



**PO Box 3708
Cresta
2118**

Wits Rock Digest

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Gem and Mineral Club

October 2012

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**)

October 10th : **Yellow Minerals**
 Minerals of economic importance

Here is the program for the last Mineral Meeting of the year:

November 14th : The six crystal systems, bring one example of each system
 Southern African Calcite

Remember to bring your specimens for show and tell !

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**)

October 31st : There is a speaker arranged for this evening. The title of the talk is “The history of mining in the Barberton greenstone belt, South Africa, with emphasis on gold (1868 – 2012) and the talk will be given by Prof. Carl Anhaeusser, Professor Emeritus, Economic Geology Research Institute, School of Geosciences, University of the Witwatersrand.

The final meeting of the year is almost upon us !

November 28th : The club’s year-end function will be held on this evening, with snacks and socialising amongst members. There will not be a talk.

Copies of past month-end talks/presentations may be made available to members, depending on whether the speaker is willing to release copies or not. Please contact Allan Fraser or Massimo Leone in this regard.

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 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 when they are made.

4.0 Membership

4.1 Membership Fees for 2012

Membership fees for 2012 are as follows:

Single or Family membership	R240
Pensioner	R200
Student	R 90

Fees for 2012 were due in January and if you have not yet paid club fees for 2012 you may still do this, but the year is almost at its end. 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**

4.2. WGMC Membership Cards

New membership cards for 2012 were issued upon payment of fees.

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 present cards are valid only until the end of this year and will need to be renewed next year. More about this early in the new year.

5.0 Forthcoming Events

5.1 4th Southern African Mineral Symposium 2012

This event, organised by Allan Fraser, Graham Reeks, Maria Atanasova, Bruce Cairncross and Ray Biram, will be held at the Council for Geoscience, Silverton, Pretoria on Saturday 17th November 2012. The First Circular has been issued and has been inserted in the March 2012 issue of the S.A. Lapidary Magazine Vol.44 No.1 and was also circulated separately. The Second Circular has since been issued and circulated and the Final Circular is now being distributed. The final date to register with payment for the Symposium, is the end of this week 19th October and your registration form with payment must reach Allan Fraser at mineralman@telkomsa.net or the postal address quoted on the form, before this date. The form is available electronically from Allan Fraser in an MS Word version. If you haven't yet done so, **register now !**

5.2 The Southern African Gem Cutting Challenge 2012

This is again being held this year and entries must be in by **10 November 2012**. The competition is arranged by Fay Pierides. A notice providing details of this event was previously issued.

5.3 Year End Function

Our last meeting of the year on 28th November will be a social evening as in the past years and we look forward to seeing all our members there !

For catering purposes, please indicate whether you will be attending the Year End Function, by e-mail to the Secretary/Administrator, Louise Dibb on namaste@telkomsa.net by no later than mid November.

5.4 Other Events

The Wits club and Pretoria club have a reciprocal arrangement to participate in the outings arranged. 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, 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 Wanted to purchase

A country member, Tienie de Jager is eagerly looking for the book "**Namibia Minerals and Localities**" written by **Dr Ludi von Bezing**. Anyone who has a copy of this book and who is prepared to sell it, please contact Tienie de Jager on 072 988 5811. Tienie's information is that the book will be reprinted in the fourth quarter of 2013.

Hopefully, someone will have been able to provide a copy of this book to Tienie who is so eagerly looking for it.

8.0 Mineral of the Month



Barite, Rosh Pinah mine, 8 x 6 cm. Picture and specimen: A.Fraser

Committee Members

Committee members for the year ending February 2012 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
October 2012

E&OE