



WITWATERSRAND GEM and MINERAL CLUB

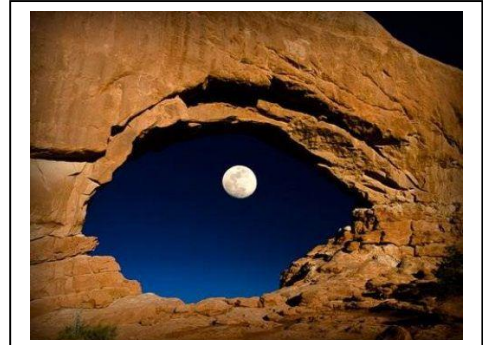
Newsletter for May 2015

P O Box 3708 Cresta 2118 South Africa
C1 Lab Room 215, 2nd floor Department of Geology
University of Johannesburg Auckland Park

JUST A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the WGMC May 2015 newsletter. Looking forward to see you at this month's meetings. Please refer to the event calendar to see why you need to attend the meetings this month.

Should you have any related news or articles for our monthly please forward to witsgemclub@mweb.co.za



EVENT CALENDAR

THEMED EVENING : 13th May 2015 – (1) Cactus quartz spectacular – Boekenhout Hoek (bring specimens);

(2) Self-collecting specimens

(3) Basic specimen cleaning – sharing our tips

SPEAKER EVENING : 27th May 2015 – Bruce Cairncross will present a talk on the “Pegmatites of Central Namibia: Geology, minerals and gemstones”

WGMC Year-end evening: 25 November 2015 (members only)

CLUB NEWS

Wishing the following club members a Happy Birthday

Eric van Romburgh	3 rd May
Murray Skikna	21 st May
Jonathan Levi	30 th May



It is with great sadness that Jono informed the club of him and his family moving down to Durban later this year. Although he will remain a club member, the position of Treasurer will be vacant. Should you be interested in serving on the club committee as Treasurer please advise the Chairman, Massimo Leone.

MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership fees until 28 February 2016, are as follows:

- Ordinary Member R250 per year
- Family Member free if with ordinary member
- Pensioner Member R150 per year
- Students R90 per year (over age of 17 or bona fide full time student)

Kindly pay your club fees and forward the proof of payment to jonohotz@gmail.com . This will enable you to continue to participate and enjoy the club's benefits. Fees are payable to the Treasurer, Jono Hotz. The WGMC Banking details are as follows:

Standard Bank Cheque account
Account number: 200551744
Branch code: 006305

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following members were re-elected at the AGM on the 25th March 2015 to serve on the committee

Chairman	Massimo Leone	082 372 0328	mass@thefacetingstudio.co.za
Vice Chairman	Kevin Hean	083 267 5342	rhombic@mweb.co.za
Secretary	Althea Crundwell	082 338 9236	wgmc.secretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jono Hotz	082 444 9628	jonohotz@gmail.com
Editor	Claudette Denner	072 591 6202	witsgemclub@mweb.co.za

Other Club Contacts (non-committee members)

- Raffle Master Keith Bailie 082 928 9515
- Access cards Bruce Cairncross 082 599 2133
- Mineral Section Damian Kislig 072 203 1351
- Librarian Massimo Leone 082 372 0328

THEMED EVENING

(1) Cactus quartz from Boekenhouthoek

Boekenhouthoek is a town in Nkangala District Municipality in the Mpumalanga province of South Africa. A large area around this village is the true source for the amethystine quartz crystals (aka "cactus quartz" and "spirit quartz") erroneously marketed as being from the Magaliesberg range.



Variations of "cactus quarts" from Boekehouthoek



THEMED EVENING (2) Cleaning of specimens

Below a list of articles regarding the various cleaning techniques and equipment used to clean your various specimens:

- Mineral Cleaning for Amateurs <http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/jhbnyc/articles/minclean.htm>
- Cleaning Rock and Mineral Specimens <http://www.inlandlapidary.com/content/cleaning.asp>
- Cleaning Minerals & Fossils <http://www.the-vug.com/vug/articlecleaningccb.html#.VUpQyI1xIIY>
- To clean or not to clean <http://www.onlineminerals.com/article1.htm>



When you first get home with your rocks you need to clean them. Use **brushes** with different softness - the softest brushes on soft minerals like calcite, and the hardest ones may be used on hard rocks such as gneiss and granite. **Dust blower** can be used to blow off dust, and **cotton buds** are handy if you need to reach into cavities.

<http://www.collecting-rocks-and-minerals.com/geological-tools.html>



SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

Bruce Cairncross

Pegmatites of Central Namibia: Geology, minerals and gemstones

During September 2014, the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) held its 21st General Meeting in Sandton Johannesburg. This is the most prestigious mineral meeting in the world and is held every four years and last year was the first time it took place in South Africa. Over 700 delegates from 50 different countries attended this congress. As part of the meeting, several field excursions were held, one of which was a trip to examine the pegmatites and industrial minerals of central Namibia. Bruce took part in that seven day field trip and his presentation will provide an overview of pegmatites (in general) and why these rocks contain interesting minerals and gemstones. The focus will then shift to featuring some of the localities that were visited on the trip including the Rubicon mine, Omapyu pegmatite and the Rössing mine, to name a few. So the illustrated talk will feature some geology but mostly show the areas visited and the minerals (and gemstones) that come from them.

CLUB MEETINGS

The club meets every second and last Wednesday of each month at 19h00 for 19h30, excluding December, at the University of Johannesburg, Auckland Park, Department of Geology, Second Floor, Lab C1 Room 215. Please use the entrance off Ditton Road, the building is directly opposite the mentioned entrance and parking is available to the left (limited) or around the turning circle to the right (plenty available). We welcome all visitors. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available at a donation of R4.00.

LIBRARY

Massimo Leone is at present updating the library and will give assistance to members wishing to borrow books. Should you have any books (old or new) on minerals, geology or lapidary that you wish to donate to the library, please contact Massimo at mass@thefacetingstudio.co.za or on 082 372 0328.

ACCESS CARDS

The access cards we had are no longer operative and it is not possible to get new finger print ID access cards for club members. A list of the club members with their corresponding vehicle registration numbers will be held at Security at the Access Gate 2 (off Ditton Road) for future reference. If it ever becomes an issue that a club member is denied access at the entrance, then the security guard can check that person(s) name against the list and see they have permission to come onto campus to attend the club meeting. Thank you to Bruce Cairncross for assisting in this matter.

RAFFLE

The monthly raffle takes place on the last Wednesday of every month. Raffle tickets are on sale in the meeting room on the night at R10.00 each.

Those selling minerals at the club, please donate a nice rock to the raffle. Contact Keith Bailey at the club meetings in this regard. We are requesting all mineral and gem dealers to please donate a specimen or two for the raffle. Keith would be happy to assist.

LINKED SOCIETIES

We exchange newsletters with the following societies. Should you be interested in reading any of them please contact witsgemclub@mweb.co.za and I will email them onto you. If you wish to join any of the clubs, or attend their lectures and outings, please contact the person listed below:

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| • FOSAGAM | Linda Stone | president@fosagams.co.za |
| • South African Micro mount Society | Alison Rose | samicromount@gmail.com |
| • Nelspruit Gem & Mineral Club | Paul Vermaak | paulvermaak1@gmail.com |
| • Pretoria Gem & Mineral Club | Lex Krabbendam | krabben@mweb.co.za |
| • Cape Town Gem & Mineral Club | Malcolm Jackson | jacksonhome@telkomsa.net |

SOCIAL MEDIA

WGMC is on Facebook. Please join our group to receive the latest news on our meetings and speakers.

<https://www.facebook.com/Witwatersrand-Gem-and-Mineral-Club>.

DISCLAIMER

If you have received this email in error, or wish to be added/removed from our mineral related mailing list, please REPLY to witsgemclub@mweb.co.za with subscribe or unsubscribe in the subject line

AT THE END

You made it this far. Thank you for taking the time to read through the WGMC newsletter. Remember that if you have something to add or share with your fellow members please feel free to email the details to witsgemclub@mweb.co.za. Ciao, **Claudette**

Wits Gem & Mineral Club, Newsletter Editor

