

OVERBERG GEOSCIENTISTS GROUP (OGG)

Newsletter #2: 31 January, 2026

(OGG – Req. No. 275-138 NPO)

Highlights:

- Harold Porter Gardens (HPG) *Fossils & Minerals* and *Earth Age Display* attracted keen interest through the 2025/26 Festive season
- Notable early-2026 donations and fees contributed by OGG members are acknowledged.

OGG 2026 Presentations & Breakfast Program (to April, 2026)

2026	Speaker	Topic	Venue/Mode/Time
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 Philips 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		March 2026 University of Melbourne GOLD Conference. Details available from: – melanie.finsch@unimelb.edu.au	
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 (Hermanus) from 09h30, with breakfast (R130.00pp) at 10h00, presentations (in-person & Zoom) at 11h00 on first Thursday of the month. Participants are requested to confirm attendance for catering purposes.



Annual Membership Fees & Bank Details

A reminder that 2026 membership fees are now due at **R250.00** per person per annum (the same as in 2025). These fees, donations and sponsorship, sustain the varied activities of the OGG, which has been in existence since 2018 as a registered and compliant NPC/NGO. We look forward to the support of existing and new members through 2026. 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

Short-courses & Symposia

University of Melbourne GOLD Conference - March, 2026 - The course content is summarized in the attached flyer and additional details are available from: – melanie.finsch@unimelb.edu.au

South African Geophysical Association (SAGA) Conference, Cape Town – October, 2026
<https://sagaconference.co.za/invitation-to-participate/>

International Paleontological Conference (IPC7), Cape Town – November 2026
<https://www.ipc7.site/>

GOLD-27 3-Day International Symposium, Sun City - 13 – 16th April 2027 – Diarise the dates for this event - details to follow.

Geology & Related Information and News

Gladys West, GPS pioneer has passed away – (*January, 2026, on X*)
<https://share.google/JmbfgPDFeGpQAgeEm>

Angola designates First Ever Wetland of International Importance
<https://share.google/Bx4t3F6Lrgk51goEj>

UCT geologist uncovers post mass-extinction Cederberg fossil ecosystem
<https://share.google/t0MZamoJNwClh2dGy>

RSA's illustrious Cullinan diamond mine doing it again with big blue
<https://www.miningweekly.com/article/south-africas-illustrious-cullinan-diamond-mine-doing-it-again-with-big-blue-2026-01-19>

Enabling the 5th Explorer Concept in the US - Metal Tech News (*Regina Molloy – OGG Member*)
<https://www.metaltechnews.com/story/2026/01/28/op-ed/enabling-the-5th-explorer-concept-in-the-us/2621.html>



Recognising Past Legends

Professor Stephen Haggerty Obituary - [see attached Obituary document](#).

Professor Richard Viljoen

<https://www.miningweekly.com/article/renowned-south-african-geologist-dr-richard-viljoen-passes-away-2025-11-24>

Brian Gilbertson

<https://www.miningweekly.com/article/legendary-brian-gilbertsons-colossal-contribution-to-mining-will-live-on-2025-12-18>

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-MPMaHidsW09jwvI7VCUINBd5L_-VwH&si=ddgs1KfuDYuSF1PW

OGG Activities & Membership

OGG: a voluntary organisation focussed on sharing knowledge, transferring skills and educational interventions /activities to increase awareness of the importance of Geology and Geoscience in our daily lives, stimulate and mentor geoscientists of the future, and expose our youth to the building blocks of life & sustainability.

Suggestions regarding educational activities, excursions, and interaction with other professional groups and non-geologists are valued. New member, including non-geologists, students and scholars are most welcome. Please share these documents with interested parties and groups. For further details contact one of the members below.

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 & THE OGG TEAM

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OGG EDUCATIONAL FOSSIL & MINERALS DISPLAY

Harold Porter Gardens [HPG] SANBI, Bettys Bay

This geological samples and display cabinet materials donated by Mr Werner Knuffel and re-constructed with financial support from the Kogelberg Branch of the SA Botanical Society and OGG, has been a great success and was a popular attraction for visits to HPG through the recent festive season.

An official launch of the Display will be held in due course to acknowledge the contributions by Mr Knuffel and sponsors - Details to follow.



The contents of the display will be updated/rotated on a quarterly basis, with forthcoming displays including *Barberton Mountain Land, Kimberlites, Lamproites and Diamonds, and Southern Cape Geology* collections and specimens.

(Contact Dave Mourant for more insight and details – 082 923 5366)



Made in Africa: The Big Blue Cullinan mine diamond
41.28 carats (recovered January, 2026)



South Africa's illustrious Cullinan diamond mine doing it again with big blue – 19 January, 2026
<https://www.miningweekly.com/article/south-africas-illustrious-cullinan-diamond-mine-doing-it-again-with-big-blue-2026-01-19>

South Africa's illustrious Cullinan diamond mine doing it again with big blue - 14 January 2026
<https://www.naturaldiamonds.com/science-of-diamonds/blue-diamond-discovery-cullinan-mine/>

