



# NEWSLETTER

Promoting the study and advancement of Earth Sciences since 1895



FREE

REGISTER NOW



## ESG INQUISITION

10 - 11 AUGUST 2021



**Craig Smith**

Congratulations to Dr Tania Marshall, the newly inducted President of the GSSA, and a big vote of thanks to our Immediate Past President, Mr Sifiso Siwela.

As we pass the midpoint of the year, we seem to be at or just beyond the midpoint of the third COVID wave, and vaccination is proceeding as well as can be expected. The third wave has claimed a number of our colleagues, and our condolences to friends and family of all. Please continue to adhere to the COVID protocols.

Mid-year is when we start planning for the following year, which includes budgeting and setting the annual fee increases. Last year there was no increase, but we will have to increase in 2022, and to keep the increase as low as possible we need to receive outstanding payments for 2021. If you have not yet paid your 2021 fees, please do so as soon as possible. Contact [info@gssa.org.za](mailto:info@gssa.org.za) if you have queries.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Dr Tania Marshall  
Incoming President Note
- 2021 GSSA Online Events
- ESG Interest Group
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- SAJG – Special Issue
- New Members July
- Colin Rice Drilling
- MINSA AGM
- SAMCODES News – July
- Job Advert – SAEON
- New Book in Stock  
The Geotraveller – R Scoon
- Earth Heritage UK website



## **PRESIDENT**

# **DR TANIA MARSHALL**

Fellow Members,

To follow in the footsteps of someone who has led the GSSA successfully through one of the most difficult periods in its 125-year life is very humbling. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sifiso Siwela, as outgoing president, for his calm, composed leadership over the past two years. I would also like to acknowledge the work done by everyone on MANCO, Council and the Executive/Administration in steering the GSSA through uncertain times as we transition to a green(er) economy.

No-one really knows what to expect of a post-Covid world – all we know is that it will be quite different from what has gone before. We will face numerous challenges in terms of long-term sustainability; in terms of a workable business model for hybrid meetings and how to hold safe and fruitful networking events; in terms of what a geoscience professional (be it academic, industry or government) profile will look like down the line; in terms of how to make graduates more employable and deal with unrealistic expectations by both employers and graduates alike; in terms of how to provide relevant member benefits and how to liaise with the various regulatory authorities without politicising issues; and in terms of a great many more pertinent issues, some of which we haven't even thought of yet.

What we do know is that technology will play an ever-increasing role in the minerals industry, and we will need to drag ourselves, kicking and screaming, along with it. "The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read or write; they will be those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn" (Alvin Toffler, 1970). It will never be business as usual anymore and we need to be at the forefront of geoscientific professionalism and progress, using technology and social media to provide the best offerings, services and benefits possible to our members, whichever field of practice they represent.

As the GSSA strives to promote our greatest strengths and work on our limitations, we need your input to help us to know how we can best serve you. Please take the time to make yourselves familiar with the services that we currently provide and avail yourselves of them. We also need you to engage with us and, in particular, we really need you to volunteer your time, experience and talents in making the GSSA of greater relevance to you, the member.

And so, as we sally forth into uncharted territory (sort of like a greenfields exploration programme), I would like to assure you that the GSSA is very mindful of the many challenges facing geoscientists, not only in South Africa, but regionally and even internationally. I look forward to the many different challenges ahead and hope to meet them as successfully as you would expect.



## VP - MEETINGS NOLEEN PAULS

CALENDAR OF  
EVENTS

DIGITAL  
SPONSORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES

GSSA YOUTUBE  
CHANNEL

**ANNUAL  
EVENT  
SPONSORS**

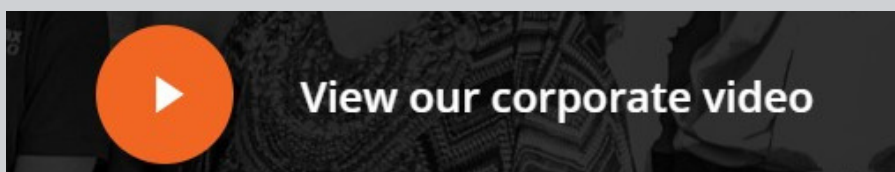


<http://www.geoexplorestore.co.za>

[Click here to view our product catalogue](#)



<https://www.maxgeo.com>



[Click here to view our product information  
and presentations](#)

<https://www.ucpafrica.com>





# What is **ESG** and why is everyone talking about it?

The Geological Society of South Africa is establishing an ESG interest group and is inviting you to get involved!

Our aim is to promote awareness whilst creating a platform for GSSA members and the broader earth sciences community to interact and learn about all things ESG.

Should you be interested in joining or learning more about the ESG interest group, please complete the short survey at the link below or simply send us an email at [info@gssa-esg.co.za](mailto:info@gssa-esg.co.za) to be added to our mailing list. Please note all information received will be kept confidential.

**TAKE SURVEY**



## SAJG Special Issue: The De Wit Volume

The June issue of the SAJG (124-2) is a special issue published to honour the many and varied contributions of the late Professor Maarten de Wit to our understanding of the geology of the African plate. The De Wit Volume contains 13 full-length manuscripts related to the Kaapvaal Craton, the Central Sahara Shield in Chad, the breakup of Rodinia, the Karoo Basin plus other research topics in which Maarten was involved.

Manuscripts from the De Wit Volume are currently online at GeoScienceWorld and the complete issue will go to press shortly.

Members and Fellows who would like to order a hard copy of the special issue can do so by sending an email to Steve McCourt at [mccourts@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:mccourts@ukzn.ac.za).

The cost of a print copy will only be known when the print run is finalized but should be in the region of R180-200. To ensure timeous delivery, dispatch of the special issue will be by courier and this cost will be added to the invoice sent to you from the GSSA Office.

Note that delivery by courier requires a physical address (not a PO Box number) and a contact number.

Steve McCourt

Professor Emeritus, UKZN, Durban South Africa | Managing Editor, SAJG

## PRECIOUS METALS DAY 17 AUGUST 2021

8 GSSA  
1 SACNASP  
CPD  
POINTS

### Online Precious Metals Day – the South African context:

The GSSA is hosting a webinar day on the South African Precious Metals industry; touching on yesterday, today and with the focus on tomorrow. Speakers cover an array of market analysts, explorers, academia and those who make our economy tick, our operations specialist geologists. The day is targeted to provide a whirlwind overview insight into the South African Precious Metal value chain, from research to understanding the ore forming processes, exploration, mining geology, the combined mineral assets, aspects of processing to the down-stream supply and demand and future outlook. Included is a selection of on-mine geological talks which depart somewhat from the traditional main-stream PGM and Wits-Gold operations.

The talks will last about 8 hours which provides 8 CPD points on the GSSA system and 1 CPD on the SACNASP system.

### REGISTRATION FEES

**Member** – R1000 | **Non Member** – R1500 | **Student / Retired** – R500

Click here to  
**REGISTER**



EXPLORING SOLUTIONS, **TOGETHER.**

**Deloitte.**



info@gssa.org.za

**PROGRAMME**



**Event  
postponed  
until further  
notice**

**STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY COURSE AND FIELD TRIP**  
**21 - 22 AUGUST 2021 | SOUTHBROOM**

16 GSSA  
2 SACNASP  
CPD  
POINTS

This is a 2-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 is a structural geologist with over 40 years' experience of running structural geology courses, particularly field-based courses often for the mining industry both locally and internationally. He completed his Honours degree at the University College of Swansea, Wales and then joined the Geological Survey of the then Rhodesia. After obtaining a PhD at the University of the Witwatersrand, he was at the University of Cape Town before joining the University of Natal, now the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Currently he is an Emeritus Professor of that university and a private consultant.

### **REGISTRATION FEES**

**Member** - R6000 | **Non Member** - R7500 | **Student / Retired** - R4000



[info@gssa.org.za](mailto:info@gssa.org.za)

**MINROM**  
CONSULTING



**PRACTICAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR  
EXPLORATION GEOLOGISTS**  
**31 AUGUST - 03 SEPTEMBER 2021**

32 GSSA  
4 SACNASP  
CPD Points

Projects are where the action is – this is where strategies are implemented, plans generated, resources utilised and where “talk” is turned into “action”. Project management involves everything from strategic planning through to project execution. This practical course will equip exploration geologists to properly scope, schedule, cost, execute, monitor, and control their projects.

This 4-day Practical Project Management training course is aligned with the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK) Guide of the Project Management Institute (PMI). MINROM Training has formed an association with Dr Anton Olivier, who has presented project management training for the past 15 years, to tailor an exploration project management training course specifically for exploration geologists. The course is up to date with the changed global industry and technological conditions, needs and standards.

[\*\*COURSE INFO\*\*](#)

[\*\*REGISTER\*\*](#)

[\*\*AGENDA\*\*](#)



# 3D GEOMODELLING

08 OCTOBER 2021

## CPD POINTS

8 GSSA  
1 SACNASP

## ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Recent trends in mining and exploration are set to further accelerate the demand and growth of 3D geological modelling software. These trends include the inevitable increase in cost per ton of resource and global economic slowdowns. These require companies to constantly cost-cut during extraction and to improve resource delineation. Add to this the trend that new discoveries are deeper and in more structurally-complex setting, and it's apparent that a great deal of attention needs to be focused on getting the geometry of a deposit, as early as possible in the exploration and mining value chain, correct.

## REGISTRATION

Members - **R3,000**

Non-Members - **R3,500**

Students/Retired/Academic - **R2,000**

REGISTER NOW



**COURSE INFO**





# DATA ANALYTICS AND MACHINE LEARNING FOR GEOSCIENTISTS

19 OCTOBER 2021

## CPD POINTS

8 GSSA  
1 SACNASP

## ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

This one-day virtual workshop introduces the theory and practical applications of Data Analytics and Machine Learning within the geoscience discipline.

You will learn popular machine learning algorithms, principal component analysis, and geospatial modelling which are the critical methods for data-driven techniques and understanding complex patterns in data. As you build prediction and classification models, you will learn how to train algorithms using training data so you can predict the outcome for future datasets.

## REGISTRATION

Members - **R1,000**

Non-Members - **R1,500**

Students/Retired/Academic - **R500**

REGISTER NOW



**COURSE INFO**



## VP - MEMBERSHIP

### DUMI SIBIYA

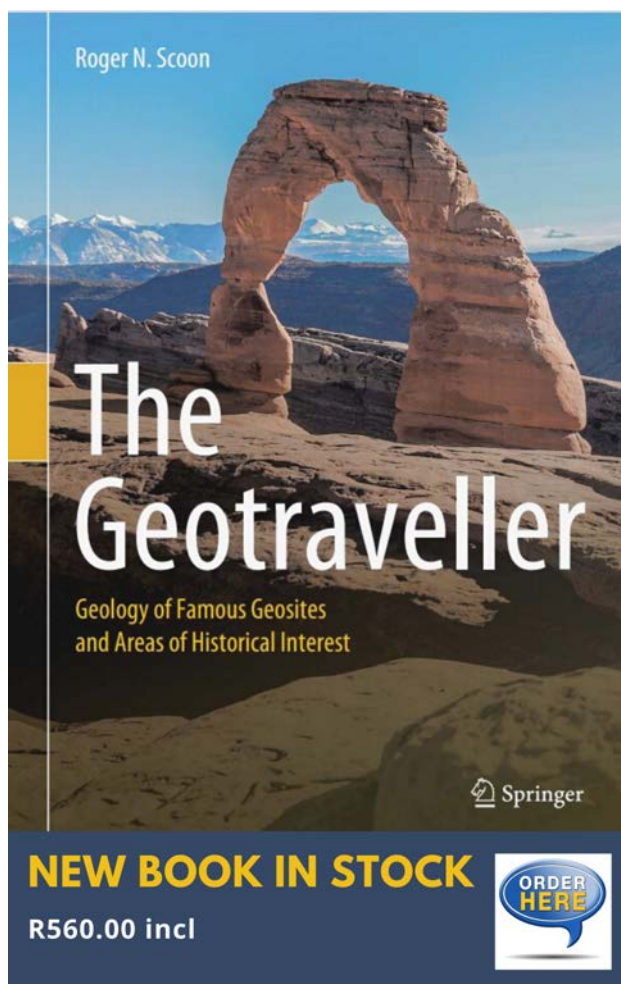
*Ratified by Council on 30 July 2021*

## NEW MEMBERS

Khumbu Dlamini, Joerg Feddersen, Katlego Langa, Raesetse Malatji  
Musa Mhlanga, Frank Neumann, Thendo Razwimisani, Lynne Soulsby  
Tobias Tonsing

## NEW STUDENT MEMBERS

Alette Baloyi, Nqobile Mashigo, Sinothando Sinaye Moerane  
Adelaide Mokonyama, Lugile Prayer Nkuna, Colin Price-Smith



## 2021 MEMBERSHIP FEE LETTER AND SCHEDULE

[Click here](#)



Membership queries  
please email  
[info@gssa.org.za](mailto:info@gssa.org.za)

Join us





## Drilling Skills for Geologists

This course is for the more experienced geologists looking for a deeper understanding of drilling concepts in order to better manage drilling projects.

The objective of every exploration project is to obtain representative samples of as high a quality as possible, safely and efficiently. The key concepts here are quality, safety and efficiency and this program is designed to provide candidates with the necessary knowledge and skills to improve their effectiveness in identifying the source of problems and managing these three key aspects of a drilling project.

[READ MORE](#)



## **MINSA AGM and Talk by Neville Plint**

**Wednesday, 11 August, 15:00 – 16:00**

Neville Plint's talk will be in celebration of the UN's "International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development".

Minsa's virtual AGM will follow this talk.

Please contact Sara Turnbull ([minsa@gssa.org.za](mailto:minsa@gssa.org.za)) beforehand for the zoom link.



SAMCODES NEWS

**July 2021**

[READ MORE](#)



**Managing Director: SAEON**

Contract type: Long Term Contract

Job Level: Executive

Work Location: Pretoria, Gauteng

[READ MORE](#)



"Earth Heritage is a UK based digital publication and website focused on Geoheritage and Geoconservation, and may be of value to those with an interest in Geoheritage.

[READ MORE](#)



Advertise in the  
GSSA newsletter

[info@gssa.org.za](mailto:info@gssa.org.za)