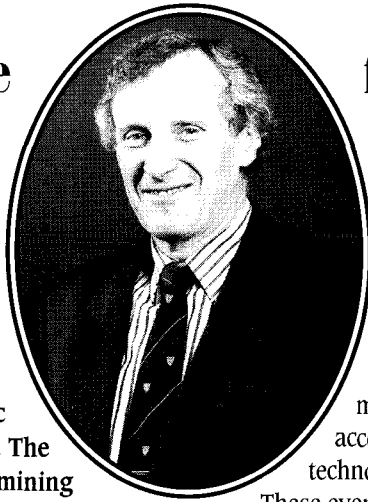


New Year's Message



from the President

What is the role of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy at a time when so much is developing and changing in South Africa? The minerals industry is represented through employers, employees, government, education, research, public views, and even pure political interests. The role of the Institute is to represent the mining and metallurgical profession.

In this role the Institute has aligned itself with the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies, the Joint Council of Scientific Societies and the Engineering Association. The Institute is also active on the Engineering Council of South Africa.

The Institute stands along side the Association of Mine Managers of South Africa, the South African Colliery Managers Association, the Mine Metallurgical Managers Association, the South African National Group on Rock Mechanics, the Mine Ventilation Society, the Institute of Mine Surveyors of South Africa, the Association of Mine Resident Engineers and other associations in representing the mining and metallurgical profession.

The Council and more senior membership of the Institute constitute a well-informed and experienced group of professionals—but also a relatively traditional and conservative group of people. On the contrary, the junior membership are an exciting group of young men and women truly representative of South Africa today and surely full of new initiatives for the future of the industry and the country.

The South African minerals industry is currently badly affected by a shortage of good engineers—these are the young people who must fill that gap.

In 1996 the Institute must focus strongly on the needs of young engineers. Information to schools; entrance to the minerals industry; training within industry and education at universities, technikons and technical colleges; coaching of newly qualified young people; mentorship as they develop their careers; continuing professional education and interaction with a wider range mineral industry professionals are all areas where the Institute must be active.

A promotional brochure for schools has been developed with the help of sponsors. A copy is included in this *Journal*. The slogan reads 'careers unlimited' (not 'jobs unlimited')—appropriate to an industry seeking a significant increase in technical and engineering skills.

The Institute has planned an excellent range of technical events for 1996 including deep gold mining, development, mass mining, coal mining, surface mining, mining research, a wide range of metallurgical operations, new metallurgical developments, metallurgical accounting, process control, metals technology and environmental management.

These events, both single day and major conferences, are described in the Technical Events Programme again included in this *Journal*.

We do however have a problem. The technical events though well-supported attract mostly the traditional senior membership of the Institute. This leaves empty chairs which should be filled with young members gaining knowledge from very good industry speakers and also offering their own new initiatives for the South African mineral industry as they see it.

In an attempt to rectify this the Institute will encourage educational and training organizations to allow more young people to attend appropriate events. Registration will be reduced to R75 per day for Students and Associates within two years after graduation. This will include published proceedings, meals and social events.

The Institute welcomes as Associates, young and also experienced people involved in the mining and metallurgical industry but who do not have formal qualifications (mine overseers, underground managers, metallurgical, engineering and training officials and others). This we would hope to be of interest and benefit to individuals without in anyway compromising membership of other industry associations.

The regular activities of the various Institute Branches are excellent opportunities to draw in young members and the good work already underway must continue.

This message is a little long but I trust the focus is clear. The Institute cannot really survive unless all of our members both youthful and experienced participate in activities really representative of South Africa today.

I finish off by offering my best wishes for a most successful and blessed 1996 to all.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D.A.J. Ross-Watt'.

D.A.J. Ross-Watt
President SAIMM 1995/1996