

ROCK *talk*

Volume 11, Issue 3 | October 2025



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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 Membership Application Guidelines



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members

It is with great anticipation that I write my first newsletter as the president of SANIRE.

As the new term kicks off, Council is eager to serve on the mandate of the membership. The incoming Council follows on a stellar performance lead by the immediate past President, Mr. Kevin Le Bron and the 2023/2025 Council. In the last newsletter Mr Le Bron outlined some of the great achievements the Council manage to reach and therefore I take this moment to thank Mr Le Bron for handing over a SANIRE that is thriving.

The AGM held on the 28 August 2025, Council members gave account of the efforts and learning that have got SANIRE to where it is today. One of the standouts is the partnership of SAIMM, one of the largest professional bodies in the mining industry and bring onboard experience of running a successful professional body. To this regard, I want to thank SAIMM for partnering with SANIRE and look forward to reaching new heights together.

To plan on how to build on the solid foundation that is laid before us, the elected Council had a two day strategy session in Pretoria from the 8th to the 9th of August 2025. One of the key outcomes from the strategy session was the formation of sub-committees to enable cross functional inputs and continuity across portfolios. Each member of Council holds a portfolio as it was in the previous Council and different members are also grouped together to form a sub-committee based on the individual's interests and strengths.

The Council agreed to focus on a number of key development areas for the Institution while

strengthening the established areas such as symposia and education. The objective of the term is to ensure that members appreciate the value for signing up with SANIRE besides for the COMCERT exams. The mandate of SANIRE is to elevate the member's experience of practicing Rock Engineering by exposing them to the latest information in Rock Engineering, latest learning materials and affording a platform to build networks and relationships. To this end, Ms T Gcuda will be taking over the membership portfolio with the main objectives of establishing a Young Membership portfolio under her. Council will call for nomination for Young member to join Council for this portfolio. This is aimed at understanding the needs of our younger members and catering for them.

Mr S Mashile will head the Networking sub-committee after being the Treasurer for two (2) terms. This is the portfolio aimed at reaching out to members and ensuring they connect and grow. Dr R Masethe will lead the Communication and Publications portfolio with the key objective being the establishment of the SANIRE journal. The other portfolios are not changing hands and these Council members will continue to do exceptional work.

The branches are vibrant with a number of insightful meetings, technical visits and workshops hosted in the past quarter. The attendance has been great, reflecting the appreciation of the efforts of the branch leadership. We acknowledge the generous contributions of the sponsors who makes these events possible and I therefore encourage participation at this events as this is where we network and mentor each other.

Lastly the COMCERT exams are here again and we would like to wish all those who have put in the hard work preparing for the exams good luck. I wish to meet with many of you in the branch meetings and events.

Sincerely yours

Obakeng Rakumakoe
SANIRE President



SANIRE Council



Obakeng Rakumakoe
President



Kevin Le Bron
Past President/Conferences



Sifiso Mashile
Vice President



Glorious Nkosi
Treasurer



Jannie Maritz
ISRM



Thandile Dlokweni
Rock Eng Practical Exams



Rofhiwa Phadagi
SCO Practical Exams



Dr. Richard Masethe
Communication and
Publications



Petrie Wessels
Education



Thovhedzo Gcuda
Membership



Prudence Ntumelang
Administrator

SANIRE Branch Chairpersons



Zanele Sithole
Coalfields

Easavani Wessels
Eastern Bushveld



Mitch Wiggins
Free-Vaal

Ohveshlan Pillay
Gauteng



Vuma Nokwe
Northern Cape

Unathi Maqina
Western Bushveld



SANIRE HONORARY TREASURER QUARTERLY UPDATE

Dear SANIRE Members

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

SANIRE Treasury Update – Q1 FY 2025/2026

As we close the first quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year, we would like to provide an update on membership invoicing and payments. To date, 228 Associate members, 111 Members, and 8 Fellows have been invoiced. Of these, 23 Associates, 21 Members, and 4 Fellows have already paid their subscriptions. We extend our sincere thanks to those who have already renewed their membership for their continued support and contribution.

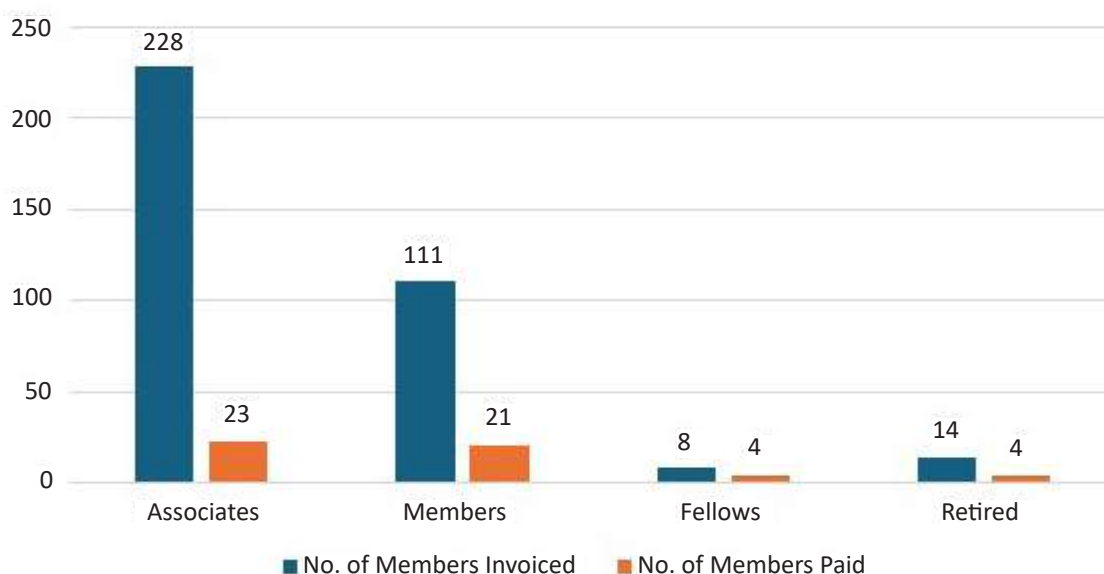
We remind all members that, in line with the SANIRE Constitution, membership fees are due by **31 December** each year. Members whose subscriptions remain unpaid beyond this date will not be considered in good standing and will not be entitled to receive notices, publications, or exercise any rights and privileges of membership. Furthermore, members whose subscriptions remain unpaid for one year may, by resolution of Council, be excluded from the Institute.

Your commitment to paying fees on time is vital in sustaining SANIRE's mission to serve the Rock Engineering community. Thank you once again to all who have renewed promptly and we encourage those with outstanding balances to settle before the due date to remain in good standing.

Kind regards

Sifiso Mashile
Honorary Treasurer

Membership Fees Progress Update: FY2026-2027



EDUCATION BLOG

Reflecting, Thanking, and Looking Ahead

As we step into the final quarter of the year, you will have already completed your SANIRE examinations—well done! This moment marks a significant milestone in your professional journey. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the examiners who dedicated their time and expertise to setting this year's papers. Your commitment to maintaining the integrity and rigor of our educational standards is deeply appreciated.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to share the latest developments in the SANIRE FoGAP Education Program. These updates reflect our ongoing efforts to support and elevate the next generation of Rock Engineering professionals.

SANIRE FoGAP Education Program

The Fall of Ground Action Plan (FoGAP) Education Program, a collaboration between SANIRE, the Minerals Council South Africa and Flex Online, continues to drive progress in digital skills development for Rock Engineering professionals.

Key highlights over the last few weeks include:

- SANIRE Academy Platform – The platform is live, offering structured learning pathways for Rock Engineering practitioners.
- Pathways for Learning – Depending on your Rock Engineer education level, you have the ability

to browse and select the appropriate “learning pathway” that you would like to embark on. There are currently three pathways available:

- Strata Control Observer
- Strata Control Practitioner
- Geotechnical Engineering Practitioner
- Accredited Training Proof of Concept
 - SANIRE is currently in the development of a proof of concept (PoC), whereby the training, assessments/examinations and portfolio of evidence will be managed digitally through the SANIRE Academy platform
 - The first phase of the PoC has been demonstrated, which contains the training and theoretical assessments that candidates go through.
 - The second phase is under development, whereby the practical and workplace evidence components are being integrated which learners will be able to manage on the platform
- Upcoming Learning Pathways – Work is progressing on the Frontline Supervisor Pathway and Practitioner in Practice Pathway.

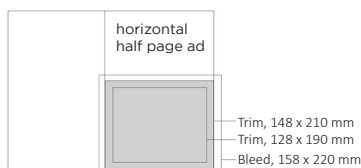
With a strong focus on scalability, accessibility, and quality, the FoGAP initiative is at the forefront of modernizing Rock Engineering education.

Stay curious, stay committed—and as always, keep learning.

Petrie Wessels
Education

SANIRE ROCKtalk Advertising Rate Card 2025-2026

Front cover	Trim: 230 h x 210 w Type: 170 h x 190 w
Full page	Trim: 297 h x 210 w (A4)
Inside front cover	Type: 277 h x 190 w
Inside back cover	Bleed: 307 h x 220 w
Outside back cover	(bleed allowance 5 mm top, bottom, side)
Half page horizontal	Trim: 148 h x 210 w Type: 128 h x 190 w Bleed: 158 h x 220 w
Third page horizontal	Trim: 99 h x 210 w Type: 79 h x 190 w
Square page	Trim: 60 h x 60 w Type: 50 h x 50 w



Should the advert be intended to go to the edge of the page, text and images (those that do not bleed off the page) must fit into the type area, and the artwork must be extended an extra 5 mm (bleed) beyond the trim size to ensure that, when the page is trimmed, text isn't cut off and the artwork indeed goes to the edge of the page. If the advertiser does not want the ad to run up to the edge of the page, the entire ad must fit into the type area.

2025-2026 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

SANIRE BRANCH Contributions

Gauteng Branch

Greetings from the Gauteng Branch.

On 12 September 2025 the SANIRE Gauteng Branch hosted a technical presentation on friction bolt performance testing delivered by Mr Jannie Maritz from the University of Pretoria School of Mining Engineering. Framed by Lord Kelvin's maxim, "when you can measure what you are speaking about and express it in numbers, you know something about it", the session focused on turning long-held assumptions about bolt behaviour into measurable evidence.

The work compared insertion and pull-out forces for friction bolts manufactured with different materials and coatings and investigated corrosion effects by exposing samples to saltwater prior to testing. Trials were conducted at UP's Engineering 4.0 laboratories. After early concrete blocks failed under load, the team transitioned to high-strength granite blocks to secure reliable data.

Two clear outcomes emerged. First, insertion forces consistently exceeded pull-out forces across all configurations. Second, and most thought-provoking, the bolts did not achieve full 360-degree contact with the borehole wall. This incomplete circumferential contact challenges simplified models that assume uniform normal stress along the interface.

Why it matters: friction bolts provide support by mobilising contact pressure against the excavation boundary. If contact is discontinuous, the effective support capacity and load-transfer path may differ from design expectations. The findings underscore the importance of robust verification testing and cautious interpretation of theoretical capacities when specifying and auditing rock support systems in practice.

We extend our thanks to our event sponsors for sharing their latest solutions: RSC Ekusasa Mining showcased the HRB Groutable Mechanical Bolt and MACCAFERRI presented their wider range of industrial products and extend sincere thanks to our sponsors and partners across the year for sustaining



a strong, practice-oriented programme—and to our SANIRE members whose attendance, questions and collaboration consistently make these events a success.

Kind Regards

Ohveshlan Pillay

Gauteng Branch Chairperson





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OF ROCK ENGINEERING