

Friends of the South African Museum

Postal address: P O Box 61 Cape Town 8000 South Africa

Physical address: 25 Queen Victoria Street Cape Town South Africa

Phone: 021 481 3913 **Fax:** 021 481 3993 **Cell:** 072 225 6893 **e-mail:** samfriends@iziko.org.za

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2007

As the equinox slips by and we enjoy the first glorious autumn days we can look forward to an interesting programme of lectures and adventurous outings for the Friends – please read on.

LECTURE PROGRAMME FOR 2007: All lectures take place on the last Tuesday of each month at **19:00** in the T H Barry Lecture Theatre at the South African Museum. Booking is not necessary unless otherwise advertised. Lectures are free for members and non-members pay R20.

Tuesday 24 April 2007

Speaker: Prof. Heinz Rüter

Topic: African Cultural Heritage and Landscapes Database

Many of the continent's heritage sites are falling into ruin with little concern for their national and historical value, even those with the prestigious Unesco World Heritage Site tag. UCT's Prof. Heinz Rüter has the fascinating task of documenting Unesco World Heritage Sites in Africa and has been creating a digital archive for generations to come. He will tell us of his recent work in Mali, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania.

Tuesday 29 May 2007

Speaker: Dr Thebe Medupe

Topic: Astronomy in Africa

Dr Thebe Medupe's, astronomer and film star – a stellar combination! – , interest in astronomy was sparked when Halley's comet passed near Earth in 1996, and at 13 he built his first telescope and made a map of the Moon. He holds a PhD from UCT, and is currently senior lecturer at UCT and at the SAAO. His life story became part of the film, Cosmic Africa, in which he visited remote villages in Africa searching for ordinary villagers' knowledge about astronomy – his life's passion.

Join us on Tuesday 29 May and listen to Thebe telling us about astronomy in Africa.

Tuesday 26 June 2007

Speaker: Dr David Klatzow

Topic: *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? Who's guarding the guardians?*

Well known, and opinionated forensic consultant, Dr David Klatzow will speak about some of his interesting investigations during the course of his 20 year involvement in forensic science. He has come across great forensic blunders, high profile investigations and often becomes involved in arson, murder, suicide and insurance-type work. Join us on 26 June and find out just who is guarding the guardians!

SOUTHWEST NAMIBIA TOUR: MONDAY 23 APRIL – MONDAY 30 APRIL 2007 – FULLY BOOKED

However, if you were unable get a place for this trip and you enjoy roughing it, Dr John Almond will be running a camping trip following a similar programme from Saturday 5 May – Saturday 12 May. Contact him directly on naturaviva@universe.co.za or 021 462 3622.

FOSSILS 2007: 2 – 6 May 2007

Dr Roger Smith will be leading the ever-popular fossil hunting trip again this year in the Beaufort West district. **SHARED** accommodation has been arranged at the Karoo National Park outside Beaufort West where there are options for camping, self catering or catered accommodation and special rates for pensioners.

Cost: Camping:	Members: R1 000	Non-members: R1 225
Cottages:	Members: R1 650	Non-members: R1 980
Pensioners:	Members: R1 220	Non-members: R1 460
Single supplement:	R1 060	

Included: Four nights' accommodation and breakfast, dinner on the first night and a braai on the last night, morning and afternoon refreshments in the field.

Not Included: Dinner for two nights, lunches for four days, and any additional snacks and drinks you may require during days in the field.

PRINCE ALBERT – The gem of the Karoo: 15 – 17 June 2007

Discover the natural wonders of this delightful Karoo town nestled at the foot of the towering Swartberg mountains with geologist/palaeontologist Dr Judy Maguire. Wander through the town after dark with Ailsa Tudhope as she tells well researched and wonderful ghost stories, visit Gay's cheese factory and taste her award winning cheeses, see the Barella gemstone collection, dine on Karoo lamb and other specialities of the district. For a sneak preview of the programme contact Maxine at any of the numbers provided in this newsletter.

HEX VALLEY PASS EXPRESS AND NATURAL WONDERS OF GECKO ROCK: 24 – 26 August

Take a unique railway journey through the Hex Valley Pass and spend two days exploring the botany, geology and scenic beauty of the Gecko Rock Nature Reserve near Touwsriver under the guidance of Dr John Almond. Accommodation is at a tented campsite and will be self catering. Book early as numbers are limited to only 20 participants. Should there be sufficient demand a second trip will take place on the following weekend, 31 August – 2 September 2007. Details available from the Friends office on any of the numbers provided in this newsletter.

ACCOMMODATION ON ALL OVERNIGHT TRIPS IS ON A SHARED BASIS AND BOOKINGS ARE ONLY SECURED WITH A 50% DEPOSIT.

Wednesday 11 July 2007

Guided tour of the Groote Schuur Manor House lead by the delightful curator, Alta Kriel when she will share her love for this historic home and the artworks, furniture and old silver collections it contains. Listen to stories of some of the characters who have occupied the residence and enjoy tea on the verandah with vistas stretching across the gardens and up towards the mountain.

Numbers strictly limited to 20 participants

Cost: Members: R50; non-members: R60

Bookings open: 1 April 2007

Saturday 8 September 2007

Cavorting in Darling with Philke Cakebread

Bookings open: 1 June 2007

Enjoy the splendour of the spring flowers with the expert guidance of Philke Cakebread. Take a short walk in a farmer's field to see Bokbaaivygies, visit the Tienie Versfeld Reserve, Oudepost, Waylands and other special spring treats.

Friday 26 October 2007

Nature at twilight in Kirstenbosch with Philke Cakebread

Bookings open: 1 July 2007

Details will be provided later in the year.

DONATIONS: Thanks to the wonderful support of our members the Friends of the South African Museum have been able to make the following donations to the South African Museum during the past year.

Library: *The Agulhas Current* by JRE Lutjeharms of UCT has been donated by the Friends to the library at the South African Museum in memory of Martina Roeleveld-Campagno who passed away last year. Martina was instrumental, along with Sheryl Ozinsky, in starting the Friends organisation in March 1987 and served as the first chairperson. A special thanks to Evan Bloch, son of Munro the Friends chair, who bought the book in the USA and personally delivered it to Cape Town in December. The book was presented to Dr Patricia Davison, Iziko Executive Director: Core Functions, at the February lecture.

Planetarium: The Friends have also been able to donate two new data projectors and two screens to the Planetarium for use in the TH Barry Lecture Theatre and the Whale Well. Our particular thanks go the Theo Ferreira who is always available to ensure that all our audio-visual needs are met for lectures and presentations.

Karoo Palaeontology Laboratory: The Friends were able to donate a much-needed new microscope which will be used in the display area.

Letter from Dr Roger Smith. Head of Karoo Palaeontology:

The microscope that you donated to the Karoo Palaeontology Lab has been delivered from IMP. I have checked it out and it is in full working order and ready to be put into production. We will begin training immediately whilst Zaituna and Tobeka are in our lab. They will move back to the display once the large dinosaur skeleton has been mounted and the public are again allowed access.

On behalf of all in Karoo Palaeontology we would like to extend our sincere thanks to you all for this donation. We are also grateful for your continued interest in our activities and hope that the annual Karoo trip will be as well supported this year as it has for the past 15 years.

Yours sincerely, Roger

MEMBERSHIP: It is so thrilling to see the membership growing each month – in fact our membership has increased 385% over the last four years and there are currently 733 members of the organisation. Thank you all for your continuing enthusiasm and support.

SPECIAL THANKS must go to Cynthia Querido, Iziko Press Officer, who circulates attention-grabbing publicity of all our events to her vast network of contacts. Particular thanks also go to the hard working committee of dedicated volunteers – Munro Bloch, Greg Harvey, Medeé Rall, Richard Borden, Elmara Willis, Bertha Blackwood-Murray, Brian Warner who work behind-the-scenes to put together the varied lecture series and interesting outings for members.

NOTE FROM MEDEË: A special thanks to Maxine, the face of the Friends, who is always present and on the other side of her numerous phones.

2007 RENEWALS: Membership of the Friends of the South African Museum is valid for a calendar year – January to December. Renewal notices were sent to all members in October, December and January and are available on the website – <http://www.iziko.org.za/sam/friends/html>. If you have forgotten to renew your membership for 2007 you have until 31 March to do so. Any subscriptions not renewed by 31 March will be deemed to have lapsed and names will be deleted from the database.

ELECTRONIC TRANSFERS: As technology takes over it also presents some mysteries. There are an ever-increasing number of unidentified deposits in the Friends bank account. Please ensure when making an electronic transfer or depositing directly into the bank account that your name and the word 'subscription', or relevant activity, is clearly stated and that you forward a copy of the transaction by fax, e-mail or post to the Friends office so we have a paper trail to follow. If you have not received a 2007 membership card or any acknowledgement of a payment made to the Friends please contact the office.

OFFICE HOURS: The Friends office, at the South African Museum, is attended by Maxine and Jill on Wednesdays and Fridays from 09:30 to 15:30. Should you wish to make contact at other times you may phone Maxine at 072 225 6893.

WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS: It is a real pleasure to welcome the following new members who have recently joined – we look forward to meeting you at our future activities.

Brenda Abbot	Gerald Groenewald	Bruce O'Shea-Hamilton
Jeanne Bard	Sheelagh Hamilton	Maeri O'Shea-Hamilton
Eileen Bass	Michael Hosty	Patrick O'Shea-Hamilton
Jill Cohen	Bevan Jennings	Tahlia O'Shea-Hamilton
Mark Cornwall	Kirsten Jensen	Colin Sinclair-Smith
Susan Cornwall	Cheryl Johnson	Rosalie Sinclair-Smith
de'Lysai Cowley	Herenard Jones	Ronayne Roberts (UK)
Ina Engelbrecht	Sheila Jones	Meriel Robertson
Julien Erwin	Vivien Jones	Sipokazi Sambumbu
Lorraine Forbes	Conchessa Louw	Joy Saxon
Diana Franklin	Murray Louw	Linda Sealy
Jane Goodfellow	Sonia Norton (UK)	Marie Slabbert
		Melt Van Schoor

Maxine Davies

Editor – Newsletter

Friends of the South African Museum