

ArchSoc News



September 2018

SA Archaeological Society, Northern Branch

P O Box 41050, Craighall, Johannesburg, 2024

PROGRAMME 2018

Confirmed Lectures and Excursions

04 - 24 Sept	Overseas tour to China Led by Reinoud Boers
13 Sept	What Caused The Mother Of All Mass Extinctions? Lecture by Prof Roger Smith
29 Sept Saturday	Historic Heidelberg Walking tour led by Mr Bouwer Wiersma
04 Oct	Ox Wagon Trails Lecture with Dr Annalie Kleinoog
15 Nov	New developments in rock art dating Lecture by Prof David Pearce
17 Nov	End of year function Naming Jozi Walking Tour Outing led by Ms Jo Buidendacht

BOOKING AND PAYMENT CONDITIONS FOR OUTINGS

Only participants who have booked by phone or email **and have pre-paid** for outings will be allowed to participate.

When making a booking please give your phone number in case we need to contact you if arrangements have to be changed.

Please note that no booking is confirmed until payment has been received by us.

Deposit the fee for the outing in the BRANCH account. DO NOT use the Cape Town membership account.

SA Archaeological Society, Standard Bank, Account number **001 945 920**

Reference: SURNAME and the EVENT.

Send proof of payment to Anne Raeburn e-mail anner@mweb.co.za or 083 455 4151. If you pay by cash or cheque you must add R40 for bank fees.

PROTOCOL FOR OUTINGS

1. Arrive on time – we do not wait for latecomers!
2. Report immediately to Anita Arnott and sign the indemnity form.
3. Stay with the group at all times as we do our best to stick to time schedules.
4. Only arrive at the outing if you have booked and pre-paid. We don't accept bookings or cash on the day.

WHAT CAUSED THE MOTHER OF ALL MASS EXTINCTIONS?

Evidence from South Africa and Antarctica.

Prof Roger Smith

Date: Thursday, 13 September 2018

Time: 19:30

Venue: The auditorium, Roedean School,
35 Princess of Wales Terrace, Parktown

Charge: Non-members: R30, members: free

Millions of years ago the ancient continent of Gondwanaland stretched across what is now southern Africa, South America, Australia and Antarctica. Evidence of this can be proved geologically and by examining the fossil record. The fossil record from these continents also provides evidence of the world's most devastating mass extinction event that took place at the end of the Permian Period 252 million years ago. At this time up to 96% of all marine animals and 70% of all terrestrial vertebrate species became extinct.

Prof Roger Smith is testing the theory that global warming caused the total breakdown of terrestrial ecosystems at that time. He will explain how to find and excavate fossil bones from rock outcrops in Antarctica at high altitude, and under the most hostile and unpredictable conditions on earth. He will also show us evidence that he has collected from both Southern Africa and Antarctica that supports his findings.

Roger Smith is a field geologist and vertebrate palaeontologist specialising in rocks and fossils of the Karoo. He is based at the Iziko Museum in Cape Town but travels widely. He has participated in several collaborative research ventures in Eritrea, Niger, Lesotho, Namibia, Madagascar and Antarctica mostly funded by the American National Science Foundation and the National Geographical Society. This has allowed him to extend the search area for Karoo fossil faunas out of the Karoo basin and into the peripheral rift valleys. These studies are ongoing and he has recently returned from an excavation in Zambia.

National website: www.archaeologysa.co.za

Branch website: www.archaeology.org.za

Branch e-mail: secretary@archaeology.org.za

Branch cell: 072 349 6507

COACH TOUR OF HISTORIC HEIDELBERG

Bouwer Wiersma

Date: **Saturday**, 29 September, 2018

Time: **7:30** to depart at 7:45 Sharp!

Meet at: The Planetarium parking area, Wits University

Note: This is a coach tour and participants may not join in private cars.

Lunch: We will stop at the Eskort Bacon Factory at the end of the tour and get a pre-ordered snack. Orders will be placed on the day (or you could bring your own lunch)

Bring: Hat, water bottle, walking shoes, sunblock, rain gear

Return: Approximately 3 pm

Charge: Non-members R380 members R330

Booking is essential: Contact Anita Arnott, Email arnottanita@gmail.com / tel. 011 795 4056

The town of Heidelberg was established in 1862 by the German settler Heinrich Julius Ueckermann who named the town after his alma mater. It started life as a small trading town and is an excellent example of the architectural splendour of Victorian towns in South Africa as many of the buildings date back to 1890 – 1910 and are well preserved.

Mr Bouwer Wiersma, a resident of the town with an in-depth knowledge of the history of both the buildings and former residents of the town. He will take us to see about 18 buildings or sites (time permitting). Amongst several sites that will be visited will be the Methodist Church with its stained glass windows imported to commemorate Queen Victoria's jubilee, Klipkerk – the Dutch Reformed Church commissioned by town founder Ueckermann, the Ou Tronk (old Jail) where Simon van As met his demise and whose ghost is rumoured to haunt the town and the Heidelberg Town Hall that once was the celebrated capital of the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR 1880 – 1883) under the triumvirate of Paul Kruger, PJ Joubert and MW Pretorius.

FORGOTTEN TRAILS ACROSS THE MIDLANDS OF KZN

Annalie Kleinoog

Date: **Thursday**, 4 October 2018

Time: **19:30**

Venue: The Auditorium, Roedean School,
35 Princess of Wales Terrace, Parktown, Johannesburg

Charge: Non-members: R30, members: free

Transport riding occupied a brief moment in Natal's tumultuous history. War and politics overshadowed its importance in the growth of a developing country. However the crucial supply and demand between the port of Durban and the hinterland (where gold and diamonds awaited) shaped the bloodline still scarring the rolling hills of Kwa Zulu Natal.

The discovery of tracks across Annalie's farm in the Midlands triggered an interest in the local and recent history of the area. The possibility of these tracks being a main trading route became Annalie's research obsession. Paradoxically, the same need that created the route now threatens to destroy the last fading remnants of our past. Landmarks that point to old routes that moulded the history of our country are disappearing in the race to develop the region. By combining and overlapping old maps, Google Maps, digital satellite images, and aerial photography, then referencing this to missionary diaries, common routes and tracks were confirmed. That was followed up and explained with fieldwork photographs. This talk will explain the three main criteria which make an ordinary ditch a track, show how modern technology and archived maps and photos support research, and will try to make us aware of our heritage.

Annalie Kleinloog graduated with a BMedSci and BChD (Pret) and practiced for 20 years as a dentist in Durban. Research has always been part of her career. Early exposure to Prof Tobias and his department in the days when BMedSci still involved Anatomy III (Anatomical Anthropology) triggered her lifelong passion for Archaeology and Prehistory. She also took an NDP Archaeological course at UNISA, majoring in Anthropology.

BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR COMMITTEE

Do you want a say on the chosen topics for lectures? Do you have any ideas for future excursions? Do you have a specific skill-set that you could share? If you answer 'yes' to any of these questions, why not join the committee? We are looking for interested individuals with computer literacy (e-mail, MS-Word and Excel), writing skills, financial knowledge, website maintenance experience and interest in membership relations.

Speak to any of the committee members or nominate a friend

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN ROCK ART DATING

Prof David Pearce

Date: **Thursday**, 15 November 2018

Time: **19:30**

Venue: The Auditorium, Roedean School,
35 Princess of Wales Terrace, Parktown, Johannesburg

Charge: Non-members: R30, members: free

In the past, rock art has proved to be extremely difficult to date mainly due to the lack of any entity in the paints that can be used for dating and this lack of reliable dating has been a major obstacle in this area of research. Scientists have pioneered a technique to date prehistoric rock paintings in southern Africa, which reveals dates much older than previously thought. For example, some paintings in Botswana have been dated at over 5500 years old and others in Lesotho and the Drakensberg date back as far as 3000 years. Some sites contain paintings with dates ranging over many centuries which indicate that people returned repeatedly to make rock paintings very similar to those painted centuries or millennia before, possibly as part of a religious ritual. David Pearce will explain the dating technique and reflect on his findings and their implications for our understanding of the hunter-gatherer religion in southern Africa.

David Pearce is Associate Professor and Director in the Rock Art Research Institute, School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies, University of the Witwatersrand. His primary research interest is cognitive archaeology, specialising in Southern African hunter-gatherers. He has been running a multi-institutional research project on Later Stone Age rock art and related archaeology in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province for a number of years. He also directs an international project developing techniques to date rock paintings.

NAMING JOZI WALKING TOUR

A walking tour with Jo Buitendach

Date: **Saturday**, 17 November, 2018

Time: **09:00** for 9:30 Sharp!

Meet at: Big Giant Brewery, No 1 Fox Precinct, Fox Street, Johannesburg

Parking: Safe parking is available at No 1 Fox Street, entrance in Anderson Street. Map will be sent to participants.

Lunch: Join us at a reserved table at The Sheds to eat your lunch purchased at your own cost at one of the various market stalls.

Bring: Hat, water bottle, walking shoes, sunblock, sunglasses, rain gear

Charge: Non-members: R120, members R90

Booking is essential: Contact Anita Arnott, Email arnottanita@gmail.com / tel. 011 795 4056

Naming Jozi is Jo's latest walking tour that explores the area around No 1 Fox Street, which was once the hub of mining activity in Johannesburg and contains many iconic buildings from that era. Jo enables us to learn about Johannesburg's and South Africa's history on this walking tour by looking at the names given to streets, buildings and places. For example, who was Mary Fitzgerald? How did Newtown get its name? Why Diagonal Street? Jo will also tell us about the stories behind some of the newest post-1994 name changes and about the plans to uplift the area. This is a great walk for anyone who loves their city as it includes a look at regeneration, public art and street art. As it is a Saturday we can take it slowly and the walk will be no more than 2 kilometres.

Jo Buitendach studied archaeology at the University of Witwatersrand where in her honours year in 2008 she won the "Van Riet Lowe Top Student Award". Jo then trained as a tour guide and started Past Experiences, a tour operator that focuses on Johannesburg Inner City Walking tours. Last year, Jo graduated with a Master's from the University of Cape Town's faculty of Architecture and Planning in "Conservation of the Built Environment". The topic of her thesis was the "Heritage Value of Graffiti, with a focus on the historic graffiti at Constitution Hill's Number Four Prison". In October 2015 Jo was featured in the Guardian Newspapers "10 Of the World's Best Tour Guides" feature. She is hugely passionate about the Johannesburg CBD, graffiti, its communities, culture, buildings and history.

BOOKS

Reinoud Boers sells books on behalf of ArchFox Books and the S.A. Archaeological Society at most meetings and at the Annual Symposium. He stocks books on Archaeology, Rock Art, Palaeontology, Geology, History and related disciplines as well as some second-hand books. Any book in whatever field of interest, including out-of-print second-hand books, may be ordered. Come and browse the book table and be tempted!

Reinoud Boers may be contacted at fox@boers.org.za or tel. 011 803 2681.