

ArchSoc News



May 2018

SA Archaeological Society, Northern Branch

P O Box 41050, Craighall, Johannesburg, 2024

PROGRAMME 2018

Confirmed Lectures and Excursions

17 May AGM at 19:00	National and Northern Branch AGM and lecture by Prof. Judy Sealy Origins of the Ivory Trade in Southern Africa
27 May Sunday	Houses of Pretoria Outing with Trevor Evans
7 June	Canteen Kopje: The Stone Age & Geoarchaeology Lecture by Kelita Shadrach
15-18 June Friday-Monday	Weekend at Verlorenkloof Led by Peter Delius
24 June	Drimolen Outing with Dr Stephanie Edwards Baker
19 July	Lecture to be confirmed <i>via</i> e-mail
2 August	Bone Tools Pretoria lecture by Dr Justin Bradfield
25 August Saturday	Annual Symposium Vanished Civilisations - A Look at Some Aspects of Six Famous Civilisations

Membership Renewals are Past Due

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible;

Ordinary Member (Single) – R305; Joint or Family – R325; Junior Member – R210 (Discount of R95)

Please deposit the membership fee direct to the SA Archaeological Society, Standard Bank, Cape Town 025009, account number 07 051 0121.

Please avoid making cash or cheque deposits as these incur considerable bank fees. Credit card facilities are now available. Please add your name and membership number and **email proof of payment to archsoc@iziko.org.za, or fax-to-email 0866 155 874.** If paying by direct deposit, please ensure that **your name appears as a reference on the beneficiary bank statement.** If unavoidable, **post your cheque** to The Secretary, South African Archaeological Society, Box 15700, Vlaeberg, 8018.

ORIGINS OF THE IVORY TRADE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Prof. Judy Sealy

Date: **Thursday, 17 May 2018 AGM starts at 19:00**

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

Charge: Non-members: R30, members: free

In recent years, the burgeoning international trade in elephant ivory has become a major concern to conservationists and poached ivory has funded conflicts across Africa. When did people start to use ivory? When did it first become a valuable commodity in trans-oceanic trade? We have known for many years that ivory was probably exported from southern Africa by about 1000 years ago. Trade networks extended from major centres in the Shashe-Limpopo area, such as Schroda and Mapungubwe, right across the Indian Ocean. Based on recent evidence from KwaZulu-Natal, I will argue that long-distance ivory trade started significantly earlier, by the 7th century CE. Archaeological sites of this age in KZN have yielded thousands of ivory shavings as well as finished items. Chemical (stable isotope) analysis shows that tusks were sourced from across broad areas of the landscape, and that ivory found at different sites was drawn from different catchments, implying a degree of landscape/resource partitioning even at this early stage. These communities clearly invested substantial effort in obtaining ivory, which speaks to its importance in the economy of the time. Some of the ivory was for local consumption, but some was almost certainly exported in exchange for the first imported luxury items, such as glass beads and glazed ceramics.

Judith Sealy is a Research Professor in the Department of Archaeology at UCT. Her research interests range from the emergence of early modern humans to the colonial period. She specialises in using isotopic analyses to answer archaeological questions, mainly in southern Africa, but also elsewhere in Africa and in the Americas.

National website: www.archaeologysa.co.za

Branch website: www.archaeology.org.za

Branch e-mail:

secretary@archaeology.org.za

Branch cell: 072 349 6507

HOUSES OF PRETORIA

Outing with Trevor Evans

Date: **Sunday, 27 May 2018**

Time: **09:30 for 10:00**

Meet at: Park at State Theatre and meet at main forecourt
The address for the State Theatre is: 320 Pretorius Street, Pretoria
Parking cost: R13 min-R50 max per vehicle (depending on time parked)

Charge: Non-members: R100, members: R70, to be paid to Northern Branch
Plus Melrose House Entrance Fee: R25/adult; R12/pensioner, to be paid at Melrose House on the day.

Bring: A sun hat; good walking shoes; water. Picnic baskets are optional

The group will walk past several buildings and Trevor Evans will discuss the architecture stylistically as well as their socio-political significance in a historical context. We will walk about 500 meters (one way), first past the New Women's monument with its impressive Adobe wall and then go on to the quaintest old mosque. It is a haven of tranquillity, and each person will have to wash their feet there before entering. Ladies should cover their heads.

Thereafter, the group will proceed across Church Square to Café Riche where the outdoor seating has good views over the square and its old, world charm, and Trevor will discuss the surrounding architecture. (Inexpensive drinks are available at the Café). From here we will walk back to the State Theatre and then drive the 2 km's to Melrose House. There is free secure parking at the rear of Melrose House (you may want to tip the guard). We will do a conducted tour of Melrose House and the grounds will be available for a picnic. Burgers Park is directly opposite and is very well kept and most beautiful to walk through. There is also a lovely hothouse with succulents to view.

CANTEEN KOPJE: THE STONE AGE & GEOARCHAEOLOGY

Kelita Shadrach

Date: **Thursday, 7 June 2018**

Time: **19:30**

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

Charge: Non-members: R30, members: free

Canteen Kopje has yielded rare in-situ assemblages of the Fauresmith, a poorly defined industry often associated with the later Acheulean. The Fauresmith assemblages yielded from other sites, such as Kathu Pan, contain precocious developments in technology as early as ~0.5 Ma—features which only become widespread in the ensuing Middle Stone Age. The Fauresmith as a regional industry provides insight into technological practices during the period of significant behavioural diversification associated with archaic *Homo sapiens*. Studies of Fauresmith assemblages have often suffered from a lack of adequate contextual information. Previous excavations at Canteen Kopje were conducted with relatively low spatial resolution. A new excavation, Pit 4 West, was conducted in 2016 to investigate the spatial, stratigraphic and contextual association of the Fauresmith horizon in this area of the site in greater detail. A multi-disciplinary, stratigraphically sensitive fine resolution geoarchaeological and geospatial approach was applied in this research. A nuanced assessment of the Fauresmith's context was developed which included both macroscopic and microscopic sedimentological analyses. The combination of these provides a dataset that indicates diverse depositional and post-depositional features affecting the Fauresmith assemblage in various ways and at different scales. The purpose of conducting a lithic techno-typological study was to try to isolate the different industries (above, below and including the Fauresmith) that were within the Pit 4 West excavation and, based on these observations, compare to and combine the lithic dataset with the described sedimentological and spatial datasets produced for this research. This allowed for the clarification of the integrity of the Fauresmith in Pit 4 West. The artefact sample size for the Fauresmith at Canteen Kopje was increased and the presence of diagnostic tools has aided in formally defining the Fauresmith in Pit 4 West.

Kelita Shadrach acquired her BA, BSc with Honours, and MSc degrees in archaeology from the University of the Witwatersrand. Archaeology inspired her to keep learning, particularly about the importance of the southern African archaeological record in the study of human origins. Kelita specialises in the study of the Earlier Stone Age, a period which spans from 2.18 to 0.3 million years ago in South Africa. During this time significant cognitive, technological and perhaps social thresholds were crossed, and past human species began producing the first (recoverable) cultural material: stone tools. Kelita also specialises in geoarchaeology, a multi-disciplinary approach to analysing and understanding the archaeological context and site formation.

VERLORENKLOOF LONG WEEKEND EXCURSION

Outing with historian Peter Delius, farm owner Eric Johnson and Verlorenkloof guide Joseph Mothupi, for a special weekend of discovery in the “*Forgotten World: The Stone Walled Settlements of the Mpumalanga Escarpment*”

Date: Friday-Monday, 15-18 June 2018

Charge: Members R1900 per person sharing; single R3300

Non-members R2000 per person sharing; single R3400

There are a few places still available

Contact Anne Raeburn; Email anner@mweb.co.za / tel. 083 455-4151

Verlorenkloof Estate (www.verlorenkloof.co.za) is home to a rich archaeological legacy. It lies at the epicentre of an extensive complex of the remains of Late Iron Age stone structures stretching along the escarpment from Carolina to Ohrigstad. These structures include stone-walled homesteads, livestock pens, cattle tracks and terraces.

In oral histories recorded in the early twentieth century the area was known as Bokoni – the country of the Koni people. Bokoni society lasted for approximately 500 years and underwent a series of transformations.

Recorded archaeological sites on Verlorenkloof Estate include terraces and open-air stone-walled sites in use when the Bokoni economy focussed on intensive agricultural production.

The Estate was developed by Eric and Heidi Johnson, whose family has owned and farmed property in the area since 1970. The Estate has been actively involved over the past 14 years in developing and researching its archaeological heritage.

Accommodation is at Verlorenkloof Estate in self-catering crofts (stone houses), sleeping 6 or 8 with most bedrooms en-suite. The crofts are fully equipped including microwave and dishwasher, which are serviced daily.

The programme will include:

Friday 15th June: Self-drive to Verlorenkloof, book in from 15:00. Detailed directions will be provided to participants.

Evening: Get together at the Verlorenkloof Estate lodge for soup/snacks and to view the film (DVD) made by the archaeologists and historian of their work on the Bakoni. Peter Delius will speak briefly to the subjects that come up in the film.

Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th June: Visit sites on Verlorenkloof and a site situated about 15 kilometres from Verlorenkloof.

Saturday evening: Dinner at the Verlorenkloof Lodge.

Sunday evening: At leisure (self-catering).

Monday: Depart for home (book out by 10:00).

Please note that as the price is based on the cost per croft, it is subject to adjustment depending on the number of participants.

There will be no refund on cancellation unless the place(s) can be filled.

Peter Delius, formerly a Professor of History at the University of Witwatersrand, has published widely on the history of the Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces. From 2005 to 2009 he led the Mpumalanga History and Heritage Project that gave rise to two books - Mpumalanga; History and Heritage (University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2007) and (with M. Hay) Mpumalanga: An Illustrated History (Highveld Press 2009).

In the course of this research he became intrigued by the stone-walled structures that cover the Mpumalanga Escarpment. This led to major research projects with Alex Schoeman and Tim Maggs, and to numerous publications of which the most comprehensive is *Forgotten World: The Stone-Walled Settlements of the Mpumalanga Escarpment* (Wits University Press, 2014). Peter Delius also co-produced and co-wrote the documentary *Forgotten World* on the rise and fall of Bokoni.

VISIT TO THE DRIMOLEN FOSSIL HOMININ SITE IN THE CRADLE OF HUMANKIND

Outing with Dr Stephanie Edwards Baker

Date: Sunday, 24 June 2018

Time: 9.45-10.15

Meet at: Entrance gate to the Rhino and Lion Park, Cradle of Humankind (directions will be supplied)

Charge: R170 per person. **The outing is open to ArchSoc members only.**

Bring: Sun hat, sun-tan lotion, solid shoes, water and a picnic basket

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

A maximum of 30 members can participate in this outing

The Drimolen fossil hominin site in the Cradle of Humankind was discovered in 1992 by Dr Andre Keyser after he had explored the surrounding miners' rubble. The site boasts two different deposits: the historically famous Main Quarry and the newly published older Makondo Deposit. The ~2,0 million-year-old Main Quarry has brought to light over 200 hominin specimens from either *Paranthropus robustus* or early *Homo*, as well as a vast array of associated faunal specimens. These include sabre-toothed cats, giraffes, zebras and a variety of baboons. In 2015, excavations began at another deposit called the Makondo, about 50 m west of the Main Quarry. While there have been no hominins recovered as yet, the 2,6 million-year-old deposit has yielded over 1 500 articulated and well-preserved antelope, monkey and carnivore taxa.

Our visit will consist of a historical overview of the Cradle of Humankind before moving on to the specifics of Drimolen's history and its significant finds. We will discuss the hominins, dating, geology and fauna. The visit will include discussions with world experts in their relevant fields, including but not limited to Prof. Andy Herries (La Trobe University, Australia) and Prof. David Strait (Washington University of St Louis, USA). We will visit the site during The University of Johannesburg's annual international field school.

Members will thus see the site being excavated and will also have the opportunity to engage with the next generation of palaeo-scientist. A picnic lunch with the experts who have interacted with us will follow.

The entrance fee that has to be paid to the Rhino and Lion Park will permit us to visit Wonder Cave (but not the park itself). Wonder Cave is very interesting and provides an opportunity for those members who would like to see a pristine cave that models Drimolen's two deposits. Wonder cave tours run throughout the day and participants could visit there on the way out in the afternoon.

Our host at the Drimolen site is the primary permit holder Dr Stephanie Edwards Baker of the Centre for Anthropological Research at the University of Johannesburg. She has been working at Drimolen since 2010, first as a teaching assistant and thereafter as co-permit holder and site manager. She took over the Drimolen permit in early 2017. Stephanie is in the process of completing her PhD with a focus on hominin-carnivore interactions in the Plio-Pleistocene of southern Africa.

BOOKING CONDITIONS FOR OUTINGS

Only participants who have been confirmed by phone, SMS or e-mail may participate in an outing. **The costs of all outings must be prepaid.** These stricter measures are necessary as the number of participants on outings usually needs to be limited; people who book but fail to arrive prejudice those on the waiting list.

Please deposit the fee in the BRANCH account, NOT in the Cape Town membership account.

SA Archaeological Society, Standard Bank, Rosebank branch 004305 account number 001 945 920

(*Jan Smuts branch has closed and merged with Rosebank*). Please state the EVENT followed by your SURNAME as reference. Send deposit slip to Anne Raeburn e-mail anner@mweb.co.za tel. Cell: 083 455 4151. When paying by cash or cheque, please add R20 for bank fees.

LECTURE

Details regarding this lecture will be distributed to members via e-mail

Date: Thursday, 19 July 2018

SPECIAL LECTURE IN PRETORIA

Sherry will be served from 18:30 to give people a chance to meet

BONE TOOLS

Dr Justin Bradfield

Date: **Thursday**, 2 August 2018

Time: **18:30 for 19:00**

Venue: The University of South Africa (UNISA),

Anthropology and Archaeology Museum, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology,

4th floor, Theo van Wijk Building, UNISA Muckleneuk campus, 1 Preller St., Muckleneuk, Pretoria

Charge: Non-members: R30, members: free

This presentation focuses on bone, shell and ivory technology on the African continent. Organic implements form an integral component of all hunter-gatherer communities, yet historically they have received comparatively little attention by archaeologists due to the better preservation of lithic artefacts. In this presentation we explore some of the better-known examples of bone, shell and ivory working among hominins and early humans spanning the last 2 million years of history on the African continent. We look at some of the debates that have re-emerged from the study of organic implements and at the potential of organic technology studies to provide crucial insights into techno-cultural shifts. The huge diversity of material culture represented in this category of artefact is highlighted.

Dr Bradfield completed his Doctorate at the University of Johannesburg after having completed his previous degrees at Wits. He then moved back to Wits to complete two post-doctoral fellowships before being offered a research and teaching position at UJ, where he is currently based. Dr Bradfield's research focuses on the application of use-trace analyses to bone technology. He was nominated for the Kambule NSTF award in the category of emerging researchers in 2016 and he currently serves as the Field and Technical editor for the South African Archaeological Bulletin. He is an NRF-rated scientist.

VANISHED CIVILISATIONS - A LOOK AT SOME ASPECTS OF SIX FAMOUS CIVILISATIONS

Date: **Saturday**, 25 August 2018

Place: Delta Park facility in Victory Park, Johannesburg

A flyer giving the details of the six talks and the presenters will be sent to members in the near future

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