



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

Pretoria Rockhound Digest



February, March, April 2020

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

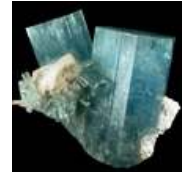
Clubhouse: no. 29, 26th Street, Menlo Park
Saturdays 11:00–15:00, Thursdays 18:00– 21:00
Website: www.pgmc.co.za
Bank: ABSA Bank, Acc. No. 405 584 9839

Chairman: Willem Vorster, 076 612 4888
wcv.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 Socializing	1 Feb.
*** Educational Outing: Sandstone Contracts, Silverton	8 Feb.
*** Club Outing to Olly Roon, Hartbeespoort	t.b.a.
*** Silversmithing Course / Lapidary Sunday	t.b.a.
*** Collection Outing: Groot Marico	21 - 23 Feb.
*** Facetting Classes	Saturdays

*** Hobby-X Club Exhibition	5 – 8 Mar.
*** Swop & Sell & Social	7 Mar.
*** Silversmithing Course / Lapidary Sunday	t.b.a.
*** Facetting Classes	Saturdays

*** Swop and Sell and Socializing	4 Apr.
*** Gemboree 2020, Clarens	10 – 13 Apr.
*** Silversmithing Course / Lapidary Sunday	t.b.a.
*** Facetting Classes	Saturdays

Programme for February, March, April 2020

(as at 22.01.2020)

1 Feb.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open Swop & Sell and Social	11:00 – 15:00 11.00 onwards	Duty Team all
6 Feb.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
8 Feb.	Educ. Outing: Sandstone Contracts, Silverton Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open Swop & Sell and Social	08:30 – 10.30 11.00 – 15.00 11.00 onwards	Linda Stone, 082 598 9117 Duty Members all
13 Feb.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
15 Feb.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open Committee Meeting	11:00 – 15:00 15.00 onwards	Duty Team Committee Members
20 Feb.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
21-23 Feb	Collection Outing: Groot Marico	Details in NI	Linda Stone, 082 598 9117
22 Feb.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open Silversmithing Course? – confirm with Bernard	11:00 – 15:00 ??	Duty Team Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
23 Feb.	Lapidary Sunday? – confirm with Bernard	08:00 – 13:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
27 Feb.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
29 Feb.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open	11:00 – 15:00	Duty Members

5 -8 Mar.	Hobby-X Club Exhibition		Willem Vorster, 076 612 4888
5 Mar.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
7 Mar.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open Swop & Sell and Social	11:00 – 15:00 11.00 onwards	Duty Team all
12 Mar.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
14 Mar.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open Committee Meeting	11:00 – 15:00 15.00 onwards	Duty Team Committee
19 Mar.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
21 Mar.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open	11:00 – 15:00	Duty Members
26 Mar.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
28 Mar.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open	11:00 – 15:00	Duty Members

2 Apr.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
4 Apr.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open Swop & Sell and Social	11:00 – 15:00 11.00 onwards	Duty Team all
9 Apr.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
11 Apr.	Clubhouse closed for Easter Weekend	closed	
10-13 Apr	Collection Outing: Gemboree 2020, Clarens	See prev.NI	Gemboree Committee
16 Apr.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
18 Apr.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open Committee Meeting	11:00 – 15:00 15.00 onwards	Duty Team Committee
23 Apr.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
25 Apr.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open	11:00 – 15:00	Duty Members
29 Apr.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683



Duty Roster

February 2020	1	8	15	22	29
Open – 11:00 am	Oliver	Alan	Willem	Lex	Willem
Duty Team	Oliver Green Anita Havenga	Alan Crawford Dina Crawford	Willem Vorster Karin Mayerl	Lex Krabbendam Joanne Fidos	Jan Oliver Joey Oliver
Close – 15:00 pm	Willem	Bernard	Committee	Bernard	Willem

March 2020	7	14	21	28
Open – 11:00 am	Bernard	Willem	Bernard	Willem
Duty Team	Ben Bekker Magdel Bekker	Dieter Heinichen Linda Stone	Peter Beresford Yolanda Keyter	Oliver Green Anita Havenga
Close – 15:00 pm	Willem	Committee	Willem	Bernard



April 2020	4	11	18	25
Open – 11:00 am	Willem	Closed	Bernard	Lex
Duty Team	Alan Crawford Dina Crawford	Easter Weekend	Willem Vorster Karin Mayerl	Lex Krabbendam Joanne Fidos
Close – 15:00 pm	Willem	Closed	Committee	Bernard




1. Membership Fees 2020

Membership Fees are now due and can be paid via EFT bank transfer to: Pretoria Gem and Mineral Club, ABSA Bank, account no. 405 584 9839; or cash at the clubhouse on Thursdays or Saturdays.


	R 500	Principal Member
	R 450	Pensioner (over 60's)
	R 100	per additional Family Member
	R 30	Joining Fee (new members only)

Please note that only fully paid-up members are entitled to use our clubhouse facilities, attend courses, participate at the Gemboree or any other club outings and receive the club's monthly newsletter.



A very warm welcome goes to our new members:

Amanda Schoonderwoerd, Hennie & Amanda de Bruin, Jolene, Mia & Sion van der Berg, Anton Jordaan (re-joined).



2. 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.

3. Personals



Our **deepest condolences go to Dieter Schidlowski** on the passing of his son after a short illness. Dieter our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.



Have you noticed how clean the clubhouse is currently? This is the result of **Nicki Klacar's cleaning team** which she brings every Saturday to help with the tedious task of cleaning the kitchen, bathrooms and clubhouse in general. As if this would not be enough Nicki also pays the ladies herself, i.e. not costs for the club. **Thank you Nicki** this is truly generous and we all thank you for this gesture.



Another very big **Thank you**, goes to **Harry Harris, Alan Crawford** and **Lex Krabbendam** for their efforts of cleaning and overhauling our slabbing saws. This is a big and dirty task but the regular "rock cutters" are very grateful to all of you. We also **thank Jan Oliver** and **Ben Bekker** who always lend a helping hand in the workshop and regularly clean our trim saws stations.



Another big Thank You goes to our special **Duty Ladies** who regularly spoil us with their **home baked cakes and treats**. I will not mention names but you all know who they are. Members are checking the duty roster up front and anxiously await the ladies to arrive with their treats – **thank you to all of you for spoiling us!**

Request from the Committee



The Committee tries very hard to get our clubhouse de-cluttered and clean. **We ask all members who have private machines and/or equipment at the clubhouse to remove those during the next month or two.**

The slabbing station is also chaotic, with numerous rocks of members cluttering the work table. **Members are asked to please take their rocks home. Only one rock per member may be left at the club for cutting.** This must be clearly marked and a note on how to cut and how many slabs you want must accompany the rock. This works best if you put your rock into a clear plastic bag and add a note with instructions. Then all duty members know what to do with your rock.

Members are also asked to please collect their cut rocks and pay for their slabs. Thank you all very much for your cooperation.



We are is very sad to advise that the South African Gem and Mineral Club, better known as the "Port Elizabeth Gem and Mineral Club" has closed its doors. This was the first gem and mineral club established in South Africa in 1954 (!). They were also very much involved in getting Fosagams off the ground and hosted/organized many Gemborees. In their heydays they had a membership of over 60 enthusiasts but this has been steadily declining in recent years.

In their final act of generosity they have sold off all their assets and donated the proceeds to Fosagams, who will in turn distribute the funds between the clubs currently associated with Fosagams.



4. Swop & Sell and Social

The next **Swop & Sell and Open Days** will be held on

- **Saturday, 1 February 2020,**
- **Saturday, 7 March 2020** (postponed by 1 week due to Hobby-X) and
- **Saturday, 4 April 2020**

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.

5. Club Outing: Sandstone Contracts, Silverton - Pretoria



Linda Stone has organized and confirmed an outing to **Sandstone Contracts in Silverton, Pretoria** on **Saturday morning, 8 February at 08h30 am.**

The owner, Roel Jansen who is well known for writing the SAGM articles on the Union Buildings will accompany us on a tour through his workshop.

Roel has been actively involved in the conservation and restoration of historical monuments and buildings since 1989. Before that, he was part of a small specialist restoration and conservation company in the UK which enabled him to attend internationally recognized courses in the use and preservation of natural stone in the building environment. Carving and processing is done on a daily basis at his business. The Company has been involved in several stone restoration phases of the Union Buildings.

Club members will be able to view and learn about the machinery and processes Roel uses to cut and polish his stones. The stones are cut into unique and different shapes like spheres, etc..

We will meet at Roel's workshop – see map attached. Please book your place with Linda either per WhatsApp or SMS at 082 598 9117 on or before 5 February (closing date). The outing will end at approx. 10h15 am – see you all there!

6. Silversmithing Courses February, March, April



The next Silversmithing courses will be announced by Bernard as soon as the respective dates have been confirmed and project information is available. For enquiries contact him directly at 074 850 5683..

Left: Spirit Quartz rings made by our avid silversmithers, photo Heidi Naude.

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 dates/times with Bernard at 074 850 5683.



8. Faceting Classes – Saturdays



Want to learn how to facet gemstones like this beautiful Amethyst on the left? Contact *Peter Beresford* at 064 384 4514 to book your class on Saturdays at the clubhouse. We have 4 faceting machines available for our members to use. A workshop fee of R 30/pp per session applies; faceting material (mainly quartz varieties) is available for sale.

9. Collection Outing – Groot Marico, 21 – 23 February 2020 (announcement repeated)

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, Kaaloo, (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.

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



10. Club Outing to Olly Roon, Hartbeespoort – Date to be confirmed



Willem is trying to organize a date for us with Olly Roon and will advise as soon as possible. Please book your attendance again with Willem preferably via email to wcs.vorster@gmail.com ; he needs your name, cell number and car registration to organize access to the estate (security is very strict).

The convoy will meet at 09:30 am at the entrance of the Xanadu Estate in Hartbeespoort; once vehicles are cleared by security we proceed together to Olly Roon's house.

Directions from Centurion/Johannesburg – travel on the N4, take the turn-off Hartbeespoort R511 North; continue past first robot at Hartbeespoort, turn East at second robot next to the Caltex garage, at the roundabout take the 3rd exit, we meet at the parking area at the entrance of the Xanadu Estate.

11. Visit of Colin Childs – OBMS Club, California (USA)

We recently had a visit of Colin Childs an active member of the Orange Belt Mineral Society (OBMS) of San Bernadino, California established in 1933. Their main interest is making Lapidary items for jewellery, home furnishing and décor items from stone. As it is customary in the USA rockhounds trade material from various locations and Colin offered to bring some California rock material in exchange for Southern African material.



Slabs were unpacked and trading was soon in full swing; everyone joined in and found interesting material. I thought the Montana Agate and Obsidian slabs were very special. Colin was equally impressed with our offerings, especially the Verdite, Buddstone, Transvaal Jade, Dumortierite, Dragon Stone, Muggle Stone, Vogesite, Kalahari Picture Stone and Aventurin were quickly snatched up by him, not to mention the few Pietersite slabs available – those are apparently all varieties difficult to obtain in California.

He also made a view private appointments with members and everybody left happy with their respective treasures. Thank you Colin for paying us a visit, we hope you and your fellow club members enjoy the Southern African treasures obtained.

12. Tips – how to set an Ammonite by Charles Strydom, Australia

I decided to repeat this article originally published in the Feb. 2015 newsletter for our new members who might find this interesting and helpful as well.



I attempted a new setting for a nice Ammonite from Madagascar. A normal bezel does not work. Use 1.5mm half round silver for the ring as well as for the clasps, and 1.0mm round silver for the Bunny Ears. Form the ring around the ammonite to have the outer edge more



or less flush with the shape. Position and solder 1.5 mm clasps 10 mm long to the ring. The flat on the clasp and the flat on the ring makes soldering easy. Attach Bunny Ears and polish. Place the ammonite on top of the ring, bend the clasps over partly and use nail clippers to nip off excess. Round the clasp ends with a Cup Burl or light abrasive wheel on a Dremmel. Lightly tap the clasps to fit snugly onto the stone and do final polishing.



Thank you Charles for sharing this useful ideas with us – all photos courtesy of Charles Strydom.



Amethyst - Modern Birthstone for February

This gemstone has been found among the possessions of royalty as early as the ninth century, adorning crowns, scepters, jewellery and breastplates worn into battle. Amethyst is also symbolic of spirituality and has been used to ornament churches, crosses and rosaries. Once considered more valuable than diamonds, Amethyst is a member of the quartz family occurring naturally as crystals within rocks. Major deposits are found in Brazil, Canada, Australia, India, Russia, Madagascar, Namibia, Zambia, Sri Lanka and USA.



The gift of Amethyst is symbolic of protection and the power to overcome difficulties. Amethyst's stunning beauty will certainly make anyone who wears it feel like royalty!
(source: www.about-birthstones.com)



Aquamarine - Modern Birthstone for March

Aquamarine is a beryl, a mineral that crystallizes within large grained igneous rocks on the earth's crust. Aquamarine varies in color from blue-green to a light sky blue, but gems containing green are often heat-treated to remove this less desirable color. It is a relatively abundant gem, the largest deposits being in Brazil, but also China, India, Australia, Africa, and USA.



A gift of Aquamarine symbolizes both safety and security. The association with water led to the belief that Aquamarine was particularly powerful when immersed in water. The water was used in ancient times to heal illnesses of the heart, liver, stomach, mouth and throat. Aquamarines were also used to reverse poisoning and to aid in fortune telling.
(source: www.about-birthstones.com)