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| D:\photos\camera phone\121220121034.jpg | **Claire Geel** received her BSc in Geology and Zoology in 2009, her BSc Hons degree in Geology in 2010 and her MSc in Geology in 2014 from *Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth*. Her Master’s thesis is titled: Shale gas characteristics of Permian black shales in the Ecca Group, near Jansenville, Eastern Cape, South Africa. Her research provides insight into the gas potential of the lower Ecca Formations and in particular the Whitehill Formation. Claire spent 11 months at the *GFZ* in Potsdam, Germany where she completed geochemical analysis of the black shales from fresh core drilled near Jansenville. After completing her MSc Claire published a paper titled: Shale gas characteristics of Permian black shales: results from recent drilling in the Ecca Group (Eastern Cape), published in the Energy Procedia Journal, Elsevier. She is currently working on a second paper to be published in the South African Journal of Geology later in 2014 (153).  **1***Department of Geosciences, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and African Earth Observatory Network – Port Elizabeth, SA*  **2** *GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, Potsdam,Germany*  *Email: geel.claire@live.nmmu.ac.za / geel.claire@gmail.com / Mobile +27 074 7524860* |