

ArchSoc Symposium 2024

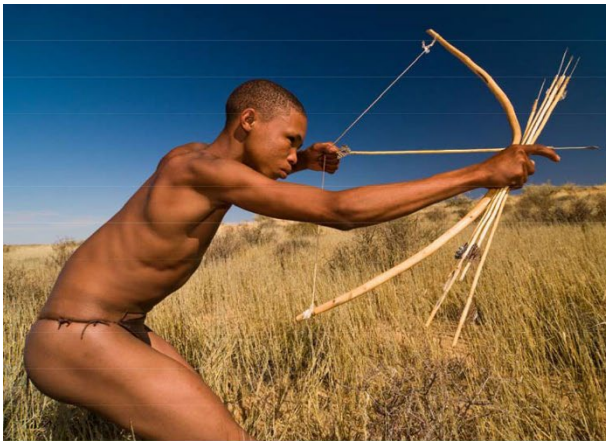


Topic: **Big Digs – Big Ideas!**

When: **Saturday 24 August 2024**

Time: **09h00 to 13h00**

Venue: **Delta Environmental Centre, Delta Park,
Road No 3, Victory Park, Johannesburg.**



**Organised by the Northern Branch of the
South African Archaeological Society.**

Registration: 9h00 to 9h30

Venue: Delta Environmental Centre, Delta Park, Road No. 3, Victory Park, Johannesburg.

Parking: Secure parking at the Centre.

Catering: Bring your own picnic lunch and drinks to enjoy with the other participants at the tables outside the Environmental Centre. Tea, coffee and fruit juice will be served mid-morning.

The auditorium at Delta Environmental Centre can get chilly, so dress warmly and bring a blanket for your knees.

Book Table: A wide selection of new and second-hand books will be available for purchasing before the symposium starts and during the morning tea break and at the end of the symposium.

The Northern Branch's Annual Symposium brings academics, society members, and their friends together once a year for a series of fascinating lectures.

We are fortunate that archaeology in South Africa offers us not only insight into the Stone and Iron Ages, but also into one of the world's richest rock art traditions.

Join us at the ArchSoc Symposium to hear at first-hand the fascinating accounts from Professor Marlize Lombard, Dr Gavin Whitelaw and Dr Justine Wintjes.

PROGRAM: Saturday, 24 August 2024

Talk 1 – Middle Stone Age bow hunting and the shaping of the sapient mind by Professor Marlize Lombard

Southern African populations started to hunt with bows and arrows during the Middle Stone Age, sometime between about 80 000 and 60 000 years ago. Whilst we cannot excavate the minds of early bowhunters, we can use what we know about bowhunting and the human brain to explore how the use of such a bimanual toolset may have shaped our minds.

We will also explore the relationship between attention development in modern archers and attention as a cognitive requirement for ancient bow-hunting. Variation in human neuro-genetic adaptations since our split from Denisovan and Neanderthal groups suggests differences in attention as a cognitive trait between recent big-brained humans. Cognitive-motor neuroscience highlights brain regions that are activated or 'pressured' during aiming with attention. Especially the precuneus, a brain region associated with bimanual activity, visuospatial integration, and attention, comes to the fore as associated with archery or bowhunting. Its development, in tandem with the unique globularisation of the human skull, can be traced through the fossil record from about 160 000 years ago, reaching the modern range by around 100 000 years ago. Bimanual activities such as bowhunting may have been one of the aspects that stimulated such development.



Marlize Lombard is Research Chair and Professor of Stone Age archaeology at the Palaeo-Research Institute of UJ. She leads the inter-disciplinary Palaeo-TRACKS (Tracing Ancient Cognition and Knowledge Systems through the Stone Age/Palaeolithic) Research Programme) that is geared towards generating knowledge about the biological behavioural and cognitive evolution of *Homo Sapiens* in Sub Saharan Africa and how these relate to each other. To date she has published more than 130 scientific papers on these topics.



Talk 2 – Excavating the Early Iron Age KwaGandaganda site in the uMngeni Valley by Dr Gavin Whitelaw

A big idea, first floated in 1982, proposed that the lifeways of most Iron Age farmers in southern Africa were structured by the Central Cattle Pattern, a worldview that was expressed most usefully for archaeologists in a particular settlement form. The principal exceptions were farmers who maintained the Zimbabwe Culture. The idea inspired challenge, as all big ideas do. Much of the challenge concerned farmers of the first millennium, for which limited settlement evidence

was available. One big site, KwaGandaganda in the uMngeni valley, supplied test data for the big idea in the late 1980s. The implications still resonate in interpretation today.



Gavin Whitelaw is an archaeologist and Chief Curator at the KwaZulu- Natal Museum in Pietermaritzburg. His research is on the archaeology of African farmers. His interests include archaeological expressions of the ways in which economic relations enlivened symbolic systems. He studied at Wits University from 1981 and has been with the Museum since 1986.



Talk 3 – A biography of Game Pass Shelter by Dr Justine Wintjes, in collaboration with Dr Jeremy Hollmann and Dr Ghilraen Laue

Game Pass shelter in the KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg is one of the largest and best-preserved rock art sites in South Africa. It is also the site of the ‘Rosetta Stone’ panel, which has played a key role in rock art interpretation. We – Jeremy Hollmann, Ghilraen Laue and Justine Wintjes – are working on an edited volume in which we contextualize the ‘iconic’ panel by telling a more holistic story of the site. We have invited contributions from researchers in history, archaeology, history of art, anthropology, heritage and conservation studies. In addition to the site’s spectacular artistic display, its life story involves iconographic links to other sites, sensorial experiences, personal memories, customary practices and reclaimed identities, social, economic and political realities, and influences that extend to the far reaches of the earth.



Justine Wintjes is an archaeologist, an art historian and occasional writer. She works as a curator and researcher in the Department of Human Sciences at the KwaZulu-Natal Museum and is a Research Associate of Wits University.

Jeremy Hollmann is a rock art researcher focused on the interpretation of southern African hunter-gatherer (San/Bushman/Abathwa) rock art. He is an honorary Research Fellow at the Rock Art Institute at Wits University.

Ghilraen Laue is an archaeologist whose principal focus is on southern African hunter-gatherer rock art and the Later Stone Age. She is curator in the Department of Human Sciences at the KwaZulu-Natal Museum and is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Rock Art Research Institute at Wits University.

Registration Details

To register, email your details to anner@mweb.co.za and enclose only THIS PAGE of the Symposium notification.

Please provide the following:

1. Your name and those of any other people accompanying you to the symposium.
2. Whether you and those accompanying you are members of ArchSoc, or not.
3. Your telephone or cell phone number.

Names of attendees: (Title, First and Surname):

Title, First and Surname	Member
	Yes / No
	Yes / No
	Yes / No
	Yes / No

Email address:

Cell Phone:

Fees payable: Please pay by EFT, if possible.

Total

Members @ R200 pp	R
Non-members @ R260 pp	R
Students @ R100 pp	R
If depositing cash, please add R50 per payment to cover bank charges	R
Total amount due	R

FEES ARE PAYABLE IN ADVANCE TO:

SA Archaeological Society, Standard Bank, Rosebank

Branch Code: 004305, Account No: 001945920

Include your name and the reference 'Symposium' on the Deposit Slip.

E-mail proof of payment to Anne Raeburn at anner@mweb.co.za

If you wish to check on your booking, please phone Anne Raeburn on or after Monday 12 August 2024 on 072 349 6507 during business hours.