



# Federation of Southern African Gem and Mineralogical Societies

## Federasie van Suider-Afrikaanse Siersteen en Mineralogiese Verenigings



### FOSAGAMS NEWSLETTER 5/ 2014

[www.fosagams.co.za](http://www.fosagams.co.za)

#### VISIT TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB (PE)

Port Elizabeth is known as the friendly city, and indeed proved to be true.

I visited the South African Club in October. The club's new workshop and the machinery at Reinhardt van Vuuren's home made a quite an impression on me. Reinhardt and Colin Towers showed us around. And upon arrival Heimo Reuter was busy polishing a very interesting piece of rough opal. An interesting feature of the club's machinery is that each machine is a unit. They can be picked up, used and stored in any order. They can be rotated in any order. Each machine has its own power. Problems are easily identified.



Back row: Derek Scotney, Pearl Scotney, Donae Stone, Sandra Steward, Colin Towers, Eline Capell, Reinhardt v. Vuuren, Gill Towers, Willie Strydom, Heimo Reuter

Front row: Nikita Ragaval, Angie v. Vuuren, Linda Stone, Jenny Reuter

Photo: Blue Waters Restaurant



Reinhardt v. Vuuren, Heimo Reuter, Colin Towers

Photo: Linda Stone

We, together with all the club members had a lunch on Sunday at the Blue Waters Restaurant. We thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the members, and on the spur of the moment it was decided to go on a stone collecting venture at the seaside. Some interesting stones were collected.



Derek and Pearl Scotney invited us to visit the Addo Elephant Park, and later that afternoon Derek showed us his stone collection – which included a beautiful rough piece of brilliant blue coloured opal, and dark purple amethyst crystals from Groblersdal. Both specimens were the best I've ever seen.

Derek's opal 170x110cm Weight 2,5kg Photo: Pearl Scotney

**President** - Linda Stone **Vice – President** - Malcolm Jackson **Secretary** - Val Spearman **Treasurer** - Dave de Villiers

## **VISIT TO THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (CAPE TOWN)**

I paid a visit to Cape Town Gem and Mineral Club on Sat Dec 13. It was their year end function. What an interesting workshop they have! The total area of the workshop is 300 square meters. It consists of 14 compartments, e.g. a trading area, chairman's office, a faceting room, a room for microscopic work, a rock store, library, kitchen, silver smithing, an exhibition area, the main workshop, cutting room, a polishing room and toilets. All the activities are as such that the enthusiasts can work in peace. They also have a sphere making machine and facilities to do egg making.



Some selling taking place Photo: Linda Stone



Jo Wicht and Malcom Jackson with his Quartz crystal collected on the recent FOSAGAMS tour to Namibia  
Photo: Linda Stone

When I arrived there, a number of people were selling, buying and swapping minerals enthusiastically. It is evident that members are enjoying their hobby so much. The rest of the evening was spent enjoying the sheep spit braai.

## **SOUTHERN AFRICAN GEMS AND MINERALS VOL 46/3**

Sharon Flax Waddington went out of her way walking the extra mile to publish such an excellent magazine having the readers' best interest at heart.

It is with regret that I've learned about Bruce Cairncross' resignation as consulting editor of the SAGM. His positive attitude, insight and advice is much appreciated. He did a great job! Bruce is still willing to write articles and submitting his excellent photos on minerals.

FOSAGAMS wishes him the best of luck with his academic career. We trust that it would be a blessed one!

## **CLUB MACHINERY AND OTHER EQUIPMENT**

Regarding club machinery and equipment I strongly suggest that all clubs do regular stock taking. A good idea is to photograph and mark all the equipment and machinery for insurance purposes. Get your members on the committee then to sign the document that all the machinery belongs to the club.

## **GEMBOREE 2015**

The communiqué regarding the Gemboree hosted by the Pietermaritzburg Gem and Mineral Club in conjunction with Natal Mineral and Gem Society is being distributed.

## **PRETORIA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB**

This club recently held their AGM. New on the committee is Bernard Strydom (chairman), Willem Vorster (vice chairman) and Elmarie Coetzee (secretary). (See attachment). FOSAGAMS wish them well with this new important assignment and is looking forward to many years of co-operation.

**NEW WEBSITES: THE MINERALS OF THE WORLD, GEMS OF THE WORLD and ROCK HOUNDS (HOSTED BY GILBERT MARTIN II)**



Gilbert sent the following information regarding the above:

These are websites which were designed for mineral collectors, mineral dealers and those who produce objectsd'art (products) from minerals e.g. gold- and silversmiths, other craftsmen and most obviously those who want to learn or buy these fascinating minerals if the earth. This website gives you the ability to create catalogues of your mineral specimens, share them with others and learn more about this hobby, all for free. You can also use our website to buy, sell, auction or trade your minerals and the products you have created.

We have created a complete environment for the management of buying, auctioning and selling minerals and other related crafts. There are no extra charges or listing fees. You only pay transactional fees when your items have been sold. We did this to give the industry a boost.

We have also provided a complete guide to all the recognized mineral species on earth as well as an encyclopaedia of minerals which you can use to learn about the minerals of the earth, and a directory of where you can find or buy these mineral specimens.

The guide also provides exclusive mineral data which is being shared here for the first time, e.g. names of mapped localities and mapped dealers around the world. An extensive number of tools for the mineral geek and lover of everything re rocks are available.

Support South African websites and get listed on our websites as dealers, sellers, makers or collectors of fine mineral specimens from all over the world.

Please take time to visit [www.mineralsoftheearth.org](http://www.mineralsoftheearth.org), [www.rockhounds.co.za](http://www.rockhounds.co.za) and [www.gemsoftheworld.org](http://www.gemsoftheworld.org) Every registration this December gets R1000,00 worth of advertising to test our advertising platform. All vouchers handed out at previous events can be used from Dec 31, 2014.

**THEFT AT DESMOND SACCO'S HOME**

On Sunday Dec 7, a wine delivery van arrived at Desmond Sacco's gate, after the security officer let the van in. Seven robbers overpowered the security guard and forced the maid to open the house. (Desmond and his wife were holidaying in Mauritius).

The robbers broke into the safe where the jewellery was held. They also proceeded to his wine cellars, broke into where Desmond's mineral collection was held.

Sixty museum pieces (specimens) were stolen. Some of which were used in the Mineralogical Record as recently in the March 2014 issue.

If you require more information please go to [mindat.com](http://mindat.com)

## GEOSCIENTIFIC MINERAL RESOURCES

If you are interested in obtaining Satellite Image data, Geological packages, Geological mapping and many more, visit Geoscientific Mineral Resources at [www.geoscientific.net](http://www.geoscientific.net) and / or email Criag at: [craig@geoscientific.net](mailto:craig@geoscientific.net)

## SELLING OF EQUIPMENT



All photos: Allan Fraser

1. Art clay silver/precious metal Clay complete equipment, accessories and books to run your own small business, includes the computerised kiln and tumbler to polish the finished product. R6000,00 for the lot. Total value of the items approx R20 000,00+. Previous owner retired due to illness.
2. Complete beading/jewellery making equipment and accessories including strands of semi precious gemstones and pearls, books and tools. All you need to start your own business. R2000,00 for the lot, total replacement value in excess of R15 000,00.

Please contact Ornella Fraser on 082 854 1919.

## Wishes

As we approach the end of the year and our thoughts turn to the festive season, FOSAGAMS trust you and your family will enjoy a restful break and a prosperous New Year. We wish you peace and happiness in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Regards

Linda Stone

President FOSAGAMS