



**PO Box 3708
Cresta
2118**

Wits Rock Digest

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Gem and Mineral Club

January 2013

And here we are in the year 2013 already ! We wish all our members a prosperous, healthy and happy year ahead and trust that you are all relaxed and fit, that you have enjoyed a Peaceful Christmas and returned safely from your holiday travels !

You can find us on FaceBook on:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Witwatersrand-Gem-and-Mineral-Club/346437298736246>

1.0 Meetings

Venue: Room 215, 2nd floor, Department of Geology, University of Johannesburg

Visitors are welcome at club meetings.

1.1 Mineral Section meetings

Second Wednesday of each month (Time: 19h00 for 19h30)

The program for the first Mineral Meeting of the year is:

January 9th : A Mineral Evaluation evening where members are asked to bring 3 specimens, each with a label stating what the mineral is, its locality and name of the owner. Evaluation forms will be provided.

For more information on the Mineral Section or its themes contact:

Damian Kislig (Mineral Section Committee member and Vice Chairman) on 072 203 1351

1.2 Month-end Meetings

Last Wednesday of each month (Time: **19h00 for 19h30**)

The first Month End Meeting for 2013 will be:

January 30th: Trevor Liburn will give us a talk entitled **“The application of spectroscopy to gemologists and mineralogists – a practical demonstration”**. Trevor will demonstrate a portable spectrometer that can be used to identify and characterize gemstones. He will bring this to the meeting and demonstrate how it works, linked to his computer. Members can bring along some samples to have analysed (e.g. Steve could bring his blue diamonds for verification !).
(talk subject to final confirmation)

2.0 Club Raffle

The raffles are still taking place, usually at the month end meetings. Raffle tickets are on sale in the meeting room and your attention will be drawn to this. If you are selling minerals at the club meetings, please donate a mineral specimen to the raffle. Contact Keith Bailey in this regard at club meetings. Interesting mineral specimens have been won by lucky raffle ticket holders. Thank you mineral dealers for your donations of beautiful mineral specimens for the raffles.

3.0 Library

Massimo Leone is at present still taking care of the library and will give assistance to members wishing to borrow books and in returning them. If you have any old books on minerals, geology or lapidary that you wish to donate to our library, please contact Massimo. The library is being updated and rearranged and a register drawn up to maintain proper control of the books and magazines held in the library and out on loan. You will be notified of further acquisitions for the library when they are made.

4.0 Membership

4.1 Membership Fees for 2013

Membership fees for 2013 remain unchanged as follows:

Single or Family membership	R240
Pensioner	R200
Student	R 90

Get your 2013 membership paid up and in order now so that you may continue to participate in and enjoy the club's benefits.

The club's banking details are:

Account name **Witwatersrand Gem and Mineral Club**
Bank **Standard Bank**
Branch **Northcliff**

Branch code **006 305**

Account number **200551744**

Or payments may be made directly to the club Treasurer Ray Biram at meetings.

4.2. WGMC Membership Cards

New membership cards are due for 2013 and will be issued upon payment of fees for 2013.

4.3 New Members

If you know of anyone interested in minerals, please bring this person along to meetings. More new members will be most welcome.

4.4 Access Cards

The validation of access cards held in 2012 expired at the end of last year and need to be renewed for this year. A number of members handed their cards to Bruce Cairncross at the end of last year and these will have already been renewed and maybe even returned to members. The remaining cards must please be handed in at the next meeting which you attend.

5.0 Forthcoming Events

5.1 Annual General Meeting 2013

The Club's AGM takes place at the February month end meeting, which will be on 27th February 2013.

All Committee members are standing down in the ensuing year and we look forward to volunteers coming forward to fill the positions held by them, as well as your nominations for new Committee members by no later than 1 week before the meeting, will be much appreciated.

An Agenda for the meeting will be circulated in due course.

5.2 Groot Marico

A weekend outing to Groot Marico has been organized by Linda Stone of the Pretoria club and FOSAGAMS President, from 1 to 3 February 2013. Information has already been circulated and further info can be obtained from Linda Stone on 082 598 9117, verbal communication (weekdays after 13:30 and weekends normal hours) and SMS.

5.3 Easter Gemboree 2013

This year's annual Gemboree over the Easter weekend from 28 March to 1 April 2013 will be in Pitseng, Lesotho. An invitation to the Gemboree, the Weekend Programme and Registration and Booking Form were sent out in November last year. Registration and bookings for accommodation need to be settled very urgently, so if you want to join the Gemboree, **register now !**

5.4 Other Events

The Wits club and Pretoria club have a reciprocal arrangement to participate in the outings arranged by each club. Please refer to the PGMC Newsletter which is circulated to our members.

NOTE : Newsletters from other clubs are displayed on the notice board in our meeting room at UJ for your interest, should you have deleted or misplaced your e-mail edition.

6.0 Request for Members' contributions

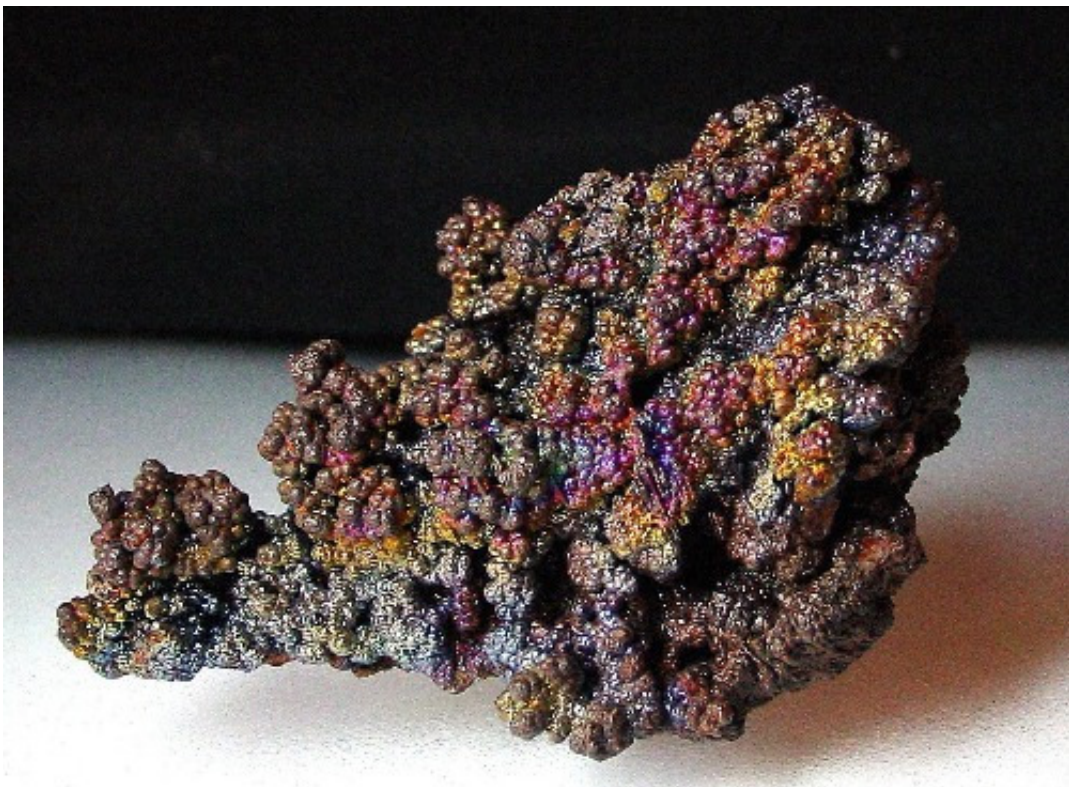
Any members who have anything at all related to our hobby to tell and who are willing to share this with other members, please let the newsletter editor, currently Louise Dibb, have a paragraph or two for insertion in the newsletter. We would welcome input from members.

Also, if there is anyone in the club able to give a talk at a month end meeting, or knows of someone who could provide a talk, please speak to Massimo. Again, members' input would be much appreciated.

7.0 Bench Tips

We hope to have more jewellery making bench tips from Bradford Smith soon. In the meantime Brad has notified us of his book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" which has been published in print and e-book editions, available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble, and the e-book from Kindle or Nook.

8.0 Mineral of the Month



Goethite (irresdescent), Vergenoeg mine, 5 x 8 cm. Picture and specimen: A.Fraser

Committee Members

Committee members for the year ending February 2013 are as follows:

Chairman	Massimo Leone mass@thefacetingstudio.co.za 082 372 0328
Vice Chairman and Mineral Section	Damian Kislig jill@fourwaysequine.co.za 072 203 1351
Treasurer	Ray Biram biram@worldonline.co.za 072 134 1539
Librarian	Massimo Leone mass@thefacetingstudio.co.za 082 372 0328
Administrator / Newsletter Editor	Louise Dibb namaste@telkomsa.net home 011 942 2266 or 074 116 4459 or 083 333 3379

Louise Dibb and Massimo Leone
January 2013

E&OE