

PROFESSOR MATTHYS DIPPENAAR

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Professor Matthys Dippenaar's passion is fluid mechanics that started with water (1st fluid) as part of the water cycle and as an engineering geologist.

His Honours project and first article are on a jet fuel leak and the immiscible LNAPL (2nd fluid) overlying the water table. This was the start of his second academic and professional direction after engineering geology that is hydrogeology.

Professor Dippenaar followed his journey moving into air (3rd fluid) where the vadose zone is now his speciality that is the overlap between engineering geology and hydrogeology. Consistent throughout his career is the role of granitoid rocks and gneisses (his favourite lithologies).

This deepens his passions into the topic with many MSc and PhD students getting engineering geology and hydrogeology degrees and writing articles on the topic. He has a number of Water Research Commission books and reports on this topic.

His next two fluids will, if all goes well, be to figure out their capillary pressure mercury system (CPMS) that works with mercury (4th fluid) and nitrogen (5th fluid) to determine the porosity of rock core.