

Thursday 8 November 2018
17:30
Hermanus Municipal Auditorium

The 2018 Alex du Toit Memorial Lecture

The Fellows Committee of the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) has the privilege of presenting the 2018 Alex du Toit Memorial lecture tour, in honour of one of South Africa's most influential scientists. The lecture tour is staged every two years and is aimed at highlighting and comparing modern scientific endeavour to the achievements of Alex du Toit (1878 -1948). Traditionally it oscillates between a local and international speaker in the years that it is presented. This year it's a local presenter.

Many of you will recall that Dr Alex du Toit observed, studied and wrote prolifically on the ***continental drift theory***, and indeed his book "**Our Wandering Continents**" is still a revered reference read.

The 2018 Alex du Toit Lecturer is Professor Lewis D Ashwal of the University of the Witwatersrand, and he will present – *Wandering continents of the Indian Ocean*", documenting his work in the discovery of ancient continental crust underlying parts of the Indian Ocean. This work has been reported by the popular press and has included international coverage by the BBC.

Professor Ashwal's geological expertise covers a broad spectrum of the earth sciences, including igneous and metamorphic petrology, geochemistry and geodynamics. He is one of the few South African-based experts on meteorites and is an internationally recognized expert on the origins of anorthosite and related rocks. He has published 125 research papers and two books and has won numerous awards. He has recently been awarded a major grant from the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust to research Large Igneous Provinces in Southern Africa, and he has served as an Editor for the South African Journal of Geology since 1999.