



# NEWSLETTER

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**GEOCONGRESS 2025**

EMBRACING CHANGE THROUGH COLLABORATION

**23 - 27 JUNE 2025**

**MORE INFORMATION**

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**GSSA**  
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**Student Support Available for 2025 GeoCongress Attendance**

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Proof of an accepted abstract
- Registered Student

Registration & Accommodation costs included

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<https://geocongress2025.org.za/>

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# STEVE MCCOURT

GSSA PRESIDENT

In keeping with the disruptions caused by public holidays in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the month, GSSA activities were limited to the annual 3D Geological Modelling course presented by Ian Basson. The Structural Geology Field trip led by Mike Watkeys, was scheduled for the weekend of 5-6 April but had to be postponed. It will now take place in September (see events table elsewhere in newsletter).

We are now two months away from Geocongress2025 at UFS in Bloemfontein and the LOC is fine tuning various aspects of the meeting. I can report that over 230 abstracts were submitted with 19 of the sessions receiving enough support to go forward. The abstracts will now be evaluated by the Session Chairs, and their teams, after which authors will be informed of the type of presentation (oral or poster) they have been allocated. Registrations are currently above 200 but this number will rise following the feedback to authors. Members and Fellows can still register directly online at <https://geocongress2025.org.za>

The SAJG continues to be challenged by lack of adequate copy and as a result, publication of the March issue (volume 128-1) has been delayed. Although not a high impact journal, the SAJG is one of a small number of independently published geoscience journals with a focus on the geology of the African Plate. As such it offers emerging researchers, including post-graduate students, with an avenue to publish research that is not always attractive to journals linked to the major publishing houses e.g. papers that document local geology with associated detailed geological maps and cross sections, scientific data from studies at the mine scale and lithostratigraphic, as well as palaeontological descriptions. The SAJG does not charge authors for publishing colour figures, photos or maps and for those authors looking to publish Open Access, the APC charged by the GSSA for papers in the SAJG is significantly less than that charged by the major publishing houses and, for authors based in South Africa, it is payable in Rand not US Dollars.

Manuscripts suitable for publication in the SAJG should be submitted as an email attachment to the Scientific Editor Professor Marlina Elburg ([marlinaee@uj.ac.za](mailto:marlinaee@uj.ac.za)) and copied to the GSSA ([sajg@gssa.org.za](mailto:sajg@gssa.org.za))

Papers for the special issue of the SAJG dealing with The Geology of South Africa continue to arrive in my inbox, albeit at a slower rate than anticipated. I have 7 manuscripts in hand with 2 more promised in the next couple of weeks. Of the 7 in hand the review process is complete on 5 and 1 has been revised. This manuscript will now go forward for layout and publication online as a stand-alone SAJG Early Publication. Many thanks to all those authors who have contributed copy to date.

April 24th, 2025 was a historic day for the Geoheritage Group of the GSSA's Western Cape Branch when Professor Mike Bruton led Charles Darwin's great-great-grandson, Andrew Darwin, and his wife, Lucy, to view the new ceramic plaques at the world-famous Sea Point Contact. The visit to the Sea Point Contact formed part of a series of events (including the unveiling of a bust of Darwin on Simon's Town Jetty) commemorating the 19-day visit of HMS Beagle to the "Cape of Good Hope" in May/June 1836 and related to this visit Darwin's excursion to the Sea Point Contact. The upgraded exhibit was championed by Len Gardner, Chair of the WCB Geoheritage Group and John Rogers from that group spoke at the ceremony.

Steve McCourt





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**17 JULY 2025**

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**5 AUGUST 2025**

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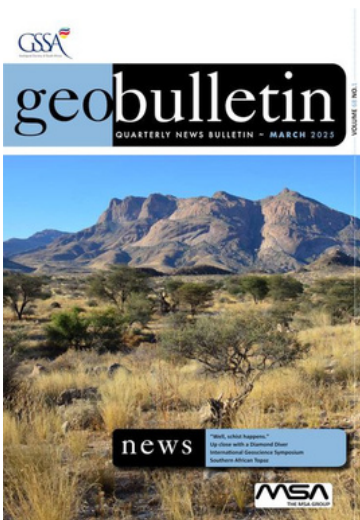
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## 2025 GSSA EVENTS : JUNE – NOVEMBER



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23 – 27 June	<u>Geocongress 2025</u>	UFS Bloemfontein
17 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Soft Skills for Geoscientists</li> <li>❖ GSSA AGM</li> </ul>	JHB Country Club (Hybrid)
5 August	Introduction to Drilling Workshop	Online
5 & 6 September	Structural Geology Course & Field trip	<u>Southbroom</u> KZN Coast
9 September	Professionalism & Code of Ethics Workshop	Online
TBD September	Data Analytics & Machine Learning	Online
29 & 30 September	SAMREC/SAMVAL Compliance and JSE Reporting / 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SAMREC	Jhb Country Club (Hybrid)
14 & 15 Oct	<u>Geometallurgy</u> Conference	<u>Muldersdrift</u>
21 & 22 October	Mineral Resources Mastery: Tools, Trends and Industry Insights	Online
12 & 13 November	African Exploration Showcase	JHB Country Club (Hybrid)



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## GEOBULLETIN – MARCH 2025

**Front cover photo:** Erongo Mountains, viewed towards the northeast. The smooth granite surface belies a myriad of miarolitic cavities that have yielded a variety of minerals including topaz, aquamarine, fluorite and schorl. For more about topaz from Namibia and elsewhere in southern Africa, see Mineral Scene on pg. 34. (Photo: Bruce Cairncross)

Would you like to see your photo feature as the cover image to Geobulletin? Please send your high-resolution, portrait-format images of geological features or geologists in action, with an appropriate caption, to [geobulletin@gssa.org.za](mailto:geobulletin@gssa.org.za)



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## SAMCODES SNIPPETS

### Competent Person (CP) Signoff

Clause 9 of the SAMREC Code notes that a “Competent Person” is a person who is registered with SACNASP, ECSA or SAGC, or is a Member or Fellow of the SAIMM, the GSSA, IMSSA or a Recognised Professional Organisation (RPO)”.

It is important to note that the statutory bodies (SACNASP, ECSA and SAGC) all have clauses stipulating that such registration refers to individuals in one of the applicable Professional categories only. This specifically excludes Candidates, who may only operate under the guidance of a professionally registered individual.

# The GSSA wishes to acknowledge our **2025 Sponsors**

## Annual Sponsors



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