

**The BASE Newsletter, vol. 3, issue 15**



Drilling at the last borehole, Site 1, ended this past Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at 496.85 m depth. The hole is currently being logged. It had started (unexpectedly) in altered ultramafic volcanics of the Onverwacht Group (Swartkoppie Anticline), drilled through MdS1, MdI1, MdQ2, ca. 16 m of the Moodies lava MdL2, a thick MdI2 jaspilite in magnetite facies, and terminated after ca. 75 m in MdS2 in shale-siltstone-(j) laminites, possibly the deepest-water facies encountered so far. Borehole 1A met all objectives and also recovered the longest core of the drilling campaign. Concurrently, the drillers capped all boreholes; shown left is 4B in the Lomati Delta Complex.



The onsite team is processing the final cores, and will need a few more days to prepare the last core trays for palletizing and shipping. Ryan (left) has become fully fluent in mDIS, and Phumi, Derek, Muza and Victor have also all acquired extensive skills in the other processing tasks in the BIAS Hall. Christoph has arrived in Barberton and is lending a small hand in taking down the exhibition posters, maps, handouts and polished rock slabs for storage.



We are putting the remaining Education/Outreach/Publicity budget to good use by constructing a room of ca. 12 by 8 m within the BIAS Hall, adjacent to the Museum. It will house geological exhibits and hands-on activities related to the Barberton-Makhonjwa WHS and describe the scope and methods of geoscientific investigation in the BGB, including research drilling. This will add a new perspective to the existing mining-heritage exhibits next door and perhaps serve as a nucleus of the themes of a future WHS Visitor's Center. We will start with sturdy, simple and flexible exhibits; future more high-tech modifications will depend on funding by WHS stakeholders and visitors feedback.



We held a "Drilling Completion" celebration at the Barberton MOTH Club August 1, attended by members of the Barberton community, drilling supervisors, project geoscientists, our local community support, visitors, and all onsite geoscience team staff (we missed you, Dora !), total of about 25. Nic came out from Johannesburg. We enjoyed a slide show on the history of BASE and listened to several (short) speeches praising the synergetic and highly collaborative nature of this successful eight-month drilling campaign. Astrid and Christoph handed out 21 mementos: Polished crinklies sandstone mounted on engraved glass plates !

Frohes Forschen!

Christoph Heubeck and Nic Beukes