



NEWSLETTER

Promoting the study and advancement of Earth Sciences since 1895



Join us for an introduction to financial literacy as applicable to exploration/mining budgets and valuations. Many geoscientists do not study accountancy and/or economics in their university curricula but find themselves having to read financial statements and contribute to Discounted Cash Flow models.

This workshop will not make you an accountant, but it will introduce you to the terminologies and principles that you will need to better muddle through financial models.

The workshop is presented by Tim Raymond (Raymex). Tim Raymond is a mineral industry specialist with over 16 years of experience across Africa, the Middle East, and the USA.

[Register Now](#)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- President's column
- GSSA Staff profile
- CPD Module now operational
- 2026 Calendar of Events
- GSSA AGM - 16 July 2026
- Cape Fellows lunch 7 February
- Coaching Sessions - Petro Du Pisani
- SAMCODES Snippets
- Lichtenburg 100
- GSSA Podcast - Jeannette McGill
- 2026 Sponsorship - Partner with us
- Donations & Bequests
- Advertise in the Geobulletin
- Hans Merensky
- OGG Gold Presentation Series
- LIP IDC Conference Kenya

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 lully.govender@gssa.org.za - Your contributions will be reviewed and if approved will be included in the newsletter.



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NOLEEN PAULS

GSSA PRESIDENT

February was all about the Cape Town Mining Indaba — one of the most significant events on the global mining calendar. For the GSSA, activities began even before the official programme, with a full pre-Indaba weekend that set the tone for the week ahead.

Fellows Lunch



We began with our Fellows Lunch — an afternoon marked by conversation, networking, and exceptional wine. And a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with colleagues.

You can read more about this later in the newsletter. If you didn't receive the invitation this year, please check that your contact details are up to date on the GSSA website so you don't miss future events.

Celebrating the Mining and Wine Sectors



On the Saturday evening, we endorsed the inaugural Mine, Wine & Dine Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony at the Mount Nelson Hotel. The event celebrated excellence — honouring the trailblazers shaping Africa's mining industry while also showcasing the remarkable craftsmanship of South Africa's wine sector.

With 18 leading South African winemakers presenting their finest selections, paired with a four-course dining experience and complemented by live entertainment, the evening was both elegant and memorable.

More importantly, it highlighted the power of collaboration — between sectors, between leaders, and across our continent.

It was a privilege to represent the GSSA at this landmark event and to celebrate alongside industry leaders who continue to drive innovation, excellence, and sustainable impact across Africa.

SAIMM GSSA Breakfast

SAIMM and the GSSA co-hosted a breakfast, featuring Dr Jeannette McGill, one of South Africa's pioneers in mining, science and exploration, and a past president of the GSSA.

In her keynote address, "From 4km underground to 8km above: A Leadership Journey," she shared her story spanning from the deepest operational mines on Earth to the summit of the world's highest mountain, highlighting resilience, technical mastery, and leadership under extreme conditions.



For those who were unable to attend, the session was recorded and is available to view. I am also pleased to share that our podcasts are now accessible via the GSSA YouTube channel, making it easier than ever to listen to our content.

Young Leaders in Mining Programme

We concluded the Indaba week on a high note with the Speed Mentoring session as part of the Young Leaders in Mining Programme. This initiative provided a platform to engage directly with emerging professionals and reaffirm the importance of accessible leadership within our sector.

Mentorship isn't optional — it's fundamental to building a resilient, future-ready mining industry. As established professionals, we have a responsibility to ensure continuity, transfer knowledge, and inspire the next generation to lead with integrity and vision.



CGS Strategy Planning Session

Beyond the Mining Indaba, we also engaged at a national strategic level at the Council for Geoscience (CGS) Strategy Planning session alongside the National Research Foundation (NRF), DSTI-NRF CIMERA and the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR). Dr Tania Marshall presented on the foundational strategies that the GSSA and CGS might establish to advance the geosciences. Her contribution considered the current geopolitical landscape and its implications for research, collaboration, resource security, and technological development.

This engagement reinforced just how important it is for professional bodies, research institutions, and government to stay connected and work together — ensuring that South Africa's geoscience community remains globally competitive and moving forward with a common vision.

February reminded us that while Mining Indaba is a focal point, the real value lies in the connections we foster, the partnerships we strengthen, and the leaders we help shape for tomorrow.

THE GSSA : WHO WE ARE

The backbone of the organisation



Tania Marshall
Executive Manager

The Executive Manager is the chief cook-and-bottle-washer at the GSSA – the person who keeps everything moving forward with purpose and who is responsible for overseeing strategic, developmental, and financial decisions, establishing goals, implementing policies, and generally contributing to the overall success of the Society. From supporting Council and guiding the day-to-day operations to nurturing partnerships and championing the growth and transformation of the geosciences, the role is all about connection and stewardship. It's a blend of leadership, service, and community-building, ensuring that the GSSA remains a vibrant, credible, and welcoming home for geoscientists across South Africa and beyond. I am based on the East Rand (Ekurhuleni), central between the airport, the university and Sandton. I have a younger brother who lives on an island in the Caribbean, managing a holiday resort. When I am not doing GSSA stuff, I run a dog school, focussed on domestic obedience and agility/hoopers.

Fun questions:

- **Something people often come to me for**

To have an objective, second opinion or simply just to vent.

- **Something I have learned in the past year**

The older I get, the more patient I become with people who don't know any better.

GET IN TOUCH

I currently hold the position of Office Manager at the GSSA, where I support daily operations and help keep the organisation running smoothly. I'm based in Midrand and work closely with staff, partners, and suppliers to ensure effective communication, coordination, and administration. I'm grateful for my husband and two daughters, who make life beautiful. Outside of work, I enjoy spiritual practices that keep me grounded, along with cooking, and gardening, I'm also a vegetarian, guided by love and respect for all living beings.

Fun questions:

- **One small routine that makes my day run better:** beginning my morning with gratitude a short meditation and then tackle the day.
- **Early starter or slow warm-up:** definitely an early starter - mornings are my most productive time.

GET IN TOUCH



Lully Govender
Office Manager

THE GSSA : WHO WE ARE

The backbone of the organisation



Marliese Olivier

Financial Admin

I am the financial administrator for the GSSA. I have been with the GSSA since 2007, contributing to 26 years of growth, dedication, and commitment to the organisation. Over the years, I have seen the GSSA grow and prosper, and it has been deeply rewarding to be part of that journey. I oversee the financial administration of the GSSA's main account, along with all affiliated branches and divisions. I manage all income and expenditure, oversee investment accounts, prepare salaries, and ensure that all financial returns are completed accurately and on time. Outside of my professional responsibilities, I have been married to the most wonderful man for more than 35 years. We live in a small town along the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast, where I enjoy swimming, reading, and crocheting whenever I have the chance to unwind.

Fun questions:

- **One small routine that makes my day run better**

My day starts with a delightful cup of coffee, locally grown at a coffee farm.

- **Something I have learned in the past year**

Life still continues to flow even going through one of life's hardest challenges.

GET IN TOUCH



Kate James-Kleynhans

Admin Assistant

I'm the Administrative Assistant at GSSA — although, like most of us, I wear far more hats than my title suggests. From event planning and sponsorship liaison to spreadsheets, media moderation, and now managing the membership portfolio, I'm usually the person you'll chat to about certificates, membership queries, or event photos. I'm based in Somerset West and thrive on keeping all the moving parts running smoothly. At home, life is busy and loud in the best way — my husband Peter and our two boys, Leonard and Theodore, keep things lively (and occasionally audible on calls). When I'm not working, I'm creating: I'm a digital and multimedia artist, Twitch streamer, and enthusiastic collector of hands-on hobbies — from sewing and preserving to writing children's books and collecting rocks and minerals. I like staying curious and creative.

Fun questions:

- **Something people often come to me for**

Mostly its food, or juice but I've somehow become the person to ask about anything tech related or if something needs to be moved or fixed.

- **Early starter or a slow-and-steady warm-up**

It depends on the day. I like a slow start but 80% of the time I'm up and at full steam.

GET IN TOUCH

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE CPD MODULE IS OPERATIONAL



It has been a long wait (thank you for your patience) but is finally here and we hope that you find that it has been worth it.

- The CPD Module can be accessed from the CPD Home Page or from the Members Dashboard (or click on the little icon next to Dashboard), but you must be logged in. - <https://www.gssa.org.za/cpd>
- The process is self-explanatory, but please contact us at info@gssa.org.za if you have any difficulties.
- There are various pdf help files and voice notes to assist you to navigate the process.
- Please log in and update your personal details before proceeding to upload your CPD activities. This is important to ensure that you have your correct details on the downloadable reports and that the CPD cycles are calculated correctly.
- Two reports can be downloaded; the one is a summary of your CPD activity over the period of the current SACNASP cycle (this is the one that you will upload annually to the SACNASP site to verify your CPD status); the second is a complete listing of your entire historical CPD activity. You can download this in a (PDF) report that can be attached to a CV. This includes all your previous CPD activity - nothing has been lost in the website upgrade.
- A reminder that SACNASP requires that a CPD report be uploaded by 1 April 2026.

Please join us for our annual presentation on CPD on 17 March to learn more about CPD and how to log your credits with both the GSSA and/or SACNASP.

Tania Marshall
Executive Manager

Register Now



GSSA 126TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16th July 2026



The GSSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) is one of the most important moments in our Society’s calendar. It is the space where members come together to reflect on the year’s progress, uphold the principles of transparency and accountability, and collectively shape the future of the organisation. The AGM is not just a procedural requirement—it is a vital expression of our shared commitment to good governance, scientific excellence, and the long-term health of the geoscience community in South Africa.

By attending, members ensure their voices are heard in decisions that affect the Society’s direction, leadership, and priorities. It is an opportunity to engage directly with Council, ask questions, celebrate achievements, and contribute to the transformation and strengthening of the GSSA. Your presence reinforces the legitimacy of the Society’s mandate and helps safeguard its integrity, credibility, and relevance.

It has been many years since we last held an in-person AGM – before Covid 19 turned all our lives upside down. In many ways, the move to videoconferencing has greatly improved our ability to attend events that we might not have been able to previously. It certainly made life better not having to deal with Joburg traffic at 16.30. However, as efficient as digital platforms are, they can never fully replicate the depth, spontaneity, and trust that emerge when people share a physical space. Face-to-face conversations allow for richer communication, stronger relationship-building, and the kind of informal exchanges that spark collaboration and mentorship. Being in the same room creates opportunities for genuine connection—reading body language, sharing enthusiasm, and forming bonds that simply don’t translate through a screen. In-person events anchor our professional communities, reminding us that behind every email or virtual meeting is a human being with experiences, insights, and stories worth hearing.

We would encourage you as a member of the GSSA to make the trip to the Johannesburg Country Club (Auckland Park Campus) to join us for the AGM on the 16th of July 2026.

This year, the AGM will follow on from an in-person event (“Essential Skills for Geoscientists”) especially focussed on students, recent graduates and early-career professionals. The delegates to this event will be invited to stay and join the AGM, not only to learn more about how the GSSA operates, but also to network with members.

One of the most valuable aspects of the GSSA AGM is the opportunity for our senior members to connect with students and early-career geoscientists. These intergenerational conversations are where experience meets fresh perspective, where decades of field wisdom, professional networks, and institutional memory can be shared with those just beginning their journey. When older members take the time to engage with younger colleagues, they help cultivate confidence, mentorship pathways, and a sense of belonging that strengthens the future of the profession.

When members show up, the GSSA grows stronger.

Bookmark Thursday 16th July to attend the GSSA's 126th AGM at the Johannesburg Country Club (Auckland Park). There is no cost to attending the AGM, but registration is essential for catering purposes.

(Videoconferencing facilities will be made available to members who are unable to travel to attend in person)

Register Now





4 March | Online - Free Event

**From Rocks to Revenue : Entrepreneurship
Innovation and Startups in Geoscience**

[More Info & Registration](#)



10 March | Jhb Country Club

Financial Literacy for Geoscientists

[More Info & Registration](#)



17 March | Online - Free Event

**Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
Workshop**

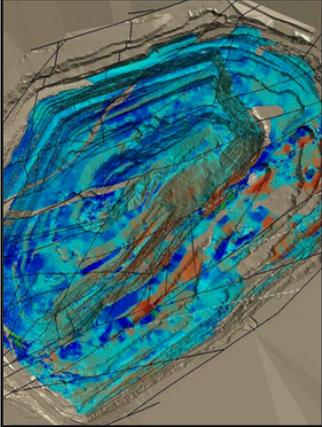
[More Info & Registration](#)



18 March | Online

Geotech for Geologists

[More Info & Registration](#)



10 April | Online

3D Geological Modelling

[More Info & Registration](#)



8 - 22 April

Alex du Toit Memorial Lectures - **Robyn Pickering**

[More Info & Registration](#)



24 June | Online

AI in Geology - Call for Speakers

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

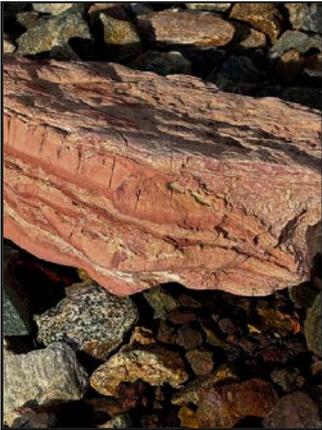


16 July | Jhb Country Club | Online Zoom

126th GSSA Annual General Meeting

FREE Event, but registration is essential for catering

[Registration](#)



16 July | Jhb Country Club

**Beyond the Rocks : Essential Skills
for Geoscientists**

[More Info & Registration](#)



4 August

**A Complete Course in Drilling, Sample Handling
and Result Interpretation**

[SAVE THE DATE](#)



August | TBC

Mineral Resource Mastery



8 September | Online - Free Event

Professionalism & Code of Ethics

[More info & Registration](#)



Anytime | Online

Drilling Methods & Techniques in Resource Exploration

[More Info & Registration](#)



Fossils by Firelight - Podcasts

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.

[Listen here](#)

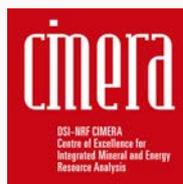


Sponsorship Opportunities

Partner With Us

[More info & Sponsor Form](#)

Annual Sponsors



2026 GSSA Branches & Divisions



Northern Cape Branch

17 - 18 April
Championing Copper

Registration



MINSA

5 September | Origin Centre - Wits
6th Southern African Mineral Symposium

First Circular & Registration



**2026 GOLD
PRESENTATION SERIES**
5 March - 9 April

More information

One hundred years ago, a diamond was picked up whilst digging a sheep dip on portion Elandsputte of the farm Uitgevonden, 20 km north of Lichtenburg. This discovery developed into the largest secondary diamond deposit in South Africa by far, surpassing the Lower Vaal, the Middle and Lower Orange, the Buffels Rivers, and the Schweizer Reneke/Wolmaransstad/ Bloemhof triangle. Early on it became the scene of some of the largest pegging rushes in the history of the mining business.

By 1926, the population on the diggings swelled to over 100,000. Many of these people lived in a new town called Bakerville. The Department of Mines opened a branch in Bakerville in order to process nearly 30,000 licences per month but also had to deal with issues like illicit diamonds. The few remains of Bakerville are still occupied and the office of the Department of Mines is still standing.

The Lichtenburg and Ventersdorp fields produced nearly 40% of the carats produced as alluvial diamonds in South Africa. Just three farms in the Lichtenburg field alone produced nearly 30% or 6 Mcts of South Africa's alluvial production, which now stands at just over 21 Mcts. Admittedly, the value of the diamonds of those three farms is almost one third to that of the rest of the Lichtenburg/Ventersdorp field. The gravels appear as linear ribbons or 'runs' and contain some unusual 'potholes', also referred to as 'sinkholes', as well as some deep narrow 'fissures' filled with high-grade poorly sorted sediments.

Since the discovery, some of the country's foremost geologists like Alex Du Toit, Harold Harger, David Draper, Percy Wagner, Beetz, Alpheus Williams, Tom Stratton, have debated both the geological model of these deposits and the source of the diamonds. Although ideas were generated and debated, only Du Toit managed to document his findings of these immature gravels in some detail. More recently and based on new data, a model involving the Dwyka glaciation seems to align more convincingly with field observations.

Several suggestions were made about the source of the diamonds, ranging from Botswana, Swartruggens, to Limpopo. What has been shown is that there are two diamond populations: a regional good-quality population of low grade and a locally occurring poor-quality diamonds in high grade concentrations.

The Lichtenburg100 conference will focus on these technical aspects that include the successful application of geophysics in this complex terrain, aspects of the diamonds, an updated geological model, and its place in a more regional setting. The geoheritage aspect of this now almost forgotten part of our diamond heritage will be covered both during the talks and in the field.



This is not a typical alluvial deposit, so why don't you come and listen to some of the experts in the fields of geophysics, diamonds, alluvial geology and geoheritage, and also spend a weekend walking some of very unusual sites?

10th - 11th September: conference at the Council of Geoscience in Pretoria

- Teas/coffees and lunch will be provided.
- Five key note speakers will present on their areas of expertise:
 - Ingrid Chinn** - Lichtenburg Diamonds
 - Khodani Matshusa** - Geoheritage
 - Edgar Stettler** - Geophysics
 - John Ward** - Regional setting
 - Mike de Wit** - Geological model
- Talks and posters are invited to present on these deposits or any alluvial deposit in the region or elsewhere.
- Please send a title and short abstract for a presentation or poster to dewit@icon.co.za by the 30th April 2026. Talks will be 20 minutes with 5 minutes for questions.
- Students are encouraged to attend, and some financial assistance will be provided.

12th - 13th September: field visit to Lichtenburg (Guides: M de Wit, J Ward, T Marshall)

- We will depart on 12th (Saturday) September from the offices CGS in Pretoria. Transport will be by your own vehicle, but a small bus will be provided to transport the students.
- A braai will be arranged for the late afternoon of the 12th (included in the registration price).
- Accommodation for the evening of the 12th will be in Lichtenburg and for your own account. Recommended places to stay include Scott's Manor or Little Dreams. An update on other suggested places to stay will be provided in due course.

Register Now 

READ MORE 

CAPE FELLOWS LUNCH

7 FEBRUARY 2026

As part of the pre-Indaba events, the Fellows Committee was pleased to host the second (in a new series) Cape-based Fellows lunch on the 7th of February. It should be noted that a number of the attendees were not Cape based at all, including one all the way from Harare, and clearly the lure of lunch, wine and networking in beautiful surrounds was too much to resist!

The lunch was held at Jakes, Noordhoek and featured Bloupunt Wines with a talk provided by Nicky Cowper, chief winemaker, who took us through her ethos of wine making and the structure of the different wines. The event also marked the formal departure of Craig Smith as GSSA Executive Manager, who was thanked for his contribution to the GSSA and presented with a commemorative plaque.

Thanks to Kate James-Kleynhans for her fanning abilities as well as wrestling the GSSA banners into submission and to Annegret Lombard for the labels so that we all knew who was who in the gathering!

Cecilia and Josh Hattingh, Rock and Stock Investments (Pty) Ltd, are gratefully acknowledged for their sponsorship of the event as well as the coveted gift of rock hammer keyrings!

Louise Coney, GSSA Fellows Chair



CAPE FELLOWS LUNCH

7 FEBRUARY 2026





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



2026 COACHING SESSIONS

PETRO DU PISANI

An executive coach, advanced change practitioner, and experienced mining professional. Petro brings a rare blend of deep technical expertise, executive leadership experience, and human-centred coaching.



24 MARCH 2026

Designing Your Career on Purpose

23 APRIL 2026

Navigating Power, Politics and Influence

21 MAY 2026

Building a Career You Don't Need to Recover From



Online Zoom

[More information & Registration](#)



GSSA
Geological Society of South Africa

FOSSILS BY FIRELIGHT

Welcome to 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.

PODCASTS

The next Fossils by Firelight podcast is live! Listen to Dr. Jeannette McGill GAICD talking about "30 years to Everest - Decisions, setbacks and staying power". In this inspiring talk, Jeanette shares the 30-year journey behind her summit of Mount Everest which was a dream that began as a quiet "one-day" goal and evolved into a test of resilience, commitment, and courage.

From pioneering roles in the mining and technology sectors to multiple attempts on the world's highest peak, she reflects on setbacks, turning back when it mattered most, and the discipline of consistent preparation. More than a story about climbing Everest, this is a powerful reminder that extraordinary achievements are built through daily commitment, calculated risk, and the willingness to begin, even when success isn't guaranteed.

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geobulletin
QUARTERLY NEWS BULLETIN - DECEMBER 2025

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2026 Rates & Submission Form

news

- Where are the young explorers?
- Farewell to Craig Smith
- Migmatites of northern Namaqualand
- Tsumeb Mine calcite

SAMCODES



SNIPPETS

New Incoming SSC Chair - Joseph Mainama



The incoming Chair of the SAMCODES Standards Committee (SSC) is Joseph Mainama. Joseph is a Partner and Principal Mining Engineer at SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd with more than 29 years of experience in the field of mining engineering. His areas of specialisation includes mining studies from scoping to feasibility level of study across various commodities, project management during upstream and implementation phases, mine operations management, due diligence, project reviews and close-outs, competent person's reports, independent technical reviews, Mineral Resource and Mineral/Ore Reserve audits as well as mine optimisation studies. His professional background includes a wide range of commodities, including diamonds, copper, gold, volcanogenic massive sulphides, manganese, Platinum Group Metals and chrome deposits.

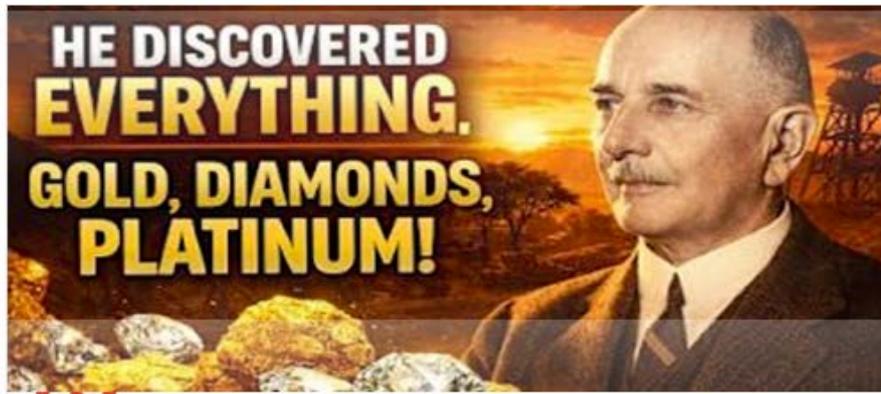
Strategic Imperatives and Focus Areas for the Chairperson of the SAMCODES Standards Committee for 2026-2028

The SAMCODES Standards Committee (SSC) remains committed to safeguarding the interests of shareholders and stakeholders alike, guided by the foundational principles of competence, transparency, and materiality that underpin the Codes. The workstreams within the SSC and its associated committees will continue to benefit from the strength of their leadership, the dedication of their members, and the technical excellence that has defined their efforts to date.

The continuous review and updating of the Codes is essential to ensure their ongoing relevance within an evolving minerals industry. The SSC will continue to support and strengthen its committees to ensure that their mandates are executed effectively and efficiently. The development of the SAMESG Guidelines is at an advanced stage and is expected to be finalised in the near future.

Collaboration, both locally and internationally, remains a crucial focus area. Strategic liaison, marketing, training and upskilling initiatives, the dissemination of technical excellence, and the promotion of awareness and compliance with the Codes are central to fulfilling the SSC's mandate.

[READ MORE >>](#)



The German Who Discovered South Africa's Riches: Hans Merensky



<https://lipidc9.sciencesconf.org/>

**Ancient to Recent
Source to Resource**

Exploring LIPs and Dyke Swarms

Large Igneous Provinces (LIPs 9) - International Dyke Conference (IDC 9)
Hosted by **Deedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT)** in Nyeri, Kenya

Key events:

Pre-conference field trip (26 July - 1 August)
Equatorial geotour from Kigali, through Uganda, to Nyeri (K-FP-N on map)

Main conference at DeKUT (3-7 August, 2026)

Mid-conference field trip (5 August)
Mount Kenya (Δ on map)

Post-conference field trip (8-11 August)
Kenya Rift valley geotourism and safari (R on map)

Local contacts Prof N. Mariita (DeKUT); Dr M.B. Klausen (RSA)
(among others) nicholas.mariita@dkut.ac.ke; klausen@sun.ac.za