



IAH-SA
SYMPOSIUM
26 - 28 AUGUST 2026
Groundwater Quality



Symposium
registered for
CPD
points

EXCITING PRE-SYMPOSIUM COURSE & SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

We are pleased to share an exciting update on the **IAH-SA Symposium 2026**, taking place from **26-28 August 2026** at **STIAS Conference Centre, Stellenbosch**. The programme is shaping up to be a dynamic and engaging three-day event, bringing together leading experts, practitioners, and stakeholders in the groundwater sector.

We are pleased to confirm a strong line-up of keynote speakers, both local and international (see below). These respected experts ensure a programme that is both globally relevant and locally impactful.

The Symposium will also feature a full-day, hands-on pre-symposium course on **PHREEQC Modelling**, presented by **Dr Meris Mills**. This course offers an excellent opportunity for delegates to deepen their technical skills and gain practical tools that can be applied directly in their work.

Online registration is now open, and delegates are encouraged to secure their place early. Please note that the pre-symposium course is available to registered symposium delegates only.

PRE-SYMPOSIUM COURSE

PHREEQC-C Modelling by **Dr. Meris Mills** PhD Geology, Environmental Geochemist
Tuesday, 25 August 2026, | STIAS Conference Centre

Target audience: Hydrogeologists and Hydrogeochemists

This full-day, hands-on course offers a practical introduction to PHREEQC, a powerful and widely used tool for simulating chemical processes in water. Designed for hydrogeologists and hydrogeochemists, the course will guide participants through real-world applications such as identifying mineral controls on water quality, understanding chemical speciation, predicting mineral reactions, and modelling solution mixing.

Led by Dr Meris Mills, an experienced environmental geochemist with extensive expertise in water quality data and geochemical modelling, this course is ideal for professionals looking to strengthen their analytical skills and gain practical tools they can immediately apply in their work.

(Course information available on the website)

SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr Feifei Cao - Senior Groundwater Specialist - IGRAC team (Netherlands)

Presentation: Advancing Groundwater Quality Assessment: Data Challenges, Global Collaboration and Emerging AI Solutions

Dr Cao brings an international perspective on groundwater quality, drawing on her work across global datasets, contaminant transport, and climate-related impacts on water systems. Her presentation explores the challenges of managing complex groundwater data and highlights the role of global collaboration and emerging AI solutions in advancing groundwater quality assessment.

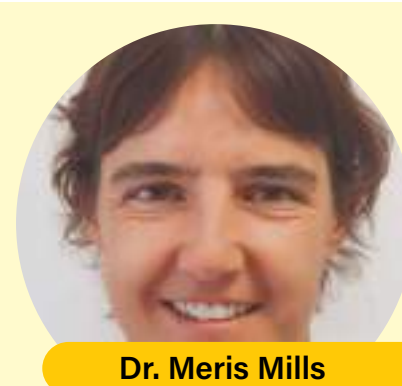


Dr Feifei Cao

Dr. Meris Mills. PhD Geology - Environmental Geochemist

Presentation: Avoiding Analysis Paralysis: Getting the Most from Your Water Quality Data

With a strong background in geochemical processes and water quality analysis, **Dr Mills** specialises in working with complex datasets and modelling tools such as PHREEQC. Her presentation focuses on how to move beyond "analysis paralysis" and extract meaningful, practical insights from water quality data to support better decision-making.



Dr. Meris Mills

Dr Roger Parsons - Groundwater Consultant

Presentation: From Benchmarks to Burdens: The Case for Revising South Africa's Drinking Water Standard

A highly respected hydrogeologist with more than four decades of experience, **Dr Parsons** has worked across government, research, and private consulting. His presentation offers a thought-provoking perspective on South Africa's drinking water standards, challenging current benchmarks and exploring the implications for sustainable groundwater use.



Dr Roger Parsons

Gert Meiring - Director, Civil Service Group

Presentation: The Challenges of Utilising Groundwater Sources for Municipal Use in the Northern Cape Province

With over 30 years of experience in civil and water engineering, **Gert Meiring** has been closely involved in the design and management of water infrastructure across South Africa. His presentation addresses the practical challenges of utilising groundwater for municipal supply, with a focus on real-world solutions from the Northern Cape.



Gert Meiring

Dr Kym Morton - Water Strategist & Tailings Expert

Presentation: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Water Quality Problems and Solutions Related to Mining in Southern Africa

Dr Morton is a globally recognised expert in mine water management, with over 40 years of consulting experience. Her work spans groundwater risk management, pollution control, and sustainable mining practices. She shares insights into the complex water quality challenges associated with mining in Southern Africa, offering both cautionary lessons and practical solutions.



Dr Kym Morton

Online **REGISTRATION** *Now Open*

Online registration for both the Symposium and the pre-symposium course is now live on the website. Delegates from across the groundwater sector—including government, municipalities, academia, consultants, industry, and water resource practitioners—are expected to attend. We encourage early registration to secure your place.

REGISTER HERE

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Call for Abstracts is now open on the symposium website. You are invited to submit abstracts aligned with the symposium theme, *"Groundwater Quality: Assessment, Emerging Challenges and Sustainable Solutions."* This is an opportunity to share your work, insights, and case studies with a diverse and engaged audience. Submit your abstract and contribute to the programme.

SUBMISSIONS HERE

IMPORTANT DATES | IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission Deadline:.....2 June 2026

Confirmation of Abstract Acceptance:12 June 2026

Early Bird Registration Deadline:16 June 2026

Preliminary Programme Available:31 July 2026