



NEWSLETTER

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STEVE MCCOURT

GSSA PRESIDENT

Society activities during March were dominated by administrative meetings but in addition, there was a Continuing Professional Development Workshop presented by Tania Marshall on March 04th and Advanced Excel for Geologists on March 27th. Both meetings were held online. Sandwiched between these workshops on March 12th was a very successful webinar, "via Zoom", on International Employment Truths. The event was co-hosted by GSSA, American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) and the West African Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (WAIMM) and attracted over 150 registrations from a range of countries. The long awaited Namaqua Diamond Centenary Meeting, based in Vanrhynsdorp, was held from 11-20 March and attracted some 62 delegates (see report from Tania Marshall).

The annual meeting of the REI Committee was held on March 13th during which 25 applications for funding were evaluated. All but one of the applications received were from staff and post-graduate students at 12 different tertiary institutions within South Africa. Applications were for block grants to support student attendance at geoscience meetings within South Africa including Geocongress2025, travel grants for geoscience conferences, and grants to offset running expenses for bona-fide research. Recommendations from the committee for awards totalling R521,500.00 were discussed at Manco on March 27th and ratified by Council on March 29th. Awards letters with any relevant conditions will now be sent to the successful applicants.

The Fellows Committee met on March 19th. Issues discussed included the current standing of applications for the 2025 GSSA Awards, nominations for new Fellows, the annual Fellows Dinner and the 2026 A L du Toit Memorial Lecture Series.

Planning for Geocongress2025 is progressing well although the number of abstracts received to date is lower than anticipated and to address this the LOC has extended the submission date to April 11th. Geocongress is the ideal platform for emerging researchers, including post-graduate students, to present the results of their research to an audience from outside of their institution. Abstract submission is via the Geocongress website (<https://geocongress2025.org.za/>) and unlike many international meetings, there are no abstract submission charges.

A highlight of the Council meeting held on Saturday March 29th was the ratification of Ms Noleen Pauls as the next President of the GSSA. Noleen has been associated with GSSA management since 2008 with roles on the membership, geoheritage, and meeting committees, served as VP for Meetings 2019-2021, taking responsibility for the lunchtime lecture series during the pandemic years and has been VP for Professional Affairs for the last 4 years. Noleen will be inducted as President at the 125th AGM of the Society scheduled for July 17th.

Other matters discussed by Council included the financial position of the Society, proposed changes to some of the By-Laws, contributions for inclusion in the Annual Report, the potential development of geoparks and biosphere reserves within South Africa, progress with the new GSSA website and issues related to the South African Journal of Geology.

Steve McCourt

23-27 JUNE 2025
GEOCONGRESS



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ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE EXTENDED AND STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

The GSSA is happy with the steady stream of Geocongress abstracts submitted. A big thank you to those who submitted timeously! To accommodate later submissions and make for a richer scientific programme, **the abstract submission deadline will be extended until the end of 11 April 2025**. We look forward to hearing from you!

Students: Minimise logistical constraints and maximise your participation by applying for GSSA student sponsorship!



Student Support Available for 2025 GeoCongress Attendance

Eligibility Criteria:

We are pleased to announce that financial support is available for students wishing to attend the 2025 GeoCongress.

Don't let logistic constraints prevent your participation in the 2025 GeoCongress.

Proof of an accepted abstract

Registered Student

Registration & Accommodation costs included

APPLY NOW 



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



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Diamonds were formally discovered at Port Nolloth in 1925. Their discovery and mining have left a controversial legacy along the West Coast. The Geological Society of South Africa convened a conference and field trip to celebrate 100 years of diamonds along the Namaqualand Coast (and into Namibia). This comprised two days of conference, followed by seven days in the field, visiting historical and current operations between Vanrhynsdorp and Oranjemund.

The conference was attended by 62 delegates from South Africa, Namibia, the UK, Switzerland and Angola. Some 26 oral lectures and seven posters were presented over two days. The fieldtrip (with 28 delegates) visited various prospects and historical as well as currently operating mines between Vanrhynsdorp (Quaggas Kop) and Oranjemund (Namdeb). The organisers would like to thank all of the venues and the companies that supported both the conference and the fieldtrip.

 <p>Letsatsi CONFERENCE & VENUE LIFESTYLE LODGE</p>	<p>Quaggas Kop</p>
 <p>LOWER ORANGE RIVER DIAMONDS</p>	<p>Koingnaas</p>
 <p>COUNTRY CLUB PORT NOLLOTH</p>	<p>Kleinzee Holdings (Pty) Ltd</p>
<p>West Coast Resources</p>	<p>Coptra-SA Grootderm/Beauvallon Mine</p>
 <p>ALEXKOR</p>	<p>Buffels River/Marine Mines</p>
 <p>NA MDEB ON DIAMONDS WE BUILD</p>	 <p>BCON MINING Ocean Diamond Mining</p>

The conference organisers would also like to thank the various event and annual sponsors, without which the conference could never have succeeded.

EVENT SPONSORS



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The conference also boasted a photo competition with entries to reflect the spirit of Namaqualand. The three winners, whose photos will all be used in upcoming Geobulletins are:



First Place: Platbakkies (Mike de Wit)



Second Place: The old HMS and sort house at Alexander Bay (Kabelo Mongalo)



Third Place: The Fish River Canyon (Wony Diergaardt)

Conference Recording/presentations

All delegates will receive (in due course)

- a link to the recordings
- A copy of the pdfs that have been made available
- A certificate of attendance (CPD certificate)
- The link to the photo repository (some fieldtrip photos) is given below

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/nyn35xirmoeb2ms29xom7/AB4-ml2SmY_rmW-V5-ni3xM?rlkey=z4q5kyt6t1caee9lwzl53ms3&st=6ztezut2&dl=0

The organisers of the conference and fieldtrip would like to thank each and every delegate for sharing this once-in-a-lifetime event with us. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

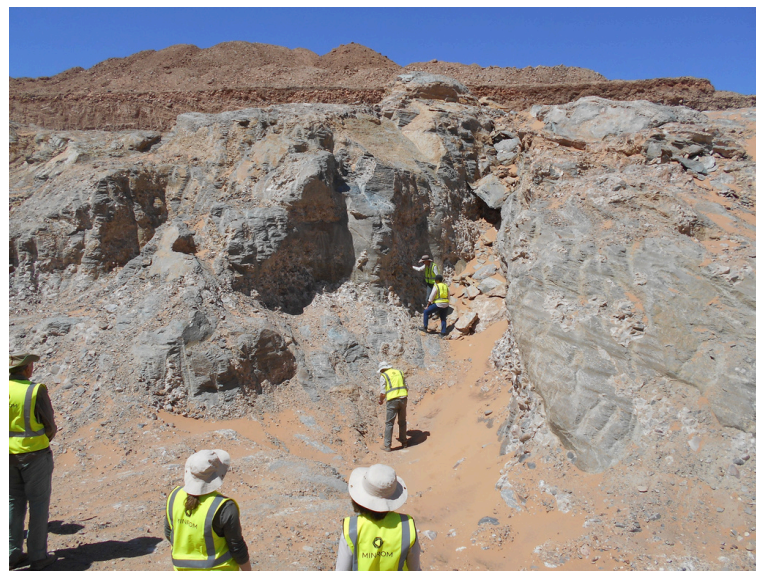


**100 YEARS OF THE DISCOVERY OF
THE NAMAQUALAND DIAMONDS**

11-20 MARCH 2025

NAMAQUALAND DIAMOND CENTENARY CONFERENCE & FIELDTRIP

11 – 20 MARCH 2025 | VANRHYNSDORP



NAMAQUALAND DIAMOND CENTENARY CONFERENCE & FIELDTRIP

11 – 20 MARCH 2025 | VANRHYNSDORP



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NAMAQUALAND DIAMOND CENTENARY CONFERENCE & FIELDTRIP

11 – 20 MARCH 2025 | VANRHYNSDORP





Fossils by Firelight - GSSA


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Episodes

 Platinum - the good, the bad, and the ugly

Our newest Fossils by Firelight podcast is live – Guests Nico Denner, Bob Hatherly, Peet Meyer, and Karin van Deventer talk to Sifiso Siwela about their extensive careers in coal. We explore the challenges facing the coal industry, the evolution of mining practices, the future of coal in energy production (particularly in light of global shifts towards renewable energy), the importance of proper training and education and mentorship for younger geologists, and so much more. Find it on the GSSA website <https://pod.link/gssa/episode/c0d5f4a9545c958f3602d8f5af78ef2d> or on your favourite podcast platform.



By Solid Gold Podcasts #BeHeard



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GSSA EVENTS : APRIL – NOVEMBER 2025

Date	Event	Location
11 April	3D Geological Modelling (TECT)	Online
23 - 27 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Geocongress25 ❖ 23 June Resource Geology (Geostats) ❖ 24 June Intro to SAMCODES workshop 	UFS Bloemfontein
17 July	Soft skills event with YGP/mentorship group in conjunction with the GSSA AGM	Jhb Country Club Auckland Park
05 August	Intro to Drilling workshop	Online - Free
2 & 3 Sep	Intro to SAMCODES and 25 th Anniversary of SAMREC	Jhb Country Club
9 September	Professionalism & Ethics Workshop	Online - Free
September	Data Analytics & Machine learning	Online
12 - 13 Nov	African Exploration Showcase	Jhb Country Club

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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 - lonigallant@icloud.com

READ MORE

ECSA Validated CPD Activity.
Credits = 0.1 points per hour attended.

Geometallurgy Conference 2025

Future-Ready Geometallurgy: Trusted Data, Advanced Tools, Smarter Decisions

13 October 2025 Technical Workshops

14-15 October 2025 Conference

16 October 2025 Technical Visits

Venue: Glenburn Lodge and Spa, Muldersdrift

(1-hour drive from O.R. Tambo International Airport,
Johannesburg, South Africa)

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MINERALS EDUCATION TRUST FUND



WHO WE ARE

Our unique collaboration between industry and academia is committed to contributing to sustainable tertiary education in mining, metallurgy/minerals processing and geosciences.

WHY WE DO IT

- To ensure that tertiary mining, metallurgy/minerals processing and geosciences departments are financially and operationally sustainable.
- To have a pipeline of quality graduates educated to meet future industry needs.



HOW WE DO IT



1. Provide salary subventions for key undergraduate teaching staff at selected institutions

2. Consider additional support requirements



3. Facilitate visiting lectureships



4. Grow a sustainable membership base

5. Provide a platform to facilitate:

- Input into curricula and research
- Undergraduate practical training and experience
- Liaison with relevant regulatory and professional bodies

WHAT WE DO

We create value for our partners by supporting the development of:

- Industry relevant qualifications, short courses and workshops
- World class academics and facilities





THE MINERALS EDUCATION TRUST FUND

- A good news story

At a time when good news stories seem to be few and far in between, The Minerals Education Trust (METF) stands out. Constituted in 2000 by South African minerals and mining companies, the METF has had a significantly positive impact on both the minerals and education sectors for over 20 years.

The Fund receives contributions from its 29 members, representing some of the most prominent companies in the South African mining and minerals sector, with the aim of supporting the development of high-level technical skills by augmenting the salaries of key lecturing staff in disciplines such as

mining and metallurgical engineering and geological sciences.

The METF funds subventions for 258 academic staff members at nine higher education institutions, ensuring the attraction and retention of highly qualified academic staff in subjects such as mine ventilation, rock mechanics, mining geology, extractive metallurgy and various other undergraduate courses aimed at meeting the needs of the industry.

In addition, the Fund has made grants available for the purchase of capital items, such as up-to-the-minute mine design software used in teaching undergraduate Mining Engineering students.

The ultimate beneficiaries of

the Fund's support are 4580 undergraduate students, 76% of whom are black African students, of which 39% are female. The role of the METF is key to ensuring a constant supply of high-level technical skills, necessary for the transformation and viability of the South African minerals sector.

In addition to these benefits, any contribution to the Fund is tax exempt in terms of Section 18A of the Income Tax Act, qualifies for B-BBEE points and will assist you in meeting your Minerals Charter targets.

The sustainability of the Fund relies on as broad a participation as possible. We therefore appeal to you to join your peers in becoming a contributing member in 2025.



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

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