

GWD Western Cape Talk & Networking Session, 5 May 2015

The 5th of May 2015 marked the opening function for 2015 of Ground Water Division in the Western Cape. The event took place at Stellenbosch University, with the idea to reduce the gap between research institutions and consultants in the area. The forty guests who attended the function were associated with local groundwater companies and the universities of UWC, UCT and Stellenbosch.

The evening commenced with a presentation by the dynamic Dr Roger Diamond, on his PhD research on the use of isotope techniques for understanding groundwater flow paths in the Table Mountain Group. Well presented with a good explanation of basic processes, most students left the presentation with a clearer understanding of the research field.



Above: Dr Roger Diamond presented on "Isotope techniques for understanding groundwater flow paths in the TMG"

Right: Networking with good wine and snacks at this first event of many anticipated in the Western Cape.



And if this was not enough, the breath-taking pictures of the TMG outcrop were sure to dazzle. The presentation was followed by a networking event where students, academic staff and consultants were able to socialise and share some knowledge about the field. And keeping true with the Wineland's tradition, this event was accompanied by good wine, cheese and other snacks, funded by local consulting company GEOSS.

So what are the plans for the future? Julian Conrad from GEOSS wishes to continue to integrate the worlds of consulting and academia, with the idea of increasing collaboration and giving students the opportunity for individual networking in the industry. After the great success of the first event, many who attended support this idea. A quarterly presentation and networking event, as well as an electronic newspaper on interesting research in the area, are the current ideas in the pipeline. Whether or not the allure of fine wine and good conversation was initially the main selling point, the first event of 2015 marked an exciting beginning for conversation and collaboration in the Western Cape, and Stellenbosch University looks forward to being a part of this journey.

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