

ALEX DU TOIT MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

8-22 APRIL 2026



Associate Professor Robyn Pickering, University of Cape Town will be presenting the Alex du Toit lecture series in 2026, with dates as per the included schedule. She will be the first female Alex Du Toit lecturer since Edna Plumstead in 1969.

For the 2026 Alex Du Toit Memorial Lecture, Assoc. Prof. Pickering will speak on the geology, dating and palaeoenvironments of human evolution in South Africa, how the uranium-lead technique has provided the first direct chronology for the early hominin fossils in the Cradle of Humankind and how her research group are actively building a detailed palaeoclimate record for this region from 1-3 million years ago.

She will also talk about research into how early modern humans survived and even thrived in the now arid southern Kalahari around a previously unrecognized palaeolake deposit. Finally, she will speak to how the pioneering approach of Alex du Toit has inspired her approach to research, innovation and capacity building within South African geosciences.

Date	Host	Venue	Time	RSVP details
8 April Cape Town	University of Cape Town and the GSSA WC Branch	Leslie Social building, UCT Upper Campus	17:30 for 18:00 start	https://forms.gle/9jeUdHFEx1D3hgPX6
10 April Bloemfontein	University of the Free State	Lecture Room 1: Geology Building, UFS	10:00 start (event runs to 11:30)	(MoitsiME@ufs.ac.za) ; any non-UFS students/staff will need to access the university through the visitors gate
14 April Jhb	University of Wits University of Jhb and CIMERA	GLT, Geology Building, University of Wits	17:30 for 18:00 start	https://qkt.io/DuToitLecture2026
15 April Gaborone	Department of Geology, Univ. Botswana and the Botswana Geoscientists Association	University of Botswana Auditorium	16:00 start (event runs to 17:00)	(Leseanek@ub.ac.bw) (Bagaizb16@gmail.com)
20 April Durban	University of KZN and the GSSA KZN branch	Senate Chambers on Westville Campus	17:30 for 18:00	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpC
22 April Gqeberha	Nelson Mandela University and Rhodes University	The Science Centre at NMU (https://sciencecentre.mandela.ac.za/) - Planetarium	15:30	https://forms.office.com/r/JT9y6LaDrp