

# Federation of Southern African Gem and Mineralogical Societies

## Federasie van Suider-Afrikaanse Siersteen en Mineralogiese Verenigings



### FOSAGAMS NEWSLETTER 4 / 2015

#### Gemboree 2016



FOSAGAMS' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations will be held from March 25-28, 2016. Thanks very much those who have sent in their bookings and payments. If you intend spending more time exploring the Northern Cape region, you are most welcome to arrive earlier or prolong your stay.

We have also several guests of honour to join the celebrations, thanking them for all contributions made to FOSAGAMS.

Specimens to be collected are tiger's eye, mugglestone, jasper, albite, apatite, beryl, ilmeneo-rutile, lepidolite, muscovite, orthoclase, quartz, spessartine, spodumene, tourmaline etc. Pieter Smit will be selling the following: Tourmaline, garnets (red), rhodalite, corundum, sapphire, rubies, crystals, amethyst crystals, blue lace agates, galena, jasper, rose quartz, agates from Botswana and Brazil, scoppelite (yellow in colour, shape similar to tourmaline), ionite, mugglestone, sodalite, aquamarine, sugalite, eggs, lamps, spheres etc.

Regarding the accommodation, unfortunately all rooms at the Soon le Roux Youth Camp have been taken. Accommodation in the dormitories are still available as well as rooms in the hostel of Hoërskool Prieska. These rooms are spacious and well looked after. All the rooms are close to the cloakrooms (consisting of toilets, showers and baths).

Attached you will find the menu as well as the registration form. Please forward your registration form to both [info@fosagams.co.za](mailto:info@fosagams.co.za) and [president@fosagams.co.za](mailto:president@fosagams.co.za) . For any further information needed regarding guest house accommodation, road indicators and interesting places please visit [www.fosagams.co.za](http://www.fosagams.co.za) / Announcements.



## **FOSAGAMS TOUR 2016**

In celebrating FOSAGAMS 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Malcolm Jackson is busy organizing a tour to Namibia at the beginning of August next year. Malcolm an adventurous and experienced tour leader has successfully organized a number of tours.

He is planning on covering the Erongo, Gogoboseb, Kaokoland and other minerals areas yet to be recce'd.

The group will have the opportunity to purchase mineral specimens from small miners as well as visiting mines and collecting sites to 'dig around' themselves.

The round trip is expected to be between 7 000 and 8 000 km and will last in the region of 19 days. Vehicles must have high ground clearance with a 2x4 being advisable.

If you are a member of a club affiliated to FOSAGAMS and are interested in the tour, please e-mail your contact details, number in your party and vehicle type, to the following address:

[vicepresident@fosagams.co.za](mailto:vicepresident@fosagams.co.za)

View the pictures on the article on Bruce Cairncross' and Terence McCarthy's new book.

## **SAGM**

It is with regret that we have to announce the resignation of Sharon Flax Waddington as editor of the SAGM. Sharon delivered a good quality of work covering all interests in the hobby. FOSAGAMS wishes her well .

Any person interested in taking over the position of editor kindly contact me at [president@fosagams.co.za](mailto:president@fosagams.co.za) .

The job will entail 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.

## **OPEN DAY**

The Open Day was held on Sunday October 18 at Graeme and Lesley Hoffmann's nursery. About 27 vendors participated including several newcomers who came all the way from Bloemfontein, Kuruman and Durban to sell their minerals. Geology students from the University of the Free State also participated.



*Willem Vorster*



*Paul Vermaak*



*Douw and Esté Steyn*



*Graeme and Lesley Hoffmann*

*and Karl Sprich*

***Photos: Linda Stone***

Willem Vorster acted as auctioneer and R3 752,00 was collected towards the SAGM. Many thanks to Willem and also to the vendors who each contributed specimens / articles from their tables to be auctioned.

A hearty thanks to Graeme and Lesley for their hospitality and support in making this Open Day a huge success.

## SUGILITE, RUBIES & KYANITE



Photos: Supplied

I received the following email written by Dave and Jackie Read to Allan Fraser:

'Hi Allan,

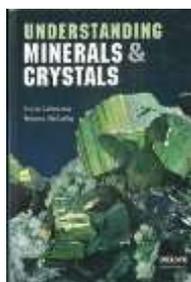
I thought it may be of interest to the rock & mineral collectors to read some interesting finds & new developments from Zimbabwe & the countries neighbouring. Jackie & I have for the last 3 years been successfully farming with a big & well known captain of industry & agriculture, however my interests & being a rock hound has never stopped. I still trade & deal in business. A fair amount in zimb with the many Chinese resident here. If anyone enquiries about minerals or specimen please put them in touch with me. Ok new finds, my good friend Mr Chris Papenfus has a huge network of African collectors, dealers & traders who travel all over the region looking for minerals to sell. He initiated & put word out that we are looking for Sugilite. As a result, there has been finds & samples arriving from Zambia, Congo, Zimbabwe & Mozambique. I included some pics. Next as far as we know about 100 kg has been sold to the Chinese & some to South Africa buyers. I think the finds may change the monopoly wessels mine has traditionally had. All really because Chris Papenfus started it. A huge amount of very good spesimen rubies are mined in the Pfungwe area of Zimbabwe, so some pictures of that. Finally I have opened the best kyanite mine in Zimbabwe & I am supply both specimen & tumbling kyanite & will be doing industrial kyanite. Some pics. Thanks & regards, Dave & Jackie '

## NEW MANAGEMENT AT PRETORIA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Willem Vorster was voted in as the new chairman of the club and Yvonne Olivier as the new secretary. You can contact Willem at 076 6124 888 / [wcs.vorster@gmail.com](mailto:wcs.vorster@gmail.com) . Yvonne can be contacted at 076 5948 914 / [oliviery@ampath.co.za](mailto:oliviery@ampath.co.za) .

FOSAGAMS wishes them well on this interesting new venture!

## 'UNDERSTANDING MINERALS AND CRYSTALS' WRITTEN BY BRUCE CAIRNCROSS AND TERENCE MCCARTHY



*Gem-quality beryl variety  
Aquamarine (Erongo Mountains,  
Namibia, 2.7 cm).*



*Beryl variety goshenite (colourless) with  
black schorl tourmaline (Erongo Mountains,  
Namibia, 7.3 cm)*

This book testifies of great research on minerals and crystals.

The authors did an outstanding job in explaining certain uses of technology. An example is the chapter on 'The physical characteristics of minerals'. In this chapter the authors explain density and specific gravity, properties that depend on light (Transparency, colour, fluorescence, phosphorescence, birefringence, opalescence, iridescence, chatoyancy, asterism, lustre), mechanical properties and habit. All of the above were described and explained in a proper manner and illustrated with incredible pictures.

More than 80 common and important minerals are described. Not only from Southern Africa but also from Mexico, USA, Brazil, Canada etc.

The reader is taught how to classify and identify minerals by using a certain key. Determinative tables are also given.

This book was written for newcomers, experienced collectors, as well as students enrolled for introductory mineralogy courses at universities across the world.

For more information go to [www.randomstruik.co.za](http://www.randomstruik.co.za)

Congratulations to the authors on this piece of work – a must have book to those interested in this field.

### **THEFT**

Pretoria Gem and Mineral Club recently had a burglary where about R 60 000 worth of stuff was stolen. In the FOSAGAMS newsletter 5 / 2014 ([www.fosagams.co.za](http://www.fosagams.co.za) / Announcements I requested that the various clubs should mark and photograph their machinery. The reason for this is to simplify the process in tracing stolen goods.

### **WISHES**

May you and your beloved ones experience God's richest blessings in the coming Christmas season and may you have a blessed 2016.

Regards

Linda Stone

President FOSAGAMS