

Newsletter

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A message from our chairperson

Online Technical Meetings 2021

Until all levels are completely eliminated, the technical meetings will continue to be hosted online via Microsoft Teams.

These meetings will be advertised on all our social media platforms beforehand with a link to the presentations and the presentations will then be saved to our YouTube Channel if you are unable to attend and still wish to view thereafter. The 2021 calendar is already on the website so please diarise these dates.



Greetings to all our SACPS members during these difficult times in our industry, our country and the world. I would like to welcome all our new members that have joined since our last newsletter and we trust that you will find the society beneficial to you and look forward to your inputs, recommendations and continued membership. Remember we exist to serve you, the coal processing industry.

We are faced with a new strain of the COVID virus which is more severe and contagious than the COVID-19 original one. Each day more and more news is circulated regarding the rate of positive Infections as well as death within South Africa. Infections in the mining industry is on the rise and we need to do our part to keep the infection rate as low as we can. COVID-19 has decimated many industries and left large parts of the population unemployed, with uncertain futures. News of the vaccines is presented daily, and for the population to be vaccinated will take most of 2021 and parts of 2022. Until such time, we

need to ensure that we do our part and contain the spread of the virus.

2021 offers us opportunities to do things differently, reinvent ourselves and adapt to the uncertain future. We have to be innovative in how we do things, flexible and adaptive to ensure our survival. We have managed to show our tenacity in the past 9 months, I am confident we WILL overcome this.

I would like to welcome Refiloe Maila, the upcoming chairperson from March 2021, to an exciting opportunity to lead an amazing society, with a strong membership, and supportive committee.

Stay safe and we will prevail.

Please follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook, check out our website, LinkedIn and Facebook page for up to date information on events and happenings within the society and of course we appreciate feedback and suggestions from all members.



Our aim is to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge related to coal processing by means of meetings, conferences, seminars and colloquia.

Objectives and goals of SACPS

Create forums for the exchange of knowledge related to coal processing by means of technical meetings, conferences, seminars, etc.

To further the education and understanding of coal processing by Society members and industry personnel.

To foster co-operation with appropriate educational institutions and other similar organisations for the furtherance of coal processing knowledge.

To distribute accumulated funds to support the objectives above.

Awards

The nomination request for the coal person of the year will be distributed shortly.

The aim of the award is to recognise an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the coal industry in the area of coal preparation.

The selection criteria is normally the following:

1. Contribution to the SACPS
2. Contribution to the industry:
 - a. Field of design.
 - b. Supply of service to the industry.
 - c. Education.
3. Local or International publications.
4. Recognition of Contributions to the South African Coal industry.

International and Local Events

Future of Mining Australia 2021

In response to COVID-19 and the continued restrictions and uncertainty around travel and large-scale events, Future of Mining Australia has been postponed and will take place on the 28th-29th March 2022.

In the meantime, stay connected by registering to their newly launched Future of Mining 365. Please check out their website via the belowmentioned link for more information.

<https://australia.future-of-mining.com/aus/en/page/home>

Essential rules of adopting AI in Mining and Metals online webinar - Tue, Feb 23, 2021 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM SAST

Mining and metals companies contend with an unpredictable market and volatile commodities pricing. In response, these companies must increase tonnage while reducing cost, and they are often pressed with making important decisions in uncertain circumstances. They seek out artificial intelligence (AI)-driven technologies in pursuit of more stable results in their operations to improve quality, increase tonnage throughput and even achieve autonomous operations. But first, they must lay down the proper data foundation to take advantage of the many benefits that AI can offer.

Register for the webinar for free via <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1834722479730772493>

The Mining Indaba has also been postponed to 7-10 February 2022. The Mining Indaba Virtual takes place on 1 and 2 February 2021. Please visit the website via the link below for more information.

<https://miningindaba.com/business-programme>

Coaltrans China 2021 - 29 - 31 March 2021 | Mainland China

Attend either in person or virtually!- visit their website for more information via the link below

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

International Conference News

XX International Coal Preparation Conference 2022 - Gold Coast

This conference will be held on the Gold Coast from 10 – 13 October 2022. To download the flyer please visit our website. More details will be shared at a later date.

Coal Rush 2021 – Technical Sessions & Conference Dinner, Brisbane - 12th March, Arthur Le Page Lecture (Virtual) - 17th March, Technical Sessions & Gala Ball – Hunter Valley - 19th March 2021

A key focus is optimising the utilisation of coal resource and operations. ACPS continue to develop a deeper understanding of the coal resource and quantitative methods for defining its potential value. Within the plant operations, they are striving to improve availability, reliability and metallurgical performance of assets, in order to reduce operating costs and maximise value.

The Conference Technical Papers and the Poster Paper Sessions will bring together both local and international experts, focusing on new and improved processing techniques at the cutting edge of modern coal preparation.

The conference is open to all mining, geology, engineering and processing professionals, graduates and students, consultants and technology company representatives and presents great personal and professional development as well as networking opportunities for all.

For the first time ever the ACPS Conference will be jointly hosted by the QLD and NSW Branches. This ensures that presenters and delegates not in a position to travel, can attend the local technical sessions and respective dinner.

Also for the first time ever, the ACPS Conference can be attended either in person, or watched live online. This further opens up the opportunity for regional or site-based delegates who can't make it to the conference sessions to view the sessions live and get involved with the session Q&A.

More details on the conference can be found on their website <https://conference-2021.acps.com.au/>

COVID-19 and other matters

Impact of Covid-19 and the lockdown of various activities including cancellation of the 2021 dinner dance due to COVID-19.

Throughout 2020, businesses had to adapt and the society had to do the same by opting for committee and technical meetings being hosted virtually to ensure that we adhered to all the restrictions that were put in place by the government to prevent the spread of the virus.

2021 has seen us struggling to contain a second wave of Covid-19 infections which appears to be driven by a new and more infectious variant of the disease, similar to that in the UK.

Scientists and officials have warned the country's 56 million people that the new variant, referred to as 501.V2, carries a heavier viral load and appears to be more prevalent among the young.

This has had an effect on our events planned for the year. A decision was taken by the committee in December 2020 to cancel the 2021 dinner dance due to COVID-19 and postpone the awards ceremony to 2022 by then hopefully we are out of this pandemic. Also a decision will be made regarding the technical conference which is planned for August 2021 at Graceland. We will keep you informed regarding that and other matters once decisions have been finalised.



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