

2018 Annual LaRSSA Conference TRANSFORMING THE REHABILITATION LANDSCAPE



13-16 August 2018 · Champagne Sports Resort, Drakensberg

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Date	Proceeding	Time	Venue
Monday, 13 August	Conference Workshop	10:00 – 16:00	
	Meet-and-Greet	16:00 – 19:00	Drakensberg Brewery
Tuesday, 14 August	LaRSSA ILASA Conference Proceedings	08:00 – 17:00	
	Launch of LaRSSA J&W Rehab Library	17:00 – 20:00	Braai Under the Stars
Wednesday, 15 August	LaRSSA Conference Proceedings	08:00 – 16:30	
	Corobrick Gala Dinner <i>Networking, socialising</i>	18:00 – 24:00	
Thursday, 16 August	Post-Conference Site Visits		
	<i>Okhombe Project Donga Rehabilitation</i>	08:00 – 13:00	Okhombe
	<i>Working for Water Mnweni Valley</i>		Mnweni



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PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP Monday, 13 August 2018

Topic	<i>Conservation Agriculture Principals in Land Rehabilitation</i>
Facilitators	Dr Wayne Truter, Ms Leana Nel and Ms Erna Kruger
09:00 – 10:00	Registration, and coffee/tea – main foyer
10:00 - 16:00	Conservation Agriculture: Principles in Land Rehabilitation
	<p>In the history of mankind, our efforts to produce at a grander scale often left us looking back and questioning our practices. Conservation agriculture as it is today is the result of reflection on the past agricultural practices. The global movement and investment into conservation agriculture have shown great improvements in soil health and greater wellbeing of the environment. As land users see the benefits from recovering agricultural lands, we ask how much would the artificial soils not benefit from these practices and technologies.</p> <p>This workshop will focus on small and large scale applications of conservation agriculture, community application and the hidden and not so hidden benefits of conservation agriculture in agricultural landscapes and post-rehabilitation landscapes.</p>
16:00 – 19:00	Meet and Greet Drakensberg Brewery
	<p>Drakensberg Brewery is a Craft Brewery in the heart of the Drakensberg. The beer is made from malted barley, hops, yeast and fresh spring water. The brewery produces its beer in 30L kegs or 440ml bottles. The brewpub sits within the brewery with spectacular views of the Drakensberg mountains. There is a small, carefully constructed wine list to cater for those who wish to enjoy the wonderful brewery atmosphere, but would rather not sample the beer.</p> <p>The Meet & Greet session will include the following: Tasting Board (4 x 100ml) which will include the following samples: Champagne Castle Blonde Ale, Cathedral Peak Pilsner, Amphitheatre Red Ale, Giant's Castle Stout. Delicious snacks will be served. Afterwards everyone will return to Champagne Sports Resort where dinner will be served.</p> <p>Drakensberg Brewery donates 10c of every beer sold to Vulture Conservation in the area.</p>

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CONFERENCE DAY 1 Tuesday, 14 August 2018

07:00-08:00			Registration and coffee/tea - main foyer		
Venue		Corobrik Room			
08:00 – 08:20		Opening Address	Mr Piet Smit and Mr Eamonn O'Rourke LaRSSA – President ILASA - President		
08:20 – 09:00		Keynote Speaker	Dr Hugh Pringle Ecosystem Management Understanding (EMU) Rangeland Rehydration in different cultural and technological contexts in Namibia and Australia		
09:00 – 09:30		Plenary Speaker	Mr Nick Booth Corobrik		
09:30 - 10:00		Plenary speaker	Ms Georgina Avlontis Greenprop The Power of Civic Lead Greening and Reforestation Interventions through Facilitated Connection and Celebration		
10:00 – 10:30			Morning coffee/tea – main foyer		
Session		Session A: The Gift of Resourcefulness Chair: Caroline Wallington		Session B: Sowing the Seeds of Hope Chair: Leana Nel	
Venue		Corobrik Room		Agreenco Room	
10:30 – 11:00		Presentation	Resource to waste; waste to resource – the real mining lifecycle <i>Ms Raina Hattingh and Ms Ritva Muhlbauer</i>		Reclaiming the agricultural potential of degraded soils with siliceous fly ash <i>Dr Wayne Truter</i>
11:00 – 11:30		Presentation	Economic transformation of rehabilitated mined land: Practical lessons learned <i>Mr Fanus van Wyk</i>		Brush packing as a restoration technology after bush control: Preliminary results <i>Ms TR Mangani, Mr JP Naude, Ms TKJ Sebitloane, Prof K Kellner and Prof PW Malan</i>
11:30 – 12:00		Presentation	Penny wise, pound foolish... <i>Mr Johan Bothma</i>		Selected soil physio-chemical properties are affected by previous crop in wheat fields under conservation agriculture in KwaZulu-Natal <i>Ms Nodimiso Sobiso</i>
12:00 – 12:30		Presentation	Bioenergy production as a post mining land use <i>Mr Adrian Haagner</i>		Evaluation of coated and uncoated seed for the rehabilitation of gold mine tailings <i>Prof. Klaus Kellner</i>
12:30 – 13:30			Lunch – dining hall		

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Venue	Corobrik Room	
13:30 – 14:30	Launch	Dr Phil Tanner LaRSSA Council Member Launch of the Coaltech LaRSSA Rehab Guideline
Venue	Corobrik Room	
14:30 – 15:30	Launch	Mr Garth Barnes Department of Environmental Affairs Launch of The Green Business Value Chain (GBVC) Programme
15:30 – 16:00	Afternoon coffee/tea – main foyer	
16:00 – 17:00	AGM	
17:00 – 20:00	Launch of the LaRSSA J&W Rehab Library	

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CONFERENCE DAY 2 Wednesday, 15 August 2017

07:00-08:00		Registration and coffee/tea - main foyer	
Venue		Corobrik Room	
08:00 – 08:10	Opening	Ms Raina Hattingh Immediate Past President, LaRSSA	
08:10 – 08:40	Keynote Speaker	Mr Dave Pepler South African Environmentalists	
08:40 – 09:10	Plenary Speaker	Ms Nicolette Forbes Marine & Estuarine Research Restoring South Africa's Largest Estuary- A Regional Ecological and Economic Driver	
09:10 - 09:40	Plenary Speaker	Ms Tanya Smith Endangered Wildlife Trust Cranes: Ambassadors for Working Landscape Conservation, Restoration and Rehabilitation	
09:40– 10:00		Morning coffee/tea – main foyer	
Session		Session E: Our story, his story we all create HISTORY Chair: Lenie Venter	Session F: All things great and small Chair: Adriaan Oosthuizen
Venue		Corobrik Room	Agreenco Room
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation	Correcting the wrongs of the past by investing in the Karoo of the future <i>Mrs Jeanne-Louise Wiese</i>	The use of small mammals as surrogates to measure rehabilitation success: A case study. <i>Mr Karabo Phaleng</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Presentation	Closure of historical mining disturbance in the Karoo Uranium Province: finding practical solutions within the current legal frame work <i>Mr Piet Smit</i>	Salt Excretion in alien and native Tamarix species in South Africa <i>Mrs Stawm Malan</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Presentation	Petra Diamonds rehabilitation strategy in a predominantly historical setting <i>Ms Anja van Deventer</i>	Phytoremediation case study: Bioenergy crop production on mine impacted land <i>Ms Lesego Madiseng</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Presentation	Social impacts in rehabilitation of open cast mined community land. <i>Mr Nkanyiso Mlalazi</i>	Microbial information to support innovation in soil management <i>Dr Shayne Jacobs</i>

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12:00 – 12:30	Presentation	Assessment of avifaunal communities help to track rehabilitation progress at mine-impacted and transformed sites. <i>Mr Ig Viljoen</i>	Potential nutrient release from rock based mineral ameliorates (rock flours) in gold mine rehabilitation <i>Mr Christo Keulder</i>
12:30 – 13:00	Presentation	Understanding the real costs of grazing on a closed mine – a high level case study on a coal mine <i>Mr Konrad Kruger</i>	Post-closure seepage modelling to optimise rehabilitation options tailings facilities with limited soil cover material <i>Mr Adrian Haagner & Mr Albert van Zyl</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch – dining hall		
Session	Session G: Without strategy execution is aimless Chair: Ilse Botha		Session H: Advice from a Wetland Chair: Sharon Clark
Venue	Corobrik Room		Agreenco Room
14:00 – 14:30	Presentation	The role of Environmental Programme in addressing the challenges on natural resource rehabilitation while creating opportunities for rural communities for better livelihoods practice <i>Ms Mahuma Ramashala</i>	The Malolotja Peatland – route map towards the restoration of a mountain mire in the Kingdom of eSwatini <i>Mr Jason le Roux</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Presentation	Short literature review of closure standards for arid areas <i>Ms Chrizette Neethling</i>	Innovative Wetland Interventions <i>Mr Douglas Richards</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Presentation	Strengthening rangeland stewardship and restoration through Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) learning platforms <i>Mr Dan'sile Cindi & Mr Nicky McLeod</i>	Rehabilitation in action in the Environmental Programme Branch (EP) of the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) <i>Mr Heinrich Neethling</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Afternoon coffee/tea – main foyer		
Venue	Corobrik Room		
16:00 – 16:10	Launch	Launch of the Luhlaza LaRSSA Rehabilitation Award 2019 <i>Mr Garies Lambrechts</i>	
16:10 – 16:20	Panel summary	LaRSSA Council Conference summation, and future industry relevance Launch of 2019 Conference	
16:20 – 16:30	Closing	Mr Adrian Haagner President Elect 2018/19	

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COROBRIK GALA DINNER Wednesday, 15 August 2017

Venue		
18:00 – 18:10	Opening	Mr Piet Smit Welcome and opening
18:10 – 18:30	Dinner	Starters, networking
18:30 – 19:00	Lifetime Achievement Award 2018	Dr Faan van Wyk Over the years, Oom Faan (as he is affectionately referred to) has shared his areas of expertise within the rehabilitation sector with many practitioners and students. These areas include, but aren't limited to: Plant Ecology; Rehabilitation of disturbed areas; Selection, harvesting and seeding of indigenous plant species; Site investigation and recommendations for rehabilitation; Identification of Alien and Invader plant species. Dr Faan van Wyk's involvement with rehabilitation drastically decreased the last few years due to surgeries that he had to undergo. He remains involved, on a smaller scale, with AngloGold Ashanti, Assore mines (Rustenburg and Zeerust) as well as the pyrophyllite mine near Ottosdal.
19:30 onwards	Dinner	Mains, networking
19:30 – 20:00	Dinner speaker	Mr Dave Pepler Dave is best known for his role as the presenter of the popular environmental TV programme "Groen" on "KYKNET". However, the breadth of his involvement in environmental matters is quite staggering extending as it does from the development of best management practices for the Chilean Forestry Industry through to environmental impact assessments both locally as well as elsewhere in Africa. In addition to his visibility in the electronic media, he is the author or co-author of more than 160 popular and semi-popular articles, and 200 popular lectures, press releases, and radio interviews through which he has effectively raised public awareness of the importance of preserving biodiversity, and the social implications of humankind's stewardship of protected areas. He is currently the preeminent naturalist in South Africa.
20:30 – 24:00	Dinner	Dessert and networking

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POST-CONFERENCE SITE VISITS Thursday, 16 August 2018

Site visit	Okhombe Project Donga Rehabilitation		
Facilitators	Mrs Ilse Botha		
Depart	08:00	Return	13:00
	<p>Join us for a visit to the Maloti Drakensberg Mountains area, exploring the most strategic water source in South Africa, which is supplying much of the sub-continent through rivers and inter-basin transfers. The mountain grasslands, which are the engine for maintaining a regular and high quality water flow, has been and is continuing to be transformed through undesirable land use. The costs of this land transformation have strategic national implications.</p> <p>This project is initiated to reward the catchment residents of the UKhahlamba Drakensberg Mountains in managing and restoring degraded land to improve ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration linked to climate change considerations, ecological and sustainable harvesting benefits and watershed services by addressing erosion and the impact this has on water quantity and water quality. Erosion control is done through piling of rocks collected from the nearby river in order to close gullies caused by soil erosion.</p>		

Site visit	Working for Water Mnweni Valley		
Facilitators	Ms Sharon Clark		
Depart	08:00	Return	13:00
	<p>Join us for a drive to the degrading landscapes in the Mnweni Valley region, where the impressive gully reclamation work will be the tour's focus. There has been a consistent effort by the community to try and address the land degradation in their area, where stone packs for example have been built by hand. The success of these structures is clearly evident and whilst in many ways this is only addressing the symptoms, awareness of the causes and consequences has been raised. The tour will be facilitated by Kevan Zunckel, who has more than thirty years of experience in the field of conservation and environmental management and holds a M.Sc. in Environmental Science from the University of Cape Town. He is a member of the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the South African chapter of the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIASa). He also currently chairs the Executive Committee of the WCPA's Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group.</p>		