

OVERBERG GEOSCIENTISTS GROUP (OGG)

Newsletter #15: 25 November, 2025

(OGG – Reg. No. 275-138 NPO)

Highlights:

- OGG pre-school, education & related initiatives in Hemel & Aarde Valley and Overstrand gaining traction; thanks to OGG members and sponsors UMVOTO and SRK (see attached document).

OGG Presentations & Breakfast Program (to April, 2026)

2025	Speaker	Topic	Venue/Mode/Time
Wednesday 3 December	Ronnie Hazel (Retired geologist)	<i>Experiences of a De Beers geologist in Russia in the early 1990's</i>	In-person + Zoom RSA 10h30 Onrus Manor
2026			
Thursday 5 February	Bruce Engelsman (SRK)	Geological Setting Influencing the Geotechnical Journey: tailings dams case studies & learnings from work in the nuclear power industry	<i>In-person + Zoom RSA 11h00 Onrus Manor</i>
Thursday 5 March	Dave Crow Neil Phillips Julian Vearncombe	Recap of OGG 2025 Gold presentations: -Modern placer analogues for Wits gold -Wits metamorphism, fluids & alteration -Structural controls on Wits gold	Zoom RSA 10h00
2 - 6 March 2006		<i>March 2026 Univ. Melbourne GOLD Conf. Contact: – melanie.finsch@unimelb.edu.au</i>	
12 March	Jonathan Law	Witwatersrand quartzites and the stories they tell	Zoom RSA 10h00
19 March	Matt Mullins	Carbon, sedimentology and underground observations	Zoom RSA 10h00
26 March	John Parnell	Witwatersrand carbon – what we see, what might have been	Zoom RSA 10h00
2 April	Dave Crow Neil Phillips	Carbon in Phanerozoic rocks & channels Part-1 -Metamorphic carbon/graphite in Phanerozoic metamorphic systems -Erosion channels in the Witwatersrand	Zoom RSA 10h00
5 April		Easter Break	
9 April	Dave Crow General Discussion	Witwatersrand Channels Part-2 -Channels, sediments and black sand -Braid plain channels and Wits sedimentology	Zoom RSA 10h00
7 May	Dr Sue Winkler	Large scale structures & geodynamics of Western Gondwana interpreted from satellite data	Zoom RSA 11h00

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 (R130.00pp) at 10h00, presentations (in-person & Zoom) at 11h00 on the first Thursday of the month. Participants are requested to confirm attendance at the breakfasts for catering purposes.

Farewell to Dr Richard Viljoen

It is with sadness that we report the passing of **Dr Richard Viljoen** (21 July 1940 – 22 November, 2025), twin brother of the late Dr Morris Viljoen. Another pillar of the geological fraternity has fallen and he will be sorely missed by his Family and many colleagues in geological and mining circles. The geoscience contributions and legacies of both Richard and Morris will live on.

Short-courses & Symposia

UCT Diamond Short Course; 4 – 6 February, 2026: Diamonds in Depth: Formation, Explore, Process, and Sustainability. Departments of Chemical Engineering & Geological Sciences.
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=6b3c7f64a1&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1847299281516611110&th=19a2ece8bca1c626&view=att&zw&disp=inline>

GOLD27 3-Day International Symposium; Sun City 13 – 16th April 2027 – Make sure you diarise the dates for this event. Details to follow.

Geology & Related Topics in the News

BizNews Podcast (32mins): South Africa has the mineral's the world is looking for (20 November, 2025)
<https://share.google/V12eNjUPQdZ0x6TWWJ>

Why we need more Geoscientists – (YouTube – 7 mins)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0w56zXgxMc>

Geoscience for a Brighter Future: 2025 – 2030 - (Geological Survey of Northern Ireland)
<https://share.google/cGKZULCL0xTxJHO42>

IEA's 2025 Global Critical Minerals outlook
<https://www.iea.org/reports/global-critical-minerals-outlook-2025>

Earths evolution in 10mins – (YouTube)
Earths <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LinWJsangs4>

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



OGG 2026 Activities in Planning

Plans include a follow-up on the successful **2025 Gold Presentation Series** (*preliminary details of the 2026 Gold Series are included above*), sessions on **Large Igneous Provinces** (LIPS) and their significance in the southern African and global geological record, and presentations on southern Africa's exceptional but under-recognised **Geoheritage-Endowment**.

GeoExcursion ideas for 2026 are progressing. Ideas and suggestions from OGG Members, including Laypersons, Students and Scholars are welcomed.

Annual Fees & Bank Details (R250.00 per person)

Our thanks to All the OGG Members who paid fees and made donations during 2025, likewise to our supportive sponsors for ongoing support and contributions over the past year, and previous years. The footprint, activities and educational interventions of the OGG continue to grow as a consequence of your generous support. For late-payers OGG Bank details are shown below:

STANDARD BANK ACCOUNT OVERBERG GEOSCIENTISTS GROUP NPC
ACC NO: 10168933800 CURRENT ACCOUNT
BRANCH CODE: 051001 SWIFT ADDRESS: SBZA ZA JJ

OGG Membership & Activities

For details of activities and interests contact one of the members below; new members, including non-geologists, students and scholars are welcome; suggestions regarding excursions, educational activities & interaction with other professional groups and non-geologists are appreciated. Please share these documents with interested parties and groups.

Mindful of the POPI Act, kindly advise us if you wish to be removed from the mailing list.

***Many thanks. Best wishes,
JOHN, HENNIE, ANNABELLE & OGG TEAM***

Hennie.greeff@gmail.com (mobile: 082 569 5314)
Annabelle.greeff@gmail.com (mobile: 082 443 0699)
jwbdia@gmail.com (mobile: 082 571 3004)

oo

