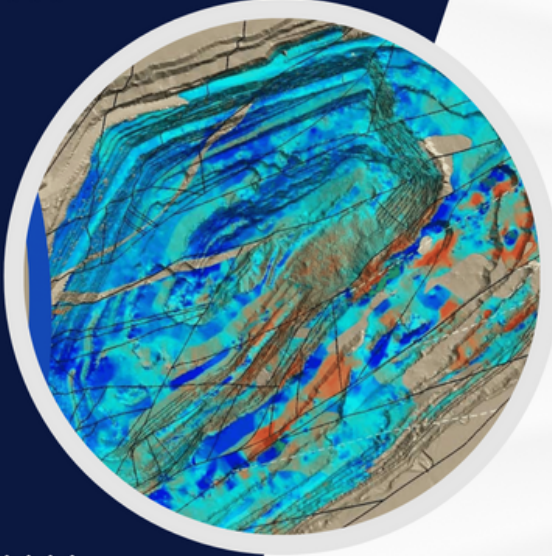


# NEWSLETTER

Promoting the study and advancement of Earth Sciences since 1895



**GSSA**  
Geological Society of South Africa

**ONLINE**

**3D GEOLOGICAL  
MODELLING**

**9 APRIL 2024**

**REGISTER NOW**

Recently, The IUGS informed the GSSA that two South African Geosites were selected to be included in the Second Hundred Geosites in the world, following on from the publication of the First Hundred volume. The book will be formally announced at the International Geological Congress in Busang, South Korea in August.

The Vredefort impact structure, championed by Roger Gibson and Uwe Reimold, and minerals of the Kalahari manganese field, championed by Bruce Cairncross, are included in the volume. The First Hundred Geosites includes the Barberton Mountainland and is published in print format (70 Euros) or as a free download. See <https://iugs-geoheritage.org/>.

There are several South African entries in the running for inclusion in the Third Hundred Geosites volume – but publication is likely a few years off.

Deadlines are imminent for abstract submission for the Merensky Reef Centenary Meeting. Accommodation at Hunters Rest is filling up fast; early registration is advisable. Sponsorship opportunities are available; see the GSSA website for details.

The GSSA is pleased to announce that the next Geocongress will be in Bloemfontein, hosted by the University of the Free State. The event will be held in early July; watch for further announcements from the GSSA.

*Craig Smith*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- President's Column
- GSSA Virtual Office
- 2024 Annual Sponsors
- Upcoming Events
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- March 2024 Geobulletin
- 100 yrs of the Merensky Reef – Call for Abstracts
- SAMCODES Snippets
- 100 years – Namaqualand Diamonds
- NDC Photo Competition
- 2024 Membership Fees
- Bushveld Branch Event photos
- NCape Branch Events
- MINSA Book Prize | Membership



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www.gssa.org.za





# STEVE MCCOURT

## GSSA PRESIDENT

Society activities during March have been predominantly administrative with professional meetings restricted to a mentoring session linked to the (SACNASP) Candidate Mentoring Programme on March 6 (90 attendees) and a Continuing Professional Development Workshop presented by Tania Marshall on March 12th (185 attendees). Both meetings were held online.

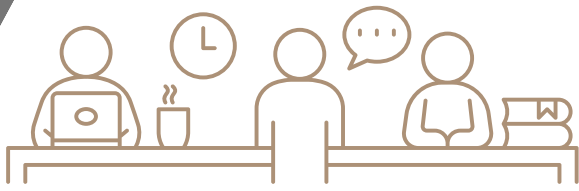
Administrative meetings were dominated by the annual meeting of the REI evaluation panel held on March 19th. A record number of applications (35) were received. The great majority were from staff and post-graduate students at 14 different tertiary institutions within South Africa but there were also applications from CGS and Industry based members. Applications were for block grants to support student attendance at a range of meetings within South Africa in 2024/25, travel grants for geoscience conferences both outside South Africa and locally, and grants to offset running expenses for bona-fide research. The decisions reached by the evaluation panel will be tabled for confirmation and ratification at Manco on April 3rd and for approval by Council on April 6th, after which the successful applicants will be informed.

The Fellows Committee met on March 20th and the current standing of applications for the 2024 GSSA Awards were discussed. The deadline for applications linked to the student awards is mid-April 2024 and a reminder has been sent to all Heads of Departments/Schools. Details of the criteria for the student awards are available in the By-Laws document under Members/GSSA Documentation on the website.

April 1st is the deadline for submission of abstracts for presentation at the Merensky Reef Centenary Meeting taking place at the Hunters Rest Resort in Rustenburg (August 20-21, 2024). Details of the planned sessions at the scientific meeting are listed under the Events tab on the GSSA website as is the official abstract submission form. Abstracts are required from everyone intending to present at the meeting (oral or poster) and must be sent, in the correct format, to Dr Sofya Chistyakova ([Sofia.Chistyakova@wits.ac.za](mailto:Sofia.Chistyakova@wits.ac.za)) at Wits for evaluation by the scientific committee.

Although progress on an update to the popular textbook The Geology of South Africa is much slower than anticipated, I am pleased to report that we are investigating the launch of a "Wiki-type" publication channel on which updates of selected chapters would be made available through the members portal on the GSSA website. More details will be posted as they become available.

Following information received from the Overberg Geoscientists Group (OGG), the GSSA has opened a dialogue with Prof Mike Bruton from Cape Town about a project he is driving to display a bust of Charles Darwin in Simon's Town. The bust will overlook the spot where HMS Beagle dropped anchor 187 years ago. As pointed out by Mike Bruton, Darwin was essentially a geologist during the voyage of the Beagle and carried with him the first edition of Charles Lyell's Principles of Geology noting afterwards, that "Without the Principles there would have been no Origin", suggesting that without Lyell's Principles of Geology, there would have been no 'Origin of Species' book.



## GSSA NEW LOCATION

# VIRTUAL OFFICE

- Office telephone number has changed
- Receptionist answers the GSSA office number and transfers the calls to the staff
- Staff are working remotely
- Business Lounge

### GSSA Staff

Craig Smith - Executive Manager


Lully Govender - Office Manager


Marliese Olivier - Finance

Sally Nienaber - Administrator



**Address** - Thornhill Office Park , Building 10, 94 Bekker Street, Vorna Valley, Midrand, 1686

 010 143 2096

 [info@gssa.org.za](mailto:info@gssa.org.za)

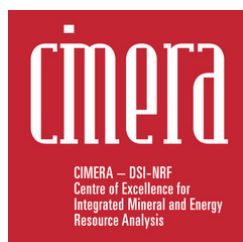
## Online Book Store



## The GSSA wishes to acknowledge our **2024 Sponsors**

### Annual Sponsors

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### Event Sponsors

**SACNASP**  
South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions  
*Integrity in science*



# MARCH 2024 GEOBULLETIN

A Hikers  
guide to the  
Geology of  
Kilimanjaro



To advertise in the Geobulletin  
please email [info@gssa.org.za](mailto:info@gssa.org.za)

# REGISTRATION OPEN

## 100 YEARS OF THE MERENSKY REEF

### HANS MERENSKY - BUSHVELD COMPLEX

One hundred years later, the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) believes that this is a milestone worth celebrating. To honour Hans Merensky, platinum and all things Bushveld Complex related, the GSSA is organising a two-day scientific/technical conference (including a poster session as well as a trade show), combined with various pre- and post-Conference field trips to the Eastern, Western and Northern limbs and different social events during the period 15 -23 August 2024.



**15 - 23  
AUGUST 2024**



**REGISTER NOW**



**Sponsorship Opportunities**



**info@gssa.org.za**



**[https://www.gssa.org.za/?page\\_id=7330](https://www.gssa.org.za/?page_id=7330)**

**More Info**

### Merensky Reef Centenary

## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Ni-Cu-PGE and chromite deposits in mafic-ultramafic complexes: processes, genetic models and exploration tools.

**19 AUGUST 2024**

**REGISTER NOW**

**MORE INFORMATION**



**Speaker** - Dr Stephen Barnes  
(CSIRO, Western Australia)

Partly sponsored by BUCOMET (Bushveld Geology and Metallogeny Research)

**SUBMIT**

Merensky Reef Centenary Conference  
20-21 August 2024

## Call for Abstracts

**Deadline: 1 April 2024**

Prospective authors may choose to submit full (peer-reviewed) papers/presentations or standalone presentations only. NOTE: Abstracts are required for all potential presentations.



**info@gssa.org.za**



**[https://www.gssa.org.za/?page\\_id=7330](https://www.gssa.org.za/?page_id=7330)**



**REGISTER NOW**



# REMINDER - HAVE YOU LOGGED YOUR CPD CREDITS YET?

This is a reminder that all GSSA members who have chosen to log their CPD credits on the SACNASP system should please update their profile before 1 April 2024.

Also, GSSA members doing their CPD on the GSSA platform should please download your CPD\_Log and upload it to SACNASPs so that you can claim your credits.



More information  
[https://www.gssa.org.za/?page\\_id=4221](https://www.gssa.org.za/?page_id=4221)

# Events

## Calendar

### Upcoming Online Events

09 APRIL

3D GEOLOGICAL MODELLING

16 APRIL

ADVANCED EXCEL FOR  
GEOLOGISTS

2 & 3 MAY

SAMPLING & DATA  
MANAGEMENT

25 & 26 MAY

STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY  
**FIELD TRIP – KZN**

04 JUNE

GIS FOR EXPLORATION

24 JUNE

PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR  
GEOLOGISTS

2 & 3 JULY

PRACTICAL GEOLOGICAL MAPPING  
TO MAP MAKING  
VENUE – **JHB COUNTRY CLUB**

26 & 27 JULY

MARINE GEOSCIENCES IN  
SOUTHERN AFRICA



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## 2024 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

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Affiliate Member	<b>R1100</b>
Retired Affiliate	<b>R470</b>
Dual Member	<b>R2230</b>
Member / Fellow	<b>R1675</b>
Institutional Member	<b>R8780</b>
Retired Member/Fellow	<b>R500</b>
Student Member	<b>Free</b>
Life Member/Fellow/Honorary	<b>Free - Optional contribution towards admin or research /education funding</b>

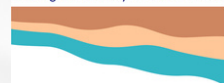
### Payment Methods

- Online via the GSSA website – <https://www.gssa.org.za/GSSA/>
- EFT
- Credit Card

Please email [accounts@gssa.org.za](mailto:accounts@gssa.org.za) for any account related queries.

Members please login and update  
your membership information

CLICK HERE >>



# 100 YEARS OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE NAMAQUALAND DIAMONDS

## 11 - 20 MARCH 2025



## FIRST CIRCULAR AND CALL FOR PAPERS



**READ MORE**

## FIELD TRIPS



For all delegates contemplating joining the fieldtrip, please note that we will be visiting a number of operating diamond mines on which security is a significant part.

- On-mine (internal) security clearances will be required for Kleinzee, Alexkor and Namdeb – the relevant forms will need to be completed by the end of January 2025. These will be mailed in Q4/2024.
- Namdeb is located in Namibia – a valid passport will be required by all delegates. It is the delegate's responsibility to ensure that their travel documents are in order.
- The restricted areas permit (RAP) for entrance into the Namdeb onshore marine diamond mining operation will require a police clearance certificate, not older than one year. It is any potential delegate's responsibility to acquire this certificate timeously. Currently, in South Africa, such certificates can take 4-6 months, due to the backlog at the SAP. PLEASE APPLY FOR YOUR CERTIFICATE in good time – you will not be able to enter the minesite without it.



100 YEARS OF THE DISCOVERY OF  
THE NAMAQUALAND DIAMONDS  
11-20 MARCH 2025



Northern Cape Branch  
Geological Society of South Africa



# NAMAQUALAND DIAMOND CENTENARY PHOTO COMPETITION

## CALL FOR PHOTOS

- Photographs should showcase the wide variety of the Namaqualand West Coast.
- Submissions open to allcomers.
- The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Entries close 31 January 2025.

**Winners will be announced at the Conference**

**Prizes will be given, including having your photo used as the cover page of Geobulletin in 2025.**

**SUBMIT**





## WEST COAST DIAMONDS EVENT & EXCURSION

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Venue: Port Nolloth & Kleinsee, Northern Cape

### Event Supporters



## MEET THE SPEAKERS

### Gregory Katz

Director/Shareholder/Managing Partner

Trigon Adamas Pty Ltd



### Collin Mbangu

Senior Exploration Geologist  
Namdeb Diamond Corporation



### Deoné Strauss

Senior Exploration Geologist  
Namdeb Diamond Corporation



### Lyndon De Meillon

Director

Paleostone Mineral  
Consultants and Mining



### Mike De Wit

Consultant & Research Fellow of  
University of Stellenbosch



Registration Link: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/GeologicalSocietyOfSouthAfrica/WestCoastDiamondsEventAndExcursion1718May2024>

## ANNUAL SPONSORS



## "WEST COAST DIAMONDS" EVENT & EXCURSION

VENUE: PORT NOLLOTH &  
KLEINSEE NC.  
DATE: 17 & 18 MAY 2024

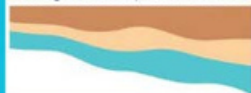
EVENT DETAILS AND  
PROGRAMME  
TO FOLLOW

Click  
Register  
Now

CONTACT US ON:  
[admin.nc@gssa.org.za](mailto:admin.nc@gssa.org.za)

CPD POINTS

Northern Cape branch  
Geological Society of South Africa



### ANNUAL SPONSORS

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## **Abuse of the Complaints Process**

Any member of the public may lay a complaint against any person signing off as a Competent Person (or Competent Valuator). Procedures and outcomes are defined in the Constitutions, Code of Ethics/Professional Conduct of the various statutory and/or professional bodies to which the CP/CV might belong. Any such statutory registration or professional membership implies that the member (whether employed in academia, research, industry or government) agrees to abide by them and be subject to them and the associated Complaints and Disciplinary processes.

Of the cases investigated by the SAMCODES Standards Committee (SSC) over the past 10 years, several complaints had to be abandoned because there was little/no cooperation by the Complainants. These individuals took the time to put in a written complaint (often not in the form of an affidavit), and then failed to provide follow-up details or evidence when requested by the relevant committee (perhaps too much effort or insufficient substance to the complaint?).

A second disturbing trend is that a few complaints are found to be unsubstantiated or frivolous, based upon hearsay, personal opinion and/or individual bias. This often goes along with the fact that some professionals have taken up the mantle of “serial complainers”, finding fault with even the most inconsequential issues.

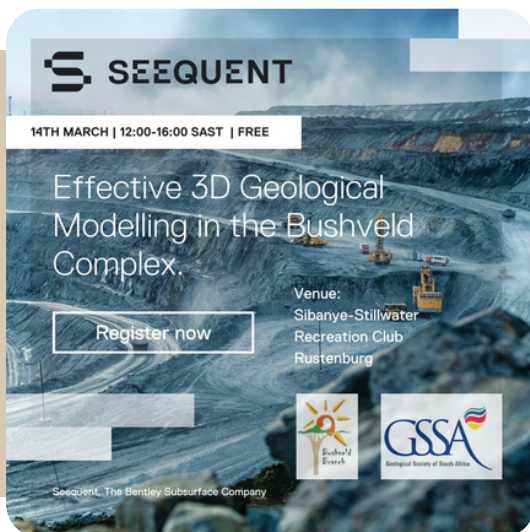
Such disputes highlight an unfortunate, unintended consequence of the complaints process – that complaints are sometimes being used to settle academic and/or professional disagreements. This is an unacceptable abuse of the system as it has the potential to irreparably injure the reputation of the subject of the complaint and it wastes the time of the various committees that must deal with them.

The SSC is also aware of complaints on CP/CVs with respect to fraudulent and unethical practices and would like to remind all consultants that to compile a Public Report, it is necessary to be properly registered with the relevant authority and have applicable experience. In due recognition of this, consultants may only practice within the scope of their competency and may only accept work for which they are properly qualified and have the capacity to carry out effectively.

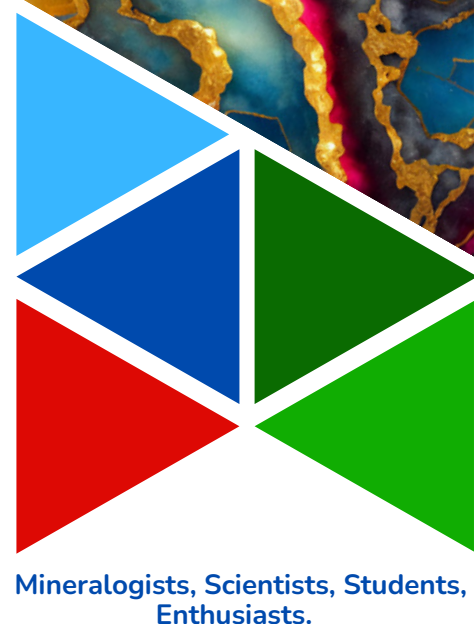
Nonetheless, the Complaints process is a vitally important part of Public Reporting responsibility. It is necessary for valid and substantiated complaints to be made to ensure that CP/CVs are held accountable for their actions. So, the SSC would like to encourage members of the public to bring legitimate and well supported complaints to the attention of the SSC.

# GSSA BUSHVELD BRANCH EVENT - 14 March 2024

Photo Credit – Tshego Majane







## Who We Are

MINSA was established in 1979 to foster interaction within the mineralogical community of South Africa. We are a specialist division of the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) and are affiliated with the International Mineralogical Association (IMA).

MINSA organises various events of interest to both professional and amateur mineralogists, geochemists and petrologists. We promote access to cutting edge developments in the field through meetings, symposia and workshops, the largest of which was the IMA2014 international conference.

## Membership Benefits

- Opportunity to interact with peers in the mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry fields
- Reduced fees for attendance of symposia and workshops organised by MINSA
- Free attendance of quarterly topical talks by eminent scientists
- Participation in field trips to exciting and interesting sites, laboratories and factories of mineralogical interest, typically free of charge
- Events at which family participation is encouraged, in stimulating the interest of a new generation of mineralogists
- Quarterly newsletter of MINSA activities (The Geode) and upcoming events of interest to the community. Special themed editions are now a common occurrence
- Opportunity to address issues relating to the mineralogical community

## Becoming a member is easy

Scan the QR code or click the sign up button. Complete the membership form.  
WELCOME!

[Sign Up](#)



The Minsa 2024 Book Prize nomination call is now open!

We kindly request that you promote this opportunity to your institution's relevant stakeholders, or alternatively, you may suggest appropriate candidates yourself. If feasible, we encourage you to forward this email to the relevant Department Heads and/or Faculty Supervisors at your institution/university.

Attached to this email, you will find all the necessary documentation regarding the Book Prize. The 2024 award submission deadline is April 2024. Nominees can be registered by scanning the QR code or clicking on the Nominate button.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.



[Nominate](#)