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

June 2019

Pretoria Rockhound Digest

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

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

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

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

Highlights

*** Swop & Sell and Social 1 June
*** Silversmithing Course 15 June
*** Collection Outing to Vivo (Limpopo) 19 – 22 June

Another beautiful sphere produced by our member Alan Crawford.
The sphere measures approx. 15 cm in diameter and the material used is
dolomitized Serpentine from the Valtaki collection site.
Congratulations Alan on another beauty produced for your collection.
Photo: Heidi Naudé

The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the PGMC Committee. This newsletter is the property of the Pretoria Gem and Mineral Club; articles/photos may not be re-produced without the written permission of the Editor.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 June</td>
<td>Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open</td>
<td>11.00 – 15.00</td>
<td>Duty Members</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Swop &amp; Sell and Social</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 June</td>
<td>Silversmithing Workshop open</td>
<td>18:00 – 21:00</td>
<td>Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 June</td>
<td>Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open</td>
<td>11.00 – 14.30</td>
<td>Duty Members</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Committee Meeting</strong></td>
<td>15.00 – 16.30</td>
<td>Committee Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 June</td>
<td>Silversmithing Workshop open</td>
<td>18:00 – 21:00</td>
<td>Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 June</td>
<td><strong>Silversmithing Course – confirm with Bernard</strong></td>
<td>10:00 – 15:30</td>
<td>Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lapidary Workshop open</td>
<td>11.00 – 15.00</td>
<td>Duty Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 June</td>
<td><strong>Lapidary Sunday – confirm with Bernard</strong></td>
<td>08:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-22 June</td>
<td><strong>Collection Outing – Vivo (Limpopo)</strong> Details inside this newsletter.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Linda Stone, 082 5989 117</td>
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<td>20 June</td>
<td>Silversmithing Workshop open</td>
<td>18:00 – 21:00</td>
<td>Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683</td>
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<td>22 June</td>
<td>Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open</td>
<td>18:00 – 21:00</td>
<td>Duty Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 June</td>
<td>Silversmithing Workshop open</td>
<td>18:00 – 21:00</td>
<td>Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 June</td>
<td>Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open</td>
<td>18:00 – 21:00</td>
<td>Duty Members</td>
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</table>

**Duty Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Open – 11:00 am</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>22</th>
<th>29</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2019</td>
<td>Dieter</td>
<td>Willem</td>
<td>Bernard</td>
<td>Alan</td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open – 11:00 am</td>
<td>Dieter Heinichen</td>
<td>Linda Stone</td>
<td>Jan Oliver</td>
<td>Joey Oliver</td>
<td>Willem Vorster</td>
<td>Karin Mayerl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close – 15:00 pm</td>
<td>Dieter</td>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>Bernard</td>
<td>Alan</td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2019</td>
<td>Lex</td>
<td>Oliver</td>
<td>Bernard</td>
<td>Willem</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open – 11:00 am</td>
<td>Lex Krabbendam</td>
<td>Heidi Naudé</td>
<td>Oliver Green</td>
<td>Anita Havenga</td>
<td>Dieter Heinichen</td>
<td>Linda Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close – 15:00 pm</td>
<td>Lex</td>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>Bernard</td>
<td>Willem</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

*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.*
1. Membership Fees 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Member</td>
<td>R 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioner (over 60’s)</td>
<td>R 450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per additional Family Member</td>
<td>R 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joining Fee (new members only)</td>
<td>R 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only fully paid-up members are entitled to receive the club’s correspondence, attend courses, use the workshop facilities and participate in club outings.

Payment should be made to Pretoria Gem & Mineral Club, ABSA Bank, account no. 405 584 9839, or cash at the clubhouse (Thursdays or Saturdays).

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

☺☺ Johan Grobler, Suzette Weideman, Marinus and Mauritz Verster. ☺☺

May your association with our club be productive and enjoyable.

2. Personals

Our sincere Condolences go to Dina Crawford on the recent passing of her father. Alan and Dina, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Our Condolences also go to Erica Ochse and her family on the passing of her husband Dirk Ochse. Dirk hasn’t been a member for some years, but some of you might still remember this quiet and eccentric artist and his wicked sense of humor.

3. Ongoing Reminders: Indemnity Book and Safety Glasses

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.

Duty members – please check and ensure that everybody signs accordingly.

Safety glasses are compulsory for everyone working on the lapidary grinders, polishers and trim saws. Safety glasses are for sale at the duty desk or any decent hardware store. Members must bring/keep their own safety glasses.

4. News from FOSAGAMS

Linda Stone (President FOSAGAMS) advised that a new club has been founded – the Richtersveld Gem and Mineral Club. They may be contacted at: richtersveldgemandmineralclub@gmail.com. We wish Werner Smit and his team a productive and succesful future.

The “Kwela”-team (TV channel 144 kykNET) is currently filming a documentary on the small miners in Namibia with the assistance of Mike Thygesen, owner of Desert Gems in Swakopmund.

Frank Farquharson, former chairman of the Natal Mineral and Gem Society has passed away.

Professor Marian Tredoux, a wellknown geoscientist has passed away.

Please refer to the recently distributed FOSAGAMS newsletter 2 2019 for the full articles/reports.
5. **Swop & Sell and Social**

The next **Swop & Sell Open Day** will be held on **Saturday, 1 June 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.

6. **Silversmithing Course**

The next Silversmithing course has been scheduled for **Saturday, 15 June 2019 starting at 10.00 at the clubhouse.**

Details of the planned project such as materials required and costs to be expected will be advised as soon as possible.

To book your space please phone or w-app Bernard Strydom at 074 850 5683.

7. **Faceting Classes – Saturdays**

Want to learn how to facet a gemstone like this?

Contact **Peter Beresford** at 064 384 4514 to book your class on Saturdays at the clubhouse.

**Beginners/Advanced welcome!**

(Photos courtesy of Len Freeman)

8. **Early Announcement – Outing to Ollie Roon, Hartbeespoort**

We are one step closer to scheduling this fantastic opportunity to buy this collection (30-40 years) of Ollie Roon (69). The outing will be scheduled on a Sunday. The material available includes various Serpentines, Jasper (red, black, brecciated, fancy), Transvaal Jade, Chalcedony (brown, black and exceptional blues), Verdite, Buddstone, Puddingstone, Unakite, Aragonite, Petrified Wood, Stichtite, Amazonite, Agates (KZN, Zimbabwe, Bloemhof, Hobhouse), Amethyst, various mineral specimens and half tumbles stones. The material ranges from fist size to very big and caters for the normal lapidarists to the egg and sphere makers or even garden landscapers! Date will be announced soon!!!
9. **Collection Outing – Vivo (Limpopo)**

**The outing:**

Our exiting Vivo (Limpopo) outing to the Limpopo Province will start on Wednesday, June 19th at 11:00 and end in the late afternoon of Saturday, June 22nd.

We will meet at the “Delicious Tearoom” next to the garage on the left hand side of the Alldays – Swartwater Road, Alldays from where we will take off.

Minerals to be collected include agates, calcite, copper related minerals, garnets, magnesite, apricot coloured marble, green quartz, pyralspite, quartz, ruby corundum and unakite. Dealers from Zimbabwe will be selling the following: agates, alexandrite, red garnet, moonstone, rhodolite, ruby corundum, black and blue sapphire and tourmaline.

We will also visit the Mapungubwe National Park and Heritage Site.

Some of the roads we’ll be travelling on are dirt roads. It is advisable to wear the appropriate gear since we are covering some rough terrain. Please keep in mind that snakes are commonly found in this area. The malaria mosquito has been detected as far as Mopani, be sure to take precautionary measures.

Please take the necessary precautionary measures if you suffer from any specific medical condition.

**Available Accommodation:**

We will be staying on the farm “Beeston 785MS”. The owner, Desmond Delport (also a keen mineral collector), says the farm is situated on top of the Soutpansberg and can be reached by travelling for 10km on the N1 from Louis Trichardt towards Musina. Turn left onto the Bluegumsport Road and continue for 10km; turn right at the farm gate and proceed for another 2km – make sure that you close all the gates.

**Note:** There is no electricity and no cellphone reception!

**Room accommodation:**

1. **Old-world Gable House**, bathroom, small kitchen, freezer to be shared by everybody
   1.1 Living Room with one double bed
   1.2 Room with three single beds.
2. **Wendy House**, size 4 x 3m, with one double bed and two single beds.
3. **Mountain Hut**, it can only be reached by 4x4 vehicle and is approx. 2.8km from the gable house. It consists of two rooms and a toilet/shower room. The ground-floor houses the kitchen and living area and the upper-floor can accommodate five to six people. The kitchen and toilet/shower room must be shared by everybody.
4. **Igloo** – situated close to the mountain hut (same type as used by road workers). It is five meters in diameter and has three single beds inside.
5. **Camping and Caravanning** – more than enough space for camping; ablution and kitchen facilities at the gable house.
6. **Alternative accommodation** – please check on the LekkeSlaap website.
7. **Room and Camping Rates**: Desmond confirmed that he will not charge anything for the accommodation on his farm. We are very grateful for this.
8. **Bookings** – must be made through me; provide names, surnames, cell numbers and booking details for yourself and every additional person in your group. This information should be sent either via WhatsApp or SMS to me at 082 5989 117.

**Closing Date for bookings is 15th June.**

For any additional queries please contact me directly at the above number – see you all at this wonderful outing!

*Linda Stone, Outing coordinator*
10. Gemboree 2019 – Uis, Namibia

Patrick and Goedele van den Bon, long-standing members of our club, recently attended the Gemboree organized by the Cape Town Club in Uis, Namibia. They kindly forwarded some of their photos for publication. Thank you Patrick and Goedele we appreciate this kind gesture.

A big Thank You also from the PGMC committee for taking the Gemboree banner to Namibia for the Cape Town Club.

Left – convoy travelling…..

Right – the recently re-opened tin mine at Uis has brought some prosperity again to this little town.

Left – the indigenous “Gemtrees” and roadside stalls of the small miners.

Right – Malcolm briefing the group at a collection site.

Left & right – Rockhounds of all ages and sizes happily digging at the fluorite mine, to search and find those different coloured fluorite specimens.