



# Pretoria Gem and Mineral Club

Affiliated to the Federation of Southern African Gem and Mineralogical Societies

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

**September 2015**

**Pretoria Rockhound Digest**

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

**Clubhouse:** no. 29, 26<sup>th</sup> St., 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

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## Programme Highlights September 2015

\*\*\* Swop & Sell and Social

5 Sept.

\*\*\* Hobby Booster

19 & 20 Sept.

### Sapphire - Birthstone for September



**Sapphire**, the September birthstone, has been popular since the Middle Ages and, according to folklore, will protect your loved ones from envy and harm.

Medieval clergy wore sapphires to symbolize heaven, while commoners thought the gem attracted heavenly blessings.

Blue sapphires range from very light to very dark greenish or violetish blue, as well as various shades of pure blue. The most prized colours are a medium to medium dark blue or slightly violetish blue.

Sapphire is a variety of the gem species corundum and occurs in all colours of the rainbow. Pink, purple, green, orange, or yellow corundums are known by their colour (pink sapphire, green sapphire). Ruby is the red variety of corundum.

See more at: <https://www.americangemsociety.org/september-birthstone>

All photos Google - Images for Sapphire



## PGMC Programme for September 2015:

(as at 02.09.2015)

Date	Event	Time	Contact Details
3 Sept.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
<b>5 Sept.</b>	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open <b>Swop &amp; Sell and Social</b>	11.00 – 15.00 11.00 – 14.00	Duty Members
10 Sept.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
<b>12 Sept.</b>	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open <b>Committee Meeting</b>	11.00 – 14.00 14.30 – 16.30	Duty Members – <b>Short Shift</b> Committee Members
17 Sept.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
<b>19 &amp; 20 Sept.</b>	<b>Hobby Booster – booking essential!</b> <b>Note: Workshops closed for all regular Activities!</b>	10.00 – 15.00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
24 Sept.	Silversmithing Workshop to be confirmed - PPH	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
26 Sept.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open	11:00 – 15:00	Duty Members

A very warm welcome to the new members who joined recently:

**Cecelina & Cecilia Lombard and Chris Mukoka.**

May your association with the club be enjoyable, long and productive.

## Duty Roster: September and October 2015

September	5	12	19 / 20	26
Open – 11:00 am	<b>Willem</b>	<b>tba</b>	<b>Hobby Booster Weekend</b>	<b>Will</b>
Duty Team	Hendrik Swanepoel Karin Eggers	Lex Krabbendam Zelda Carey		Will v/d Berg Karin Mayerl
Close – 15:00 pm	<b>Lex</b>	<b>Committee</b>		<b>Lex</b>

October	3	10	17	24	31
Open – 11:00 am	<b>Dieter</b>	<b>t.b.a.</b>	<b>Bernard</b>	<b>Willem</b>	<b>Lex</b>
Duty Team	Dieter Heinichen Linda Stone	Len Botha Ada Beresford	Henry Viviers Jean Snyman	Hendrik Swanep Karin Eggers	Lex Krabbendam Zelda Carey
Close – 15:00 pm	<b>Dieter</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Bernard</b>	<b>Willem</b>	<b>Lex</b>

Please **check the dates assigned to you** and organize “**stand-ins**” for the days you might not be available. We are still looking for **additional duty volunteers (machines & admin.)**, contact Bernard Strydom if you are willing to help. The Duty Roster 2015/2016 will be reviewed monthly; **please refer to your latest Newsletter for final Duty Team allocations.**

## 1. Personals



Big **Thank You's** go to **Willem Vorster, Lex Krabbendam, and Peter Beresford** for all their continuous maintenance work done at the club. Be it wheels mounted on the generator frame, repairing of saw blades, fixing saw feeders, getting all our faceting equipment up and running – you name it and our trusted guys are there for us, willing to put their hands to work and devoting many hours of their free time to the club. Willem, Lex and Peter - we **really** appreciate all your efforts.



**Belated Birthday Wishes** go to our Honorary Member – **Hannie Schönberger** – who celebrated her **80<sup>th</sup> Birthday** in August. What a milestone to reach! Hannie, on behalf of the Committee and all our members, only the very best wishes, most of all good health and happiness, for the years to come. We hope you had a wonderful day with your family and friends.

## 2. A Tribute to our Honorary Member – Otto Burri



Otto Burri

Otto Burri originated from Lucern in Switzerland. A young sport enthusiast, who excelled in rowing and represented his country at the 1948 Olympic Games held in England.

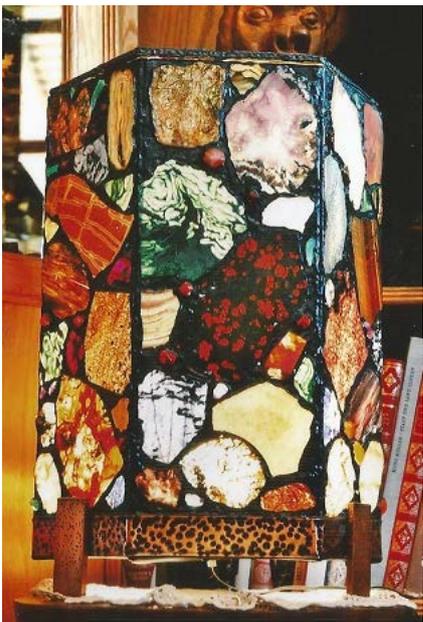
Otto relocated to South Africa in 1952 bringing with him a stone “collection” of 5 pieces of rough Agates, Rose Quartz and Jasper, which he proudly obtained with his first pocket money. After a short stay in Johannesburg, he relocated to Bloemfontein, where he later met and married his wife Helen.

During a holiday in Lesotho, they found Agates and thought they had hit the Jackpot! The years passed by, 3 sons were born and Lady Luck was visiting Otto again – he won a nice price at a Lottery. This windfall enabled him to buy a diamond blade saw and other material to build his first lapidary machines. Grinders, polishers and tumblers were built and the garage duly converted into a workshop, never to house a car again. He gained his knowledge through books and soon produced beautiful freeform cabochons and highly polished tumble stones.

But the one thing that made Otto and Helen famous were their Gemstone lamps. It all started by cutting a 1 mm slice of Moss Agate, from there they never looked back. People saw their lamps at the Swiss Embassy and the orders rolled-in, developing into a full business. Today their lamps adorn homes all over the world from Switzerland to America to Japan. They made a great team cutting, polishing and arranging their slabs, each lamp was unique and no two lamps were ever the same.

Otto and Helen decided to share their vast knowledge and experience by starting a club in Bloemfontein. This brought them into contact with the Pretoria club and they attended the first Gemboree held in Kuruman in 1966.

Sadly Otto Burri passed away at the age of 86, leaving a big void in the life of his wife Helen and their children; but his legacy will live on across the globe, every time somebody turns on a Gemstone lamp made by him and Helen.



Gemstone Lamp

Our thanks and appreciations go to Helen Burri for sharing this information and supplying the photos.

### 3. Swop & Sell & Social

The next **Swop & Sell and Social** has been scheduled for Saturday, 05.09.2015 from 11.00 onwards; all dealers welcome. Please bring your family/friends and introduce them to our hobby.



## Hobby Booster, 19. and 20.09.2015



4.

Saturday, 19.09.15	Courses (booked participants only)	
all start 10.00 am	Lapidary – Freeform Cabochons	by Lex Krabbendam
	Faceting – Quartz round Brilliant cut	by Peter Beresford
	Wire & Bead Crocheting	by Willem Vorster
	Gem Tree	by Heidi Naudé

Course fees are R 100 per person/per course, including a cooldrink and boerewors roll at lunch time. All materials will be supplied. Please book soon as attendance per course is limited.



Saturday, 19.09.15	Demonstrations (free participation for all)
13.00 – 15.00	<b>Introduction to Micromounting</b> by Wolf Windisch Wolf will show you Micromount samples and let you view them through his microscope. He will share valuable tips on how to select, clean, label and care for your specimens.
13:30 – 14.00	<b>Drilling of Slabs</b> by Bernard Strydom Bernard will show you how to successfully drill holes into your gemstone slabs and share the do's & don'ts and the tools required.

Sunday, 20.09.15	Course (booked participants only)
start at 10.00 am	<b>Silversmithing</b> Silver & Copper Spoon by Tobias Beyers  Course fee R 120/person all inclusive. Note: one cooldrink/person but no lunch will be provided. Booking essential to avoid disappointment.



Please note that the club will be closed for all other activities on those days.