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# The S A Gem and Mineral Club

Associated Member of **FOSAGAMS**  
34 Heath Street, Sydenham, Port Elizabeth 6001

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Phone calls preferably after 17:00 weekdays

## March 2015 NEWSLETTER

### SUBS ARE NOW DUE

R130.00 PER INDIVIDUAL, R150.00 FOR FAMILY AND  
R60 STUDENT

Payment can be made at the next Club meeting or

By Direct Deposit or by EFT into the Club's Savings Account:

SA GEM & MINERAL CLUB ABSA BANK Greenacres Branch

Branch Code 632-005 Savings Account No 380 3157 1933

PLEASE USE YOUR SURNAME AS REFERENCE FOR  
DEPOSIT AND ADVISE THE TREASURER, DONAE' 0837735222

**LAST CLUB MEETING** : Was Thursday the 26th of February 2015, at the Conference Room, St Saviour's Church Hall, Cnr Villiers Road and 1st Avenue, Walmer, at 7.30pm. There was 11 members and 1 visitor present. Eline gave a talk on making a gemstone mosaic and issued a challenge to members to make a mosaic using gemstones, those that are up for more of a challenge are welcome to make an inlay if they wish. After the interesting demonstration there was a photo slide shown on the Tucson mineral show, there were many amazing photographs of some of the most beautiful minerals around. This was greatly enjoyed by the members. There was many lovely amethyst specimens on display that ranged from lovely crystals to faceted gemstones.

**WORKSHOP** : The workshop is available on Saturdays between 02:00 and 05:00 Please call Angie on 074 887 4557 or Ray 074 240 8053 to let us know you are coming. We have had a few new visitors at the workshop, hopefully new members:-)

**NEXT MEETING** : Will be on Thursday the 26th March at Donae' Stone's house at 7:30pm, 26 Arthur Street, Sydenham. The birthstones of the month are aquamarine, jade/nephrite and coral.

**PROJECT** : The Mosaic Project is due for the May Gem Club meeting.

### Nephrite jade

Jade is one of the oldest and most important gemstones, with a history dating over 7,000 years. It is especially prized throughout Chinese and Latin American cultures, often holding more value than gold. The term 'jade' was derived from 'Piedra de Ijada', a Spanish phrase meaning 'stone for the pain in the side' because Spanish explorers saw natives of Central America holding pieces of jade to their sides, believing that it could cure ills. The name 'nephrite' was derived from the Greek word for 'kidney', which refers to its supposed ability to cure kidney disease. Nephrite is one of two distinct mineral forms classified as jade (the other is jadeite) and up until 1863, nephrite was believed to be one and the same as jadeite.

Nephrite is a fibrous aggregate variety of tremolite-actinolite, a basic calcium magnesium iron silicate, whereas jadeite is a pyroxene mineral. Nephrite is more common than jadeite and although it is slightly softer than jadeite, it is considered tougher due to its denser structure. Traditional Chinese jade typically refers to nephrite since there are no actual jadeite deposits located in China. Today, green nephrite is considered to be the most valuable nephrite, but translucent, white nephrite was considered the most valuable up until the introduction of fine Burmese 'imperial' jadeite jade during the 18th century.

Nephrite jade is mostly found in a variety of green colors, but it can also occur white to gray, yellowish to brownish, near-black and other colors. Most stones will have some yellowish tint. Stones are often multicolored and may exhibit some mottling. Unicolored stones are quite rare. Nephrite jade with deep and solid green color is considered to be the most valuable.

Nephrite jade typically occurs opaque in clarity, although fine materials can form with good translucency. Translucent materials are the most highly valued. When cut and polished, nephrite jade can have a vitreous luster, but in most cases, it exhibits a dull to resinous or greasy luster.

Nephrite is most often cut en cabochon owing to its opaque nature. It is often fashioned into beads or tumbled stones. It is also very popular as an ornamental stone, and is often carved into flowers and animals. Nowadays, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan are the leading nephrite cutting centers.

