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The S A Gem and Mineral Club

Associated Member of **FOSAGAMS**
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Phone calls preferably after 17:00 weekdays

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2015

LAST CLUB MEETING : Thursday the 27th August 2015 at the Conference Room, St Saviour's Church Hall, Cnr Villiers Road and 1st Avenue, Walmer, at 7.30pm.

There was a total of 9 members and 1 visitor present. Ray welcomed all. We watched a movie on diamonds and Heimo Reuters shared his experiences and knowledge. Was very informative.



Heimo Reuter's various pretty items



Ray van Vuuren's quartz crystals and hand made knife in the making.

The members and visitors then spent some time looking at some items on display and enjoyed Fiona's wonderful tea, coffee and cake. Thank you Fiona, your a Star.

CLUB PROJECT : Due by the 24th September 2015. Any free-form cabochon made by yourself.

CLUB WORKSHOP : Members are encouraged to come and be creative at Workshop on Saturdays 2—5pm by appointment. Please contact Angie or Reinhardt.

Please guys let us know by Friday evenings or Saturday mornings if you are coming to workshop. Please note that Ray's cell phone will be out of use for two months, you can contact him on Angie's cell number mentioned above in the evenings and on weekends.

NEXT MEETING : Thursday the 24th September 2015 at Eline Capell's home, 2 Clive Avenue, Bluewaterbay, at 7.30pm. The birthstone for September is sapphire, agate and moonstone,. Members can bring specimens of these gem stones for display.

Please remember to bring your Club Project with (a free-form cabochon made by yourself).

Agate:

Agate belongs to the quartz (silicon dioxide) family of minerals. Quartz is the second most abundant mineral found on earth's continental crust, second only to the feldspar mineral group. Quartz is distinguished and separated into two main branches: macrocrystalline quartz and cryptocrystalline quartz.

Agate is classified under the cryptocrystalline variety and more specifically, as a variety of chalcedony quartz. Cryptocrystalline specimens crystal structures are so fine, they cannot be seen - even with the aid of a microscope. Agate is often referred to as being 'microcrystalline'; this term merely suggests that the crystal structure is slightly larger than most other cryptocrystalline species. The difference between micro and cryptocrystalline is not clearly defined, so it would not be considered incorrect to describe agate as either.

Cryptocrystalline quartz is broken down into fibrous and granular varieties. The fibrous varieties are referred to as chalcedony quartz. Chalcedony quartz can occur in a wide range of colours and patterns. Agate is traditionally defined as the 'banded' variety of chalcedony quartz, whereas lighter and solid-coloured specimens are referred to as simply 'chalcedony'. There are many different varieties of agate available, making shopping for agate very confusing for most consumers. This is because stones will commonly be referred to using specific trade names, such as 'banded agate', 'carnelian' and 'sardonyx', while simultaneously traded as just chalcedony, chalcedony quartz or even plain quartz.

