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### **The BASE Newsletter, vol. 3, issue 7**



On April 8, a forklift (graciously loaned to us by Mica Hardware across the street) loaded ten pallets, each stacked with 22 trays of BASE archive-half core, on a truck which brought them to the National Core Library of the Council for Geoscience (South Africa's National Geologic Survey) in Donkerhoek near Pretoria. This provided us with much-needed space in our (by all means spacious but not unending) BIAS Hall. At Donkerhoek, the cores will now be registered and later scanned with an hyperspectral imager, particularly good for visualization of clay minerals and alteration zones.



The NF90 rig, which had speedily drilled the section at Site 2 in February and March, moved to the eastern Stolzburg Syncline on Farm Belvue on March 25-27. This site is located about 1 km beyond the pine tree plantations in open grasslands of the former Nkomazi Nature Reserve, geologically in the eastern Stolzburg Syncline. The rig rode piggyback on a flatbed truck for 25 km on forest roads to Eucalyptus Mill and then trammed itself up steep slopes on the southern ring road for another 10 km. Watching the truck with its load and its accompanying vehicles roar by was quite a sight.



A group of students from the University of the Free State (UFS) in Bloemfontein, led by Prof. Martin Clark, visited us during their field course on Structural Geology. Phumi and her colleagues led the group through the BIAS Hall and showed them Geosites and outcrops along the Geotrail. The rig at Site 2, popular tourist destination during February and much of March, had moved by then; the site is now being reclaimed. Still, the students enjoyed the visit and found it well worthwhile.



The rig at Site 5A spudded on April 5, aiming for thick jaspilites of unit Mdl1 as its first target. As of April 8, it was already beyond 100 m drilled depth in thick remobilized and slumped fine-grained sandstones. This rig, new and expertly managed, often doubles its scheduled daily core yield, and thus makes up for the other two rigs which frequently have mechanical / electrical / hydraulic problems. Because of the 32 km distance from Barberton, we will likely not visit the drill site daily and instead pick up the cores from the driller's accommodation at the Montrose Forestry, midway from Barberton.

Frohes Forschen!

Christoph Heubeck and Nic Beukes

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