



# NEWSLETTER

Promoting the study and advancement of Earth Sciences since 1895



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# STEVE MCCOURT

GSSA PRESIDENT

November was a busy month for the Society with the African Exploration Showcase on 6-7 and the Fellows Dinner on November 11th. Ahead of these regular year end meetings, the Northern Cape Branch held their Annual Northern Cape Commodity Day event and associated excursion at Kathu on November 1st and 2nd, and a group from the KZN Branch held an informal meeting at UKZN on November 4th to discuss the renewal of the Branch from January 2025. An interim committee under the guidance of Past-President Avinash Bisnath has been established to take this important initiative forward.

Manco met on November 1st and will meet again on November 26th ahead of the Council Meeting on November 28th.

The Northern Cape Commodity Day was the last event involving Loni Gallant as Chair of the NC Branch and of the wider branch executive committee. Loni has been directly involved with the NC Branch since 2019 and served as Chair from 2022-2024. The Society recognizes that Loni's energy and leadership underpinned the success of the NC Branch, and I take this opportunity to thank her for her contributions to the Branch, and by extension the Society, over the years. The incoming Chair of the NC Branch is Palesa Boikanyo from South 32.

The 2024 African Exploration Showcase took place at the Emperors Palace Convention Centre. Despite some initial challenges adjusting to the new venue, the event went well and the organizing committee of Natalie Brand, Tshego Majane and Camille Kraak, has received lots of positive feedback. The two-day programme attracted 125 registrants and featured 25 project presentations from across Africa's mining and exploration sectors. Shorter presentations were made by the annual sponsors of the event.

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The Fellows Dinner was held at the Woodmead Campus of the JCC on November 11th and a total of 82 Fellows and guests were present. In keeping with tradition, the 2024 group of Fellows was inducted into the Society (13 in total) and the Senior Awards of the Society were presented. Lew Ashwal (Wits) was presented with the Draper Memorial Medal for his contributions to South African Earth Science. The Des Pretorius Memorial Award went to Rais Latypov (Wits) and was accepted on his behalf by Grant Bybee and the Jubilee Medal was awarded to a team from University of Jena in Germany led by Andreas Zametzer for their paper Tectonic and sedimentary evolution of a potential supra-detachment fault basin, Archaean Moodies Group (~3.22 Ga), central Barberton Greenstone Belt. SAJG volume 126. Unfortunately, none of the authors could be present at the Fellows Dinner but Christoph Heubeck, who supervised the project, has confirmed that the Jubilee Medals have arrived in Jena.

The guest speaker was Keith Scott, CEO of the Mining Oil and Gas Services Group and of Fraser Alexander, the largest subsidiary in that group. Keith's presentation was entitled "Challenges and Opportunities in the Energy Transition". His insightful and informative talk focussed on "The Just Energy Transition" and highlighted many aspects of this important field including the negative impacts of mining related to the transition, on African countries with cobalt ore deposits. Keith also highlighted the dominant role played by China in the renewable energy space who, in his words, "have already won the race." This is the last Newsletter of the year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank every GSSA member for their continued support throughout 2024 be it by timeous payment of fees or registration at our various meetings.

The GSSA is a voluntary association, and our continued success is directly linked to the members of the various committees and editorial teams who volunteer their time and expertise and to the hard-working office staff of Craig, Lully, Marliese, Sally and Kate. Thank you all for going the extra mile or more than one occasion.

To everyone associated with the GSSA, stay safe this holiday season whether you are travelling or enjoying downtime at home.



**GEOCONGRESS  
2025**

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CHANGE THROUGH  
COLLABORATION



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# 24 - 27 JUNE 2025 GEOCONGRESS

Join us at the 2025 Geocongress, South Africa's premier national meeting for geoscientists and geologists, where innovation meets collaboration. Set against the backdrop of South Africa's stunning geological wonders, this event brings together industry leaders, researchers, and students to tackle the challenges of a changing world through shared knowledge and groundbreaking discoveries.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



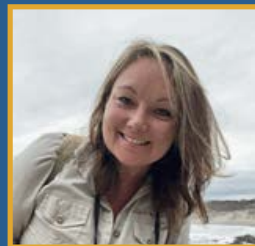
**Glen Nwaila**



**Geoffrey Howarth**



**Sifiso Siwela**



**Hayley Cawthra**



**John Carranza**



**Susan Webb**

*This is more than a conference—it's a call to action. By fostering collaboration across disciplines and industries, we can unlock the potential to reshape the future of geoscience and address the pressing issues facing our planet.*

### What to Expect

- **Engaging Sessions:** Explore key topics covering a variety of fields in southern African geoscience. A full list of sessions is available on our website.
- **Inspiring Keynotes:** Hear from world-renowned experts, including Prof Glen Nwaila, Prof John Carranza, Mr Sifiso Siwela, Dr Geoffrey Howarth, Prof Susan Webb and Dr Hayley Cawthra
- **Field Excursions:** Witness South Africa's unique and world-famous geology with guided excursions to iconic sites.

📍 **Location:** University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa

➤ **Register Now!** - Visit <https://geocongress2025.org.za/> to secure your spot. Early bird discounts available until 28 February 2025, and there are special rates student rates!

👤 **Prospective Sponsors:** Secure your spot to contribute to this fantastic biennial event. Sponsorship details are available at <https://geocongress2025.org.za/>

***Together, we embrace change and shape the future of geology!***



## Fellows Lunch – 1 February 2025

Beyerskloof wine estate – Western Cape

### Call for Sponsorship

We invite you to partner with us - Increase your visibility and gain access to your target markets

#### Benefits

- Banner at Venue - Gold Sponsor
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- Free Attendance - Gold Sponsor 2 | Event Sponsor 1
- Acknowledgement in mailers and event opening

#### Commitment Form

Contact us



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## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE NAMAQUALAND DIAMOND CENTENARY CONFERENCE AND FIELDTRIP

- 1.The conference and fieldtrip dates are 11-20 March 2025.
- 2.Normal Registration closes 31 January 2025 (late registration is available until 28 February 2025).
- 3.Please register as soon as possible to assist in event planning. This includes presenters – all presenters must also register soonest, please.

**Conference Website** - [https://www.gssa.org.za/?page\\_id=7337](https://www.gssa.org.za/?page_id=7337)



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## 2025 EVENT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We invite you to partner with us in growing and providing the industry with the tools for a sustainable future. Whether your goal is to increase brand recognition or spend quality time with the market, you will find what you need to meet your goals. Increase your visibility and gain access to your target markets. We welcome all our partners and thank you in advance for your continued support.

**Contact – Loni Gallant or Craig Smith**

lonigallant@icloud.com | info@gssa.org.za



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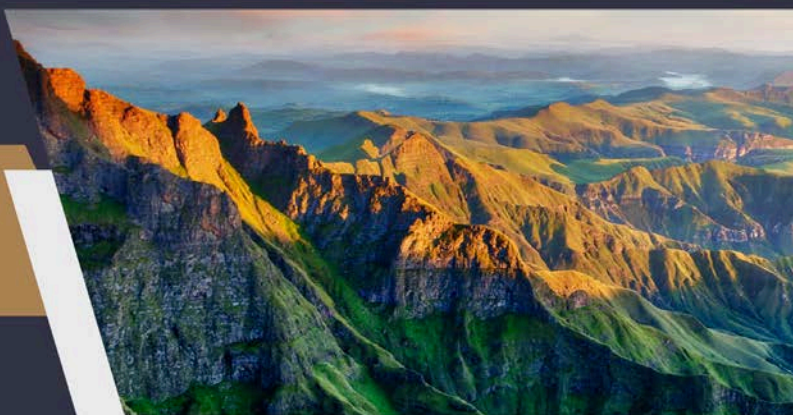
## 35IGC LEGACY FUND – CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

The generous support received from sponsors, donors and over 4,000 registered delegates resulted in a financial surplus after the 35th International Geological Congress that was held in Cape Town during 2016. These funds have been invested and are administered by the Board of 35IGC Legacy Fund to ensure that the legacy of this successful event will benefit the South African geoscience community long into the future.

# RE-LAUNCH

## KWAZULU NATAL BRANCH OF GSSA

### 2025 BRANCH ACTIVITIES CALL FOR SUGGESTIONS



Please contact Avinash Bisnath  
abisnath1974@gmail.com



[READ MORE](#)

### PROPOSED MEMORIALISATION OF A CHARLES DARWIN BUST ON THE TOWN JETTY, OFF WHARF STREET, SIMON'S TOWN

The City of Cape Town invites public comments on a proposal to erect a bronze bust of Charles Darwin at Simon's Town jetty. The monument would commemorate Darwin's significant 1836 visit to the Cape of Good Hope, where discussions with astronomer Sir John Herschel contributed to his foundational work on the theory of evolution by natural selection.



[READ MORE](#)

### RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND INVESTMENT (REI) FUND OF THE GSSA - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

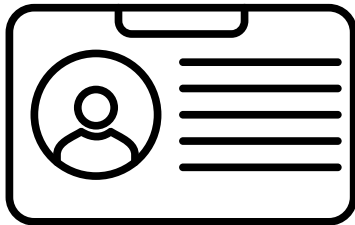
The GSSA Research, Education and Investment Fund (REI Fund) is inviting applications from GSSA paid up-members (including post-graduate student members) for grants from the Fund, to be received at the GSSA office not later than 31 January 2025.



## GSSA 2025 PRELIMINARY EVENTS CALENDAR

[READ MORE](#)

2025 Events		
Date	Event	Location
On demand	Drilling Methods and Techniques	Online through Colin Rice Exploration Drilling Advisory
On demand	Drilling Skills for Geologists	Online through Colin Rice Exploration Drilling Advisory
7 & 8 February	Marine Geoscience	Online
February	Mapmaking - (MINROM)	Online
4 March	CPD Workshop	Online Free



## GSSA MEMBERSHIP FEES

[PAY ONLINE](#)

2025 Membership fees are now due

The Membership Fees for 2025 have been increased by an average of 4.8 per cent. An early bird discount at the 2024 rates is offered for your 2025 fees if paid by latest 31 January 2025. For those who wish to take advantage of this offer, simply pay your 2024 rate as shown on the fees schedule.

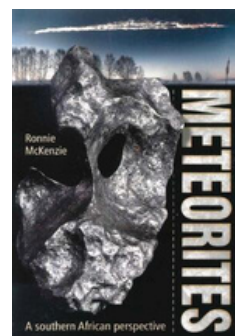
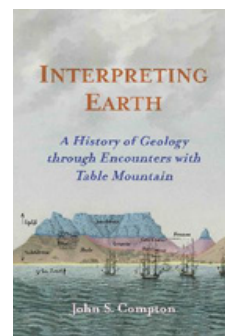
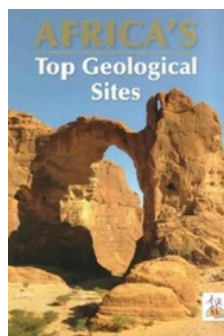
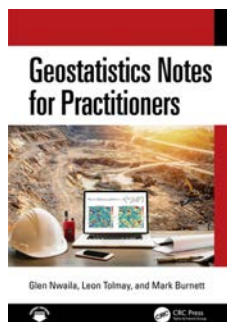
Finance queries - [accounts@gssa.org.za](mailto:accounts@gssa.org.za)



## GSSA BOOKSTORE

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Books available at discounted rates - Please order online or contact [accounts@gssa.org.za](mailto:accounts@gssa.org.za)





[READ MORE](#)

## **SAMCODES SNIPPETS**

### **Training Opportunities**

The SAMCODES Standards Committee (SSC) offers a number of training opportunities throughout the year. These are primarily through the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) and the Southern African Institute for Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM). The majority of these courses/workshops are directed at technical (geoscientific/engineering) professionals who compile Public Reports (including Competent Person's Reports, Valuation Reports and Qualified Reserve Evaluator's Reports). However, some of the courses may be of specific interest to non-technical professionals who compile valuation reports, fair and reasonable opinions, etc.



# **SAMCODES**

**SAMCODES STANDARDS COMMITTEE**  
**THE SOUTH AFRICAN MINERAL REPORTING CODES**

### **Public Consultation of the SAMOG Code Review and Approval**

The SAMOG Committee have recently revised the SAMOG Code and has issued it for public consultation. See the attached letter and draft SAMOG Code for review by all Interested and Affected Parties.

Closing date for comments is 15 December 2024, and must be sent to [saimmadmin@saimm.co.za](mailto:saimmadmin@saimm.co.za)

[https://www.samcode.co.za/images/Public Consultation of the SAMOG Code Reivew Submission 14th November 2024.pdf](https://www.samcode.co.za/images/Public%20Consultation%20of%20the%20SAMOG%20Code%20Reivew%20Submission%2014th%20November%202024.pdf)

[https://www.samcode.co.za/images/SAMOG Code Track Changes for Public Consultation 14th November 2024.docx](https://www.samcode.co.za/images/SAMOG%20Code%20Track%20Changes%20for%20Public%20Consultation%2014th%20November%202024.docx)



# LONI GALLANT

**FAREWELL & CONGRATULATIONS**  
to Chairperson Loni Gallant's 5 years of dedicated service to The Northern Cape Branch of The Geological Society of South Africa!

Loni's leadership has been instrumental in fostering growth and understanding within the geological community. Her commitment to networking, skills development, and advancing knowledge about geological deposits is truly commendable. The Northern Cape region is indeed vibrant and economically significant, and Loni's passion for its development shines through her words and actions. As Loni transitions to new endeavours, may the Northern Cape Branch continue to thrive and make significant contributions to the field of geology.

Her legacy of leadership and dedication will undoubtedly inspire others to continue the important work that was started.



Chairperson 2022-2024

<https://www.gssa.org.za/>



## The Northern Cape Branch of the Geological Society of South Africa

**"NORTHERN CAPE COMMODITY DAY"**  
EVENT & EXCURSION 2024  
Kathu, NC  
1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024



HIGHLIGHTS

# AFRICAN EXPLORATION

## Showcase

6 & 7 NOVEMBER 2024 - EMPERORS CONVENTION CENTRE



# AFRICAN EXPLORATION

## Showcase

6 & 7 NOVEMBER 2024



# AFRICAN EXPLORATION

## Showcase

6 & 7 NOVEMBER 2024



# AFRICAN EXPLORATION

## Showcase

6 & 7 NOVEMBER 2024



# AFRICAN EXPLORATION

## Showcase

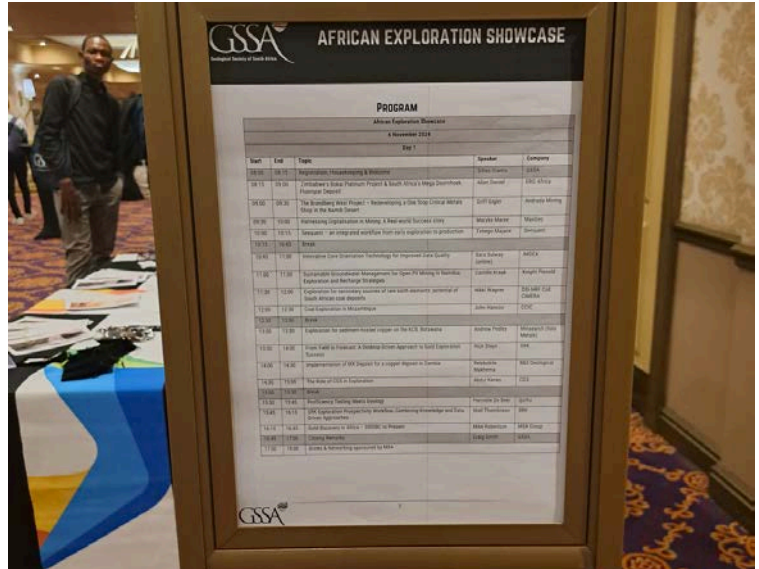
6 & 7 NOVEMBER 2024



# AFRICAN EXPLORATION

## Showcase

6 & 7 NOVEMBER 2024



# AFRICAN EXPLORATION

## Showcase

6 & 7 NOVEMBER 2024





# FELLOWS

# Dinner

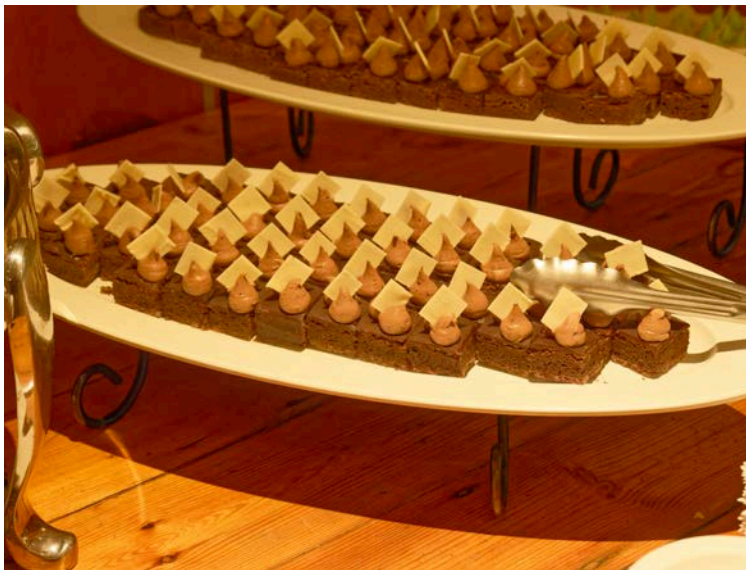
11 NOVEMBER 2024 - WOODMEAD COUNTRY CLUB



# FELLOWS

# Dinner

11 NOVEMBER 2024 - WOODMEAD COUNTRY CLUB



# FELLOWS

## Dinner

11 NOVEMBER 2024 - WOODMEAD COUNTRY CLUB



# FELLOWS

# Dinner

11 NOVEMBER 2024 - WOODMEAD COUNTRY CLUB



# FELLOWS

# Dinner

11 NOVEMBER 2024 - WOODMEAD COUNTRY CLUB





YOUNG GEOSCIENCE  
PROFESSIONALS DIVISION

# Witwatersrand Fieldtrip



The Young Professional's Division of the GSSA recently hosted a fieldtrip throughout the Witwatersrand Stratigraphy with 11 different sites.

This was a an informative fieldtrip guided by Professor Gillian Drennan from the Wits School of Geosciences and David from Friends of Melville Koppies Nature Reserve.



The aim of the trip was to introduce attendees to the geological urban landscape that preserve the geology of the Witwatersrand. A visit to the Standard Bank Ferreria Mine was an eye opener to majority of our attendees.

[www.gssa.org.za](http://www.gssa.org.za)

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# Council for Geoscience



The Council for Geoscience (CGS) is the national custodian responsible for the collection, compilation and curation of all onshore and offshore geoscience data and information. The CGS aims to use this information and knowledge to develop geoscience solutions to real world challenges in South Africa.

The CGS implements its geoscience technical programme (GTP) model through the five (5) core themes which are summarised below.

## GEOSCIENCE FOR MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

- Onshore and offshore geoscience research.
- Modelling geological environments and mineralising systems for mineral and energy resources.

## WORLD CLASS GEOSCIENCE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND LAND USE

- Geotechnical mapping, seismic studies and vulnerability investigations (sinkholes, mine subsidence and seismic hazard assessments, coastal erosion and landslides).
- Optimisation of land use (food security, geoheritage and geotourism, physical infrastructure).

## GEOSCIENCE FOR HEALTH, GROUNDWATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Environmental and hydrogeological baseline mapping and research (monitoring and mitigating the impact of geology and mining activities on health and the environment) (Mine water management, etc.).
- Hydrological research and modelling.




## WATER AND GEOSCIENCE INNOVATION

- Novel research resulting in IP registration (artificial intelligence application in the geosciences).
- Cultivating geoscientific innovation and novelty.

## GEOSCIENCE DIPLOMACY

- International geoscience policy and governance and national geoscience collaboration.
- OAGS Secretariat role.

## CONTACT US

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Council for Geoscience

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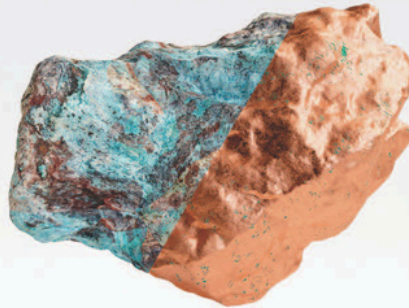
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