



OVERBERG GEOSCIENTISTS GROUP (OGG)

Newsletter #1: 7 January 2025

(OGG – Reg. No. 275-138 NPO)



Welcome back and we trust that everyone will have a successful and healthy 2025. Herewith the first OGG 2025 Newsletter with details of presentations for the first quarter, information on proposed Excursions and other activities for 2025. A reminder that OGG breakfast meetings and presentations take place at Onrus Manor (greater Hermanus area) from 09h30, with breakfast at 10h00 and presentations (in person & Zoom) at 11h00 on the first Thursday of the month.

2025 OGG Presentation & Breakfast Program (to April, 2025)

| Date (2025) | Speaker | Topic | Venue/Mode/Time |
|---|--|--|---|
| Thurs 6 February 2025 | Dr John Bristow | <i>Centenary of diamond prospecting + mining on the West Coast of South Africa and the Legends that shaped the sector.</i> | Breakfast meeting + Zoom (RSA 11h00) |
| <i>International Au presentation series</i> | | | |
| Thursday 6 March | Prof Dave Crow (Univ Otago, NZ) | Placer gold science - without avoiding the Witwatersrand | Zoom (RSA 10h00) |
| Thursday 13 March | Dr Julian Vearncombe (Perth) | Witwatersrand structures and gold | Zoom (RSA, 10h00) |
| Thursday 20 March | Prof Neil Phillips (Melbourne) | Metamorphic waters and some of their wonders | Zoom (RSA 10h00) |
| Thursday 27 March | Prof John Clemens (Univ. Stellenbosch) | Formation of Cu–Au porphyry deposits: what we can learn from igneous petrology | Zoom (RSA 10h00) |
| Thursday 3 April | Dr Bjorn Von Der Heyden (Univ. Stellenbosch) | Southern African metallogeny with a focus on gold | In-person + Zoom (RSA 11h00) Onrus Manor |
| Thursday 10 April | Keith Kenyon (Hermanus, RSA) | Why does the Placer vs Hydrothermal origin for the Witwatersrand Gold Ore controversy persist | Zoom (RSA 11h00) |

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82172892738?pwd=M1NWUKJFYzhqdTJ2Qk0yZ3BrV2srZz09>

Meeting ID: 821 7289 2738; Passcode: **Overberg**

OGG Presentations on YouTube

All previous OGG presentations (since 2021) are available on YouTube for viewing and sharing. They can be accessed by cut/pasting the link below into your browser, clicking on the GSSA YouTube Website, locating the **OGG-Playlist** and selecting the topics and speakers you wish to listen to:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-MPMaHidsW1jR8f-KMmPX8ANZGA-OYna>

Staircase through Time – Sea Level Changes on the Hermanus Coastline (John Blaine)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBC5ifoUVgQ>

Experiences of a geologist in Russia (Dr John Bristow)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwrF5zKcdSM>

2025 OGG Excursions

Bonnievale, Robertson, Montagu & Keisie Valley Geoexcursion (9 - 11 May, 2025) – The excursion will comprise a Friday to Sunday morning outing, overnighing in Montagu, returning home on Sunday morning. It will highlight the Malmesbury Basement (>600Ma) geology, Jurassic Enon conglomerates/sediments, Olivine-melilitite intrusive into the Witteberg Group, and present an opportunity to stand on the hanging-wall of the Worcester fault overlooking the Ashton, Robertson Breede River Valley, as well as view other localities of interest. (Please *confirm participation with Jean Malan - jeanamalan@gmail.com*)

De Kelders Caves + Surrounds (half-day Excursion) (1st half of 2025, date to follow) – this excursion will include visits to the massive Caverns formed in *Bredasdorp Group* limestone at the interface with underlying TMG sandstones, ~1km beach-walk along Walker Bay west to mega-dune remnants (*Bredasdorp Group*), an overview of the geology and structural features of the TMG sandstones, and picnic lunch for those wanting to enjoy the sea, sand & scenery.

West Coast Diamond Centenary & follow-up Diamond Presentations

An initial presentation on the pioneering endeavours and history of South Africa's West Coast diamond deposits (**6 February 2025**), followed by subsequent diamond talk's later in 2025. While 2024 was a challenging year for the natural diamond trade, hopefully muted-signs of improvement in late 2024 will translate into a more sustainable recovery in 2025. The later presentations will provide an update of the market situation, ownership changes, new technology and other developments in the sector.

Gold Short-Course Presentations – April 2025

Through the interest, support and collaboration of gold experts Prof Neil Phillips (Melbourne) and Dr Melanie Finch (Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne) the OGG will be facilitating a series of gold presentations in March/April 2025. Details of the program are attached & included. The support and assistance of Neil and Dr Melanie Finch is most appreciated.

Geology & Geoheritage of KNP & southern African LIPS

Following Geoexcursions to Kruger National Park (KNP), Clarens, Golden Gate, Witsieshoek & Lesotho in August 2024, the OGG will be scheduling a presentation on the exceptional geological history of KNP (including the Lebombo volcanics & Timbavati gabbros), and other southern African LIP's later in 2025.

Articles & YouTube Presentations of Interest

Our First Home: Human evolution in the southern-Cape (*Grootbos; YouTube; 23 minutes*)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=2M45mkS9IvoFIGCr&v=AWjgp_wSfmY&feature=youtu.be

Is the Yellowstone super-volcano stirring in its sleep? (*Planet Earth, 3 January 2025*)

<https://www.discovermagazine.com/planet-earth/magma-beneath-yellowstoneappears-to-be-on-the-move>

Altyn-Emel National Park; Kazakhstan: Singing Dune, Aktau Mountains, Katutau Mountains, Besshatyr Mounds (*Altyn-Emel National Park Website*) <https://search.app/sKbgu91FkM6ceDkU9>

UK's biggest ever dinosaur footprint trackways unearthed (*BBC, 2 January 2025*)

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c24nzeqq1l2o>

Southern Africa's evolving illegal plant trade (*DM, 6 January 2025*)

<https://search.app/vd3cqJUEnQ4J4zV1A>

OGG Membership, Fees + Sponsorship

The OGG welcomes new members and looks forward to its engagements with existing and new participants during in 2025. Please share these documents with colleagues, non-geologists, students & scholars. For more information and membership details see contacts below. New ideas, proposals for excursions & educational activities, engagements with non-geologists, scholars and youth, and funding and sponsorship to sustain the OGG objectives, are welcomed.

Membership Fees: R250.00 per person per annum; Bank details are as below:
STANDARD BANK ACCOUNT NAME: OVERBERG GEOSCIENTISTS GROUP NPC
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 10168933800 TYPE: CURRENT ACCOUNT
BRANCH CODE: 051001 SWIFT ADDRESS: SBZA ZA JJ

Many thanks. Kind regards,

HENNIE, ANNABELLE, JOHN + OGG TEAM

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Annabelle.greeff@gmail.com (mobile: 082 443 0699)

jwbdia@gmail.com (mobile: 082 571 3004)

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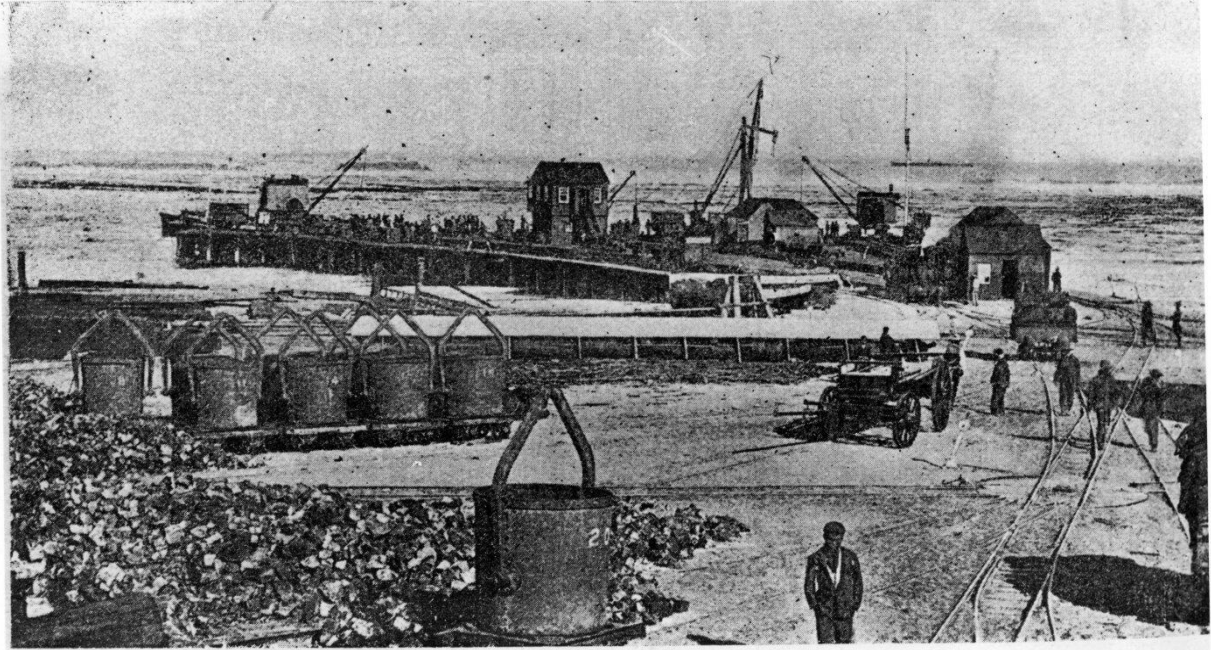
West Coast & Namaqualand Mining History

Information Sources: Dinham, Nic. (2024). Allan Spencer White: The West Coast diamond discoveries (1924–1929). *Familia, Genealogical Society of South Africa*. Vol. 61, No. 4, pp. 1 -25; Smallberger, J. M. (2016). The early history of Port Nolloth. *THE HERITAGE PORTAL*, August 26, 2016.

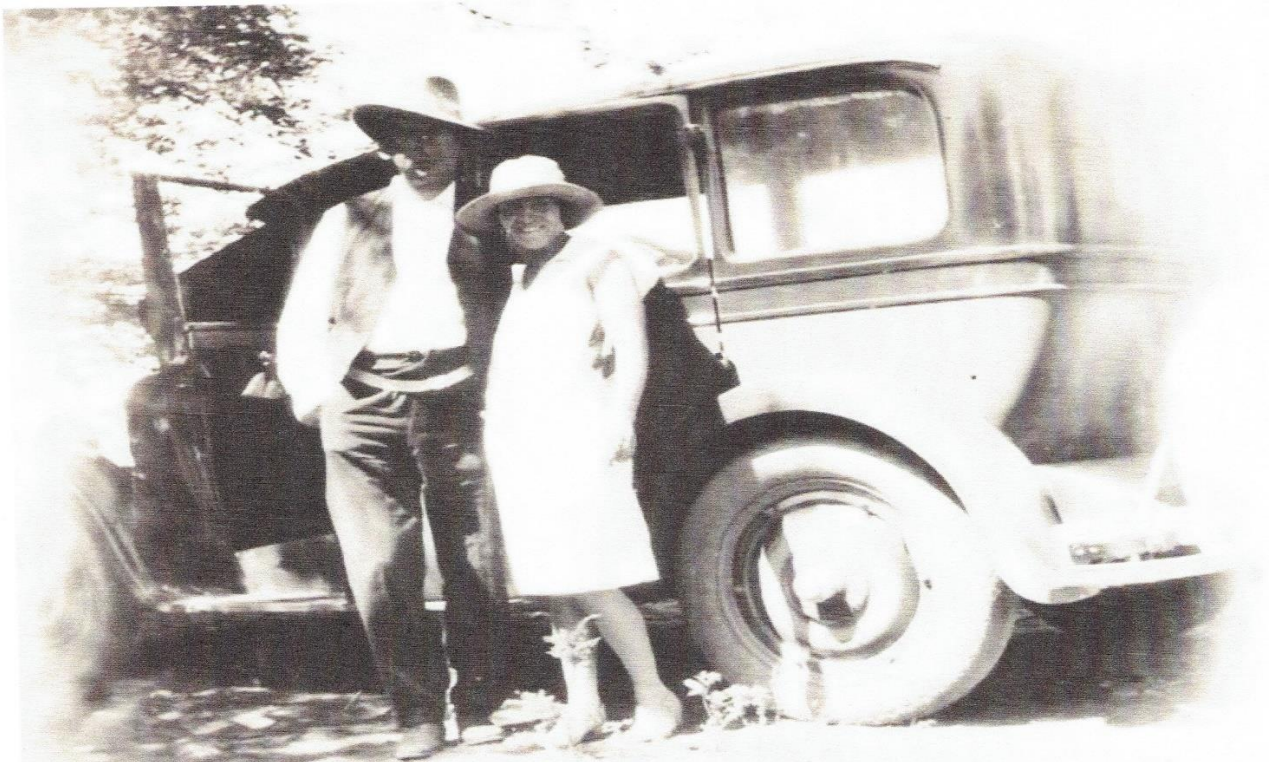


Port Nolloth ca. 1906: Civic Centre and Carstens Trading Store (looking north). At this point the town and harbour existed primarily due to its Copper shipping/export activities

A GREAT COLONIAL INDUSTRY.



Port Nolloth Jetty, shewing method of Loading Copper Ore, Cape Copper Company's Railway, Namaqualand.



Port Nolloth ca. 1926: Allan & Thelma White with their Studebaker Station-wagon; this model with its powerful engine and fitted with balloon-tyres, was a firm favourite of successful diamond prospectors making the challenging road trip between Port Nolloth and Cape Town in the early days of the West Coast diamond activities.

STUDENTS, GRADUATES and GEOLOGISTS SEEKING MENTORSHIP
& EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1: Sanchia Mkhize (Durban) (sanchiamn@gmail.com; m: 061 256 9620) See - CV link below.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=6b3c7f64a1&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1820508690861583710&th=1943bf024550ed5e&view=att&zw&disp=inline>

2: Balungile Nhlapo (27878554@sun.ac.za; m: 066 342 5319). (1st Year Stellenbosch Univ. student seeking experience opportunities. Home is Johannesburg). CV link below.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=6b3c7f64a1&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1816240585862155860&th=19349530a2f60e54&view=att&zw&disp=inline>

3: Ms Sinazo Dlakavu (MSc Geology; NMU AEON Institute) (sinazodlakavu@gmail.com; mobile: 066 598 0977). Practical field and technical (laboratory) experience in hydrogeology, the small and medium mining sector (surface and underground - particularly diamonds), and research activities (including data collection, analysis, compilation and presentation). Currently based in Eastern Cape but happy to move/travel.

Sinazo Dlakavu. (2021). Status of the South African small and junior diamond mining sector. AEON NMU REPORT SERIES NO. 7, 86pp. https://sadpo.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/6127-AEON-SADPO-Report-July-2021_WEB-low-singles.pdf

OGG Guidebooks Available:

- (1) OGG Bot River-Kleinmond Estuary and Surrounding Geology Geo-Excursion – 19 October, 2024: *Jean Malan & Mike De Wit.*
- (2) OGG Cape Town and Sea Point Contact Geo-Excursion – 24 March 2024: *Jean Malan and John Bristow (with contributions by Prof Mike Bruton, and Stephen Davey).*
- (3) OGG Bikini Beach (Gordons Bay), Clarence Drive, Aasbank, Harold Porter Gardens (Betty's Bay) Geological Excursion (Geocongress, January, 2023): *Dave Maurant & John Bristow.*
- (4) Umvoto & OGG Table Mountain Group (TMG) Aquifers and Wellfield Development in the Great Hermanus and Steenbras Areas Excursion (Geocongress, January 2023): *Dylan Blake (Umvoto).*
- (5) OGG & Minrom Overberg South Coast Geology: Field Excursion – November, 2022: *Jean Malan.*
- (6) OGG Geo-Excursion Guides to the Hemel + Aarde Wine Valley and Hermanus Cliff Path: *John Blaine.*
- (7) Table Mountain Dams and Cape Town's Water Supply (GEOHERITAGE FIELD GUIDEBOOK): *The Umvoto Foundation. (Dedicated to the late Rowena Hay & Dr Chris Hartnady) Contact Dylan Blake for copies - dylan@umvoto.com*

For copies of OGG Guidebooks please contact Dr John Bristow jwbdia@gmail.com; m: 082 571 3004.