



Federation of Southern African Gem and Mineralogical Societies Federasie van Suider-Afrikaanse Siersteen en Mineralogiese Verenigings



FOSAGAMS Newsletter 1 2016

www.fosagams.co.za

GEMBOREE 2016

The Gemboree 50th anniversary celebration of FOSAGAMS is drawing nearer. A good number of people are interested in joining the exciting celebrations at Prieska.

A communique focussing on the Gemboree will be send out to the Gemborites shortly. In this newsletter you will find final arrangements regarding the Gemboree.

FOSAGAMS TOUR 2016

Malcolm Jackson, our adventurous and experienced tour leader, will be organizing another tour to Namibia. This will be in celebrating FOSAGAMS's 50th anniversary.

The FOSAGAMS tour of 2016 will cover four of Namibia's world famous mineral specimen collecting sites.

Namibia which was previously known as South West Africa had the largest vanadanite deposits in the world which were mined from 1920 to 1978. The best desclozite specimens were recovered from these deposits. We will be visiting all the vanadanite deposits which we haven't visited on recent tours.

The Kaokoveld copper deposits will be visited to collect diopside, shattuckite and associated lead minerals.

Travelling south to Goboboseb Mountains we hopefully will collect window quartz and zeolites.

We will pay a visit to Swakopmund before we head east to Spitzkoppe, Tubussis and Omaruru where we will visit small miners to collect Erongo specimens.

The meeting place will be at the Transkalahari Inn on the Airport road in Windhoek on Sunday August 7.

The following places will be on our tour map: Grootfontein, Tsumeb, Kamanjab, Omaue, Kamanjab, Uis, Goboboseb, Swakopmund, Spitzkoppe, Tubissis, Omaruru, Erongo area, Karabib and back to Windhoek.

The trip is expected to be 18 to 19 days long, depending on the time it takes to obtain permits.

The total distance that we will be travelling the first day is approximately 460 km. We have included two days to take it easy and relax, while the rest of the days will be spent at mines, collecting sites or visiting dealers.

For the most part there will be two options regarding accommodation: Either camping or hiring of rooms. However at some places only camping will be available. In Swakopmund we will stay in the municipal chalets.

The distance for the round trip from Windhoek will be approximately 3 000 km and includes some running around once we reach our destinations.

Those travelling from Cape Town and Gauteng can add an additional 2 800 km and those from KwaZulu Natal 3 800 km extra.

If you are interested in going please contact Malcolm Jackson at vicepresident@fosagams.co.za To be a participant of this tour you must be a member of a club affiliated to FOSAGAMS.

FOSAGAMS' AND THE WINDISCH FAMILY'S SPECIMEN DONATION OF THE ONGANJA COPPER MINERAL



Malcolm Jackson and Helke Mocke

(from the museum) with the specimen

Photo: Margaret Jackson

Early last year the family of the late Horst Windisch contacted Malcolm Jackson (vice-president) regarding the 30kg Onganja copper mineral specimen in their collection since the late 1970's. Malcolm suggested that it would be better suited to go to the geological museum at the Department of Mines and Minerals at Windhoek in Namibia.

Graham Harrison delivered the nugget to Cape Town from Pretoria and Malcolm himself mounted it on a specially designed display stand.



Malcolm took this specimen to the museum in January.

Alongside the specimen it was mentioned that the specimen was donated by the Windisch family together with FOSAGAMS.

If ever you are in the vicinity of the geological museum in Windhoek, please make an effort to view this specimen with its interesting history.

(With acknowledgement to Mineral Chatter, newsletter of the Cape Town Gem and Mineral Club)

The copper mineral Photo: Margaret Jackson

PASSING AWAY OF ERIKA WINDISCH



It is with regret that we have to announce the passing away of Erika Windisch, wife of the late Horst Windisch. Most of us got to know Erika at the Gemborees and the FOSAGAMS tours conducted by Horst to Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Erika was born in Namibia and attended various schools there. Her father was internated during the Second World War. She then got married to Horst and travelled with him to countries overseas. Erika was interested in silversmithing. However her main interest was cross stitching and articles made by her can be seen in many households. She happily presented people with her work of art.

Erika and Horst Windisch Photo: Supplied

Erika will be remembered for her friendly nature, her sense of humour and her logical way of reasoning.

FOSAGAMS' sympathy goes out to her children, Gerhard and Margot.

SIGNATURES OF EARTH'S BIOLOGICAL PAST- ALLAN FRASER

Allan Fraser sent me an article written by him. In the introduction paragraph he says:

'In the rock record, the remains of the body parts of animals such as bones, teeth, exo-skeletons and shells are preserved as fossils. However, there is also indirect evidence of biological activity in the rock record as footprints, burrows, tracks, borings, gizzard stones and feces left behind by animals, rather than the animal itself. These signatures from the past are known as trace fossils (ichnofossils) and is evidence of the original biology and sedimentary environment in which these were made.'

To read more about this interesting article, please go to www.fosagams.co.za / articles

SAGM EDITOR'S VACANCY

This job entails the collecting and editing of articles, recruitment of advertisers, liaising with the printers, clubs and other interested parties. The editor is responsible for the success of the overall end product. Please contact me at president@fosagams.co.za

AN INTERESTING DRAWING IN SA LAPMAG

Gerhard Windisch sent me this drawing taken from the SA LapMag Vol 1 no 4 (1967). Please have a look at the other magazines at www.fosagams.co.za / Magazines. You may find some interesting drawings!!



And here, Ladies and Gentlemen, we see the familiar pock-marked surface of a geode.

Regards

Linda Stone

President FOSAGAMS

