

# NEWSLETTER

Promoting the study and advancement of Earth Sciences since 1895



Join the GSSA on 24 June 2026 for a CPD-accredited one-day course on AI in Geology.

This focussed program introduces core AI concepts, geoscience data readiness, and real-world applications across exploration, interpretation and decision support.

Designed for students and professionals, the course provides a practical roadmap on where to start and how to apply AI responsibly in geoscience workflows.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- AI in Geology - Register Now
- Presidents Column
- Star Spotlight - Call for Nominations
- Calendar of Events
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- GeoNext Student Zone
- GSSA Council - Call for Nominations
- SAJG & GEOBULLETIN
- Meet & Greet Webinar
- Samcodes Snippets
- The Stone Walls of Mbolompo Point
- Star Spotlight - Council Student Representatives
- MINSAs - Night at the Museum
- Snapscan payments





# NOLEEN PAULS

GSSA PRESIDENT

## MAY IN REVIEW

### NATIONAL AMREC/PARC – UNFC WORKSHOP - PRETORIA

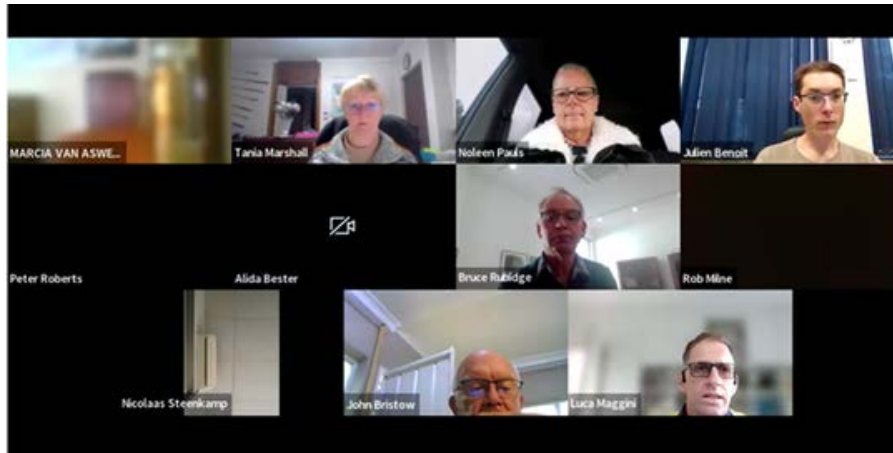
The Africa Mining Resource Classification System (AMREC) and the Pan-African Resource Classification (PARC), aligned with the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC), were presented to representatives from government, Geological Surveys, industry and academia. The workshop aimed to build understanding of AMREC/PARC-UNFC principles and their role in supporting resource management and reporting across Africa.



Dr Tania Marshall

Dr Tania Marshall was invited to discuss the similarities and differences between the AMREC/PARC systems and the CRIRSCO reporting codes.

Following a brief overview of the CRIRSCO framework, Tania demonstrated how the UNFC and AMREC systems complement CRIRSCO-aligned codes by addressing different parts of the mineral resource pipeline. UNFC/AMREC provides a useful framework for managing total resource inventories, while CRIRSCO-aligned codes, including the SAMCODES, remain the internationally accepted standard for Public Reporting for investment purposes



It has been encouraging to see growing momentum around geoheritage initiatives in the last few months.

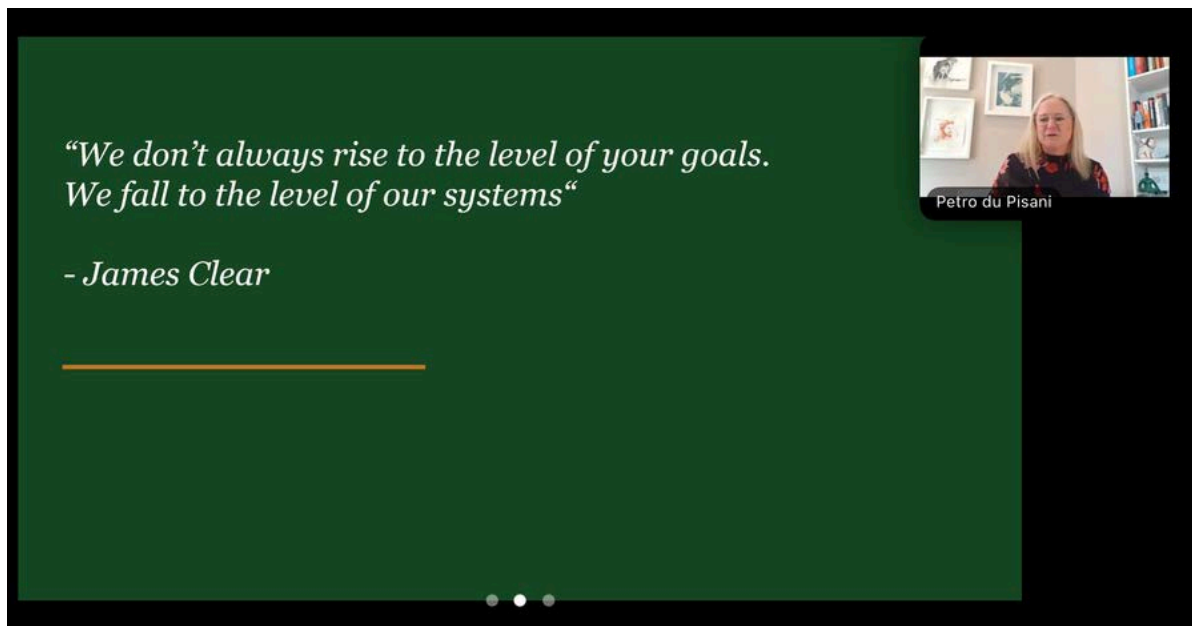
The first GSSA Geoheritage Meet and Greet Webinar brought together speakers and delegates from academia, government, the mining industry, conservation and the tourism sector to showcase ongoing and planned geoheritage activities. You can read more about this event further down in the newsletter.

One of the highlights for me was hearing Bruce Rubidge speak about the Karoo Origins Fossil Centre in Graaff-Reinet (Robert Sobukwe Town), which I had the opportunity to visit during its first birthday celebrations last month. What a little gem!

Continuing with the geoheritage theme, one of the highlights of my recent trip to Cyprus was visiting the Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark. Wandering through the geological garden and museum sparked so many ideas for our own geoheritage initiatives and the opportunities we have to further celebrate and share South Africa's remarkable geological story.



May saw the third and final coaching session by Petro du Pisani talking about a career you don't need to recover from. This session challenged us to think about sustainability before reaching a point of exhaustion or burnout. We explored the importance of managing energy, finding fulfilment in our work, setting healthy boundaries, and making thoughtful choices early on that would support longevity, wellbeing, and a sense of meaning over time. All three sessions are now on the GSSA [YouTube channel](#).



# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

## RISING STAR *Spotlight*

IN GEOLOGY & EARTH SCIENCE FIELDS



The GSSA Rising Star Spotlight honours and celebrates emerging talent making a meaningful impact in the geology and earth science fields. This initiative shines a light on individuals who demonstrate passion, innovation, leadership and a commitment to advancing our understanding of the Earth.



### OPEN TO NOMINATIONS FROM:

Students | Academics | Company Employees | Sponsors |  
Service Companies | Interested Parties



### HELP US RECOGNIZE THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS, INNOVATORS AND CHANGE MAKERS.

Nominate a Rising Star today and be part of celebrating excellence in our profession.



EMAIL YOUR NOMINATIONS TO:  
**[info@gssa.org.za](mailto:info@gssa.org.za)**

CONNECTING PEOPLE.  
SHARING KNOWLEDGE.  
SHAPING THE FUTURE.



# 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	<b>24</b> JUNE	AI in Geology
	<b>16</b> JULY	GSSA AGM
	<b>29</b> JULY	Beyond the Rocks - Essential Skills for Geoscientists
	<b>4</b> AUGUST	Field-to-Findings: A Complete Course in Drilling, Sample Handling, and Result Interpretation
	<b>AUGUST</b>	Minerals Resource Mastery
	<b>8</b> SEPTEMBER	Professionalism & Code of Ethics Workshop
	<b>10 - 13</b> SEPTEMBER	Lichtenburg 100
	<b>19 &amp; 20</b> SEPTEMBER	Structural Geology Course & Field trip
	<b>8 &amp; 9</b> OCTOBER	Data Analytics & Machine Learning
	<b>18 &amp; 19</b> NOVEMBER	African Exploration Showcase



More information and Registration [click here](#)

# Star SPOTLIGHT



## **Nomcebo Dubazana**

GSSA COUNCIL - STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
**University of Witwatersrand**



Nomcebo is an Honours student at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Having recently graduated with her BSc Geology degree, she is currently pursuing her BSc Honours in Geology. Deeply passionate about economic geology, her honours research project, focuses on Wits Gold Geoheritage and highlights her commitment to preserving South Africa's geological legacy. She is a dedicated student leader, serving as the Communications lead for the Wits Geoscience School Council and as the Geological Society of South Africa's student representative.

Through these roles, she champions for resource accessibility and professional development for her peers. As the world gears towards increased technological advancement, she is driven by a desire to integrate technical GIS expertise with sustainable mining practices, ensuring the next generation of geoscientists is both technically proficient and socially conscious.



**GEO NEXT**  
*Student Zone*  
**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS | GEOLOGY PROFESSIONALS | LECTURERS

Share your ideas, research, field experiences, insights and stories that inspire the geoscience community.

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO | [info@gssa.org.za](mailto:info@gssa.org.za) | **GSSA**  
Geological Society of South Africa

## WHY/HOW THE GSSA INVESTS IN STUDENTS AND EARLY-CAREER GEOSCIENTISTS

Supporting the next generation of geoscientists is not an optional extra for the GSSA—it is central to the Society’s long-term health and to the future of the discipline in South Africa. By providing access to high-quality YouTube learning content, mentorship opportunities, the REI Fund, and other developmental initiatives, the GSSA is actively building the professional community that will carry geoscience forward in the decades to come.

For students and early-career professionals, the transition from university into the workplace can be daunting. Many young geoscientists face limited exposure to industry practice, uneven access to professional networks, and financial barriers that restrict participation in conferences, fieldwork, or research. The GSSA’s digital resources and mentorship programmes help bridge these gaps by offering accessible learning, real-world insights, and direct connections to experienced professionals who can guide, encourage, and open doors.

Access our FREE YouTube content

<https://www.youtube.com/@geologicalsocietyofsouthaf5504>

Some of the specific playlists that you might find useful are:

- 2026 Mentorship Series with Petro du Pisani
- Coaching with Dr Sarah Babb
- Group mentorship sessions with Briony Liber

- Geoscience Careers – a look at some 17 different geoscience careers that might fit your area of interest.
- Foundations for a Geological Career – a series of lectures on many topics not covered at university, but which will assist in making you a better, more well-rounded geologist; including what geologists need to know about South African mineral law, mining, mineral processing & metallurgy, survey, engineering geology & hydrogeology (geohydrology), laboratory procedures, remote sensing, big data/database management as well as ESG issues.
- Besides a great variety of professional and technical topics for you to browse.

The REI Fund, in particular, plays a vital role in enabling young geoscientists to pursue research, attend events, and gain the kind of hands-on experience that shapes confident, capable professionals. When combined with freely available educational videos and structured mentorship, these opportunities create a powerful support system that strengthens both individual careers and the broader geoscience community. Funding through the REI Fund and the 35IGC Legacy Fund can be applied for through our website <https://www.gssa.org.za/funding>.

The GSSA also has a number of specialist divisions that appeal to different interests. Look at our website for more information on the Geoscience & Society (Geoheritage) Division, MinSA (the Mineralogical Division), Groundwater Division, and the ESG division. Two new divisions – the YGP (Young Geoscience Professionals) and the Students division have been formed specifically to help students and early career geoscientists navigate the intricacies of moving from university to industry.

Over and above specialist divisions, we have a number of active branches throughout South Africa, where you can become involved in what is happening in your area. Our most active branches are the Western Cape Branch, the Northern Cape Branch and the Uni-Ven student branch at the University of Venda. Each of these branches offer local fieldtrips, talks, symposia and also become involved in promoting community participation.

Ultimately, the GSSA's commitment to young professionals is an investment in continuity, excellence, and transformation. By equipping emerging geoscientists with knowledge, networks, and opportunities, the Society ensures that South Africa's geoscience sector remains vibrant, innovative, and inclusive. When we uplift the next generation, we secure the future of the profession itself.

**Please contact us ([info@gssa.org.za](mailto:info@gssa.org.za)) for more information and contact details.**

# Star SPOTLIGHT



## **Tharika Naicker**

GSSA COUNCIL - STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

**University of Kwazulu Natal**

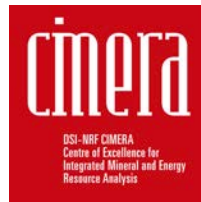


Tharika is a third-year BSc Geological Sciences student at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), with a deep passion for geology and understanding the Earth's dynamic systems. She currently serves as Deputy Secretary of the UKZN Geological Students Society (GSS), where she actively contributes to the student community, by organizing events and handling social media relations.

As qualified Toastmaster, Tharika is committed to public speaking and personal development. She has a strong passion for outreach and giving back to the community, demonstrated through her membership in the Zimbali Rotaract Club. In her personal life, she enjoys indian classical dancing, hiking, and running, keeping both her mind and body active.

# 2026 ANNUAL SPONSORS

**ACQUIRE**



When you need to be sure



## PARTNER WITH GSSA

Connect. Collaborate. Make an Impact.

Align your brand with South Africa's leading geoscience community.



## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**AVAILABLE NOW!**

Maximize your visibility. Drive real results.

### SPONSOR BENEFITS INCLUDE:

-  Brand exposure to a targeted geoscience audience
-  Recognition across GSSA events, publications & digital platforms
-  Networking with industry leaders, professionals & decision-makers
-  Position your brand as a supporter of science, innovation & education



**GET IN TOUCH TODAY!**

Contact: Loni Gallant  
lonigallant@icloud.com



## **GSSA GEOHERITAGE MEET AND GREET WEBINAR**

**VENUE: ZOOM**

**DATE: 19 MAY 2026**

---

The First GSSA Geoheritage Meet and Greet Webinar that took place on 19 May 2026, was an opportunity to gather GSSA members, academics, researchers, geoscience professionals, conservation and tourism sector, policymakers, and youth leaders. The aim of the webinar was to officially set up the GSSA Geoheritage Committee and outline its priorities and to provide a platform for conversation and collaboration on geoheritage in South Africa.

The key takeaways from the keynote address by Dr Khodani Matshusa was the official establishment of the GSSA Geoheritage Committee and expected responsibilities of the members, unveiling of the GSSA Geoscience and Society logo, strategic overview and governance of South African geoheritage, and empowerment of local communities through geoheritage. About fourteen speakers from various organisation presented their work, showing ongoing and planned activities on geoheritage. Speakers across South Africa shared current and prospective projects and activities, covering topics on the history and role of GSSA in geoscience and society, geoheritage education and outreach, geology for the people, geology training and guiding, the importance of raising awareness about geoheritage through indigenous knowledge and history in geoheritage, role of students in raising promoting geoheritage, geological sites of international significance South Africa, preservation of paleontological and cultural heritage, hydro geoheritage, and the use of technology to enhance geoheritage inventory, geoeducation and geoconservation.

The strong participation of over 100 participants and positive engagement during the open discussion session reflected the interest and need to reignite and put South African geoheritage on the global platform.

Discussions highlighted the need to enhance geoheritage research and capacity building, stakeholder collaboration, sustainable financial support, geoconservation, monitoring, and maintenance of key geoheritage sites in South Africa. The common theme among the speakers and participants emphasised the unique South African geoheritage and geotourism potential that can be a catalyst to support local economic growth in urban and rural areas.

The webinar concluded with a call for stakeholders to partner with GSSA through the geoheritage committee and also contribute organisational geoheritage profiles for the inclusion in the upcoming GSSA geoheritage organisation’s booklet. This successful first GSSA Geoheritage webinar is a major milestone towards achieving vision “geoscience for the benefit of society” of the GSSA Geoscience and Society Division.

We highly appreciate the GSSA President, Noleen Pauls and Executive Manager, Dr Tania Marshall for their support and enthusiasm on geoheritage. We sincerely thank all the speakers, partners, students, researchers and academics, private and government representatives for their support and valuable input.

Compiled by Khodani Matshusa  
 Chair: GSSA Geoscience and Society Division



# South African Geoheritage: GSSA Strategic Approach






**Fig. 3** Proposed governance model for geotourism and geoheritage sites in South African. GGRC (Geotourism and Geoheritage Research Centre); GGCC (Geotourism and Geoheritage Concept Committee);



**Call for nominations**

**GSSA**  
Geological Society of South Africa

**Nomination Form**

**GSSA Council 2026/27**

This is a **call for nominations** to serve on the GSSA Council from July 2026 to July 2027. Council members are required to:

- Have been a Member in Good Standing for at least three years, and
- To be able to attend the bi-monthly meetings (six per annum), currently held virtually on Thursday afternoon.
- Council comprises general and regional members, as per the accompanying nomination form.

**The deadline for receipt of nominations at [info@gssa.org.za](mailto:info@gssa.org.za) is 12 June 2026.**

## **NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE GSSA COUNCIL FOR 2026/27**

### **General Members of Council**

In terms of the Constitution all Corporate Members (Fellows/Members) in good standing of the Geological Society of South Africa are herewith invited to submit nominations for candidates as General Council Members of the Society for 2026/27.

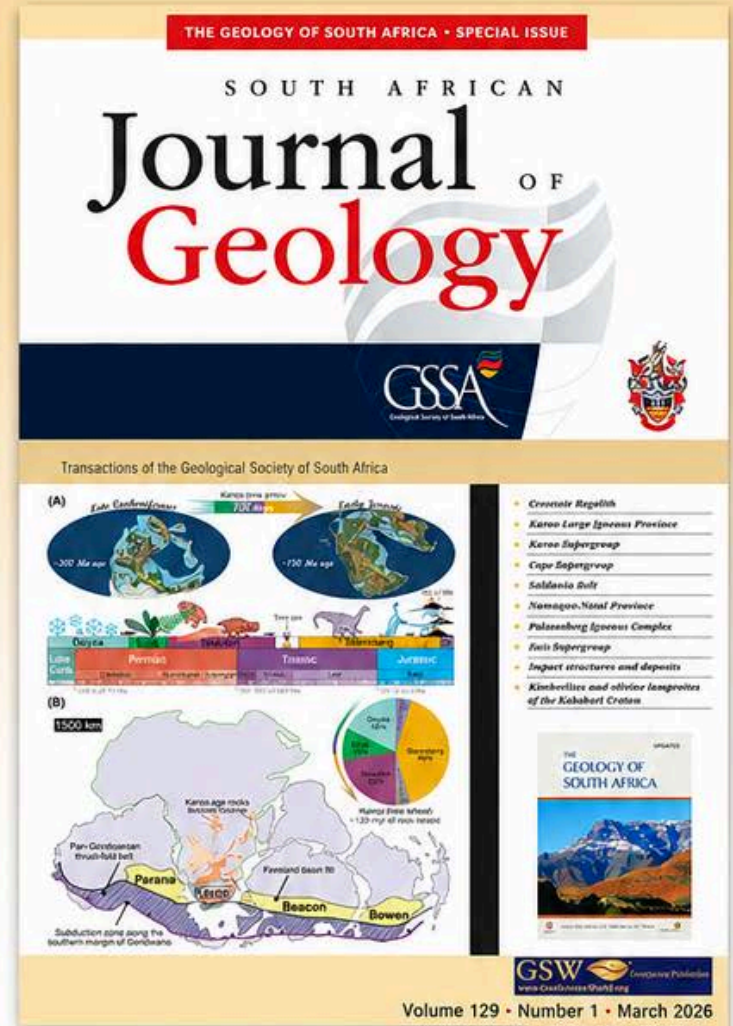
Retiring Members of the Council are eligible for re-election but are not automatically renominated. All current members of Council must please reconfirm their availability to stand for 2026/2027. All Past Presidents are invited to serve on Council without nomination.

Should the number of nominations exceed the number of vacancies on Council, Council members for 2026/27 will be elected by ballot. The by-laws are flexible as regards the number of Council members, and in recent years elections have not been necessary, but will be organized via digital polling if necessary. Should the number of nominations be insufficient to fill the vacancies, the incoming Council may co-opt qualified members and/or affiliates to constitute Council.

**READ MORE**



VALUABLE RESOURCES THAT INFORM, CONNECT, AND INSPIRE THE GEOSCIENCE COMMUNITY.



## GEOBULLETIN

A quarterly publication that shares news, research highlights, events, professional updates, and insights that support and connect the Southern African geoscience community.



NEWS



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



EVENTS



INSIGHTS & CONNECTIONS



ORIGINAL RESEARCH



NOTES & DISCUSSIONS



PEER REVIEWED



ADVANCING GEOSCIENCE

## SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNAL OF GEOLOGY (SAJG)

A quarterly peer-reviewed scientific journal and one of Africa's longest-running geoscience publications. It serves as a platform for publishing original scientific papers, notes, and discussions that contribute to our understanding of geological sciences.



ACCESS THESE PUBLICATIONS THROUGH THE GSSA WEBSITE

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



STAY INFORMED



STAY CONNECTED



STAY INSPIRED

The logo for SAMCODES, featuring the word "SAMCODES" in a blue, rounded, sans-serif font.The logo for SNIPPETS, featuring the word "SNIPPETS" in a blue, rounded, sans-serif font.

## **The Makeup of the SSC (The JSE, SAGC and IMSSA)**

In the second in our series of organisations that sit on the SAMCODES Standards Committee (SSC), we take a look at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, the South African Geomatics Council and the Institute of Mine Surveyors of South Africa.

### **Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE)**

The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), as a leading regulated exchange and frontline market regulator, plays a central and influential role in the development, adoption, and enforcement of mineral reporting standards in South Africa through its active participation in the SAMCODES Standards Committee (SSC). The SSC serves as the custodian of the suite of South African mineral reporting codes, including the South African Code for the Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves (SAMREC Code), which establishes the minimum standards, recommendations, and guidelines for public reporting in the mining and mineral sector. Within this framework, the JSE contributes both a regulatory perspective and practical market insight, ensuring that the SAMREC Code remains aligned with the needs of capital markets, investor protection imperatives, and international reporting benchmarks such as CRIRSCO.

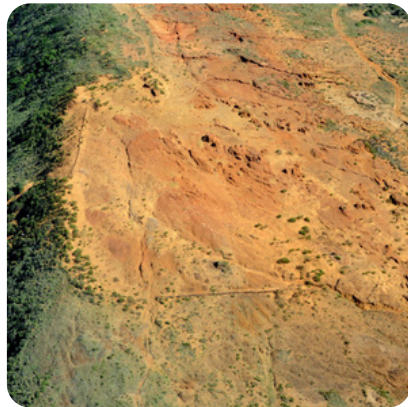
The JSE Listings Requirements prescribe compliance with the SAMCODES, thereby elevating the Code from a voluntary or industry-driven code to one with enforceable regulatory effect for listed issuers. Mining and mineral companies listed on the JSE are required to comply with SAMREC when disclosing exploration results, mineral resources, and mineral reserves to the market, including in prospectuses, circulars, annual reports, and SENS announcements. The JSE's role is therefore not merely participatory but supervisory and enforcement-focused, ensuring that disclosures are prepared by Competent Persons, are transparent, material, and not misleading, and adhere to the principles of materiality, transparency, and competence that underpin the SAMREC framework.

**READ MORE**



## THE STONE WALLS OF MBOLOMPO POINT

---



Roughly centered on 032S 03' 09" and 029E 05' 08" on the southeast coast of South Africa, some 12.5km south of Coffee Bay and 153km north of East London, the Mbolompo sand dune is roughly 25 hectares in extent. Half buried by the red sands of the dune lies strange, and seemingly little known, stonewall ruins.

Covered in places by drifts of the nutrient poor red sand, and occasionally the remnants of dune vegetation and shrubs, and comprising an inner and outer dry stacked stone wall with the inner space filled with cobbles, this approximately 300-meter-long wall follows the seaward crest of the dune in a NE direction.

There appears to be no local knowledge of origin of these walls. The only thing known is that the material used in constructing the walls is not from the local area and would have had to have been brought in from some distance.

**The GSSA is asking anyone who may have any knowledge of these walls to contact us at [info@gssa.org.za](mailto:info@gssa.org.za)**



# 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**



presents

# Night @ the Museum XI

Join us for an unforgettable night at the museum! Explore your favorite exhibits after hours, enjoy a guided tour, take part in a thrilling scavenger hunt, and relax with a family-friendly movie. This sleepover is designed for families, so bring everyone along —kids and grand parents included!

**Date:** Saturday, 27 June 2026

**Time:** Starting at 17:30

**Venue:** Ditsong Museum, Minaar Street,  
Pretoria

**Cost:** R190/person

Click [here](#) to book now!



#### Activities Include:

- Guided museum tour
- Visit to the discovery center
- Scavenger hunt
- Quiz and games
- Movies

#### Things to Bring:

- Sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, and warm clothing
- Snacks, drinks, and a torch
- Camera for capturing memorable moments!

**Space is limited!**

**Book your spot by  
19 June**

Email proof of payment or queries to: [minsa@gssa.org.za](mailto:minsa@gssa.org.za)