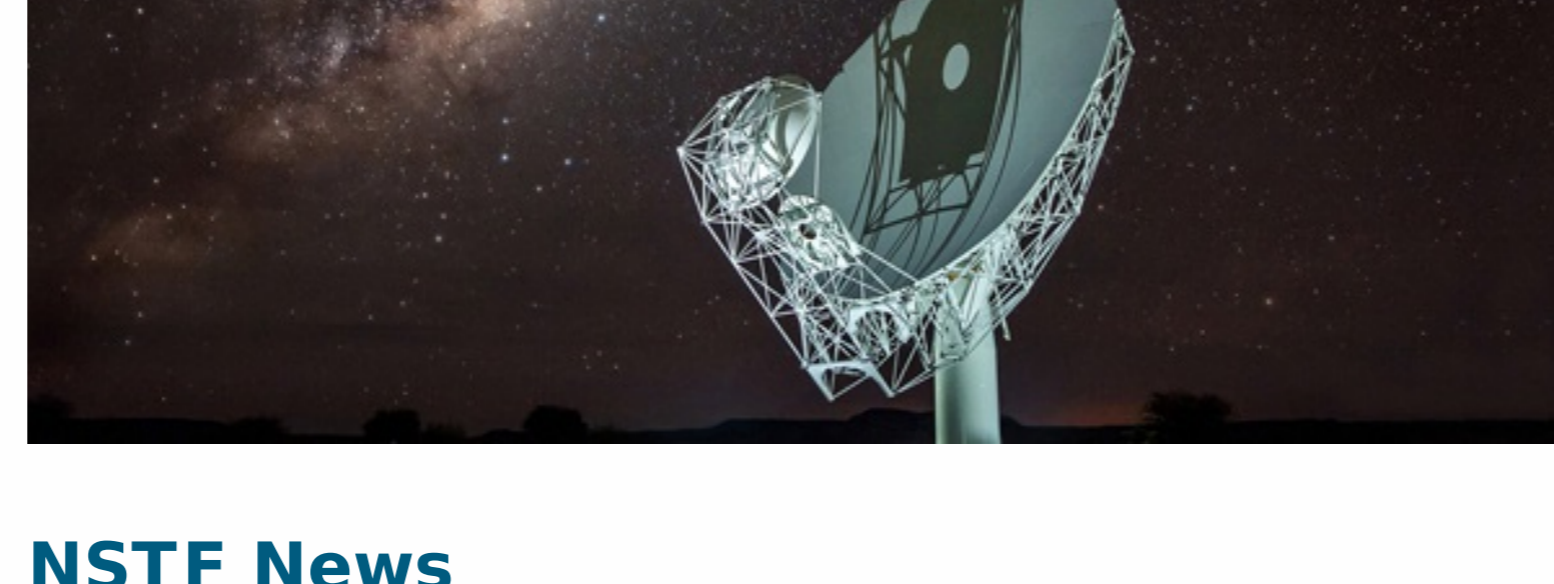


## Message from NSTF Executive Director

### Tour to SKA with Brilliant students

The NSTF Brilliant Programme tour focused on astronomy tourism this year (#astrotour). It took place over six days in June 2017 and was organised and funded by the [Square Kilometre Array \(SKA\)](#) @skasa\_outreach. Read NSTF Executive Director Jansie Niehaus' notes on the event. It includes how the SKA telescope works. [Read more](#).



## NSTF News

### Science and Sustainable Tourism: 3-4 August 2017, Kempton Park, Gauteng

The NSTF is hosting a national Discussion Forum on [Science and Sustainable Tourism](#) (#ScienceTourism). The United Nations has declared 2017 the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development (#IY2017).

With tourism contributing to 10% of global GDP and responsible for 1 in 11 jobs worldwide, science, engineering and technology (SET) cannot ignore tourism. Tourism can lead to increased SET awareness, influence funding, and it involves areas directly related to SET.

Sustainable tourism crosses over into many science-related fields, from the green economy and environmental protection to astronomy tourism. Click here to [register](#).

### 2016/2017 NSTF-South32 Awards winners

The 2016/2017 NSTF-South32 Awards winners were announced at the [prestigious awards ceremony](#) on Thursday, 29 June 2017 in Gauteng. Click here to see the [list](#).

The awards patron, Minister of Science and Technology Maledi Pandor, was the guest of honour and almost 650 guests were there to honour these 'Science Oscars' which promote excellence in SET and innovation. Read the Minister's [speech](#). See the [photo gallery](#) from the event.

You can also see the [2016/2017 NSTF-South32 Awards Who's Who of Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation](#) which lists all the finalists with photos and information on their nomination. You can find [previous booklets](#) on the site as well.

### Find out more: Brilliant Programme associated with the NSTF-South32 Awards plus SKA bursaries

The NSTF Brilliant Programme recognises 18 first-year students studying in the science, medicine and engineering fields. It's sponsored by the Fuchs Foundation. This year there were 20 students – see them [here](#).)

[Read more](#) about the motivational speakers programme and the other Brilliant activities.

You can also see the [video](#) from the [Square Kilometre Array \(SKA\)](#) SA Brilliant's Tour and find out more in the Executive Director's Message.

There is also information on the [SKA SA undergraduate bursaries](#) (application deadline end of July).

### Getting to know our award winners: Prof Nicolas Johannes Beukes

Prof Nicolas Johannes Beukes is director of the Department of Science and Technology (DST)-National Research Foundation (NRF) Centre of Excellence for Mineral and Energy Resource Analysis (Cimera), hosted in the department of geology at the University of Johannesburg (UJ). This A1 NRF-rated scientist is considered a world leader in the study of iron and manganese ore deposits, two commodities that are vital to South Africa's economy. His work has led to improved exploration, mining and processing of these ores. He won the [2016/2017 Lifetime Award](#). [Read more about his work](#).

### June Share 'n Dare outreach

**Prof Jan Smit**, Manager of the Science Centre at North-West University, gave a hands-on science talk.

**Prof Peter Dunsby** spoke on 'Cosmology: the new frontier'. Both activities happened on 7 June 2017, Boyden Observatory, Bloemfontein.

**Prof Dave Berger** gave a radio interview about the threat to global maize production – 13 June 2017, 11am on Classic FM.

**Prof Bert Klumperman** gave a public lecture on Polymer Chemistry on 28 June 2017, iThemba LABS, Faure, Cape Town.

[Read more](#) about these outreach events that are sponsored by the Fuchs Foundation.

### Bursary Directory

Find the latest bursaries in science, engineering and technology (SET). Recently-added bursaries include those from:

- [NMISA Bursary Programme](#)
- [AECOM Student Bursaries](#)
- [Pollomellitis Research Foundation Bursary](#)
- [Aurecon South Africa Bursary Scheme](#)
- [IDC Bursary Programme](#)

Visit the [NSTF Bursary Directory](#) to find information on available bursaries, the different [SET careers](#), and [inspiring stories](#) of people in SET. Thanks to the Fuchs Foundation!

## Featured SET policy: Understanding the context of the National Development Plan (NDP) – NDP 1

In a series of articles, starting with this newsletter, the NSTF will be unpacking the [National Development Plan \(NDP\)](#). The particular focus will be on understanding it from a science, engineering, technology (SET) perspective. Not only does the implementation of the NDP affect every person in South Africa but it has overriding implications on how SET programmes and funding will be managed. This edition looks at the context of the NDP. This includes updated developmental challenges and actions, as well as civil society and academic concerns around the NDP.

### Other SET-related policies currently open for public comment

- [Use of Official Languages Act: Language policy: South African Veterinary Council](#) (Comments invited by 23 July 2017)
- [Labour Relations Act: Application for demarcation: Under which bargaining council does Battery Manufacturing Industry fall](#) (Comments invited by 28 July 2017)
- [Third National Communication Report for South Africa to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (Comments invited by 30 July 2017)
- [Health Professions Act: Regulations: Defining scope of profession of oral hygiene](#) (Comments invited by 19 August 2017)
- [Medicines and Related Substances Act: Regulations: Transparent pricing system for medicines and scheduled substances: Dispensing fee for pharmacists](#) (Comments invited by 19 August 2017)
- [National Railway Safety Regulator Act: Regulations: Infrastructure or activity affecting safe railway operations](#) (Comments invited by 30 August 2017)
- [National Forests Act: Proposed list of particular trees and particular groups of trees: champion trees](#) (Comments invited by 30 August 2017)
- [National Environmental Management Act: Regulations: Phase-out use of persistent organic pollutants](#) (Comments invited by 30 August 2017)

### SET-related policy news

- [Shaping the future of SA's economic growth through science, technology and innovation](#) (Mail & Guardian advertorial)
- [Dedicated to using knowledge to create increased wellbeing and prosperity](#) (Mail & Guardian advertorial)
- [Science, technology and innovation transforming South Africa](#) (Mail & Guardian advertorial)
- [How South Africa can fix the fact that one in four of its children go hungry](#) (polity)
- [Natural Capital Protocol drives sustainability thinking](#) (infrastructurenews.ws)

## Upcoming SET Events

- [National Science Week 2017](#): national, starting 5 August 2017
- [3rd National Conference on Global Change 2016](#): UKZN, online registration open 1 Sep, Abstract submissions close 30 Sep
- [55th National Congress of the South African Association of Physicists in Medicine and Biology](#): Durban, 25-30 September 2017
- [Scientific Writing Skills for Research Proposals](#): part of the 2017 workshop programme at Stellenbosch University
- [66th Association of Municipal Electricity Utilities \(AMEU\) Convention 2017](#): Port Elizabeth, 8-11 October 2017
- [5th Biennial Carbon Capture & Storage Conference](#): Durban, 18-19 October 2017
- [Africa Oil Week](#) oil and gas conference: Cape Town, 23-27 October 2017
- [Science Centre World Summit 2017 \(SCWS2017\)](#): Tokyo, Japan, 15-17 November 2017
- [UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit - MARS 2017](#) - Call for Applications: Mauritius, 28-29 November 2017
- [Science Forum South Africa](#): Pretoria, 7 – 8 December 2017

## proSET News

- ['Self-driving' ships could be reality by 2025](#) (ITWeb)
- [South African stainless steel imports surged by 44% in 2016](#) (Engineering News)
- [Encouraging the fight against ocean litter](#) (infrastructurenews.ws)
- [Civil engineering confidence picks up in 2017 Q2](#) (infrastructurenews.ws)
- [Cape turns to desalination plants to ease water woes](#) (infrastructurenews.ws)
- [3D technology revolutionises production of bus parts](#) (infrastructurenews.ws)
- [Softer growth expected in the medium term for consulting engineers](#) (infrastructurenews.ws)
- [Construction industry has moderate outlook until 2021](#) (infrastructurenews.ws)

## SET Community News

### Universities

- ['Publish or perish' or 'innovate to thrive' – a symbiotic relationship](#) (Mail & Guardian advertorial)
- [English only at varsity is not a remedy](#) (Mail & Guardian)
- [Africa's R&D voice needed on use of solar engineering](#) (scidev.net)
- [UCT leads in countering cyberattacks on varsities](#) (Mail & Guardian)
- [Southern scholars missing in top development journals](#) (scidev.net)
- [Gender, race & class: Language change in post-apartheid South Africa](#) (phys.org)

### Medicine

- [The 2017 Future Health Index Report](#) (Future Health Index)
- [Study predicts the next human virus from mammals](#) (scidev.net)
- [National one-click access to evidence-based Cochrane reviews: increasing healthcare benefit and reducing harms and costs](#) (Medical Research Council)
- [Universal test and treat strategy could cut HIV spread](#) (scidev.net)

### Space science

- [For Modern Astronomers, It's Learn To Code or Get Left Behind](#) (wired.com)
- [SA joins Brics space programme](#) (polity)
- [Ghana and South Africa celebrate first success of African network of telescopes](#) (SKA)

### Environment, climate change and energy

- [New bioenergy atlas heralds South Africa's energy generation future](#) (Mail & Guardian advertorial)
- [Swapping coal for gas keeps world carbon emissions flat](#) (Mail & Guardian)
- [World's energy system not on track to meet climate goals](#) (ITWeb)
- [Nuclear and coal lobbies threaten to scupper renewables in South Africa](#) (The Conversation)
- [SA joins Global Wind Day celebrations](#) (ITWeb)
- [First Biennial Report to Cabinet on The State of Climate Change Science and Technology in South Africa](#) (DST and ASSAT)

### Sustainable environment and tourism

- [Gauteng approves abattoir, threatening Magalesberg Biosphere Reserve](#) (Mail & Guardian)
- [Synthetic horns may save rhinos if they are not like the real thing](#) (phys.org)
- [Saving the paintbrush lily from extinction](#) (phys.org)
- [Whale-watching comes under scrutiny at South Africa meeting](#) (phys.org)

### Paleontology

- [Frog fossils tell us something new about rain patterns on South Africa's west coast](#) (The Conversation)

### ICT

- [SA researchers use software to identify dolphin species](#) (ITWeb)

## People in SET

- [2017 Jansky Lectureship Awarded to South African Astronomer Bernie Fanaroff](#) (SKA)
- [NRF Grantholder, Prof Felix Danane Dakora, Appointed President of African Academy of Science \(NRF\)](#)
- [South Africa takes Gold at International Science Festival](#) (NRF)
- [SA learners win at Kenya Science and Engineering Fair](#) (expo science)

Please forward this e-mail to your colleagues, business contacts and all interested persons.

### Send us your news

The NSTF invites all our members, as well as all SET and innovation role players, to send us information on meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader SET community. Please send us your news by the 20th of the month, for distribution at the beginning of the following month, to [enquiries@nsthf.co.za](mailto:enquiries@nsthf.co.za)

### Feedback

If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve this newsletter, please e-mail the NSTF Secretariat at [enquiries@nsthf.co.za](mailto:enquiries@nsthf.co.za).

### About the NSTF

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF), established in 1995, is a broadly representative stakeholder body for all SET and innovation organisations in South Africa, which seeks to influence policy formulation and delivery.

The NSTF-South32 Awards are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SET and innovation.

The [science bursaries](#) page provides information on bursaries and bursary providers for science, engineering and related studies.

### Disclaimer

The NSTF has taken all practical measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct. The NSTF reserves the right to make changes as it deems necessary.

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### For more information

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