



Friends of Iziko South African Museum

MARCH Newsletter

2010

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

Non-profit Organisation 052-511-NPO

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The Friends programme for 2010 got off to a good start in February with a 'full house' lecture on Darwin by Dr Joe Tyrrell. The year has only just begun and already we have a programme packed with fascinating lectures, one and two day excursions and of course the annual five day fossil hunting trip. We look forward to seeing you at these activities. We have done our best to avoid coinciding with any World Cup events!

● **Lecture Programme for 2010**

Lectures are held in the TH Barry Lecture Theatre at Iziko South African Museum at 19:00 unless otherwise advertised. There is no charge for members on presentation of their membership cards with the 2010 sticker; visitors will pay R30-00.

SNAKEBITE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Tuesday 30 March 2010

Dr Phillip Cohen

Snakebite in South Africa is poorly taught and consequently poorly dealt with and management is often very confused and haphazard. This often results in inappropriate use of antiserum.

Based on 30 years' experience of dealing with snake envenomation in Kwazulu Natal, a simple management protocol has been developed which has easy-to-follow guidelines and should ensure that snakebite victims are properly managed, even by inexperienced personnel. This process will be described with numerous illustrations of snakes and of snakebite victims.

This talk was recently presented to the Congress of Emergency Medicine in Cape Town at the CTICC and may appeal to those who enjoy walking on the mountain, hiking across the country and those who enjoy camping and the outdoor life.

Tuesday 20 April 2010

Speaker to be confirmed

NB: Tuesday 27 April is a public holiday so the April lecture has been moved forward one week and will take place on 20 April.

CYCADS - A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE OLDEST LIVING SEED PLANTS

Tuesday 25 May 2010

Professor John Donaldson

Cycads are the oldest living seed plants and the most threatened group of plants worldwide. Most of all, they are a fascinating group of plants with over 300 million years of natural history. Their history tells the story of the early development of seed plants, the emergence of insect pollination, the evolution of defensive structures and compounds, and the survival of many major environmental changes. Their more recent history is dominated by collapse and decline due to competition for habitat and the relentless pressure of collectors but it also tells the story of ongoing adaptation and evolution. The talk will cover a wide range of cycad natural history, with many photographs ranging from the grasslands of South Africa to the jungles of Panama. The issues relating to cycad survival and conservation will be interwoven with reports on their natural history.

APARTHEID IN MEDICINE

Tuesday 22 June 2010

NB: This lecture has been moved forward one week because there is a soccer match in Cape Town on our usual lecture night.

Dr David Stein

Dr David Stein qualified and practised as a doctor and surgeon during the apartheid era. The talk reveals the awful iniquities and evils of the system that many find impossible to accept even today. The talk is not a complete history of apartheid, but describes his personal experiences.



Outings in 2010

TABLE MOUNTAIN OVERNIGHT AND HIKE

Sunday 21 and Monday 22 March 2010 (*Monday is a Public Holiday since Human Rights Day falls on the Sunday*)

Committee member, Erik Kiderlen, has arranged a 2-day hike on Table Mountain which includes overnighting in the People's Trail hut. The route will be from

Constantia Nek to Orange Kloof, Disa Gorge to the dams on the top of the mountain. Hopefully the Disas will be in bloom to enjoy along the way. Once on top the group can take short hikes to caves, Kasteelport Gorge and the Dam Museum and stargaze in the evening.

This is a unique opportunity to explore different places of interest on the mountain with Erik's expert guidance and to sleep over in this spectacular setting. Numbers are limited to sixteen so book early.

The People's Trail hut has hot and cold running water, indoor toilets, kitchen with gas stove, a fireplace and a covered braai area. Accommodation is dormitory style with double bunks in three separate rooms.

Participants should bring comfortable hiking boots, food, appropriate clothing, sleeping bags and a daypack. A vehicle will take hiker's overnight kit up to the hut.

Cost: Members, R300-00; non-members, R350-00. Payment in full will secure your booking.

FOSSILS 2010

Wednesday 5 to Sunday 9 May 2010

Dr Roger Smith will once again be guiding enthusiastic fossil hunters through the mysteries and fun of finding fossils in the Great Karoo. This year the fossil hunters will be exploring in the Graaff Reinett area. Accommodation is in the centre of town.

This is always a popular outing on the Friends calendar so do book early.

Cost: Members, R2,200-00; non-members, R2,500-00. This includes full board as well as a lunch box and refreshments in the field during the day.

Bookings will be secured with the payment of a 50% deposit. Final payment will be due by 1 April.

A TALE OF TWO TIDES: DALEBROOK ROCKPOOLS

Saturday 29 May at 9:30–11:30

Join the ever-popular Philke Cakebread, a retired marine biologist, in exploring the diverse plant and animal life on the rocky shore at Dalebrook. This is a Marine Reserve between St James and Kalk Bay. We will observe the zonation of certain plants and animals according to their tolerance, or lack of it, to the physical stresses imposed by the tides.

A reasonable fitness is required for walking on the fairly flat rocks and for bending to observe life in the rock pools. Wear shoes with a good tread – 'wild and wet' hiking boots or tackies. Bring a towel and an extra pair of shoes in case you get wet feet! Bring a jacket and a sun hat.

Cost: Members, R60-00; non-members, R80-00. Booking is secured with your payment in full.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES AT THE TWO OCEANS AQUARIUM

Saturday 24 July from 12:00–15:00

This is your opportunity to enjoy a two-hour, front-of-house guided tour and an hour behind-the-scenes tour at the Two Oceans Aquarium. The combined tour will finish in time for you to see the penguins being fed followed by the daily fish feeding. Cost and final details available soon.



Looking Ahead in 2010

A 'behind-the-scenes' visit to the newly refurbished Social History Centre is planned in the latter part of the year once the collections have all been moved from storage. There will also be a guided tour and behind-the-scenes look through the historical treasures hidden away at the Naval Museum in Simonstown. Details will be given well in advance.

Members can look forward to a repeat of the popular Robben Island overnight trip with a geological and historical focus in July, a repeat of the successful Wellington Wine Walk in October and more Table Mountain hikes.

If you have any places of special interest that could be incorporated into the Friends programme in 2010 please let me know. This is your organisation and your ideas and participation in the planning process is much appreciated.



Subscription Renewals

Remember that in order to make full use of your membership benefits your card will be valid from 1 January only if it has the 2010 sticker attached. Renewal notices were sent out to all members on 13 November and were included again in the December newsletter. If you have not yet renewed your membership please do so now. If your membership is not renewed by 31 March it will be assumed that you no longer wish to remain a member of the Friends and your name will be removed from the database. This then could well be the last newsletter you receive.



Electronic Transfers

I continue to receive unidentified deposits in the Friends bank account. If you do not receive your 2010 membership sticker please let me know when you made your deposit. It is important that 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 can trace your deposit.



News from the Friends Office

I will be in Australia from mid-March until early April. As always Jill Franks will keep the office running smoothly during that time. Remember that the office will only be attended on Wednesdays and Fridays between 09:30–14:00.



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.

Patricia Attenborough
Peter Attenborough

Fadia Gamieldien

Liz McKenzie

rough
Angela Desmidt
Patricia Fine

Una Graven
Lucy Howse
Jock McKenzie

Chez Pool
Elizabeth Shaw
Heidi Timm

Maxine Davies
Editor – Newsletter
Friends of Iziko South African Museum