



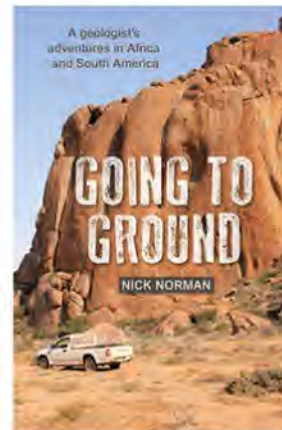
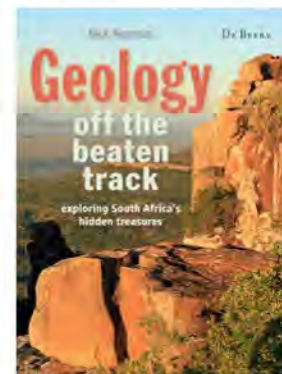
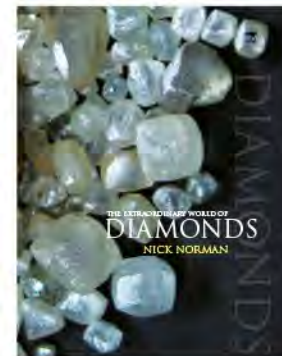
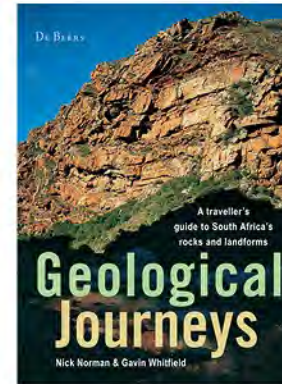
Nick Norman

Having grown up on a timber farm in the Natal Midlands, NICK NORMAN spent many hours riding through the seemingly endless plantations.

He came to love the trees, as well as the birds he saw in them and in the family's enormous farm garden.

Later, inspired by a Canadian uncle, Nick used a career in geology to pursue his other loves - travel and adventure - in Africa and South America. Later still, he indulged his love of writing in bringing geology to the wider public in several books.

The Woodpecker Mystery unites all those passions between these covers.



OTHER BOOKS BY NICK NORMAN

Geological Journeys: *A traveller's guide to South Africa's rocks and landforms.*

Co-authored with fellow geologist, Gavin Whitfield, and published in 2006, this, the first book to 'bring geology to the people', sold in numbers undreamt of, showing that there was a ready market for the concept.

The Extraordinary World of Diamonds

Published in 2010, the book was an update on the history of world diamond mining, opening up recent discoveries in Canada and Australia and aspects of Russian diamond exploration and mining hitherto unknown and local events long-since forgotten.

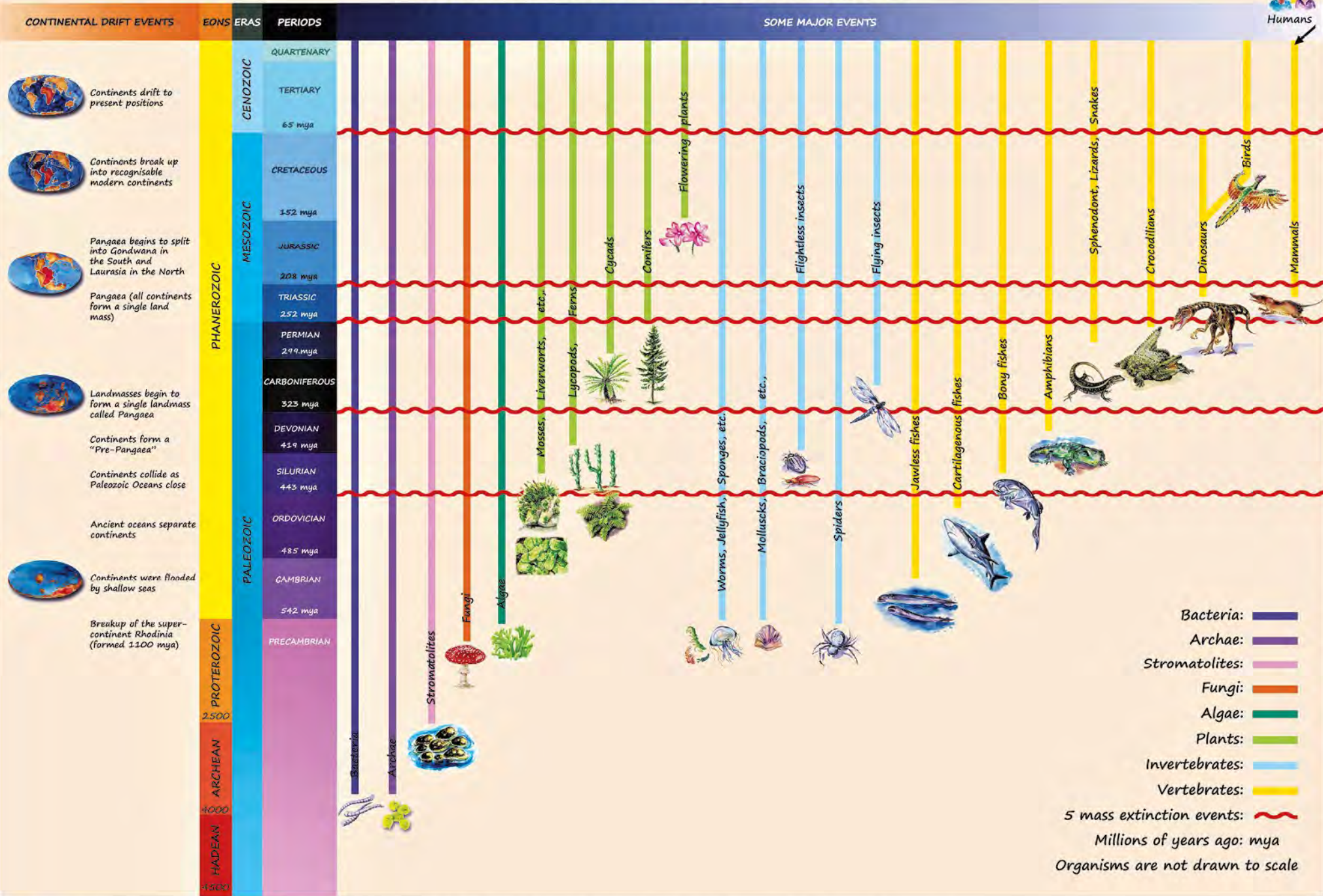
Geology off the beaten track: *Exploring South Africa's hidden treasures*

A companion volume to the first traveller's guide and published seven years later, this book filled in gaps not covered in the first book and was equally well-received.

Going to Ground: *A geologist's adventures in Africa and South America*

After a lifetime of extraordinary experiences and encounters across the length and breadth of South America and widely in Africa, Nick decided to bring to light some of the highlights of these times.

THE HISTORY OF LIFE ON EARTH



THE HISTORY OF LIFE ON EARTH

Extraordinarily similar woodpeckers in South America and Africa? How could this be?

And not only woodpeckers: other bird families across a wide range, as well as quintessentially 'African' trees native across South America, from Ecuador to Paraguay. The 'how' question nagged, especially when the obvious answer - continental drift - turned out to be a blind alley. The mystery would be solved by clues ranging from a tiny migratory thrush to a tree both charismatic and iconic, admired around the world. The multiple epiphanies leading to the answers Nick Norman sought would confirm the wisdom of Sherlock Holmes' maxim that 'When you have eliminated that which is impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.' Improbable indeed.

"This authoritative book of scientific discovery ... is an exciting read and a masterpiece in elucidating the role of plate tectonics, ocean currents, floating islands of debris, evolution and genetics to explain the distribution of species around the world."

BRUCE RUBIDGE

(Distinguished Professor in the Evolutionary Studies Institute,
University of the Witwatersrand)

"This book tantalises the reader with fascinating details of natural history that links the Gondwana neighbours of Africa and South America. Those interested in nature will enjoy being challenged by Nick's latest book."

EUGENE MOLL

(Extraordinary Professor in the Department of Biodiversity and Conservation Biology
at the University of the Western Cape)

ISBN 9780639794761

