

OVERBERG GEOSCIENTISTS GROUP (OGG)

Newsletter #11: 31 August, 2025

(OGG – Reg. No. 275-138 NPO)

Highlights:

- ❖ Successful Gansbaai, Walker Bay & De Kelders Caves GeoExcursion, Saturday 30 August, 2025, with excellent turnout, young and old, non-geologists and geologists
- ❖ Views on future of exploration & mining in RSA – articles/links top of 2nd page
- ❖ Compilation of southern Cape Geoheritage activities & information making progress.

OGG Presentations & Breakfast Program (to December, 2025)

Date (2025)	Speaker	Topic	Venue/Mode/Time
Thursday 4 September, 2025	Dr Bruce Eglinton (Dept Geological Sciences, Univ. of Saskatchewan)	Plate tectonic visualisation of the Archaean to Palaeoproterozoic evolution of southern Africa and Vaalbara setting	Zoom presentation - 11h00 RSA time
Thursday 2nd October		Spring Break	
Thursday 6th November, 2025	Malcolm Lee, Stuart Dunsmore & Prof Chris James	Post-mortem of the Klein River - Stanford 2023 Flood: Interventions & early-warning system to ameliorate future impacts	In-person + Zoom RSA 11h00 Onrus Manor
Friday 4th December	Ronnie Hazel (Retired geologist)	Experiences of a De Beers geologist in Russia in the early 1990's	In-person + Zoom RSA 11h00 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.

Geology & Related Topics in the News

Geoheritage & Archaeology wonders: *Thulamela*: Ancient Kruger Park Kingdom (*Africa Geographic Stories*, 20 January, 2021) <https://share.google/OQz2i0BuoKOPhQhxv>

Challenges facing modern scientific research (YouTube, 19 mins)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yPy3DeMUyl&authuser=0>



Gansbaai, Walker Bay & De Kelders Caves GeoExcursion
Saturday, 30 August, 2025



De Kelders – Walker Bay (southern Cape coast)



Excursion participants, with Organiser Mike Dormer and geological experts and guides Hayley Cawthra and Dylan Blake







Inside the Drup Kelder

SHARK AND WHALE TOUR


The Whales of Walker Bay






Humpback Whale



Southern Right Whale



Bryde's Whale

Southern Right Whale (<i>Eubalaena australis</i>)	Humpback Whale (<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>)	Bryde's Whale (<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>)
<p>The onset of winter marks the return of the great ocean travellers, the Southern Right Whales. During this time, their V-shaped blow and magnificent breaches will be a feature of the shoreline water around Dyer Island, marking their return to the ocean nurseries of the South African coastline. It is a time of new life, when the pregnant females will give birth to a single calf, which will be fed on fat enriched milk to prepare it for the long southward migration to Antarctica later in the year.</p> <p>Measured at birth: 4.5m Adult length: 17m (female) Adult weight: Average of 45 tons Diagnostic features: Oil-slick callosities on the head and the lack of a dorsal fin Diet: Crustaceans and fish Colouration: Dark body with white patches on the belly Status: Now a protected species and populations are recovering at 7% per annum</p> <p>What to look out for:</p>  <p>A tall V-shaped blow measuring 1.5m height Oil-slick callosities and no dorsal fin A broad, paddle-shaped pectoral Triangular tail flukes measuring 5m across</p>	<p>Humpback Whales are seen fairly often throughout the year, but more frequently during autumn as they migrate northwards to their breeding grounds off Mozambique, and then later in the year during their southward migration back to Antarctica, where they feed on krill. They travel alone or in small groups and often co-operate to feed. Humpbacks are well known for their long and elaborate songs, as well as their acrobatic displays involving repeated breaches.</p> <p>Measured at birth: 4.5m Adult length: 16m (female) Adult weight: Average of 80 tons Diagnostic features: Long flippers, hump below dorsal fin, white undersides of tail Diet: Small schooling fish and krill Colouration: Their robust bodies are black with white on the throat and undersides Status: Once ruthlessly hunted but their populations are now recovering</p> <p>What to look out for:</p>  <p>A distinctive white and black coloration A pointed dorsal fin and white throat flippers A very long, elongated pectoral Rounded tail flukes on the tail flukes</p>	<p>A non-migratory form of Bryde's Whale is resident in southern African waters and can be seen fairly often as they move along the coastline in search of fish. They are also often seen with other cetaceans and share the annual summer run on the east coast. Bryde's Whales are identified by their floppy blow and long, low, with a strongly fat-take dorsal fin. Three longitudinal ridges on their heads are diagnostic of this species.</p> <p>Measured at birth: 4m Adult length: 15.5m (female) Adult weight: Average of 38 tons Diagnostic features: The two longitudinal ridges on the head Diet: Small schooling fish and krill Colouration: A sleek, dark grey whale with a lighter band on the side of its body Status: Although never heavily exploited, there are no reliable estimates of abundance</p> <p>What to look out for:</p>  <p>A distinctively floppy blow A pointed head with 3 longitudinal ridges A dark, spotted pectoral fin Broad tail flukes</p>

MARINE DYNAMICS SHARK AND WHALE TOURS
www.marinedynamics.co.za

