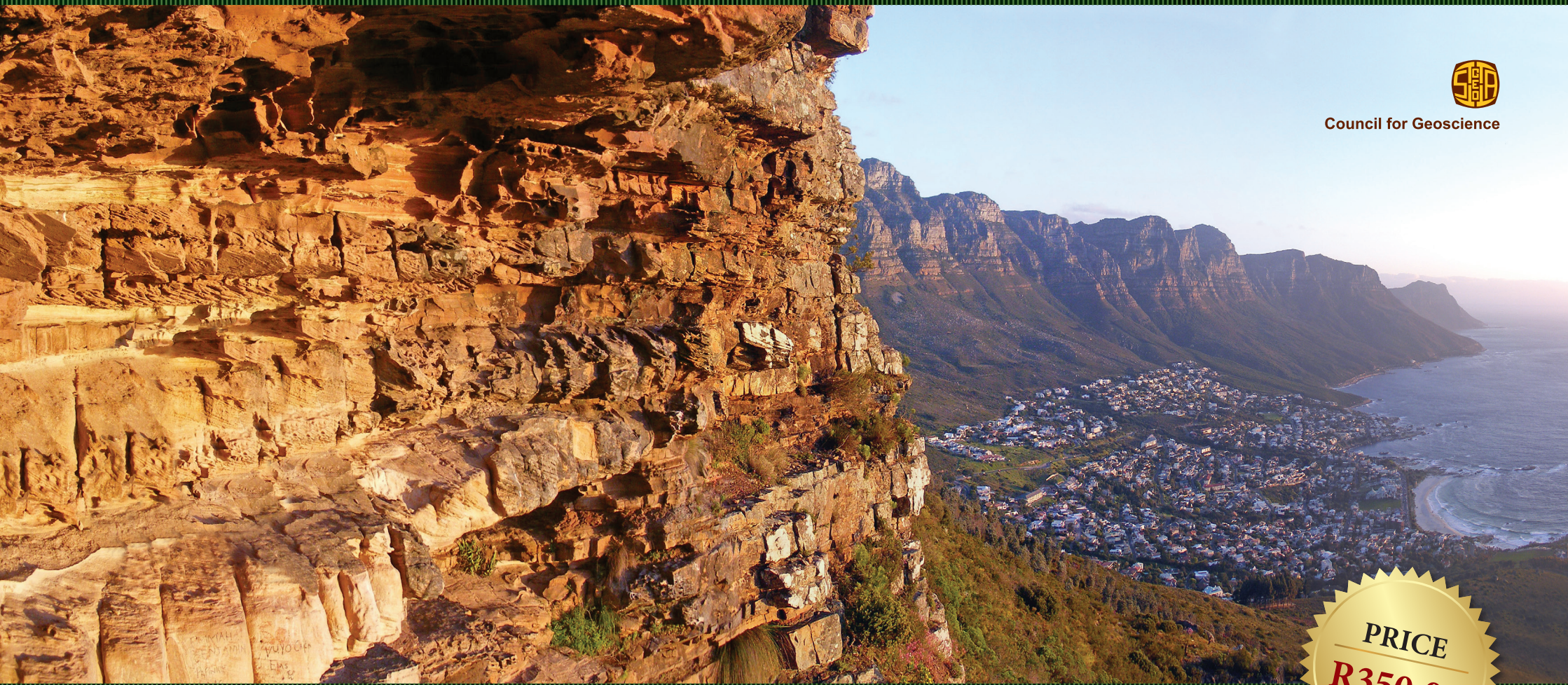




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POPULAR GEOSCIENCE SERIES 7

GEOLOGICAL ADVENTURES IN THE FAIREST CAPE: UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF ITS SCENERY

John Rogers



John Rogers was schooled on Jurassic limestones in England, amongst Pleistocene, ice-streamlined drumlins in Northern Ireland and on the Triassic sandstones and mudstones of the northern Free State in South Africa. After a year in the South African Navy, he won an Anglo-American scholarship to study Geology at the University

of Cape Town (UCT), his MSc and PhD theses being in the field of marine geology off southern Africa. He then worked for the Council for Geoscience within an ambitious programme, via multiple boreholes, to determine the stratigraphy, sedimentology and geohydrology of Cenozoic sediments from Cape Town northward to Lambert's Bay. He returned to UCT to carry out deep-sea research on manganese nodules off southern Africa, some of his research cruises being on vessels from Germany, France and Russia. Latterly he was deeply involved in lecturing sedimentology and marine geology to Geology students and general geology to Civil-Engineering students. The teaching involved numerous field-trips across the Western Cape and an annual fieldwork camp in the Laingsburg District, working with other UCT colleagues. Since 2003, he has been a Fellow of the Geological Society of South Africa. He retired from UCT at the end of 2009. A founder member of the Western Cape Branch of the Geological Society of South Africa, he currently serves on the branch's GeoHeritage Subcommittee. He and his wife live in Newlands in Cape Town. They have two adult children, both rural doctors, and four grandchildren. One family lives on Archaean granites near the Kruger National Park and the other on the Karoo dolerites of KwaZulu-Natal.

GEOLOGICAL ADVENTURES IN THE FAIREST CAPE: UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF ITS SCENERY is aimed primarily at the leaders of geological outings, students of Geology and Civil-Engineering at tertiary institutions in the Western Cape and the exploding numbers of active people exploring the Fairest Cape by car, coach, bicycle or on foot. In addition, Geography teachers are now including Geology in their curricula, so that the schoolchildren of the province would also benefit greatly.

The book is subdivided into nine chapters. In Chapter 1 we journey to Cape Town by air and by rail from the northeast, whereas in Chapter 2 we arrive by road from the east. Chapter 3, with fine geological detail, takes us SW by road from the Orange River through the Karoo and the Cape Fold Belt along the N1. The N7, in Chapter 4, leads us southward from Namaqualand, past the Cedarberg and across the Swartland to the Mother City. Shifting to the West Coast, in Chapter 5, we travel southward from Lambert's Bay to St Helena Bay, Langebaanweg and Bloubergstrand. A more complex, but educational, route is followed in Chapter 6, from Gansbaai, westward along the coast to Hermanus, Kleinmond and Betty's Bay. Changing course to northward, we then follow the picturesque Clarence Drive to Gordon's Bay, before swinging westward again, to Swartklip and Muizenberg. The route now heads northward to Ou Kaapse Weg and Rhodes Memorial to head west to Kloof Nek and then east to Devil's Peak along Tafelberg Road. Returning to the Lower Cable Station, we ascend Table Mountain and hike eastward to Maclear's Beacon on the summit. In Chapter 7 we sail across Table Bay to Robben Island and on our return drive beside Table Bay to Bloubergstrand. In Chapter 8 we drive southward along the spectacular, swell-exposed Atlantic coastline from the Waterfront to Hout Bay, Kommetjie, Scarborough, Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope. Finally, in Chapter 9, we sail northward past Cape Point to Smitswinkel Bay, where we reach the road again to drive to Simon's Town, Fish Hoek, Kalk Bay and Muizenberg, ending our Great Trek on Boyes Drive with fine views across False Bay to Cape Hangklip and Cape Point.