



4 Jena, May 22, 2022

### **The BASE Newsletter, vol. 3, issue 10**



Our drilling contractor, Master Drilling, allocated a new rig to Site 1. It was offloaded at a Fairview Mine parking lot on May 11, rolled up to the drillsite in a hairpin turn on the following quiet Saturday, and spudded on May 16. As of May 19, the rig had drilled to 19 m using PQ diameter, installed casing, and was preparing to continue in HQ diameter. Our drill core will be inspected and approved by mine geologists before transported to the BIAS Hall. Site BASE-1 will be the stratigraphically highest and our only borehole in the Eureka Syncline, and also the only one to drill through Mdi1, Moodies Lava, and Mdi2. We are looking forward to a long, variable, maybe even spectacular core.



Borehole 5A finished at 451.22 m on Wednesday, May 18, just beyond the planned 450 m. After leaving the spectacularly laminated, ca. 50 m thick Mdi1 jaspilite-shale around 382 m, it drilled through thick medium- to fine-grained sandstones with tuffaceous laminae to ca. 403 m, followed by the same lithology, interbedded with soft-sediment-deformed black shale. The rig set aside to make space for the logging vehicle on May 20 but a mechanical problem will delay borehole logging to early next week. The rig will likely move to the correlative site 5B, only 300 m downdip, after the upcoming long weekend.



A European BASE group, including S. Lalonde, M. Homann, P. Sansjofre, T. Bontognali and their students and associates visited Barberton May 15-18. The onsite team expertly showed them around. The group packed a field trip with outcrops inspection, a tour of the BIAS Hall cores on display and the exhibition, and a field visit to the remote Site 5A into this short time. Rumor has it that some Karaoke fun was had as well. The group liked what they saw, learned a lot, and left inspired and motivated to do Moodies research!



Because the BIAS Hall is part of the Barberton Museum, the onsite geoscience team participated in the International Museum Day on May 15 by opening its gates and making cores and exhibition accessible to interested locals and visitors. Behind the hall, the traditional gold panning contest found enthusiastic participants but we do not know whether BASE geoscience team members participated.

Frohes Forschen!

Christoph Heubeck and Nic Beukes

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