

NEWSLETTER

Promoting the study and advancement of Earth Sciences since 1895

ADVANCED STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY COURSE AND FIELD TRIP 20 - 22 MAY 2022

REGISTER NOW



Swartberg Pass : Prince Albert – Billy Mills

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - TANIA MARSHALL

Administrative Professionals Day takes place on the Wednesday of the last full week in April each year. In 2022, Administrative Professionals Day was observed on Wednesday, April 27. It was once known as Secretaries Day, and it's a more-or-less unofficial holiday set aside to celebrate the value of secretaries, administrative assistants, receptionists, and other administrative support professionals. (and if any of you doubt the value of a professional administrative staff, try running an office without them!), and so it is that MANCO and the GSSA Council would like to pay tribute to the full-and part-time administrative staff – Lully Govender, Marliese Olivier and Sally Nienaber.

The last few years have been seen a number of changes to the normal running of the GSSA administration. The Covid 19 lockdown restrictions forced the entire office staff to work from home – in far-flung places such as Midrand, the West Rand and southern KZN (liaising with Craig in Hout Bay and myself in Germiston. With the Mandela Mining Precinct (“MMP”) shut down, the ladies have battled never-ending loadshedding, devastating floods and slow internet services to keep the GSSA office ticking over.

And then, just when things started looking like they might be getting back to some semblance of normality, MMP decided that the GSSA needed to move offices. For many years, the GSSA occupied five offices on the Ground Floor of the MMP, right next to the conference room. Now, we have had to downsize and fit into three offices on the second floor. The downsizing has resulted in considerable re-organising of offices, the library and storage space.



We encourage you to visit our smaller, downsized library where we house our Africana collection (Sally is in the office two days a week and is always available for a cup of coffee and a chat). A list of books that were in our library, but now which are surplus-to-requirement (ie we don't have space for them anymore) will soon be made available to our members for you to supplement your libraries with on a first come, first served basis.

Lully and Marliese, especially, have become involved in the organisation and management of conferences – which is the ideal introduction to the highly successful Geoheritage Conference held from 3-7 April. It was the first hybrid conference where we had some 25 delegates at the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens on Sunday 3rd April for a presentation by Dr Richard Viljoen on “The Story of Earth Life and Landscape as told by the rocks in the Walter Sisulu Botanical Garden – a tribute to Morris Viljoen”.

Another 45 delegates attended via zoom. On Monday 4th April, a number of people attended various field trips to a variety of sites such as the Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains, Witpoort Formation & Albany Museum (Makhanda), the Bushveld Complex the Table Mountains Dam Trail and The Sanbi Harold Porter Gardens (Overberg). Tuesday (5th April) through Thursday (7th April) saw a very successful series of technical presentations by 23 presenters – both local and international, on various aspects of Geoheritage – thank you all for sharing your time and expertise. Each day was attended by more than 90 virtual delegates.

Two highlights of the Conference were the presentation of the prizes for the photography competition (First Place –Structural feature along the Swartberg Pass, Prince Albert by Billy Mills; Second Place – View of the Wolkberg, Limpopo by Cilliers Marais; Third Place – A waterfall in Rustenburg by Shaylan Chetty and a Special Mention – Gannabos Quiver tree forest at Sunrise by Johan Smit) and a strategy session moderated by Craig Smith, where people were able to give input on how Geoheritage in general, and the GSSA Geoheritage Division in particular, might gain direction over the short to medium term.



WINNERS

As part of the Geoheritage Conference 2022, the GSSA invited allcomers to submit contributions to a photo competition. The 70 entries, from professionals and amateurs showcased the amazing variety of Geoheritage of South Africa. The winning photographs will be used as cover photos for the upcoming Geobulletins; the winners will also receive a copy of the book “Africa’s Top Geological Sites” and a cash prize sponsored by the GSSA.

The winners of the competition are :

1st Billy Mills (Structural feature along the Swartberg Pass, Prince Albert)

2nd Cilliers Marais (View of the Wolkberg, Limpopo)

3rd Shaylan Chetty (A waterfall in Rustenburg)

Special Mention for Johan Smit (Gannabos quiver tree forest at sunrise)

(See the details on the website www.gssa.org.za and in the Q2 edition of Geobulletin).



VP - MEMBERSHIP

DUMI SIBIYA

Ratified by Council March/April

NEW MEMBERS

Disebo Chaka, Willem Du Preez, Jone Dzindua, Joe Ilunga, Errol Luiters, Moreetsi Maiketso, Vhangani Muger, Sibusiso Sangweni, Noko Sekwati, Maureen Tshikosi, Sithembiso Zuke, Forgive Nkopo, Johan Boshoff, Hardhi Kapiamba, Fortune Magigaba, Thapelo Mofokeng, Phaphama Ndude, Sarel Van wyk

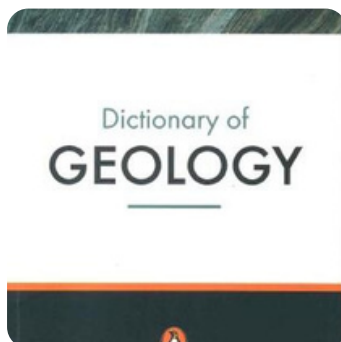
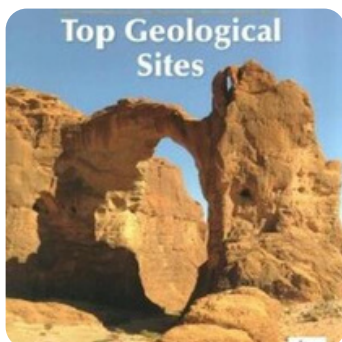
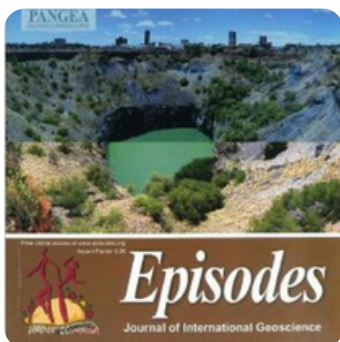
NEW STUDENT MEMBERS

Nomalungelo Dlomo, Masonwabe Jubase, Cedrick Kabangu, Thoriso Lekoetje, James Le Roux, Yandisa Makhetha, Lindelwa Mbana, Malwande Mntambo, Goitseone Motshabi, Molokane Mphethi, Thabiso Mpungose, Ayabonga Mtiya, Lumka Notuku, Natasha Ntuli, Tade Sinovich, Liberty Dakarai, Minenhle Dladla, Ettiene Johannessen, Keola Jonker, Phindile Mabuza, Silindokuhle Majola, Darren Manganyi, Sibusiso Maseko, Mhlali Ndaba, Ryan Nel, Zenande Nonkula, Mukonazwothe Thagwana, Uriel Tshimweneka



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ONLINE MENTORING

WHAT DO GEOLOGISTS NEED TO BE PRODUCTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL?



4 & 11 MAY 2022

GEOLOGIST PANEL



OPEN TO ALL
STUDENTS AND
GRADUATES

REGISTER NOW

SACNASP and the GSSA are in the second year of our mentorship programme. But you don't need to rely on traditional one-on-one partnerships to experience the benefits of mentoring, so we are expanding this programme to include online mentoring circles (group mentoring).

Our first session will be on **"what geologists need to be productive and successful"** and will be on 4 May at 13:00 and repeated on 11 May at 17:00. Each session will have a number of established geologists (different people on each day) who will answer all your questions.

REGISTER NOW



Earth's oldest living landscape spotted in
South African rock cores

READ MORE >>



Geodyssey: Geoheritage Adventures

South Africa is advantageous in having a rich, near-complete 3.6 billion yearlong geological heritage extending from the development of the earliest continents and lifeforms until present with the origin of our own species. Against this backdrop are sites that are well-known for the dramatic landscapes they form or the human cultural experience they imbue. The geoheritage of South Africa is a source of immense national pride and, equally, of identity.

Geodyssey has been developed for iOS and Android in partnership between the GSSAWC Branch and Forge SA to put the geology of South Africa* in the palm of your hand, giving you an interactive and immersive experience to explore the rocks that build our country. Built into the app are over 5,000 kilometres of curated trail maps in partnership with Forge: Hiking Maps ensuring that you are able to explore even off the beaten track! Further to this, several important geosites (viewpoints, outcrops, mountain passes, old mines, museums, geosites) are indicated from around the country for you to visit, explore and, most importantly, celebrate our deep time heritage. These geosites are linked to additional information in the guise of brochures, pictures and documents if you wish to learn more. All we ask when visiting these sites is to take photos and only leave footprints!

*Starting with the Western Cape we will be rolling out individually curated interactive provincial geological maps with future updates – be sure to check in and stay up to date!

Download now on:

AppStore: <https://apps.apple.com/za/app/geodyssey/id1598732412>

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.gssa.geodyssey&gl=ZA>

or **view the webmap** on the GSSAWC Branch website:

<https://www.gssawc.org.za/education>



VP - MEETINGS

NOLEEN PAULS

[EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

[VIRTUAL TALKS
CALENDAR](#)

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GSSA Events from January 2022 – November 2022

2022 will be a combination of virtual, physical and hybrid events. The GSSA reserves the right to make changes to the calendar.

Date	Event	Speaker/Lecturer/Facilitator
8 February – 1 March (4 x ½ days) + self-study	Drilling Methods and Techniques in Resource Exploration	Colin Rice
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 March (5 x 1 hr)	Alteration and the interplay with fluids, structure, & Archean gold mineralisation	Neil Phillips Caitlin Jones Alex Kisters Julian Vearncombe
15 March	CPD Workshop	Noleen Pauls
3 - 7 April	Geoheritage Conference	Industry Experts
26 April	Surveying workshop for geology professionals	Huw Thomas
20 – 22 May	Advanced Structural Geology Field Trip	Mike Watkeys
15 June	Energy Day	Industry Experts
20 - 24 June & 27 - 30 June 8 x 8hr	Diamond Short Course	John Bristow
7 & 8 July	Geological Maps: field data to making maps and GIS	Minrom Consulting
6 - 9 September (4 x 1 day)	Project Management for Geologists	Minrom Consulting
13 September – 4 October (4 x ½ days) + self-study	Drilling Methods and Techniques in Resource Exploration	Colin Rice
7 October	3-D Geological Modeling	Ian Basson
18 & 19 October	Data Analytics & Machine Learning for Geologists	Glen Nwaila
8 November	ESG Inquisition Feedback	ESG Group
17 & 18 November	African Exploration Showcase	Industry Experts

ADVANCED STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY COURSE AND FIELD TRIP

20 - 22 MAY 2022

REGISTER NOW



CPD POINTS

GSSA - 16

SACNASP - 2

This is a 3-day integrated course involving both lectures and field work on the complexly deformed high grade metamorphic rocks of the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast. Participants will be instructed on how to observe, describe, map, measure and analyse ductile structures as well as superimposed deformation.

The aim is to be able to produce a geometrically constrained 3D reconstruction and to unravel the sequence of structural events recorded in the rocks. The factors that control the development and progressive deformation of ductile structures will be explained.

PRESENTER - Mike Watkeys



COURSE OUTLINE

Registration Fees

Member - R6 000 | Non Member - R7 500 | Student / Retired - R4 000

Northern Cape branch
Geological Society of South Africa



Earthlab

TECT



ENERGY DAY

15 JUNE 2022

CPD POINTS

GSSA - 8

SACNASP - 1

ONLINE COURSE

The chronicles of renewable energy in South Africa

Energy generation is closely linked to the socio-economic and infrastructural development of a country. Green energy is the ultimate ideal, but is this feasible in South Africa and how long will it take to get there?

The South African economy is energy intensive with coal making up 80% of the country's electricity. This has resulted in South Africa realizing the highest per capita greenhouse emissions on the continent. Although South Africa has one of the largest natural solar, wind and wave power generation potentials in the world, it is lacking in critical materials necessary to leverage green power technology.

With fossil fuels on the chopping block, how can the South African minerals industry redirect towards critical metals? Can South Africa capitalise on a unique opportunity to make a substantial contribution to sustainable development goals? Join industry experts for this one-day online workshop as we chronicle renewable energy in South Africa in an attempt to discover the best way forward.

REGISTER NOW





DIAMONDS FROM EXPLORATION TO MANUFACTURING

20 - 30 JUNE 2022

MINE & FIELD VISITS

JULY 2022



REGISTER NOW



CPD POINTS

GSSA = 32

16 Part A or B

SACNASP - 4

2 Part A or B

SECOND CIRCULAR ONLINE PRESENTATION SERIES

The last half century has seen a massive shift in geological thinking and technological development across all facets of the diamond exploration, mining, recovery, manufacturing, and marketing spectrum. Recently synthetic gemstone diamonds have taken an important place alongside natural gemstone-diamonds and jewellery. Blockchain technology is coming to the fore to ensure 'source to sale-point' tracing and integrity.

However, in spite of the very significant advances in all forms of technology applied to the diamond, 'pipeline', the diamond sector has not seen a new world-class (Tier-1) diamond mine since 1991. Most existing mines have progressed, or are progressing, to underground operations with concomitant reduction of rough diamond production. The Argyle diamond mine, famous for producing rare pink-diamonds, closed in November 2020, and several other small operations and projects have also closed. Interestingly, in late-2021 both De Beers and Rio Tinto announced they would pursue new exploration ventures in Angola, and in January 2022 De Beers advertised for an Exploration Programme Manager in Botswana.

Recently announced embargoes against the sale of diamonds by Russian company ALROSA, the world's largest rough producer (~30%), which is marginally ahead of Botswana, are adding uncertainty to the rough diamond market and manufactured output.

READ MORE >>

DRILLING SKILLS FOR GEOLOGISTS

**PROUDLY
ENDORSED BY THE
GSSA**

REGISTER NOW



CPD POINTS

40 GSSA
5 SACNASP

ABOUT THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME

This virtual course has been designed to improve the candidate's understanding of the fundamental processes involved in drilling boreholes and to develop the candidate's effectiveness in identifying the source of problems and managing a drilling project.

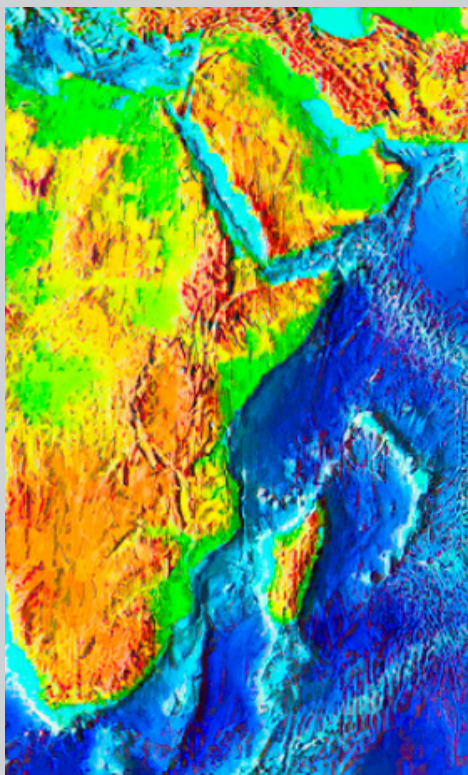
The program also examines fundamental aspects of the use and application of drilling fluids and the principles of borehole surveying. A course on economic aspects focusses on the major cost drivers and the structure of drilling contracts.

Who should register

This certificate program is designed for geologists, geological technicians, safety personnel, project managers and engineers who need a deeper understanding of the principles and processes involved in drilling boreholes.

The intake dates for this year are

- 28 January
- 4 April
- 6 June
- 5 September



ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CIMERA SHORT COURSE

PLATE TECTONICS AND METALLOGENY – WITH A FOCUS ON AFRICA

READ MORE >>

WHEN ■ Wednesday 20 to Friday 22 July 2022

WHERE ■ Room 101, Geology Building, University of the Witwatersrand

PRESENTED by the DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence for Integrated Mineral and Energy Resource Analysis (CIMERA)

PRESENTERS ■ Chris Hawkesworth, Laurence Robb, Sue Webb, Musa Manzi, Axel Hoffmann, Ray Durrheim, Alex Kisters, Bjorn von der Heyden, Glen Nwaila, Nic Beukes, Bertus Smith, Rais Latypov, Ben Hayes, Sharad Master, Paul Nex, Judith Kinnaird, Michiel de Kock, Phil Janney, Jock Harmer and John Hancox.

COST ■ R3000 (inclusive of snack lunches, teas and cocktail party)

Daily Rate – R1300 / Postgraduate students – R250

TO REGISTER & PAY ■ Contact Reshmi Singh at reshmi.singh@wits.ac.za or on 011 717 6564



The Northern Cape Branch of the Geological Society of South Africa "West Coast Diamonds Event & Excursion" Port Nolloth & Alexander Bay 6th & 7th May 2022

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READ MORE >>



GEOSCIENCES INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS (GIFT) WORKSHOP



Exploring the impact of plastic pollution in the oceans

6-8 August 2022

Cape Town, South Africa

READ MORE >>

ANNUAL
EVENT
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