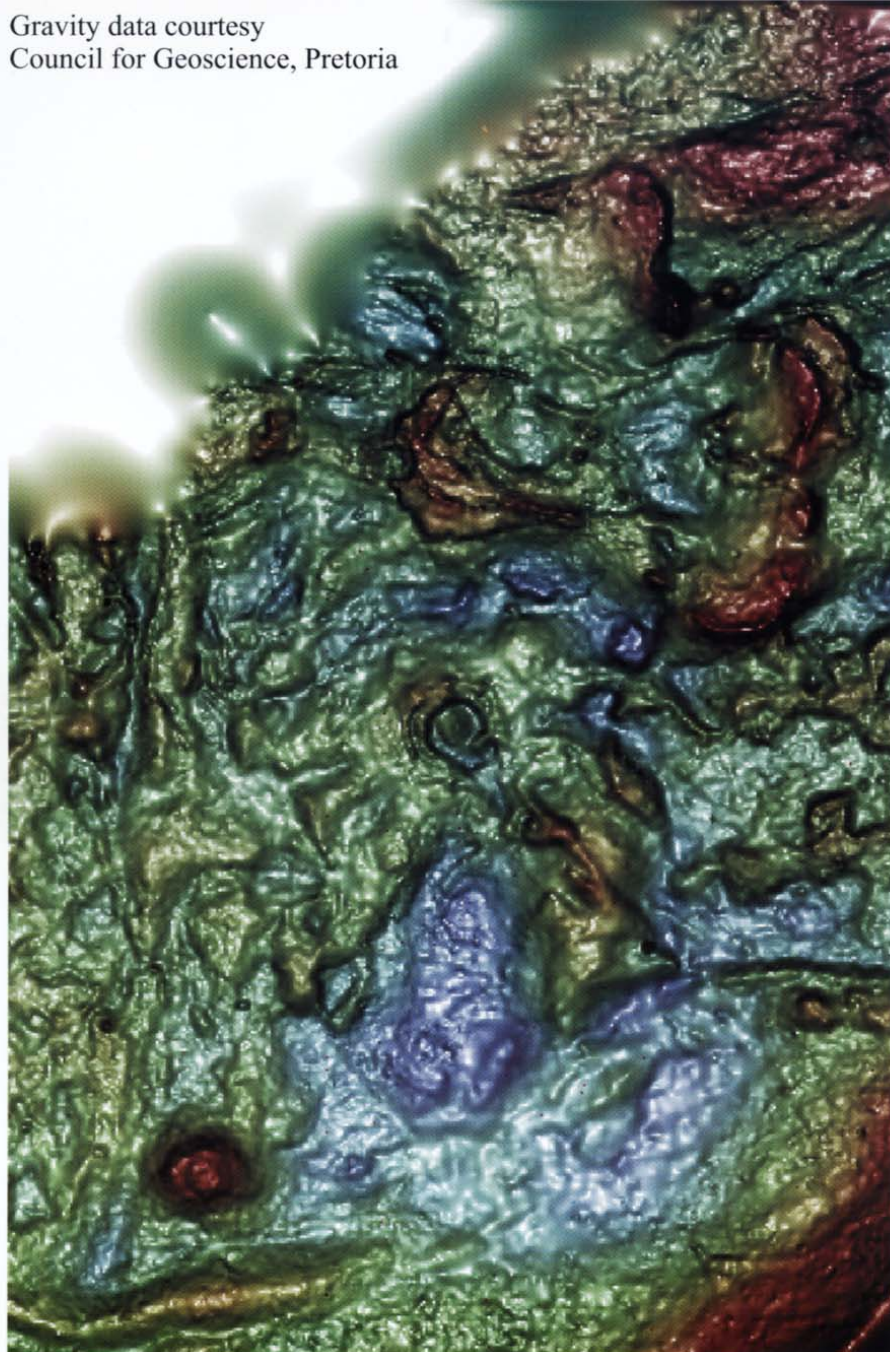


SOUTH AFRICAN GEOPHYSICAL ASSOCIATION

SOUTH AFRICAN GEOPHYSICAL ASSOCIATION

Gravity data courtesy
Council for Geoscience, Pretoria





SAGA

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2007

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Vice President: Petro du Pisani - AAC – PduPisani@angloamerican.co.za
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Terry Odgers - Red Dog Scientific Services - reddog@geoafrica.co.za

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Please contact the Editor (Terry Odgers – reddog@geoafrica.co.za) if you wish to advertise in the SAGA newsletter. Rates (per issue) are shown below:

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Adverts must preferably be submitted in either MS Word, PDF or JPG format.

Manual and Course Notes Price List (To order, contact the SAGA *admin.* secretary)

Manuals for Technicians	<i>Local</i>	<i>Overseas</i>
The Magnetic Method *, AT Roux 1980. 71 p.	R40	US\$40
Technical Manual on Radiometrics *DJ Richards 1981	R25	US\$25
Electromagnetic Method*	R70	US\$70
J S V van Zijl & EO Kostlin 1986. 302p.		
S.A. Geophysical Review, Vol. 1 1996	R50	US\$40
S.A. Geophysical Review, Vol. 2 1998	R50	US\$40
S.A. Geophysical Review, Vol. 3 1999	R50	US\$40
Practical Manual in the Resistivity Method	R50	US\$50
J S V van Zijl 1985. 136p.		
Statistical Methods in Mining Seismology, A. Kijko	R100	US\$25

Course Notes

Aeromagnetism # P Hood & M Redford	R75	US\$75
Induced Polarisation # J Summer & K Zonge	R100	US\$55
Electromagnetics # G.West & J. MacNae	R110	US\$60
Seismic Interpretation T.L.Davis 1987	R50	US\$40
Extended Abstracts 1st SAGA Technical Meeting	R25	US\$25
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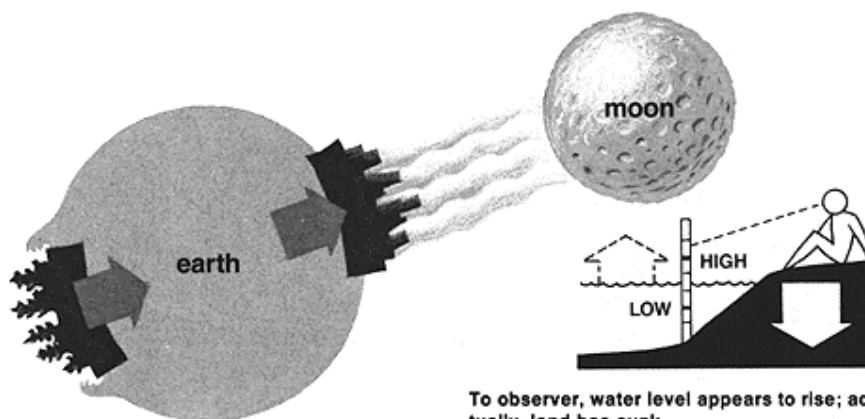
*Students half price # Prices subject to change ; copies made from masters

The Tides

(an excerpt from Science made Stupid; Tom Weller)

We sometimes speak of the **tides** causing the oceans to rise or fall. Of course, this is a fallacy. Actually, it is the *land* that rises and falls.

As the Earth rotates, the moon's gravitational attraction is greatest first on one side, then the other. Land masses, being rigid, are pulled up or down accordingly. Oceans, being liquid, are free to flow back to their normal level. (see diagram below)



SAGA Presidents Report for 2005-2006 by David Hatch, De Beers Group Services

The 2005-2006 term was very busy for SAGA and highlights the fact that the association has a very robust and active membership.

2005 conference

The highlight of 2005 was the 9th Biennial conference and exhibition titled "More out of our Depth" held in Cape Town between September 13th and 16th. Many thanks and congratulations to the Organizing Committee and the Western Cape branch who organized this event. During this event there were 60 oral and 15 poster presentations as well as 17 exhibitors present. The conference was very well attended and thanks to the very good support of the sponsors; PetroSA, Tullow Oil, Veritas, GX Technology, Fugro Airborne, Forest Oil, Geosoft Africa and ArkEx the event was also a financial success.

Several papers were selected at the conference and were nominated to represent the "Best of SAGA" at the EAGE conference. These papers were as follows:

- The Development of Low Temperature TEM Squid Systems for the Geosciences, *C.L. Le Roux** (*Geosciences Resource Group, ATD*)
- The Interpretation of Potential Field Data Using Continuous Wavelet Transforms, *G.R.J. Cooper** (*University of Witwatersrand*)
- Contributions to the Gravity Field of Southern Africa from Crustal Thickness and Seismic Velocity Variations, *S.J. Webb** (*University of the Witwatersrand*) & *D.E. James* (*Department of Terrestrial Magnetism*)
- New Palaeomagnetic Data from the Main and Upper Zones of the Bushveld Complex, *S.A. Letts** (*University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.*), *T. Torsvik* (*Geological Survey of Norway*), *L. Aswal* (*University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.*) & *S.*

Webb (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg)

Awards

During the Cape Town conference it was an honour for SAGA to be able to award George Smith and Maurice Gidlow the very prestigious Krahmann metal which had last been awarded in 1993. As well, the Fugro Best paper was awarded to Petro du Pisani who opened the Cape Town conference with the first technical presentation.

Administration

Gorete de Oliveria has done a great job over the last year as SAGA secretary taking minutes for meetings, looking after the member database and keeping invoicing on track. The Council thanks Gorete for her hard work over the year.

Monthly Meetings

Over the previous term the monthly meetings have been held regularly with one or two exceptions. The attendance is generally quite high and often standing-room-only due mainly to the large numbers of students which are organized by Sue Webb and Raymond Vonk. Many thanks to our academic members who fill this very important roll; getting students active in the association.

SAJG Special Issue

After the Biennial conference in 2001, SAGA offered to compile a Special Issue of the South African Journal of Geology (SAJG), containing a selection of geophysical papers from that event, in the hope of identifying and promoting synergies between geologists and geophysicists. After some years in hibernation an effort was made to get the SAJG Special Issue back on track and for this lengthy process the SAGA Council sincerely apologises. Although good progress has been made this year

this issue has not yet been published as the authors were afforded additional time for new revisions to update their papers. The goal is to have the issue published early 2007.

SAGA AGM

A new SAGA Council was elected on May 26th at the AGM held at the Shumba Valley Lodge and are as follows; Lindsay Linzer (President), Petro du Pisani (Vice-President), Geoff Campbell (Treasurer), Terry Odgers, Anre Vorster, Magdel Combrinck, Declan Vogt, Sue Webb and Dave Hatch. New Council members elected were Stefaans du Plessis and Kazek Trofimczyk. Standing down from the Council were Gordon Cooper, Mark Muller and Mark Gibson. The Council

thanks Gordon, Mark and Mark for the outstanding service provided for many years by these individuals.

The Last Word

With almost all commodity prices at a high there is an increase in both exploration activity and on the application of geophysics to provide discoveries as the potential areas of new resources become more remote and more deeply buried. I have every confidence that SAGA will be able to serve its members over the next year in this very exciting environment and make sure that we will be in the position to make a lasting contribution to society. I would like to extend my thanks to the Council who all assisted me in my term as President.

Best Regards,

Dave

Resigning Council Members

After a long tenure on the SAGA Council, Gordon Cooper has stepped down. Gordon was in charge of the newsletter; over the years he spent countless hours badgering and cajoling SAGA members to contribute to the newsletter; An unenviable task if there ever was one! He also took it on himself to ensure there were a few



Guinness's amongst the refreshments at monthly talks; a tradition that has sadly been lacking since Gordon retired from the Council.

Both Mark's, Gibson & Muller, retired from the Council in 2006 due to work commitments.

Thanks go to all of them, but especially to Gordon for all the effort he put into SAGA and the newsletter over the many years he was a Council member.

SAJG Special Volume Published

By Dave Hatch



This latest issue (SAJG vol 109 (4)) of the South African Journal of Geology contains a selection of geophysical papers from authors in South Africa and demonstrates the excellence of geophysical endeavours in the region. The fourteen papers presented fall into two major sections: Case Studies and Technical Advances. The six papers within the Case Studies section cover well established geophysical techniques applied in interesting and novel ways. In the Technical Advances section, technologies, instruments and processing techniques are described in eight papers, many of which highlight particular applications or commodities like platinum, oil and gas and the environment.

- The first two papers in the Case Studies section focus on ground water studies; Soltau and Andersen integrate different ground geophysical techniques which are used to identify prospective aquifers and Campbell *et al.* use airborne geophysical data sets to identify aquifers and associated structural controls in the lower Okavango.
- The next two papers are on platinum exploration with the first investigating the geophysical signature related to Bushveld

deposits based on a wide variety of geological, geochemical and geophysical datasets while the second focuses on the use of high resolution aeromagnetic data to map "loss-of-ground" features which is essential knowledge in the mine planning process.

- A paper by Coetzee *et al.* combines radiometric data with geochemical, geographic and hydrological data to better understand the environmental contamination processes in the gold/uranium mining areas in the West Rand.
- Completing the Case Studies section, Master makes a compelling argument that the Pangaeian Trans-Saharan Tibesti megalineament may continue into North America (Laurentia) which could have implications for hydrothermal gold and base metal mineralization and diamondiferous kimberlite emplacement.
- In the first paper in the Technical Advances section Neumeyer *et al.* describe the high precision gravity measurements made at the South African Geodynamic Observatory in Sutherland using a dual sphere superconducting gravimeter.
- Vogt then describes a borehole radar system that was specifically designed for routine application in the gold and platinum mines of South Africa.
- Zadorozhnaya and Stettler work through the theoretical basis and provide examples of the detection of hydrocarbon contaminated ground water using the IP effect from time-domain electromagnetic soundings.
- De Beer and Middleton investigate porosity, permeability and measure fluid-flow using the neutron imaging capabilities of the Safari-1 nuclear reactor in South Africa.
- Tonsing uses seismic modelling to determine if amplitude-based

characterization can be used to differentiate closely spaced water and oil legs in an E-BD reservoir in South Africa.

- Cooper introduces the Hough transform and demonstrates that this processing technique can be used to effectively map lineaments and circular features in a variety of regional geoscientific data sets.
- Vogt uses finite-difference, time-domain modelling to characterize the performance of various antenna designs and configuration in the field of radio tomography.
- Finally Fourie describes the controls on lateral and vertical resolution of the electroseismic technique and describes a test of this technique for ground water exploration within Karoo rock.

The advent of this Special Section dates back to 2001 when the Southern Africa Geophysical Association (SAGA) offered to compile geophysical papers from its Biennial Conference that year. This effort was driven by Dr. Laurent Ameglio who solicited the original papers and initiated the review and revision process. Unfortunately when professional demands overtook Laurent this work went into hiatus and the SAGA Council apologises for this delay. SAGA gratefully acknowledges the work completed by Dr.

Ameglio and is indebted to him for starting this process.

This Special Section could not have been produced without the assistance of the many reviewers who carefully vetted the manuscripts, and especially David Hatch, who took over from Laurent and has been pivotal in getting the Special Section to press. As Dave says: "No good deed goes unpunished", and for his sins, he has been asked to remain as SAJG Special Editor for geophysical papers. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to publish papers (appropriate for a regular issue of the SAJG) in an accredited journal.

Of course, without the authors there would be no volume and their efforts in putting together the papers and participating in the revision process is greatly appreciated.

SAGA would like to gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship of the Special Section of geophysical papers by the CSIR, GAP Geophysics and Fugro Airborne Services.



For those who are interested and who do not already receive the SAJG, the SAJG vol 109 (4) volume can be ordered from The Geological Society of South Africa at a cost of R100 including vat.

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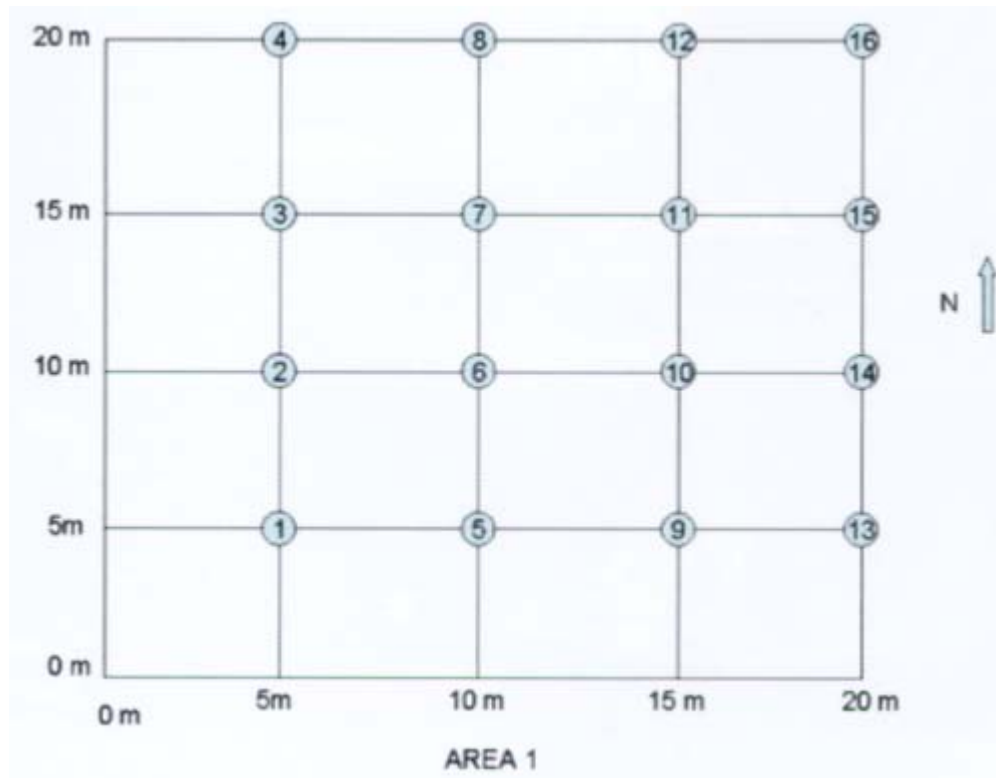
New Geophysical Test Site near Pretoria

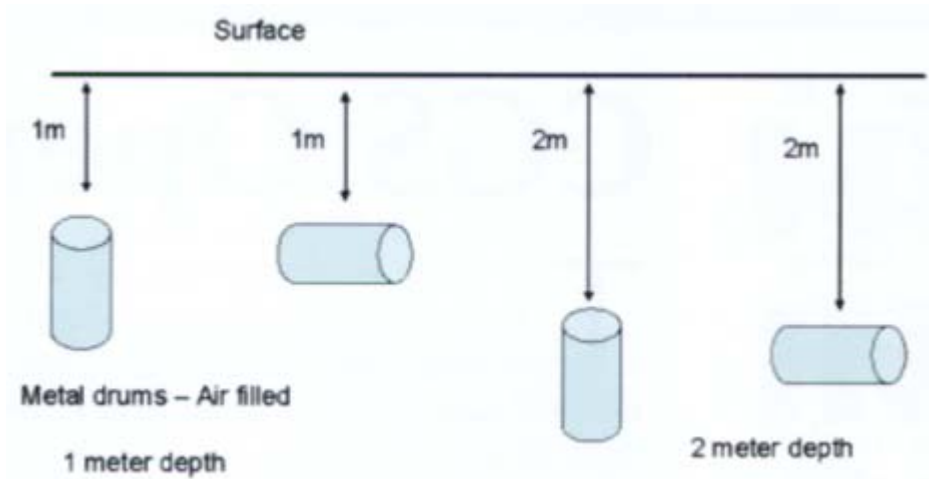


The first geophysical test site in Africa and the Southern Hemisphere is in the process of being developed by the Council for Geoscience (CGS) at Donkerhoek just outside Pretoria. The main objectives of this geophysical test site are to test geophysical responses, to train new employees and students, and to evaluate and test different types of equipment.

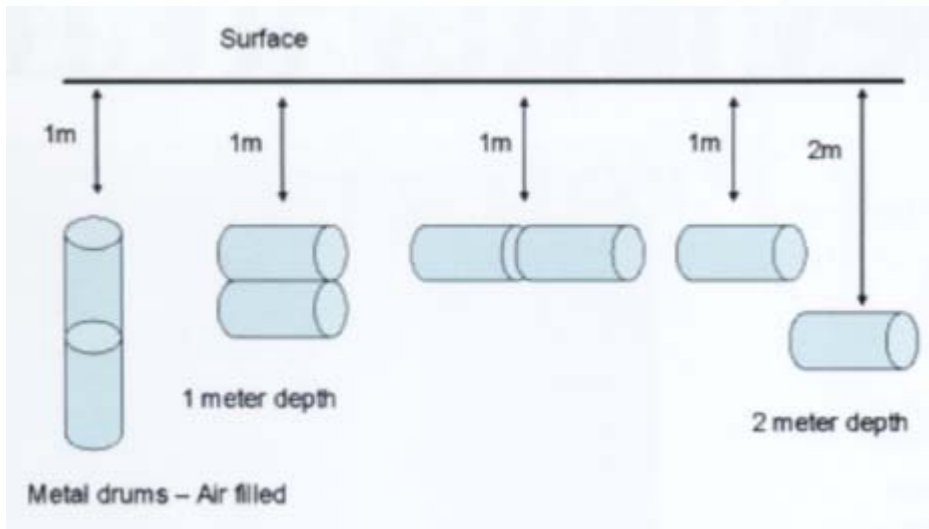
The site is 20km east of Silverton and is situated on the Silverton Shale Formation and the Hekpoort Andesite of the Pretoria Group. The construction and development of the test site of approximately 50x50m started in April 2005.

The first group of artefacts buried for testing at the site is a combination of commercially available metal and plastic drums. In total 16 artefacts were buried; most of the drums are empty while others are filled with water or salt water. Empty buried plastic drums are employed to simulate voids. Upright and flat drum orientations are also employed. The drums are buried at depths of 1 and 2m, and simulate possible environmental situations that might occur. All the drums are either orientated upright or in an N-S direction. In future, an additional area will be developed with drums where the orientations are E-W and at different angles to the profile direction.





Buried artefacts (diameter 0.6m and height 0.9m) which correspond to numbers 1 to 4 in previous figure.



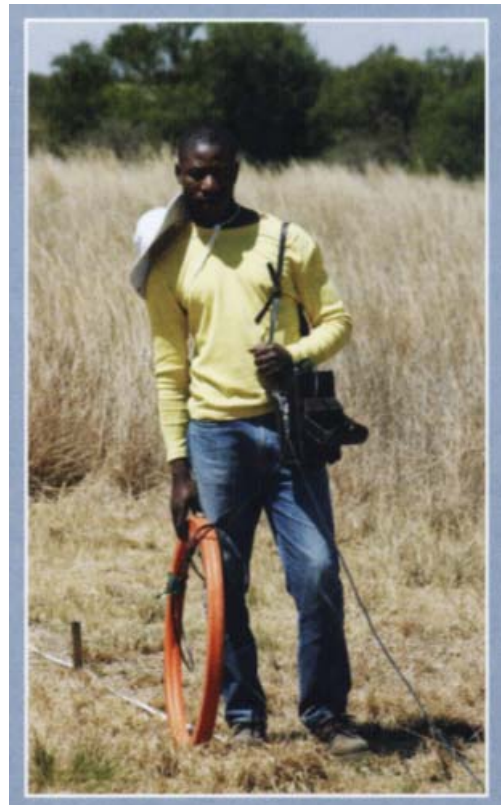
Buried artefacts (diameter 0.6m and height 0.9m) which correspond to numbers 5 to 8.



From the ground profiles obtained it was easy to identify the different weathering profiles of the Hekpoort Andesite and underlying Silverton Shale. The weathering product of the andesite is usually a coarse-grained black turf, while the shale weathers to a very dense, tough orange to yellow clay. This results in a conductive host environment.

Weathering of the Hekpoort Andesite overlying the Silverton Shale at the Donkerhoek test site

The development of this test site is an ongoing project and artefacts will be added to the site on a yearly basis. Universities and industry partners are invited to make use of the facility for training and testing purposes.



For more information on the test site please contact Kobus Raath (Geophysics Unit) at kraath@geoscience.org.za.

De Beers Group Scoops Pioneering Award during the Mining Journal Outstanding Achievement Awards

On 22 November 2006, at a Gala Awards Dinner at The Hilton Metropole Hotel in London, the De Beers Airship Gravity Gradiometry Project was awarded the Pioneering Award in the Mining Journal's *Outstanding Achievement Awards*. The award is given for the company that has shown the greatest originality in the search for minerals, during 2006. The project won the award for the successful marriage of the Full Tensor Gravity Gradiometer (FTG) technology on board a Zeppelin airship. The awards are arranged by Mining Journal International and form part of the annual Mines and Money conference. The Awards Ceremony was addressed and compared by the renowned explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes. The awards are all for recognition for the breadth of skills being brought to bear in the discovery and extraction of mineral deposits. Nominees in each category are nominated by

readers of Mining Journal. A shortlist of 5 nominees in each category was then selected by a panel of judges. The actual voting took place in the form of a 6-week internet-based voting procedure, open to all readers of Mining Journal, as well as to others before the votes cast were tallied, and then adjudicated by an independent panel of experts. Brad Pitts, De Beers Geophysicist and Manager of the project in Botswana, was at the awards ceremony, to receive the award on behalf of De Beers.

The Airship Gravity Gradiometry Project is currently based in Botswana, where airborne surveying for kimberlite exploration in the region of Jwaneng has been undertaken for the last year. The project is progressing extremely satisfactorily with good technical success having been achieved, in what is a groundbreaking application of the airborne gravity technique. The project is a partnership between De Beers, Bell Geospace and Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik.



Brad Pitts receiving the award on behalf of De Beers

In the Mining Research Category, awarded for research that is expected to have the most significance for mining, the award was won by Gedex for their research into the development of a High Definition Airborne Gravity Gradiometer

(HD-AGG). Gedex is in a strategic partnership with De Beers, who are funding the research. This category was not determined by voting, but rather by adjudication by a panel of independent judges.

PetroSA reaches finals in Petroleum Economist Awards

SAGA members might be interested to hear that PetroSA made the finalist list in the Petroleum Economist Awards for the category "Cleaner Energy Initiatives".

The Petroleum Economist Awards celebrate the achievements of companies, teams and individuals in the global energy industry over the past year. Winners were announced at a glittering ceremony on the 14th September 2006.

Unfortunately, PetroSA did not win, but to even make it to the finalist list is an achievement.

The Cleaner Energy Initiative Award is presented for making concerted efforts to improve operations and promote technologies for reducing emissions. This award looks particularly at those companies who have taken positive action to reduce carbon (and other) emissions, flaring or seeking to produce cleaner alternative energy.

Well done to PetroSA!

For more info: www.petroleum-economist.com

Size does matter!

Sue Webb's technical presentation titled "Size does matter: Toward a consistent 3D gravity and magnetic model of the Bushveld Complex, South Africa", presented at the 2006 SEG Annual Meeting, was ranked by fellow SEG members in the top 30 papers presented at the New Orleans meeting. Congratulations Sue!

News from CSIR Applied Geosciences:

- Stoffel Fourie (ex CGS) joins the CSIR Applied Geosciences in April.
- Bekinkosi Ngwenya (ex Geotron) joins the CSIR Applied Geosciences in April, aiming to do a PhD in ground penetrating radar.
- CSIR Applied Geosciences got new CAPEX including a new Zonge system as well as a couple of Nikon microscopes and imaging system and a new Geosoft licence with add-ons.

New staff that joined CSIR during 2006:

Stefaans du Plessis (Research Group Leader) (ex Anglo American Technical Division); Claire Palmer (MSc Geology) (ex de Beers); Dr George Henry (Geology) (ex CGS); Mashapa Mafiri (BSc Hons), (Geophysics - Wits)

Applied Geoscience 'Stalwarts':

Michael van Schoor (MSc Geophysics) - ERT expert; Dr Samantha Perritt (Geology); Elsie Phelane (Geology & Environmental); Stephen Letlotla, (Technician) Mpho NKwana (Technician)

Research:

Michael van Schoor and Stoffel Fourie are both nearing completion of their PhD studies.

The main research theme for Applied Geosciences is 'Glass Rock'. Glass Rock aims to take the surprises out of mining. A concerted, integrated effort involving geologists, geophysicists, mining engineers, rock engineers and seismologists is taking place at the CSIR to reduce the risk associated with the uncertainty of what may be expected ahead of the mining face. CSIR Applied Geosciences also has projects under the Coaltech and Platmine collaborative research programs.

Hired, Fired & Retired

- Petro du Pisani, SAGA VP, has left CSIR for Anglo American.
- Mark Muller moved to DIAS as a postdoc
- Stefaans du plessis joined the CSIR from Anglo American
- Odirile Dingoko joining the Council for Geoscience after graduating from Wits
- Detlef Eberle joined the Council for Geoscience (from Germany)
- Edgar Stettler left the Council for Geoscience
- Magdel Combrinck has left Tuks and joined Geotech Airborne.
- Recipient of a *South African Research Chair*, Ray Durrheim has joined Wits School of Geosciences on a joint appointment with the CSIR to lead the AfricaArray Research Initiative in the Dept of Geophysics.

The Leading Edge 'Memoirs'

TLE are starting a new column called 'Memoirs', which will showcase the contributions of a geophysicist whose professional career has been exemplary, who has devoted his life to the advancement of geophysics, and who has made a significant mark on the industry.

In addition to geophysicists from North America, the TLE would like to include geophysicists who may have made a significant mark in their own countries. If you have a suggestion for a South African geophysicist, please send a brief (5 line) motivation plus their contact details to Terry at reddog@geoafrica.co.za

OBITUARY – AT ROUX

It is with sadness that we learned, via the GSSA, of the passing of AT Roux, a founder member of SAGA and recipient of the esteemed Krahman Medal. A short obituary by his ex-colleague Dr Jan van Zijl, follows below:

Adrian T Roux died on 30 April 2007 in Ceres where he farmed on the family farm Peter Vale since his retirement from Union Corporation in 1981. He was 86 years old.

At's initiation into geophysics came while he was working on the development of radar during the Second World War. This research was interrupted when he was recruited by Oscar Weiss for whom he carried out various geophysical surveys in various countries abroad before he became part of the team of Alfred Frost, Consulting Geologist of Union Corporation and the Oscar Weiss Organization which played such a major role in the discovery of the Orange Free State and Evander Gold Fields.

His active promotion of geophysics led to the establishment of the South African Geophysical Association of which he became first president. He received the Krahmann Medal, the highest award for excellence in the geophysical field from SAGA.

At was an honorary life member of SAGA and a life member of the GSSA.

The little spare time that he had, he gave expression to his first love; drawing, painting and architectural design.

Our sincere condolences go to Marie and the children in their bereavement.

Dr Jan van Zijl (Old Colleague)

SEG – Change to bylaw change eases transfer to Active

The SEG Council approved a bylaw change at the New Orleans Annual Meeting in October that makes it easier for members to solicit references to apply or transfer to Active membership. At least one reference must come from an Active member of SEG, but now the remaining references can come from:

- Other Active members of SEG,
- Active or equivalent members of SEG Allied and Cooperating societies (eg SAGA),
- Current and/or past geoscience employers, or
- By authorship of a technical publication in a journal sponsored by SEG or one of its Allied and Cooperating societies (maximum one reference credit).

What's Hot in Exploration

Every few years there is a change in the 'flavour of the month', resulting in a boom cycle for geophysicists. Right now uranium is hot. But it's comforting to know that when uranium loses its glow-in-the-dark lustre, there are a few old 'stalwarts' we can rely on to keep us busy until the next boom.

The Kruger Millions is the most perennial of favourites. The wonderful thing about the Kruger gold is that every farmer has a potential hiding place on his farm. Divining rods tend to be the most popular method, but GPR is fast catching up. It may be more costly, but it sure beats tunnelling

through the side of yet another granite koppie.

If the Bushveld is too warm and dry for your liking, you can join all the folk looking for buried pirate treasure on the beaches of the Seychelles. I'm told that, somewhere between the high & low tide mark, in a hole 'only 3m deep', lies a trove of pirate treasure. Honest!

A relatively new target, but one likely to become popular, is the platinum ingots supposedly lost in shallow water off the Cape Coast. Anyone have a rowboat and a side-scan sonar they'd like to put to good use?

Then there is the Japanese gold buried in tunnels in the Philippines. The locals know all the good hiding spots and, for a small fee they'll happily be your guides.

Finally, for those who prefer to do their exploration in an urban setting, you can't beat the search for illegal diamonds. I have it on good authority

that there is a 'machine that can sniff out diamonds in a passing car'. I'm thinking that De Beers may be interested in getting hold of one of these!



Wikipedia vs Uncyclopedia

For many of us, Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org>) has become a resource of first preference. Whilst not infallible, Wikipedia has an enormous amount of up to date information on a range of diverse topics. See for example the entry relating to geologists:

"A geologist is a contributor to the science of geology, studying the physical structure and processes of the Earth and planets of the solar system".
Accurate? Yes. Boring? Definitely!

Compare to the same entry on Uncyclopedia, "the content-free encyclopedia" (<http://uncyclopedia.org>):

"Geologists are 'scientists' with an unnatural obsession with rocks and alcohol. Often too intelligent to do monotonous sciences like chemistry or physics, geologists devote their time to mud-worrying, volcano spotting and high-risk colouring. One of the main difficulties in communicating with geologists is their belief that a million years is a short amount of time. Consequently, such abstract concepts as "Tuesday Morning" and Lunchtime are completely beyond their comprehension."

Maybe not quite as factual, but definitely a lot more interesting to read!

Sadly, geophysicists do not seem to have captured the imagination of these cunning linguists, as there is no entry for geophysicist in Uncyclopedia. Maybe it's time a SAGA member took the initiative and penned an entry?

Call for Papers underway for Perth 2007 ASEG Conference



18-22 November 2007

The 2007 ASEG Conference Organising Committee for the 19th International Geophysical Conference and Exhibition is expecting a scintillating range of papers and posters in a time of a booming resources sector. To that end a Call for Papers has been announced.

Abstract submissions are being enthusiastically invited for papers and posters. Each submission should be associated with a technical area under the broad Minerals, Petroleum and Environmental categories. A template can be downloaded from www.promaco.com.au/2007/aseg.

Accepted authors will be required to submit a short paper (maximum of four pages) for publication on the conference CD. Papers will be reviewed for technical content and undergo editorial review. The program will allow for informal discussion around the posters. For more information, contact the Secretariat, Promaco Conventions via promaco@promaco.com.au.

69th EAGE Conference & Exhibition incorporating SPE EUROPEC 2007

EAGE

11-14 June 2007
London, United Kingdom

London will host the 69th EAGE Conference & Exhibition incorporating SPE EUROPEC. 'Securing the future' is the theme of this truly multi-disciplinary event bringing together each of the disciplines of Geophysics, Geology, Petrophysics and Reservoir Engineering.

Registration open now!

www.eage.nl

SEG International Exposition & 77th Annual Meeting



23-28 September 2007

The submission process for this year's Annual Meeting Technical Program has been closed. This year's meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. See you in San Antonio!

<http://seg.org/meetings/calendar>



South African
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Announcement & Call for Papers
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- Uranium Exploration
- Petroleum Geophysics
- Unusual Geophysics
- In-Mine Geophysics
- Numerical Geophysics
- African Exploration (Integrated studies)
- Papers on other geophysical topics also welcome

Deadline for submission of abstracts for paper & poster presentations 30 June 2007

Field trips & courses planned. Social programme includes golf.

Workshops & Special Sessions:

- Inkaba ye Africa: www.hartrao.ac.za/inkaba/
- www.gfz-potsdam.de/pb4/pg3/projects/INKABAYeAFRICA/index_en.html
- SAMTEX: www.dias.ie/~mh/samtex_html/
- 2007 Deep Seismic Meeting of IGCP474 www.earthscrust.org/earthscrust/
- AfricaArray <http://africaarray.psu.edu/>



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