



NEWSLETTER

Promoting the study and advancement of Earth Sciences since 1895



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Call for Contributions

We would love to feature your contributions - If you have news, updates, insights or articles you would like to share with the Geological community please submit your content to lilly.govender@gssa.org.za - Your contributions will be reviewed and if approved will be included in the newsletter.



info@gssa.org.za



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NOLEEN PAULS

GSSA PRESIDENT

I eased my way into December at the Overberg Geoscientists Group year-end function. Between the braai, beer and banter, we even managed to record two podcasts with six of South Africa's geological heroes. You can hear how it all unfolded in the Fossils by Firelight [Podcast Series](#):

- Every Rock Has a Story
- Licking Rocks and Other Career Advice

World Mentoring Day & First Shift



17 January was World Mentoring Day, and we're thrilled to launch First Shift, a new mentoring programme designed to support students and early-career geoscientists as they transition from academic study into professional practice. See further down in the newsletter for details on how to join the programme.

Allied Associations



The GSSA is formally linked with a range of local, regional and international professional organisations — with our newest being the Geological Society of America (GSA).

Founded in 1888, GSA is a global scientific society committed to advancing the geosciences, supporting geoscientists at all career stages, and promoting the application of geoscience to societal needs. Its annual meeting, GSA Connects, brings together around 5,000 scientists from across the world. GSA's 22 scientific Divisions and six geographic Sections provide opportunities for collaboration, knowledge exchange and regional engagement.

The GSA delivers its mission by hosting scientific conferences, publishing key research, and providing grants that support travel and discovery. It recognises excellence through medals and fellowships, supports geoscientists at every career stage, collaborates globally, and champions the role of geoscience in tackling society's most pressing challenges.

More information is available at: <https://www.geosociety.org>. Currently, they are sharing several opportunities offered by [GSA International \(GSAI\)](#) and an invitation to participate in shaping [GSA Connects 2026](#), which will take place 11-14 October in Denver, Colorado.

A Note of Thanks



Celebrating the incredible volunteers of the Geological Society of South Africa. Thank you for always stepping up, showing up, and getting the job done. We couldn't do this without you.

Thank you to all GSSA volunteers. As a not-for-profit organisation, we simply couldn't do this without you. You consistently step up and get the job done. From arranging meetings and securing sponsorships, to strengthening our Fellows group, maintaining professional standards, and running our mentorship programme — your efforts sit at the heart of everything we do. Your time, energy and commitment keep the Society moving forward, and we are deeply grateful for all that you contribute.

Closing Message

As we embark on the year ahead, I'm encouraged by the energy, generosity and passion within our community. Thank you for your ongoing support of the GSSA and for the work you do every day to promote and strengthen the geosciences. I look forward to everything we will achieve together in 2026.

MEMBERSHIP WITH THE GSSA

The GSSA is a not-for-profit, voluntary association of earth scientists active in southern Africa, formed in 1895, with a focus on geology and wider earth sciences in Africa. We are both a learned (scientific) society as well as a professional body. Our stakeholders include academics, researchers, industry (exploration, mining and regulatory) practitioners, consultants, students and early-stage professionals.

We have a number of different membership classes, which cater for the different needs or stages of development of our diverse membership.



Irrespective of the class of Membership, all members are

- Expected to comply with the Code of Ethics that governs the conduct of all members and are subject to the Complaints and Ethics procedures of the GSSA.
- Encouraged to engage in a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme applicable to their field of practice (CPD is a requirement of Chartered Status).

Applications for any category of membership can be done through the website (<https://www.gssa.org.za/applications>). The application, professional references and supporting documentation must be in English.

For any further information, please contact Kate at sponsorship@gssa.org.za or info@gssa.org.za.

READ MORE 

On Demand	Drilling Methods & Techniques in Exploration (Drilling Skills for Geologists Certificate Programme)	Online
10-March	Financial Literacy in Mineral Project Development	Jhb Country Club
17-March	CPD Workshop	Online
18-March	Geotech for Geologists - understanding rock stability, geological structures & rock mechanics	Online
10 April	3D Geological Modelling	Online
24 June	AI in Geology	Online
16-July	Beyond the Rocks: Essential Skills for Geoscientists	Jhb Country Club
16-July	GSSA AGM - Hybrid	Jhb Country Club
04-August	Field-to-Findings: A Complete Course in Drilling, Sample Handling, and Result Interpretation	Online
TBC August	Minerals Resource Mastery	Online
8-Sep	Professionalism & Code of Ethics Workshop	Online
10-13 Sep	Lichtenburg 100 - Conference & Field Trip	Council for Geoscience
19-20 Sep	Structural Geology Course & Field trip	Southbroom - KZN
8-9 Oct	Data Analytics & Machine Learning	Online
18-19 Nov	African Exploration Showcase	JHB Country Club

[More information and Registration](#)



First Shift Mentoring Programme – Now Open for Mentors and Mentees

The Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) is pleased to launch First Shift, a new mentoring programme created to support early-career geoscientists as they transition from academic study into professional practice.

First Shift connects students and early-career professionals with experienced geoscientists from industry, academia, and consulting. The programme is designed to provide practical insight, career guidance, and grounded, real-world perspectives that help participants navigate the early stages of their careers with confidence.

Call for Mentors

We invite experienced geoscientists who are willing to share their knowledge, lessons learned, and professional insights to register as mentors. Your experience can play a vital role in shaping the next generation of geoscientists. [Become a Mentor](#)

Call for Mentees

Students and early-career geoscientists looking for direction, support, and exposure to real-world industry experience are encouraged to apply as mentees. [Become a Mentee](#) First Shift aims to strengthen the geoscience profession by grounding emerging talent, building professional confidence, and fostering meaningful connections across the geoscience community.

Natalie Brand - VP Professional Affairs



Donations & Bequests

Donate to the GSSA Research Education and Investment (REI) Fund

Your contribution supports students and the broader geological community by enabling research, advancing professional development and fostering knowledge sharing within the geosciences.

Through your support we are able to invest in future geoscientists, promote innovation and strengthen the foundations of the geological profession for the benefit of the industry, academia and society.



Education



Growth



Innovation



Research



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INVITATION

126th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16 JULY 2026 | 6pm

JOHANNESBURG COUNTRY CLUB | ONLINE ZOOM

REGISTER HERE - Entrance is free but registration is required for catering purposes



Joint SAIMM-GSSA Special Breakfast Event

Mining Indaba | Cape Town

Date: 10 February 2026

Time: 08:00-11:00

Venue: Royal Cape Yacht Club, Cape Town



Featuring Dr Jeannette McGill

Keynote Address: "From 4km underground to 8km above: A Leadership Journey

[More information](#)

We would like to thank the following sponsors
for their support



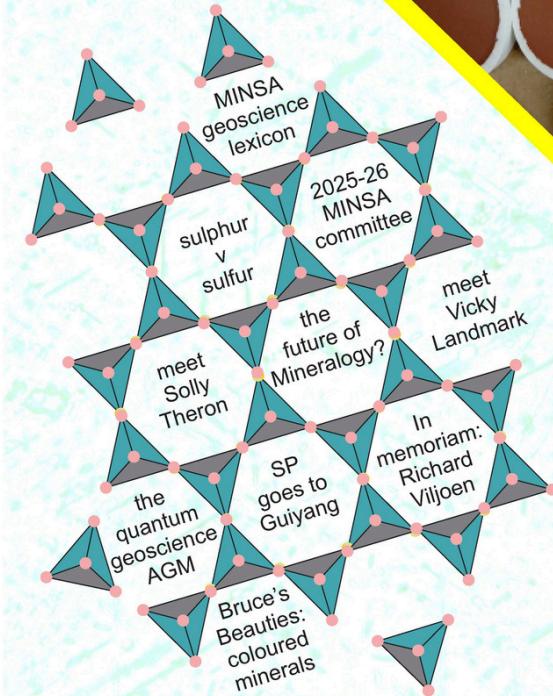
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colour
in minerals:
causes and effects



The GEODE

MINSA
Newsletter
Volume 12
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December
2025

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**Memorial lecture on Komatiites in
memory of Richard and Morris Viljoen**
hosted by Jaganmoy Jodder
Centre for Planetary Habitability

Online Zoom - 6 February 2026

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ALEX DU TOIT MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

8-22 APRIL 2026



Associate Professor Robyn Pickering, University of Cape Town will be presenting the Alex du Toit lecture series in 2026, with dates as per the included schedule. She will be the first female Alex Du Toit lecturer since Edna Plumstead in 1969.

For the 2026 Alex Du Toit Memorial Lecture, Assoc. Prof. Pickering will speak on the geology, dating and palaeoenvironments of human evolution in South Africa, how the uranium-lead technique has provided the first direct chronology for the early hominin fossils in the Cradle of Humankind and how her research group are actively building a detailed palaeoclimate record for this region from 1-3 million years ago.

She will also talk about research into how early modern humans survived and even thrived in the now arid southern Kalahari around a previously unrecognized palaeolake deposit. Finally, she will speak to how the pioneering approach of Alex du Toit has inspired her approach to research, innovation and capacity building within South African geosciences.

8 April - Lecture 1	Cape Town University of Cape Town Johann Diener, Robert Muir
10 April - Lecture 2	Bloemfontein University of the Free State Martin Clark, Matome Moitsi RSVP - MoitsiME@ufs.ac.za
14 April - Lecture 3	Johannesburg University of the Witwatersrand Grant Bybee, Marlina Elburg
15 April - Lecture 4	Gaborone University of Botswana Khumo Leseane
20 April - Lecture 5	Durban University of Kwazulu Natal Lauren Hoyer, Riaan Botha, Chris Hatton
22 April - Lecture 6	Gqeberha Nelson Mandela University

JSE Simplification project and updated Listing Requirements for Minerals Companies



As at 12 December 2025, the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FCSA) published the approval of the amendments to the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Listing Requirements resulting from the Simplification Project, with the operational date as 13 January 2026. The existing Section 12 regulations for Minerals and Oil/Gas companies has been consolidated into a new Section 14 (and has been simplified into four pages). [Click here](#)

Competent Persons (CPs), Competent Valuers (CVs), Qualified Reserves Evaluators (QREs) and anyone involved in the listing of mineral and/or oil and gas companies on the JSE are encouraged to become conversant with these new regulations. The full (updated as a 12 December 2025) JSE Listing Requirements document can be downloaded [here](#).



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2026 Rates & Submission Form



STUDENT AWARDS 2026

TO ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS CALL FOR STUDENT AWARDS



The GSSA is calling for nominations for the GSSA Student Awards for the 2025 academic year. The Fellows Committee of the Geological Society will be responsible for adjudicating the submissions for the GSSA awards, with awards scheduled to be announced at the mid-year AGM. For the adjudication process to be completed on time, we need to have digital copies of the nominated theses and short motivations submitted by 1 March 2026. Details of the criteria are listed on the GSSA website.

The Award categories are:

John Handley Award: Best MSc thesis from a South African university submitted in the year prior to the award.

Corstorphine Medal: Recognition of an MSc thesis of exceptional merit, worthy of international recognition, submitted in the year prior to the award.

Haughton Award: Recognition of a meritorious Honours thesis submitted in the year prior to the award.

Best 4th Year Student Award /SACNASP Award: Recognition of meritorious 4th year student from a southern African university, irrespective of whether the student wrote a thesis, completed in the year prior to the award. Issued in conjunction with SACNASP to encourage a young scientist with promise who may contribute to the profession if encouraged.

The awards are not necessarily awarded in any given year, depending on the quality of the submissions received. Please email submissions to info@gssa.org.za, accompanied by a brief motivation.

Dr Louise Coney
Chair: GSSA Fellows Committee

AWARDS 2026

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ANNUAL AWARDS



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

Annual Awards:

Draper Memorial Medal: To recognize an exceptional member of the Geological Profession who in the spirit of Dr. David Draper has excelled in the advancement of South African Earth Science.

Des Pretorius Memorial Award: The Des Pretorius Memorial Award is awarded for work in economic geology to geologists working in Africa. The award is made on the basis of the following: (a) research activities, (b) the advancement of economic geology through the teaching and development of exploration technology, and (c) the development of mineral resources through exploration, mining geology or discovery. The candidate for this award must have a minimum of a BSc (Honours) degree and is encouraged to publish the results of the work/research that formed the basis of the award.

Honours Award(s): To recognize a person who has made a particular contribution to the running and organizational affairs of the Geological Society of South Africa. More than one award may be made in a given year.

Honorary Membership or Honorary Fellowship: To recognize an exceptional member of the Geological Community.

The awards are not necessarily awarded in any given year, depending on the quality of the submissions received. Please email submissions to info@gssa.org.za, accompanied by a brief motivation by the 1st of March, 2026.



The past two years in my role as Chairperson of the SAMCODES Standards

Committee (SSC) have been both rewarding and complex, navigating the dynamic landscape of mineral reporting while safeguarding investor interests through our three guiding principles: transparency, competence, and materiality. The SSC has remained committed to upholding high standards in the reporting of mineral resource estimates and mineral asset valuations.

During this period, the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) was represented on the SSC by Sifiso Siwela (Chairperson), Tania Marshall (Academic Liaison), Jacques Nel (GSSA representative), and Nicole Wansbury (Chairperson of the SAMREC Committee). We celebrated the 25th anniversary of the SAMREC Code throughout 2025, which included various networking sessions and promotional activities across multiple channels. This milestone was marked by the introduction of a refreshed logo that reflects our ongoing commitment to mineral reporting and the evolving role of minerals in a sustainable future.

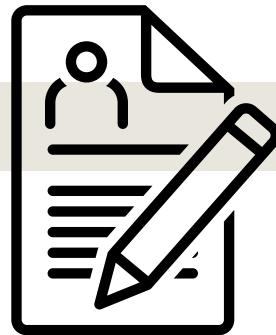
Recent updates to various reporting codes, including JORC and CIM, have included public participation. The SSC began preemptive updates to the SAMREC Code in 2021, prompted by inquiries into ESG factors to assess their integration into SAMCODES. The formation of the SAMCODES ESG Working Group in 2022 facilitated important work in 2023 and 2024, culminating in finalised recommendations for the respective code committees. The mandate involved preparing a revised SAMESG Guideline and suggesting updates to applicable sections of the SAMCODES to ensure that material ESG factors are adequately considered in public reports. Key achievements include:

- Integration of completed ESG text into the SAMREC and SAMVAL Codes, as well as SAMREC Tables 1 and 2 and their appendices.
- Completion of the SAMESG Guideline 2.0.
- Submission of draft documents to the SAMREC and SAMVAL Code committees in July 2024.
- Presentation by Mr. Andy McDonald, Chair of the SAMCODES ESG Working Group, at the SAIMM ESG Conference follow-up webinar in October 2024.

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FELLOW NOMINATIONS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS NEW FELLOWS



A candidate for transfer or election to the class of Fellow of the Society shall be a Member in good standing for at least 5 (continuous) years as a Member and provide evidence of significant contributions to the earth sciences thus fulfilling the objectives of the GSSA.

A candidate for transfer or election to the class of Fellow of the Society must be over 35 years of age.

A candidate for transfer or election to the class of Fellow of the Society shall have been engaged in geology or approved earth science profession for at least ten years, post-Honours (or equivalent) qualification*, either:

- in responsible charge of important operations, or
- as a consultant or advisor, or
- as holder of an important post in teaching or research in the relevant subjects at a recognized tertiary institution

In the case of the individual not having an Honours-equivalent degree, their application be evaluated by considering educational and experiential learning.

Nominations will be evaluated bi-annually by the Committee. The online nomination form, should be submitted either before the 1st of May or by the 1st of September, 2026. Please ensure that the motivation specifies how the individual meets one or more of the criteria listed above.

Nomination Form



GSSA
Geological Society of South Africa

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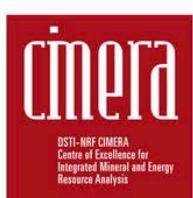
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2026 GSSA ANNUAL SPONSORS



Save the Date



Events 2026

Rocks & Reds – 12–16 June

Explore the wonderful pairing of geology and wine, set in Babanango Game Reserve.

Jozi140: Geology That Built a City

8–9 August

Celebrating the bedrock of Johannesburg as the city turns 140 years old.

Into the Wild - 1-5 October

An adventurous exploration of the unique geology of Babanango Game Reserve.

For enquiries, or to add yourself to the update mailer, please email:

events.geosciences@wits.ac.za



More about us here ↑

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