

ROCK *talk*

Volume 11, Issue 2 | July 2025



- President's Corner
- Treasurer's Column
- Education Blog
- SANIRE Branches
- ISRM International Recognition

SANIRE COUNCIL

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SANIRE

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ROCK ENGINEERING

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SANIRE would like to hear from you. If you have any information or content you would like us to include in the next newsletter, please submit them via email to prudence@sanire.co.za. Remember to follow us on LinkedIn and Facebook for updates.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members

This will be my final newsletter as President of SANIRE and I would like to highlight SANIRE's accomplishments over the past two years:

- (i) **SANIRE has won the award for the Best National Group within ISRM for 2022-2024**
(an award shared with France)
SANIRE plays a significant role in advancing ISRM's mission on both a regional and global level. Prominent members such as Prof. Ray Durrheim and Prof. Bryan Watson actively contribute to ISRM commissions and working groups, lending their expertise to global initiatives. Mr. Jannie Maritz currently serves as the ISRM Vice President for Africa, strengthening the representation of the continent and SANIRE on the international stage. SANIRE has strategically aligned its annual awards and event-hosting efforts with ISRM's objectives, while promoting ISRM standards and best practices across South Africa. SANIRE exemplifies the spirit and mission of ISRM through its leadership, innovation, and unwavering commitment to advancing rock mechanics in South Africa and beyond. SANIRE's ability to connect academia, industry, and policy in a dynamic and inclusive way sets it apart as a model National Group. With strong international involvement, a focus on youth and education, and continuous contribution to technical excellence, SANIRE is a worthy recipient of the Best National Group Award.
- (ii) **SANIRE is now the largest National Group within the ISRM**
Our membership has consistently exceeded 700 over the past two years, which has culminated in SANIRE now being the largest national group within the ISRM. Six individual branches, strategically scattered across South Africa to ensure coverage of all mining commodities. Each branch meets once a quarter.
- (iii) **SANIRE Academy Online Platform**
SANIRE continues to be a driving force in promoting excellence in rock mechanics and with the establishment of the online SANIRE Academy platform, we have added significant value to our members. The development was funded by the Minerals Council of South Africa through the RETC.
- (iv) **SANIRE Communication**
A quarterly e-newsletter is produced by national council, which includes technical content and general industry news. SANIRE has an active social media footprint.
Web: www.sanire.co.za
Facebook: [@SANIREofficial](https://www.facebook.com/SANIREofficial)
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sanire-south-african-national-institute-of-rock-engineering/>
- (v) **SANIRE-SAIMM Collaboration**
SANIRE fosters innovation and knowledge-sharing through our well-established network of professionals and strong collaboration with other industry bodies. SAIMM has been providing

administration services to SANIRE for the past 12 months, which has resulted in incredible value-add.

- (vi) **Conferences**

By actively engaging in conferences, workshops and technical discussions, SANIRE ensures continuous professional development and widespread dissemination of cutting-edge practices. Three local annual symposia have been successfully organised and hosted by SANIRE from 2022 to 2024. AFRIROCK 2025 Pioneering Progress: The future of Rock Engineering (an ECSA validated CPD activity) is our first international conference in 8 years. The goal of Afrirock 2025 is to provide an international forum for presenting and discussing the latest advancements in rock mechanics and geotechnical engineering.

- (vii) **Industry Collaboration**

SANIRE works closely with the Minerals Council of South Africa (MINCOSA), (i) providing examiners for the MINCOSA industry certificate examinations in rock engineering, and (ii) working closely with the MINCOSA RETC in establishing best practices for combatting rock falls in different mining environments. SANIRE also forms part of the MineSafe organising committee and is a member of the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF). As a large proportion of our members completed either engineering and/or natural science qualifications, we encourage our members to register with the Engineering Council of South Africa and/or the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions. SANIRE has formed close relationships with The Association of Mine Managers of South Africa, The Geological Society of South Africa, The South African Institute for Engineering and Environmental Geologists, as well as the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources through the Inspectorate.

I would like to thank the Council members that will be stepping down, Ms. Jeanne Walls, Ms. Fezekile (Pearl) Mosiane and Mrs. Lizelle Prinsloo, who contributed tremendously to our achievements. I would like to extend my gratitude to the council members that have been re-elected and will be staying on for the next two years: Mrs. Glorious Nkosi, Mr. Rofhiwa Phadagi, Mr. Thandile Dlokweni, Mr. Sifiso Mashile, Mr. Petrie Wessels.

Mr. Obakeng Rakumakoe will be taking over the reigns as SANIRE President and I wish him all the best in this new role. I will stay on as the Immediate Past President, supporting Obakeng and his newly elected council, with two new members, Dr. Richard Masethe and Mrs. Thovhedzo Gcuda.

It has been an honour serving as the SANIRE President for the past two years. The loving support of my wife Gaynor Le Bron and my kids Mathieu, Khloe and Diego, as well as the constant support and encouragement of the SANIRE council members, the branch chairs, branch committee members, Sam Moolla and the SAIMM administration team, the sponsors, the SANIRE members, and our two administrators Mbalenhle and Prudence, has made my tenure very enjoyable.

I wish all SANIRE members the very best.

Kevin Le Bron
SANIRE President



SANIRE
SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF ROCK ENGINEERING

SANIRE SYMPOSIUM 2022 | 28 & 29 JULY

**PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE
IN ROCK ENGINEERING**





EMPERORS PALACE
CONFERENCE CENTRE
KEMPTON PARK

SANIRE SYMPOSIUM 2023
22 - 23 JUNE



**TURNING
CHALLENGES INTO
OPPORTUNITIES**



SANIRE
SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF ROCK ENGINEERING

save the date
22 - 23 JUNE

EMPERORS PALACE
CONFERENCE CENTRE
KEMPTON PARK





SANIRE SYMPOSIUM 2024
TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS IN
ROCK ENGINEERING



SANIRE
SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF ROCK ENGINEERING

13 - 14 June 2024
Silverstar Hotel Conference
Centre, Muldersdrift

AFRIROCK
2025

**PIONEERING PROGRESS :
THE FUTURE OF ROCK ENGINEERING**

Venue: Sun City, Rustenburg, South Africa
19 JULY 2025 - Pillar Workshop
20 JULY 2025 - Geotech & Rocscience
Workshop
21-23 JULY 2025 - Conference
24 JULY 2025 - Technical Visits



ECSA and SACNASP Validated CPD Activity
Credits = 0.1 per hour attended




SANIRE HONORARY TREASURER QUARTERLY UPDATE

Dear SANIRE Members

Your continued commitment supports the operational sustainability and professional presence of SANIRE.

As we begin 2025, I wish to extend my appreciation to the **391** members who are currently in good standing and have contributed a total of R373,950.00 in membership fees. Your continued commitment supports the operational sustainability and professional presence of SANIRE.

However, there remains a concern: **340** members are not in good standing, with total outstanding fees amounting to R565,350.00. This is a marked improvement from **Q4 2024**, where **588** members had outstanding dues. We thank all who have responded since the last call to action.

Outstanding Members by Category (as of Q1 2025):

- Associates: 273
- Members: 62
- Fellows: 1
- Retired Members: 3
- Retired Associate: 1

In accordance with Section 7.4 of the SANIRE Constitution:

- All subscriptions are due on 1 July and must be paid in advance.
- Members with unpaid subscriptions after 31 December are no longer in good standing and forfeit rights such as access to publications, notices, awards, and voting privileges.
- Suspension letters will be issued to members with outstanding fees pending submission of proof of payment in April 2025.
- Members whose fees remain unpaid after one year (i.e., post-June 2025) risk exclusion by **Council resolution**, removal from the membership register, and **may be subject to entrance fees and additional Council-determined conditions if reapplying**.

I urge all affected members to act swiftly to retain their professional affiliation and access to SANIRE benefits.

Please reach out to your Branch Chairperson or contact the SANIRE Administrator at info@sanire.co.za for assistance.

Let us continue building a strong, professional rock engineering community.

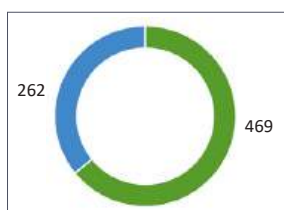
Sifiso Mashile
Honorary Treasurer

Financial Report June 2025

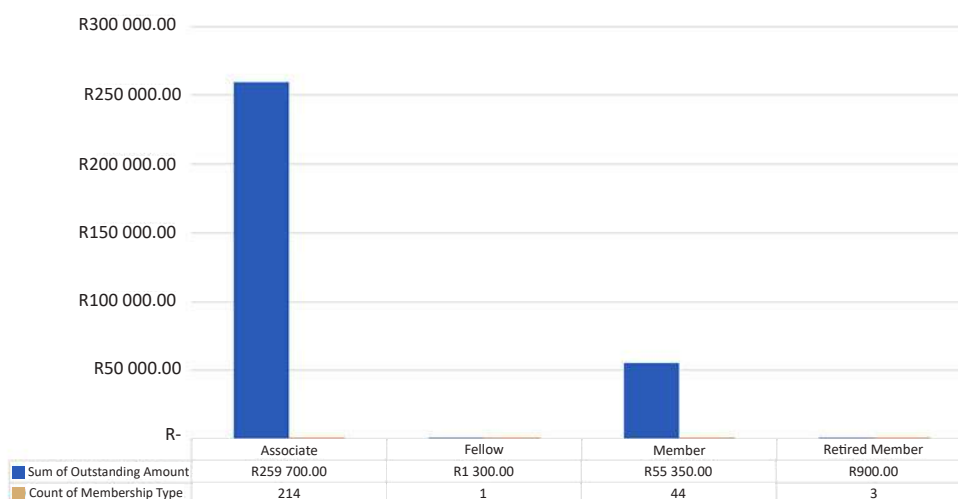
Current Membership Subscription Invoicing Status

As of 31 May 2025

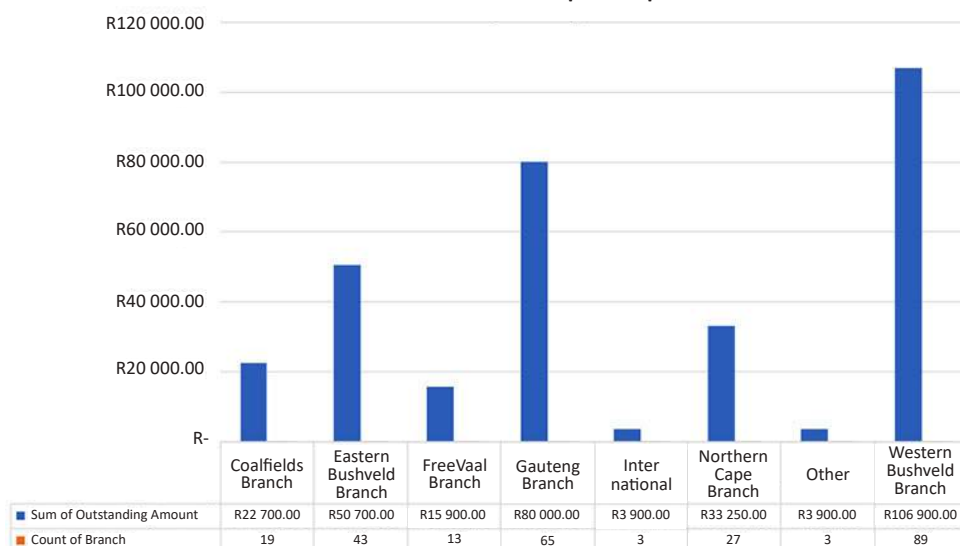
Amount Invoiced	R939 300.00
Revenue received	R622 050.00
Amount to be written off	R317 250.00
Members Invoiced	731
Members Paid	469
Members Suspended	262 (309 April)



Suspended per Member Grade



Members Suspended per Branch



04 June 2025

Memo: Membership Fees Invoicing for Individual Members and Companies FY2025/2026

Dear SANIRE Members,

As we approach the end of the current SANIRE financial year on 30 June, the SANIRE Council would like to extend sincere appreciation to every member who ensured their membership fees were paid timeously during the past year. Over the years, we have encountered several challenges in the collection of membership fees, particularly in cases where companies pay in bulk on behalf of multiple members. In light of this, the SANIRE Council has implemented a revised process for the upcoming financial year to ensure a collection process.

Revised Membership Fee Invoicing Process

Individual Member Membership Invoicing:

1. Membership invoices will be issued at the beginning of the new financial year in August, after the SANIRE Annual General Meeting (AGM), to all individual members whose fees are not covered by their employers.

Company Membership Invoicing:

1. In the event where a Company pays the membership fees, an email containing a list of member names and associated membership numbers will be sent to the most senior geotechnical representative at each Company. This is to allow for review and confirmation that the list is accurate and up to date.
2. The senior geotechnical person is requested to submit the revised or confirmed list to the SANIRE Administrator. Upon receipt, SANIRE will proceed with generating a bulk invoice for the respective company.
3. The SANIRE Administrator will issue and forward the bulk invoice to the senior geotechnical contact, clearly indicating the names of all members included in the invoice. The members included on the invoice will be copied on this communication.
4. While some companies handle payment on behalf of their employees, it remains the responsibility of each individual member to ensure that their membership fees are settled on time.
5. Companies intending to pay for their employees in bulk but who may not have received the initial email are encouraged to contact the SANIRE Administrator directly. Our current communication is based on our existing employer database from previous membership records.

Reminder: All Membership fees are due by the 31 December of every year, any member with outstanding fees beyond then ceases to be a member in good standing.


K Le Bron
SANIRE President


O Rakumakoe
Deputy President


S Mashile
Hon. Treasurer

EDUCATION BLOG

Education Updates

As the Rock Engineering landscape evolves, so too must the way we learn, upskill, and prepare for the future. SANIRE remains committed to supporting the professional growth of its members through

accessible, structured, and high-quality learning opportunities. Below are the latest updates from the Education Desk.

FoGAP Education Program – Ongoing Progress

The **Fall of Ground Action Plan (FoGAP) Education Program**, a partnership between **SANIRE**, the **Minerals Council South Africa**, and **Flex Online**, continues to enhance digital learning for Rock Engineering professionals.





Key Highlights:

SANIRE Academy Platform Is Live

- The SANIRE Academy platform is now available via the **SANIRE website** under the *Education* tab. It offers structured learning content across different professional levels.

 *Please note: Only paid-up SANIRE members have access to the platform and its content.*

Learning Pathways Currently Available

Members can choose from three pathways to suit their current role and development goals:

- Strata Control Observer
- Strata Control Practitioner
- Geotechnical Engineering Practitioner

New Pathways in Development

Two additional pathways are under construction and will be launched in due course:

- Frontline Supervisor
- Practitioner in Practice

Toward Accredited Training

The existing content supports learning toward professional growth, but formal assessments and qualifications are still in development. SANIRE is working on a fully digital, accredited training framework and platform to support structured qualification pathways.

Academy Access and Support

A detailed step-by-step guide on how to register, login, and access your learning content is available in the **SANIRE Academy Access Guideline**. Learning is available both via web and mobile app. Make sure your email is up to date on the SANIRE database and check your spam folder for registration emails.

Access the Academy here:

<https://lms.retc.flexonline.io>

Academy Awareness Webinar – 4 June

A successful webinar was hosted to guide members through the SANIRE Academy platform, showcase available learning material, and encourage wider participation.

With a clear focus on **accessibility, scalability, and quality**, SANIRE is leading the charge in transforming professional education in rock engineering.

May 2025 Theory Examination Update

The **May 2025 theory examination papers** are currently undergoing final moderation. We anticipate that **results will be available by mid-July 2025**. We appreciate the patience and dedication of all candidates and look forward to celebrating your progress soon.

Petrie Wessels
MincoSA Exams



WE HAVE INCREASED THE ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMPANIES WHO WOULD LIKE TO MARKET THEIR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IN THE SANIRE NEWSLETTER. CONTACT US TODAY TO SECURE A SPACE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **ROCKtalk**

2024-2025 Advertising Rate Card (all sizes in mm)

Type of Advert	Height	Width	Rate
Front Cover	165 h	55 w	R4000.00
Full Page (A4)	297 h	210 w	R8000.00
Half Page Horizontal	148 h	210 w	R2800.00
Third Page Horizontal	99 h	210 w	R2400.00
Square	60 h	60 w	R1000.00

BOOK YOUR SPACE: info@sanire.co.za

VIEW THE LATEST ISSUE OF **ROCKtalk**
www.sanire.co.za

Getting Started

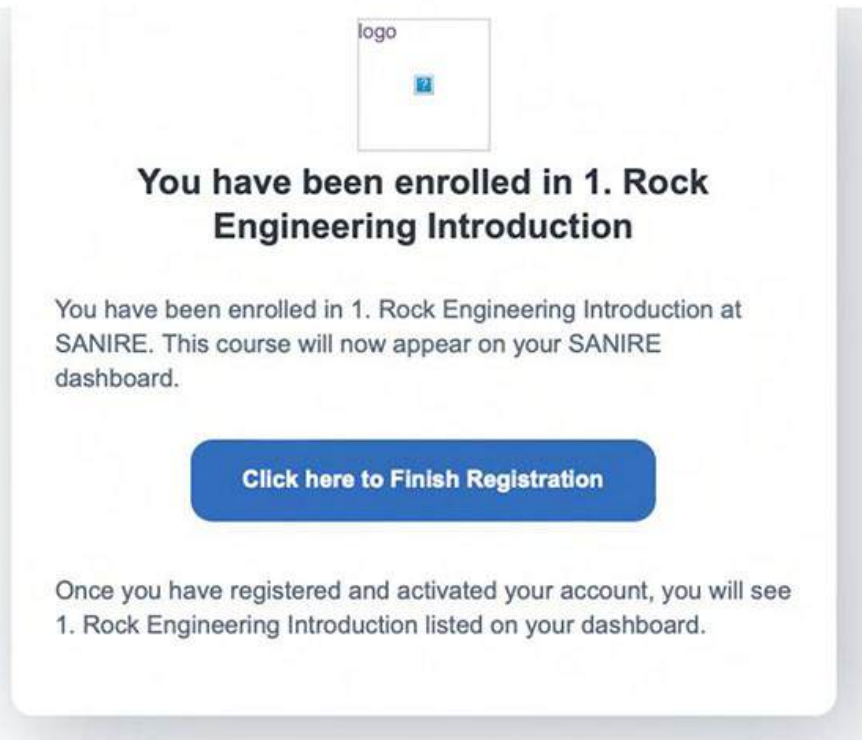
Below is a step-by-step guide to access the platform and set up your learning journey

Register

- 1 You will receive an email to your email address, as registered on the SANIRE database, notifying you of your enrolment into courses on the SANIRE learning platform. Please monitor your 'spam' folder if you don't see this email in your inbox. An example of this email below:

You have been enrolled in 1. Rock Engineering Introduction on SANIRE

 no-reply=flexonline.io@mg.flexonline.io <no-reply=flexonline.io@mg.flexonline.io> on behalf of
SANIRE <no-reply@flexonline.io> [Unsubscribe](#)
To: [REDACTED]



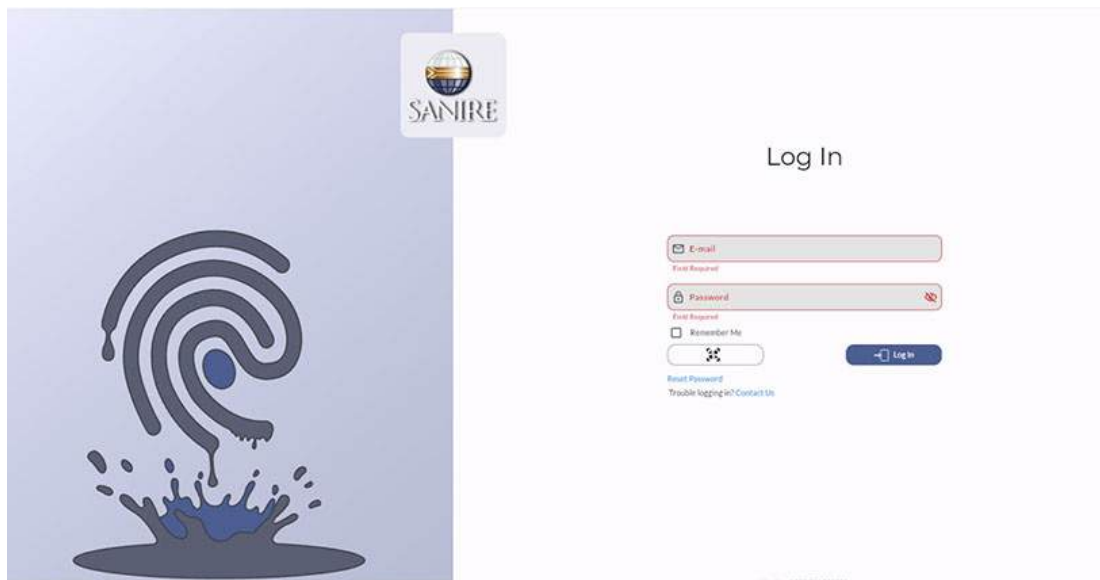
- 2 Click on the 'Click here to Finish Registration' button to complete your profile on the platform and activate your account. We will receive a second email from the platform to activate your account.
- 3 Once you have activated your account, you will be able to log into the platform. Once logged in, navigate to the 'Browse' section to select your learning pathway that you can enroll in.
- 4 Set up the SANIRE Academy on your phone/tablet so that you can learn on the go! Turn the page for detailed instructions.

Already Registered?

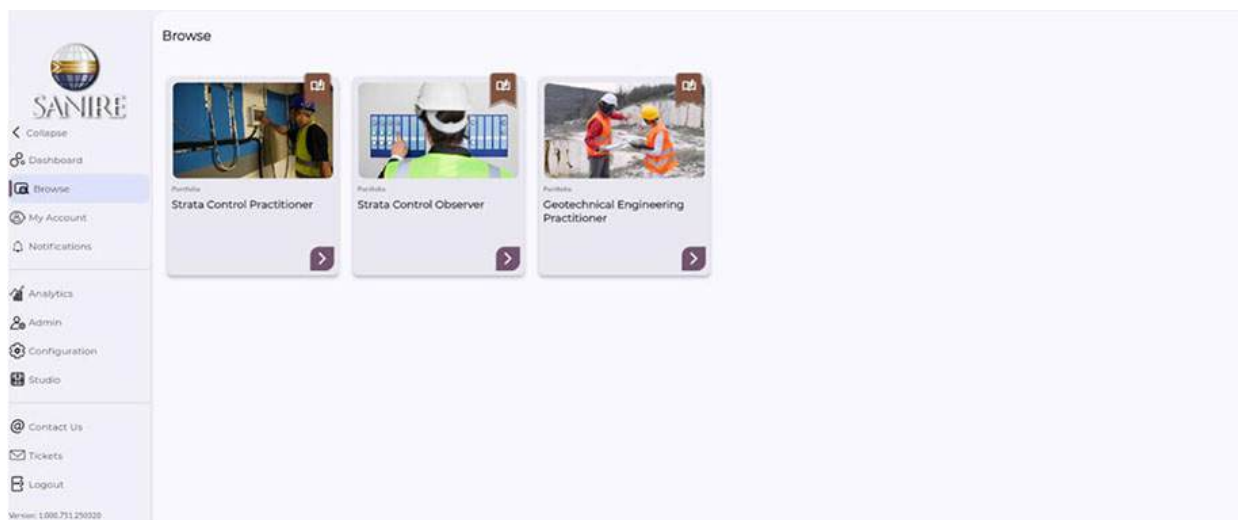
Follow these guidelines to access the SANIRE Academy and continue your learning.

Platform

- 1 Access the SANIRE Academy by clicking on the following link, or typing it into your browser:
<https://lms.retc.flexonline.io/>



- 2 Access the platform with the email address as captured in the SANIRE database and enter your password as created when you registered on the platform. If you have forgotten your password, click on the 'Reset Password' link and follow the instructions to reset your password.
- 3 Once logged in, navigate to the 'Browse' section to select your learning pathway that you can enroll in.



Learn on any device!

The SANIRE Academy platform is available on the web or mobile application. Follow the steps below based on your selection:

Internet Browser

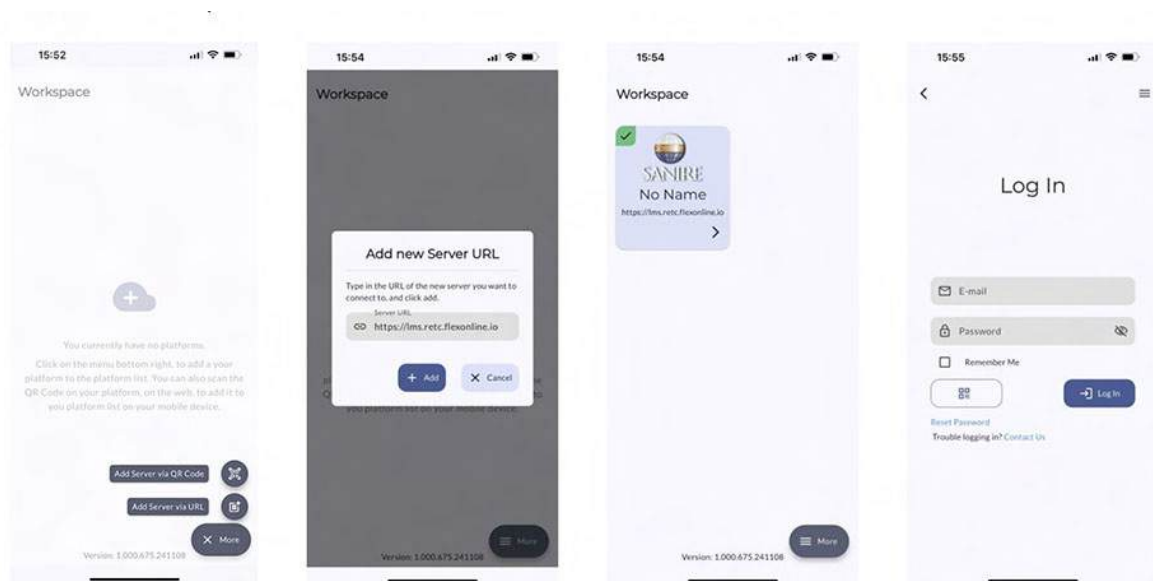
- 1 On your preferred internet browser (Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge etc.) enter the following link - <https://lms.retc.flexonline.io>
- 2 Enter your login details and enjoy your learning experience!

Mobile Application Setup

- 1 Download the Flex Mobile App from the [Google Play Store](#) and [Apple App Store](#).



- 2 Once downloaded, open the Flex LMS app and on the bottom right menu, click on 'Add server via URL'. Type the following URL – '<https://lms.retc.flexonline.io>' and click on 'Add'. Click on the SANIRE platform, enter your login details and enjoy your learning experience!



SANIRE BRANCH Contributions

SANIRE FreeVaal Branch Meeting – March 2025 Recap

The SANIRE FreeVaal Branch hosted its first branch meeting of the year on 14 March 2025 at Ringers Pub & Grill in Potchefstroom. The meeting brought together 49 attendees comprising 29 rock engineering professionals and 20 supplier representatives. As always, the event provided a valuable opportunity for networking, knowledge sharing, and strengthening relationships across the rock engineering community.

The session opened with a warm welcome and an emphasis on mutual respect — a reminder that the strength of our branch lies in the collective contributions of all members. This was followed by a safety moment, reinforcing our shared commitment to health and safety as the foundation of our work.

The meeting featured insightful presentations. Rohan Bierman from Bedrock Mining Support spoke about the critical importance of delivering quality timber products on time and in full, despite the growing challenges in securing mining timber amid market pressures and environmental constraints. His talk highlighted the value-added services Bedrock offers, from fire-retardant treatment to timber yard management, ensuring that their customers' operational needs are consistently met.

As branch chair, I delivered a detailed rock engineering presentation focusing on seismic events and lessons learned. It entailed an analysis of a seismic-related fall of ground incident at Hlanganani Shaft provided a comprehensive look at rock mass management, support design, and proactive and reactive measures. The case study demonstrated how adherence to design standards, timely audits, and courageous on-

site decision-making by the Safety Representative (including the application of SLAM and TARP protocols) contributed to containing the event and protecting lives. The presentation reinforced the importance of continuous vigilance and learning in the face of dynamic rock mass conditions.

Christiaan Gerber, from M&J Mining rounded off the technical program with a fascinating presentation on the role of lighting in safety, including the impact of peripheral vision, optic illusions, and photophobia on miners' wellbeing. Their talk underscored the value of thoughtful lighting design in reducing visual fatigue and improving hazard awareness underground.

Strata Control Practical Exam – Joel Mine

We are also proud to report that a Strata Control Practical Exam was successfully held on 29 May 2025 at Joel Mine, part of Harmony Operations. Eleven candidates took part in this important step on their journey to becoming certified strata control officers. The enthusiasm and professionalism displayed by these future Rockies reflect the high standards we expect in our discipline. We extend our congratulations to those who passed (no scores out yet 😊) and best wishes to all participants as they progress in their careers.

Looking ahead, members are reminded of key upcoming events, including the AFRIROCK symposium in July 2025, which promises to be a highlight on the rock engineering calendar.

As always, we thank our members, presenters, and sponsors for their dedication. We look forward to seeing you at our next branch meeting in June/July 2025!

Be blessed and keep well

Warm wishes

Mitch Wiggins

FreeVaal Branch Chairperson





We are now Sandvik!

Rocbolt has officially rebranded

We are excited to announce that Rocbolt is now fully integrated into Sandvik. This important milestone marks the final step in our transformation and strengthens our ability to deliver cutting-edge solutions that enhance safety and profitability in mining and tunneling.

While our brand has changed, our commitment to you remains the same. We will continue to manufacture the most extensive range of advanced ground support solutions and systems locally, delivering the same high-quality products and providing the same unparalleled support you have counted on, now stronger than ever under the Sandvik brand.

This rebranding reflects our commitment to innovation and transforming safety underground. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and look forward to sharing them with you.



mining.sandvik/groundsupport

SANIRE Membership Application Guidelines



1. SANIRE WEBSITE

- Visit www.sanire.co.za to apply for membership.

2. APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP

- On the SANIRE website click on **JOIN SANIRE** under the QUICK LINKS TAB to create a profile.

3. CREATE A PROFILE

- Complete all your personal details and click on **PROCEED**. Wait to receive your login details.

4. LOGIN DETAILS

- The login details, including your username and password will be sent to your email. Login to the **MyMembership portal** to complete your profile.

5. MYMEMBERSHIP PORTAL

- Once you have logged in, click on the **Become a Member tab** and follow the prompts to complete your application.

6. PROPOSER AND SECONDER

- For a Membership application you will be required to add the name and membership number of a proposer and seconder, who must be members of SANIRE. Contact: prudence@sanire.co.za if you require assistance.

7. APPLICATION FEEDBACK

- Once you have completed the application process the Administrator will review your application and provide feedback.

SANIRE BRANCH Contributions

Eastern Bushveld Branch

Eastern Bushveld Branch Update: A Season of Collaboration, Growth, and Momentum

The Eastern Bushveld Branch kicked off 2025 with energy, commitment, and a sense of unity that continues to strengthen with each event. Our calendar has been filled with impactful initiatives, and it's a privilege to reflect on the incredible participation and passion that's been displayed by the Rock Engineering community in our region.

We held our first branch meeting of the year at Buffelsvlei and it was nothing short of exceptional. The turnout from practicing Rock Engineers across the region exceeded all expectations and reminded us of the depth of dedication and professionalism that defines our field. We had the privilege of hosting SANIRE President Kevin Le Bron and his wife Gaynor, whose presence elevated the occasion and reaffirmed the strong support from SANIRE leadership toward branch-level engagement. Their warm interaction with attendees and visible commitment to the profession was truly appreciated. What made this gathering particularly special was the opportunity to celebrate the Rock Engineers who attended—not only for their presence but for their continued contributions to the Eastern Bushveld Branch and SANIRE as a whole. These individuals are more than professionals; they are the heartbeat of our branch, ensuring the sustainability and progress of the Rock Engineering discipline.

We extend our sincere appreciation to every individual who attended, participated, and continues to make a difference in our discipline—through mentorship, leadership, learning, and unwavering dedication to the profession. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all the presenters and sponsors for their generous contributions—your expertise, time, and support added immense value to the event and helped make it the success that it was.

Another highlight of the quarter was the successful Strata Control practical exam, hosted at Two Rivers Platinum on 28 May with 26 candidates participating. A special thanks must go to Sampie van Buuren, Petrie Wessels, Rosy Phiri, and Reon Kemp for their tireless efforts and leadership in coordinating and executing this vital event. Your time, expertise, and enthusiasm are deeply appreciated. We also express heartfelt gratitude to the panel of examiners who attended and provided invaluable support.

We're thrilled to announce our upcoming technical/branch meeting visit to the Vigario factory in early July. This will be a unique opportunity for Rock Engineering professionals to gain deeper insights into ground support products and manufacturing processes. Final details and RSVP info will be shared soon—don't miss out!

Save the date! On 3 October 2025, we'll host our flagship social and networking event—the SANIRE Eastern Bushveld Golf & Spa Day at the stunning Highland Gate Golf Course in Dullstroom. This event is not just about sport or relaxation; it's about building lasting connections, celebrating our profession, and taking a well-deserved break in luxury and nature. Sponsorship opportunities will also be available, and we encourage all members and partners to get involved.

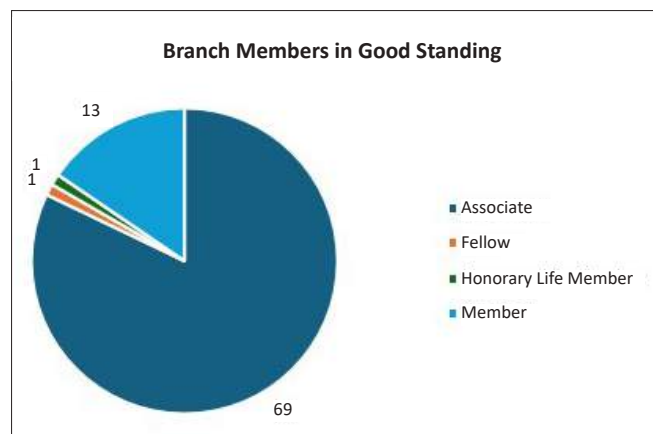
As we continue building a stronger, more connected Rock Engineering community, we kindly remind all members to ensure their SANIRE membership fees are up to date. Your membership not only keeps you in good standing with the Institute but also directly supports the ongoing development of our discipline.

The Eastern Bushveld Branch is moving forward with momentum, gratitude, and purpose. Each event and initiative is made possible by your involvement and passion. Let's continue to support, uplift, and grow together as a strong SANIRE community.

Warm regards,

Easavani Wessels

Eastern Bushveld Branch Chairperson



SANIRE BRANCH Contributions

Coalfields Branch

Greetings from the Coalfields Branch.

In the thick of winter, the recently elected coalfields branch committee has wasted no time in settling in and is already underway in its quest to revitalize the functions of the Coalfields branch.

Our first branch meeting was held on the 4th of April 2025 where peers came in numbers with over 40 in attendance to support in propelling our branch into progression by sharing best practice. Several technical presentations were delivered during this session including:

- Exploring new rock stress/strain testing methods ACDC adopted from Japan in using fundamental principles in changing our way of work. What we clearly realize is that it is not 'business as usual' anymore as we need to exhaust all prospective method in optimizing our remaining coal reserves while we improve and/or maintain safety standards.
- Fabchem – presented on the smart pull test which provides results real-time.
- Overlooked – presented on analytical work conducted to timeously identify areas prone to intersection failures prior to mining taking place.

As we endeavour to equip the coal industry with the best talent; our first annual strata control practical was held on the 30th of May 2025. Kriel Colliery was our gracious host with nine (9) candidates examined. The exam session was a great success and I truly extend my applause and gratitude to the men and women who continue to invest their time in making these exams a resounding success – 'I take off my hat to you'.

Another event of note; 'A Day of Learning: FOG Safety in Coal Mining' was hosted by the Minerals Council on the 5th of June. A keynote aimed to spark change was delivered by SACMA President and Sasol General Manager George Hattingh. The event had a great

turn-out, multi-disciplinary stakeholders ranging from occupations ranging from General Managers, Rock Engineers, Geologists, Mine Planners, and Safety personnel, etc. The event offered the platform for knowledge sharing and benchmarking. One intrinsic comment by Mr Hattingh was the missed opportunity of creating a tripartite at this event as no person from the DMPR and employee representative (Unions) were present. The call was for future inclusion of all stakeholders in such critical session which enable building of rapport.

At the conference, the Rockies came prepared to share, explore their concept and advance the technicality of our speciality within our fraternity. Presentations of universal problems within the commodity were delivered with great precision and showed off the drive to 'not accept the norm as our reality' but rather to explore avenues of advancing our sector in entrenching itself as a reputable body of knowledge anchored in scientific and technical advancement.

A few presentations were offered on the day ranging from:

- Exxaro's Grooteegeluk Open pit: Plotting and determination of prominent dip, strike and dip direction of fault planes being mined through at and the management of the mining process.
- Mineral's Council: Progress of culture transformation within the mining industry and how it can directly influence safety.
- Mandela Precinct: Stratify scanner
- Seriti's Khutala Colliery: Management of skin failures in out-bye areas
- Seriti's Kriel Colliery: Management of intersections failures
- Sasol Mining: Managing loaded vs overloaded wiremesh.

This session offered an opportunity for peers to benchmark and learn from each other.

Zanele Sithole

Coalfields Branch Chairperson



ISRM

International Recognition



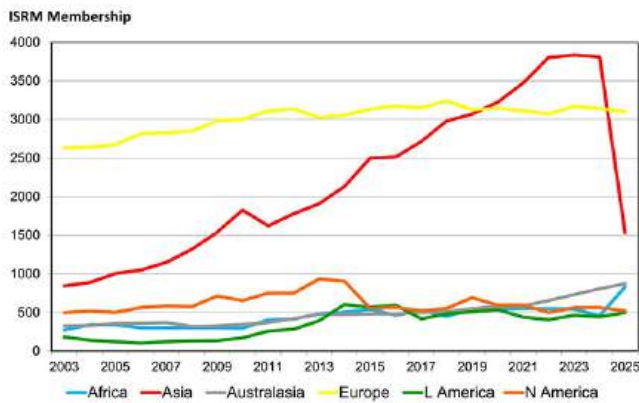
Included in the SANIRE membership fee is the membership fee to the International Society of Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering (ISRM), a professional society covering all fields of geotechnical engineering in civil, mining and engineering geology.

All the benefits for being associated to this are listed on their website (Benefits to members).

SANIRE has been serving on the ISRM Board as vice-president for Africa over several terms, and this term is no exception. Jannie Maritz, vice-president for Africa, recently attended the annual board and council meeting in Trondheim, Norway during the EUROCK 2025 ISRM International Symposium, 16-20 June 2025. The Africa region consist of Tunisia (10), Morrocco (15), Zimbabwe (20) and South Africa (776), contributing a mere 7% of the total members. It is even more impressive to read this in the light of SANIRE with its almost 780 members, being the single largest national group, with Australia and China competing for the second place with around 580 members each.



The presidential election was held during the 2025 ISRM Council meeting and Prof. Sérgio Fontoura from Brazil was elected and will join the Board as President-elect. He will officially assume the Presidency of the Society following the ISRM International Congress on Rock Mechanics in 2027, which will take place in Seoul, Korea.



The ISRM has a membership of approximately 7,350 individual members and 146 corporate members, belonging to 60 National Groups. The notable increase in membership from Africa is the large number of members reported to ISRM by SANIRE.

SANIRE increased its membership to ISRM from approximately 380 to 776 for the next year. This was well noted by the ISRM board. The Asia region has reported a steep decline in their membership, especially in the National Group of China, and are expected to again start building up over the coming years.



Several prizes and awards are announced annually. SANIRE, together with France, has been voted as the Best Performing National Group for 2025. The focus on membership growth and modernization of learning material drawn a lot of attention. Overall effort from branches and other social and technical events were noted as having an influence on individual members. The full list of awards is listed here.

Other winners announced are:

The Rocha Award for best PhD thesis:

Committee selected the winner of the Rocha Medal 2026 and two runners-up.

Winner: Alexis Sáez, Chile, EPFL- École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland.

Runners-up: Li Mengyi, CHINA, Wuhan University, China, Sana Zafar, INDIA, Colorado School of Mines, USA.

Technological Innovation Award 2025:

Institute of Rock and Soil Mechanics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, with the project "Complex mechanical response testing system of rock".

Young Rock Engineer Award 2025:

Ignacio Pérez Rey, SPAIN

Best National Groups 2022–2024:

France and South Africa



ISRM is sponsoring, supporting several regional, specialized and international conferences and symposia annually. As a ISRM member, SANIRE members who wish to attend these will automatically receive 20% discount on the registration fees. These are world class events and an ideal place to build professional relationships and even lifelong friendship. The Afrirock series of symposia hosted by SANIRE are currently not listed as a ISRM event, however, discussions have been started to migrate this to a ISRM regional event in the future, fitting the ISRM congress schedule.

The full list of upcoming events can be found [here](#), with some highlighted below:

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LAGER2026 – Landslide Geo-education & Risk

Queenstown, New Zealand

27 April – 3 May 2026

<https://landsliderisk.nz/>



EUROCK2026 – Risk Management in Rock Engineering

Skopje, North Macedonia

15 – 19 Sept 2026

<https://eurock2026.com/>



6th ICITG – International Conference on Information Technology in Geo-Engineering

Graz, Austria

13 – 16 Oct 2026

<https://www.icitg2026.com/>



Slope Stability 2026

San Borja, Lima

26 – 29 Oct 2026

<https://www.slopestability2026.com/en>



ARMS14 – 14th Asian Rock Mechanics Symposium

Fukuoka, Japan

22 – 27 Nov 2026

<https://www.ec-convention.com/ARMS14/>



16th ISRM International Congress on Rock Mechanics

Seoul, Korea

17- 23 Oct 2027

<https://isrm2027.com/>





SANIRE

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF ROCK ENGINEERING