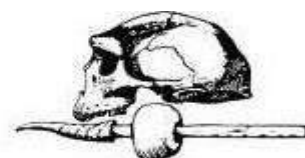


ArchSoc News



April 2017

SA Archaeological Society, Northern Branch

P O Box 41050, Craighall, Johannesburg, 2024

PROGRAMME 2017

Confirmed Lectures and Excursions

14 - 22 May	Tour to KZN An archaeological, historical and cultural sweep through Kwa-Zulu-Natal
25 May AGM at 19.30	Northern Branch AGM and lecture by Gavin Whitelaw Homesteads, pots and marriage in south-east southern Africa
15 June	Archaeology in the imagination of India Lecture by Professor Dilip Menon
25 June	Excursion to Kromdraai in the Cradle of Civilisation Led by Professor José Braga
20 July	Rising Star Cave and the discovery of <i>Homo naledi</i> Lecture by Steven Tucker
July	Possible outing to be arranged
17 August	Bushman Rock Shelter Pretoria lecture by Dr Aurore Val
26 Aug Saturday	Annual Symposium Trading Places: connecting the world
17 Sept	The Argent Silver Mine Outing with Graham Reeks
27 Sept – 10 Oct	Overseas tour to Ethiopia led by Reinoud Boers
26 Nov	Walter Sisulu Botanic Gardens Geological outing with Professor Morris Viljoen

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.

Homesteads, pots and marriage in south-east southern Africa

Gavin Whitelaw

In conjunction with the Northern Branch Annual General Meeting (agenda enclosed)

Date: Thursday 25 May 2017 **AGM starts at 19:30**

Venue: **Roedean is not available. Phone Law Pinto for information on the venue. 083-687 6683**

Charge: Members free Non-members R30

The Iron Age sequence east of the Drakensberg and south of the Phongolo River dates from AD 450 to the onset of the colonial period at, say, AD 1820. This sequence is conventionally divided into two at about AD 1060. There are significant differences in the material culture of the two periods, and it now seems widely accepted that the late period marks the settlement of Nguni speakers in the region. Settlement pattern evidence strongly suggests that agriculturists of both periods were patrilineal and married through the exchange of cattle for wives. My interest here is in possible differences in the details of marriage. I will argue that a high exchange value for women (relative to average cattle holdings) between AD 650 and 1060 meant that enduring relations between cattle-linked siblings—wives and their brothers—posed a significant challenge to the ambitions of homestead heads. By contrast, a preliminary interpretation for the period AD 1300–1650 suggests that agnatic clusters were more isolated, that the exchange value of women was low, that relations between wives and their natal households were de-emphasised, and that there was a corresponding emphasis on the authority of the homestead head.

Gavin Whitelaw is an archaeologist at the KwaZulu-Natal Museum in Pietermaritzburg. He specializes in the Iron Age of southern Africa, with a particular focus on south-east southern Africa. He has been with the museum since 1986. He received his degrees from the University of the Witwatersrand.

National website: www.archaeologysa.co.za

Branch website: www.archaeology.org.za

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

Branch cell: 072 349 6507

Rising Star Cave and the discovery of *Homo naledi*

Steven Tucker

Date: Thursday 20 July, 2017 **Time:** 20:00
Venue: The auditorium, Roedean School,
35 Princess of Wales Terrace, Parktown, Johannesburg
Charge: Members free Non-members: R30

Discovered deep in a cave in the Cradle of Humankind in September 2013, *Homo naledi* is the newest member of the human family. Two short excavation periods recovered more than 1500 remains of unprecedented quality and completeness making it the largest known hominin fossil deposit on the continent of Africa. In addition, the nature of the deposit is unique and suggests that *Homo naledi* may have been engaging in complex behaviours previously assumed to have been practiced only by modern humans.

Steven Tucker, a qualified Chartered Accountant and Registered Auditor started exploring caves in 2010 with the Speleological Exploration Club. In 2013 he was part of the team who discovered and mapped Armageddon Cave, one of the largest caves in South Africa. A few months later he and fellow caver, Rick Hunter, entered an unknown chamber in the Rising Star Cave System and discovered the remains of a new species of human ancestor, *Homo naledi*. The find garnered international attention for the amazing volume of material, as well as the excellent preservation and unusual depositional context. Shortly after the Rising Star expedition, Steven joined the Evolutionary Studies Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand full-time as an explorer, leading a team in surface and sub-surface explorations around the Cradle of Humankind and assisting with excavations at several sites, including Rising Star and Malapa.

Special lecture in Pretoria

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

Bushman Shelter

Dr Aurore Val

Date: Thursday 17 August 2017 **Time:** 18.30 for 19:00
Venue and meeting place: UNISA
Anthropology and Archaeology Museum, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology,
4th floor, Theo van Wijk Building, UNISA Muckleneuk campus, 1 Preller St., Muckleneuk, Pretoria
Charge: ArchSoc members: free Non-members: R30

The Bushman Rock Shelter (BRS) site is located in the district of Ohrigstad, Limpopo, in the North of the Drakensberg range. Excavated in the 70's by the team of Hannes Eloff from University of Pretoria, BRS revealed archaeological strata dating from Middle and Later Stone Age. The mineral and organic remains, perfectly preserved over 7 meters deep, are key indicators for tracking the changes in the hunter-gatherers populations spanning the last 200,000 years. This is precisely during this period that the first societies of anatomically modern humans appeared and transformed on the African continent.

Dr. Aurore Val, post-doctoral fellow at the DITSONG National Museum of Natural History (DST/NRF Centre of Excellence in Palaeosciences) will give a talk about the research currently being conducted at Bushman Rock Shelter in Limpopo. Field work has been conducted by a team since 2014 and multi-proxy research including lithic technology, faunal analysis, dating and archaeobotany will be discussed.

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.

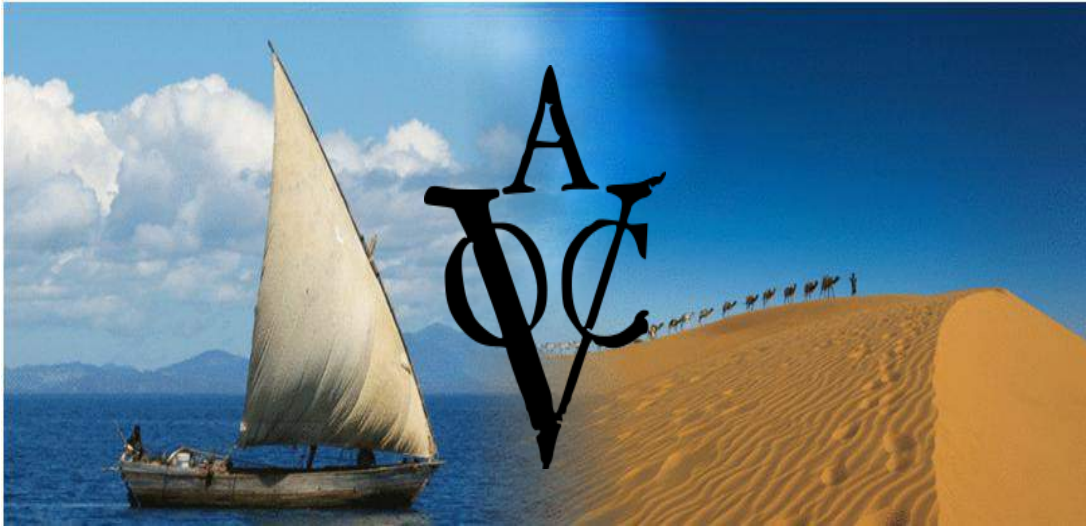
Please deposit the fee in the BRANCH account, NOT in the Cape Town membership account.

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.

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM 2017
TRADING PLACES: CONNECTING THE WORLD

Saturday 26 August (Flyer to follow)



Join us for a full day of lectures celebrating Africa's history of trade and rich maritime heritage.

Trade has sustained human populations for thousands of years. The focus of this year's symposium will be patterns of trade in and out of the African continent. There will be six presentations by esteemed academics specialising in these trade networks. The talks span over two millennia and topics include:

Phoenicians' Mediterranean North African trade routes, shipwrecks, the VOC Dutch East India Company, East African trade triangle 700-1400 AD, Indian Ocean trade from 1500 AD & the West African–Caribbean trade (slaves, rum, sugar, tobacco).

Argent Silver Mine
Outing led by Graham Reeks

Date: Sunday 17 September 2017

Time: 9:30 for 10.00 **Cost: to be announced nearer the time**

Meet at: Dirt road just off of the N12 highway

Bring: Optional picnic lunch and drinks. Shade is limited. Bring hat, sunscreen, good footwear & walking stick if used.

Booking: Phone Anita Arnott at 011 795 4056 nearer the time

This outing is to visit the remains of an historical silver–lead mine dating from 1889. The mine was worked for a period of seven years in the 1890s then reopened in 1919 and worked for another seven years. It produced 25 000 tons of lead, 65 tons of silver and 250 tons of copper in its lifetime. The history of the mine involves many of the Randlords, new mining technologies, and new social structures within the mining industry. All of these factors will be explained during the visit to the large site. It is currently an active and exciting industrial and historical archaeological site and the research towards a PhD has revealed many new interesting facts. The walking tour will look at the remains of structures of the silver mine from both time periods as well as the site of the extensive excavations.

Directions: Please note that it takes about one hour from Pretoria via Bapsfontein and one hour from JHB.

From Johannesburg: Take the N12 towards Witbank. Approximately 20 KM beyond the Delmas on-ramp there is a highway sign and off–ramp 'ARGENT–DWAARSFONTEIN'. Turn off the highway and at the T-junction turn left. Park and wait at the end of the tarred section of road.

From Pretoria: Travel via Bapsfontein towards Delmas until you reach the N12 highway. Turn onto the highway towards Witbank and look for the ARGENT road sign then turn off as above.

Graham Reeks was born in England where he studied production and mechanical engineering. He immigrated to South Africa in 1972 and spent over 30 years in the mining, paper and paint industries. He completed his Masters at UNISA and is currently working on his PhD through Wits. The focus for his Masters was the Silver Mining Industry in the greater Pretoria region in the 19th & 20th centuries. His passion is Industrial Archaeology and the Archeo-geology of ancient mining sites. He was chairman of the branch from 2012-2014.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
NORTHERN BRANCH
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date and Time: Thursday 25 May 2017 at 19h30

Venue: Auditorium, Roedean School,
Princess of Wales Terrace, Parktown

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2016
4. Receive the Chairman's Report for the past year
5. Receive the Treasurer's Report, together with the financial statements for the financial year ending 31 December 2016
6. Approve the appointment of an auditor for the year ending 31 December 2017
7. Elect a Branch Committee for the 2017/2018 year (ref. 'c')
8. Any other business

Notes:

- a. Resolutions in writing for consideration under item 8 of the agenda should be in the hands of the Secretary, Northern Branch, PO Box 41050, Craighall, 2024 by not later than 18 May 2017 (secretary@archaeology.org.za).
- b. Nominations of persons for election to the 2017/2018 Committee should be made in writing to the Secretary, Northern Branch, (secretary@archaeology.org.za), before 18 May 2017. Only paid-up members of the SA Archaeological Society are eligible for nomination. Nominations must include the full name, address and signature of the nominating member, as well the signed consent of the candidate.
- c. With the exception of Pamela Küstner and John McManus, the existing committee are prepared to continue. They are: Law Pinto, Anita Arnott, Reinoud Boers, Gerry Gallow, Hilary Geber, Barry Jacoby, Louise Mackechnie, Anne Raeburn, Graham Reeks and John Wright.

Law Pinto (Chairman)

30 March 2017

NOMINATION FORM

Iof (address)

Being a paid-up member of the Society, hereby nominate.....

of..... as a committee member for the 2017/2018 year.

Signatures: Proposer Date..... Seconder..... Date.....

Nominee Date.....