

The 109th Annual General Meeting of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy was held at The Country Club, Johannesburg, Napier Road, Auckland Park on Wednesday, 16 August 2006.

Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting to consider the changes to the Constitution was held immediately prior to the AGM.

1. Purpose

In order for the SAIMM to remain relevant and ensure maximum value to all members, Council propose three changes to the Constitution.

2. Background

Three changes to the Constitution were proposed by the Council on 21 July 2006. These changes now have to be approved by means of a ballot at a Special General Meeting. These three proposed changes are discussed briefly below:

2.1 Change the name of the Institute to the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy

The SAIMM is the only active institute in the Southern African region and has a significant number of members from the region. Furthermore, the first external branch of the SAIMM was established in Zambia in 2005 and a Namibian branch will be established on 17 August 2006. For the SAIMM to remain relevant, be aligned with the objectives of NEPAD and to add value to all our members, Council believes that changing our name to the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy is the right thing to do.

2.2 New class of non-corporate membership: Affiliate

The Institute has been approached by professional societies from abroad to enter into reciprocal arrangements for 'electronic membership'. The concept is that fully paid-up members of one institution become an 'electronic' or affiliate member of an overseas institution. The main benefit is hugely reduced membership fees as no printed material is mailed to an affiliate. Affiliates are non-voting members.

TMS (The Metal, Mineral and Material Society) of the USA has recently offered SAIMM affiliate membership, which we have accepted. However, we could not reciprocate as we do not have this class of membership. Affiliate membership is therefore an easy and affordable way to add significant value to SAIMM members and at the same time boost SAIMM membership numbers.

2.3 Change the objectives of the SAIMM

Currently the key objectives of the Institute are:

- a) To identify the needs of its members
- b) To initiate and give effect to the means whereby the requirements for technology and scientific knowledge of the minerals and metals sector of the South African economy are satisfied; and
- c) To represent and promote the interests of its members

It is proposed to replace them with:

- a) Identify, represent and promote the interests and needs of its members
- b) Disseminate scientific and technical knowledge to the benefit of the mining and metallurgical industries, and
- c) Represent the interests of professionals in the mining and metallurgical industries

3. Conclusion

Council believes that by agreeing to these changes, members will create an SAIMM that is ready for the future and which will add more significant value for all.

All corporate members voted, and a unanimous decision was taken to adopt all proposed changes to the Constitution.

Welcome

The President extended a special welcome to the guests and representatives of our sister institutes and other associations, also to recipients of awards, senior members of industry, Honorary Life Fellows, past-presidents, our members and other guests, among them the following:

- T. van den Berg, Observer, Association of Mine Managers of South Africa (AMMSA)
- L. Zim, President, Chamber of Mines of South Africa
- M. Diliza, Chief Executive Officer, Chamber of Mines of South Africa
- V. Townsend, President, Institute of Certificated Mechanical and Electric Engineering, South Africa (ICMEESA)
- D. Andersen, President, Institute of Mine Surveyors of South Africa (IMSSA)
- W. Marais, President, South African Colliery Managers Association (SACMA)
- V. Crone, President, South African Institute of Electrical Engineers
- Prof. M. Handley, President, South African National Institute of Rock Engineering
- A. McKenzie, Past-president, The Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA)

Proceedings, 109th Annual General Meeting, 2006

Minutes

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, which were published in the September 2005 issue of the *Journal*, were confirmed.

Obituaries

The President announced the death, during the year, of the following members:

Honorary Life Fellows and Past-Presidents

A.A.B. Douglas, P.R.Jochens

Fellows

K.R. Noble, I.J.A. Brackley

Retired Fellows

M.J. Daly, J.D. McNamara, J.B. Nangle, P.N. Roberts, A.N. Taute, P. Trope

Member

K.S. Youngman

Retired Members

P.J. Jansen van Vuuren

Retired Associate

P.I. van Blommestein

In memory of the deceased and in sympathy with the bereaved, all rose and observed a moment of silence.

Honorary Life Fellowship

Andrie Garbers Craig (Senior Vice-President): Honorary Life Fellowship is awarded by the Council to corporate members of the Institute who have rendered outstanding service to the industry or to the Institute. It is my pleasure to announce that the Council has decided to award Honorary Life Fellowship to:

- ▶ **T.R. Stacey**, for the outstanding service to the SAIMM over many years. This includes serving on Council since 1995, being President (2003/2004), participating in the events of the TPC—Mining, Awards and adjudication Committee—Mining, Publication Committee, Banquet Committee and SANCOT. As past-president he has been actively involved in bringing international symposia to South Africa.

Brigadier Stokes Memorial Award

Andrie Garbers Craig: The Brigadier Stokes Memorial Award was instituted in 1980 to commemorate the outstanding contribution to the South African mining industry made by Brigadier R.S.G. Stokes, an Honorary Life Fellow and past-president of this Institute. The award is made to an individual for the very highest achievement in the South African mining and metallurgical industry. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the award for 2006 is to be made to Prof. G.T. van Rooyen.

Andrie Garbers Craig called upon Prof. R.F. Sandenbergh, to read the citation:

Thank you ladies and gentlemen. It is my honour today to introduce to you Prof. Gerrit Tertius van Rooyen, or also better known as Prof. GT to his students and colleagues. He was born in 1931, and was awarded a BSc in Mechanical Engineering, *cum laude*, by the University of the Witwatersrand in 1951, and also received the Bernard Price medal as the best student of the year. In 1953 he went to study in the USA, and was awarded the ScD in Metallurgy by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1957. He started his career as mechanical engineer at Iscor, and after his return from the USA worked at the CSIR as a senior researcher. He joined the University of Pretoria as an associate professor in 1960 and became Professor and Head of the Department of Metallurgical Engineering in 1962, a position he filled for the next 31 years. He played a crucial role in establishing the programme in Metallurgical Engineering and for setting the high standards for which the department is known. His enthusiasm for physical metallurgy and engineering in general inspired many a student, although his original and most demanding exam papers were not generally appreciated in the heat of the exams, but provided the backdrop for many anecdotes. He still plays an active role as teacher and mentor in the department.

Gerrit van Rooyen also made major contributions to the solution of industrial problems in, especially, physical metallurgy in South Africa. His initial work at the CSIR involved contributions to the development of a new bogey for the South African Railways, as well as failure analyses on components, such as fans for ESKOM, for which he later became a metallurgical consultant with involvement in failure analysis and life prediction. One of his early research projects was to develop copper as an alloying element in steel, which proved to be very attractive in terms of structure and properties, but unfortunately suffered from selective oxidation that caused processing problems that could not be economically resolved. He also made significant contributions to the development of 3CR12 steel, developed by the then Middelburg Steel and Alloys, in terms of the characterization of its transformation behaviour, welding and control of stress corrosion cracking.

He is in his element when confronted with difficult problems such as the inspection and evaluation of the significance of defects in large winding drum shafts, the failure of large bucket wheel shafts at the Richards Bay Coal Terminal or the thermal fatigue of coal gasifier jackets at Sasol, to name a few. He is also highly regarded and still in demand as an expert witness on metallurgical failures, such as the recent Injaka bridge failure.

Professor Gerrit van Rooyen indeed made a significant and lasting contribution to education, research and the practical application of metallurgical engineering in South Africa and it is indeed a privilege for me, as but one of many who benefited from his mentorship, to introduce him to you as a most worthy candidate for the Brigadier Stokes Award.

Prof. G.T. van Rooyen: It is indeed a pleasure and an honour for my wife and myself to be here today and to receive the highly coveted Brigadier Stokes Award. I am only too aware of

Proceedings, 109th Annual General Meeting, 2006

the fact that my own contribution to the metallurgical industry has been very modest indeed. My only claim to fame is that I am an academic. As you well know we are a rare breed—ask my wife if you do not believe me. You all know the story of the student who received 99% from his prof in the exam. On enquiring how this was possible as he attended only one of his classes, he answered that it was a pity that he attended that one class.

No doubt some of my old students have been very naughty in nominating me. You may have noted from my CV that I have been in the academia for the greatest part of my life except for a two-year period when I was an engineering trainee at the old Iscor works. The academic world has been very good to me and I must confess that the thought of leaving the University has never even crossed my mind, not that I would have been good at anything else. It is not so much that the circumstances at the University was always ideal; I still remember requesting the postal department to send a publication that I had prepared to the USA by airmail only to be phoned by the registrar enquiring whether I knew how much the postage would be and whether it could not be sent by surface mail.

My encounter with metallurgy was pure chance as I initially graduated in Mechanical Engineering. Working at Iscor, I took a keen interest in the rolling of steel. I still remember seeing the advertisement on the noticeboard inviting applications for a FSSP (Foreign Student Summer Project) scholarship at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Boston, USA. The project financed by the Sloan Foundation after the ravages of World War Two, invited two students from literally every country in the world to spend two months in the laboratories during the summer vacation when they were not fully used by the regular students. With my interest in the rolling of steel it so happened that the only department where there was a rolling mill was in the Metals Processing Laboratory where I landed. At the end of the project I was fortunate to be appointed as a half-time instructor. This took care of the tuition fees and also provided a monthly stipend on which I could survive. After a year I was followed by my fiancée and we were married in the Scotch Presbyterian Church in Boston.

On our return to South Africa the Engineering Faculty with the three departments Mechanical, Electrical and Civil Engineering at the University of Pretoria had just been established. After spending a year at the CSIR (National Mechanical Engineering Institute) I started at the University in the department of Mechanical Engineering as a senior lecturer when the first full complement of lecturers was appointed. The Department of Metallurgical Engineering was established only two years later when at a youthful age I was appointed as professor. It was the first Afrikaans University that had such a department and we were initially strongly supported by Iscor. The emphasis was to be on physical metallurgy and metals processing, quite different from that at Wits where the emphasis was in mineral processing and extractive metallurgy.

This was quite a challenge and in many instances I had to invent new Afrikaans technical terms that are commonplace today. Initially there were no qualified persons who could be appointed as lecturers and with a few exceptions all of the later teaching staff had been my students. Funds for equipment were in short supply and in many ways we had to innovate.

Unable to buy expensive equipment, we were able to build up quite impressive set-ups from separate components that we assembled. With the aid of electrical strain gauges we were able to manufacture measuring equipment at a fraction of what it would otherwise cost. This in many ways had a beneficial effect. It exposed the students to the nuts and bolts of engineering rather than having to work with complicated expensive black box, computer controlled equipment where the essential elements are frequently lost. One of the positive influences of studying at MIT had on me was the importance of understanding the mechanisms involved in any process, to never accept anything at face value and to continuously question accepted concepts. This has been the guiding light in my approach to teaching for which many of my students hate me. Most students would rather just memorize facts and know the answers to specific questions without having to think. I have always been of the conviction that it is not so much what a student is taught that is important but rather empowering the student to think for him- or herself.

The Department of Material Sciences and Metallurgical Engineering at the University of Pretoria is highly regarded by the metallurgical industry. This in no small measure is due to the motivation and the dedication of colleagues that have helped to establish what we have achieved. Long gone are the days that we concentrated mainly on physical metallurgy. Today we have a comprehensive department covering all of the facets of the metallurgical industry. Evidence of this is the large number of high profile leaders in the metallurgical industry that have come from the University. A special word of appreciation is due to the heads of the department that succeeded me and have also tolerated me in the department. In this regard I would like to mention Prof. Rian Dippenaar, Prof. Roelf Sandenbergh and the present head Prof. Chris Pistorius. Without their guidance, vision and commitment that which has been achieved would not have been possible.

In conclusion I again have to thank you for the honour and privilege you have bestowed on me, something I will always cherish.

Presentation of awards, medals and certificates

Andrie Garbers Craig announced the following awards, medals and certificates, which were presented by Willem van Niekerk.

50-year Membership Awards

(with effect from 1 July 1955 to 30 June 1956)

- R.A.O. Chelius, elected 11 November 1955
- S.P. Ellis, elected 11 November 1955
- C.T. Fenton, elected 11 May 1956
- G.R. Parker, elected 10 February 1956
- W.B. Parker, elected 9 September 1955

Presentation of the Alec Wilson Memorial Award

John Cruise: This gets awarded for the best tunnelling paper by a South African worldwide or presented in South Africa. The award of R1 000.00 is sponsored by GOBA (Pty) Ltd.

Proceedings, 109th Annual General Meeting, 2006

The **2004 prize** goes to J.P.L. Morgan, Prof. J.L. van Niekerk and D. Cosijn for their paper entitled:

'Gautrain Tunnels: Surface vibration and ground-borne noise'

The **2005 prize** goes to W.D. Ortlepp, A.H. Swart and P.N. Erasmus for their paper entitled:

'The performance of yielding tunnel support systems under dynamic loading'

published in the *Surface Support in Mining Conference Publication* in Perth in 2004.

Presentation of Student Prizes

Andrie Garbers Craig announced the student winners of the SAIMM Prestige Prize and *Willem van Niekerk* presented the awards to the students adjudged by their departments to be the best final-year students in 2005:

University of the Witwatersrand

Mining	T. Sebutsoe
Metallurgy	E. Rush

University of Pretoria

Mining	I. Shikongo
Metallurgy	S. Swanepoel
Student dissertation	I. Shikongo

University of Johannesburg

Mining	R. Coetzee
--------	------------

The following SAIMM student prizes were presented at the Western Cape Branch AGM on 3 August 2006.

University of Cape Town

Chemical Engineering	L. Bircumshaw
----------------------	---------------

University of Stellenbosch

Chemical Engineering	C. Dorfling
----------------------	-------------

Cape Peninsula University of Technology

Chemical Engineering	D.J. van Staden
----------------------	-----------------

Annual Report and Accounts

John Cruise presented the financial statement.

Last year our auditors, KPMG, increased their fees from R16 000 to R25 000. Their quotation for this year was R60 000—more than double last year's fee. This was considered to be unacceptable and so for this year your Council approved a change in auditors to R.H. Kitching, whose fee quotation at R18 000 was considered far more reasonable.

This year has been another financially successful year for your Institute, making it six good years in a row. We hope that that this coming year, the run of fat years will extend to the biblical seven.

If we look at the Income Statement summary, we see that our surplus for the year was R3 728 041 (R1 352 537), of which R489 534 (-R599 126) was operating surplus and R3 248 685 (R1 951 819) was income from investments.

The Detailed Income Statement shows that subscriptions for Company Affiliates increased to R377 930 (R363 188) and that for Individual Membership increased to R944 369 (R926 625). As this increase is below the annual subscription rate increase, it indicates a slight drop in real terms.

Conferences, colloquia, etc. more than doubled in surplus to R1 981 615 (R773 902). This was due to outstanding technical programmes, which included a number of successful international symposia. Both the mining and metallurgical technical programme committees contributed equally to this surplus, and in a photo finish to the line, the metallurgical committee won by the proverbial short head.

Income from investments showed an increase in dividend revenue to R242 677 (R207 767), a decrease in interest received to R67 818 (R82 489) due to a smaller percentage holding of cash in the portfolio, a doubling of the adjustment of investment value to R2 689 611 (R1 305 828) and a decrease in the value of assets sold R248 579 (R355 735).

Expenditure for the year increased to R2 814 380 (R2 662 841). This was made up by an increase in secretarial costs to R1 710 100 (R1 591 971), an increase in *Journal* expenses to R1 444 031 (R1 295 186) and a slight increase in *Journal* secretarial fees to R113 798 (R112 675) and offset by an increase in advertising revenue of R553 773 (R463 560) and a decrease in depreciation to R75 224 (R120 679).

Our listed investments increased by 43% to R8 426 352 (R5 892 806). Our cash and cash equivalents increased to R3 087 087 (R2 408 197). Our total assets increased during the year to R12 798 538 (R9 868 159) and total liabilities decreased to R1 496 663 (R2 114 650).

This year's financial success is due to many people whose unstinting work often goes unnoticed. To the technical programme committee members, whose voluntary input has been remarkable, to the conference co-ordinators on the staff, who carry the burden of the workload and especially to Lara Winning, who this year bore the brunt of assuming control of the conferences at a moment's notice, to the rest of the staff in the Secretariat who are the engine room which keeps our Institute running, you are the unsung heroes—thank you.

Finally, I would like to thank Lerato Tsiki, who took over the accounting function from Lara Winning and our new auditors R.H. Kitching who have produced these detailed financial statements—may our association be a long one. Last but not least, thank you to our new Institute Manager, Carina Reynders, who has now completed one full year—now you know what the job is all about.

Seven fat years need not be followed by seven lean years.

Office bearers and Members of Council for 2006/2007

Willem van Niekerk announced the office bearers for the ensuing year, elected by the retiring Council in accordance with Clauses 3.2 and 3.3 of the Constitution:

President	R.P.H. Willis
President-elect	R.G.B. Pickering
Senior vice-president	A.M. Garbers-Craig
Junior vice-president	J. Ngoma
Immediate past-president	W.H. van Niekerk
Honorary treasurer	J.A. Cruise.

Proceedings, 109th Annual General Meeting, 2006

In terms of the election of ordinary members of Council (bylaw 3.2.7), there is a letter from the scrutineers stating: 'We have to report that we inspected the nomination papers for members of Council for the 2006/2007 session, and have found that the ballot papers sent out to Corporate Members of the Institute were in order. As a result of our scrutiny, we find that the following members have been elected (in alphabetical order):

P.H. Ferreira	J.L. Porter
J.M.A. Geldenhuis	J.H. Potgieter
R.T. Jones	M.K.C. Roberts
G.V.R. Landman	G.L. Smith
A.S. Macfarlane	J.N. van der Merwe
N.C. Machingawuta	D.J. van Niekerk
M.J. Mothomogolo	H.G. Waldeck

In addition, A.F. Mulaba-Bafubandi and P.J. Knottenbelt have agreed to represent non-corporate members of Council. Four additional members will be co-opted to serve on Council.

In terms of Clause 3.2.8 of the Constitution, the chairmen of the branches are as follows:

Johannesburg	U. Sachse
Pretoria	I. Matunhire
Free State	Vacant
Mpumalanga	Vacant
Western Cape	P. van der Plas
Bushveld	C.A.F. Sweet
Zululand	I.J. Walton

These chairmen will serve on Council.

The following past-presidents have signified their willingness to serve on Council for the ensuing year:

N.A. Barcza	H.E. James
R.D. Beck	R.P. Mohring
A.N. Brown	S.J. Ramokgopa
L.A. Cramer	M.H. Rogers
J.A. Cruise	D.A.J. Ross-Watt
J.R. Dixon	T.R. Stacey
F.M.G. Egerton	

Willem van Niekerk thanked those past-presidents, who indicated that they cannot serve on Council for the next year, for all their time, effort and dedication in the past.

He also thanked past-presidents for their continued support. He congratulated all those elected, and thanked those who agreed to serve another term of office.

Election of auditors and honorary legal advisers for 2006/2007

Willem van Niekerk proposed and it was agreed, that R.H. Kitching be reappointed as auditor for the coming year and that Van Hulsteyn, Attorneys be reappointed as honorary legal advisers.

Induction of President

Willem van Niekerk introduced the new President, Pat Willis and called upon Rod Pickering to read Pat Willis's CV.

Richard Patrick Henry Willis (Pat) was born and bred on a farm in North Yorkshire, England. He graduated from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1976 with a BSc (Hons) in Mining Engineering. He has worked in the mining industry since graduating. His experience includes mine line management and operational experience on various mines in the UK, Zambia and South Africa, the long-term planning of gold, platinum, base metal and coalmines and various feasibility studies while working for Gold Fields of South Africa.

Since 1989 his experience included applied research and development for mining while working firstly for COMRO and later at CSIR Miningtek. This included mine mechanization, geophysics, hydraulic transport, ventilation and refrigeration as well as research into innovative mine design and barriers to successful technology transfer. He was involved, with others, in forming a number of collaborative technical mining programmes including Deepmine, Futuremine, Platmine and the Global Mining Research Alliance (GMRA).

Since mid-2003 he has consulted to a wide range of mining industry clients through Turgis Consulting. Pat has travelled extensively in order to keep abreast of the latest technology, and has direct experience of mining industry clients in Canada, the United States, Australia, UK and South Africa. He has always been an active member of the Institute and has chaired a number of conferences including the 6th International Symposium on Mine Mechanization and Automation and was chairman of the Mining Technical Programme committee.

He obtained a Metalliferous Mine Manager Certificate of Competency (Mines and Works) in 1978 and is a Registered Professional Engineer with ECSA. He married Carole in 1981 and has two children, Victoria (24) and Richard (22). Pat enjoys the outdoors in general, but he is particularly active in hiking, fly-fishing and exploring the bush around Southern Africa. He admits his main hobby is his work.'

Presidential Address

Pat Willis then presented his presidential address entitled 'The uranium story—an update', which is reproduced elsewhere in this edition of the *Journal*.

Vote of thanks

Alex du Plessis, non-executive chairman of Turgis Consulting, gave the vote of thanks.

Closure

The meeting closed at 18:00. ♦

Proceedings, 109th Annual General Meeting, 2006



Willem van Niekerk declaring the Annual General Meeting open



Andrie Garbers Craig, Master of Ceremonies



Dick Stacey accepting his Honorary Life Fellowship Award from Willem van Niekerk



Rolf Sandenbergh reading the citation of J.T. van Rooyen, recipient of the Brigadier Stokes Award



J.T. van Rooyen, recipient of the Brigadier Stokes Award, receiving his Platinum Medal from Willem van Niekerk



W.B. Parker receiving his 50-year Membership lapel badge from Willem van Niekerk



C.T. Fenton receiving his 50-year Membership lapel badge from Willem van Niekerk



J.P.L. Morgan receiving the Alec Wilson Memorial Award from John Cruise for 2004



P.N. Erasmus and W.D. Ortlepp receiving the Alec Wilson Memorial Award from John Cruise for 2005

Proceedings, 109th Annual General Meeting, 2006



T. Sebutsoe, receiving his Student Prize



I. Shikongo, receiving his Student Prize



John Cruise presenting the financial report



Pat Willis presenting Willem van Niekerk with his Presidential Plaque



Rod Pickering reading the CV of Pat Willis



Office Bearers for 2006/2007—Front row (from left to right): Andrie Garbers-Craig, Pat Willis, Rod Pickering
Back row (from left to right): John Cruise, Carina Reynders (Manager), and Willem van Niekerk



Pat Willis, delivering his Presidential Address



Alex du Plessis offering the vote of thanks

Past presidents of the SAIMM



Front row (from left to right): John Cruise (1994–1995), Rick Mohring (1997–1998), G. Mosenthal (1990–1991), John Austin (1984–1985), Dennis Maxwell (1961–1962), Bob Plewman (1974–1975), Robbie Robinson (1975–1976), Henry James (1985–1986)
Back row (from left to right): Roger Dixon (1998–1999), Willem van Niekerk (2005–2006), Dick Stacey (2003–2004), Richard Beck (1991–1992), Rams Ramokgopa (2002–2003), Mike Rogers (1999–2000)

Council members and past-presidents of the SAIMM



Council members for 2006/2007 and past-presidents—Front row (from left to right): John Cruise, Andrie Garbers-Craig, Pat Willis, Rod Pickering, Willem van Niekerk, Carina Reynders (Manager) and Richard Beck;
Middle row (from left to right): Rick Mohring, Rodney Jones, Nielen van der Merwe, Rams Ramokgopa, Mike Rogers, Gordon Smith, and Jacob Mothomogolo
Back row (from left to right): Wally Waldeck, Dirk van Niekerk, Dick Stacey, Kobus Geldenhuis, Henry James, and Gys Landman

Members and their guests at the Cocktail Party



Roger Dixon, Pat and Carole Willis



John Fuller, Dick Stacey and Peter Wentworth



Matthew Handley and Phil Piper



Robbie and Diane Robinson with Gwen and Dennis Maxwell



Rodney Jones, Kobus Geldenhuys and Willem van Niekerk

University students



Launching of the Namibian Branch of the SAIMM

17 August 2006

At a historical event in Windhoek on 17 August 2006, the second regional branch of the SAIMM was formally launched. Following hot on the heels of the first regional branch in Kitwe in June 2005 in Zambia, this branch was established in the presence of more than 40 members and other dignitaries. Among them were Mark Dawe, President of the Chamber of Mines of Namibia, Veston Malango, CEO of the Chamber of Mines, and Gerald Boting General Manager of Scorpion Zinc and Chamber of Mines council member respectively, as well as Marcus von Jeney, the President of the Engineering Council of Namibia. There were also various officials from government, among them Messrs Tionco and Shivolo of the Ministry of Mines and Energy.

The branch was officially launched by the immediate Past-President, Willem van Niekerk. After briefly discussing the objectives and purpose of the Institute, he proposed a toast and also handed a commemorative plaque to the new branch chairman, Clint Armstrong. Other members of the new committee include Willem Kotze, Dirk Smith and Bertha Iitana.

The new president of the Institute, Pat Willis, wished the new branch a prosperous future and promised his ongoing support.

Clint Armstrong subsequently pledged an amount of money to get the branch started. This was followed by a challenge to all other individuals present. A highly excited session followed wherein N\$33 000,00 was pledged by companies, institutes and individuals. This will surely set the new branch of on a steady footing. Veston Malango closed the meeting, declaring it highly successful and an initiative that will add massive value to the Namibian mining industry. The meeting was followed by a cocktail party kindly sponsored by the Chamber of Mines of Namibia. All in all the launching of the second regional branch was a successful and highly relevant event on the SAIMM calendar, being the first official function of the newly named Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. It bodes well for the future of the Institute and the mining industry in the Southern African region.



*Namibian branch committee:
(From left to right): Willem Kotze (Vice-Chairman),
Bertha Iitana (Secretary), Clint Armstrong (Chairman)*