

*SOIL SCIENCE
SOCIETY OF SOUTH
AFRICA*



NEWSLETTER

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SSSSA COUNCIL/GVSA RAAD: 2015-17

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The SSSSA does not necessarily agree with opinions expressed in this newsletter.

Die GVSA onderskryf nie noodwendig die menings van bydraes tot sy nuusbrieff nie.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/ **BOODSKAP VAN DIE PRESIDENT**

Dear colleagues/*Beste kollegas,*

The first 6 months of this year has gone by very quickly and was also a sad period. During this time, we have lost two of South Africa's great soil scientists and are much poorer today. On 23rd April Prof Hekkie Harmse passed away, followed on the 3rd May by Theo Dohse. Both men have done a great deal for soil science on the African continent and were well respected for their vast knowledge of soils and their important role in the environment.



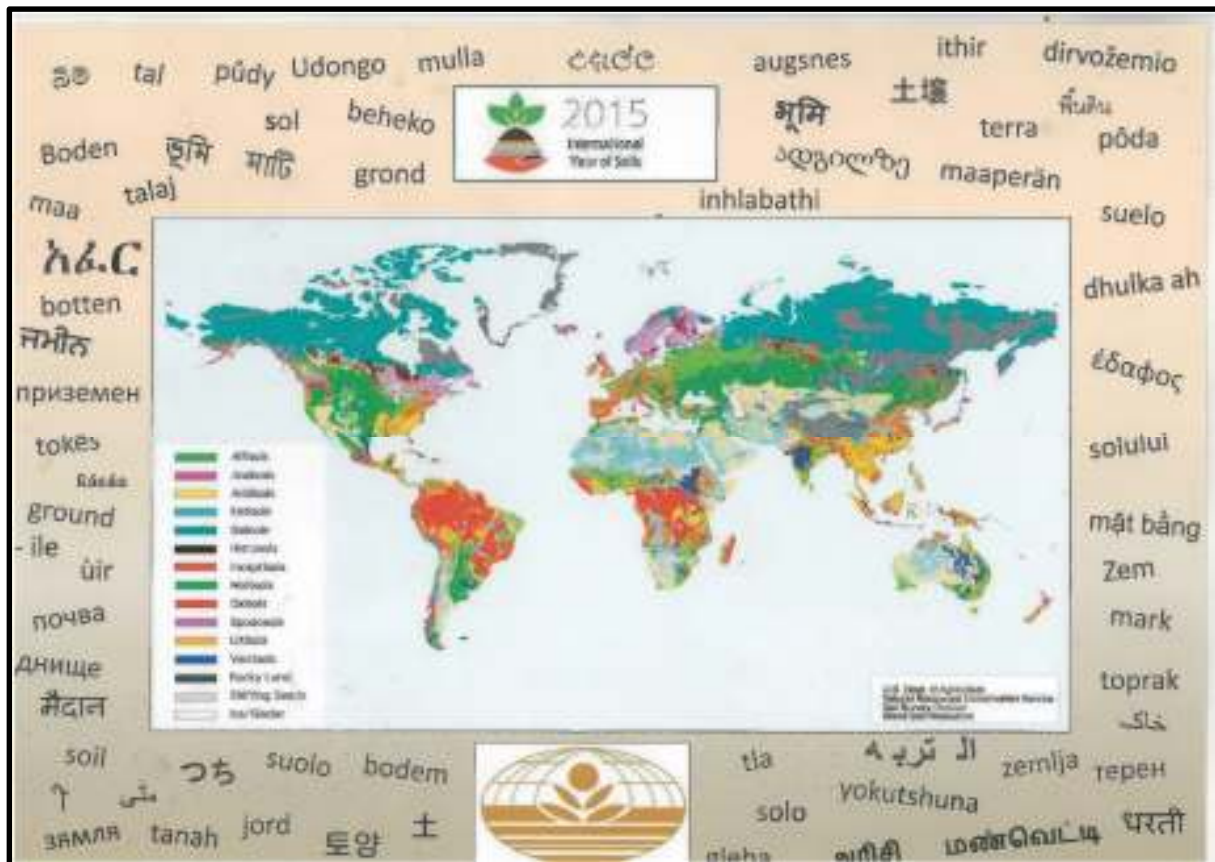
An obituary for each is published in this edition of the SSSSA newsletter and on the Facebook and Website pages of the SSSSA. Our prayers are for the support of their families and those living nearby are encouraged to visit the families if and when possible.

Soil scientists are scarce in South Africa (making up less than 0.004% of the population) and should interact with fellow soil scientists whenever there is an opportunity. The SSSSA would like to facilitate closer contact between soil scientists but needs to have a record of all soil scientists living and working in South Africa. Current members of the SSSSA are therefore encouraged to persuade fellow soil scientists to become members of the SSSSA. Application forms are available on our website (<http://www.soils.org.za/members.html>).

The year 2015 was internationally celebrated as the International Year of Soils (IYS). Globally, great momentum was given to the awareness of the importance of soil to all on the earth. The highlight of our celebrations was probably the "Sustainable Soil Management" symposium which was held from 5-6 November 2015 in Stellenbosch. The event was also attended by Prof Rainer Horn, President of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) of which the SSSSA and therefore all of you are members.

At a follow-on event "Celebration of International Year of Soils 2015 – Achievements and Future Challenges" held in Vienna on 7 December 2015, Prof Horn announced the International Decade of Soils (2015-2024). The objective is to maintain the momentum that was generated in 2015 and further increase soil awareness. The SSSSA supports this initiative and will be looking for opportunities to put soils in the limelight in order to highlight their importance to sustain life on earth. Any members with ideas/suggestions are welcome to contact the Council.

Below is a world soil map surrounded by the word “soil” in many languages issued by the IUSS.



Best wishes/*Groete*,

Rianto van Antwerpen

(031 508 7400; Rianto.vanAntwerpen@sugar.org.za)

EDITORIAL/REDAKSIONEEL

As mentioned in the President’s message, we have lost two well-respected figures in the last few weeks, in Prof Hekkie Harmse and Theo Dohse. As someone who worked with Theo for my whole career, I knew him well and as I said at his funeral, there are stories and then there are “Dohse stories” (confirmed many times by Theo himself). The first time you hear a “Dohse story”, you laugh; the second time you have heard it before so you don’t laugh; the third time you have half forgotten it, so you laugh again and the fourth time, you laugh at the reactions of those who are hearing it for the first time!

Both Theo and Prof Hekkie will be sadly missed by all who knew them.

On a Society note, with the transfer of secretarial and treasurer duties to Nancy Nortjé (NortjeN@ufs.ac.za) in Bloemfontein, it will become ever more important to make sure that the SSSSA has all its members' details, including a current e-mail address. Please make sure that Nancy is always notified if this changes, as it will help communication immensely.

Regards,

Garry Paterson

(012 310 2601; 083 556 2458; garry@arc.agric.za)

COUNCIL MATTERS/RAADSAANGELENTHED

South African Journal for Plant and Soil

Several members have experienced difficulties in accessing articles from the South African Journal of Plant and Soil. Council is aware of these problems, so there is a .pdf file attached to this newsletter which (hopefully) gives all the available information.

If problems persist, please contact the Editor, and he will take it up with the responsible delegates through the SSSSA Council.

South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP)

As SSSSA representative, Dr. Koos Eloff can still serve on the Management Board of SACNASP for a while, but a replacement needs to be identified to gradually take over. A number of people were nominated and approached by Dr. Eloff and Dr. van Antwerpen to test their willingness, and arrangements will be made to facilitate the process.

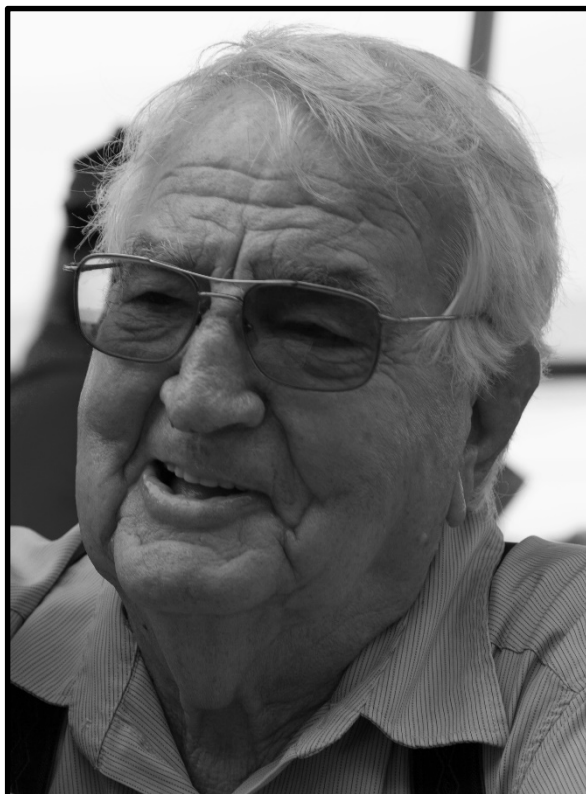
SACNASP representation by the SSSSA is important to continue to ensure that acceptable scientific content in various soil science courses remains, and that the resulting qualifications are compatible with SACNASP registration in the future.

IN MEMORIUM

Prof Hekkie Harmse (1934-2016)

Hekkie Harmse was 'n geliefde eggenoot, pa, oupa asook geëerde Professor en 'n man van vele talente.

Hy was as geoloog verantwoordelik vir die kartering en ontdekking van verskeie ontginbare mineraal afsettings dwarsoor Afrika vanaf die Kaap tot in Kenia en Tanzanië. Hy het vir ongeveer ses jaar lank sy aandag entoesiasies hieraan gewy in diens van 'n groot myn konsortium. Gedurende hierdie tydperk in Afrika het hy onder andere ook die voorreg gehad om die bodem van die Kariba dam te karteer nog voordat die damwal gebou is. Hy het akkuraat voorspel dat die watermassa lokale aardbewings sou veroorsaak wanneer die dam sou vol loop.



Hekkie het graag staaltjies vertel uit sy onvergeetlike tydperk in Afrika soos toe sy blindederm gebars en 'n werker (wat beswaarlik kon bestuur) hom noodgedwonge met 'n Land Rover na 'n twyfelagtige veldhospitaal moes haas. Die tog het oor honderde myle deur die veld en oor swak paaie gestrek - 'n riller van 'n rit om die minste te sê! Dit was slegs een van verskeie lewensbedreigende situasies waaraan hy blootgestel was. Ander het ingesluit geelkoors, swartwaterkoors, malaria, leeus, buffels, olifante, seekoeie en krokodille. As gevolg van eindelose frustrasies met sy Land Rover in Afrika het Hekkie gereeld grappenderwys na Land Rovers verwys as " 'n dirty trick wat die Engelse op die kolonie kom speel het!"

Terug in Suid-Afrika het hy by die Potchefstroomse Landboukollege as navorser gaan werk en is hy ook uiteindelik na 'n twee jaar lange verlowing met sy eerstejaarsliefde, Marina Scheepers, getroud.

Na sy M.Sc. het hy oor 'n tydperk van vier jaar sy doktorsgraad in Utrecht, Nederland, met lof geslaag. Marina moes haar Matthias Klotz viool en Hekkie sy getroue dubbelloop .505 Gibbs olifant geweer verkoop om vir die studies in Nederland te help betaal. Hy het vanaf 1973 by die destydse PU vir CHO as professor gewerk en is later tot departementshoof bevorder. Prof Hekkie het verskeie publikasies, studiestukke en boeke gepubliseer gedurende sy tyd by die PU vir CHO. Sy insprake in die lewens van sy studente het baie verder gestrek as net studies. 'n Groot aantal van sy oud-studente lewer tans noemenswaardige bydraes in die veld van

Grondkunde tot groot voordeel van onder andere die boerderybedryf. Baie van hierdie oud-studente het steeds oor die jare heen gereelde kontak met hom behou.

Prof Harmse het ook beduidende bydraes gelewer in die studieveld van Terra Meganika (voertuig mobiliteit) wat die SAW se langafstand vegvermoëns aansienlik verbeter het. Hy het verder waardevolle insette gelewer in strategies gevegsbeplanning vir SAW in Angola met betrekking tot voertuig mobiliteit en kaarte. Hy was ook lid van die Grondklassifikasie werkgroep vir die binomiese-, sowel as vir die taksonomiese sisteem en was ere lid van die Grondkunde Vereniging van Suid-Afrika.

Hekkie was 'n ervare jagter en het graag iets vir die pot geskiet. Hy het sy liefde vir jag tot op gevorderde ouderdom uitgeleef en sy seuns het hom van kleins af op verskeie jag ekspedisies vergesel. Op 55-jarige ouderdom het hy egter 'n ernstige beroerte in die veld gehad en moes om gesondheidsredes aftree. Hy het op merkwaardige wyse van die beroerte herstel danksy intensiewe terapie en sy vrou, Marina, se puik versorging. Daarna het hy nog talle groot mediese terugslae oorleef waaronder 'n aorta aneurisme, 'n pulmonale embolus asook 'n heup- en twee knie vervangings. Ten spyte van al hierdie ontberinge, het hy altyd moedig voortgegaan sonder om ooit te kla.

Drie jaar gelede is Prof Hekkie weer aangestel as Buitengewone Professor by die Grondkunde Departement en gedurende dié tydperk het hy verskeie nagraadse studente help mentor. Hy het ook in hierdie tyd sy laaste boek (in samewerking met A.M. Hattingh) met die titel "The sedimentary petrology of Western Free State and adjacent areas north of the Vaal River (South Africa)" gepubliseer.

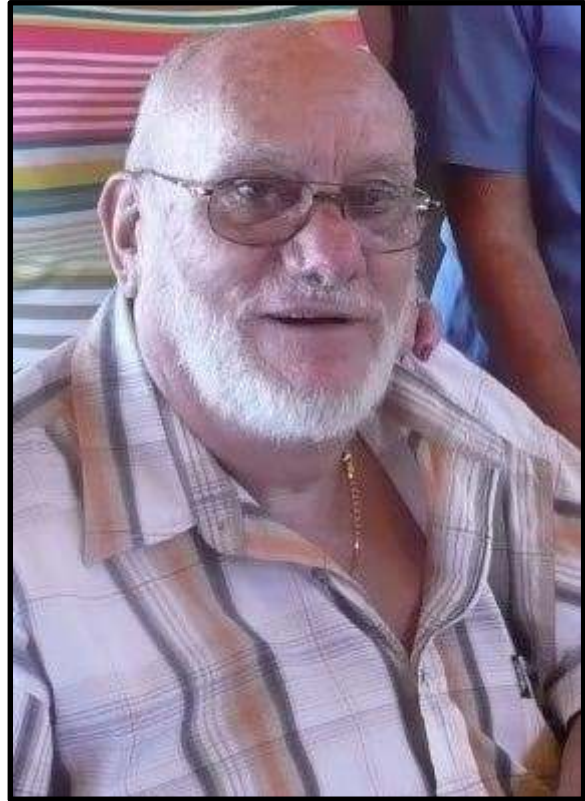
Hekkie het op 82 gesterf omring deur sy gesin. Hy sal onthou word vir sy fenomenale kennis van grondkunde en die natuur - in die besonder van plante en hul simbiotiese bestaan met grondtipes en fauna. Sy groot liefde vir die oop ruimtes van Afrika asook sy grondige kennis van plekke, geskiedenis en kulture, die lands- en wêreld ekonomieë, sal ons altyd bybly. Hierdie kennis het hy toegepas en graag gedeel met sy familie, studente en vriende.

Hekkie se heengaan laat 'n groot leemte as familieman, vriend, kollega en mentor. Hy laat sy vrou Marina (wat 54 jaar lank aan sy sy was), sy seuns Barthlo en Egbert, sy dogter Almarie en vier kleindogters Marina, Alet, Jani & Nina agter.

Theo Dohse (1945-2016)

Theo Dohse was born in Bloemfontein and attended Grey College. After matriculating there, he enrolled at the University of the Orange Free State, where he obtained his BSc (Hons) in Soil Science, being the first student to obtain this qualification. Theo started work at the then Soil and Irrigation Research Institute (SIRI) of the Department of Agriculture in the late 1960s, remaining there until his post-retirement contract ended in 2012 (SIRI by this time having metamorphosed into the ARC-Institute for Soil, Climate and Water).

While at SIRI, Theo, who obtained his MSc in Soil Science in 1972, was responsible for a wide range of soil survey maps, reports and memoirs across many parts of South Africa, including a large number of irrigation surveys. The publications database at ARC-ISCW lists 181 publications authored or co-authored by Theo between 1970 and 2008.



One of Theo's important contributions to SIRI/ARC-ISCW was the work that he carried out in the establishment of the GIS Division, tasked mainly with the digitisation and computerisation of the Land Type Survey spatial information (maps and memoirs). From the early days, when primitive computers and dot matrix printers were the order of the day, we have advanced to the impressive coverage, and range of derived products, that are available today.

In addition, in his later role as Deputy Director responsible for Human Resources allocation, Theo played a large role in ensuring the smooth workings of the Institute, as well as acting as a father figure to many soil scientists and other colleagues there.

Theo's other hat was of course that of Secretary/Treasurer of the SSSSA, the duties of which he carried out enthusiastically for 32 years. Here, he also oversaw the transition from the days of hand-written lists and postage of documents to the establishment of electronic accounting systems and the like, all of which had to be conscientiously supervised and controlled to ensure the smooth administration of our Society. He attended virtually every Congress and AGM, so that he was well-known to several generations of SSSSA members, all of whom appreciated his prompt response to a wide range of enquiries and requests.

Away from work, Theo was married to Rene for over 40 years, and their great event was the annual trek to Scottburgh, on the KZN south coast, where the lovingly customised Dohse caravan would be parked for several weeks at a time in its usual spot overlooking the waves. Theo's delight when he bought a new Toyota bakkie that made the towing of his caravan so much easier is still remembered!

The deepest sympathies of all SSSSA members, friends and colleagues go to Rene and their children, Jacques, Corné and Werner, as well as the grandchildren.

On a personal note, Rene would like to place on record her appreciation to the SSSSA, as well as all members and friends who sent flowers and messages of support.

AWARDS/TOEKENNINGS

Congratulations to the following award winners from the latest Combined Congress, held in January in Bloemfontein:

- **President's award for best verbal presentation:** *Municipal sludge as low grade fertilizer for maize production in South Africa: Crop yield, nitrogen and phosphorus balances.* **Tesfamariam, E.H., Annandale, J.G. & Steyn, J.M.**
- **Best paper presented by a member older than 30 years:** *Effect of 75 years of fertilization and mulching on soil acidification in sugarcane.* **Van Antwerpen, R., Miles, N. & Podwojewski, P.**
- **Best paper presented by a member younger than 30 years:** *The pedogenesis of bleached topsoils overlaying weakly structured subsoils and their significance to classification.* **Le Roux, J.L., Lambrechts, J.J.N., Ellis, F., de Clercq, W.P. & Clarke, C.E.**
- **Best soil science paper on developing (emerging) agriculture:** *Improving irrigation water and solute management using simple tools and adaptive learning.* **Mbakwe, L., Stirzaker, R.J. & Annandale, J.G.**
- **Best presentation by an MSc student:** *Chemical and photometric properties of bleached topsoils occurring on red and yellow-brown apedal subsoils.* **Carstens, M.E., De Clercq, W.P., Le Roux, J.L. & Clarke, C.E.**
- **Best poster presentation:** *Evaluation of sunflower, soybeans and maize crop rotation with mono-cropping.* **Anderson, J.J. Botha, J.J. & Wessels, C.H.**
- **Best poster presentation:** *In-field rainwater harvesting: Key to smallholder productivity.* **Botha, J.J. & Anderson, J.J.**

CONGRESSES/KONGRESSE

Combined Congress 2017

This will be held next January in Pretoria, and the specific dates and other information will be communicated to members as soon as it is available. Keep an eye on the Combined Congress website www.combinedcongress.org.za for details.

Soil Classification Congress

The 5th International Soil Classification Congress will be held in South Africa from December 1st to 7th 2016. There will be a pre-Congress tour from 1st to 4th December, travelling from Johannesburg through North West to Bloemfontein, and the Congress itself will take place at the University of the Free State from 5th to 7th December.

For information on all aspects of the Congress, please see: <http://www.scc16.co.za>

MISCELLANEOUS/ALGEMEEN

Western Cape News

Sustainable Soil Management Symposium



The recent Sustainable Soil Management Symposium, held on 5 and 6 November 2015 at Stellenbosch University, provided a platform for academics and practitioners alike to discuss the concept of sustainability and the main challenges associated with achieving sustainable soil use and management. The symposium was organized by the Department of Soil Science, Stellenbosch University (Dr. Andrei Rozanov) in collaboration with ARC-Institute for Soil, Climate and Water (Liesl Wiese) and Grain SA (Dr. Hendrik Smith).

Prof Leopold van Huyssteen, current Chief Operating Officer of Stellenbosch University and Professor of Soil Science at the Faculty of Agrisciences, opened the symposium by putting soil management within the broader context of sustainability. The gathering was supported by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and addressed by Prof Ranier Horn, the current Secretary-General of IUSS, who stressed the importance of plastic and elastic deformations in long-term management of soil physical state. The President of the SSSSA, Dr. Rianto van Antwerpen, addressed the audience on behalf of the Society and underscored the urgency of sustainable solutions

within the intensification of crop production within the context of Global Climate Change.



Figure 1: Invited speakers at the Sustainable Soil Management Symposium.

The Western Cape Provincial Department of Agriculture showed a strong financial and moral support and the meeting was addressed by the director of the department, Mrs. Joyene Isaacs, who addressed the issues of food security within the context of sustainable development. The ARC Group Executive: Research and Innovation Systems, Dr. Jasper Rees, pointed out the challenge of big data in soil information acquisition, processing and analysis. The industry participation, including farmer presentations and attendance, was strongly supported by Grain SA, who feel that the urgent need to ensure sustainable crop production in South Africa requires soil information as a key to maintaining the sector performance.

Many South African and international experts attended the symposium and participated in discussion of the strategy for South Africa to build and enhance sustainable soil management systems in agriculture and environmental management. Critical issues that need to be addressed over the long term were highlighted, including the issue of data quality, quantity and availability; the site specific dependence of sustainability; monitoring; the importance of organic matter dynamics; and the importance of appropriate indicators of soil health and soil quality towards defining and monitoring

sustainability. More information about the presentations is available on the symposium website: <http://conferences.sun.ac.za/index.php/soil/2015>

Western Cape Soil Discussion Group

The Soil Science Department of Stellenbosch University has re-started the Western Cape Soil Discussion Group. They try to bring the soil science community in the Western Cape together three times a year to present interesting soil science topics and facilitate discussion amongst colleagues. The next meeting will be in August 2016. If you are interested in joining and/or presenting to the Group, please send your e-mail address to Cathy Clarke (cdowding@sun.ac.za).

SPECIAL EDITION OF “NATURE & FAUNE” ON SOIL

Nature & Faune, the FAO’s environmental journal for Africa, decided to publish a special edition covering soil studies and information from Africa as a contribution to 2015 being the International Year of Soils.

Prof Giel Laker played a significant role in the completion of the special edition. He was requested to be a reviewer and in the end reviewed almost 30 papers. Upon invitation, he also wrote the editorial for the special issue. Giel believes that the special issue contains some interesting and very important papers from various African countries.

The PDF URL for the link is: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5292e.pdf>

It is a semi-popular journal, intended to be understood by both scientists and decision-makers.

Professor Laker en oud studente hou reunie in die Kruger

Nasionale Park

Gerhard Nortjé, Tzaneen

Die Rietpan voorbrandpad! 'n Baie bekende en belangrike pad in die Kruger Nasionale Park (KNP) vir menige student in Grondkunde (Universiteit van Pretoria, UP) onder die leiding van Prof Giel Laker. Die bekende pad is onlangs weer besoek as deel van 'n ekskursie-reunie, en verskeie oudstudiante van Prof Laker was saam met hom teenwoordig naamlik: Gerhard Nortjé, Stephan Schoeman, Henk Kuperus en Frans Buys. Dr. Freek Venter (die hoof van bewaring in die KNP) het die ekskursie gelei. Wat die ekskursie baie spesiaal gemaak het is dat dit saamgeval het met Prof Laker se 77^{ste} verjaarsdag.



Foto 1: Bekende Rietpan voorbrandpad, KNP (Well-known Rietpan fire break road, KNP)

Die pedologie kursus aan die UP het onder leiding van Prof Laker 'n weeklange veldekskursie gedurende die mid-semester vakansie as 'n verpligte deel van die kursus ingesluit. Alhoewel Prof Laker (Foto 2) sal bevestig dat die ekskursie baie tyd en harde werk geverg het om te reël, die ekskursie akademies absoluut voordelig was vir menige student. Prof Laker vertel dat hy na vele ekskursies na verskillende gebiede, hierdie perfekte gebied ontdek het vir toekomstige ekskursies. Die ekskursie het ook behels dat daar in Nelspruit gebly is, waar dan baie insiggewende topo-volgordes op die Laeveld Landbou Kollege se proefplaas (Friedenheim) bestudeer is.



Foto 2: Prof Laker (links) en Freek Venter (regs) rustig by die braai met middagete in die veld (Prof Laker (left) and Freek Venter (right) relaxing at the lunchtime braai in the veld)



Foto 3: Vlnr (left to right) - Frans Buys, Stephan Schoeman, Dr Freek Venter, Prof Giel Laker, Gerhard Nortjé en Henk Kuperus

Maar die sleutel deel van die ekskursie was die eendag besoek aan die KNP waar 'n transeksie langs die Rietpan voorbrandpad bestudeer is. Die Rietpan voorbrandpad is ideaal vir die doeleindes, waar in een oggend die verwantskappe tussen verskillende moedermateriale en hellings, die verskillende gronde daarmee geassosieer, en die verskillende plantegroei tipes geassosieer met die verskillende gronde bestudeer kon word (Foto 4 en 5). Soos Prof Laker tereg sê: "Dit moet een van die beste plekke in die wêreld wees om studente hierdie verwantskappe te leer. Hulle kon meer in die paar uur in die veld leer as baie lesings in die klas."



Foto 4: Prof Laker op sy beste – maak studente oud en jonk touwys oor grond (Prof Laker at his best – teaching students, old and young, about soils)

Wat die KNP só 'n belangrike en interessant gebied maak om gronde te bestudeer, is hoofsaaklik die feit dat dit 'n baie bekende en belangrike Nasionale bewaringsgebied is, wat beteken dat die gebied en veral die gronde vir alle praktiese doeleindes onversteurd is. Grondprofiel is dus onversteurd en ideaal vir bestudering van die grondgenese en horisonte.



Foto 5: *Stephan Schoeman en Gerhard Nortjé met 'n olifant in die agtergrond!*
(Stephan Schoeman and Gerhard Nortjé with an elephant in the background!)

Die onderliggende geologie van KNP is hoofsaaklik basalt en graniet, waar die graniet afgewissel word met gabbro. Skalie- en sandneerslae is redelik minimaal en redelik wydverspreid. Die geologie van die KNP wissels van graniete in die weste, gevolg deur gabbros, skalies, basalte en die rioliete van die Lebombo bergreeks in die Ooste, en elke tipe geologie loop in 'n band van Noord na Suid in die KNP. Elke spesifieke geologie en landskap word dan ook gekenmerk deur sy eie kenmerkende katenas (Fig. 1).

Die graniete word gekenmerk deur 'n ongelyke landskap. Die heuwels word deur die harder weerstandbiedende gesteentes gevorm, en die rivier- en dreineringspatrone deur oneweredige verwerking van sagte sones in die getseentes (Fig. 1). Die verwerking van gabbro het vrugbare kleigrond tot gevolg, en dus soet, smaaklike gras. Die skalies is baie gelyk en ondeurdringbaar met di gevolg dat heelwat pannetjies in die gebied voorkom. Dit lei tot kleigrond en grasse is kort en baie smaaklik (Fig. 1).

Basalt vorm 'n baie egalige plat landskap met min dreineringslyne. Doleriet vorm dikwels kenmerkende klipperige dagsome en rotsformasies. Hoewel die plantegroei meer eenvormig is as op graniet, is die grasse smaakliker en baie grasvreters om hier voor. Rioliet is baie meer weerstandbiedend teen verwerking as basalt, en dit vorm die Lebombo-bergreeks (Fig. 1).

Die ekskursie wat nou 'n jaarlikse instelling gaan wees is afgesluit met 'n besoek aan die renoster bomas net buite Skukuza (Foto 6).



Foto 6: *Renoster boma buite Skukuza (Rhino boma outside Skukuza)*

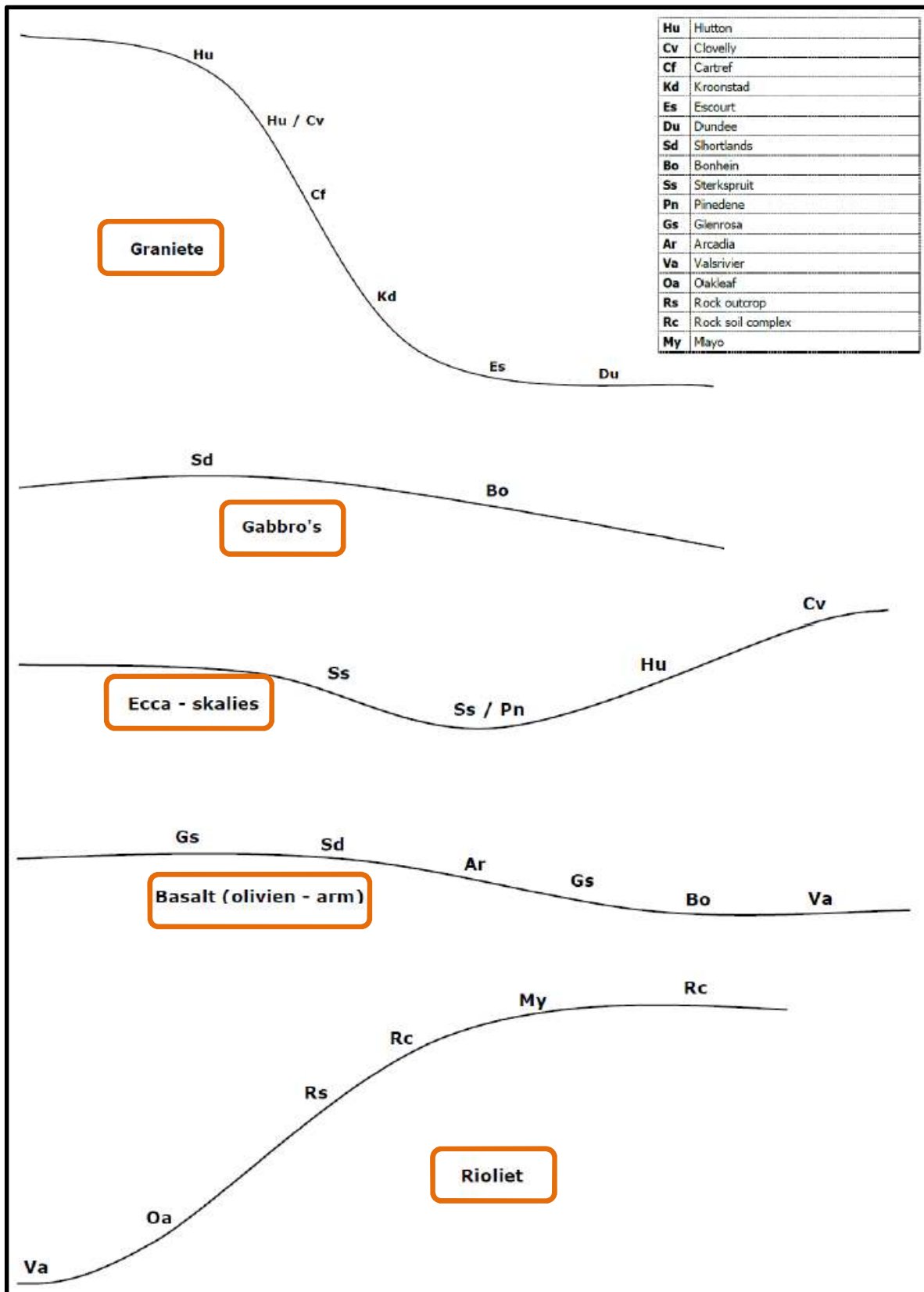


Fig. 1: Rietpan voorbrandpad en katenas op verskillende geologie van wes na oos in die KNP (Rietpan firebreak road and catenas on various geologies from west to east, KNP)

HUMOUR

In America they tell Polish jokes, here they tell Van der Merwe jokes, in the UK they tell Irish jokes, in Ireland they tell Kerryman jokes, so here's one about the (*insert your own preference*) somewhat intellectually-challenged guy who won the "Mastermind" competition and no-one could believe it until they watched the show.

Here's an excerpt:

Quizmaster: "Your time starts now. Name the land feature that allows a road to cross a mountain range."

Contestant: "Pass".

Quizmaster: "Correct".

Quizmaster: "What is it called when a footballer kicks the ball to a teammate?"

Contestant: "Pass".

Quizmaster: "Correct".

Quizmaster: "What is the way that one car can go past another?"

Contestant: "Pass".

Quizmaster: "Correct".

Quizmaster: "How would one get rid of a kidney stone?"

Contestant: "Pass".

Quizmaster: "Correct".

Quizmaster: "What is the term used to denote a successful exam result?"

Contestant: "Pass".

Quizmaster: "Correct".

Quizmaster: "How would one supply salt to a fellow diner at the table?"

Contestant: "Pass".

Quizmaster: "Correct".

Quizmaster: "What document will allow free movement or access?"

Contestant: "Pass".

Quizmaster: "Correct".

Quizmaster: "One takes medicine to allow the symptoms to?"

Contestant: "Pass".

Quizmaster: "Correct".

So you see, if you get the right questions, it can be done!!

SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA: MISSION

The SSSSA is a scientific society, which, in the interest of its members, promotes the advancement of soil science and soil technology as well as the responsible practising thereof by its members with the view to the long-term sustainable utilization of the environment in the interest of the community.

Aims

1. Promotion and protection of the professional status and prestige of soil science as a science and career.
2. Promotion and extension of the society.
3. Promotion of the standard of training of soil scientists and technologists.
4. Creation of opportunities for the free exchange of ideas on soil science and technology.
5. The obtaining and dissemination of knowledge, information and ideas having relevance to soil science by means of discussion and publication.
6. Promotion of contact between the society and other bodies with common or similar interests, both within South Africa and overseas.

GRONDKUNDEVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA: MISSIE

Die GVSA is 'n wetenskaplike vereniging wat in belang van sy lede verbind is tot die bevordering van grondkundige wetenskap en tegnologie, en die verantwoordelike beoefening daarvan deur sy lede met die oog op die lang termyn volhoubare benutting van die omgewing in belang van die gemeenskap.

Doelstellings

1. Bevordering en beskerming van die professionele status en aansien van grondkunde as 'n wetenskaplike beroep.
2. Bevordering en uitbouing van die vereniging.
3. Bevordering van die standaard van opleiding van grondkundige wetenskaplikes en -tegnoloë.
4. Skepping van geleenthede vir vrye gedagtewisseling oor grondkundige wetenskap en tegnologie.
5. Die verkryging en verspreiding van kennis, inligting en idees wat op grondkunde betrekking het by wyse van samesprekings en publikasies.
6. Bevordering van skakeling tussen die vereniging en ander liggame met gemeenskaplike of soortgelyke belange, beide in Suid-Afrika en in die buiteland.