

NEWSLETTER

Promoting the study and advancement of Earth Sciences since 1895



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GIS FOR EXPLORATION

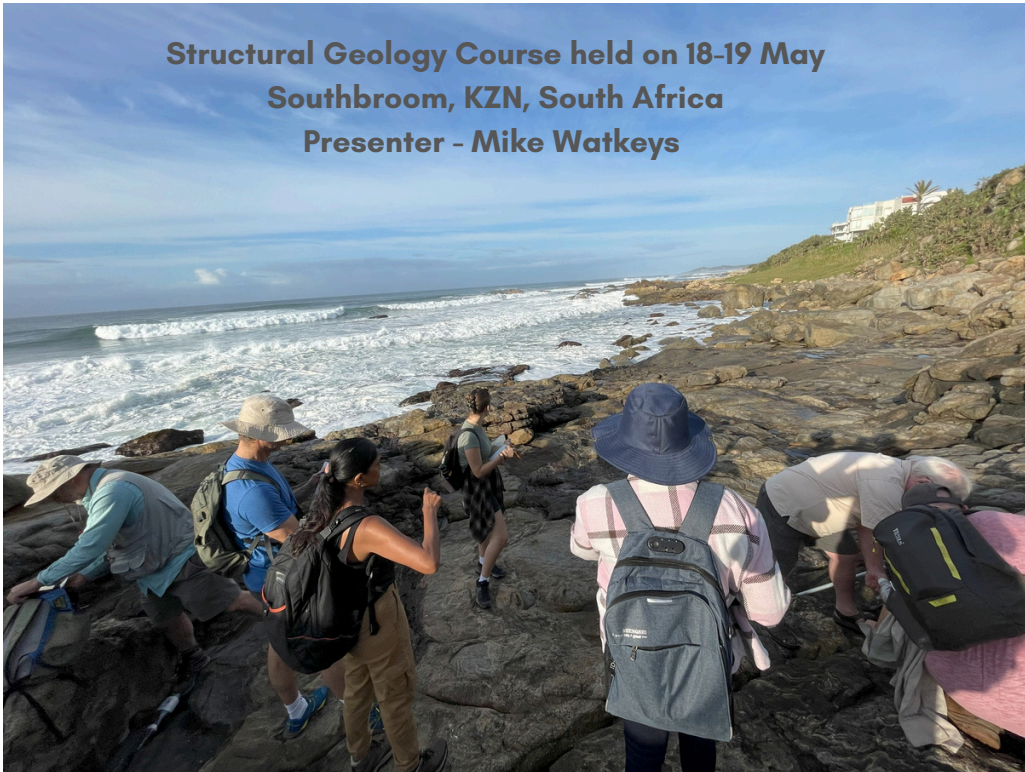
4 JUNE 2024

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Structural Geology Course held on 18-19 May
Southbroom, KZN, South Africa
Presenter - Mike Watkeys



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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- Bushveld Branch Talk
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STEVE MCCOURT

GSSA PRESIDENT

The Council Meeting held on May 25th was the last of the current term. In keeping with the By-Laws of the Society the next Council will be announced at the AGM on July 16th and will meet for the first time on Saturday July 27th. Nominations for the next Council are now open and members are encouraged to avail themselves of this opportunity to serve the Society.

Membership of Council is restricted to Corporate Members of the Society of not less than three year's standing and whose fees are not in arrears. The term of office is one year although standing members can be nominated for additional terms. Should the number of nominations received exceed the required number of General Members, an election by ballot will be organized. In addition to Corporate Members, the By-Laws make provision for Student Members and at the meeting of May 25th, the new Student Representative, Mr Peace Zowa, was introduced to Council. Mr Zowa is a PhD student in economic geology and geochemistry at Wits working on the Bushveld Complex. In addition to his involvement with the GSSA, Peace is the current African student representative and conference coordinator, for the student chapter of the Society of Economic Geologists. We welcome Peace to his role on Council and thank the outgoing student representative, David Russo, for his contributions over the past year.

An important outcome of the Council Meeting on May 25th was the ratification, by Council, of the recommendations from the Fellows Committee of the Society Awards for 2023 and of the first set of new Fellows for 2024. The individuals concerned will be contacted directly by Craig Smith as Executive Manager and the names announced at the AGM in July.

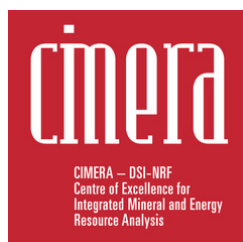
At the request of the European Federation of Geologists, I made a short presentation on the GSSA to the 84th Council Meeting of the EFG held in Dublin, Ireland on 25-26 May. The GSSA has a Cooperation Agreement with the EFG. Other non-European bodies who presented included the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) and Geoscience Canada.

With regard to meetings, the Scientific Committee for the Merensky Reef Centenary Meeting in August has started allocating the abstracts selected for presentation to an appropriate scientific session (oral or poster). Registration for the Namaqualand Diamond Centenary conference and fieldtrip in March 2025 will open on Monday June 3rd. The LOC for Geocongress 2025 at UFS Bloemfontein in June 2025 is working hard to put the foundations for the meeting in place. The call for sessions will be made in early June, and abstracts can be submitted from August. More information is included elsewhere in this newsletter and a formal announcement will be included in the June issue of Geobulletin.

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 will shortly finalize the process of identifying authors to update selected chapters. Once complete, the resultant peer-reviewed papers will be published in a special issue of the SAJG and be made available, in secure digital format, through the members portal on the GSSA website. Further news on the SAJG is that the June issue (The Beukes Volume) is near completion and currently 7 of the 20 papers linked to this special issue are available to members on the GSW platform. Finally I am pleased to report that based on information received from Crossref, the number of successful DOI resolutions in April for articles published in the SAJG reached a record high of 8,543 compared, for example, to 5,487 in March 2024 and 6441 in December of 2023.

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

Annual Sponsors



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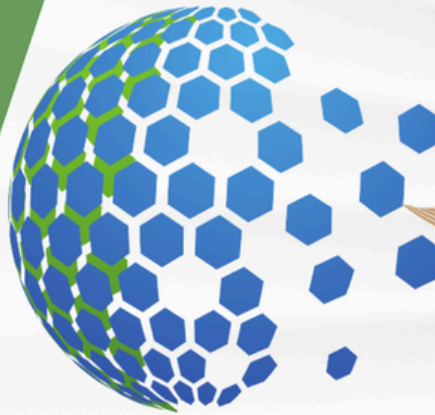


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Event Sponsors



CELEBRATING 130 YEARS OF THE GSSA



**GEOCONGRESS
2025**

EMBRACING
CHANGE THROUGH
COLLABORATION

24 - 27 JUNE 2025

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

The GSSA is pleased to announce that Geocongress 2025 will be hosted in Bloemfontein from 24 – 27 June next year. Please save these dates! You will receive the call for sessions and a fieldtrip questionnaire soon, in which we ask for your input.

We look forward to hosting you in Bloemfontein next year and celebrating 130 years of the GSSA.



GLOBAL GEOSCIENCE PROFESSIONALISM GROUP



At the Annual General Meeting held on 20 May 2024, the GSSA (as represented by Dr Tania R Marshall) took over the Chair of the GGPG for the period 2024-2026. The GGPG is an international body that was founded in 2021, having grown out from the Task Group for Global Geoscience Professionalism, a working group of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). The GGPG was developed to:

- Promote greater understanding of the role and importance of geoscience professionalism,
- Facilitate communication and collaboration between geoscience professional organizations,
- Provide easy access to geoscience professional organizations' standards, codes, continuing professional development, and complaints and discipline information, and
- Provide information on pathways to attaining geoscience professional qualifications.

The Executive for the 2024-2026 period is:

Chair: Dr Tania R Marshall (GSSA)

Vice Chair: Ms Michelle Hailonga (GCN)

Treasurer: Ms Andrea Waldie (GSC)

Secretary General: Mr Julio Santos (EFG)

The GGPG currently has 16 member and observer organisations – Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG); American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG); Botswana Geologists Association (BGA); European Federation of Geologists (EFG); GeoAnsata (Brazil); Geological Society of Africa (GSAf); Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA); Geological Society of Zimbabwe (GSZ); Geoscience Namibia (GCN); Geoscientists Canada (GC); International Raw Materials Observatory (INTRAW); Professional Association of German Geoscientists (BDG); SF4 Expert Group for Raw Materials; Spanish Official Professional Association of Geologists (ICOG); and West African Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (WAIMM).

All professional and/or statutory geoscience organisations are welcome to join as full members or as observers. Please contact info@geoscienceprofessionals.com for further information.

100 YEARS OF THE MERENSKY REEF CONFERENCE & FIELD TRIP 15 - 23 AUGUST 2024

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MORE INFO



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Exhibitors





NAMAQUALAND DIAMOND CENTENARY

11 - 20 MARCH 2025

SECOND CIRCULAR

FIELDTRIP
INFORMATION

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SPONSORSHIP
PACKAGES

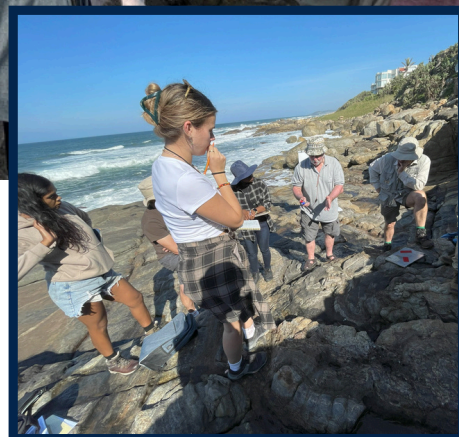
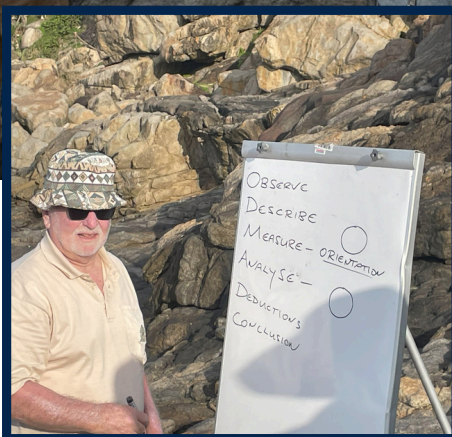
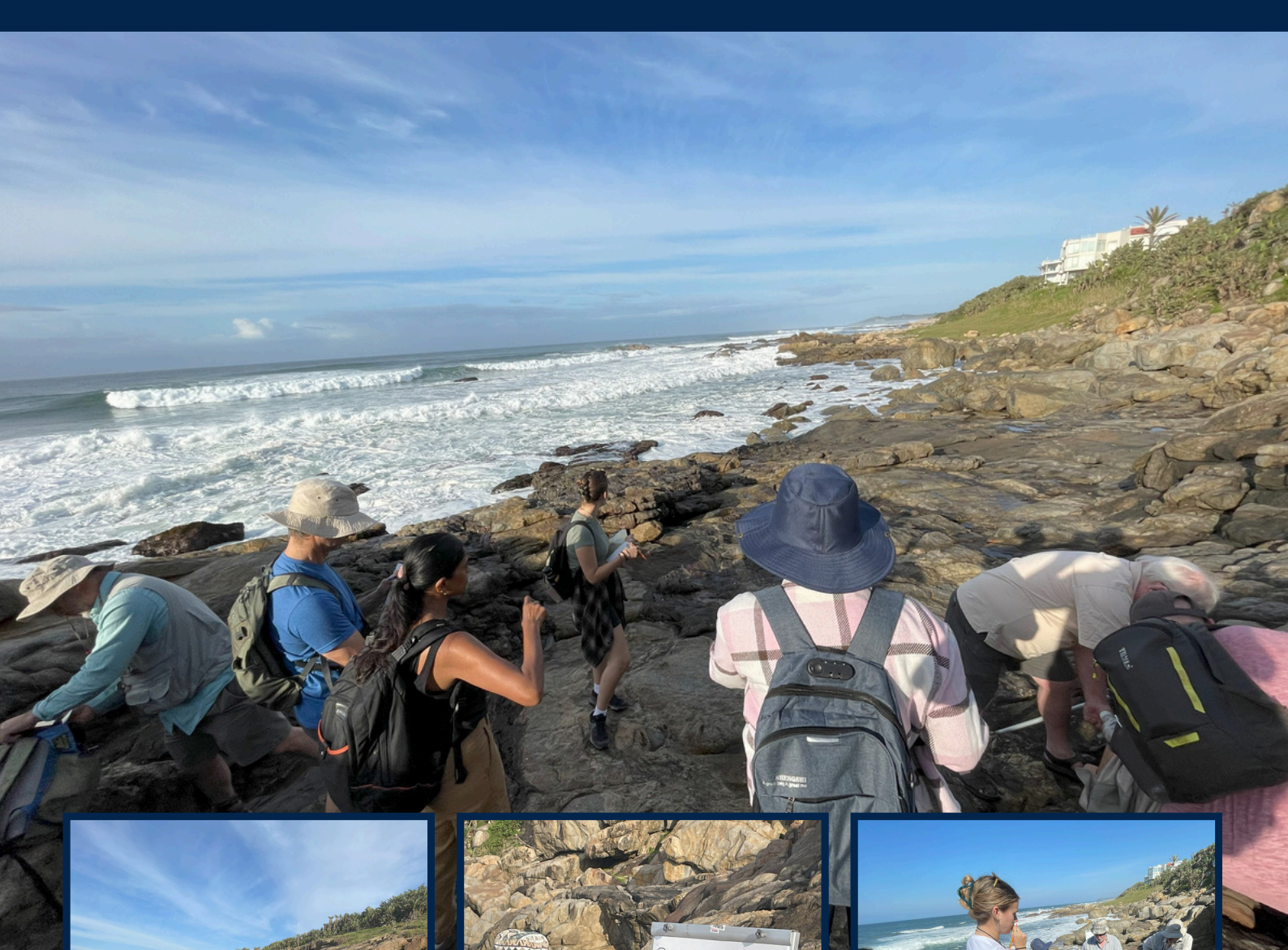
Venue

The technical sessions will be held at the LETATSI LODGE & CONFERENCE VENUE in Vanrhynsdorp.



Letsatsi Lodge

NC FAMOUS LODGES



STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY COURSE

18 & 19 MAY 2024

PRESENTER - MIKE WATKEYS

INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE

DARWIN BUST FUND

Make it possible for a bronze bust of a young Charles Darwin to be displayed on Simon's Town Pier in Simon's Town. The clay maquette for this bust has been created by the renowned Cape Town sculptor, Johan Steyn.



The institutional home for the project is the Geological Society of South Africa, which has provided a ring-fenced bank account and will administer the donated funds. The project also has the support of the Cape Town Heritage Foundation and the Simon's Town Historical Society. An amount of R86 500 has already been pledged towards the total amount of R135 000 required for the project. **Please donate generously.**

Donations should be deposited into Standard Bank account number 022 721 444 GSSA-DPP at the Eloff Street branch of Standard Bank, Johannesburg, branch code 051 001, with the name and email address of the donor. All donations will be acknowledged. Donors will be updated on the progress of the fund-raising campaign and will be invited to the unveiling ceremony.

Please email accounts@gssa.org.za your proof of payment including your name and email address.

MOTIVATION FOR THE MOUNTING OF A BUST OF CHARLES DARWIN IN SIMON 'S TOWN

Charles Darwin's 19-day visit to the Cape of Good Hope in May/June 1836 during the five-year voyage of HMS Beagle was the first opportunity he had to discuss his embryonic ideas on evolution with knowledgeable, English-speaking scientists. In particular, his discussions with the astronomer/natural philosopher, Sir John Herschel, in the Cape were crucially important to the development of his ground-breaking Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection.

Darwin had a thorough understanding of geology when he embarked on the five-year voyage of HMS Beagle in December 1831. During the voyage he collected vast amounts of data as well as fossils and plant and animal specimens that allowed him to eventually develop his Theory of Evolution.

His insights into geology made him realize that, contrary to contemporary teaching, the Earth is much older than previously thought and that its crust is constantly changing through the physical forces that are still active today. He realized that, if the physical environment is changing, plants and animals also need to change in order to be well adapted, thrive, breed, and pass their genes onto the next generation.

Darwin's discussions with Herschel on this 'Mystery of mysteries' enabled him to crystallize his ideas. He also took Herschel's advice that he should use his data not only for descriptive purposes but also to propose and test a 'big idea'. Darwin shaped the rest of his career around the wise advice that Herschel gave him in the Cape.

The bust of Charles Darwin, which depicts the 27-year-old naturalist as he looked in June 1836, in the sculptural style of the 1830s, will commemorate the important role that his visit to the Cape of Good Hope played in the development of one of the most influential theories in the history of science.



We look forward to your support of this important project.

Dr Craig Smith, Executive Manager
Geological Society of South Africa
info@gssa.org.za
Hout Bay, Cape Town
083 262 2604

Professor Mike Bruton
Project Manager, Cape Town
mikefishesbruton@gmail.com
083 212 7609

Events

Calendar

Upcoming Events

04 JUNE

GIS FOR EXPLORATION

11 & 12 JUNE

SAMPLING & DATA
MANAGEMENT

24 JUNE

PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR
GEOLOGISTS

2 & 3 JULY

PRACTICAL GEOLOGICAL
MAPPING TO MAP MAKING

26 & 27 JULY

MARINE GEOSCIENCES IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA

06 AUGUST

INTRO TO DRILLING

15 - 23 AUGUST

100 YEARS OF THE MERENSKY REEF
- CONFERENCE AND FIELD TRIP

3-24 SEP

DRILLING METHODS &
TECHNIQUES

Reporting Categories

The reporting categories that can be used in a SAMREC compliant document are defined in Clause 20 (Exploration Results), Clauses 21-23 (Exploration Targets), Clauses 24-34 (Mineral Resources) and Clauses 35-42 and referred to in Figure 1. These definitions are based on the CRIRSCO template and are inviolate. No alteration to the definitions or the reporting categories may be made by the individual Competent Person and no other reporting categories may be used in addition to these.

Exploration Results include data and information generated by mineral exploration programmes that might be of use to investors but which do not form part of a declaration of Mineral Resources or Mineral Reserves. Under certain circumstances historical data and information may be included in this category as may data and information from adjacent or nearby properties.

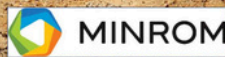
An **Exploration Target** is a statement or estimate of the exploration potential of a mineral deposit in a defined geological setting where the statement or estimate, quoted as a range of tonnes and a range of grade or quality, relates to mineralisation for which there has been insufficient exploration to estimate Mineral Resources. An Exploration Target need not imply reasonable prospects for economic extraction. Included under Exploration Target is the definition for Mineralisation (as opposed to the standard noun mineralisation). Mineralisation is a term used to describe Exploration Targets where the target is more than conceptual, but still based on insufficient data/information to be classified as a Mineral Resource. Neither Exploration Results nor Exploration Targets can be classified as Mineral Resources and cannot be converted to a Mineral Reserve under any circumstances. These categories may also not appear in any tabulation of Mineral Resources or be included in a Scoping Study, Pre-Feasibility or Feasibility study.

A **Mineral Resource** is not an inventory of all mineralisation regardless of cut-off grade – it is a record of mineralisation that, at the time of reporting and under assumed and justifiable technical and economic conditions, might become economically extractable (i.e. it must have demonstrated reasonable prospects for economic extraction). Mineral Resources are subdivided, and must be so reported, in order of increasing confidence in respect of geoscientific evidence, into Inferred, Indicated or Measured categories. For Public Reporting purposed, there are no such categories as “Potential Resources”, “Low Inferred Resources”

A **Mineral Reserve** is the economically mineable part of a Measured and/or Indicated Mineral Resource. Mineral Reserves are reported as inclusive of diluting and contaminating material delivered for treatment or dispatched from the mine without treatment. The categorisation of a Mineral Reserve into Probable or Proved sub-categories is governed by the relevant level of confidence of the Mineral Resource and the Modifying Factors and must be made by the Competent Person. For Public Reporting purposed, there is no such category as “Possible Reserves”.

WEST COAST DIAMONDS EVENT & EXCURSION

Port Nolloth & Kleinzee
17th & 18th May 2024



"Diamonds are forever and so are the memories of yet another successful West Coast Diamonds Event"

Exploring the diamond industry: Insights on Alluvial Mining in RSA, understanding the primary source alluvial diamonds on the West Coast of RSA, the evolution of their exploration techniques and beneficiation of these beautiful diamonds – showcased by interesting talks all round from our presenters Lyndon De Meillon, Mike De Wit, Gregory Katz, Collin Mbangu and Deoné Strauss, which was followed by an exciting field trip hosted by Kabelo Mongalo, Kleinzee Holdings and BCon Mining. We would like to once again thank all the event Delegates, Speakers, NC branch Exco and Sponsors for an amazing event.

Loni Gallant – NC Branch Chairperson.





GSSA BUSHVELD BRANCH TALK

Topic:

Value Creation Through Advance Orebody Knowledge Research and Innovation

The Advanced Orebody Knowledge (AOK) program aims to develop technology to create a “glass rock” environment where the ore body is ‘visible’ so that it can be efficiently mined, and where geological hazards (e.g. rock falls, rockbursts, inrushes of water and flammable gas) can be reliably detected and measures taken to mitigate the risks. In summary, it is believed that mining could be made safer and more efficient if there was accurate and up to date information describing. With look-ahead technology unexpected features and events could be detected and avoided or additional engineering measures put in place to prevent injuries and damage to equipment. The economic benefits of anticipating the narrowing or widening of the mined strata or other changes in the geologic nature of the orebody would also be substantial.

Speaker: Michelle Pienaar, Programme manager: Advanced Orebody Knowledge (AOK), Mandela Mining Precinct

Time & Date: 14:30, Thursday 6 June 2024

Venue: Impala Bafokeng Exploration Core Yard

Location Pin: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/WwVYKexbFzeRgNkd8>

Kindly RSVP to confirm your attendance - Johan.Marais5@sibanyestillwater.com

THE TOWER TIMES

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YOUR MINING NEWS UPDATE

07 May 2024

BOOYSENDAL HOSTS GSSA EASTERN LIMB RELAUNCH!



Pictured: Highlights from the GSSA Relaunch Event.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SA

On Tuesday, 30 April 2024, Northam Booyseendal Mine hosted the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) for their Eastern Limb Branch Relaunch at the South Mine Lapa. The event also included the introduction of the newly-appointed Interim Committee. Geologists, including interns and graduates from the Eastern Limb mines, were present.

Booyseendal Senior Geologist, Luto Mbombo, welcomed the attendees and shared a Geological background of the Booyseendal Mine and its journey from 2010 up to the present year.

During the relaunch, the Interim Committee was introduced as follows: Chairperson – Sipho Majola (BD), Deputy Chairperson - Mlungisi Buthelezi (Sefateng Mine), Secretary - Esther Maluleke (BD), Deputy Secretary Rodgers Munyai (Glencore Mine), Treasurer - Thato Marumo (BD) and Deputy Treasurer - Lucky Xaba (BD).

Present was also the GSSA Vice President: Branches and Divisions, Masibulele Zintwana, who emphasised that the purpose of the relaunch is to revive the existing branch so that it could be active for future and existing Geologists as well as for the professionals to be reputable plus acknowledged in different industries.



Mineralogists, Scientists, Student
Enthusiasts.

FIRST CIRCULAR

5th SOUTHERN AFRICAN MINERAL SYMPOSIUM 2024

A one-day symposium highlighting the minerals and mineral/gemstone deposits of southern Africa.

DATE: 7 September 2024

VENUE: Origins Centre, University of the Witwatersrand

ENQUIRIES: minsa@gssa.org.za

CALL FOR SPEAKERS:

Topics must cover minerals, mineral collectors & collections, aspects of mineralogy, micro-mounts, analytical techniques used in identifying minerals, travelogues to interesting mineral localities, and related mineral/gemstone topics. Anyone planning to present a talk must submit the title and brief description (one paragraph) to the Symposium Speaker's Coordinator, Bruce Cairncross, at brucec@uj.ac.za. If the oral presentations are oversubscribed, speakers will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Speakers will be required to write up a summary of their presentation, which will be bound together and provided to delegates on the day of the symposium. Details of the write-up will follow in the Second Circular. All delegates attending the Symposium will be required to pay the registration fee (to be announced in the Second Circular). All proposed presentations will be reviewed by the organizing committee regarding their suitability for the symposium theme and may, at the discretion of the Committee, be accepted or not.

DEALERS:

Mineral dealers will be accommodated at the symposium to sell mineral specimens and mineral/gemstone-related material during the symposium. There will be opportunities for delegates to make purchases during the tea breaks, lunchtime, and after the conference. Details for dealers will follow in the Second Circular.

SPONSORSHIP:

The organizing committee would welcome sponsors to assist in defraying the costs of the symposium and thereby keep the delegate's fee to a minimum. Delegates are responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements.