa.net
Secretary & Newsletter Editor	Jo Wicht	021 976 3808	joanna.wicht@kingsley.co.za
Workshops Liaison	Rinda du Toit	072 101 1088	rindadt@gmail.com

The opinions expressed in the articles above do not necessarily reflect those of the Executive Committee. We welcome all contributions related to our hobby and everyone is welcome to send articles for inclusion in the Mineral Chatter.

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Chairman: Malcolm Jackson (e-mail: jacksonhome@telkomsa.net) Secretary: Jo Wicht (e-mail: joanna.wicht@kingsley.co.za)

The Mineralogical Society of Southern Africa, PO Box 28079, Goede Hoop Street, Bothasig, Cape Town, 7406, registered Non-Profit Organisation No. 61-850, trading as The Cape Town Gem & Mineral Club. Affiliated to the Federation of South African Gem & Mineral Societies.

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