

NEWSLETTER

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Craig Smith - Executive Manager

I trust that everyone is coping with the lockdown. The positive response to the daily on-line lockdown lectures initiated by the Meetings Committee suggests that staging of on-line events will become a permanent way of working, particularly since there is no indication when face to face events will be possible again. The remote event strategy will continue to evolve, so watch for notices about upcoming events.

We do understand and sympathise with members whose financial situation has been affected by COVID 19. The GSSA is offering payment plans so that members may pay off their membership dues and retain their membership status. Please email accounts@gssa.org.za

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of the deceased members below.

Thomas Molyneux - Life Member
Margaret Wynne - Retired Member
Maarten de Wit - Fellow

Please see the article in the George Herald about Professor Maarten de Wit.
<https://www.georgeherald.com/News/Article/General/eminant-earth-scientist-professor-maarten-de-wit-leaves-colossal-legacy-202004171022>

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President's Message - Sifiso Siwela

Fellow Members,

During the past month we have sadly lost two distinguished members of the Society. Firstly, Prof Marteen de Wit who was a Fellow and an A1-rated NRF scientist and the founding director of the African Earth Observation Network (AEON). We extend our condolences to Lynne, Thandi Gondwana and Tjaart, as well as Mike de Wit. Secondly, Dr Tom Molyneux who was a Retired Life Fellow and conducted work and research worldwide, and was crucial for understanding of the geology as well as exploration and mining potential of the Eastern Bushveld. We also extend our condolences to Katherine and Wendy Molyneux.

One of the inspirational qualities that resonates from Prof de Wit's life and career was his advocacy for transformation in geosciences, including the mentoring of young members to follow in the footsteps of distinguished and experienced geoscientists. During my inauguration speech at last year's AGM, I appealed to our Retired Members and Fellows to get involved as mentors for our younger members, thereby making themselves relevant. I am happy to mention that the Society has started the process of implementing a mentorship programme. Thank you to Tania and the Mentorship Committee for being pioneers and taking the initiative with regards to guidelines and set up of the programme, which will also contribute to another mentorship initiative being run through the statutory body SACNASP.

Further information will be communicated soon with the membership.

One of our recent lockdown lunchtime lectures was on Mentorship, and engagements thereof emphasised the importance of mentoring for our membership as part of their journey to leadership.

As we all know, young geologists are only equipped with a qualification when they get into industry and hence need senior members of the Society to assist them to navigate and guide them through industry challenges in order to make the right professional and sometimes personal choices. I personally have been fortunate to have mentors who have contributed to my professional and personal growth.

This includes the late Ray Maloka who gave me my first geology job and continued to mentor me until his untimely passing, as well as Dr Ian Haddon, Roy Corrans, Dr Humphrey Mathe and Matt Mullins. I therefore continue to urge our senior members to impart their wisdom and knowledge while they are still able to do so, thereby harnessing some of the invaluable skills and knowledge gathered during their long careers.

Thanks to Noleen and the Meetings Portfolio, Council and office staff for ensuring we provide our members with the lockdown lunchtime lectures, which have been well received to date.

Dumi and the Membership Portfolio will continue to look for ways to support the membership during this difficult period.

I hope all members stay safe, sane and sanitised during this lockdown period.

Yours in safety,
Sifiso Siwela.



VP Meetings - Noleen Pauls



The GSSA hosted Covid-19 Lockdown online talks are proving popular, and we will continue these for the foreseeable future.

The upcoming talks and future talks can be viewed in the GSSA talks calendar
Click [here](#) for the calendar

You can register using the links available with each event. We are using Zoom as a platform, and login details will be mailed to you on registration.

May 4, 13:00

Dr Julian Vearncombe - Age of the Archaean Murchison Belt and mineralisation, South Africa, Julian is Principal Consultant at SJS Resource Management

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/free-gssa-lunchtime-lecture-julian-vearncombe-age-of-the-archaean-murchison-belt-and-mineralisation-tickets-103305970940>

May 6, 11:00

David Wood - Geology of the Central African Copperbelt , David is Discovery Manager, Zambia for Anglo American

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/free-gssa-lunchtime-lecture-david-wood-geology-of-the-central-african-copperbelt-tickets-103920655478>

May 8, 13:00

Prof Charles Okujeni - The use of geochemical data levelling techniques in prospecting transported-regolith dominated terrains
Charles is Emeritus Professor, University of the Western Cape

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/free-gssa-lunchtime-lecture-prof-charles-okujeni-the-use-of-geochemical-data-levelling-techniques-tickets-103921792880>

Please contact me (noleen@fastmail.fm) if you have a talk you'd like to present or if you'd like to volunteer someone.

We earlier made the decision to postpone our physical events scheduled until August 2020 to later in the year. As we don't know when meetings will be allowed again, we are in the process of changing some of the planned full-day events to online, although these will not fall under the free ½ hour talks.

The recordings for the talks are available for viewing on the GSSA YouTube channel .

Click [here](#)



The GSSA is entering into an agreement with Colin Rice Exploration Drilling advisory to endorse and market an on-line course that can be completed in the time determined by each participant. The course is Drilling Skills for Geologists. Colin has presented basic drilling skills as a GSSA offering for many years, and those workshops will continue depending on when we can again stage events. But even before the current crisis there was a need for an on-line offering to save costs and time. In response, Colin and his daughter Erin have developed an on-line certificated program of which the module noted above is a part. See <https://www.colinriceexploration.co.za/about-our-training> for more information.



VP Professional Affairs - Tania Marshall



Online CPD Workshop
19 May 2020

Registration Fee - R500

Continuous Professional Development (“CPD”) is a term used to describe learning activities that professionals take part in to develop and enhance their skills, thereby expanding and improving their knowledge. It is the systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skills, and the development of personal qualities necessary for execution of professional and technical duties throughout the individual’s working life. It refers to the process of tracking and documenting the skills, knowledge and experience that an individual gains, both formally and informally, beyond any initial training. This may include courses, workshops, informal learning opportunities, or vocational education that helps to expand knowledge or add new skills related to a *chosen career*.

Course Presenter - Tania Marshall

Click here to
REGISTER



SAMCODE NEWS

Check out the latest SAMCODES News here
(<https://www.samcode.co.za/>).

- Our website was updated with all the latest news and information on 7 April 2020.
- We have a new website page – actively seeking industry sponsorship to continue and extend the work of SAMCODES (<https://www.samcode.co.za/sponsors>)
- Your contributions in terms of photos, articles and content is welcome – please send to sam@saimm.co.za



SACNASP is initiating a mentoring program for young scientists registered in the Candidate category, in conjunction with the Voluntary Associations (VA). As the VA for Geological and Earth Science fields of practice within SACNASP, the GSSA is issuing a call for volunteer mentors to assist. Mentors will need to be able to make a one year commitment to mentor one mentee. While mentors will be expected to mentor on a voluntary basis, some expenses will be covered by the program. Applications should be submitted to Dr Tania Marshall (VP Professional Affairs) at marshall.tania@gmail.com by 15 May 2020.



Have you ever wondered what kind of rocks make up those bright and dark splotches on the moon? Well, the USGS has just released a new authoritative map to help explain the 4.5-billion-year-old history of our nearest neighbor in space.

[Read More](#)

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Future Leaders – African Independent Research (FLAIR) Fellowships 2021 The Fellowships Future Leaders – African Independent Research (FLAIR) Fellowships are for talented African early career researchers who have the potential to become leaders in their field. These fellowships provide the opportunity to build an independent research career in a sub-Saharan African institution and to undertake cutting-edge scientific research that will address global challenges facing developing countries. This is a partnership between the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) and the Royal Society, supported by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).

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12TH IKC POSTPONED TO 2022

The 12th International Kimberlite Conference is postponed to 15 - 19 August 2022.

The postponement reflects the COVID-19 situation and resulting difficult times for the diamond industry together with the goal of maintaining the symbiotic mix of industry and academia that makes International Kimberlite Conferences unique. This change has the full support of the International Kimberlite Conference Advisory Committee.

The intention is to host the 12IKC at the same venues in Yellowknife, with the same scientific programme, field trips, short courses and social events, but delayed by one year.

[Read More](#)



Wits Geotalks Online has a shiny new mailing platform to more efficiently distribute talk links and calendar events to the geoscience community. Geotalks Online aim to keep the community up-to-date with the latest Earth science research and news - have a look at our [YouTube Channel](#) if you are not familiar with Geotalks. If you currently don't receive these mailers, please subscribe using the following quick link:

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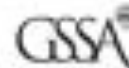
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