



# SPEAKER PROFILES

## Minister Geoff Doidge (Keynote speaker)

Minister Geoff Doidge is a dedicated and selfless leader in South Africa. For a long time, he has worked to better the lives of all South Africans.

Having been schooled in the heart of Pondoland in Flagstaff, Minister Doidge became politically conscious of the evils of the apartheid system that was being implemented. He was further sensitised when he went to school in Kokstad and became politically active in the late seventies.

For many years, Minister Doidge worked in community structures in KwaZulu-Natal and was the founding member and deputy chairperson of the Kokstad Civic Association. He has always been actively involved in community development and civic issues, and drove the formation of the East Griqualand and Transkei Development and Housing Forum. He was elected chairperson of the ANC Kokstad branch from 1991 to 1995. Minister Doidge was also a member of the ANC Transkei Regional Executive between 1992 and 1995. A person of great personal drive and dedication, Minister Doidge was sent to parliament in 1994, to be among the first group who were deployed after the first democratic elections. He has risen through the ranks and has made a great impact in parliament. He was the deputy chief whip of the ANC from 1999 to 2002, he served on many committees in parliament, and was also the chairperson of committees as well as the chair of chairs in his last deployment before becoming minister.

Minister Doidge was appointed as a minister of public works by President Kgalema Motlante in September 2008 and he was re-appointed to this position by President Jacob Zuma in May 2009.

## Douglas Sipeliti (Invited speaker)

Douglas Sipeliti is the marketing, client liaison and social investment manager, as well as chairman of both Umso Construction and Makana Bricks. He matriculated in 1978 after private study. He also completed a Course in Small Business Management, (Damelin) and further courses in Small Business Management at Unitra and Rhodes University in 1990. He has also participated in the emerging contractors' training course for road maintenance in Transkei, gaining a Completion Certificate in 1989.

Today he specialises in communications, conflict resolution and quality management.

Douglas has 20 years of working experience in the civil engineering sector; five years in the Post Office and seven years in Hotel Management prior to that. His main fields of work included internal staff training, capacity development and support, and contract management.

He has been involved in various projects including, among others, the following:

- Routine Road Maintenance of roads in the former Transkei, as an independent contractor under the name D D Sipeliti Construction. This involved patching and repairs to bituminous surfacing, installation of drainage structures and sub-soil drains, clearing and trimming of shoulders and verges. (1990 to 1997).
- The upgrading, in 1998, of District Road DR2726 through Newlands outside East London, operating under the name Siyaya Civils, subcontracting to Haw & Inglis. This involved constructing concrete drainage culverts and headwalls.

- In 2000, he was part of a joint venture with Hochtief from Essen, Germany, and Concor Construction, working on the construction of Coega Harbour.
- Also in 2000, he was involved in a joint venture partner with Labor Construction in the upgrading of 16 km of the N2 through the Kei Cuttings. This involved installing subsoil drainage, constructing major retaining walls, concrete pipe culverts and headwalls.
- He was also a joint venture partner with Group 5 in the construction of the Cala - Elliot Road. This involved installing all drainage works and constructing concrete headwalls in 2001.

## Tom Wanklin (Invited speaker)

Tom Wanklin has 35 years experience in town and regional planning, tourism development planning with project implementation, community facilitation and training experience.

In 1975, he graduated with a B.Sc (Town and Regional Planning) (Witwatersrand University)

To date his career has included:

- Eight years with Zimbabwe Government and Bulawayo Municipality as Town and Regional Planner
- Four years as Assistant City Engineer Planning in the city of Mthatha.
- Six years in private practice with Rosmarin, Kriek and Partners.
- Ten years self employed as Wanklin and Associates.
- Three and a half years as part-time lecturer in Tourism Development and Event Management (Border Technikon - School of Tourism and Hospitality).
- Currently self employed with Tshani Consulting

He is a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and is registered as a Town and Regional Planner with the S.A. Council of Town and Regional Planners. He is also a member of the Border Kei Chamber of Business

Currently he is the principal of Tshani Consulting, which is a town and regional planning practice, tourism consulting and project management organisation based in East London. Tom has specialised in several areas of planning and development in the Transkei, and the central and northern Eastern Cape, such as integrated development planning and urban development planning.

## 1 - Roger Byrne

Since graduating as a civil engineer, Roger Byrne has spent nearly 35 years working in the fields of utility and community infrastructure management. Byrne is the International Manager of GHD's Asset Management Group, considered one of Australasia's leading AM consultancies.

A principal author of all the Australian & New Zealand Asset Management Manuals, Byrne has written over 45 texts on these issues.

Byrne has driven the development of GHD's Total Enterprise Asset Management Quality Framework (TEAMQF) that is now being used to drive AM assessments & improvements across GHD's client base. This unique tool employs a 'value chain proposition' which, when combined with the above TEAMQF, tailors the resulting improvement program to deliver the greatest benefits to suit to the business involved. These tools are now being used in the USA (through the GHD - Parsons Alliance) and are about to be released in the UK and Europe. Byrne will demonstrate these philosophies and tools in his workshops and presentations.



### 2&11 - Dr Kevin Wall

Dr Kevin Wall, a divisional fellow with CSIR Built Environment, is a civil engineer and town planner, and a fellow of the Institute of Municipal Engineering of South Africa (IMESA). Previous posts that he has held include director of a firm of consulting engineers as well as assistant city engineer responsible for the development of low-cost housing areas for the City of Cape Town.

Much of Dr Wall's recent work has been on:

- policy and protocol formulation
- effectiveness of government spending on infrastructure
- ways to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of that infrastructure.

He is a past president of the South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE), as well as a fellow of the South African Academy of Engineering. He has served terms as honorary professor at the University of the Witwatersrand as well as at the University of Pretoria. Dr Wall recently completed a term as the CSIR's alternate representative on the board of governors of the World Water Council.

### 3 - Sarah Slabbert

Sarah Slabbert (PhD Wits) has been managing director of BHI 32 (Pty) Ltd, a development communications consultancy trading as Sarah Slabbert Associates, since January 1999.

The company specialises in communication management services and strategic research, with clients in both the public and private sectors. In the past five years, the company has worked mainly in the water sector. Projects include research studies for the Water Research Commission and the Department of Water Affairs on municipal accounts and consumer protection.

Previously, Sarah was a senior lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand. She is still active as an honorary research associate at the same university. As an academic researcher, she has published a book and numerous local and international research articles, and regularly delivers papers at local and international conferences. Subjects include standards for municipal accounts, transformation discourse, tsotsitaal, language and identity, reaching the critical mass, language and education, code switching, and the urban varieties of the African languages.

Sarah's academic work in the field of multilingualism and experience with communication and education in the public sector has given her insight into the way that ordinary South Africans make sense of complex information. She established The Plain Language Institute in December 2009 to build on this experience.

### 4 - Chris von Holdt

Chris von Holdt is a unit manager and technical director of Aurecon and has a Doctorate in civil engineering from Texas A&M University in the USA. He specialises in infrastructure management systems with a focus on the performance of municipal services infrastructure. He has been involved in asset management studies, which include the development of municipal asset management policies and strategies, asset management analysis frameworks, the compilation of infrastructure asset registers and the preparation of asset management plans. He has conducted research on forensic failure analysis using non-destructive techniques, the development of distress propagation models, and the

development of analytical methods for optimised decision-making.

Von Holdt has conducted infrastructure performance modelling including distress prediction and decision-making under resource constraints for the compilation of optimum maintenance and rehabilitation programmes. He has extensive experience in the collection of infrastructure performance data, database management, GIS network compilation, and the analysis of large data systems. He has experience in the development of infrastructure management systems for a variety of clients in several countries such as South Africa, the USA, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Angola, Botswana, and Lesotho.

### 6 - Harold Basson

Harold Basson (Pr Eng) holds a B.Eng (civil engineering) from Stellenbosch University. He is a member of the following institutions:

- South African Institution of Civil Engineers
- The Institute of Municipal Engineering of Southern Africa (corporate member, member of the executive committee, member of council and chairman of the South Cape Karoo Branch).

Harold is currently employed at the George Municipality, where he is the deputy director of civil and technical services. Here, his main responsibilities include planning, project management and bulk services. Specifically, Basson is responsible for, among others:

- approval of technical conditions for subdivisions
- assurance of compliance with conditions
- maintenance of the GIS system
- traffic engineering
- commenting on national legislation as well as health, safety and disciplinary procedures.

### 7 - Keith Turner

Keith Turner is a principal associate with the DHV company, SSI. He is a professional civil engineer with 20 years experience, principally in the fields of water engineering, township services and project management. He has worked in the contracting and consulting environments as well as in academia.

During the course of his career, his main fields of engineering involvement have been dam projects, pipeline designs, water and wastewater treatment and construction management. Turner has served with SSI as office manager in the Knysna office.

His experience extends to the management and administration of operations, resources and finance of both projects and corporate situations. Projects in which Turner has played a role include major inter-basin transfer schemes in South Africa, a major water treatment works in Botswana, a R13 million wastewater treatment works in the Western Cape, and two water treatment works in the Southern Cape, and a number of major township developments in the Southern Cape. More recently, Keith played a major project management and technical role in the implementation of emergency water augmentation projects in the Southern Cape. These projects include three desalination plants, and associated works and two emergency groundwater projects.

### 8 - Willem Pretorius

Willem Pretorius started his engineering career in the Department of Water Affairs in 1983. He joined the municipal environment in 1989 and served in local as well as metropolitan municipalities



until 1999. During this period, he registered as a professional civil engineer. Since 1999, Willem has functioned as a consultant to various local and metropolitan authorities on various aspects such as transportation planning, road master planning, traffic engineering and road construction but during the later years concentrated on the development of computerised integrated engineering infrastructure management systems, which were implemented at various local and metropolitan municipalities in South Africa and Africa. He has been actively involved with the Institute of Municipal Engineering in Southern Africa (IMESA), serving as council member from 1993 to 2001. He was member of the task team that spearheaded the creation of the South African version of the International Infrastructure Asset Management Manual that was developed in New Zealand.

### 8 - Louis Boshoff

Louis Boshoff has been the managing director of i @ Consulting, a niche consultancy specialising in public infrastructure asset management, for the past eight years.

He is a leading figure in infrastructure asset management in South Africa. He co-wrote the South African section of the World Bank-endorsed International Infrastructure Management Manual, and was the principle author of the Local Government Infrastructure Asset Management Guidelines.

He regularly serves as an advisor on municipal infrastructure investment and asset management matters to the Office of the Presidency, the World Bank, the DBSA, LGSETA, the Business Trust, the National Treasury, the dplg, the DWA and the European Union. He stays closely in touch with real municipal issues through direct support to dozens of municipalities, of all categories, across South Africa. Louis is the project leader for the development of South African infrastructure asset management unit standards and qualifications. He is also the project leader on the professional services component of the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality's multi-year integrated infrastructure asset management programme.

### 9 - Friedrich Slabbert

Friedrich Slabbert obtained his B.Eng (civil engineering) degree in 1980 and his Honours degree in 1989, both from the University of Pretoria. He started his career with the former Transvaal Roads Department as an engineer-in-training and ultimately became a professional engineer while working for the Materials Directorate. During this time, he was involved with roads management and, in particular, the development and management for the Department of the Pavement Management System.

In 1990, he joined Uhlmann Witthaus & Prins Consulting Engineers, now UWP Consulting (Pty) Ltd, as an engineer involved in pavement materials design. In that year, he began assisting the former Transkei Government in improving its internal management processes to reduce the cost of departmentally-built agriculture and community infrastructure. Through the knowledge that UWP gained about community needs in the region, in 1995, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry appointed the company to assist with the Community Water Services Strategic Study with specific reference to the Eastern Cape Province.

In 1997, Friedrich became a director of UWP Consulting and was responsible for Development Engineering and Planning. As the

division's name indicates, Slabbert was responsible for all development planning matters. These included:

- Transport Planning, with a specific focus on public transport,
- Transport Plans and Public Transport Facilities,
- Water Services Planning, which embraced technical, institutional and managerial matters in order to ensure sustainable water services to communities.

Between 1998 and 2000, he lectured final year B.Tech students part-time at the then Wits Technikon. Since 2005, Slabbert has played an important role in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between mines, local government and provincial government in aligning the provision of community and mining infrastructure planning services in the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality.

### 10 - Sandra Grejling

Sandra Grejling is a senior manager at the National Department of Cooperative Governance. She is currently project manager of two projects, the Local Government Skills Audit and the Job Classification Framework for Local Government.

She is a Human Resource Development Practitioner with a Masters Diploma in Human Resource Management and 20 years of experience in government of which five have been focused on local government. Her passion is learning from others.

### 12 - Stewart Gibson

Stewart Gibson is a professional engineer who spent 25 years with a major consultancy group where he was involved in a wide range of engineering projects as well as the general and financial management of the company. He now uses this experience in assisting municipalities with the optimisation and improvement of municipal services, mainly in the area of water and sanitation.

He was a member of the original team that advised the Nelspruit TLC on its water and sanitation concession contract, and has led advisory teams in a number of water services restructuring projects. Gibson's work has, among others, been in the private sector and has dealt with the optimisation of inhouse services provision functions.

He has undertaken various general investigations of service delivery and has been involved in over 30 different municipalities.

Recent projects include working with the National Treasury to develop the water and sanitation Municipal PPP Guidelines, working as an advisor on service delivery at a local municipality, assisting with various Section 78 studies for water and sanitation, and being a member of the team compiling a case study on 10 years' experience of the Mbombela (Nelspruit) water concession. He runs his own company, Stewart Gibson & Associates (Pty) Ltd, which provides specialist advice on municipal management and service delivery matters.

### 13 - Khuthalile Mahlaba

Khuthalile Mahlaba has a BA honours in environmental science studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, which she obtained in 2001, as well as a diploma in project management from the Executive Education College, which she obtained in 2004. Khuthalile has seven years' experience in the water sector. Her field of expertise includes municipal and water services institutional



development, water resources planning, water services research, and water services capacity development and support. She has been involved in many different projects, including the uMgungulovu District Municipality Water Services Development Plan, which aims at identifying water services backlogs, developing recommended backlog eradication processes as well as forecasted water services planning.

#### 14 - Allestair Wensley

Allestair Wensley has a degree in civil engineering from the University of the Witwatersrand and a Post Graduate Diploma in Strategic Marketing from the University of South Africa. He is a registered Professional Engineer in South Africa and a Chartered Civil Engineer with the Institute of Civil Engineers in the UK. Allestair is currently working within the Water Services Branch in the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (community water supply and sanitation). Allestair has extensive knowledge and experience in the planning and development of sustainable rural water supply projects. He also has specialist knowledge in the planning, development and deployment of information systems

His core responsibilities are:

- To provide strategic interpretation of Water Services (WS) information
- To provide specialist advice on specific WS related issues
- To manage the development of the WS National Information System
- To deploy appropriate WS IT solutions.

His current achievements are:

- Successful national deployment (first of its kind) of an electronic municipal Water Quality Management System within all water service authorities in 2006.
- Presentation of paper on municipal water quality management systems at an international conference in Kuala Lumpur, Indonesia in May 2007.
- Keynote speaker at the South African National Drinking Water Quality Conference held at Sun City in September 2007
- Invited speaker on municipal drinking water quality systems at the Appropriate Technologies Conference in Cape Town in October 2007
- Establishment of Water Services National Information System ([www.dwaf.gov.za/dir\\_ws/WSNIS](http://www.dwaf.gov.za/dir_ws/WSNIS)) which is currently regarded as the best system in government.
- Invited speaker on the Status of Waste Water Treatment Systems in South Africa at Water Institute of SA symposium (WISA) in 2008
- Presentation of paper on Drinking Water Quality Management at a conference in Valencia in 2008
- International awards (both Regional and Global) received in Vienna, Austria 2008, for the electronic Municipal Water Quality Management System.

#### 15 - Rudi Scheepers

Rudi Scheepers is a junior engineer at Arcus GIBB Engineers & Scientists. His special interest lies in the field of water and wastewater treatment design, operations and maintenance. Rudi has a diploma in polymer engineering and a degree in civil engineering from Stellenbosch University.

#### 16 - Jonathan Denison

Jonathan Denison is a Chartered Civil Engineer and has a professional focus on rural development research and programme implementation. He has worked for 20 years in water, agriculture and infrastructure service development, mostly in Eastern Africa and the former homelands. He has postgraduate qualifications in alternative energy engineering and runs an experimental site for sustainable living outside East London. He is a director of the Umhlaba Consulting Group.

#### 17 - Julian Maastreht

Julian Maastreht qualified with a B-Tech (civil engineering) at the Cape Technikon (now the Cape Peninsula University of Technology) in 1989. His work experience in the civil engineering consulting field includes three years with Van Niekerk Klein and Edwards and three years with B.S. Bergman Consulting Engineers in civil services design.

He joined Kaytech Engineered Fabrics in August 1998, where he worked in the technical marketing field. In 2007, he opened a regional branch in the Eastern Cape.

#### 18 - Oscar Kunene

Oscar Kunene holds a bachelors degree in technology (BTech) in civil engineering and is currently studying towards a masters degree in technology (MTech) at the Durban University of Technology. He is registered with ECSA as a professional engineering technician (Pr Tech Eng) and he is a member of SAICE. He is also registered as a project management professional (PMP) with the Project Management Institute.

Oscar worked at Transnet National Ports Authority for six and a half years, where he was involved in capital projects and the maintenance of port infrastructure, including roads, railways, buildings and water reticulation.

In 2009 he joined eThekweni Municipality, where he was involved in roads and storm water maintenance. Currently he is involved in low-cost housing development projects.

#### 19 - Dr Lucas-Jan Ebels

Lucas-Jan Ebels is a principal engineer at UWP Consulting. Since graduating as a civil engineer at the University of Delft in the Netherlands in 1998, he has managed various aspects of many rural development projects in the Eastern Cape.

He later obtained his PhD in pavement engineering at Stellenbosch University and received an award for being the 'most deserving post-graduate student in transportation engineering'.

He is a member of the following bodies:

- South African Institution of Civil Engineering
- Engineering Council of South Africa (candidate engineer)
- Association for Asphalt Paving Technologists
- Society for Asphalt Technology (director).

#### 20 - Simon Tetley

Simon Tetley is a senior associate in the roads and highways department at Arcus GIBB Consulting Engineers, and is based in the company's East London office. Simon has 25 years experience in the fields of road management systems as well as pavement and materials engineering for roads, runways, taxiways and other transportation infrastructure.