



Federation of Southern African Gem and Mineralogical Societies

Federasie van Suider-Afrikaanse Siersteen en Mineralogiese Verenigings



FOSAGAMS newsletter 4/2014

www.fosagams.co.za

FOSAGAMS NAMIBIA TOUR

What an adventurous tour and highly valued group this proved to be! According to the feedback given, everybody engaged with great enthusiasm and pulled together as a group. There were also visitors from overseas participating in the tour. Rough terrain was covered despite the new vehicles and caravans. They gathered various specimens such as Urongo minerals, Aquamarine, Fluoride and 'Venster' Quartz. Local miners were supported and different mines visited to collect nice pieces of Diopside. The road to Sodalite was very bad but challenging to participants. Interesting specimens were collected at Rosh Pinah.



Arne Georgzen and Gert Sjogren

from Sweden Photo: Johann Liebenberg



On the way to Camp Aussicht

Photo: Johann Liebenberg

Malcolm Jackson, the tour leader, expressed his thanks to the eager participating rockhounds for their positive attitude. The tour was covered on Twitter, and a full report will appear in the SAGM. Our sincere thanks to Malcolm for the outstanding organization and planning done to make this such a memorable tour. Many thanks also to his wife, Margaret, who showed so much support and kindness.

SAGM 46/2



Janet Saad and Nico Roux

Photo: Linda Stone

The latest SAGM has recently been distributed. Sharon Flax Waddington once again produced an interesting magazine which will cater for all tastes. Bruce Cairncross who does the final editing on the magazine, is thanked for his work. Gratitude is also expressed to Janet Saad and Nico Roux who also assisted with the distribution of the magazine. Alan Rolfe, who previously assisted his wife, Melinda, with the distribution passed away recently. Our deepest sympathy to Melinda. Alan will surely be missed and remembered for his hard work and harmonious personality.

PIETERMARITZBURG GEM AND MINERAL CLUB AND SOUTH AFRICAN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB (PE)

Congratulations to the Pietermaritzburg and South African Gem and Mineral Clubs celebrating their birthdays. Pietermaritzburg turned 25 years and South African Gem and Mineral Club a full 60 years! They

President - Linda Stone **Vice – President** - Malcolm Jackson **Secretary** - Val Spearman **Treasurer** - Dave de Villiers

are the oldest club affiliated to FOSAGAMS. You can read about the history of these clubs on the FOSAGAMS website. Both these clubs acquired new workshops (See attachments). We wish them many years of excitement and delight.



Pietermaritzburg celebrating

Photos: Val Spearman



Celebrations at Ashley Diack's home



At Pietermaritzburg's new

Club House

APPOINTMENT OF DEBRA DE VILLIERS AS THE WEBMASTER



Debra is a creative graphic and web designer who has been running her own freelance business since 2005.

Prior to that she worked at various design studios, including a Record Company in London, designing cd covers and for music. Debra studied graphic design at Wits Tech from 1995-1997, specializing in print design, and thereafter branched into web design. Please refer to Debra's website at www.dimension-design.com to view her creative design work.

Debra de Villiers

Debra went on to the FOSAGAMS Namibian Tour and confessed that she has become an addictive rockhouser.

We wish her everything of the best!

TOETER



FOSAGAMS is now featuring on 'Toeter' as well. It operates in the exact way as 'Twitter'. Join us on 'Toeter' and be informed first handed on our affairs.

NATAL MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY

Congratulations to Frank Farquharson who was elected as the new chairman of the Natal Club. The others are all newcomers to the management (See attachment). We wish them the best of luck and may we have years of co-operation ahead of us. Our thanks to Roy Brain and his management for what they have done. Roy will be going overseas regularly, surely to collect nice facetting rough!

BARBERTON GEOTRAIL



At the Makhonjwa/Lebombo View

Photo:Linda Stone

On Saturday August 2, I attended the opening of the Barberton Makhonjwa Geotrail which is well designed and constructed. The geosite's description is

from north to south ie. from Barberton to Bulembu. This will take the adventurous traveller on a journey starting from the younger rocks to the older ones. Most of the sites have an interpretation panel and a designated parking area. Make sure to visit this trail whenever you are around this area. It is certainly a decision worthwhile

METEORITES: A SOUTHERN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE – RONNIE MCKENZIE

A handy basic guide just released

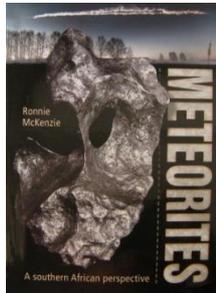


Photo: Linda Stone

Meteorites are the remnants of meteors from outer space that have survived the corridor of fire through Earth's atmosphere and landed on our planet. Rare, and bearing secrets about the formation of our Universe, these 'treasures from outer space' have fascinated people ever since they were first identified in the late 18th

century as extraterrestrial arrivals.

This jam-packed book by enthusiast and collector Ronnie McKenzie introduces the topic in straightforward language and is richly illustrated with some 200 photographs and diagrams. It discusses how to identify meteorites, where they come from and where they landed on Earth, the many different types, and how to set about collecting them. It also dispels some of the myths about these stones, and presents some infamous meteorite scams.

Ronnie McKenzie, a civil engineer with a PhD in Water Resource Management, runs an engineering company in South Africa. His interest in – and collecting of- meteorites spans some 30 years, and many specimens from his extensive private collection are featured in this book. His experience and wisdom on the topic will be of broad general interest, and invaluable to potential new enthusiasts and collectors.

ISBN: 978 177 584 0985 | **RRP:** R140,00

For an interview with Ronnie, cover images, and author photographs, contact Belinda van der Merwe belindavdm@randomstruik.co.za / 021 460 5400. For more information, visit www.randomstruik.co.za

All the above information was obtained from Random Struik House.

GRAPHENE

I have recently received a special report on Graphene proving to bring new incredible advances to the medical field, energy sector as well as the defence section. Graphene is 200 time stronger than steel, thinner than a sheet of paper and more conductive than copper.

A few companies have access to the mineral graphite, which is the resource to make Graphene. For further information please Google 'How to invest in the Graphene Revolution'.

On our visits to the Vivo area we went to the site where graphite is found.

A note from the 'International Gem Society'

This society hosts an online gem and rock encyclopedia, numerous articles related to the hobby, including a gemnology scholarship. For more information please Google 'Gem and Mineral Reference Library'.

Warm regards

Linda Stone

President FOSAGAMS