



GISSAWC NEWSLETTER 2012

From the Chair

Hello and greetings to all our readers, and especially our Western Cape members.

The year 2012 is nearly over, and has been a busy and exciting one. Whilst on the surface of it, the big event is the GISSA / EE Publishers Ukubuzana conference, the real event that will affect a sizeable portion of our members, is PLATO's introduction of CPD.

But before I even get to those points, I would like to heartily congratulate Heindrich Du Plessis on being awarded Honorary Life Membership of GISSA. Considering the time, effort and patience that Dup has put into GISSA and related organizations, this recognition is certainly well earned. Thank you and well done, Dup. We have included a short tribute article in our newsletter to highlight Dup's career achievements and contribution to our industry over the years.

So, on to business at hand:

If at this time you are PLATO registered, and have not yet heard about CPD, then best get your head out of the sand, and visit the CPD section of www.plato.org.za

With the advent of CPD, GISSA will need to evolve from "mostly a networking group" to "mostly a GISc developmental society". My personal point of view is that in order for GISSA to serve it's members properly, we will have to focus harder on emerging technologies and trends, and find ways of bringing them to our members so that by attending our meetings they will not only have learned something new, but also have gained valuable CPD points. That's a pretty tall order for your committee to strive for, and if you find that we are failing this goal, may I cheekily suggest that you volunteer for a stint on the committee :-)

Those of you who have read the CPD Rules, will have realised that GISSA is mandated to assess and accredit non-GISSA events for CPD points. Should you or anyone else wish to have an event accredited for CPD points, please first download and read the relevant paragraph of the CPD Rules, and if you still believe your event is conformant to those requirements, please approach your local GISSA Committee for endorsement.

At our General Meeting on September 19th, the new version of our By-Laws was voted in 31-nil, and if you have missed what the changes were about, you can find them [here](#).

We are coming up for our last meeting of the year, which will be our AGM on the 27th November, at Kromme Rhee. Please think seriously about joining the committee. We will shortly be calling for nominations.

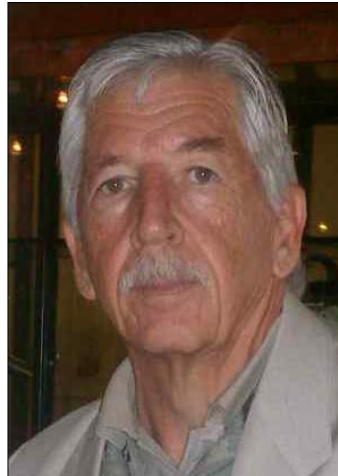
Finally I would like to thank everyone who has supported our meetings, and to say that we welcome any feedback you wish to give us. Please simply email westerncape@gissa.org.za if you have something to say.

Have a prosperous year-end.

Zoltan Szecsei
Chairman, GISSA WC Region.



Heindrich (Dup) du Plessis becomes a GISSA Honorary life member



The GISSA Western Cape Committee would like to, on behalf of all our GISSA members, congratulate Heindrich du Plessis on being awarded an honorary lifetime GISSA membership at the GISSA Ukubuzana conference held during the first week of October in Johannesburg.

Heindrich, or Dup as most of us know him, currently holds the position of Deputy Director: Spatial Information Services in the Directorate: Spatial Information and Professional Support Services, Department Rural Development & Land Reform, but has been involved in the geospatial industry since 1971 when he started his career with the Chief Directorate of Surveys and Mapping (CDSM) as a Pupil Industrial Technician.

His long and influential career in the Survey and GIS industries spanning more than 40 years includes significant academic, research, professional and social contributions to various spatial information related bodies. This is a short tribute article to Dup's career achievements and contribution to our industry over the years. Although we would ideally like to list a comprehensive CV of the impressive contributions he has made over the last four decades, we will only summarise his past and present contributions below.

Qualifications & Research

- He obtained various surveying and administration tertiary qualifications between 1974 and 1994.
- He is currently doing his Doctoral Study (DPhil) qualification on "Empirical research in Geo-Information Science Qualifications"

Statutory Bodies

- Registered as a PLATO Professional Surveyor and GISc practitioner.
- Member of the South African Qualifications Authorities (SAQA) Surveying Standard Generating Body
- Chairperson and convener for the South African Qualifications Authorities (SAQA) GISc Standards Generating Body
- Member of the SAQA and CETA Joint Coordinating Committee



Cont. Heindrich (Dup) du Plessis becomes a GISSA Honorary life member

Professional Positions

- Member of the South African Council for Professional and Technical Surveyors (PLATO),
- Council Member: Geo-Informatics Society of South Africa (GISSA),
- Life Member: South African Geomatics Institute (SAGI),
- Member of the DLA Steering Committee: Survey Profession Bill,
- Convener of the Screening Committee, Professional Engineering Surveying ,
- Member Screening Committee, GISc Practitioners,
- Chairperson and convener for the GISc Standards Generating Body,
- Member of the SAQA and CETA Joint Coordinating Committee,

Professional Bodies

- Institute of Topographical and Engineering Surveyors of South Africa (ITESSA),
- The South African Association for Photogrammetry and Geographical Information Systems (SAPGIS),
- Vrystaatse Assosiasie vir Grond Inligting Stelsels (VAGIS),
- South African Geomatics Institute (SAGI),
- Geographical Information Society of South Africa (GISSA).

Papers presented at:

- Conference of South African Surveyors (CONSAS) 2001,
- Vrystaatse Assosiasie vir Grond Inligting Stelsels (VAGIS) 2001, 2002 & 2004,
- WWW 2002,
- Cape Geographical Information Society (CAGIS) 2002,
- Geographical Information Society of South Africa (GISSA) 2004,
- Map Africa 2006, 2007 & 2008,
- GISSA KZN 2007,
- Spatially Enabled Government Africa 2007 & 2008.
- GISSA Ukubuzana 2012

Leadership positions with academic, statutory and professional bodies

GISSA, PLATO, Education Advisory Committee, NQF SGB-Surveying, NQF SGB-Geo Info Science, Institute of Topographical and Engineering Surveyors of South Africa (ITESSA), South African Geomatics Institute (SAGI), Cape Peninsula Technology (CPUT) and Technikon OFS.

Conferences

Dup served on various industry-related conference organising committees including Consas, ICC & Africa GIS.

We can all see from this summarised list above how Dup has significantly contributed to our industry and therefore GISSA would like to applaud and sincerely thank him for what he has done, and for what he is still doing for our profession.



GISSA NATIONAL AGM & WC MEMBERS MEETING

NGI, MOWBRAY - 20th March 2012

The GISSA National Annual General Meeting (AGM) which coincided with the quarterly GISSA Western Cape member's event was held in Cape Town on Tuesday 20th March 2012. The event hosted by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform NGI at their Mowbray headquarters, was attended by more than 70 delegates. The day was opened by Zoltan Szecsei, the GISSA Western Cape Chairman, at 10h00 after which Herman Booyesen, the GISSA National Committee Chairman, delivered the National AGM with great precision, conciseness and a bit of dry Free State wit. The AGM was followed up with five thirty minute presentations delivered by various industry specialists within geography and GIS.



SPEAKERS & TOPICS

Herman Booyesen - Chair GISSA National
GISSA NATIONAL AGM MEETING

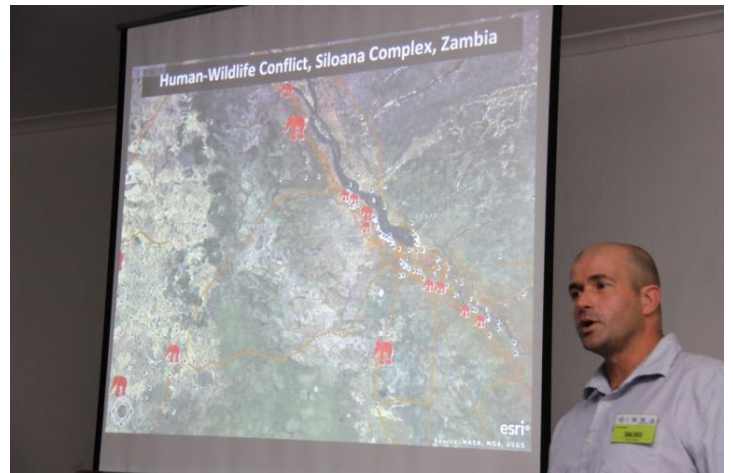
Lorraine Innes - Maptrix
THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY CURRICULUM CHANGE ON SPATIAL SKILLS

Craig Beech – Peace Parks
PEACE PARKS, ALL THINGS SPATIAL

Susan Meiring – GeoMarketing Africa
SPATIALXL

Etienne Louw - MapIT
THE COMBINATION OF CRM / BI / LBS / GIS TO UNLOCK BUSINES SECRETS

Marius van der Merwe – 28 East
AN INTRODUCTION TO GOOGLE GEO FOR ENTERPRISE





GISSA WC MEMBERS MEETING 2

Afrikaans Museum, Paarl - 19th June 2012

The second meeting of the year was held at the Historium at the Afrikaans Museum in the beautiful and historical town of Paarl. Another very informative GISSA Western Cape member's event, attended by approximately 50 delegates, was concluded with lunch where the attendees which included students, consultants, civil servants and speakers alike had some time to talk GIS and network with each other.



SPEAKERS & TOPICS

Vasthi van Dyk - GLS Consulting

ALBION: A FRESH 2D CAD/GIS PLATFORM BUILT FOR PERFORMANCE

Ian Wilson - Spatial Modelling Solutions

3D MODELLING AND 3D PRINTING WITH GIS

Pauline vd Spuy – City of Cape Town, Tourism

HOW GIS AS A TOOL IS UTILISED IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

Adriaan van Niekerk – Centre for Geographical Analysis

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN AT THE CENTRE FOR GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

Thabo Ntsoko - University of Cape Town

NAVIGATION AND INTERACTION OF 3D VIRTUAL WORLDS USING 3D AUDIO

Divan Vermeulen & Jascha Muller – University of Stellenbosch

DETECTING SOIL SALINITY BY USING REMOTE SENSING AND DIRECT/INDIRECT METHODS

GISSA WC
GISSA COMMUNITY





GISSA WC MEMBERS MEETING 3

Bunkers Bar, Platteklouf - 19th September 2012

The third meeting of the year was held at the Bunkers Bar & Restaurant in Platteklouf which overlooked Table Mountain from the foot of the Tygerberg Nature Reserve. This satellite and remote sensing focused meeting which was ended off by two non-traditional GIS related talks focusing on transport and marketing, was attended by approximately 60 delegates. The formal presentation part of the meeting was concluded by a discussion and vote regarding the new GISSA Western Cape by-laws.



SPEAKERS & TOPICS

Dillon Panizollo - Geo Data Design
HARNESS THE POWER OF SATELLITE IMAGERY – AN OVERVIEW OF APPLICATIONS IN DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES

Caren Jarman - Fruitlook
FRUITLOOK - GET THE PICTURE?

Andiswa Mlisa – Umvoto
GROUNDWATER MONITORING USING GIS TECHNOLOGIES

George Sithole – UCT
TRENDS IN PHOTOGRAMMETRY AND REMOTE SENSING

Devin de Vries - Where is my Transport
<http://www.wheremytransport.co.za>

Shaun Clarke - Geofusion Mapping
GIS IN MARKETING

Zoltan Szecsei - GISSA WC
GISSA COMMUNITY FEEDBACK - CPD AND WESTERN CAPE BY-LAWS





Improving your geospatial employment prospects

By: Chlodwik Rossouw, Latitude Resource

At some stage in your career you will be looking for new employment opportunities. Regardless of whether you have recently completed a geospatial related course, diploma or degree, or are looking to move from one senior position to another. You would ideally like to give yourself the best possible chance of finding and successfully applying for your first or next career development opportunity.

I recently published a series of articles in the PositionIT magazines to assist newly qualified as well as experienced geospatial professionals in successfully finding and applying for new job opportunities. In the July 2012 article we discussed what job opportunities there might be available in the Geospatial industry and in the August 2012 article we covered the importance of a good quality, relevant and to the point cover letter and CV when applying for a job. The third article will touch on some guidelines that might help improve your employment prospects by gaining as much experience as possible in your current position.

Now where do you start? GIS as a profession is widely utilised and is not associating with one specific industry or sector so you firstly need to be aware of what opportunities are available and where. Here follows a list of industries and sub sectors where GIS is used.

INDUSTRY	SECTOR
Business	Advertising, Banking and Financial Services, Facilities Management, Insurance, Marketing, Media and Press, Real Estate, Retail
Education	Secondary Institutions – Schools, Tertiary Institutions- Universities, Technicons & Colleges
Government	National, Provincial & Local, Civil Engineering, Economic Development, Elections, Land Administration, Public Works, Surveying, Urban and Regional Planning
Health and Human Services	Academic Programs and Research, Hospitals and Health Systems, Human Services, Managed Care, Public Health
Mapping and Charting	Aeronautical, Cartographic Publishing, Nautical, Spatial Data Infrastructure
Natural Resources	Agriculture, Climate Change, Conservation, Environmental Management, Forestry, Marine and Coast, Mining, Oil & Gas, Petroleum, Water Resources
Public Safety	Defence and Intelligence, Emergency/Disaster Management, Emergency Medical Services, Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Structural Fire Protection, Wildfire Management
Transportation	Aviation, Highways, Logistics, Navigation, Railways, Ports and Maritime, Public Transportation
Utilities	Electric and Gas, Energy, Pipeline, Water/Wastewater
Telecoms	Location-Based Services, Telecommunications
Other	Research, Tourism, More?



Here follows a list of the most common geospatial career job titles or responsibilities that might be found in most of the listed industries:

- Data Capture/QA & Management
- Data Analysis/Research
- Database Management
- Business Analysis
- Software Development
- Business Development/Sales
- Project/Programme Management
- General/Business Management

Good **communication** skills are vital to all applicants wishing to successfully secure a new position and forms an integral part of entire application process. Communication is the only way, by means of application email, cover letter, curriculum vitae (CV), telephone and personal interview process, that you can convince the potential employer you are the right person for the job and that they should employ you.

A well thought out cover letter or email and an excellent CV can assist you greatly in selling your full potential to a recruiter or potential employer. The submission of a cover letter and CV is usually the first step in applying for a new position.

Application email or cover letter

- The purpose of a cover letter or introduction email is to introduce yourself to the prospective employer and to give them a short, relevant and to the point summary on what skills and experience you are basing your application on.
- It is very important to make sure that you provide all the information requested by the employer/recruiter in their advert.
- Make sure that you have read and understood the job specification and that your qualifications and experience matches the job that you are applying for.
- Use a professional email/letter format. Check that there are no spelling or grammar mistakes and don't write in CAPS LOCK.

Curriculum Vitae

Your CV is the advertisement of your education, experience and skills and the most important element of the pre interview job application phase. Remember short, relevant and to the point is the key!

There is a huge amount of information on the internet with regards to the perfect layout of a CV, what information it should contain, etc. If you are feeling at a loss on where to start, find a free CV template off the internet with a good layout and use this as a starting point.



Your CV should ideally contain the following information and preferable in this order

- A short and relevant personal profile (no longer than a paragraph) based on your actual skills, qualifications and experience.
- Personal information: Name, address, contact details, ID no, sex, race, etc
- Professional Qualifications and relevant Training courses – short and to the point, including dates obtained.
- *Technical Information - A bullet point list of professional and technology skills.
- Relevant employment history starting with the most recent and work backwards from there. For each position list your employer, job title (e.g. Manager, Supervisor, etc), and when you started and finished in each job (including the month). Also provide a short explanation for any significant gaps between employment periods.
- Hobbies and other interest (keep it short)
- References to include Company, Referee, Title & Contact Details

General Tips

- A CV should not be longer than two to four pages. Keep it condensed and only provide the necessary. Making use of columns is a good way of saving space.
- Stick to bullet points particularly when describing work experience and responsibilities.
- Use a simple clear font; preferably only make use of one font type.
- Don't use Capital Lock only as it makes a CV very difficult to read.
- A photo is not necessary unless it has been requested.
- Keep your CV looking professional and uncluttered.
- Get your CV proof read for spelling and grammar and formatting mistakes.

***Technical Information**

Make sure that you communicate your technical skills to the reader. Don't just list your technical exposure under a "Technical Skills" section of your CV, but also list these skills and technologies utilised under each employment or project heading. This will give your experience the technical relevancy that most potential employers are looking for.

I would also recommend that you list all technologies utilised during your career under a Technical Skills heading. This provides the reader with the opportunity to quickly glance through a CV and spot the technical skills they are looking for.

Personal, Skills and Knowledge Development

Development and growth in any work opportunity is a two way relationship between what you learn from your employers, colleagues and surrounds, and what you teach yourself. It does not matter where experience comes from, the idea is that you grow and develop your skills that will empower you to develop your career. At the end of the day it is your sole responsibility to develop your own career and your professional capacity.

You can attend **formal training** courses, certificates, diplomas and degree courses that usually provide a condensed and relevant learning experience, but these can cost quite a bit of money and if not sponsored by your employer, can burn a hole in your pocket.



Why not consider doing **FREE online tutorials**? You will be surprised at the amount of good quality training courses you can find by doing a Google search for “Free online GIS tutorials”.

If you need **software or data** to practice with and cannot afford commercial products, download free opensource software like QGIS, MySQL, PostGIS to name a few. GIS data, specifically South African data can be obtained for free from places like NGI (<http://www.ngi.gov.za/>), Chief Surveyor General (<http://csg.dla.gov.za/>), Openstreetmap and Geocomm (www.geocomm.com).

Always try and improve your skills by researching and trying new technologies, tools or processes. There is a huge amount of industry and topic related **blogs, forums, magazines and journals** available online. The PositionIT magazine, the South African Journal of Geomatics (<http://www.sajg.org.za/>), industry and technology related forums like <http://forums.esri.com/> and <http://gis.stackexchange.com/>, are just a few examples of the resources available to you.

Finally, by joining **industry related societies** like GISSA or SAGI will help you to stay in touch with what the geospatial community is doing and it is a very good way to network. Embrace **social networking** tools like LinkedIn, Facebook, Google+ and Twitter as this allows you to customise your information intake to the topics and industries you want to learn from.

Being **PROACTIVE** is the key word. GIS technologies are constantly evolving and you need to stay up to date to stay in the game. There is a massive amount of knowledge available for free and remember career development is a marathon, not a sprint, so take it step by step.

Good luck!



GISSA Members Profile

Jaco Kemp, who serves on our GISSA WC committee, is currently extracting some basic stats from our GISSA member's database and we thought we'd share some of his findings with you. These profiles represent our 1841 GISSA members across South Africa.

