



NEWSLETTER

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This will be the last newsletter of 2025. A number of Members have not yet paid their 2025 fees (which were due by January 2025), and we are now invoicing for 2026 fees (which are due by January 2026).

Please pay your fees and avoid being struck from the membership role. If you need to make payment arrangements, contact Marliese at accounts@gsa.org.za



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NOLEEN PAULS

GSSA PRESIDENT

November Highlights: Tributes, Awards, and Advancing Geoscience

This has been a busy month — but also a sad one — for the GSSA.

The passing of **Dr Richard Viljoen** is a great loss to both the South African geological community and the GSSA. As a two-time President (2007 and 2016), Richard was a true gentleman and leader, always supporting the next generation of geoscientists. His work significantly advanced our understanding of South African geology, and his passion for geoheritage helped raise awareness and protect our geological treasures. He will be deeply missed.

In tribute to his remarkable career, members can listen to the [GSSA podcast episode](#) in which Richard reflects on working as a geologist during the glory days of the major mining houses, and how he and his colleagues navigated a tough but exhilarating industry to become true “rock stars.”



The annual **Fellow's Dinner**, hosted by **Louise Coney**, Chair of the Fellows Committee, followed the traditional format: the conferral of awards, induction of new Fellows, a keynote talk, and an evening of networking and reconnecting.

Ruan Raath and **Cameron Penn-Clarke** received the Jubilee Medal for their paper co-authored with **Alex Kisters**

Just four days before his 80th birthday, **Dirk van Reenen** accepted the Draper Award and used the occasion to pay warm tribute to the many academics who shaped and supported his long and distinguished career. He also expressed heartfelt thanks to his wife, Wilna, for her unwavering support throughout the countless field trips and research journeys that defined his professional life. Dirk noted with pride that he has been a GSSA member since 1968 — a testament to his lifelong dedication to the Society and to South African geology.



Neale Baartjes and **Dumi Sibiya** were acknowledged for their contributions to the Society. A special mention was also made of Craig Smith, who joined the event online, as he prepares to step down in December 2025 as Executive Manager.



Prof Roger Gibson delivered a fascinating talk — appreciated even by the non-geologists in the room — on the behind-the-scenes work involved in tracing the origins of the Nqweba bolide, and why we should, at times, remember to look up.

A small, unnamed group of six kept the venue open well past 23:00 and, fortunately, managed to avoid any meteorite showers upon their departure...

I was honoured to attend the **MineSafe 2025 Awards Day**, which once again delivered the mining industry's equivalent of the South African Grammy Awards — a high-energy celebration recognising excellence in safety, health, environmental stewardship, and innovation.

Key takeaways included a strong reaffirmation of the Zero Harm goal, increasing emphasis on technology-driven safety solutions, and a clear shift towards a more holistic approach that values worker well-being, community impact, and environmental responsibility equally. Most importantly, the event highlighted how collaboration across companies, labour, regulators, and researchers is driving genuine progress.



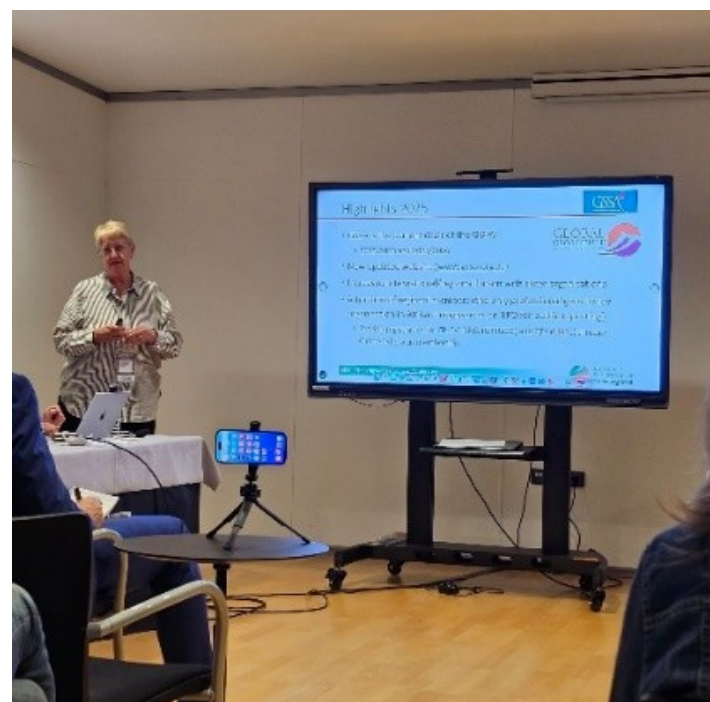
Sifiso Siwela represented the GSSA at the **South African Institute for Engineering & Environmental Geologists (SAIEG)** Gold Award Function at the end of October, hosted by the current SAIEG President Syabonga Nyathi.

The event involved awarding of various awards including the Gold Award, with this year's recipient being John Stiff due to his contribution in the field over the 30 years. The speech by John Stiff was followed by a dinner.

The rapport between SAIEG and GSSA continues to strengthen due to synergies and learnings from the joint skillsets in disciplines involving exploration, mining, economic, engineering and environmental geologists.

Tania Marshall represented the GSSA at the **5th International Professional Geology Conference (IPGC)** in Zaragoza, Spain. The event brought together more than 250 delegates from Europe, North America, Africa, and Australasia to discuss the evolution of professional geology and the global decline in geoscience professionals.

As Chair of the Global Geoscience Professionals Group (GGPG), Tania presented at the Geoscience Professionalism workshop, outlining the group's purpose, goals, and achievements over the past four years. She highlighted the GGPG's efforts to advance understanding of geoscience professionalism by developing resources for the public, decision-makers, and geoscientists.



She also emphasised the group's role in supporting collaboration among professional geoscience bodies, promoting reciprocity agreements, assisting emerging organisations to achieve full professional status, and improving access to professional standards, codes of conduct, CPD requirements, and disciplinary processes. She further showcased the group's work in clarifying pathways to professional registration worldwide.



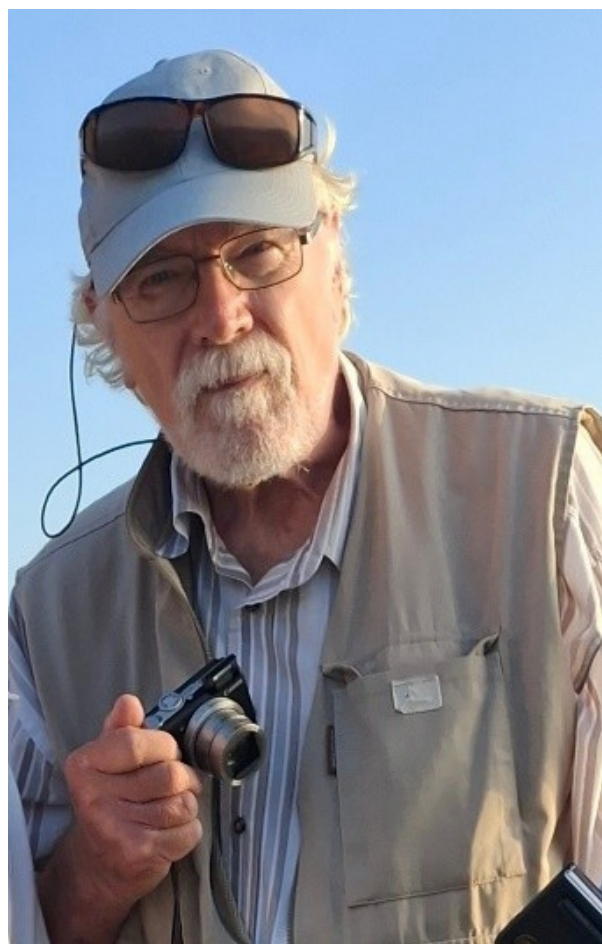
A second GGPG-GSSA session, led by **Prof Gillian Drennan**, focused on geoscience education.

On the final day of the conference, Tania represented the GSSA at the Council Meeting of the **European Federation of Geologists (EFG)**, of which the GSSA is an affiliate member.

December marks the retirement of **Dr Craig Smith** as Executive Manager, and it's got us reflecting on just how much his steady leadership has meant to the Geological Society of South Africa — and to all of us who have had the privilege of working with him.

Craig guided the Society through years of transition and modernisation with calm assurance, deep insight, and unwavering integrity. Although always quick to credit the dedicated GSSA staff and passionate volunteer community, Craig's own quiet, principled leadership set the tone. His ability to keep the Society connected to what was happening across government, academia, and industry has been invaluable, and his commitment to strengthening our structures and governance has left the GSSA stronger than he found it.

As he starts his next adventure, we're deeply grateful for his partnership, his mentorship, and his unfailing support. Craig has positioned the Society to face an increasingly complex professional landscape with confidence. Although we will miss his daily presence, we know that he will remain part of the GSSA family in new ways.



A podcast capturing some of Craig's reflections will be available on the GSSA website soon.

Wishing all our members a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year! And if you have a little downtime over the holidays, why not catch up on some of the GSSA YouTube [recordings](#) or listen to one of our [podcasts](#)?

Till next year!



Tania Marshall

Executive Manager

Tania R Marshall has been actively, and continuously, involved in the diamond and gemstone exploration/mining industry since 1985. She has a PhD in Geology from the University of the Witwatersrand. After obtaining experience with Gold Fields of South Africa and a variety of listed and unlisted junior companies, Dr Marshall founded Explorations Unlimited in 1996 which was to focus on consulting and contracting to local and international exploration and mining companies. In 2020, she was appointed an Honorary Adjunct Professor at the Department of Mining Engineering (University of the Witwatersrand). Here she does a bit of lecturing to both under- and post-graduates and has supervised (co-supervised) some 15 MSc/PhD students.

Dr Marshall is a Past President of the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA), a Fellow (with Chartered Status) of the GSSA, a Member of the Southern African Institute of Mining & Metallurgy (SAIMM), a life Member of the Geological Society of Africa (GSAf) and is registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP). In addition, she is a past chair of the SAMCODES Standards Committee (SSC) and remains an active member of the SAMREC, SAMVAL and SAMESG Committees, chairs the SAMREC Diamond Working Group and is the current academic liaison on the SSC. She has also been the Chair of the Global Geoscience Professionals Group (GGPG) for the period 2024/2026.

Having been a member of the GSSA for over 30 years and having spent the past 10 years on Council and as a member of MANCO, Tania is dedicated to seeing the GSSA grow in new and exciting ways, all the while maintaining the core values that have been the mainstay of the profession for decades.

We welcome Tania in her new role as Executive Manager of the GSSA.

FELLOWS DINNER

13 NOVEMBER - JHB COUNTRY CLUB

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1btMSLbT4yBoITTO4N-hWdTqOOixztWp1?usp=sharing>





2026 Call for grant applications

The generous support received from sponsors, donors and over 4,000 registered delegates for the 35th International Geological Congress, held in Cape Town during 2016, resulted in a financial surplus. These funds have been invested and are administered by the Board of 35IGC Legacy Fund to ensure that the legacy of this successful event will benefit the South African geoscience community long into the future.

Annual grants are advertised to promote geoheritage projects and educational activities. A thematic focus or dedicated conference support funding may be identified every year. The level of funding available annually for disbursement varies in relation to investment income and the need to grow capital from which sustainable support can be provided.

The 2026 grants are aimed at events or the production of materials that support, promote aspects and enhance asset management of the following themes;

- 1) Geoheritage / geoconservation
- 2) Geotourism
- 3) Geoscience education
- 4) Conference Support – events and conferences that promote student access to global networks in the geosciences.

As regards 1,2 and 3 above, the following pointers should be considered:

- The thrust of proposals should be product-focused. Applicants must outline how the grant will be utilized to establish a long-term presence that will promote activities and enhance management associated with any of the themes listed above.
- Proposals that have additional sources of funds will be favoured.
- Where proposals aim to create products in support of facilities located in a national- or provincial park or conservation area, a world heritage site or any other established heritage or tourism-focused facility, the written support of the controlling institution must accompany the application.

READ MORE >>

On Demand	Drilling Methods & Techniques in Exploration (Drilling Skills for Geologists Certificate Programme)	Online
10-March	Financial Literacy in Mineral Project Development	Jhb Country Club
17-March	CPD Workshop	Online
18-March	Geotech for Geologists - understanding rock stability, geological structures & rock mechanics	Online
10 April	3D Geological Modelling	Online
24 June	AI in Geology	Online
16-July	Beyond the Rocks: Essential Skills for Geoscientists	Jhb Country Club
16-July	GSSA AGM - Hybrid	Jhb Country Club
04-August	Field-to-Findings: A Complete Course in Drilling, Sample Handling, and Result Interpretation	Online
TBC August	Minerals Resource Mastery	Online
8-Sep	Professionalism & Code of Ethics Workshop	Online
10-13 Sep	Lichtenburg 100 - Conference & Field Trip	Council for Geoscience
19-20 Sep	Structural Geology Course & Field trip	Southbroom - KZN
8-9 Oct	Data Analytics & Machine Learning	Online
18-19 Nov	African Exploration Showcase	JHB Country Club



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12 & 13 NOVEMBER 2025

AFRICAN EXPLORATION SHOWCASE



The African Exploration Showcase 2025, held on 12–13 November at the Johannesburg Country Club in Auckland Park, brought together ~140 exploration leaders, technical specialists, and industry partners for two days of focused discussions on Africa’s evolving exploration landscape. The programme delivered a blend of geological insight, project updates, and emerging technology trends relevant to the continent’s exploration sector.

Day 1 opened with welcomes, the GSSA Presidential Address from Noleen Pauls and a keynote from the Minerals Council SA, outlining South Africa’s Critical Minerals and Metals Strategy, providing important context for current investment and exploration priorities. Presentations covered global copper geology, new work from the Lulo Kimberlite Province in Angola, and the use of satellite geophysics to map trans-lithospheric structures linked to mineralisation. Further sessions highlighted project updates including copper potential in the Areachap Belt, demonstrated active exploration momentum across the region.

The second day began with diamond exploration opportunities in Angola and updates from the Okohongo Cu-Ag Project. The importance of Manganese exploration for steel production was highlighted, followed by a showcase of AI-driven exploration workflows, with insights from Botswana. Delegates were also treated to an update of Uranium prospecting in the Central Zone of Namibia, followed by a token talk on Coal as a critical “mineral”.

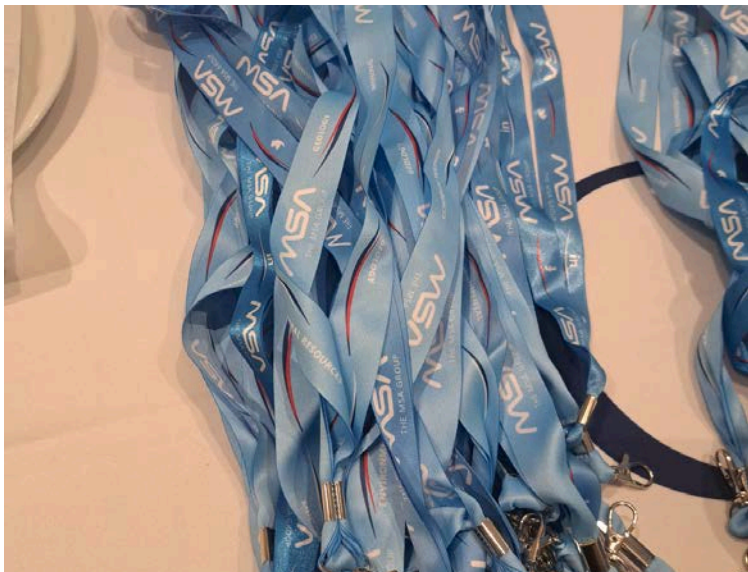
Across both days, delegates engaged actively during coffee breaks, lunch and the fantastic evening drinks session sponsored by Down Hole Survey, creating new partnerships, reconnecting with familiar faces, and strengthening professional ties. The strong turnout and positive engagement emphasised the value of in-person events in driving collaboration and accelerating opportunities in Africa’s exploration sector.

Thanks to our incredible sponsors. Without them, our last big event of the year would not happen. Thanks also goes out to the organising committee, with special thanks to Lully, Sally, Tania and Kate for the in-house and back-end support. Finally, thanks again to all delegates, online and in person, for your attendance and valuable engagements.

Natalie Brand

AFRICAN EXPLORATION SHOWCASE

12 & 13 NOVEMBER - JHB COUNTRY CLUB



AFRICAN EXPLORATION SHOWCASE

12 & 13 NOVEMBER - JHB COUNTRY CLUB



27 NOVEMBER 2025



Enhancing future fit skills for continued relevance and career readiness

This third session concludes the GSSA's 2025 Leadership Development Coaching Series, facilitated by Dr Sarah Babb. Designed for early-career geoscientists, the session focused on building future-fit skills by exploring emerging roles, developing new capabilities, and remaining open to diverse pathways for growth and adaptation. It offered empowering frameworks that support emerging geoscientists in cultivating the adaptive leadership capabilities essential for success in today's rapidly evolving workplace.

Sarah is an entrepreneur, business leader, and founder of stimm, recognised for transforming workplace culture through neuroinclusion, belonging, leadership development, and bold coaching. With over 25 years of experience, she blends strategic insight, academic rigour, and human-centred expertise to help organisations build sustainable, future-ready capabilities. Her work spans EMEA—from boardrooms in Saudi Arabia to innovation hubs across Africa—where she has led major culture and leadership initiatives. She holds a PhD in Leadership Development, an MBA (cum laude), a BA in Industrial Psychology, and a PDM in HR.

Noleen Pauls

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Call for Contributions

We would love to feature your contributions – If you have news, updates, insights or articles you would like to share with the Geological community please submit your content to **lully.govender@gssa.org.za** - Your contributions will be reviewed and if approved will be included in the newsletter.





PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 12 OF THE JSE LISTING RULES

In May 2022, and as part of its ongoing efforts to ensure that the bourse is fair, efficient, transparent and competitive, the JSE released a consultation paper, requesting stakeholders to comment on a raft of proposals. One such proposal was the Simplification Project for which overwhelming support was received during the consultation. The JSE is accordingly proposing amendments to the JSE Listings Requirements (the “Requirements”), dealing with the Simplification Project.

The Simplification Project aims to simplify the Requirements using plain language to record concise regulatory objectives, allowing better understanding and application of the requirements by listed companies, sponsors, shareholders and investors. The result of simplification is a complete rewrite of the Requirements.

During 2023 the JSE commenced the rewrite of the Requirements and began consulting the market on the proposed changes. During April 2024, the JSE published proposed amendments to Section 12 of the Requirements, dealing with the requirements applicable to Mineral, Oil, and Gas companies listed on the JSE.

In this snippet, we focus on the key changes proposed to Section 12 of the Requirements, the Simplification Project having undergone extensive consultation, will soon be implemented by the JSE. The JSE expects to publish the final simplified Requirements before the end of 2025 or early 2026, announce the effective dates of the simplified Requirements together with transitional provisions that may be applicable.




The key changes are as follows:

- A Competent Person’s Report (“CPR”) or Qualified Reserves Evaluator Report (“QRE”) (and the respective executive summaries) are no longer required to be reviewed upfront by the JSE Solid Mineral and/ or Oil and Gas Readers Panel,
- Competent Persons, Competent Valuators and Qualified Reserves Evaluators are subject to specific independence criteria which have been introduced to ensure appropriate independence of these professional parties,
- All references to Table 1 SAMREC Code have been removed from the simplified section 12 requirements as the CPR or QRE is no longer subject to an upfront review by the readers panel of the JSE; the CPR or QRE no longer require annotation to the SAMCODES,
- Where a non-mineral company has mineral assets constituting 25% of total assets, revenue or profits, it is subject to certain obligations in terms of section 12 of the requirements, this threshold has been proposed to a higher percentage of 30% of total assets, revenue or profits,
- The simplified requirements clarify that the Annual Report disclosures required in the Mineral Resources and Reserves Statement of a Mineral Company are only for individual operations, projects or exploration activities that are material to the Issuer,
- Introduction of disclosure of a summary of the governance arrangements and internal controls that the issuer has put in place with respect to its estimates of mineral resources and mineral reserves and the estimation process (Annual Report), and
- The simplified requirements introduce and clarify the enforcement measures where non-compliance with SAMCODES and Requirements are noted after publication of the CPR/QRE.



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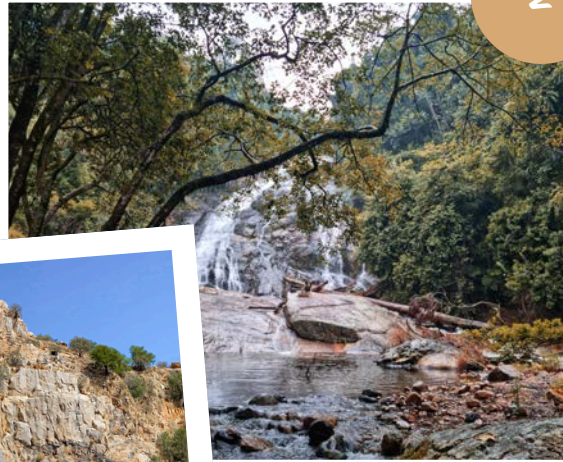
Congratulations to our

GSSA PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION WINNERS

1



2



3



We are delighted to announce the winners of this year's GSSA Photographic Competition. A warm congratulations to Carel Burger, whose striking photograph "Parasitically folded Goudini Formation near Villiersdorp" has been selected for our brand-new large banner.

Our new pull-up banners will proudly feature the beautiful work of Shaylan Chetty, showcasing Debengeni Falls, and Mogale Matloge, with an impressive shot of Leeukop Quarry.

Thank you to all participants for sharing your exceptional geological photography.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

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.

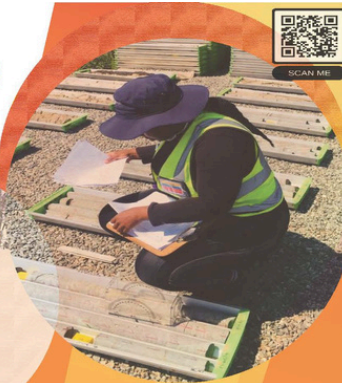
She will also talk about research into how early modern humans survived and even thrived in the now arid southern Kalahari around a previously unrecognized palaeolake deposit. Finally, she will speak to how the pioneering approach of Alex du Toit has inspired her approach to research, innovation and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

8 April - Lecture 1	Cape Town: Venue UCT Johann Diener, Robert Muir
10 April - Lecture 2	Bloemfontein: Venue UFS Martin Clark, Matome Moitsi
14 April - Lecture 3	Johannesburg: Venue Wits Grant Bybee, Marlina Elburg
15 April - Lecture 4	Gaborone: Venue Univ. Botswana Khumo Leseane
20 April - Lecture 5	Durban: Venue UKZN , Lauren Hoyer, Riaan Botha, Chris Hatton
22 April - Lecture 6	Makhanda: Venue: Rhodes Univ Steve Prevec



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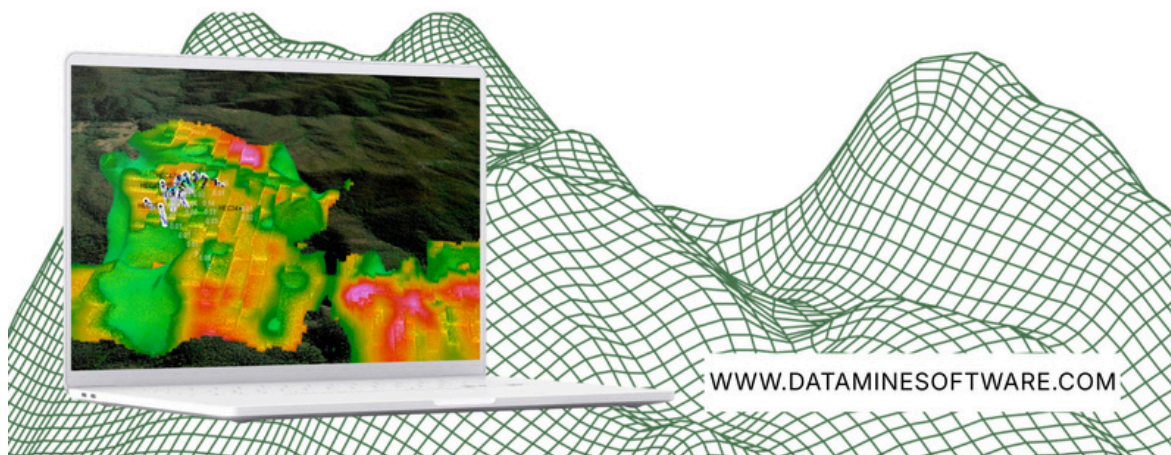


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RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND INVESTMENT (REI) FUND OF THE GSSA - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The GSSA Research, Education and Investment Fund (REI Fund) is inviting applications from GSSA paid up-members (including post-graduate student members) for grants from the Fund, to be received at the GSSA office not later than 31 January 2026. Applications can be made using the prescribed application form available at the GSSA website (behind the log-in; link below). Supporting information required with each application includes a short description of the project, brief motivation for research and funding requested, a budget describing how funds will be used, and a letter of support from research supervisor (in cases where the applicants are post-graduate students at South African universities). Post-graduate student members applying for financial support must have been a member of the Society for at least one year. Applications from current student members with a PhD qualification are not accepted unless the applicant has applied for transfer to or is registered as a full paid-up member of the Society.

Grants are intended to support a variety of earth science research costs, including analytical and field costs, conference attendance, and publication costs. Projects that promote and support earth science awareness such as geoheritage, geotourism and geo-education may also be supported. Expenses related to (annual) registration and tuition fees, text books, accommodation, etc. required at Higher Education institutions are not covered. Members enrolled at non-South African universities are not eligible to apply for financial support.

In particular we welcome applications from post graduate student members and would appreciate it if Heads of Departments at Higher Education Institutions and their staff would inform their students of this opportunity. Grants are usually limited to R25 000 per application but well-motivated applications for larger amounts are also welcome. All applications will be judged on merit and/or the importance to the Society in promoting its image. Note that grants are only awarded to members/student members in good standing.

Applications are screened by the REI Fund Committee during February/March with input and ratification by the GSSA Management Committee and Council, respectively. In evaluating the applications and recommendations, the Committee considers the merit of each application, and depending on the amount of money available for that year, makes a final decision on the allocation of grants for that year. The decision of the Committee is final and no further correspondence on the matter will be entertained. By following this procedure it is anticipated that applicants will be informed during March 2026 whether or not their applications are successful. Recommendations made by the Committee require Council approval, which may delay notifications.

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VOLUME 68 NO.4

news

- Where are the young explorers?
- Farewell to Craig Smith
- Migmatites of northern Namaqualand
- Tsumeb Mine calcite

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- MX Deposit, Imago, Oasis Montaj

CONTACT US

Email: info@bnsgeo.co.za
 Office number: +27 (0)82 440 7471
 Website: www.bnsgeo.co.za



2026
Rates

incl VAT

rates card 2026

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Geobulletin is issued in digital format to all members of the GSSA and its local and overseas exchange partners. The electronic version is available as an open access download on the GSSA website.

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Contact person:	Kate James-Kleynhans
e-mail:	info@gssa.org.za

7. ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

EDITORIAL OFFICE

Dr. T. Owen-Smith geobulletin@gssa.org.za

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Annerine Lubbe
cell: 071 897 6240
e-mail: info@squaredesign.co.za

SOCIETY OFFICE

GSSA
Postal/Physical Address:
Building 10, Thornhill Office
Park, 94 Bekker Street, Vorna Valley,
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Phone: +27 (0) 10 143 2096
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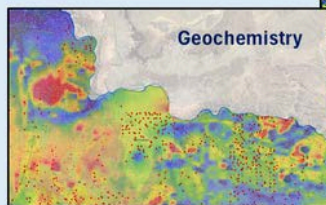
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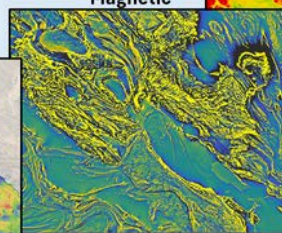
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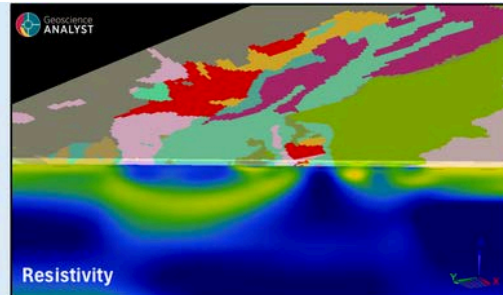
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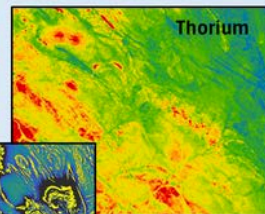
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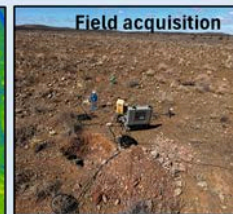
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