



Centenary Luncheon for Past Presidents

The Centenary Luncheon for Past Presidents was held on Thursday, 24 March, 1994 at The President's Room at Gold Reef City, Johannesburg at 12:30. Herewith the proceedings that followed.

Dr H. Scott-Russell

It is with great pleasure that my fellow Office Bearers and I welcome you, our Past Presidents, to this luncheon to mark the centenary of the SAIMM. Today one hundred years ago, a group of professionals met and agreed to draw up the constitution and by-laws of a society later to be called an Institute.

The Presidents of the Institute, of course, become its Past Presidents and help to guide its progress. A number of our sister institutes cannot wait for their Past Presidents to move off their councils, and cannot understand how we can give such free reign to ours! We believe it is one of our strengths. The successful co-operation between our Past Presidents and ourselves is due to the personalities of these men. They attend meetings not to ensure that the *status quo* is maintained, but allow the current Office Bearers freedom to lead the Institute as they think fit. But they are always present to give sound advice, a helping hand, and support to the Institute in every way.

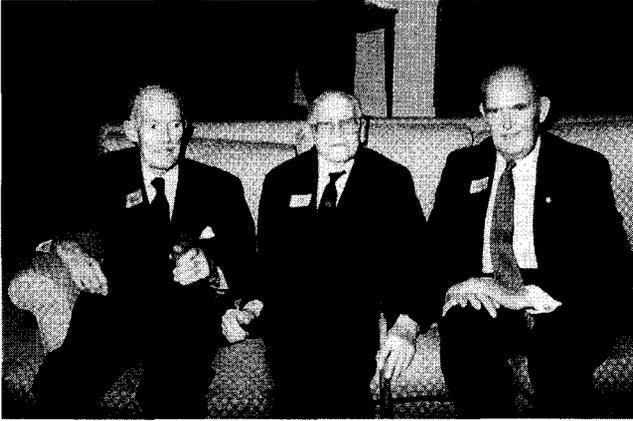
The attendance at this luncheon demonstrates your commitment. There are 28 surviving Past Presidents: 5 are currently overseas, and David Howat (71/72), Jimmy Reid (63/64), and Pinky Hill (48/49), unfortunately, are too frail to be with us. The remaining Past Presidents are here.

As with our country, our Institute has many challenges to meet in the coming years. There are policy guidelines that require thought, legislation that we need to examine and react to, and the whole concept of some sort of amalgamation of the institutes and societies involved in the mining industry that we need to consider. With this in mind, I have suggested that a Past Presidents' committee be constituted to give advice to the Office Bearers on a number of issues. This was agreed to at the last Council meeting, so we look forward to hearing a lot from you—our 'cardinals' or 'wise men'.

Before concluding, I want to issue a word of caution in case this praise goes to your heads. The name of our first President, William Bettel, was dropped from the list of our Past Presidents in our *Journal* for a number of years because of his associations with the Boer War. He was also found dead in the veld. So, Past Presidents can be censored and worse!

I now call on you to drink a toast to our Institute. ♦

Centenary Luncheon for Past Presidents



From left to right: Messrs D.M. Jamieson, H.E. Cross, and P.W.J. van Rensburg



From left to right: Mr H.E. James, Dr R.E. Robinson, Mr. D.G. Maxwell, and Dr J.P. Hugo



Standing from left to right: Mr D.A.J. Ross-Watt, Mr H.G. Mosenthal, Mr J.A. Cruise, Mr R.D. Beck, Mr G.Y. Nisbet, Dr H. Scott-Russell, Dr P.R. Jochens, Mr J.D. Austin, Mr C.E. Fivaz, Mr J.P. Hoffman, Mr H.E. James, and Prof. A.N. Brown
 Sitting from left to right: Mr P.W.J. van Rensburg, Dr J.P. Hugo, Mr R.C.J. Goode, Dr R.E. Robinson, Prof. R.P. Plewman, Mr D.M. Jamieson, Mr H.E. Cross, Mr D.G. Maxwell, and Mr V.C. Robinson
 Front row from left to right: Mr B.C. Alberts, Mr P.D.K. Robinson, and Dr O.K.H. Steffen