

# OVERBERG GEOSCIENTISTS GROUP (OGG)

Newsletter #10: 1 July, 2025

(OGG – Reg. No. 275-138 NPO)

## June Highlights:

- ❖ New Dinosaur centre opens at Golden Gate Highlands National Park, eastern FS.
- ❖ International diamond market showing resilience and some ‘green shoots’
- ❖ Compilation of the Wits Gold Series Executive Summary + Report completed (Version#2 attached; Annexures to follow)

## OGG Presentations & Breakfast Program (until August, 2025)

| Date (2025)                        | Speaker  | Topic   | Venue/Mode/Time                              |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Thursday 5 June 2025               | <b>Dr James Blignaut</b><br>(Environmental Economist)              | <i>The economics of restoring degraded ecosystems</i>   | Zoom Presentation<br>RSA 11h00               |
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025 | <b>Dr Hendri Coetzee</b><br>(Director, Natures Valley Trust - NVT) | <i>Natures Valley: An Integrated Model for Conservation and Community Engagement</i>  | In-person + Zoom<br>RSA 11hoo<br>Onrus Manor |
| Thursday 7th August 2025           | <b>Gareth Boothway</b><br>(WWF)                                    | <i>Enabling ambitious impacts for people and nature - WWF's Strategy 2030: Utilising landscapes at scale for the benefit of nature and people</i> | In-person + Zoom<br>RSA 11hoo<br>Onrus Manor |

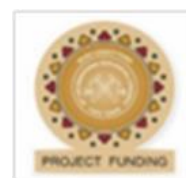
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82172892738?pwd=M1NWUkJFYzhqdTJ2Qk0yZ3BrV2srZz09>  
Meeting ID: 821 7289 2738; Passcode: **Overberg**

**OGG Breakfast Meetings & Presentations** – These are held at Onrus Manor from 09h30, with breakfast at 10h00, presentations (in-person & Zoom) at 11h00 on the first Thursday of the month. Participants are requested to please confirm their attendance at the breakfasts for catering purposes.

## Dinosaurs, Geology & Diamonds in the News

**Kgodumodumo Dinosaur Interpretation Centre** launched in Golden Gate National Park, eastern Free State – Paddy Gordon speaks to SABC News (YouTube, 6mns; SABC News)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y80C0sRkhhU>

**Prof. Marcia Bjornerud** – understanding rocks as records of our planet and protect its future  
<https://share.google/FTWk6bvzI75iyR5x>



U.S. Diamond & Jewellery Consumers Resilient in early-days of Tariff Impacts (*Solitaire International*, 17 June, 2025). <https://gjepec.org/solitaire/u-s-diamond-and-jewellery-consumers-hold-resilient-in-early-days-of-tariff-impact/>

Industry Comes Together in Angola to Create Natural-Diamond Marketing Fund  
**Rapaport News Brief**; June 19, 2025

The Nossob Eco-Trail (*YouTube*, 27mins)  
<https://youtu.be/Ut6-kcDRzyM>

### OGG YouTube Presentations

All previous **OGG** presentations on **YouTube**:  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-MPMaHidsW1jR8f-KMmPX8ANZGA-OYna>

**All about Gold:** <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-MPMaHidsW2tZEQv06FmiLjubVejMGhh>

**All about Diamonds:** [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-MPMaHidsW09Ijwvl7VCUINBd5I\\_-VwH&si=ddgs1KfuDYuSF1PW](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-MPMaHidsW09Ijwvl7VCUINBd5I_-VwH&si=ddgs1KfuDYuSF1PW)

### 2025 OGG Excursion #2

[De Kelders Caves + Surrounds, Walker Bay \(Saturday 30 August, 2025\)](#) – The excursion will provide a fascinating insight into the geology, structural features and trends apparent in the TMG sandstones (quartzites) along the eastern margin of Walker Bay, as well as the exceptional anthropological records of the southern-Cape coast.

Included are visits to the network of Caves at De Kelders formed in the *Bredasdorp Group* limestone at the interface with the underlying TMG sandstones and their Anthropological legacies, ~1km beach-walk westward along Walker Bay to view *Bredasdorp Group* mega-dune remnants, a look at Shear-zones, an overview of structures and faulting of the Table Mountain Group along the eastern-margin of Walker Bay and explanation of the Hydrogeology and abstraction in the Kelders and eastern parts of Walker Bay residential areas.

Pack your picnic lunch and enjoy the opportunity to watch the whales for those wishing to experience the sea, sand and scenery, while others swim in a subterranean pool. Families and Children are most welcome. The informative Excursion Guidebook and registration fee is R250.00, with no cost to Students and scholars. The entry to the Cape Nature Walker Bay reserve is R60.00 per adult and R40.00 per scholar at the gate. A **Wild Card** secures free entry.

There is an additional cost of R50.00 pp. for a unique opportunity to enter the privately owned “Drup Kelder” which forms part of the tour.

To register and reserve your place on this Excursion contact: Mike Dormer: 072 222 6672 on Whatsapp only or [mikeydormer@outlook.com](mailto:mikeydormer@outlook.com), or John Bristow – [jwbdia@gmail.com](mailto:jwbdia@gmail.com).





## **Recently Opened Golden Gate Dinosaur Centre** ***Kgodumodumo Dinosaur Interpretation Centre***

The world-class R120 million was officially opened to the public on 22 June, 2025 in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park in the south-eastern Free State.

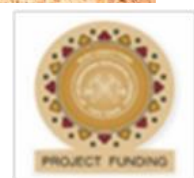
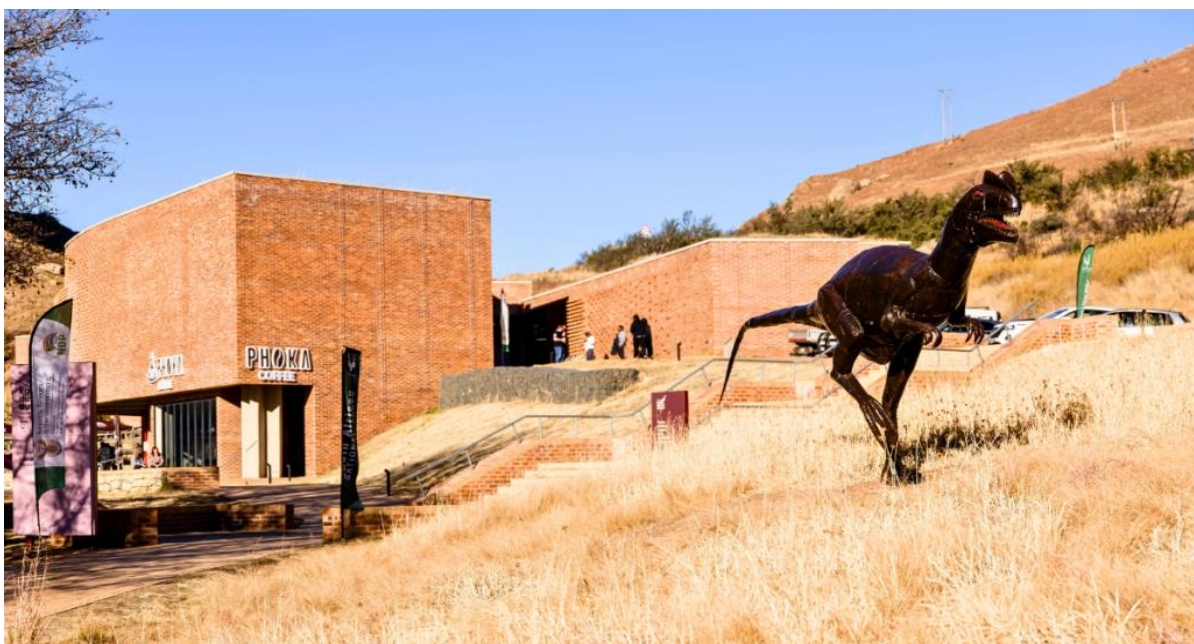
Providing a blend of local fossil discoveries, life-sized dinosaur sculptures, geological wonders, and BaSotho folklore, the Centre was funded through a R120 million grant from the European Union via the National Treasury, and is a significant step in celebrating and preserving South Africa's rich but often overlooked prehistoric heritage.

It provides an innovative and creative demonstration of scientific knowledge (paleontological, archaeological and geological) and broader appreciation of cultural heritage through interactive exhibitions. This joint initiative between Department of Tourism and Department of Forestry, Fisheries & Environment (DFFE), was handed over to SANParks to run, on a site where significant fossil discoveries have been made, including remains of dinosaurs from the Late Triassic period.

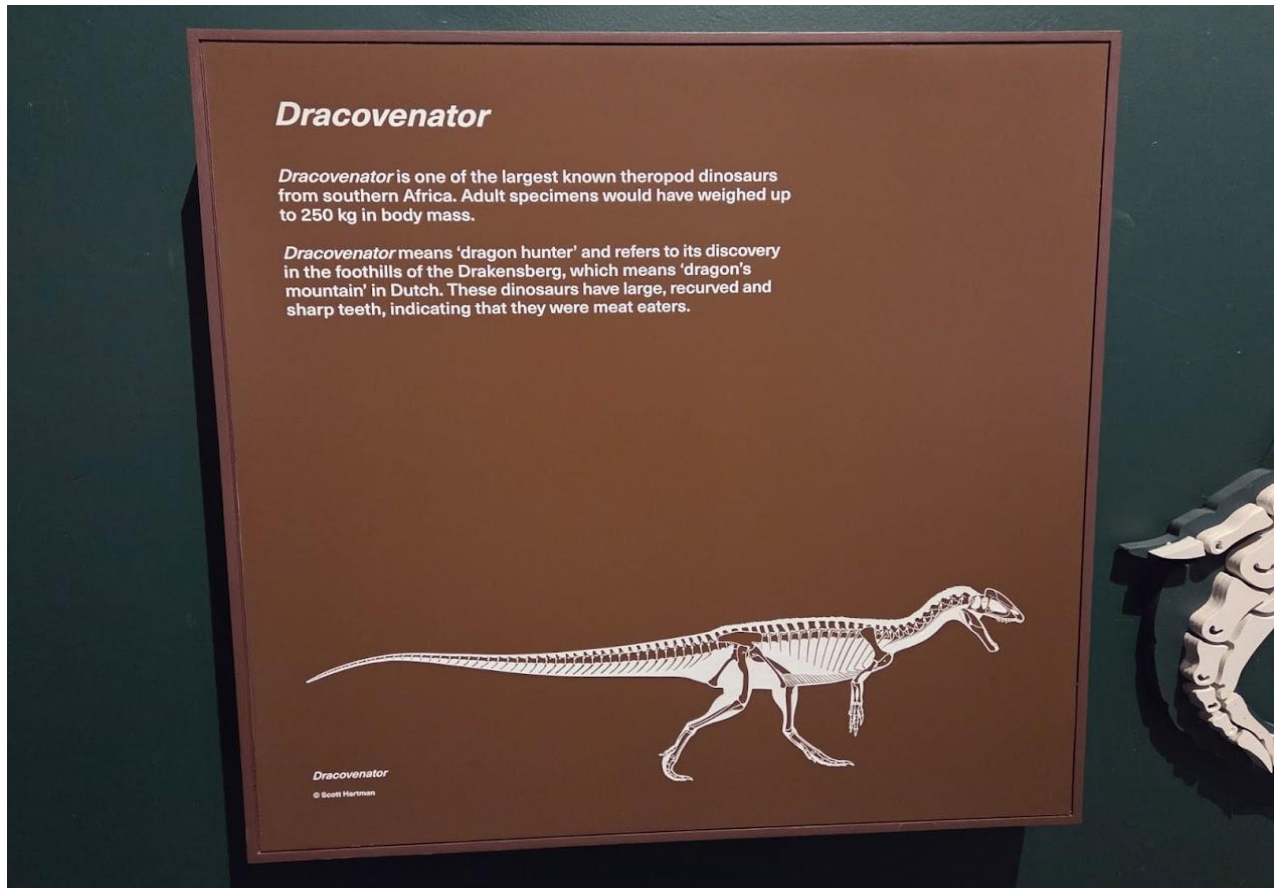
Early BaSotho communities discovered fossilised bones and footprints across the area, inspiring myths that still feature in traditional folklore. In the late 1970s, renowned South African palaeontologist Professor James Kitching discovered seven fossilised dinosaur eggs exposed by road construction in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park.

The eggs belonged to *Massospondylus*, a long-necked dinosaur that lived around 190 million years ago. These fossils are millions of years older than the more commonly known Jurassic dinosaurs. Another significant discovery in the park was the fossils of a plant-eating dinosaur, named *Ledumahadi mafube*, which weighed 12 tonnes. The largest land animal alive on Earth when it lived, nearly 200 million years ago, roughly double the size of a large African elephant.

Professor Jonah Choiniere, Wits University palaeontologist, described the Centre as *“more than just a tourist attraction.” “... a dedicated scientific and educational hub created to highlight South Africa’s own dinosaur legacy, often overshadowed by international narratives dominated by American discoveries,”*







**(Information Sources & Acknowledgements:**

- *Seth Thorne, Dinosaurs return to the Free State: South Africa's R120 million dinosaur centre; BUSINESSTECH, 25, June, 2025*
- *Debbie Bowen for providing the above three images of the interior displays at the Kgodumodumo Dinosaur Interpretation Centre.*

