

Friends of the South African Museum

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NEWSLETTER – July 2007

As the rain fills our dams and we snuggle around our fires do spare a thought for those who are experiencing all manner of hardship as a result of the cold and the rain and make a positive contribution towards helping them at this time.

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 Iziko South African Museum, unless another venue is indicated. Booking is not necessary unless otherwise advertised. Lectures are free for members and non-members pay R20.00. **Members, in all categories, are asked to show their membership cards at all times.**

PARKING AT THE IZIKO SOUTH AFRICAN MUSEUM: Limited parking is available within the Museum grounds when attending functions. Please respect the guidance of the Iziko parking attendants who are dressed in black and have official name tags, and not the 'freelancers' in reflective jackets. **Please DO NOT park in Government Avenue under any circumstances.** The Avenue is covered by CCTV cameras and should anyone use it as a parking space the Traffic authorities are quick to react, as happened during the June lecture when they arrived and took names.

Tuesday 31 July 2007

Speaker: Dr Rik de Dekker

Topic: The changing face of mountain rescue

Venue: Whale Well at the Iziko South African Museum

Mountain rescue has matured over the years – from erstwhile times when one had to be completely self-reliant, to the current situation where you can access speedy and efficient rescue at the push of a cell phone button. In the past decade or two, the Cape mountains have seen an exponential increase in the number of rescues, ranging from trivial to tragic. Currently, on average, three rescues are performed weekly in our mountains: a record total of 149 incidents in 2006. What has caused this rapid increase in rescues? How have rescue services managed to meet the demand? This talk will outline the history of mountain rescue in the Western Cape, illustrate some of the techniques used by rescuers, and how these have evolved over time.

Tuesday 28 August 2007

Speaker: Jesse Lewis

Topic: Dr Jotello Soga

Born in the Cape Colony, the 4th son of the Reverend Tiyo Soga, a Xhosa and a Scots mother (Janet Burnside), he was the first South African born man to qualify as a veterinarian. It is recorded that he entered the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh in 1881 and obtained his MRCVS in April 1886. After qualifying he returned to South Africa and on 01.11.1889 he was appointed as Duncan Hutcheon's (P.V.O. Cape Colony) second assistant (J.D. Borthwick was the first) and served as a District Veterinarian in many places in the Cape Colony. The hard and dangerous work he undertook in combating Rinderpest by the "stamping out" process caused a deterioration in his health and he was forced to resign from the service in 1899. He died on 06.12.1906 on Mr A P Fitchett's farm, Amalinda and was buried there.

Tuesday 25 September 2007

Speaker: Prof Maano Ramutsindela

Topic: Transfrontier Parks

In the early 1990's Africa and the rest of the world experienced the launching of transfrontier parks as the model for nature conservation for the 21st century. The southern African region, under the leadership of South Africa, recognised that if these parks were to achieve their conservation goals, they would need to cross political boundaries. The decision to create transfrontier parks has raised a number of questions. Prof Ramutsindela from the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science at U C T will discuss ecological, political and economic reasons for the establishment of these parks, gained in developing the first generation of transfrontier parks on the African continent.

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL LECTURE

Wednesday 24 October at 19:00

Speaker: Clem Sunter

Venue: Whale Well at the Iziko South African Museum

Topic: China's Game: The Dragon in Africa

Well-know scenario planner and popular speaker, Clem Sunter, will provide insights into 'China's game' and vision for Africa gathered during consultations and discussions with China's top business people in 2006.

Tuesday 27 November 2007

Brian Warner and Friends

Natural history with a poetic twist of wit, ingenuity and humour

Venue: The Whale Well at the Iziko South African Museum

PRINCE ALBERT WEEKEND: Report back.

A group of Friends enjoyed an interesting and varied weekend in Prince Albert in mid-June when they explored many different aspects of this delightful Karoo town and had the opportunity to interact with some of its fascinating people.

On Friday the group visited the Barella mineral collection, with specimens gathered from all over the world by Lydia Barella and her late husband. The group then moved on to Gay's dairy. Imagine a vivacious lady with forty Guernsey cows and her own award winning cheese-making business. You find her at Gay's Dairy where we tasted and then bought some wonderful cheeses from the wide selection made on the premises..

Food – well that's another story: Bokkie Botha's restaurant, the Olive Branch, where the group had dinner on the first night, was an epicurean experience to remember.

Our guide and hostess for the weekend was the inimitable Dr Judy Maguire who told us about the town and its characters; including the Fransie Pienaar Museum, her life with the San (Bushmen) in the Kalahari, the geological wonders and history of the Swartberg Pass as well as her own archaeological museum. Yet another highlight was the challenging climb up to a cave on Judy's farm to see a rare example of a rock art 'swallow' – the only rock art in the area.

On Saturday evening the Friends joined a group of local Friends' societies for soup and homemade bread enjoyed around a campfire as they listened to storyteller, Ailsa Tudhope, master of this special oral art.

Thanks to committee member, Elmara Willis, for leading the group on this excursion.

GROOTE SCHUUR MANOR HOUSE GUIDED TOUR: Report back.

The weather was cold and blustery, but the group of Friends who spent the morning discovering the treasures of the Groote Schuur Manor House had a most enjoyable time as Najwaa guided them from room to room and recounted stories of the exhibits and of the previous inhabitants. Thanks to stalwart committee member, Richard Borden, for leading this group.

HEXPASS EXPRESS AND NATURAL WONDERS OF GECKO ROCK (repeat excursion):

31 August – 2 September 2007

Take a unique railway journey through the Hex 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.

Cost: Members – R700.00; Non-Members – R840.00

Cost includes campsite only. There are a limited number of tents available for hire (R75.00).

Book early as numbers are limited to 22 participants.

CLANWILLIAM: AN EXCURSION WITH PROF JOHN PARKINGTON: 17/19 SEPTEMBER 2007

Prof John Parkington, from U C T, will lead an excursion around archaeological, palaeontological and historical localities in the Clanwilliam region to illustrate the work of the Clanwilliam Living Landscape Project (CLLP). These are sites used by CLLP in its initiatives into enrichment of the school curricula and job creation.

For further details please contact Maxine or Jill at the 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.

Tuesday 4 September 2007

Cavorting in Darling with Philke Cakebread

Join Philke Cakebread for the day and explore the floral gems of the Darling district. Take a short walk in a farmer's field to see *bokbaaiwygies*, discover the many different bulbs in the Tienie Versfeld Reserve. Continue on to Oudepost to see the cup-of-wine flower, endemic to the area, before driving through Waylands. Our cavorting ends at Contreberg Farm where we will find the pink *Ixia scillaris*.

Cost: Member – R175.00 Non-Members – R200.00 **Bring your own picnic lunch and refreshments.**

Cost includes return bus trip and entrance fees. Limited to 24 participants, members will have preference.

Weather: In the event of unsuitable weather this trip will take place on Thursday 6 September. Those who have booked for this trip will be advised in advance if there is to be any change of date. Final details of travel arrangements will be provided nearer the time.

Saturday 6 October 2007 at 09:30

Intriguing Intaka Island with Philke Cakebread

Spend an interesting morning discovering the many bird species and indigenous plants in the tranquility of this natural oasis close to the City Bowl. See how a working wetland can exist in harmony with the largest shopping and entertainment complex in Africa. Walk around the ephemeral pans that are associated with sand plain fynbos typical of the Cape Flats of 200s year ago. Bring binoculars and your own picnic lunch to enjoy in one of the two bird hides. Limited to twenty-four participants; members have preference.

Cost: Members R50.00 Non-members R60.00

Bookings for these two outings will only be confirmed on receipt of the full payment

WEBSITE: Keep up to date with all the activities at Iziko South African Museum by looking at the regularly updated website – <http://www.iziko.org.za/sam/friends/html>. This will take you directly to the Friends of the South African Museum page where you will find the latest newsletter as well as an archive of previous editions. A membership application form can also be downloaded if you want to give to your friends. You will find some of the images from previous outings which will give you an idea of the kind of activities enjoyed by the Friends.

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 Iziko South African Museum is attended by Maxine Davies and Jill Franks on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 – 16:00. 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 pleasure to welcome the following new members who have recently joined the Friends – we look forward to meeting you at our future activities.

Jean-Mary Brechin

Marion Ellis

Elizabeth Franklin

Fritz Korte

Inge Meyer

Anton Roux

Louise & Vaughan Snyders

Donald Spinell

Maxine Davies

Editor – Newsletter

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