



# NEWSLETTER

Promoting the study and advancement of Earth Sciences since 1895

Namaqualand Diamond Centenary 2025

## PHOTO COMPETITION



Submit here

- Photographs should showcase the wide variety of the Namakwaland West Coast
- Entries close 31 January 2025
- The judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into
- Winners will be announced at the conference
- Prizes will be awarded

**Submission deadline extended to 28 February 2025**



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

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- Drilling Certificate Programme

## NAMAQUALAND DIAMOND CENTENARY

REGISTRATION  
**CLOSING**

28 FEBRUARY 2025

LAST CHANCE TO  
**REGISTER**

Final Programme



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



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





# STEVE MCCOURT

GSSA PRESIDENT

The month started with a lunch for GSSA Fellows resident in the Western Cape at Beyerskloof Wine Estate near Stellenbosch. The event, which was attended by 35 Fellows, was organized by Louise Coney and Annegret Lombard from the Fellows Committee and included a talk from Hielke Jelsma (Anglo American). Despite the very bright lighting at the venue, impacting on the presentation, the response from the attendees was overwhelming positive, and a similar event is being discussed for 2026. The event at Beyerskloof represented the first "Fellows Dinner" type function outside of Gauteng and the Western Cape was selected based on the fact it has, by far, the highest number of Fellows after Gauteng. Photos from the event are included elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Registration for the Namaqualand Diamond Centenary conference to be held at Letatsi Lodge in Vanrhynsdorp starting on March 11th, stands at 57, including, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors (event and annual), 8 full-time students. The conference which includes over 20 formal talks and a poster session by delegates from industry, academia and the CGS is being championed by Tania Marshall. Late registration for the conference closes on February 28th.

The number of applications received for financial support from the GSSA Research, Education, and Investment (REI) Fund has increased steadily over the last few years and applications in 2025 continue this trend. A total of 25 applications have been received with the majority from staff and post-graduate students at South African Universities (10 institutions in total). As in previous years, the applications are for funds to offset research expenses and for conferences.

The REI committee, chaired by Reinie Meyer, will evaluate the applications over the next few weeks after which the recommendations made will be sent to the GSSA Management Committee (Manco, 25th March) and then Council (29th March), for ratification and approval.

The call for nominations for the GSSA Student Awards was published in the January Newsletter and is still open. The responsibility for adjudicating the submissions lies with the Fellows Committee of the GSSA. As in previous years it is hoped to announce the names of the awardees at the AGM which this year is on July 17th. To achieve this target the Fellows Committee requires digital copies of the final dissertation/thesis, together with a short motivation from supervisors/advisors, by April 1st, 2025. Details of the various student awards, and the qualifying criteria, are listed on the GSSA website at <https://www.gssa.org.za/wp-content/uploads/GSSA-By-Laws.pdf>.

Looking ahead to March, the Society offers the annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) workshop on March 4th and Advanced Excel for Geologists on March 27th. Both workshops are online, and registration is through the events tab on the GSSA Website at [gssa.org.za](http://gssa.org.za).

Sandwiched between these workshops is a webinar, via Zoom, on International Employment Truths. The event is on March 12th at 18:00 SAST and is co-hosted by GSSA, American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) and the West African Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (WAIMM). Register [here](#).

**23-27 JUNE 2025**  
**GEOCONGRESS**

**Deadline**  
**Early bird registration**  
**28 February**

**Abstract submission**  
**31 March**



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA



The GSSA is looking forward to seeing you at Geocongress 2025 in Bloemfontein 23-27 June this year! On our website, you will be able to register for the conference, submit an abstract, and view the exciting list of keynote speakers, fieldtrips and workshops available. Importantly, the call for abstracts is currently open and has a closing date of 31 March, which is rapidly approaching. We encourage you all to get your abstracts in as early as possible to prevent a rush in late March. We anticipate an exciting and diverse scientific programme and look forward to hearing from you soon.

 **23-27 June 2025**

 **<https://www.geocongress2025.org.za/>**

 **UFS - Bloemfontein**

 **0835406115 - Chat on Whatsapp**

## Gold Sponsor



## Silver Sponsor



## Event Sponsor



## Exhibitors



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## SAMCODES SNIPPETS

### 25 years of the SAMREC Code

March 2025 marks the 25th anniversary of the South African Code for the Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources, and Mineral Reserves, commonly known as the SAMREC Code. This milestone is a testament to the enduring significance of the SAMREC Code in the global minerals industry, reflecting its pivotal role in standardizing and enhancing the transparency of mineral reporting.

The SAMREC Code was launched on 24 March 2000, following extensive collaboration among industry stakeholders, including the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) and the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM).



## REQUEST NOMINATIONS – AWARDS AND NEW FELLOWS

The Fellows Committee of the Geological Society would like to request the Fellows Collegiate to submit nominations for new Fellows as well as for the annual Awards. The Committee will be responsible for adjudicating the submissions for the GSSA awards, with awards scheduled to be announced at the mid-year AGM, and new Fellows announced at the Fellows Dinner in November.

[READ MORE](#)

[NOMINATION FORM](#)

.Details of the criteria are listed on the GSSA website (<https://www.gssa.org.za/wp-content/uploads/GSSA-By-Laws.pdf>).



## 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.

[READ MORE](#)


**Contact - Loni Gallant - [lonigallant@icloud.com](mailto:lonigallant@icloud.com)**



**ONLINE  
CPD  
WORKSHOP**  
4 MARCH 2025

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[READ MORE](#)



**ONLINE  
ADVANCED EXCEL  
FOR GEOLOGISTS**  
27 MARCH 2025

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[READ MORE](#)

We welcome geoscientists to a webinar on  
**INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYMENT TRUTHS**

Ever wonder about international work opportunities? Join international recruitment specialists and experienced well-traveled geoscientists to hear all about the WHAT, WHY and HOW.

📅 **12 MARCH 2025** 📍 **ONLINE ZOOM** 🕒 **11:00 – 12:30 EST / 18:00 – 19:30 SAST**

**FREE** [REGISTER NOW](#)

*The webinar will be recorded and posted for later viewing*

Hosted by GSSA, American Institute of Professional Geologists, the West African Institute Of Mining, Metallurgy & Petroleum

GSSA AIPG WAIMM

We are thrilled to be holding an international webinar with the American Institute of Professional Geologists AIPG) on Geosciences - International Employment Truths.

Jon Taylor, Lindsey Shultz and Palesa Maloka will explore the recruitment process, job market trends and a whole lot more. Experienced geoscientists Chris Ainsworth, Danièle Spethmann, Ian Gendall and Sara Turnbull will provide insights on what it's like to work internationally.

Register to join us for thought-provoking talks on working internationally as a geoscientist.

GSSA  
Geological Society of South Africa

**ONLINE**

**2025 INTERNATIONAL GOLD PRESENTATION PROGRAM**

**6 MARCH - 10 APRIL**

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

CONVERSATIONS WITH  
**OVERBERG GEOSCIENTISTS GROUP**  
 & Earth Sciences,  
 The University of Melbourne

# FELLOWS LUNCH

1 FEBRUARY 2025 - BEYERSKLOOF WINE ESTATE



# FELLOWS LUNCH

## 1 FEBRUARY 2025 - BEYERSKLOOF WINE ESTATE







# Fossils by Firelight - GSSA

Solid Gold Podcasts #BeHeard

Welcome to fossils by firelight - a series of conversations with South Africa's geological legends where they unearth their discoveries, their learnings,... [more](#)

Listen now on



## Episodes

[▶ Platinum - the good, the bad, and the ugly](#)

Fossils by Firelight – a series of conversations with South Africa's geological legends where they unearth their discoveries, their learnings, memories, interesting stories (and maybe a few tall tales) to chronicle our history and inspire the next generation of geological heroes.

In the latest episode, Platinum – the good, the bad and the ugly, hosts Noleen Pauls and Sifiso Siwela talk to three professionals who cut their teeth in the platinum industry. From fixing drill rigs to 2,000m underground to MBAs and future opportunities, Dennis Hoffman, Gordon Chunnett and Ken Lomborg covered it all. Our guests also emphasised the importance of underground experience for young geologists, and the evolving role of geologists in mining operations.

This episode is now available on your favourite platform or find it on the GSSA website <https://pod.link/gssa/episode/c1ec22ec7fc7510425ef978410123ac2>



By Solid Gold Podcasts #BeHeard

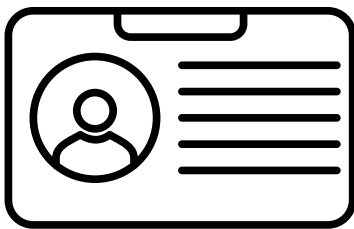


## GSSA 2025 PRELIMINARY EVENTS CALENDAR

REGISTER NOW

Date	Event	Location
On Demand	Drilling Methods & Techniques Drilling skills certificate programme	Online
4 March	CPD Workshop	Online - Free
11 - 20 March	Namaqualand Diamond Centenary (NDC) conference & Field trip	<b>Vanrhynsdorp &amp; Port Nolloth</b>
12 March	International Employment Truths	Online - Free
27 March	Advanced Excel	Online
5 & 6 April	Structural Geology Course & Field trip	Southbroom - UKZN
11 April	3D Geological Modelling (TECT)	Online

READ MORE



## GSSA MEMBERSHIP FEES

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.

PAY ONLINE

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

Drilling Skills for Geologists  
is proudly endorsed by the GSSA

40 GSSA CPD points (Formal learning)  
5 SACNASP CPD points (Category 1)



## DRILLING SKILLS FOR GEOLOGISTS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

### About this certificate program

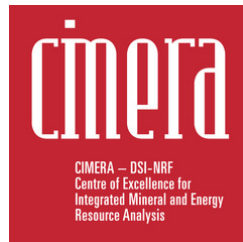
The aim of this certificate is to improve the candidate's understanding of the fundamental processes that are involved in drilling boreholes and therefore to improve the candidate's effectiveness in identifying the source of problems and managing a drilling project.

The program also examines fundamental aspects of the use and application of drilling fluids and the principles of borehole surveying. A course on economic aspects focusses on the major cost drivers and the structure of drilling contracts.

READ MORE

# The GSSA wishes to acknowledge our **2025 Sponsors**

## Annual Sponsors



## Event Sponsor

