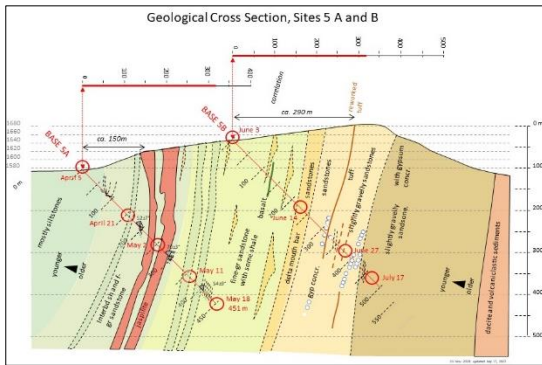


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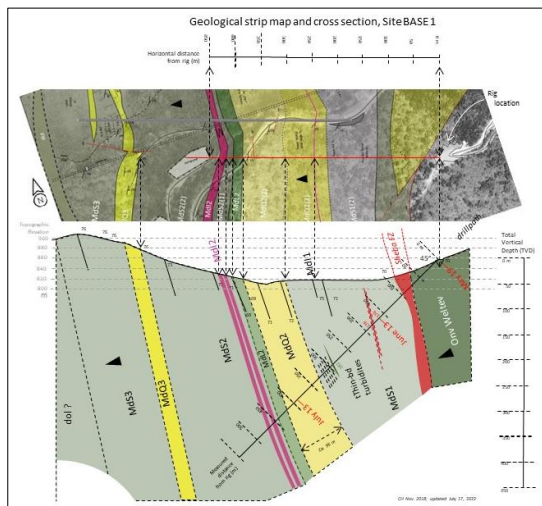


Drilling at Site 5B is likely to come to an end this coming week because the borehole has reached its final objective. The bit encountered the stratigraphically highest silicified gypsum concretions around 320 m and then penetrated a thick section of tuffaceous sandstones interbedded with reworked fine-grained dacitic tuffs, laced with gypsum concretions. This may be the coastal-plain-facies of the lowermost Moodies, overlying Schoongezicht Fm. strata. MdbC and MdQ1 appear largely absent in the Stolzburg Syncline. The drill bit is currently at 467 m, and the borehole progressing at ca. 10 m per day.



Don Lowe (left) and Gary Byerly (right) took a break from their “final field season” (a term first used in the late nineties, I believe) to stop by at our BIAS Hall core processing shop. Here, Dora Paprika demonstrates how we constrain true structural dip of bedding by measuring the angle of intersection with a 45° inclined borehole.

Dora is preparing for her next position. She will travel back to Budapest to apply for the necessary South African visa type there. Thanks a million, Dora, and Good Luck !



We reinterpreted the stratigraphy encountered in the BASE 1 borehole, drilling in the overturned (eastern) limb of the Eureka Syncline on the property of Fairview Mine. We now believe that we had encountered only a minor (thin) lava flow, sill or dike at 282-287 m, not the Moodies amygdaloidal lava MdL2, and anticipate to encounter that unit now around 410 m. About 25 m later we will drill the base of Md12, the second jaspilite. Its top transition to Mds2 will likely be our final objective for borehole 1A and end the BASE drilling campaign.

The borehole is currently at 398 m within coarse-grained quartzose sandstones of MdQ2 and progressing at ca. 8 m per day. The civil protests have subsided somewhat but a certain level of unrest remains.



The onsite team continues to field a steady stream of visiting classes from High Schools and universities; recent visitors included even a geology course from Mozambique. Phumi (shown left) and Chris (right) patiently explain and demonstrate the core processing procedure, including, as seen here, the core marking and orientation routines.

Frohes Forschen!

Christoph Heubeck and Nic Beukes