

OVERBERG GEOSCIENTISTS GROUP (OGG)

Objectives & Achievements *2018 – Present*

(OGG – Reg. No. 275-138 NPO)

31 October, 2025



Overberg Geoscientists Group (OGG)

Conceived in 2018, Registered NPC/NPO early-2022

Reg. No. 275-138 NPO

Objectives:

- ❖ Highlighting our geological heritage and fundamental role of geology, soils, minerals and water in the sustainability of life
- ❖ Understanding structure, geomorphology, hydrogeology, archaeology, anthropology & climate-change in shaping our dynamic earth and evolution
- ❖ Sharing knowledge, transfer of skills, experience & intellectual property of the eclectic *Overberg Geoscientists Group* to increase awareness of the importance of geoscience in our daily lives; stimulate geoscientists of the future (*mentorship*)
- ❖ Breaking-down silos, fostering engagement between geologists, miners, conservationists & ecologists in the interests of sustainable management & utilisation of scarce natural resources

Audience:

- ❖ Geologists, non-geologists, Laypersons, educators, policy makers, students, scholars, learners and children (*and policy makers where possible*)



Overberg Geoscientists Group (OGG)

Activities and interventions

- **Engagements with Schools** - Pre-primary, Junior and Primary/High Schools in the greater Overberg area, including Hermanus, Kleinmond, Hemel & Aarde Valley, Gansbaai and elsewhere; exposing **learners, educators, and laypersons** to the local geology, rocks and minerals, soils, water that underpin our critical natural environment, mineral resources, water, food supplies, and infrastructure
- **Highlighting local geology** - activities and projects to highlight the underlying geology and soils of the Overberg and environs, including the **Malmesbury Schists, Cape Granites, Table Mountain Sandstones, Bokkeveld Shales, Bredasdorp Coastal Aeolinites, and Duricrusts**
- **Rock Gardens and Earth-Age displays** – informative & educational representing 4,600 million years of Earth History at:
 - **Gansbaai: African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary** – APSS (partner: *Marine Dynamics*)
 - **Betty's Bay: Harold Porter Botanical Gardens** – HPG (partner: *South African National Biodiversity Institute - SANBI*)
- **Regular Geological Excursions, walks and trails** – the OGG regularly organizes and leads professionally managed Excursions and outdoor activities in the southern and western Cape, and into the Karoo
- **Technical meetings and presentations** - In-person & on-line for members and interested parties, including industry experts, academics, non-geologists, students, scholars and families
- **Play-list/Library - 143 quality YouTube videos** - geological and related topics of recorded and uploaded presentations
- **Organizer, co-organizer & fund-raisers of successful workshops, symposia and seminars** – including *2022 On-Line Diamond Short Course & Kimberley Diamond Excursions, 2023 Kimberley International Diamond Symposium (KIDS) & Northern Cape Diamond Mine Excursions, 3 successful Overstrand Environmental Association (OEA) Conferences, January 2023 GSSA Southern Cape Geological Excursion, August 2024 International Large Igneous Provinces (LIPS) Excursion through Kruger Park, southern Free State, Golden Gate & Lesotho.*



School's & Educational Programs

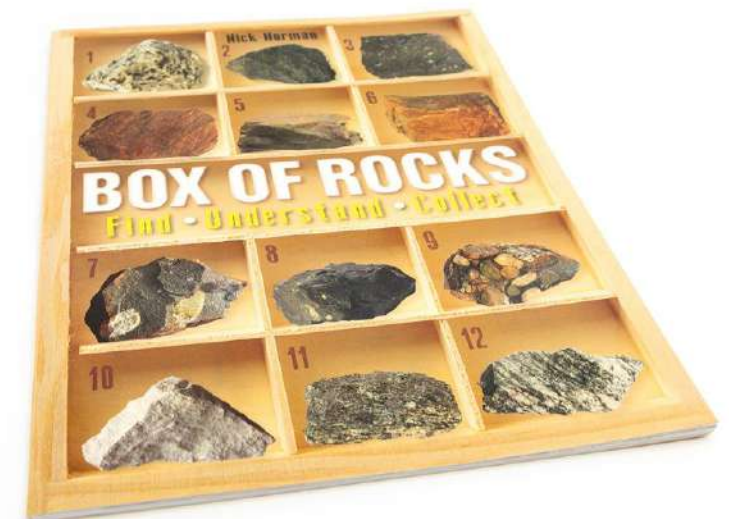
Exposing youth to the building blocks of life & sustainability

- 1: **Outings** - Natural environment safe-places; emphasis on geology, soil, water, erosion, water & plants (indigenous and invasive) and human impacts
- 2: **Excursion Localities** – Greater Hermanus (Local beaches, Fernkloof Nature Reserve, Estuaries, Hemel & Aarde Valley), Bettys Bay (Harold Porter Gardens) & Gansbaai (Penguin Sanctuary Earth-Age & Rock Display)
- 3: **Educational aids** – Large-format Computer Flat-screens, books; Posters highlighting Basic-geology, Geological Cycle, Key Minerals, Water Cycle, Dinosaurs, Fossils, Erosion, Re-cycling, No-Littering, Preventing-Pollution; National Flower, Bird, Animal, Flag
- 4: **Educational geological sample collections** – local rocks & minerals, polished agates & coloured stones, e.g. **Box of Rocks Educational** - Set of 16 representative rock samples + basic hand-lens (by Barry Bryant) – emphasis on colour, touch + feel
- 6: **Expo's & Education of Teachers & Parents** - mostly Mothers, Teachers, and other Instructors (e.g. Geography Teachers)

'A child without education is like a bird without wings'

Tibetan Proverb

- 7: **Schools** – Hemel & Aarde Valley (Pebbles Project ECD, Hamilton Russell Pre-School,), Gansbaai (Junior School)
- 8: **Conservation & Environmental Presentations & Guide Training** FGASA (*Field Guides Association of South Africa*), SANBI (Western Cape), SANParks (Cape Agulhas), Cape Nature, Rooiberg-Breede River Conservancy Group
- 9: **YouTube Video's** - https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-MPMaHidsW1jR8f-KMmPX8ANZGA-OYna&si=YdnZ9VqXJB_OqEMW



Early Childhood & School Development

Young Learners having fun with live shows on their new large format computer screens in all 3 classrooms (**August, 2025**)



Hamilton Russell Pre-school, Hemel & Aarde Valley



Classical Conversations Hermanus
Home Schoolers
Workshop: Rocks & minerals basics (5 Oct, 2025)
Vermont (13 Junior learners and Mentors)



Pebbles Project – Early Childhood Development

Hemel & Aarde Valley – Overberg (southern Cape)

- Enabling children from farming communities to access quality education programmes and health, nutrition and social work services
- Implements *Early Childhood Development* (ECD) Programs - established in 2004
- See: <https://www.pebblesproject.org/hemel-en-aarde-education-project/>



Supporting Geographers

Sharing geoscience processes and knowledge



Harold Porter Gardens (Bettys Bay) **Earth Age Display** guided excursion, Monday 27 October, 2025 (42 participants)



International Geographical Union - Commission on Geographical Education IGU-CGE Conference, Stellenbosch, RSA (28 – 31 October, 2025)

Theme: *Geographical Learning 'Today for Tomorrow'*- foster dialogue and collaboration across diverse geographical contexts, address the challenges of the contemporary world from a geographical perspective.



SANBI School Expo: Harold Porter Gardens - 5 March, 2023

OGG experts sharing knowledge – John Blaine & Mike DeWit



Sharing basic geological knowledge and information with Educators and Learners is an important – a key driver of OGG activities



Home Schoolers & Disadvantaged Schools

Education & Excursion Programs

- **Home Schooling-group:** Lower Hemel & Aarde Valley – **7 March, 2024**
- Onrus River & devastated Wetland/Peat Beds due to severe September 2023 floods (Overstrand area) - *John Blaine & John Bristow.*



SANBI School Expo: Harold Porter Gardens
Bettys Bay; **3 August, 2023**



Diamond Excursions & Symposia

Northern Cape kimberlite mines & alluvial deposits
Exposing, educating young Students



Kareevlei West lamproite diamond mine
Ghaap Plateau; Northern Cape

Kimberely & Northern Cape
15-16 July 2022



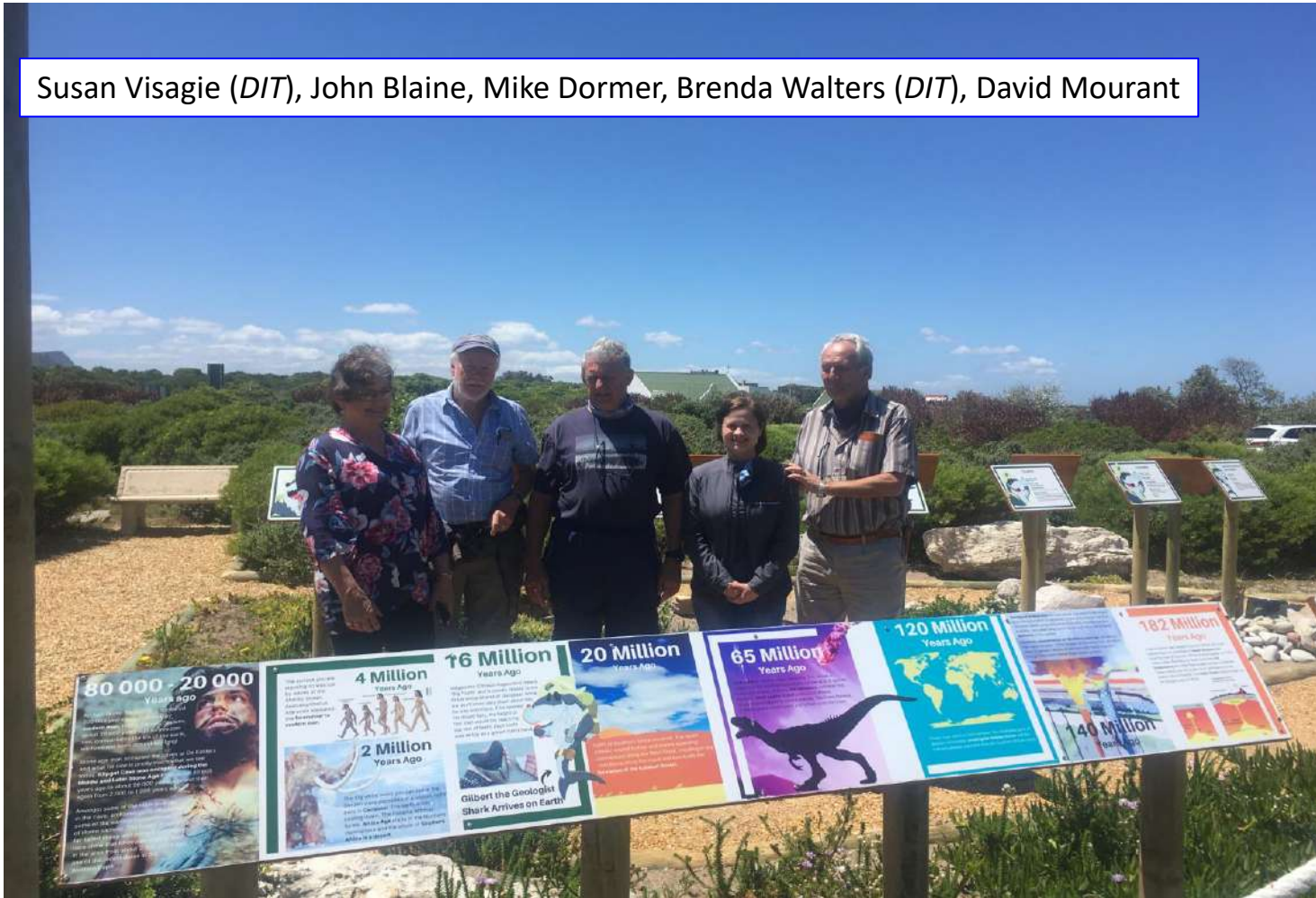
Wouterspan Alluvial deposit
Middle Orange River, Northern Cape



Gansbaai Earth-Age Display – southern Cape (November, 2021)

African Penguin + Sea Bird Sanctuary (APSS) – Gansbaai

Susan Visagie (DIT), John Blaine, Mike Dormer, Brenda Walters (DIT), David Mourant



- Gansbaai *Earth-Age Display* and linked *Rock-Garden Display* highlight the local ~600 million years of Overberg geological history; constructed in 2020
- This educational & informative well used display was funded through the generous support of the *Dyer Island Trust (DIT)*, conservationists and owners of *APSS*
- Mike Dormer, key OGG member based in Gansbaai, supported by Dave Mourant and OGG Team, provided the planning and engagement with *DIT*, local conservation groups, schools and educators to ensure its completion adjacent to the *Penguin Sanctuary*
- *February 2025* - Mike Dormer is currently advising SANParks (Cape Agulhas) and Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), with design/costing of a similar geological display at the southern-point of Africa



Harold Porter Gardens (HPG) - Bettys Bay (28 February, 2023)

OGG Earth Age Display under Construction – 28 February 2023

- Supporting local employment and skills



Bettys Bay – OGG Earth Age Display (EAD)

Harold Porter Gardens (HPG) – SANBI (launched September, 2023)



HPG Excursion Groups lead by OGG Geologists (primarily David Mourant – 2023/24)

- 15/11/23: Betty's Bay interested parties (7)
- 30/12/23: Local area geologists & laypersons (10+)
- 15/02/24: Local Invasive Vegetation Hacking Group (15+)
- 29/02/24: Hermanus Rotarians (36 members)
- 13/04/24: John Compton HPG book-launch (60+)
- 17/05/24: Local Schools Expo (22+)
- 31/05/24: Local school's group, including Home-schoolers (20+)
- 30/10/24: Friends of HPG (15+)
- 28/11/24: Probus Group (21)
- 22/4/2025: QUEST (Hermanus) Ladies Group (20)
- 24/5/2025: Strandveld Hiking Group (45) (Mike Dormer)
- 01/10/2025: Hermanus Garden Club (15)
- 27/10/25: International Geography Union Excursion (42)



De Balie – Cederberg Mountains Excursion (22-24 October, 2021)

Contemporaneous glacial folding in the TMG

Typical Cederberg Mountains topography – top of the Pass down to De Balie Campsite



- Backeberg, N.R. and Rowe, C.D. (2009). Mega-scale (~50m) Ordovician load casts at De Balie, South Africa: Sediment Fluidization by thermal destabilization. *South African Journal of Geology*, 112, 187–196.
- Blignault, H.J. (1970). Contemporaneous glacial folding in the Table Mountain Group, Western Cape. *MSc Thesis, University of Stellenbosch, RSA*.



Prominent folding in TMS strata with horizontal fold-axis, immediately west of the De Balie Campsite



De Balie – Cederberg Mountains Excursion

22-24 October, 2021



Some of the Excursion Participants (L-R) - Anthony Keen (*Cape Mountaineer extraordinaire & Amateur geologist*), Cameron Penn-Clarke (*Bokkeveld geology expert*), Nils Backeberg (*blue jacket – Excursion Leader*), Tim Lewis (*rear of image, TMS glacial & folding expert*), Kevin DeBruin (*front, green collar, Hydrogeologist, Umvoto*), Mike Dormer (*OGG, back adjacent to Tim Lewis*), and Others.



- Not for the faint-hearted, this southern-Cederberg single-width Road-Pass, winds down the western flank of a ravine carved-out by the perennial Leeurivier, ending at the **Balie's Gat** camping site
- Sections of the Pass are propped up by dry-packed stone walls, similar to Thomas Bain's remarkable engineering, though this construction work is more rudimentary
- (*Western Cape Mountain Passes* - <https://search.app/tvtUYpetyTShBCEE8>)



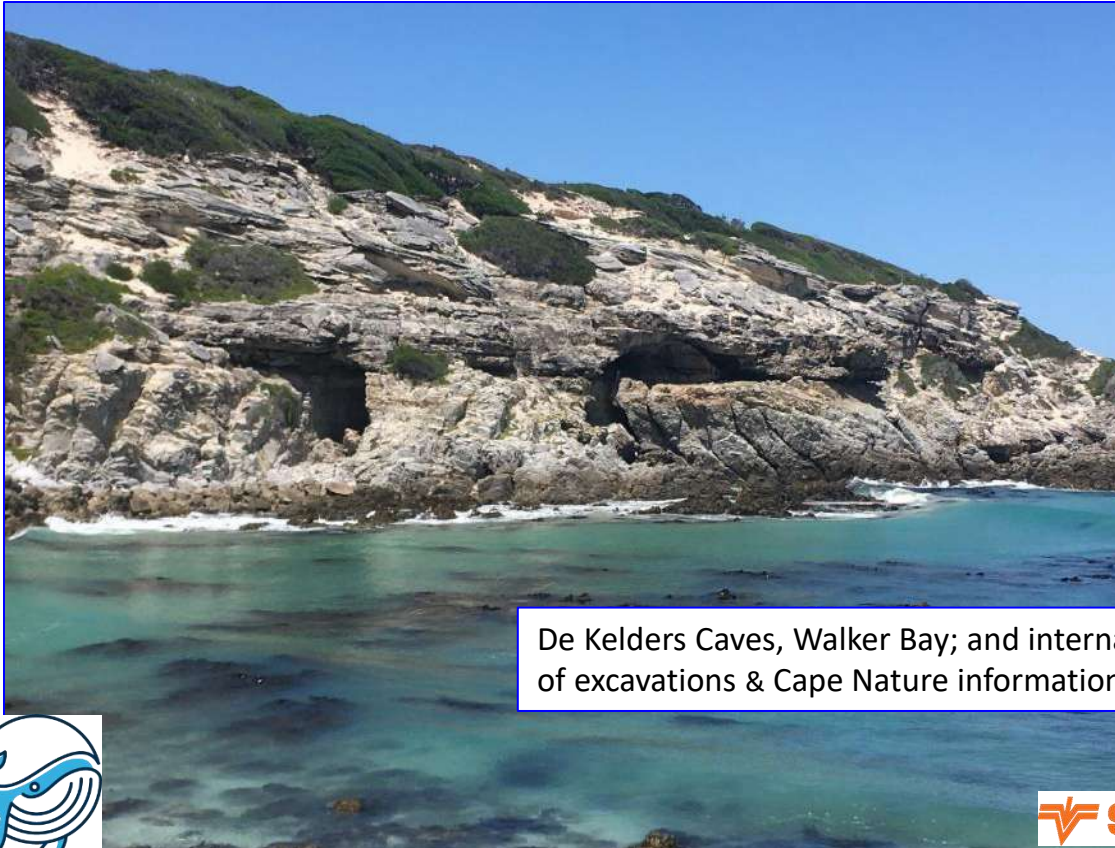
De Kelders Caves, Walker Bay (NE-point)

Geological and Anthropological treasure trove

- Located on the contact between fractures in quartzose sandstone of the peneplaned Silurian Cape Supergroup & overlying Pleistocene Bredasdorp Group, carbonate-cemented aeolianites
- Cave *Middens* have been subjected to extensive local & international Anthropological studies
- *Our First Home* – YouTube documentary of early human development and activities on the south-coast of the Cape Floristic region featuring Dr's Curtis Marean, Hayley Cawthra & Richard Cowling: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWjgp_wSfmY
- The OGG organises regular excursions to these exceptional world-class sites (eg. 2022, 2023, August 2025)



Carbonate cemented Pleistocene cross-bedded dunes - Bredasdorp Group (Waenuiskrans Formation), ~2 kms west of the De Kelders Caves



De Kelders Caves, Walker Bay; and internal view of excavations & Cape Nature information signage



Southern Cape - Quoin Point (Saturday, 11 January 2025)

Excursion: Geology & Mega-dunes - (Bredasdorp Formation)

- Pearly Beach Conservancy Group
- Mike Dormer (OGG, Gansbaai) with 75 participants

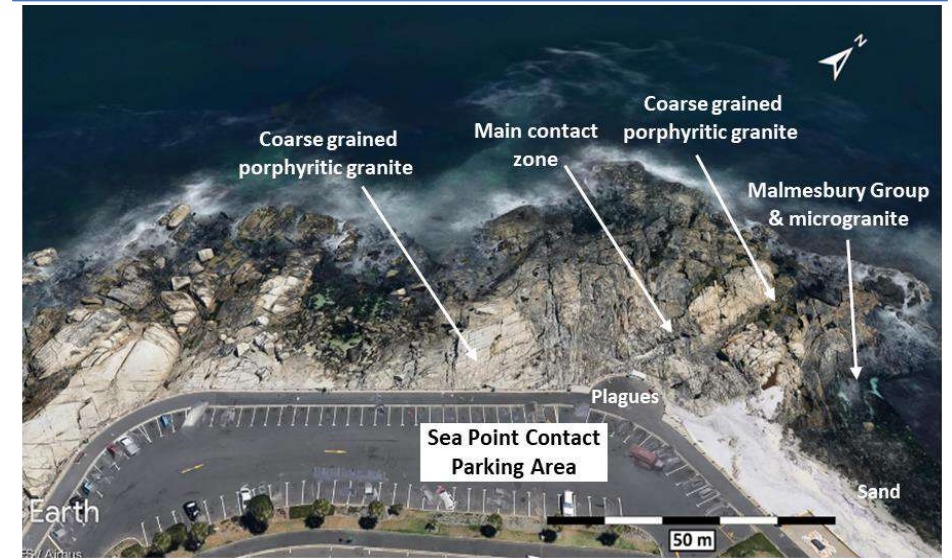


OGG Geological Excursion Guidebooks

Available for sharing & distribution

1. The Fold Zone of the Upper Peninsula Formation at de Balie, Koue Bokkeveld, Cederberg – *Nils Backeberg (22 October, 2021).*
2. OGG & Minrom Southern Cape Coast Geology Excursion – *Jean Malan (November, 2022).*
3. Bikini Beach (Gordons Bay), Clarence Drive, Aasbank, Harold Porter Gardens (Betty's Bay) - *Dave Mourant & John Bristow (Geocongress - January, 2023).*
4. Umvoto & OGG Table Mountain Group (TMG) Aquifers: Geology & Wellfield Development in the Greater-Hermanus & Steenbras Area - *Dylan Blake (Umvoto) (Geocongress - January 2023)*
6. Hemel + Aarde Wine Valley – *John Blaine (January, 2023)*
7. Hermanus Cliff Path: Raised-Beach Profile: *John Blaine (January, 2023).*
8. OGG Cape Town & Sea Point Contact Geo-Excursion – 24 March 2024: *Jean Malan and John Bristow - with contributions by Prof Mike Bruton, Russell Bailie and Stephen Davey (24 March, 2024)*
9. Bot River-Kleinmond Estuary & Surroundings Geo-Excursion – *Jean Malan & Mike De Wit (19 October, 2024).*
10. Bonnievale, Robertson, Montagu & Keisie Valley Geoexcursion – *Jean Malan (9-11 May, 2025)*
11. GANSBAAI - DE KELDERS EXCURSION - Exploring the Geology of the southern Overberg - *Mike Dormer, Dr Hayley Cawthra & Dylan Blake (Saturday, 30 August 2025)*

OGG Sea Point Contact Excursion, 24 March, 2024 (with Jean Malan, Prof. Mike Bruton, Russell Bailie, Stephen Davey)



Sponsors and Partners

➤ Sponsors to date:

OGG Members , Donors & project participants, *35IGC Legacy Fund, Marine Dynamics (Gansbaai), South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) - Harold Porter Gardens, Kogelberg Branch of the South African Botanical Society, South African Bottled Water Association (John Weaver), UMVOTO, SRK Consulting.*

➤ Partners:

SANBI, Hermanus Botanical Society , Southern African Geography Teachers' Association (SAGTA), Barry Bryant (Box of Rocks creator), Nick Norman (Educational Book publisher), John Roff Guiding, Stonefly Environmental Education, Khodani Matshusa (Geoheritage), Southern Cape wine farms, local & inland southern Cape businesses/companies and general supporters.

➤ OGG Non-Profit Organisation (Reg. No. 275-138 NPO):

- Donations & sponsorship enable the OGG to achieve more of its objectives
- Donations (*R2000 and above*) may qualify as a tax deduction under relevant SARS regulations
- Bank details are shown on next page; please provide full name and address to receive a tax certificates.



OGG Robertson – Montagu Geological Excursion
Urban Burger, Kobus Venter, and Jaques Smit with Arangieskop
(1 684 m elevation) & Robertson as a backdrop
9 – 11 May, 2025



Team Overberg Geoscientists Group (OGG): HPG – 15 September, 2023



OGG Team & some of its Sponsors involved in the construction of the *Harold Porter Gardens Earth-Age and Local Geology Displays* at the launch in 2023 - *left to right*, Mike Dormer, Mike De Wit, Oscar Van Antwerpen (*Minrom*), Kathy Blaine, John Blaine, Marilyn Bristow, Prof Izak Rust (retired; Honorary Member), Jean Malan, Anne Mourant, David Mourant, John Bristow and Richard Mourant (Absent: Hennie & Annabella Greeff, Nick Norman, Quinton Bapela, Kate Kleynhans-James, Ian Flint, Noleen Pauls).



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Banking & NPO Details

Annual Membership: R250 per person

Bank details: Standard Bank

Account Name: Overberg Geoscientists Group NPC

Account No: 10168933800 Type: Current Account

Branch code: 051001 Swift Address: SBZA ZA JJ

Kogelberg Mountains & Walker Bay from Clarence Drive – One of the highest mountain on the African shoreline (Koggelberg - 1,309 metres) is located on Clarence Drive

