

**Johan Laas**



**Personal details**

**Nationality**

**New Zealand Permanent Resident**

**Profession  
Specialisation**

**South African Citizen  
Geotechnical / Rock Mechanics Engineering  
Mining**

**Year of birth  
Home Address**

**1955  
Auckland – New Zealand**

**Contact Details**

**Tel: +64 9 21 0541752**

#### **Key Experience**

Johan has over 32 years experience in Rock and Geotechnical Engineering mainly within a mining environment. He has some experience in geotechnical laboratory testing as well as field work in mapping and logging for dam, tunnel and shaft foundation studies. He participated extensively in multi-disciplinary teams on mine design and planning for tabular hard rock and massive mining, and to a lesser degree open pits and pit / underground interactions. He has appreciation of numerical modelling and instrumentation applications. His main activities related to the management of geotechnical services from work level and volume assessment, hazard and risk assessment and management requirements, skills requirements, skills procurement and development, and facilitation of enabling environments. In the deep hard rock mines he also managed seismic networks and related contracts of design, implementation and management as well as research projects. He has conducted and participated in geotechnical reviews of mining activities in South Africa, Namibia, Ghana and Australia and assisted with Codes of Practice development in Brazil.

**Education and  
professional status**

**AFFILIATIONS**

- Fellow of the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM member 702860)
- Fellow of the South African National Institute of Rock Engineering (SANIRE member F030)

**EDUCATION**

1999 - 00	The University of Stellenbosch, Business School - Management Development Programme
1993 - 96	The University of the Witwatersrand - M.Sc. (Engineering) (Mining)
1990 - 91	The University of the Witwatersrand eight GDE courses for the Chamber of Mines Advanced Certificate in Rock Engineering
1982	Chamber of Mines Rock Mechanics Certificate
1977 – 80	Technicon Pretoria - ND Geology

**HONOURS**

2000 – 07	Council member of SANIRE
1999 – 08	Rock Engineering Technical Advisory Committee (RETAC) on research for the Safety in Mines Research Advisory Committee (SIMRAC) via the Mine Health and Safety Council
2002	SANIRE MDG Salomon Award (joint) for the best South African Rock Engineering paper published and presented in 1999.

**COMPUTER SKILLS**

Appreciation knowledge of MAP3D, FLAC2D, UDEC2D,  
Phase<sup>2</sup>, SLIDE, Unwedge, Swedge, DIPS

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**Language ability**

English, Afrikaans

## **Employment History**

March 2011 - Current

Duties

### **Principal Geotechnical / Rock Mechanics Engineer**

Geohart Consultants Pty Ltd.

- Geohart Consultants New Zealand representative
- Business and staff development and growth

July 2008 – July 2010

Duties

### **Group Geotechnical Engineer**

AngloGold Ashanti, Obuasi, Ghana

- Lead and develop local senior and junior geotechnical team members towards a structured geotechnical service for safe and efficient mine design and planning
- Advise management on all aspects of mining a 10km long orebody of highly variable geometry mined from open pit to underground at 2000m below surface

June 2002 – June 2008

Duties

### **Manager Rock Engineering**

AngloGold Ashanti, Johannesburg

- Sapiential head of discipline for Africa Region underground mines in the Vaal Reefs, Carletonville and Ghana areas
- Technical guidance and reviews at all the mines
- Skills procurement and development for all the mines
- Fostering professional conduct and facilitating an enabling environment for geotechnical staff
- Management of the seismic monitoring and interpretation contract for AGA
- Representative of the company on various industry research and advisory committees and organizations

November 1996 – December 1999

Duties

### **Regional Head Rock Engineering**

AngloGold Ashanti, Vaal Reefs

- Sapiential head of discipline for the region consisting of 10 shallow to deep tabular hard rock mines associated with significant rockbursting
- Management of the Mine Manager's Association regional seismic network for the four large mining companies at that time
- Managing a staff group of some 40 geotechnical and seismology professionals and practitioners

August 1981 – November 1996

**Section Head from Rock Mechanics Officer from Strata Control Officer**

Vaal Reefs Exploration and Mining Company and AngloAmerican Corporation – Gold and Uranium Division

Duties

- Working through the ranks of geotechnical service to the mines – doing all aspects of ground control investigations, data gathering, numerical modelling, analysis, design, planning, implementation, follow-up, incident investigations, re-design
- Studying and obtaining local industry required competency certificates and developing staff from various backgrounds to achieve the same

September 1980 to July 1981

**Geotechnician**

George, Orr and Associates, Pretoria

Duties

- Dam, pump station and tunnel foundation studies via geotechnical laboratory testing as well as field work and tests, diamond drill control and positioning, mapping and logging, centre-line profiles for various clients on various sites on a contract basis

June 1977 to August 1980

**Trainee – and Geotechnician**

Geological Survey, Pretoria

Duties

- Dam, pump station and tunnel foundation studies via geotechnical laboratory testing as well as field work and tests, diamond drill control and positioning, mapping and logging, centre-line profiles for various project sites for the Department of Water Affairs