



# Pretoria Gem & Mineral Club

established 1957

Affiliated to the Federation of Southern African Gem and Mineralogical Societies

Registered as non-profit organization – SARS 9830/639/14/3

December 2019

Pretoria Rockhound Digest

January 2020

**Pretoria Gem and Mineral Club**  
P.O. Box 36 888  
Menlo Park  
Pretoria 0102

**Clubhouse:** no. 29, 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Menlo Park  
Saturdays 11:00–15:00, Thursdays 18:00– 21:00  
**Website:** [www.pgmc.co.za](http://www.pgmc.co.za)  
**Bank:** ABSA Bank, Acc. No. 405 584 9839

Chairman: Willem Vorster, 076 612 4888  
wcs.vorster@gmail.com  
Vice-Chairman: Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683  
bernardstrydom@gmail.com

Treasurer : John Morgan  
Admin.: Heidi Naudé, 072 923 2180  
adelheid.naude@gmail.com



## Highlights



- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| *** Swop and Sell and “Year-End Bring and Braai        | 7 Dec.    |
| *** Silversmithing Course / Lapidary Sunday            | tba       |
| *** Facetting Classes                                  | Saturdays |
| *** Swop and Sell and Social                           | 4 Jan.    |
| *** Early Announcement: Collection Outing Groot Marico | February  |



# Section I - Calendar of EVENTS:

## Programme for December and January

(as at 27.11.2019)

|               |  |                                |                               |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5 Dec.        | Silversmithing Workshop open   | 18:00 – 21:00                  | Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 |
| <b>7 Dec.</b> | <b>Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open<br/>Swop &amp; Sell and Social</b> | 11:00 – 15:00<br>11.00 onwards | Duty Team<br>all              |
| 12 Dec.       | Silversmithing Workshop open   | 18:00 – 21:00                  | Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 |
| ?             | Silversmithing Course – confirm with Bernard                                     | 10:00 – 15.30                  | Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 |
| ?             | Lapidary Sunday – confirm with Bernard   | 08:00 – 13:00                  | Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 |
| 14 Dec.       | Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open  | 11:00 – 15:00                  | Duty Members                  |
| 19 Dec.       | Silversmithing Workshop open   | 18:00 – 21:00                  | Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 |

## 22.12.2019 – 03.01.2020 Clubhouse closed for Festive Season

|                |  |                                |                               |
|----------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>4 Jan.</b>  | <b>Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open<br/>Swop &amp; Sell and Social</b> | 11:00 – 15:00<br>11.00 onwards | Duty Team<br>all              |
| 9 Jan.         | Silversmithing Workshop open   | 18:00 – 21:00                  | Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 |
| 11 Jan.        | Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open  | 11:00 – 15:00                  | Duty Members                  |
| 16 Jan.        | Silversmithing Workshop open   | 18:00 – 21:00                  | Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 |
| <b>18 Jan.</b> | <b>Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open<br/>Committee Meeting</b>          | 11:00 – 15:00<br>15.00 onwards | Duty Team<br>Committee        |
| 23 Jan.        | Silversmithing Workshop open   | 18:00 – 21:00                  | Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 |
| 25 Jan.        | Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open  | 11:00 – 15:00                  | Duty Members                  |
| 30Jan.         | Silversmithing Workshop open   | 18:00 – 21:00                  | Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 |



### Duty Roster



| December 2019           | 7                             | 14                             | 21                             | <b>Closed for<br/>Festive Season</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Open – 11:00 am</b>  | <b>Oliver</b>                 | <b>Alan</b>                    | <b>Willem</b>                  |                                      |
| Duty Team               | Oliver Green<br>Anita Havenga | Alan Crawford<br>Dina Crawford | Willem Vorster<br>Karin Mayerl |                                      |
| <b>Close – 15:00 pm</b> | <b>Oliver</b>                 | <b>Alan</b>                    | <b>Bernard</b>                 |                                      |

| January 2020            | 4                         | 11                          | 18                              | 25                                |  |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Open – 11:00 am</b>  | <b>Heidi</b>              | <b>Willem</b>               | <b>Bernard</b>                  | <b>Willem</b>                     |  |
| Duty Team               | Jan Oliver<br>Joey Oliver | Ben Bekker<br>Magdel Bekker | Dieter Heinichen<br>Linda Stone | Peter Beresford<br>Yolanda Keyter |  |
| <b>Close – 15:00 pm</b> | <b>Willem</b>             | <b>Bernard</b>              | <b>Committee</b>                | <b>Bernard</b>                    |  |

## 2. Report back - Annual General Meeting, 09.11.2019



Thank you to the 33 members who made the effort to attend the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 09.11.2019 at the clubhouse.

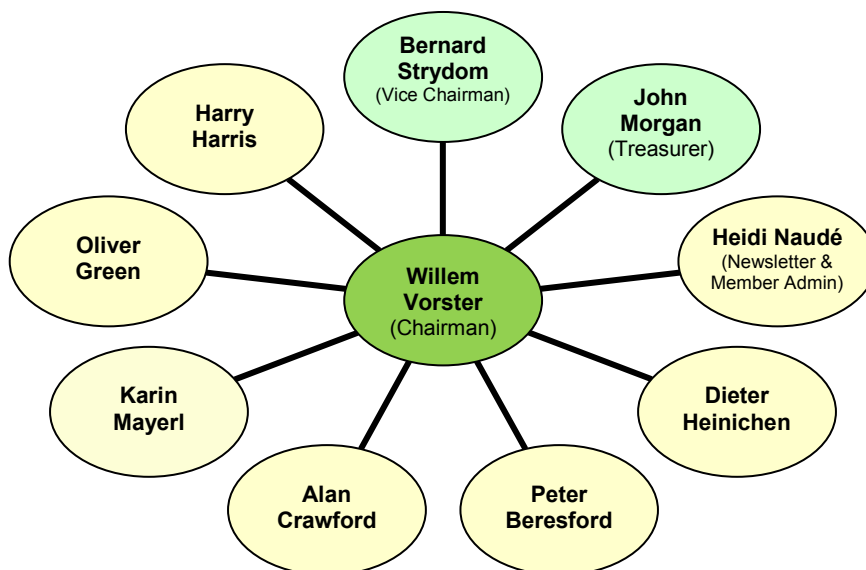
After a heartfelt welcome by our chairman Willem Vorster, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted as true and correct.

The Financial Report was presented by Willem Vorster on behalf of our Treasurer John Morgan and he report was adopted as true and correct by all present. The membership figures were presented by Heidi. A slight increase was noted and we are pleased to announce a total of 118 members at the end of our financial year 2019. It was proposed and approved to leave the fees for 2020 unchanged, i.e.

|  |              |                                       |
|--|--------------|---------------------------------------|
|  | <b>R 500</b> | <b>Principal Member</b>               |
|  | <b>R 450</b> | <b>Pensioner (over 60's)</b>          |
|  | <b>R 100</b> | <b>per additional Family Member</b>   |
|  | <b>R 30</b>  | <b>Joining Fee (new members only)</b> |

This was followed by the Chairman's report. Willem reported on the difficulties with the renewal of our lease contract, surrounding clubs experience the same problems. A comprehensive application detailing our club's activities was submitted some time ago. Members will be updated as soon as new information becomes available. He also thanked everyone for their assistance in keeping the club running smoothly.

This was followed by the election/confirmation of the new PGMC Committee for 2020:



Willem thanked the remaining committee members for their valid contributions during the past year and welcomed the newly elected member, *Harry Harris* to the team.

**“A club is its members and not its committee, which must be an aide to those members.”**

(Quote borrowed from the Cape Town Gem & Mineral Club newsletter)

Linda Stone (President FOSAGAMS) thanked Willem Vorster for his tireless efforts to keep the club running and assist the new members – everybody is very fond of “Oom Willem”, especially the youngsters. She also congratulated the club on increasing its membership and the successful participation at various Hobby and Craft Expos in Johannesburg and Pretoria. She confirmed that the next Gemboree (April 2020) will be held in Clarens and hosted by the Pietermaritzburg Club.

This closed the meeting and all present enjoyed quick refreshments sponsored by the club before proceeding to the auction tables loaded with rocks, crystals, minerals, magazines and second-hand machinery received mainly as donations from older members. Willem, Bernard, Heidi and later Magdel and Dieter had their hands full the next 2.5 hours getting all 74 lots sold and paid-up by eager members.



**Thanks to all for their participation and contribution!**



### 3. Personals



Early **Birthday wishes** go to our Honorary Member - **Dieter Heinichen**, who will celebrate his birthday on 2 December. Dieter is well known by all club members, he still serves on the club's duty team and committee since – well, pretty much forever.

Happy Birthday from all of us Dieter, hope you have a healthy and happy new year ahead.



A very warm welcome goes to our new members who joined recently:

😊😊 **Freya and Nickolas Petersen, Eugene and Petro Oosthuizen,**  
**Lynn, Dawid and Caitlin Smit and André Jordaan** 😊😊

May your association with our club be productive and enjoyable.

### 3. Ongoing Reminders



Please remember to sign the **Indemnity Book** at the duty desk every time you visit or work in the club's workshop. The book is kept at the duty desk.



**Safety glasses** are **compulsory** for everyone working on the grinders, polishers and trim saws. Safety glasses are for sale at the duty desk or bring your own.



We still need people to serve on the **Duty Teams** and ask all our members to avail themselves for admin. or machine duty; training will be provided.

Please advise Willem or Bernard if you are willing to help, thank you.

### 4. For Sale



**Lex Krabbendam** is offering a **7ft. Glider Trailer for sale.**

The trailer is in mint condition, fully roadworthy, excellent tires incl. spare wheel and custom made roof rack – absolutely essential for transporting all those rocks and camping equipment to and from your next collection outing!

Asking price = R 7500. Interested? Contact Lex at 083 449 6812.

**Fritz Felsko** from Midrand is selling his vast **mineral collection**. Mainly Tsumeb specimens from many "moons" ago, often collected directly at the mine.

Contact him at [felsko1@yahoo.com](mailto:felsko1@yahoo.com) for an appointment.



## 5. Swop & Sell and Year-End “Bring and Braai”

The next **Swop & Sell and Open Day** will be held on **Saturday, 7 December 2019** from 11.00 am onwards at the clubhouse; all dealers welcome. Members are invited to bring their own minerals, rocks or other related items to swop or sell. Bring your family/friends and introduce them to our club and hobby.



**Bring and Braai:** the fires (provided by the club) will be lit at 14h00; bring your food, drinks, plates, glasses, cutlery, braai grids and enjoy some serious socializing with friends and fellow hobbyists.



## 6. Silversmithing Course



The next Silversmithing course will be announced by Bernard as soon as possible; alternatively contact him directly at 074 850 5683 for details such as type of project, costs expected and date and time of course.

The Iron Stone pendant on the left was made by Linda Stone and the bracelet on the right is a creation from Sheri Valente.



## 7. Lapidary Sunday

Please note that this will be **lapidary work only – no cutting/slabbing of rocks** (except trim saw), **no silversmithing**. The session will run from 08:00 am to 13:00 pm and a workshop fee of R 15/pp applies. Please re-confirm the date with Bernard beforehand (074 850 5683) as he will only open the workshop if there is a demand from members.



## 8. Faceting Classes – Saturdays



Want to learn how to facet gemstones like this beautiful Pyrope Garnet done by Len Freeman in the photo right?

Contact *Peter Beresford* at 064 384 4514 to book your beginner’s class on Saturdays at the clubhouse. We have four faceting machines available for our members to use. A workshop fee of R 30/p per session applies; faceting material (mainly quartz varieties) is available for sale.



### Untried Bench Tips

Denture Cleaner is useful for cleaning the insides of geodes – no more scrubbing und bubbling. The geodes will sparkle like diamonds.

When working with a soft stone such as onyx or marble, soak it in water for a couple of days before cutting. This will keep oil from soaking in and discolour the stone and will also result in a higher polish.

### 6. Email received from Colin Childs – California (arcgisman@gmail.com):

Greetings Folks - my name is Colin Childs

I am one of the many who left South Africa in the last 20 years and make periodic visits back. At varsity I was a Geography major and always had a love for Geology and rocks and stones.

I am still very keen on rocks and minerals and recently joined a mineral club located in San Bernardino close to my home in Highland California. As a member I have been out on rock hunts and we regularly trade specimens and slabs and materials. I have a nice collection of local California material ranging from stunning agates and petrified wood and all sorts of other awesome stuff I am willing to trade.

I will be visiting my family in Krugersdorp in early January 2020 and wanted to ask if anyone in your club may be interested in trading for Southern African materials? So - that is why I am reaching out to you to ask about the possibility of trading out some of my slabs and specimens or even buying materials outright if members are selling or someone wants to downsize. I like to collect slabs that are polished and I am not much into making jewelry, I also love mineral specimens like Azurite or Diopside ect. So please let me know if it would be possible to trade or for me to buy from folks you may know.

Oh ... and the local town where I work is home to Covington Engineering - a company that makes really high end and pricey lapidary equipment. Take a look <https://covington-engineering.com/> let me know if you need any blades or parts. I am pretty sure replacement parts and lapidary supplies are not as easy to find in South Africa. I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours Colin

**Note from the Editor:** Willem has already invited Colin to visit our club in January, so if you want to trade and/or sell some of your polished slabs or want Colin to bring material for you please contact him directly at the email address provided above to arrange. Colin has provided some photos but they are unfortunately too large and take too much data for the newsletter. I am sure he will resend directly to you once contact has been established.

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## Section V - Collection Outing:

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### 7. Early Announcement: Collection Outing – Groot Marico, 21 – 23 February 2020

We will be leaving on Saturday morning, February 22, at 08:00 from the farm for the Witkop Fluorspar Mine to collect e.g. pyrite, tremolite needle crystals, calcite, manganese oxide, sphalerite and galena.

According to the Mine's Act each person must wear safety (sturdy) shoes, a hard hat and a reflective vest. Please bring along as the mine does not supply any.

Goethite (Limonite pseudo pyrite) will also be collected this weekend as well as agates, carnelians and autumn coloured slate.

We will camp on the farm, Kaaloog, (25°48'09.2" S 26°21'56.6" E) of David and Diana Reyneke. This was previously the farm of the late Hannes Palm. Swimming is possible so bring along your gear. Bring and braais will be held in the evenings.

**Kindly take note of the following:**

#### 1. The following accommodation is available:

1.1 Rooms at R250,00 pppd. These are available at the main house. Linen will be provided.

1.2 Camping and caravanning at R100,00 pppd. Power is included. Bring along an extension cord.

Bathroom facilities will be shared. A fridge will also be available.

2. **Meals** - Diana is also willing to serve meals; her menu is as follows:

**2.1 Friday, Febr 21**

Dinner: Beef Lasagne with 2 x salads

**2.2 Saturday, Febr 22**

2.2.1 Breakfast: Cheese griller, scrambled eggs, toast, fried tomato, yoghurt

2.2.2 Lunch Pack: Hamburger and a fruit, 1x water and 1x juice

2.2.3 Dinner: Pork chop, boerewors, (pap and sesabo or potato dish), 2 x salads

**2.3 Sunday, Febr 23**

2.3.1 Breakfast: Bacon, egg, tomato and mushroom, freshly baked bread with butter and jam

2.3.2 Lunch pack: 2 x Chocolate muffins, 2 x cheese- and herb scones, 1 x fruit, 1 x water and 1 x juice  
Coffee, tea or juice are included with meals

**Prices:** Dinner: R180 pp, Breakfast: R100 pp, Lunch Packs: R70 pp

3. **Booking:**

3.1 To book your accommodation (Camping and staying with Diana and your food), kindly contact Diana at 071 708 5635 (Whatsapp).

3.2 After you have booked with Diana, please confirm your booking with me by supplying me with the following information: Day of arrival; Names and surnames of all the people accompanying you as well as the cell phone numbers of each person. All this information should be send to me per WhatsApp or an SMS to 082 5989 117.

4. **Payment arrangements – EFT please:**

Banking Details: D.A. Reyneke, ABSA Zeerust, Branch code: 632005, Savings Account  
Acc no: 1389690143 Reference no as per booking

**The closing date for bookings is Monday, February 17, 2020.**

See you all at Groot Marico!

Kind regards

Linda Stone, Outing coordinator



**Wishing all our members and friends a peaceful  
Festive Season and a Prosperous New Year.  
Enjoy your holidays and travel safely.**

