



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



October 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.: John Morgan, 073 473 9968
john.ja.morgan@hotmail.com



Highlights



- *** **Swap & Sell Day, all workshops open** **3 Oct.**
- *** **Annual General Meeting, including Live Auction** **10 Oct.**
- *** **Lapidary & Silversmithing Workshops open** **Wednesdays 10:00 – 15:00**
- *** **Lapidary & Silversmithing Workshops open** **Thursdays 18:00 – 21:00**
- *** **Lapidary & Silversmithing Workshops open** **Saturdays 10:00 – 15:00**
- *** **Lapidary Sunday (Lapidary only, no Silversmithing)** **every 3rd Sunday/month**

LOVING THYSELF ROCKS

Me everytime
I walk into a
Crystal Shop!

(received via the PGMC what's app group)

1. Club Activities under Lockdown Level 1

Our re-opening of the clubhouse nearly one month ago went very well and members are slowly but surely returning to enjoy their hobby. We thank everyone who duly embraced the new situation and adhered to all the rules and regulations set out in the previous newsletter. These rules remain in place even though we have recently been downgraded by the Government to Lockdown Level 1. Once again we thank you all for your cooperation and understanding.

The extra open day on Wednesdays has also been popular especially by those who want to avoid the Saturday crowd. Thursday evenings and Saturdays attendance is picking up. Bernard has also re-introduced the Lapidary Sunday. Please check our Calendar of Events (pg.3) for the opening details.

Entry rules (repeat from the previous newsletter):

The duty members will also act as the Covid-officials for that day. Please note that he/she will have the authority to allow entry to the clubhouse and also manage/restrict the number of people inside.

- **No face mask – no entry** to the workshops. **Face masks must be worn the whole time you spend at the workshop.** Please note – a face screen may be worn for additional protection but does not replace a face mask.
- The Covid-official will then ask you to **complete the registration form, take your temperature** and record it on the form and ask you to **sanitize your hands**, before entry. Should your temperature exceed 37.5 degrees we cannot allow you access into the clubhouse/workshops.
- **No aprons will be provided by the club** – please bring your own; waterproof aprons are sold at most hardware stores (Chamberlains, Builders Warehouse, etc.)
- **The kitchen remains closed to all.** Cooldrinks may be bought at the duty desk; however, **no eating or drinking will be allowed inside the clubhouse.** You are welcome to enjoy your food/drinks outside.
- To comply with the social distancing rules (1.5m) we have closed-off certain workstations. This means that you may not use them. Only one person may be working at each open workstation, i.e. no sharing or waiting for the use of grinding wheels, trim saws or slabbing saws. **Only one trim saw will be available for cutting – we therefore restrict the use of it to trimming only** (no cutting of small stones), to give everyone a fair chance. Only 1 person may work on the flat lap. Weather permitting, we can put 4 mobile lapidary machines and 1 faceting machine outside to provide extra workspace.
- **No towels are allowed** in the toilets – paper towels have been provided.
- The library will be open to members, however only two persons max. are allowed at that table.
- **No socializing and/or trading of minerals etc. inside the clubhouse; this applies also to rainy days!** Traders must bring their own tables and chairs and set-up in the garden area outside.
- To ensure adequate ventilation the clubhouse windows and main entrance door will remain open.
- Plastic buckets will be made available at the tabs outside for washing/rinsing of rocks.

Please note that these rules are not negotiable and your full co-operation is required to make this a success and keep each other as safe as possible. Please do not come to the club if you had contact with someone testing positive for Covid-19 or if you are feeling sick, thank you.

2. Annual General Meeting 2020



The **Annual General Meeting** has been scheduled by the Committee for **Saturday, 10th October 2020 at 13:00** at the clubhouse. Weather permitting we will hold the meeting outside to adhere to the social distancing rules. The new club committee will also be elected on that day. A Nomination Form has been attached to this newsletter for your perusal. Please note that these forms must be returned no later than Wednesday, 7th October 2020 by 15:00.

After the meeting we will hold a **Live Auction** of rocks and minerals, books and magazines and possible used machinery.

Programme for October 2020

(as at 25.09.2020)

1 Oct.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard, 074 850 5683
3 Oct.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open Swop & Sell Trading Day	10:00 – 15:00 10.00 onwards	Duty Team all
7 Oct.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open	10:00 – 15:00	Bernard/John/Willem
8 Oct.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard, 074 850 5683
10 Oct.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open Annual General Meeting and Live Auction	10:00 – 12.30 13.00 onwards	Duty Team Committee & all Members
14 Oct.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open	10:00 – 15:00	Bernard/John/Willem
15 Oct.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard, 074 850 5683
17 Oct.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open	10:00 – 15:00	Duty Team
21 Oct.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open	10:00 – 15:00	Bernard/John/Willem
22 Oct.	Silversmithing Workshop	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard, 074 850 5683
24 Oct.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open	10:00 – 15:00	Duty Team
28 Oct.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open	10:00 – 15:00	Bernard/John/Willem
29 Oct.	Silversmithing Workshop	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard, 074 850 5683
31 Oct.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open	10:00 – 15:00	Duty Team



Duty Roster Saturdays



October 2020	3	10	17	24	31
Open – 10:00 am	Dieter	Willem	Heidi	Oliver	Lex
Duty Team	Dieter Heinichen Linda Stone	Jan Oliver Joey Oliver	Peter Beresford Heidi Naudé	Oliver Green Anita Havenga	Lex Krabbendam Joanne Fidos
Close – 15:00 pm	Dieter	Committee	Heidi	Oliver	Lex

November 2020	7	14	21	28
Open – 10:00 am	Ben	Dieter	Willem	Heidi
Duty Team	Ben Bekker Magdel Bekker	Dieter Heinichen Linda Stone	Jan Oliver Joey Oliver	Peter Beresford Heidi Naudé
Close – 15:00 pm	Ben	Dieter	Willem	Heidi



December 2020	5	12	19	26	2 Jan
Open – 10:00 am	Oliver	Lex	Ben	Closed Festive Season	Closed Festive Season
Duty Team	Oliver Green Anita Havenga	Lex Krabbendam Joanne Fidos	Ben Bekker Magdel Bekker		
Close – 15:00 pm	Oliver	Lex	Ben		

Opal – Birthstone of October (see photos pages 1 and 3)


Common Opal has a milky appearance. Menilite is a brown impure variety, other varieties are Girasol, Hyalite, Cacholong, and Geyselite. The crystal structure of Opal (hydrous silicon dioxide) is amorphous. Opal miners restrict the use of the term opal to precious opal, calling material that does not show a good play of colours 'potch'. Precious Opal has a peculiar play of colours and is highly esteemed as a gem. One kind, with a varied play of color in a reddish ground, is called Harlequin Opal. The Fire Opal has colours like the red and yellow of flames.

Source: www.wikipedia.com

3. Membership 2020

The Committee is very concerned about the declined membership figures. Yes, the club was closed for 5 months, however many of those non-renewals still worked at the club or participated on outings the first 3 months. To ensure the clubs continuous functioning and financial viability the committee urges all to renew their membership on time. Membership runs from January to December each year and fees are due by end January. Stricter control will be implemented at both clubhouse and outing attendance.

Membership fees are stated below 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.

	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.

4. Personals



Get Well Wishes go to **Alan Crawford** who is feeling "under the weather" currently after undergoing surgery. Alan and Dina we all miss you both dearly at the club and pray for a speedy and full recovery. Looking forward to seeing you soon again.



A big **Thank You** goes **to all our special members** who take the initiative and fix our machines, clean our saws and workstations and even the dishes left for weeks in the kitchen sink (even so the kitchen is officially closed). We also had some wonderful "**garden-angels**" who cleaned-up our garden yard (see photos below).



Special thanks go to **Ben & Magdel Bekker, Eugene & Petro Oosthuizen, Alan Crawford, Harry Harris, Lex Krabbendam, Willem Vorster** and **Louisa (Erika) Kruger** and **all the others not mentioned here** who work for many hours on club tasks to the benefit of all members.



More **Thank yous**, go to **Nicki Klacar** for her donation of various books to the library and **Heidi Naudé** for the donation of a slow cooker to be used in the silversmithing section.



Our "garden-angels" hard at work, thank you Willem, Louisa (Erika), Petro and Eugene.



(Photos courtesy of Petro Ooshuizen via the What's app group)



5. Stopover at VN Mining, Nelspruit Mpumalanga report by Heidi Naudé

Hello Rockhounds, this is just a short report regarding a quick stopover on our way home from the Kruger National Park recently. Our newer members might not be familiar with VN Mining and their rocks and minerals. Their sign "VN Mining" is very overgrown with vegetation and hardly visible from the main road. Their main business is tumbling rocks on big scale, this alone is quite amazing to see.



The whole yard is full of the most amazing rock material, neatly sorted into big piles. From here they are crushed smaller for tumbling. Photo 2 shows the "sizer"; rocks are thrown in by the shovel full, the screen rotates and smaller rocks fall through the screen holes, bigger rocks go back to be further crushed. The tumblers are very big and loud, rough tumbling is done outside and polishing is done inside the tumblers running inside. The drums (left) are full of material ready for final polishing. After which they are packed and shipped in all sizes from very small to medium and big pieces. Very interesting.



They get their raw materials from various places; above are some samples of the interesting rocks they work with (Magnesite/Howlite, Blue Lace Agate, Lepidolite and even some Orange River Crystals). There was also Verdite, Buddstone, Puddingstone, Rose Quartz, Amethyst, Muggelstone, Tiger's Eye, Aragonite and all varieties of Jasper.

But that's not all – they also deal with beautiful mineral specimens from all over Africa. Their prices are very fair. So if you are in the vicinity, pop-in and make contact you will not leave empty handed – promise ! You can find all their details on the internet under VN Mining Nelspruit.



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P.O. Box 36 888, Menlo Park, Pretoria 0102
29 Twenty-Six Street, Menlo Park, Pretoria

Nomination – PGMC Committee 2020/2021

Members are invited to forward their nominations for the new PGMC Committee 2019/2020. The elections will take place at the **Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 10 October 2020 at 13.00 pm.**

Members may personally forward their nominations from **1 October to 7 October 2020 (15:00)** either via email to adelheid.naude@gmail.com or drop them into the voting box at the clubhouse.

Please note that any new person/s nominated **must give their consent** for you to do so, and must be willing to stand for election. Fill in the name of the person/s nominated in the space provided below, let them sign and then sign yourself at the bottom - **only fully completed forms can be accepted.**

New Nominations for the PGMC Committee 2020/2021 (having been asked and agreed hereto):

1. Nominee NameNominee Signature
2. Nominee NameNominee Signature
3. Nominee NameNominee Signature

The persons stated below are currently serving on the Committee; those marked “yes” have given their consent for re-election. The positions of officers on the Committee will be voted upon at the AGM if required.

PGMC Committee 2020/2021 (agreed to continue)

Designation	Name	Available	My Nomination
Chairman	Willem Vorster	Yes	
Vice Chairman	Bernard Strydom	Yes	
Treasurer & Editor Newsletter	John Morgan	Yes	
Secretary	vacant		
Additional	Dieter Heinichen	Yes	
Additional	Alan Crawford	Yes	
Additional	Harry Harris	Yes	
Additional	Peter Beresford	Yes	
Additional	Oliver Green	Yes	

Member's Name & Signature