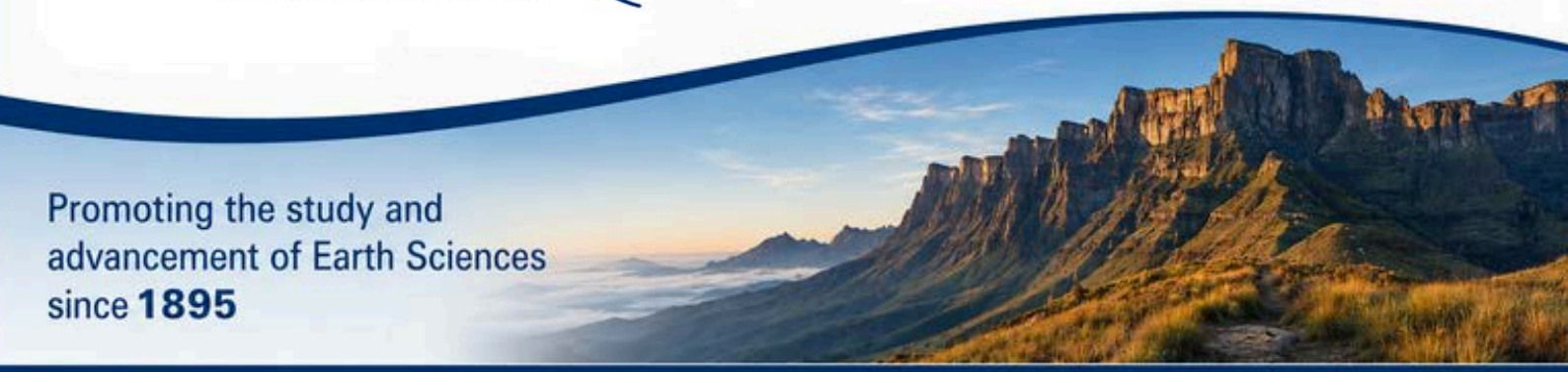
NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026 | **ISSUE 145**



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Conference Prog

Meet the Speakers

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NOLEEN PAULS

GSSA PRESIDENT

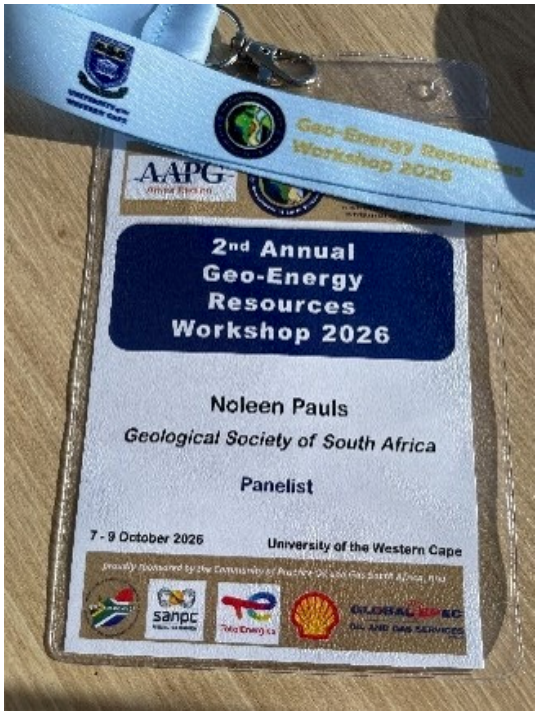
BEYOND THE OUTCROP: GEOSCIENCE IN ACTION

October has been a busy month for the GSSA, with activities spanning energy, geophysics, student engagement and professional development.

Geoscience in the wider conversation

At African Mining Week in Cape Town, I talked about *The Resource Above the Resource: Mining Africa's Human Mineral Wealth*, exploring the importance of recognising and developing the people behind Africa's mineral wealth. Our mineral resources may attract investment, but it is people, their skills, knowledge and innovation that ultimately determine how much value we create from them.





The 2nd Annual Geo-Energy Resources Workshop at the University of the Western Cape, held under the theme *Unlocking the Benefits of Geo-Energy Resources,* provided an opportunity to engage with the evolving energy landscape and the role geoscience plays in it. It was an honour to participate in a panel discussion on *The Benefits of Geo-Energy Resources as a Multidisciplinary Career Pathway.*

I also participated in a panel at the Southern African Geophysical Association's (SAGA) 19th Biennial Conference and Exhibition, which celebrated the theme *Geophysics for Generations*. Joining longtime friends Petro du Pisani and past GSSA President Pamela Naidoo, we shared our different career journeys and the decisions that shaped them.

Building a market-ready next generation

Supporting the next generation of geoscientists means more than encouraging students to complete their degrees. It means helping them understand the opportunities available, build professional networks and develop the practical experience and confidence to take their first steps into the world of work.

This was the message behind the Career Excellence Youth Seminar 2026, themed Building a Market-Ready Basotho Talent Pool, where I was invited to present on the GSSA and the role we play in the geoscience community. The seminar provided an opportunity to introduce young Basotho talent to the value of professional membership, continuing professional development, mentorship and engagement with the wider industry.

Our new Student Division Chair, Siyanda Gumede, hit the ground running, representing the GSSA at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) Mining & Minerals Professional Bodies Engagement Day. The event gave students and staff in geology an opportunity to engage directly with professional bodies and learn more about the organisations that support their careers.



Creating visibility for the GSSA among students and helping them understand the benefits of professional membership are important steps in building a strong future for the Society.

Another highlight of October was ***From Classroom to Core: Shaping the Next Generation of Geologists,*** a collaboration between the GSSA Northern Cape Branch and Sol Plaatje University's Department of Physical and Earth Sciences.

Opportunities to engage directly with practising geologists help students see what it takes to build a career in the profession.

This is where our branches play such an important role. They provide a local presence for the GSSA, create opportunities for engagement and help bring the profession into the classroom and the field.

Investing in professional excellence

The GSSA also continued its professional development programme during October, with the Data Analytics and Machine Learning for Geoscientists Course and the SAMREC/SAMVAL Advanced Course.

As our industry evolves, so do the tools, technologies and professional standards we need to master. Continuing professional development is about more than collecting CPD points. It is about remaining competent, questioning our assumptions and ensuring that the work we deliver meets the standards expected of us. I encourage members to make the most of the opportunities the GSSA offers to keep learning and sharpening their professional skills.

Lighting the way: Wits Mining celebrates 130 years

The Wits School of Mining Engineering celebrated its 130th anniversary at a gala dinner held this month. Traditionally hosted annually by the Wits University Mining Engineers' Association (WUMEA), this year's dinner was co-hosted by the School to mark the milestone spanning 1896–2026. Under the theme Honouring our 130-Year Legacy, Mining the Future, alumni, industry leaders, academics, retired colleagues and representatives of professional organisations gathered to celebrate the School's contribution to the minerals sector.

A particularly meaningful moment was the presentation of mining lamps dating from the early 1900s to the speakers. These gifts honoured earlier generations of miners whose work helped pave the way for today's professionals, symbolising both the light that guided miners underground and the paths they opened for those who followed.



A little recognition for Fossils by Firelight

The GSSA Fossils by Firelight is a finalist in the South African Podcast Awards 2026 under Best Corporate or Internal Podcast.

This is wonderful recognition for our efforts to capture and share our geologists' stories. We all have a story worth telling, whether it is about an unexpected discovery in the field, a career-defining moment or the experiences that have shaped our professional journey.



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Fossils by Firelight and helped bring these stories to life. Being named a finalist is something we can all celebrate, and I hope it encourages even more people to tune in and discover our stories. You can find our podcasts here or on YouTube.

And if you want to share yours, please get in touch with me. We would love to hear from you!

Calling all GSSA Mo Bros!
November is Movember month, when moustaches take centre stage in support of men's health awareness. Naturally, we think the geoscience community should also get involved!

Send your Movember moustache photos to info@gssa.org.za by 26 November for a chance to be crowned the inaugural GSSA Mo-Hall of Fame Champion!

Let's see those geological growths, support a good cause and prove that geoscientists can grow more than crystals.

Until next time, keep looking beyond the outcrop and discovering the many ways geoscience makes a difference.

SOUTH AFRICAN
Journal OF Geology

SAJG Vol 129 (3) is now available online



HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS ISSUE

- Mineralisation and retrograde overprinting of the MEM2 orogenic gold deposit along the Antimony Line, Murchison Greenstone Belt, South Africa
- Genesis, characterisation and beneficiation of polymictic iron-ore breccias from the Wolhaarkop Dome
- U–Pb zircon geochronology of fine-grained gneisses from Léo, Burkina Faso
- A process-mineralogical investigation of platinum-group minerals from UG2 Reef facies at Booysendal South Mine
- The chemical-stratigraphy paradox of the Bushveld Igneous Complex
- Porphyry Bay and the Trekoskraal Cauldron: The third volcanic eruption centre of the Cape Granite Suite
- Seismo-acoustic signatures of the shallow-entry Nqweba meteorite fall of 25 August 2024, Eastern Cape, South Africa

CLICK HERE TO LOGIN AND ACCESS THE JOURNAL

www.gssa.org.za/publications

2027
PRELIMINARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Format
24 February	Data Management and Sampling QAQC	Online
11 March	CPD Workshop	Online
17 & 18 March	Financial literacy for Geoscientists	In person (Jhb Country Club)
7 April	3D Geological Modelling	Online
14 April	Geotech for Geologists	Online
3 May	XRF Course - basics to advanced	In person (Jhb Country Club)
25 & 26 May	Oil & Gas Symposium	Online
14 & 15 June	AI in Geology	Online
30 June - 2 July	Geocongress 2027	In person (Scottburgh,KZN)
14 July	Coal Day 2027	Online
22 July	GSSA AGM	Hybrid (Jhb Country Club)
29 July	Beyond the Rocks: Essential Skills for Geoscientists	Online
5 August	Field-to-Findings: A Complete Course in Drilling, Sample Handling & Result Interpretation	Online
8 September	Professionalism & Code of Ethics Workshop	Online
9 & 10 September	Geostatistics Beginners & Advanced	Online
21 September	Geophysics for Geologists	Hybrid (Jhb Country Club)
7 & 8 October	Data Analytics and Machine Learning	Online
14 October	Commodities Day - Critical Minerals	Online
28 October	Groundwater for Geologists	Online
17 & 18 November	African Exploration Showcase	Hybrid (Jhb Country Club)
18 November	Fellows Dinner	In person (Jhb Country Club)


GSSA STUDENT DIVISION
GSSA
Geological Society of South Africa
Welcoming our new
GSSA STUDENT DIVISION CHAIR!
The Geological Society of South Africa is delighted to welcome Siyanda Gumede as the new Chairperson of the GSSA Student Division.
This is an important role in supporting and representing the next generation of geoscientists, and we are excited to have Siyanda stepping into this leadership position. We look forward to seeing his energy, ideas and commitment help grow the Student Division and create even more opportunities for students to connect with the profession.
Welcome, Siyanda!
We wish you every success in your new role and look forward to working with you.
We would also like to thank
The Particle Group
for their continued support of the GSSA — not only through sponsorship, but through actively encouraging their team to give back to the community and support the next generation of geoscientists.


GEOCONGRESS 2027
UNRAVELLING THE PAST FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
Partner with the GSSA
Sponsorship Opportunities Available
Click here for more information
30 June - 2 July 2027
Cutty Sark Hotel, Scottburgh, KZN
https://geocongress2027.co.za

GSSA
Geological Society of South Africa

Geological Society of South Africa

Connecting Geoscientists | Sharing Knowledge | Shaping our Future



How to Pay your Fees for 2027

The GSSA has three easy ways for you to pay your 2027 membership fees (and/or any event fees).

Direct Deposit (EFT)

Account:
022271686
(Standard Bank)

Account Name:
Geological Society of SA

SWIFT/BIC:
SBZAZAJJXXX

SORT code:
051001

BANK

PAYFAST

Payfast is a secure online payment system for Visa or Mastercard (credit or debit card).

VISA

Payfast

Visit www.gssa.org.za/payment

and follow the prompts.

SnapScan

Snapscan now has multiple payment options. including Google Pay and Apple Pay.

G Pay Pay

Scan the QR code and follow the prompts.

SnapScan



Thank you
for supporting the GSSA!

www.gssa.org.za

GSSA KZN: A New Chapter Begins

Reconnecting geoscientists. Building momentum. Shaping the future.

A stronger geological network starts with a simple step: bringing people together. On 16 October 2026, GSSA KZN took that step, welcoming members of the region's geological fraternity to a social gathering at Mozambik Pavilion.

The gathering marked the beginning of a renewed effort to revitalise the branch, encourage greater participation and create opportunities for collaboration across a diverse network of geoscientists, industry professionals, academics and students.

It also provided an opportunity to introduce the KZN Branch leadership team:

Dr Avinash Bisnath — Chairman	Dr Digby Gold — Vice-Chairman
Dr William Kruger — Secretary	Debbie Abel — Treasurer

With drinks sponsored by Luhlaza Advisory and Consulting (Pty) Ltd, the afternoon offered a relaxed setting for conversation, connection and professional engagement.

Although modest in scale, this first gathering represents an important starting point for building a more active, inclusive and engaged GSSA presence in KwaZulu-Natal.



THE NEXT CHAPTER NEEDS YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Whether you are an established professional, an early-career geologist, a student or an organization invested in geoscience, you are invited to help shape the future of GSSA KZN. Share your ideas, reconnect with colleagues and get involved in creating meaningful opportunities for the region's geological network to grow.

Get involved: Contact Dr Avinash Bisnath | abisnath1974@gmail.com

Stronger Connections. A More Engaged Geological Community.



The Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) KwaZulu-Natal Branch is embarking on a new chapter, focused on reconnecting the region's geoscience community and strengthening collaboration across industry and academia.

We invite your organisation to be part of this renewed vision through our 2027 Branch Sponsorship Programme, supporting a stronger, more connected geoscience community in KwaZulu-Natal.

An early-start benefit

Organisations that confirm their sponsorship before 15 December 2026 will receive the remainder of 2026 at no additional cost. Nominated members can benefit from membership during this period, while your organisation's logo can feature on the GSSA KZN Branch website before year-end, subject to confirmation and receipt of the necessary details.

Explore our 2027 sponsorship opportunity in the accompanying flyer.



For further information, please contact:
Dr Avinash Bisnath
Chairman, GSSA KwaZulu-Natal Branch
abisnath1974@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming your organisation as part of GSSA KZN's next chapter.



Lichtenburg100 Conference and field excursion

10 – 13 September 2026

One hundred years ago, a sudden, major supply of diamonds from Bakerville in the old Western Transvaal (now the North West Province) turned the world diamond market upside down. Although the owner of Elandsputte (Farm Uitgevonden) reported the first diamond in 1924, it was explorer Harold Harger who discovered the deposits in 1926. The farm was proclaimed, and in June 1926 it became the site of the first major diamond rush. Within a year, some 2 Mcts were extracted at Bakerville, unheard of for an alluvial deposit, and since 1926 more than 6 Mct have been produced from the immediate area.

The diamonds are associated with narrow, elongated, and sinuous gravel ridges known as ‘runs’, but they also occur in gravels trapped in sinkholes or depressions known as ‘potholes’. Many reputable geologists have ground their teeth on these complex deposits, and after 100 years we are still searching for answers.

The two-day Lichtenburg100 conference, organised by the GSSA and CGS, was held on 10th and 11th September at the Council for Geoscience (CGS) head office in Pretoria. This was followed by a two-day field excursion to Bakerville on the 12th and 13th September.

The CGS's hospitality and assistance in organising the conference were unprecedented and provided the platform for the meeting. The icebreaker on the evening of the 10th (sponsored by CCIC) fostered a relaxed environment for networking.

The conference had a two-fold objective. First, to celebrate the centenary of these deposits; second, to take stock of our understanding of these unique deposits. Two basic questions were posed: what geological processes deposited these gravels, and what is the source (or sources) of the diamonds?





Dr Khodani Matshusa gave the first presentation. He spoke about Bakerville as a geo-mining heritage site, something we need to consider very seriously (left). The CGS provided some appetising lunches (right).

The Council's CEO, Mr Mabuza, delivered the welcome address, emphasising the meeting's importance, as the diamond deposits in the North West Province form part of the country's mineral inventory. He also outlined the CGS's role in developing the country's mineral resources and its importance as South Africa's mining and mineral data centre.

Bakerville, which once housed more than 100,000 people, is now a small settlement. Khodani Matshusa presented the history of this forgotten town and, in a well-illustrated talk, highlighted the importance of documenting Bakerville's geo-mining heritage. This will help preserve the history of this old mining area for the country's heritage and for the benefit of local communities.



Mike de Wit doing some local advertising



Delegates examining one of the few in situ gravel sites on the Bakerville run.

Ingrid Chinn (De Beers), Karen Smit (Univ. Wits), Puleng Nthebe (Univ. Wits), and Edgar Stettler (AeroPhysX) delivered several talks on local diamonds, including data from new research on diamonds mined from some of the potholes. Edgar Stettler (AeroPhysX), Emmanuel Chirenje (CGS), and Simon Sebothoma (CGS) covered geophysical techniques that proved instrumental in identifying extensions of these deposits in the 1970s. Debbie Claassen (CGS), Ponani Mthembi (CGS), and Refilwe Monoko (CGS) discussed prospecting for secondary deposits and alluvial prospects in the North West and Northern Cape provinces.

Hielke Jelsma (geSIGMA) emphasised structural control of the Bakerville diamond field and provided a framework for a geological model that could serve as a template. Tania Marshall (GSSA), John Ward (Consultant), and Mike de Wit (Univ. Stellenbosch) presented further aspects of the geological model for diamond occurrences in the Ventersdorp, Schweizer-Reneke, and Lichtenburg regions, respectively. Braam Jankowitz (Torque Africa) presented production statistics for a specific project in the Ventersdorp area. Jim Davidson (Independent) delivered a thought-provoking talk on the next Lichtenburg, which he hopes to find downslope of the lamproite dykes near Bellsbank in the Transvaal Dolomites.

UKZN students Jazmynn Eksteen and Ishta Maharaj delivered two excellent talks, examining the mudbelt along South Africa's West Coast and the diamond trap sites off Hottentot's Bay in southern Namibia, respectively. Daria Semikolennykh (Univ. Wits) discussed luminescence dating and its importance in Quaternary geology, while Anfisa Skoblenko (Univ. JHB) used granitoid xenoliths from kimberlites to present the crustal evolution of the southern Kaapvaal Craton. Students from the University of Pretoria (Dieketseng Boshomane and Mmamaraka Nkuna) and the University of Venda (Mphanama Thangeni) presented highly interesting posters.

The conference was followed by a two-day field excursion, during which delegates visited gravel exposures on the Manana and Bakerville runs and the Pienaar's, King's, Malan's, and Van Wyk's (MSG) potholes. An evening braai (sponsored by Staten Island Trading) was held at the old Bakerville mining offices, where, over some liquid refreshments, the complexities of these deposits were discussed.





Some delegates, including the President of the GSSA, sifted through concentrate on Manana, hoping to find a few blink klippies.

At the end of the conference and field excursion, we made some progress on the two questions raised earlier. Glaciation and deglaciation during the Dwyka period likely played an important role in the deposition of a sub-glacial esker system, now preserved as gravel runs. The subsequent Ecca marine conditions provided the necessary near-shore processes that resulted in the reworking of diamond-bearing Dwyka sediments in the Schweizer-Reneke to Wolmaransstad areas. These Ecca shoreline deposits are partially preserved but have been largely reworked during the Cenozoic.

Regarding the diamond source or sources, it is clear that there are two diamond populations. By far, the largest group of diamonds is found only in the Bakerville area. This population is restricted to potholes on four farms in the Bakerville area and consists of lower-value diamonds with lots of boart, no abrasion features, high grades, and association with some kimberlitic satellite minerals. They are likely linked to local primary sources. These comprise Cambrian-age kimberlite fissures with small pipes and blows underlying some of the potholes.

A second, smaller population comprises higher-value diamonds that show some abrasion and are found in Lichtenburg and Ventersdorp within the runs, or Dwyka eskers. This population would have originated from a pre-Karoo source, such as the Cullian mine near Pretoria and perhaps some of the other Cambrian kimberlites in the Limpopo Province.

So, in the end, some progress was made. However, further work is still required to present a realistic and acceptable model. Let's not wait another 100 years to reach that point! It is, after all, important to arrive at a suitable geological model so that future exploration for additional resources in the area can be planned using the appropriate strategy.



Some delegates, including the President of the GSSA, sifted through concentrate on Manana, hoping to find a few blink klippies.



The fissure-like Kings pothole is nearly 50 m deep and only 12 m wide over a length of some 75 m.

The sponsors, exhibitors, and especially the CGS are thanked for making this meeting a great success. Most importantly, the sponsors enabled the GSSA to fund several students from different universities to participate in both the conference and the field excursion.

Thanks also go to all the presenters for their excellent contributions, and they will be encouraged to publish this, not only as a record but also as a springboard for the future. Finally, on the topic of Women in Mining, the statistics for this meeting were more than encouraging, with 55% of presenters being women.

Mike de Wit

The Lichtenburg 100 conference and fieldtrip was informative and exciting. I learnt about the formation of alluvial diamonds in and surrounding Lichtenburg, techniques and technological advancements in locating the all the alluvial diamond deposits and possible future research. A highlight of the field trip was looking for diamonds of course!

I would like to thank the GSSA for the sponsorship to the conference and fieldtrip. A highlight for me at the conference was my poster presentation for my honours research, which would not have been able to attend and present without the sponsorship from the GSSA.

Sanchia Mkhize



REPORT ON THE 77TH INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR COAL AND ORGANIC PETROLOGY (ICCP) MEETING, PORTUGAL

MPEOANA LYDIA MAJAKE
MSC GEOLOGY CANDIDATE
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

In September 2026, I had the opportunity to attend the 77th Annual Meeting of the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP) in Portugal. The meeting brought together researchers and experts from various countries working in coal, geology, organic petrology, geochemistry, carbon materials, and related fields. The main events took place in Porto, followed by a two-day geological field excursion through the Lusitanian Basin, and, lastly, a scientific symposium in Lisbon. The programme agenda featured ICCP commission meetings, microscopy sessions, the field excursion, and the final symposium.

I am currently completing a master's degree in geology at the University of Johannesburg (UJ), under the supervision of Prof. Nicola Wagner and co-supervision by Dr. Sanki Biswas. My research, titled “Viability of Mpumalanga Discard Coal as a Source of Critical Elements”, investigated whether discard coal from the Witbank Coalfield can potentially serve as a secondary resource of rare earth elements and other critical elements.

The study is part of the growing effort to view coal-processing waste not merely as an environmental issue but as a potential source of secondary mineral resources. The use of discard coal as a source of critical elements and REY is consistent with the ideas of a circular economy (CE). My research combines geochemical, mineralogical, and petrographic characteristics with density separation as a pre-concentration technique to investigate the abundance, distribution, mode of occurrence, and potential beneficiation of critical elements in discard coal.

Geological Field Excursion: The Lusitanian Basin

One of the highlights of the trip was the two-day field excursion (16-17 September 2026), through the coastal area, along the São Pedro de Moel and Peniche, which examined the Lower Jurassic organic-rich facies in the Lusitanian Basin. The field trip offered observations regarding the depositional settings, sedimentary facies, and paleoenvironmental shifts documented within the Sinemurian, Pliensbachian, and Toarcian successions, particularly the Toarcian Oceanic Anoxic Event.



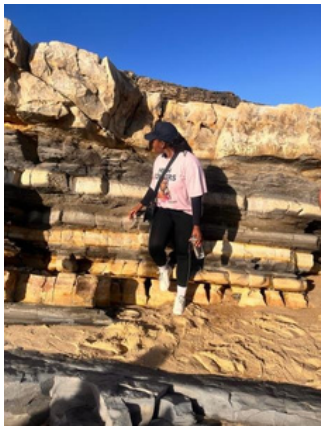
Lower Jurassic sedimentary successions observed during the field excursion, at Concha Beach and São Pedro de Moel.





Visit to the S. Pedro de Moel beach; b) Ammonite fossil preserved in the sedimentary strata of the Lusitanian Basin. The €1 coin provides scale.

One significant experience was touring the Toarcian Global Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) at Ponta do Trovão, Peniche, marked by the internationally recognized golden spike. The excursion, guided by Prof. João Graciano Mendonça Filho, Dr Carolina Fonseca, and Dr Luís Vitor Duarte, broadened my understanding of the geological conditions influencing organic matter accumulation and preservation.





a) Visit to the Toarcian Global Stratotype Section at Panda do Trovão, Peniche; b) hand specimen containing an ammonite fossil.

Presentation of My Research at the Symposium

I presented my MSc research during the first oral session under the title:
Viability of Mpumalanga Discard Coal as a Source of Critical Elements

The presentation was co-authored with my supervisors, Prof. Nicola Wagner and Dr Sanki Biswas, and was scheduled at 09:30 in the first oral session of the symposium. An important component of the research was the use of density separation as a preconcentration method. The results demonstrated that the distribution of REY and associated critical elements varied between density fractions. In particular, the 2.0–2.5 g/cm^3 fraction (F2) consistently showed enrichment in total REY and associated critical elements such as Li, Ga, and U. The highest ΣREY concentration obtained during the density-separation investigation was approximately 297 ppm in the D4+2 (F2) fraction, from 248.31 ppm in the D4+2 parent sample.





The findings demonstrate that Mpumalanga discard coal is a potential secondary resource for REY and critical elements, with density separation producing distinct fractions that could be utilised for different purposes: F1 contained higher amounts of carbonaceous matter, which could be used for potential combustion. Float 2 for REY and critical element recovery, and the sink fraction for its more favorable critical-REY distribution and potential marketability.

Conclusion: Scientific Knowledge and Insights gained
Attending the 77th ICCP Meeting broadened my scientific knowledge and provided valuable exposure to international research in coal and organic petrology. Presentations on biochar, black mass, naturally graphitized coals, and advanced analytical techniques highlighted the wider applications of petrography in resource recovery and sustainable utilisation. The experience reinforced the importance of integrating geological, geochemical, and mineralogical techniques in my MSc research, while strengthening my scientific communication skills, professional networks, and understanding of emerging opportunities in the circular economy.

I am sincerely grateful to **the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) Research, Education and Investment (REI) Fund, under the Andrew Geddes Bain Fund, for partially supporting my attendance at the meeting.** This financial assistance contributed significantly to making this valuable international learning and research experience possible. I deeply appreciate the opportunity and the GSSA's commitment to supporting emerging geoscientists.



TUMELO PENYENYE

HONOURS IN GEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND
CHAIRPERSON, GEOSCIENCE SCHOOL COUNCIL



I am an Honours student in Geology at the University of the Witwatersrand. I completed my BSc in Environmental Science (Geology) at Wits, where I built a foundation in petrology, structural and economic geology, geochemistry, geophysics, GIS and remote sensing.

Alongside my studies, I assist with teaching and marking for geology and mining engineering courses, and I chair the Geoscience School Council. This year our council ran the Tech Savvy series, Earth Day, a Women's Month event and a Career Expo that brought 12 companies (including GSSA) together with students from Wits, UJ and UP.

What inspired me to become a geologist

Curiosity. As a kid, I wondered how things were formed, and I once told my grandmother that I would go to space because I wanted to know what happens out there. I grew up in Rustenburg, where mining is part of everyday life, and I kept asking why they were blasting underground and what they were looking for.

Those questions never went away. Geology gave me a way to answer them, and my eagerness to learn is what put me here. I want to know more about our planet.

Honours research

Accessory mineral U-Pb geochronology of the Koperberg Suite, O'okiep Copper District

The Koperberg Suite is linked to the Klondikean magmatic episode, at roughly 1035 to 1030 million years ago, but how magmatism, metamorphism and copper mineralisation relate in time is still unclear. Zircon ages in the area are complicated by inherited cores and metamorphic overprints.

My project characterises zircon and dates them using U-Pb geochronology (LA-ICP-MS). The aim is to separate magmatic, inherited and metamorphic populations and to constrain when the copper formed relative to the intrusions. Understanding that timing helps explain how copper deposits form, which supports exploration for the metal.



Core logging at Sheba mines during the Honours field school (June, 2026)



Mintek Visit with MinSA



Cullinan Diamond mine visit during the Honours field school (July, 2026)

Career aspirations

After my Honours degree, I want to go into exploration or production, in a role that challenges me to write, document and keep learning, and that gives me the raw, hands-on experience of being a geologist. I also want to pursue a master's degree then PhD in the nearer future.

I would genuinely love to work in diamond mining, even though that industry is changing. I am also drawn to critical minerals: copper and the other minerals behind the green energy transition. This is the side of our field that we need to talk about more, and it is where I want to build my career.





Advice for students

Do not let ambition overshadow the work.

•**Do the actual work.** Attend the class to understand the module. Sit in front of your laptop and learn the software. Write down and catalogue your entire day. Wanting to do great things only counts when you do the work behind them.

•**Build consistency**. Great things grow out of small, consistent habits.

•**Get a mentor**. Learn from people who are further along than you.

•**Lead those who come after you**. Share what you learn and bring others with you.

•**Stay curious, and actually learn**. Ask why, then go and find out.



Core logging at Sheba mines during the Honours field school (June, 2026)



Mintek Visit with MinSA



Cullinan Diamond mine visit during the Honours field school (July, 2026)



GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA NORTHERN CAPE BRANCH × SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY (DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL AND EARTH SCIENCES)

Inspiring the Next Generation of Geoscience Professionals Through Collaboration

The future of the geosciences industry depends on our ability to attract, develop, and inspire emerging talent. As professionals, we have a responsibility to bridge the gap between academia and industry, ensuring that students gain meaningful exposure to the opportunities, challenges, and impact of careers in geology, mining, environmental sciences, and related disciplines.

This was the driving purpose behind our recent Geology Department Launch Day, hosted through collaboration between **the Geological Society Northern Cape Branch and the Sol Plaatje University.**



The event provided a platform for students to engage directly with industry professionals, learn about the diverse career pathways available within the geosciences sector, and gain valuable insights into the practical application of the knowledge they acquire in the classroom. Through open discussions, presentations, and networking opportunities, students were able to better understand the realities of working in the industry and the skills required to succeed in an evolving and increasingly technology-driven environment.



One of the most rewarding aspects of the day was witnessing the enthusiasm and curiosity of the students. Their questions reflected a genuine interest in understanding not only the technical aspects of geoscience careers, but also the broader role that geoscientists play in supporting sustainable resource development, environmental stewardship, and economic growth.

Collaboration between academia and industry is essential in developing future-ready professionals. By creating opportunities for mentorship, knowledge sharing, and professional engagement, we can help students make informed career choices, build confidence, and establish connections that may shape their future careers.

A sincere thank you to all the speakers, industry representatives, academic staff, and students who contributed to making the day a success. Your willingness to share experiences, insights, and guidance reinforces the importance of investing in the next generation of geoscience professionals.











As we continue to strengthen partnerships between industry and educational institutions, we remain committed to creating opportunities that inspire learning, innovation, and career development. Together, we can cultivate a pipeline of talented professionals who will drive the future of the geosciences sector.



The Makeup of the SSC
(The SAMCODES Committees)

In addition to the various organisation described over the past six months, the SSC also comprises the chairs of each of the SAMREC,SAMVAL,SAMOG, and SAMESG committees.

SAMREC Committee
The SAMREC Committee is responsible for maintaining and promoting the South African Code for the Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves (SAMREC Code). Operating under the SAMCODES Standards Committee, it develops and updates the principles and reporting requirements that govern the transparent disclosure of exploration results, mineral resources, and mineral reserves for the benefit of investors, regulators, and other stakeholders. The committee supports best practice in public reporting by ensuring that reports are prepared by appropriately qualified Competent Persons and are aligned with international reporting standards through CRIRSCO. Its work helps maintain confidence in the reporting of mineral assets and underpins the credibility of the South African mining sector.

SAMVAL Committee
The SAMVAL Committee oversees the South African Code for the Reporting of Mineral Asset Valuation (SAMVAL Code) and provides guidance on the valuation of mineral assets and mineral properties. The committee's role is to ensure that valuations disclosed to the public are transparent, material, and based on sound professional judgement and accepted valuation methodologies. By promoting consistency and professional standards among Competent Valuators, the committee supports informed investment decisions, corporate transactions, financing activities, and regulatory compliance within the minerals industry. SAMVAL forms a key component of the broader SAMCODES framework used by the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) and the South African mining industry.

SAMOG Committee
The SAMOG Committee is responsible for the South African Code for the Reporting of Oil and Gas Resources (SAMOG Code). Its mandate is to provide a framework for the transparent, consistent, and reliable public reporting of petroleum exploration results, contingent resources, and reserves. The committee promotes best practices in the oil and gas sector by ensuring that disclosures are prepared by suitably qualified professionals and reflect internationally recognized technical and reporting standards. Through its stewardship of the SAMOG Code, the committee enhances investor confidence and supports responsible development and financing of petroleum assets in South Africa and beyond.

SAMESG Committee
The SAMESG Committee guides the implementation and advancement of the South African Guideline for the Reporting of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Parameters within the mining industry. Established in response to growing global expectations for ESG disclosure, the committee promotes the competent assessment and reporting of socio-environmental risks, liabilities, governance structures, and sustainability-related performance across the project value chain. The SAMESG framework assists companies in reporting material ESG factors in a manner that is transparent, consistent, and relevant to investors and other stakeholders. It also aligns South African reporting practices with internationally recognized ESG frameworks and standards, reflecting the increasing importance of sustainability considerations in resource project evaluation and investment decisions.

These four committees collectively form a critical part of the SAMCODES governance framework, ensuring that South Africa's reporting and valuation standards for mineral, petroleum, and ESG matters remain credible, internationally aligned, and fit for purpose in an evolving investment environment.



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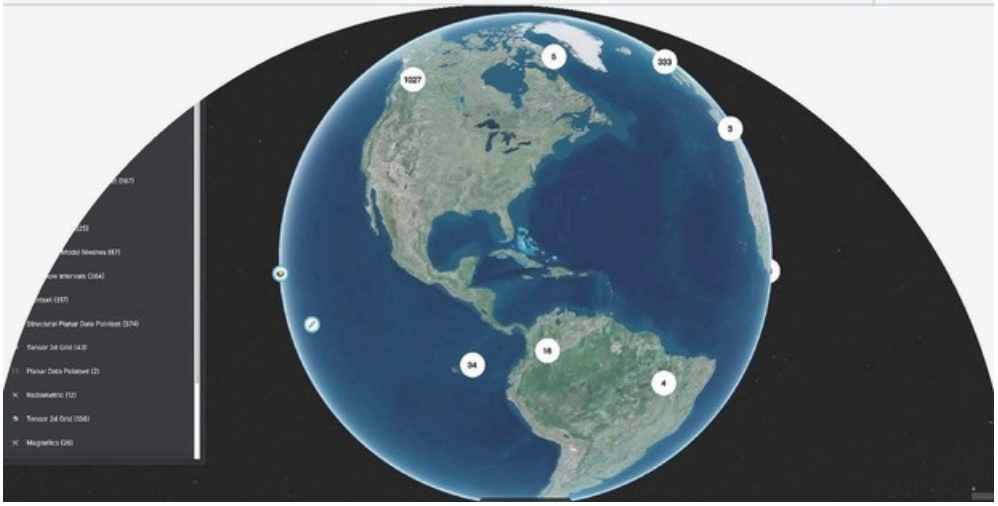
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