

SPOTLIGHT

on the Western Cape Branch

by J-P. FRANZIDIS

The inaugural meeting of the Western Cape Branch of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy was held on Thursday evening, 13th November, 1986, in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Cape Town. Before the meeting, letters had been sent to all the registered SAIMM members in the Western Cape area, informing them of the desire to establish a local branch, and inviting them to attend.

The meeting was well attended, a total of 26 members and prospective members being present. A total of 29 apologies were received from members unable to attend the meeting who were nonetheless interested in the formation of a local branch and wished to be kept informed of its activities.

Business

At 19h30 the notice convening the meeting was read, and Professor C.T. O'Connor of the University of Cape Town welcomed all present. He passed on the best wishes for the success of the meeting from the President of the Institute, Dr H. Wagner, the Immediate Past President, Mr H.E. James, and the Junior Vice-President, Dr O.K. Steffen.

The motion to establish a Western Cape Branch of the SAIMM was proposed by Mr F.L.D. Cloete of the University of Stellenbosch. In his address, he outlined the background to the development of mineral processing in the Western Cape, particularly with respect to the involvement of the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Cape Town and the Department of Chemical Engineering and Extractive Metallurgy at the University of Stellenbosch. He also referred to the Annual Report of the Institute for the year ending 30th June, 1986, and the developments that were taking place around the country with respect to branches, as well as to the re-evaluation of the qualifications required for membership. He said that the SAIMM was an industry-based institute that could serve as a forum for the cross-fertilization of ideas of people with widespread interests and expertise in the mineral industry.

Dr J-P. Franzidis, in seconding the motion, referred to the activities in which the Western Cape Branch could

become involved. He felt that the main role of the Branch was to create an awareness of the mineral industry in the region, particularly with respect to young job-seekers. This could be achieved by technical meetings, field trips, and social functions. Contact should be made with schools in order to promote career opportunities in mining, mineral processing, and physical and extractive metallurgy.

The motion was carried unanimously. The following committee members were nominated and elected unopposed:

Chairman	Prof. C.T. O'Connor
Vice Chairman	Mr F.L.D. Cloete
Secretary/Treasurer	Dr J-P. Franzidis
Additional Members	Prof. J.S. van Deventer Dr P.J. van der Walt.

General

The Chairman thanked all present for attending the meeting. He called on academics to encourage students to join the Institute, and on members in industry to encourage their colleagues to join. He remarked that the presence of mineralogists, geologists, physical and extractive metallurgists, miners, analytical chemists, and chemical engineers was particularly encouraging, and was indicative of the wide spectrum of disciplines embraced by the Institute.

A discussion ensued, during which the following activities were proposed for the coming year:

- a technical session on coal;
- the Annual Stellenbosch-U.C.T. Mineral Processing Symposium in August;
- joint sessions with other local branches, such as the S.A.I.Ch.E., on topics of mutual interest;
- an annual dinner;
- the production of a newsletter;
- field trips to various places of interest, e.g. the cement factory at De Hoek, the phosphate mine at Langebaan, the kaolin mine at Fish Hoek, and the historical tin and manganese works on Table Mountain.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20h15, after which refreshments were served.



The Committee of the Western Cape Branch. Left to right: Prof. J.S. van Deventer, Dr P.J. van der Walt, Prof. C.T. O'Connor (Chairman), Dr J-P. Franzidis, and Mr F.L.D. Cloete