



# NEWSLETTER

Promoting the study and advancement of Earth Sciences since 1895



## GEOCONGRESS 2020 29 JUNE - 01 JULY

*Stellenbosch - Western Cape*

The next 125 years of Earth Sciences



### GEOCONGRESS 2020

**Craig Smith - Executive Manager**

Geocongress 2020 is coming to Stellenbosch, June 29 to July 1! See <http://allevents.co.za/geocongress/> for further information about the event.

Abstract submission officially opens on February 1, with the website currently being updated with the latest developments. Proposals for sessions are now closed, with the major themes being Environmental, Energy, Igneous, Earth Evolution, Economic, Sedimentology, Earth Science for Society and a general session. Poster and oral submissions are invited.

Five workshops and four field trips are currently planned; details will be posted on the website as they are finalized. The sponsorship drive will commence shortly, with a key aim of supporting student participation. Individuals and companies are welcome to contact [info@gssa.org.za](mailto:info@gssa.org.za) for more information.

Expect to see regular maildrops from the GSSA concerning Geocongress 2020 developments.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- GSSA turns 125 years
- Geocongress 2020
- Upcoming Events
- 2020 Calendar of Events
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- December 2019 Geobulletin
- New Book for Sale
- 2020 Membership Renewal
- Branch News
- SACNASP Certificates



## President's Note - Sifiso Siwela



### Happy 125th Birthday, GSSA

The official “founding” of the GSSA on 4th February 1895, was prompted by the discovery of Wits gold in 1886, which also coincides with the founding of Johannesburg. This discovery caused the scientific and technical centre of gravity to shift from Kimberley to Johannesburg and therefore the concentration of the geological, financial and the greater mining fraternity in Johannesburg, which was in its infancy.

The founding meeting was held at the then Transvaal Chamber of Mines in Market Street, Johannesburg and consisted of the following Founding Council:

Honorary President: Lionel Phillips

Honorary Vice President: Prof. Thomas Rupert Jones

Honorary Vice President: Dr. William Guybon Atherstone

The first elected President was Dr Hugh Exton and David Draper was elected as the secretary and treasurer. Arthur Robert Sawyer and John Ballot were elected as Vice Presidents. The remainder of the 1895 Council consisted of 20 distinguished members. A constitution, based on the Geological Society of London, was adopted. We will share the Transactions from the inaugural address by Dr. Exton held in 1895 with the membership soon.

The Council Members consisted of the who’s who of the South African geologists at the time and we are grateful for the learned society they have formed. South Africa has a rich mining history that we can all be proud of and this evolution continues in the current day and age of the so-called 4th Industrial Revolution.

During this year, we will celebrate the 125th year through various events including the 2020 Geocongress, meetings events and branch events. I appeal to the membership to get involved in 2020 to celebrate this evolution with us.

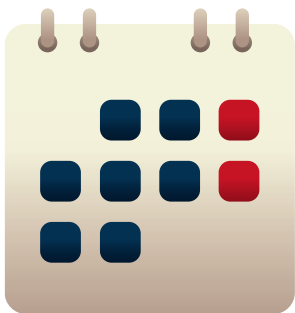
## Upcoming Events



**DRILLING METHODS AND TECHNIQUES IN RESOURCE EXPLORATION**  
19 - 21 FEBRUARY 2020  
MANDELA MINING PRECINCT

**Register Here**  
24 GSSA CPD Points  
3 SACNASP CPD Points

[Read More](#)



## 2020 Calendar of Events

[Read More](#)



### Sponsorship Opportunities

**INCREASE YOUR VISIBILITY AND GAIN ACCESS TO YOUR TARGET MARKETS**

Please [click here](#) to view the Sponsorship Prospectus to benefit from this opportunity

[Commitment Form](#)



### Introduction to the SAMOG Code

11 March 2020

Mandela Mining Precinct, JHB



This short course by Peter Dekker, SAMOG Committee Chairperson, aims to clarify the difference between internal (private) and public reporting of hydrocarbon quantities and asset value in the petroleum industry. Each report is aimed to satisfy different stakeholder requirements and assist in making investment decisions either by the reporting entity's management or by external investors.

In this course we will focus on three reporting standards for three different stakeholder groups and show how they are related to each other. The question will be raised if we can have one standard that fits all?

## New Book for Sale

# MINERALS & GEMSTONES

of East  
Africa



Bruce Cairncross

R220 incl vat

Book Order

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

### THE BOOK

East Africa is famous for its world-class gemstones and mineral specimens, most notably the highly sought-after blue tanzanite, found only in Tanzania in a very small area in the northeast. Many other minerals and gemstones are mined in the region and this is the first publication to showcase and examine those occurring in the five countries that make up East Africa – Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi.

The book includes:

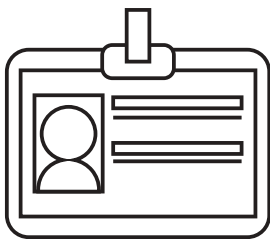
- An introduction to the fascinating geology of the region, including a map depicting underlying geology and mineral occurrence
- Detailed descriptions of minerals, including their gemological properties, history, occurrence and diverse uses across all spheres of life (from jewellery to numerous household items and even space-shuttle components)
- Multiple full-colour photographs of each mineral and gem specimen

An invaluable reference for collectors, gemologists, students and anyone with an interest in the earth sciences.

### AUTHOR

Bruce Cairncross is Professor of Geology at the University of Johannesburg. He has a special interest in documenting and preserving Africa's mineralogical heritage, and is the author or co-author of ten books on minerals, including Understanding Minerals & Crystals, Field Guide to Rocks & Minerals of Southern Africa, and Pocket Guide to Rocks and Minerals of Southern Africa.

## 2020 Membership Renewal



[Online Member Fee Payment - Click here](#)

Membership fee invoices/enquiries

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



[December 2019 Geobulletin  
Click Here](#)





## PAYMENT OF SACNASP FEES

SACNASP Invoices are distributed annually. These will be raised mid Feb and distributed over a 2-week period. Should you not receive yours by end February, please contact Joey Fourie at [joey@sacnasp.org.za](mailto:joey@sacnasp.org.za).

SACNASP recommends payment via the new online scientist portal using the following link <https://portal.sacnasp.org.za/login>. Your password will be your ID / Passport number (unless already amended by you). Once logged into the Dashboard you can:

- Download your current certificate of registration (which also shows when your annual registration expires);
- See your outstanding balance. Click on “Manage account” and “Proceed to Payfast” in order to settle your outstanding balance. Following online payment via Payfast in full, you will be able to download a registration certificate. SACNASP strongly recommends payment via the online Scientist Portal and not directly into their bank account, as this may result in your payment being delayed.

---

## SACNASP REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES

SACNASP registration certificates can now be downloaded from the SACNASP website.



[Read More](#)

## Join the Northern Cape Branch of the GSSA

Northern Cape branch  
Geological Society of South Africa



### Branch Member Application Form

#### 6<sup>th</sup> International Archean Symposium

2020 Perth  
**6ias**

14 – 16 July 2020 | Perth, Western Australia

Abstract submission closes 14 February 2020

Early bird registration closes 1 May 2020

[www.6ias.org](http://www.6ias.org)

[Read More](#)



12<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
**KIMBERLITE**  
CONFERENCE

30 YEARS OF DIAMONDS IN CANADA  
18–20 August 2021 • Yellowknife



Ekati Mine, Northwest Territories, Canada © Dominion Diamond Mines

[Read More](#)