

Western Cape SEG Field Trip Report 2022/2023

The main field trip of the year for the Western Cape SEG Student Chapter was focused around the province's east coast. On the 21st of November, 2022, a group of ten students embarked on a geological journey in and around the Cape Fold Belt. The first day of the field trip involved a lengthy, but scenic drive from Stellenbosch to Wilderness. A stop was made along the way in Caledon to look at some localised, low-grade, hot spring-associated Mn-Fe mineralisation which the trip leader (Rutger La Cock) had looked at previously during his honour's thesis field work. Day two started with a visit to the historically significant Millwood gold mine which helped spark the Knysna gold rush during the late 1800s, despite the relatively low gold tonnages. The second half of the day was spent at the Volmoed quarry, just outside Oudtshoorn, where they mine greywacke units to be used in building high quality roads in the Western Cape. Although the material being mined is not too exciting compared what is mined in the northern parts of the country, the processing of material (crushing, milling etc.) and QAQC protocols are just as rigorous as at any other mining operation. The last day of the trip was spent looking at more hot-spring associated Mn-Fe mineralisation, this time at Warmwaterberg Spa in the Karoo, with all students keeping their eyes peeled for fossils. The journey home via the Route 62 was guided by the spectacularly folded Cape Supergroup sandstones.



Figure 1: Volmoed quarry, Oudtshoorn.



Figure 2: Map of Africa viewpoint, Wilderness.