

COMING FULL CIRCLE: Diamonds in Kimberley

An annual diamond and kimberlite symposium & trade show will take place in Kimberley to revive the history of this town and to let the changes in the diamond industry shine.

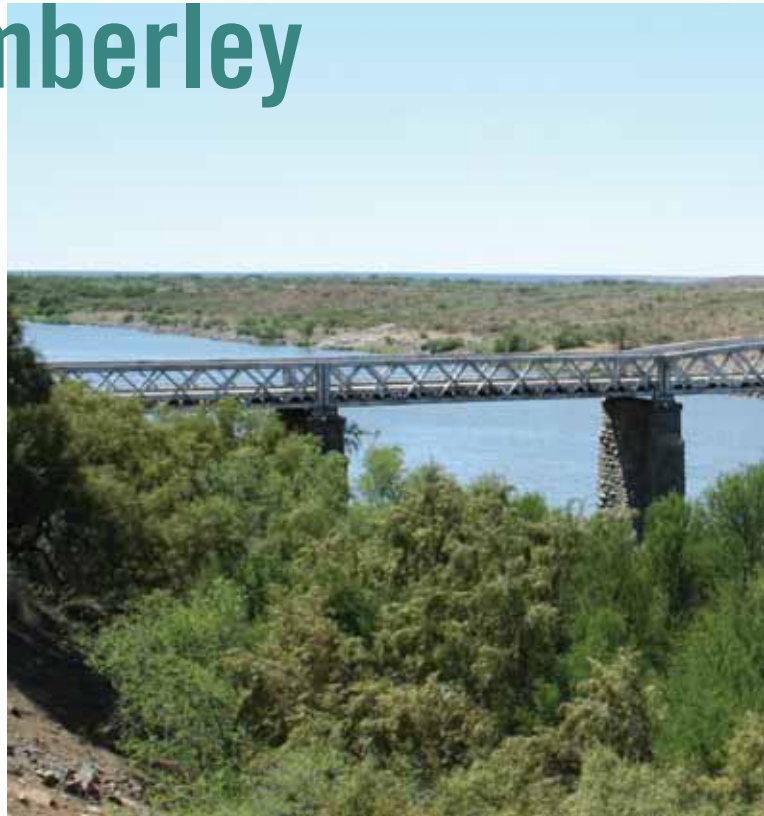
The Geological Society of South Africa Directorate of Professional Programmes' (DPP) annual diamond and kimberlite symposium & trade show takes place in Kimberley, South Africa from 23 to 24 August 2007, with several field trips scheduled for the 25th and possibly the 26th. The symposium will be facilitated by John Bristow and Mike de Wit, in conjunction with RCA Conference organisers.

John Bristow says that every year the organisers try to present something new and topical at the annual GSSA Diamond Symposium. "Diamonds are very much in profile at the moment. The world diamond market is facing declining production and, in spite of a strong increase in world wide diamond exploration expenditure and activity, new projects which could lead to significant new production capacity are in short supply. Hand in hand with this, many changes are going on in the industry locally and abroad," states Bristow. "Kimberley is effectively where the diamond business started in South Africa, and we want to take the symposium back there where both of us, Mike de Wit and myself, have some roots. We want to put Kimberley back on the map. There are a number of junior companies active in the Kimberley region." Bristow says that De Beers is also undergoing a change and that it would be opportune to bring the symposium 'home' to where everything started. And there is exciting news in that, in the past twelve months some exceptional, large diamonds have been recovered from alluvial deposits.

The symposium will have a day and a half of technical sessions and exhibitor displays, and at least two days of field trips, with a possible third day of field trips depending on demand. The technical presentation is shaping up as follows:

- The origin of diamonds based on new and unfinished studies of these unique minerals and their inclusions
- Kimberlitic emplacement models – the state of play
- Kimberley's unique window into the mantle – tales from the nodules of the Kimberley dumps
- Accounts of diamond exploration and mining activities in Africa and Canada
- Recent development in micro-diamond studies and evaluation of kimberlites
- The alluvial diamond deposits of the Ventersdorp area
- Alluvial diamond deposits of the Lower Vaal and Middle Orange Rivers
- Diamond population of the alluvial deposits of the Vaal and Middle Orange Rivers
- New technologies for the recovery of diamonds and security of kimberlite and alluvial diamond mines
- The role of junior and mid-tier diamond explorers and miners in the diamond industry
- The state of the international diamond market

The planned field trips will have tour guides with specific knowledge of the area and the subject. The following



Aki Wilhelm

destinations are planned:

- Nooitgedacht and Barkly West alluvial diamond tour including Holpan-Klipdam alluvial mine visit
- Barkly West and Ghaap Plateau kimberlite mine tour including the Sedibeng fissure mines (Dan Carl and Messina sections on the Bobbejaan Fissure)
- Kimberley 'big holes', dumps, and mantle nodule tour
- MSA heavy mineral sorting laboratory
- Letseng diamond mine
- Koffiefontein mine and kimberlite tour
- Magersfontein boer war battlegrounds
- Big Hole Museum visits

"We have had tremendous interest from local and international people, and we have a number of equipment suppliers exhibiting



Rockwell Ventures

Left: The Orange River has transported many alluvial diamond deposits.

Bottom left: Diamonds sorted at the Harry Oppenheimer House.

their wares. De Beers recently invested about R50-million in upgrading the Kimberley Museum and did a very good job in modernising this facility, which is a great place for tourists as well as for people interested in the industry. The revamped Kimberley Club, with all its history and character, will also feature in the activities of the symposium, and there will be opportunities for delegates to experience other unique pieces of South African history and politics including the Sol Plaatje, McGregor, and Pioneers of Aviation Museums; various galleries; and the famous diamond mines of Kimberley represented by five 'big holes'.

"Besides many well-known scientists and individuals from the mining industry, we have invited a number of the old characters of the industry as well, including diggers from the Vaal and Orange Rivers and the Ventersdorp area, many of whom have become legends in the industry, and are now in their senior years. Our intention is to bring these characters together to share some of their experiences and pioneering deeds and to chat about some of the large and remarkable diamonds that they have recovered in the Northern Cape." ❁

Spaces for seeing the symposium and taking part in the field trips are filling up fast, therefore interested parties are advised to register quickly!

WWW.HOSSEQUIPMENT.COM START HERE. FIND MORE. SAVE TIME.



NEW, CUSTOM REBUILT & USED MINING EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS

Starting your equipment searches at **Hoss™**. Find *more*, faster. Find *more* "owned" heavy machines in ONE physical location. Find *more* status information on each machine. Find *more* pictures from *more* angles. Find *more* experience - our sales representatives average more than 30-years industry experience each. Find *more* capability to deliver your machines to your site in as-promised condition... on time, on budget. Expect *more* from your equipment supplier. Get *faster* answers. Save *time*. Contact **Hoss**.

400 MACHINES IN STOCK
\$60,000,000 IN INVENTORY
\$10,000,000 IN PARTS & ATTACHMENTS



INTERNATIONAL SALES: +972-257-1244

EMAIL: SALES@HOSSEQUIPMENT.COM

IRVING, TEXAS USA CONVENIENT TO THE PORT OF HOUSTON