



water & sanitation

Department:
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INTERNET ARTICLE

Jones explores underground water

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Mr Anton Jones' path to being a Geo Hydrologist was not a conventional one, but he fell in love with his career path none the less. He currently works for the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in the Free State as a Scientist.

Anton Jones has been with DWS for ten years. He grew up in a mining town of Kimberley near the De Beers mines and where he had an interest for the different rocks found in the mines. His interest in mines led him to study Geology which is where his interest for ground studies was sparked. He further went on to do his honours in Geo Hydrology specialising in underground water.

"There are not many Geo Hydrologist in the country, I remember that a few years back there were only 300 of us, might be a little more right now", said Jones. He currently assists municipalities in the Free State to check the availability of their ground water resources as well as verifies how much of that water the municipality can use. These studies are done to enable extended use of this resource.

He mentioned that about 13 municipalities in the Free State are dependent on ground water as either a primary source or as a secondary source. Ground water, as surface water has to reach certain standards before consumption, hence ground water has to be treated. Ground water is cheaper to treat as it mostly only requires chlorine or to be mixed with surface water to unbalance other chemical pollutants.

"I would like to see myself manage ground, surface and re-used water in the near future to be able to optimise the benefits for communities. You spend a lot of times outdoors so if you are not an office and suit kind of a person and you care about our most important resource then this will be your best choice," he said.

In his parting shot, he encouraged young people to consider a career in Geo Hydrology because it offers different kind of opportunities in the country.

Larry Crisp