

Promoting the study and advancement of Earth Sciences since 1895

**GEOHERITAGE  
MEET AND GREET  
19 MAY 2026 | ONLINE ZOOM**



**REGISTER NOW**  
WWW.GSSA.ORG.ZA



## GSSA WhatsApp Channel

The GSSA has a new WhatsApp channel - we encourage anyone to join who has an interest in anything Geoscience.

The channel is for members of the GSSA, friends of the GSSA, members of the public, geoscience students, and learners who would like to know more about the importance of Geoscience in our daily lives.

<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VbCbVL74Crfo7NNz1O2o>

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- WhatsApp Channel
- GSSA AGM
- Rising Star Spotlight
- Alex du Toit Photos
- SnapScan Now Available
- GSSA AGM - 16 July 2026
- 2026 Alex du Toit Lectures
- NCape Branch Copper Event
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- Upcoming Events
- 2027 Geocongress
- GSSA REI FUND
- Samcodes Snippets
- Lexicography MINSAs
- Antarctic Opportunity MSC
- SA Career Guide - Gauteng





## INVITATION

# GSSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Geological Society of South Africa cordially invites all members to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 16 July 2026. The AGM will be held in hybrid format, in person at the Johannesburg Country Club (Auckland Park) and online (zoom), allowing wider participation.

The AGM provides an important opportunity for members to participate in the governance and future direction of the Society. During the meeting, reports on the Society's activities, achievements, and financial standing will be presented, and members will have the opportunity to engage in discussions, contribute ideas, and help shape upcoming initiatives.

Attendance is free however registration is required for catering purposes.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



## THE RISING STAR SPOTLIGHT

The GSSA is implementing a new series for our monthly Newsletter – the Rising Star Spotlight. This is where we showcase the achievements of our members (and others in the geoscience/earth science) fields.

We would like you to send us 200-250 words and a photo of someone that you would like to see acknowledged for whatever reason. You may also highlight something that you are doing that is newsworthy – Don't be shy! Things such as new jobs, promotions, just completed your degree, started a new research project, achieved a new sales target, launched a new product – the things that you think are ordinary, other people see as an achievement and can, perhaps encourage them to do as well.

This is open to students, academics, company employees, sponsors, service companies and interested parties. If you or your company has a link to the geosciences/earth sciences, we want to hear from you. Please send the information to us in WORD format with an accompanying hi-res image by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Please submit to Lully Govender - [info@gssa.org.za](mailto:info@gssa.org.za)

# Star SPOTLIGHT



## Dr. Itumeleng Matlala

is a Geology Lecturer at Sol Plaatje University, where she joined the newly established Department of Geology in March 2026.



She recently completed her PhD in Geology at the University of Johannesburg under the supervision of Prof. Nicola Wagner and Dr. Marvin Moroeng. Her doctoral research focused on the Macromolecular structural characterization of Highveld coals (South Africa), with a consideration of the influence of the depositional environment on coal beneficiation. This work has resulted in two publications in international peer-reviewed journals. In addition, Dr. Matlala travelled to Greece and Mongolia to present at international conferences, where in the former she won the best presenter award. Dr. Matlala further adds that she is one of the few accredited organic petrologists in Africa, and this was not possible without Prof. Nicola Wagner's mentorship.

Beyond her academic research, she has been actively involved in scientific leadership and student development. She served as Student Chairperson of The Society of Organic Petrology (TSOP), where she participated in planning and coordination of the first virtual international TSOP Student Conference, held from 13 to 15 April 2026, bringing together MSc and PhD students worldwide.

In addition, she is part of COALTECH Youth Innovation Council leaders, where she is serving as the Marketing Lead, contributing to initiatives that promote innovation and collaboration within the coal research and energy sectors.



*She personally thanks*

**Prof. Nicola Wagner and Dr. Marvin Moroeng**

*for their huge contribution to her coal research journey.*

# ALEX DU TOIT LECTURES

The 2026 Alex Du Toit memorial lecture series was presented by Associate Professor Robyn Pickering (University of Cape Town) between the 8th and 22nd of April.

This year, the lecture series took place in Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Gaborone, Durban and Gqeberha. Assoc. Prof. Pickering presented a talk entitled “Early humans and hydrology: the geology and dating of the last 3 million years of southern Africa.”



# Star SPOTLIGHT



## Cilliers Marais

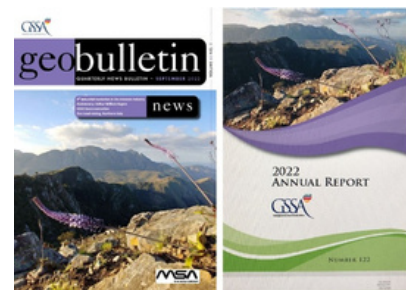
Professional Geologist  
Terra Mineral Solutions



### Nominated by James Winch

We first met at the Africa Exploration Showcase in 2019, which he attended as a Student in his final Honours year of study specifically so that he could a) get exposure to the industry he would soon be joining and b) engage with people who could help him develop in the profession. It was in the latter regard that he took the initiative of introducing himself to various Project Geologists at the session, and upon learning that he was a mature student who was pursuing Geology as a second career after 10 years in another profession, I realized that he was a determined and driven emerging Geologist, passionate about the discipline, who would be a privilege to mentor. Subsequently, we undertook an orientation field trip to the Mholapitsi Fold Belt for his Honours Thesis fieldwork in 2020 where, as an avid Natural Scientist, he took a photograph at the crest of the Escarpment at Lekgalameetse that earned him the GSSA's 'Best Geological Photo' prize, that has subsequently been used as the cover image of both the GeoBulletin, and the GSSA Annual Report.

Upon graduating, Cilliers has pursued the practical and commercial application of his second career with the enthusiasm and diligence of one who has had the good fortune of finding their true calling. His summary Bio on LinkedIn is a true and appropriate description of who Cilliers is now and what he is striving to attain: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/cilliers-marais-87b29676>



# SNAPSCAN AND ONLINE CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

---

We are pleased to inform members that SnapScan is now available as a payment option, along with online credit card payments via the GSSA website.

These facilities may be used for membership fees and event payments, offering a convenient and secure way to make payments.



Snap here to pay



**SnapScan**



**GSSA WEBSITE ONLINE PAYMENTS**

# GSSA NORTHERN CAPE BRANCH COPPER EVENT - 17 & 18 APRIL 2026

The event was an inspiring two-day technical and field event exploring the geology, mineral systems, and legacy of the Northern Cape Copper Region.

- Day 1 - Technical Sessions  
Regional geology, copper and base metals mineralisation, geophysics, geometallurgy, and processing – featuring insights from leading geoscientists and industry professionals.
- Day 2 - Field excursions  
A guided field visit connecting regional geology with historic mining operations in one of South Africa's most iconic copper districts.

This event brought together around 50 delegates with a mixture of professionals, students, and industry leaders to celebrate and examine the geology that continues to shape South Africa's mineral future with esteemed knowledgeable speakers.



# Star SPOTLIGHT



## Jacques Nel

Professional Geologist  
Maptek



Jacques Nel has been appointed as the Vice Chair (GSSA representative) on the SAMCODES Standards Committee (SSC). The SSC is the professional body that develops, maintains, administers, and promotes the South African Mineral Codes, collectively known as the SAMCODES.

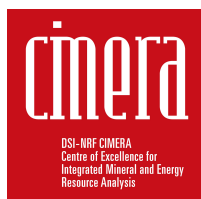
Jacques is a geologist and Senior Customer Development Consultant at Maptek South Africa, with over two decades of experience across exploration, mining, and consulting. He holds an Honours degree in Geology from the University of Johannesburg (2004), is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), and is currently a candidate Master of Civil Engineering (Geotechnical).

Jacques began his career as an exploration geologist at Sasol Mining, where he developed a strong foundation in coal exploration. He later expanded his experience across Southern Africa as a Project Geologist with BHP Billiton, working on a range of exploration projects. His operational expertise was further strengthened during his tenure as Divisional Geologist at Middlebult Colliery, where he gained valuable underground mining experience. For the past 13 years, Jacques has worked as a mining consultant, specialising in geological modelling, resource estimation, process optimisation, and mining software solutions. In his current role, he supports clients in unlocking value through integrated digital workflows and advanced mining technologies.

Committed to professional development and industry advancement, Jacques has been an active member of the SAMREC Committee since 2013. He is also a Council Member and Fellow of the Geological Society of South Africa and has contributed to multiple initiatives within the SAMCODES Standards Committee.

# 2026 ANNUAL SPONSORS

ACQUIRE



## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



**SAVE THE DATE**

The University of KwaZulu-Natal cordially invites you to GeoCongress 2027, hosted on the golden sands of the KwaZulu-Natal coastline. This year's theme looks to the future with lessons from the geological past in **"Unravelling the Past for a Sustainable Future"**. Please set aside the **29<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2027** for a meeting to remember.

**29 June - 2 July 2027** UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU NATAL

2026  
UPCOMING EVENTS



REGISTER NOW

[WWW.GSSA.ORG.ZA](http://WWW.GSSA.ORG.ZA)

## The Research, Education and Investment (REI) Fund of the GSSA

The Research, Education and Investment Fund (REI Fund) of the GSSA serves as an investment mechanism for funds bequeathed or donated to the GSSA as well as generated by GSSA activities. Its main function is to promote and support research and education in the earth sciences performed by its members as well as activities initiated by Council, its Divisions, Committees and Branches.

The funds currently residing in the REI Fund date back to 1983 when the Society received a bequest from the estate of Alfred Frost, Consulting Geologist at Union Corporation and president of the Society in 1947. This bequest prompted Felix Mendelsohn and John Handley, long-standing Council members to establish the GSSA Trust Fund shortly afterwards. Bequests and donations made to the GSSA since 1983 led to the establishment of several funds within the REI Fund i.e. the Alfred Frost, Andrew Geddes Bain, Lesley Kent, FIMA (Foreign Investment and Mining Association) and John Handley Funds. Donations or bequests to the Society are most welcome. Anyone interested to support the Society in this way should complete this form <https://www.cognitoforms.com/GeologicalSocietyOfSouthAfrica/DonationsAndBequests>

Through the years funds generated by the GSSA through for example, conferences and courses, were also channelled to the GSSA Trust. These funds were invested with different institutions and Fund Managers and have grown substantially over the years and currently exceed R9 million. In 2004 the name GSSA Trust Fund was changed to the REI Fund. The REI Fund is managed by a Committee appointed by Council assisted by professional investment advisors. The REI Fund Committee operates independently from Council but decisions are required to be ratified by Council.

Initially, the funds were primarily used to support activities and projects initiated by Council such as Geocongress, Alex du Toit Memorial lectures; compilation and printing of books on South African geology and its history, such as the textbook on South African geology "The Geology of South Africa", and "A Century of Geological Endeavour in Southern Africa 1895-1995" in which the first 100 years of the GSSA is documented and; annual awards such as the Draper, Jubilee and Corstorphine Medals, as well as the John Handley and Des Pretorius awards. For the last approximately 20 years a substantial amount is spent annually on grants awarded to members for a variety of earth science research costs and to projects that promote earth science awareness initiated by members or the Society.

### **How to apply for financial support from the REI Fund**

The REI Fund annually invites applications from members in good standing of the GSSA, including post-graduate student members for grants in support of a variety of earth science research costs including field and analytical costs, local and international conference attendance and publication costs. Applications must be on the prescribed application form, which is available on the GSSA web site : <https://www.gssa.org.za/funding>) or via

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/GeologicalSocietyOfSouthAfrica/researcheducationandinvestmentfund>.

**Submissions are to be received by the Society not later than 31 January of each year.**

### **Supporting information required with each application includes:**

- a short description of the project,
- brief motivation of the research or purpose for which funding is requested,
- a budget describing how funds will be used, and
- a letter of support from research supervisor (in cases where the applicants are post-graduate students at South African universities).

### **Who qualifies for support?**

- Any member in good standing, including post-graduate Student members, Fellows and Retired members of the Society,
- Student members must have been an accepted Student member of the Society for at least one year at the time of application,
- Student members must be enrolled full time at a South African university,
- Applications from current Student members with a PhD qualification (i.e. post-doc students) are not accepted unless the applicant has applied for transfer to, or is registered as, a Corporate Member in good standing of the Society.

### **Costs at Higher Education Institutions related to the following are not supported**

- Expenses related to annual University registration
- Tuition and accommodation fees
- Text books
- Laboratory equipment

### **Evaluation of applications**

- All applications are normally screened during February/March each year by the REI Fund Committee with input and ratification from the GSSA Management Committee and Council respectively,
- The merit of each application is considered by the Committee who makes a final decision on each application, the number of grants allocated, and the amount awarded to each approved application for that year,
- An amount of R25 000 per application is used as a guideline when evaluating applications, but well-motivated applications for larger amounts are also welcome.
- The total amount approved annually varies but depends largely on the financial performance of the investments during the previous year as well as the number and quality of applications received in that year,
- Decisions made by the Committee on each application are final and no further correspondence on the decisions are entertained,
- The Committee may attach conditions to their approval of individual applications,
- By following this procedure, it is anticipated that applicants will be informed during March whether or not their applications have been successful.

# Star SPOTLIGHT

## Katherine James - Kleynhans

Administrator  
**GSSA**



Once or twice a year Kate gives the Grade 1 learners at a local school in Somerset West an introduction to the wonders of geology. Obviously very basic and focussing on tactile experiences, this lesson is meant to open the minds of budding geoscientists (and encourages them to go out and collect rocks).

Kate is the bubbly personality behind the administration and membership portfolios at the GSSA. She also sits on the Sponsorship Committee where she is one of the main liaisons with our sponsors and exhibitors (along with Loni Gallant, the VP for Marketing & Sponsorship). You will often find Kate assisting with registrations at some of the in-person events (as does Lully Govender, the GSSA's Office Manager).

SAMCODES



SNIPPETS

## The Makeup of the SSC

The SAMCODES Standards Committee (SSC) is comprised of 12 different and varied organisations, including the two patrons, the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) and the Southern African Institute of Mining & Metallurgy (SAIMM). In addition to these organisations, ECSA, FSCA and SACNASP have observer status on the committee. Further, the chairs of the SAMREC, SAMVAL, SAMOG and SAMESG committees also sit on the SSC.

### Organisations comprising the SSC (2026)

Council for Geoscience (CGS)  
Department of Mineral Resources & Energy (DMRE)  
Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA)  
Geostatistical Society of South Africa (GASA)  
Investment Analysts Society of South Africa (IASSA)  
Institute of Mine Surveyors of South Africa (IMSSA)  
JSE Limited (including the Chairs of the Readers Panels)  
Law Society of South Africa (LSSA)  
Mineral Council of South Africa (MINCOSA)  
South African Geomatics Council (SAGC)  
South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA)  
Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM)  
Chairpersons of all Code Committees  
Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA)  
Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA)  
South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP)

The wide variety of input provided by these different organisations results in a committee that is able to provide a range of expertise. Over the next few months, we will look briefly at each of these organisations with a view to understanding how they support the SSC and the SAMCODES generally.

READ MORE >>



## **GEOSCIENCE FOR ALL: TRANSLATIONS AND COLLATION OF A GEOSCIENCE WORD BANK IN SOUTH AFRICA'S ELEVEN SPOKEN NATIONAL LANGUAGES.**

---

The Mineralogical Association of South Africa (MinSA) is proud to announce the successful completion of a pioneering lexicography exercise that has collated geoscience terminology across South Africa's eleven spoken national languages.

The project, funded by the 35th International Geological Congress (IGC) Legacy Fund, represents a major step toward inclusivity and accessibility in the Earth sciences. It brings together specialised vocabulary from the fields of mineralogy, geology, geomorphology, and related Earth sciences, uniting words that define the environment in which we live with South Africa's rich linguistic diversity.

The intervention has run over two years and started as a grass-roots initiative in which universities, professionals, and community contributors submitted words through an online survey link. The second phase relied on the involvement of a professional translation service, the Stellenbosch University Language Centre, who played a key role in the translation and verification process. The collaboration resulted in collation of almost 2000 geoscience terms being documented across the various languages. Of these, just under half were collated from existing words, whereas the other half were transliterations provided by the professional translators.

**READ MORE** 



## **MSC OPPORTUNITIES IN ANTARCTIC GEOLOGY - 2026/2027 SANAP FIELD SEASON**

---

Are you a highly motivated Geology student seeking a unique opportunity for fieldwork in Antarctica through South Africa's National Antarctic Programme (SANAP)?

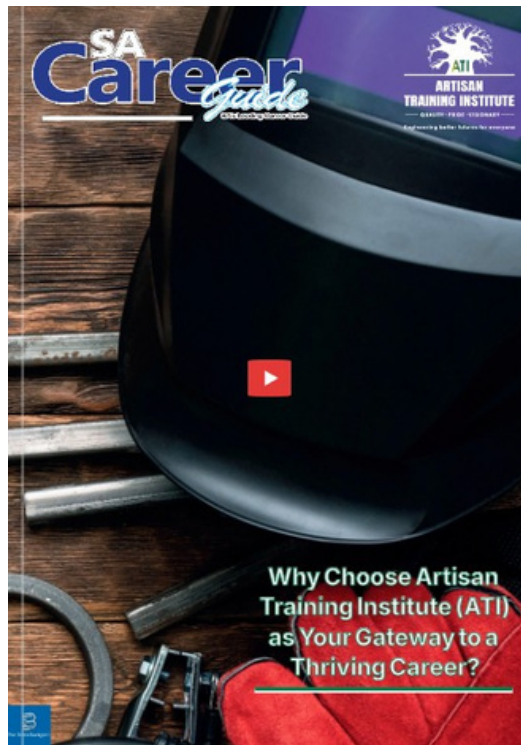
The University of Johannesburg (UJ) Department of Geology, led by Dr Herman van Niekerk (NRF-SANAP grant holder), invites applications from South African students for Master's research positions in the 2026/2027 austral summer field season.

Building on two successful previous field seasons under this grant, this is a rare chance to gain hands-on experience in polar geological research. You will contribute to ongoing geology projects, collect original samples for your MSc thesis, and work as part of a small, collaborative team.

Picture sailing aboard the SA Agulhas II across the Southern Ocean from Cape Town. On board, you'll experience life at sea while preparing for the adventure, and have the opportunity to meet and collaborate with the ship's crew, helicopter pilots, and support personnel from many different fields and occupations. You will also interact with scientists from various disciplines, ornithologists, environmental officers, engineers, and logisticians — a truly multidisciplinary experience.

You may take helicopter transfers to SANAE IV base. From there, embark on remote snowmobile traverses with loaded sledges across glaciers and ice streams, then help establish a remote field camp with tents and generators in one of Earth's most extreme environments. This is an experience of a lifetime — combining real science with unforgettable polar adventure.

**READ MORE** 



## SA CAREER GUIDE GAUTENG 2026

This fully immersive digital publication has been carefully developed to support high school learners across Gauteng in making informed decisions about their future studies and career paths. The issue is now live and actively being distributed to secondary schools across the province, where it is used as a valuable classroom resource by Life Orientation educators and learners alike.

The Gauteng edition forms part of our national distribution network, reaching thousands of schools and ensuring meaningful engagement with learners at a critical stage of their decision-making journey.

Inside this issue, readers will find:

- Career guidance and industry insights
- Featured institutions and opportunities
- Real-world career journeys through our Career Focus section
- A strong editorial emphasis on careers as a qualified artisan