



From the desk of Craig Smith

Welcome to 2017 to all of our members; we hope it is a great year.

We are starting the meetings program this year with two February events. First, there is an excursion to the Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory on February 17 with notices going out in the next few days. The event will be self-drive, and cost R60 (to cover the entry charge) but is limited to 30 delegates so be sure to respond early to info@gssa.org.za if you want to participate. Second, Colin Rice's drilling methods course is scheduled for February 22-24. Notification of this event has been sent to the membership, and note that it is being staged at a different venue in Muldersdrift. The venue is the Avianto Resort, which will be particularly convenient for those in the northwest Jhb – Krugersdorp – Rustenburg region. Contact charne@soafrica.com or info@gssa.org.za for more information. Places are still available at 2016 prices.

On February 2 (this Thursday) Ed Swindell, Vice President for Professional Affairs at GSSA, will present a lecture at Wits entitled "Continuous Professional Development and the SACNASP", 19:00 for 19:30. The lecture is sponsored by MINSAs; RSVP to minsas@gssa.org.za, and note that the registration number of your vehicle is needed.

On March 13 and 14, Dr. Tom Dunn, the 2017 AAPG Distinguished Lecturer for the Africa Region, will present lectures in Cape Town and Johannesburg. The venues will be the University of the Western Cape and the University of Johannesburg; more details will be sent to the membership over the next few weeks. In association with the AAPG, The GSSA, SAGA and DST-NRF CIMERA are co-sponsors of the Johannesburg leg; the University of the Western Cape is co-sponsoring in Cape Town. Dr. Dunn is currently the leader of the Reservoir Quality Prediction Team at Chevron Energy Technology, and he is an expert in sandstone petrology and diagenesis. The lectures should be of interest to anyone working with clastic sedimentary rocks.

Given the times that we live in, and the geopolitical uncertainty that the new American president is unleashing on the world, the planned March 31 DPP event on gold ('Gold Day') should be diarized. Does American dollar strength trump the gold price, or does geopolitical uncertainty trump the dollar and elevate gold!? This is a timely meeting for anyone interested in where the gold industry is going. The program is being constructed now and will be communicated in the next two weeks or so.

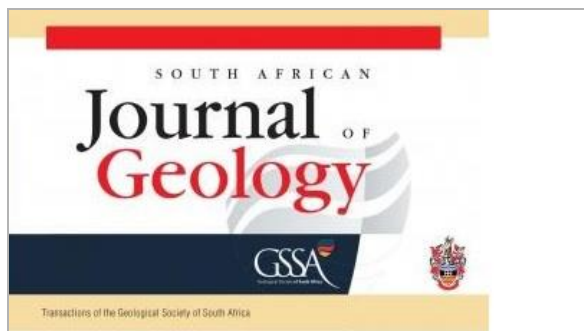
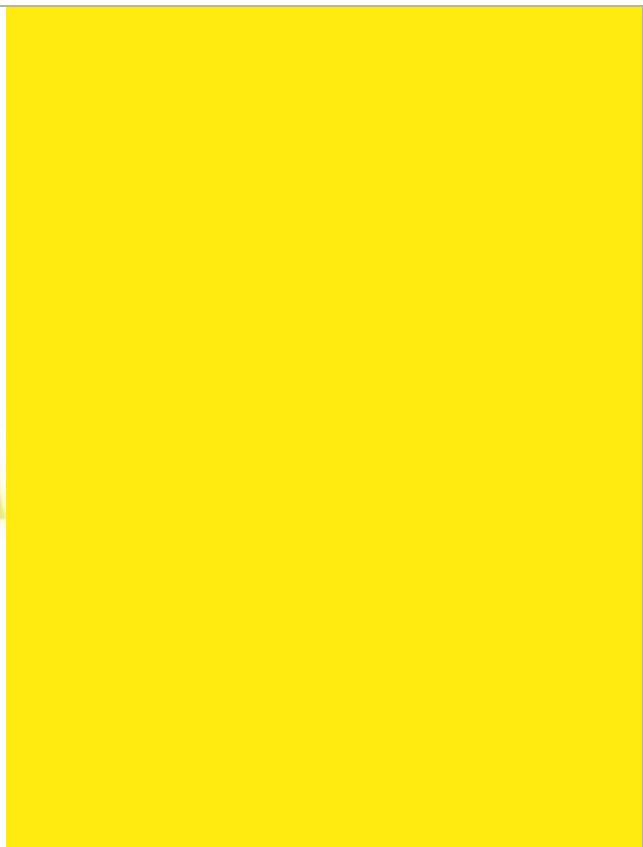
The GSSA is a stakeholder in the EFG sponsored INTRAW project (International Raw Materials Observatory), and a project report on the status of a number of IINTRAW projects was released in December. For an up to date assessment, see <http://us8.campaign-archive1.com/?u=7622a1c0fc286079ff6a153b7&id=7abc0ab0d1&e=>.

As reported in the December newsletter, the abstracts for the 35th International Geological Congress are now available. The Scientific Program Committee is pleased to announce that abstracts of all papers presented at 35IGC are available at <http://www.americangeosciences.org/information/igc>. The organizers of 35IGC would like to acknowledge the American Geosciences Institute, and in particular Sharon Tahirkheli for archiving the Congress abstracts and creating the portal for their access.



just a reminder:

2017 membership fees now due



The GSSA has taken the decision to move to a 'Print on Demand' model for the SAJG from 2017 in order to save costs, prevent wastage and to mitigate the delivery problems. It is also apparent that most members are already accessing the SAJG digitally via GSW.

Issue 3 of volume 119 is in print and issue 4 will be sent to the printers in February. We are committed to a full print run for 119(3) but would like to reduce the print run for 119(4) if possible.

We are therefore requesting members to confirm that they want to receive issue 119-4 in print format by sending "Print 119-4" to



[2017 Calendar of Events](#)

info@gssa.org.za.

NB: A non-reply will be taken as acceptance of digital only.

This will allow us to reduce the print and postage costs prior to formal implementation with Volume 120.

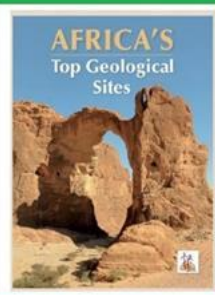


New GSSA
Members List

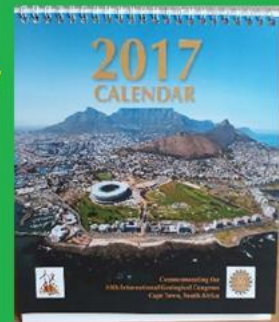
Deceased Member

Linley Alice Lister - Life Member

Our sincerest sympathy goes to the family and friends of the deceased.



Purchase a copy of the Sites or Episodes book and get a **free 2017 Calendar** and a **free copy of the Historic Overview of the Witwatersrand Goldfields**



R200 incl vat

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Drilling Methods and Techniques in Resource Delineation

Presented by Colin Rice

22 - 24 February 2017

Avianto, Muddersdrift

24 GSSA CPD
POINTS FOR
GSSA MEMBERS

This three day course provides a practical overview of all aspects of exploration drilling for practicing geologists and related professionals. The course is interactive and questions and discussions of on-site problems are encouraged. Participants will receive a set of printed course notes and a copy of "The Diamond Drilling Handbook" by Dr W.F. Heinz.

Programme Topics:

- Fundamentals of Drilling Operations
- Drilling Methods
- Common drilling calculations
- Fundamentals of Borehole Surveying
- Fundamentals of Directional Drilling
- The use of Drilling Fluids

The program will commence at 08:30 and will finish at 16:00 each day.

Who Should Attend?:

The course will assist all persons involved in drilling projects to understand the role of drilling in the mining industry, the physical principles of drilling as well as in understanding a range of different drilling methods commonly used in exploration projects. The functions and properties of drill fluids, the fundamentals of borehole surveying and an introduction to directional drilling concepts are also covered. The course is therefore aimed at Geologists (old and young), Project Engineers, Consultants, Financiers and Safety Professionals.



About Colin Rice:

After leaving university, Colin taught high school mathematics in Zimbabwe for 8 years before moving to South Africa in 1984. He has been actively involved in many aspects of the Southern African drilling industry since 1984, he was a founder partner in SA Mud Services (Pty) Ltd, later SAMCHEM (Pty) Ltd and he was Managing Director of Professional Diamond Drilling Equipment (Pty) Ltd for 11 years when the company was acquired by Atlas Copco AB. In 1995 Colin and his business partner launched Borehole Survey (Pty) Ltd and imported the very first electronic borehole survey tools into the country. Borehole Survey (Pty) Ltd was a first service company in sub-Saharan Africa to utilize state of the art electronic survey tools and the successful application of electronic survey technology acted a springboard for the systems in other African countries.

Colin has always had a keen interest in improving the level of understanding of drilling principles through training and was responsible for setting up the National Diploma, Drilling Practice Course at Technikon SA. He has been delivering drilling and exploration related courses at a number of institutions and in a number of other Southern African countries for the past 20 years.

Colin is the Chairman of the newly launched Drilling Industry Certification Authority of South Africa (DICASA), is an Honorary Fellow of the GSSA and is President of the Borehole Water Association of Southern Africa

"Great course!
Very Insightful"

"It was a pleasure
to learn from the
expertise of Colin!"

"Great course, it will
change the way I
interact with the
drilling contractors"

More
info

[Click here to register](#)



SCI-BA

LABORATORIES AND SCIENTIFIC CONSULTANTS

Introduction to Auto-SEM-EDS

Facilitated by Igor Tonžetić

23-24 March 2017

Sci-Ba Headoffice Cape Town
601 Salga House, 5 Waterkant Street, Cape Town

[Read More](#)



Ph.D. position: low temperature cycling of gold
Funding is available for a Ph.D. candidacy in the low-temperature biogeochemical cycle of gold at Stellenbosch University. The position is supported by funding from the National Research Foundation (NRF) and includes bursary (R60 000.00 per annum plus top-up) and research funding for a three year duration (2017 – 2019). The research will focus on the low temperature geochemical cycle of gold (i.e., gold solubility and secondary gold precipitation), with particular emphasis on the inorganic, organic and biological controls on this cycle. For more information or to apply, please email Bjorn von der Heyden (bvon@sun.ac.za).



Visit to the Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory

Friday, February 17, 2017

See www.hartrao.ac.za

A self-drive excursion has been organized for interested GSSA members in the Gauteng region to visit the Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory on Friday afternoon and early evening from 4:00 to 8:00 PM, February 17. The late afternoon to evening time slot allows some early evening star gazing, as well as avoiding rush hour traffic in the Krugersdorp - Johannesburg – Pretoria area.

The tour is limited to 30 delegates, and carries an entrance fee of R60 (payable to the GSSA). Delegates will self-drive to the Observatory, located on the R400 between Maropeng and Broederstroom.

[Read More](#)



Due to popular request, and in lieu of recent changes to legislation governing scientific professionals, Ed Swindell will be providing an All-You-Need-To-Know lecture on CPD points and how this relates to membership within the GSSA (by extension MINSAs) and SACNASP.

Title: Continuous Professional Development and the SACNASP

Date: Thursday, 2 February

Time: 19h00 for 19h30

Where: University of Johannesburg, Geology Department, Reading Room

RSVP: By providing number of people attending and the license plate of the car being driven by Tuesday the 31st of January to minsas@gssa.org.za.

Finger supper to be provided afterwards.

geobulletin
QUARTERLY NEWS BULLETIN ~ DECEMBER 2016
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Application to the REI fund
Fellows Dinner
Geology of sites of antiquity in Greece

news

35th IGC - It's a celebration

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Click here for the December issue of the Geobulletin

SOUTH AFRICAN
Journal OF Geology

GSSA
Geological Society of South Africa

Transactions of the Geological Society of South Africa

Highlighted in this issue:

- Amphibolite-related perovskite-bearing rocks: insights from the Maud and Kruus quaterns, Vredenburg Dome
- U-Pb zircon age of the Maudley Formation: persistence in article 1, 58pp
- Palaeoproterozoic crustal-scale processes: insights from the Barberton Greenstone Belt
- P-T evolution of the Central Zone of the Limpopo Belt: new data from ultrahigh grade of granulitic composition
- Basalts on Kudu Island, northern Botswana: indicators of post-take tectonics during the late Mesozoic?
- Early Mesozoic tectonics along the Orange-Franklin, southern Cape Fold Belt, parts 1 and 2

Volume 119 ■ Number 3 ■ September 2016

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GSSA Members please login to the website www.gssa.org.za to gain access to the latest online version of the SAJG via Geoscience world.



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