



S A ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY *
Western Cape Branch
[Including the Southern Cape]

**NEWSLETTER: 2011 - 4: SEPTEMBER –
NOVEMBER 2011**

Dear Members,

This is the last newsletter of the year; please diarize our forthcoming activities:

13 September – monthly meeting and talk

11 October - monthly meeting and talk

15 November – end of the year party – **N.B. third Tuesday!**

15 November – monthly meeting and talk

Registered as a Nonprofit Organisation; Number 024-893-NPO, Nonprofit Organisations Act, 1997

We remind you of the **two important matters** we brought to your attention in our previous newsletter:

The Society's new telephone number is **021 712 3629**;

The Society's Treasurer has resigned and the Society would be grateful to receive offers from any members with some experience in office management and financial investment who would like to volunteer for the position.

MONTHLY MEETING – 13 SEPTEMBER 2011

TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 17:30 for 18:00 at the SA Astronomical Observatory auditorium: Sally Titlestad: “Whose history is this anyway? The Complex Cultural Landscape of VOC Rondebosch”

In 2005 the University of Cape Town proposed a new building on their middle campus. A heritage impact assessment was required, but to most it seemed no more than a technicality. As part of the HIA a spatial history assessment focused on the history of Rustenburg.

In 2007 the Department of Public Works appointed consultants to undertake a Conservation Management Plan for the Presidential portions of the Groote Schuur Estate. A spatial history assessment also formed part of this process.

Using the tools and practices of historical archaeology (documents and maps/plans and social history documents) together with visual technology, changes in the environment resulting from human settlement and its shifts over time were traced and mapped. The processes were troubled by the need to debunk oft-repeated myths of popular social history, deal with contradictions and the unexpected, and assess whose histories were most at risk of being lost, whether that mattered and to whom.

The ‘spatialisation’ of social history and land custodianship issues in past and present contexts revealed questions about history and heritage. These questions will be explored using visual evidence from the two studies, which cover the cultural landscape stretching across the lower west slopes of Devil’s Peak.

MONTHLY MEETING – 11 OCTOBER 2011

TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 17:30 for 18:00 at the SA Astronomical Observatory auditorium: Justin Bradfield: "A macrofracture analysis of bone tipped hunting weapons"

The use of formally fashioned bone points as possible components in hunting weaponry is seen by some as a marker of behavioural modernity. Unfortunately, their interpretation as hunting weapons is usually based on morphological analogy with modern hunter-gatherer artefacts.

The aim of this study was to combine the standard morphological approach to studying bone points with macrofracture analysis. Macrofracture analysis has been successfully used for the past 30 years to discern stone tools that were subjected to longitudinal impact, the most likely cause of which is hunting. This approach was adopted to test whether the same technique can be applied to bone points and whether the bone points that are found in archaeological deposits, as far back as c. 77 thousand years ago at Blombos Cave, were used as hunting weapons.

Through the experimental replication of a hunting scenario, 28 bone points were tested in hand-thrust and mechanically projected hunting activities. The results of this experiment show that macrofractures develop similarly on bone points as on stone tools. Comparison between these results and those obtained on archaeological specimens from 9 sites across South Africa reveal the probable hunting uses of Middle Stone Age bone points.

END OF THE YEAR PARTY – 15 NOVEMBER 2011

As has become our genial custom, your Committee cordially invites members to enjoy snacks, refreshments and social conviviality.

A donation of R40-00 per person – or a donation of a plate of eats, if you prefer – would be appreciated.

BOOKING - for catering purposes: If you would like to stay for the party please book **by Tuesday 8 November** by contacting **Connie Feast: Tel: 021 689 5921**

MONTHLY MEETING – 15 NOVEMBER 2011

TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 17:30 for 18:00 at the SA Astronomical Observatory auditorium: Alan Morris: "Prehistoric Murder: the interface between forensics and archaeology".

Forensic anthropology is the field that investigates crimes with evidence from bones, but the same techniques that can help solve modern-day murders can also be used to investigate more ancient events from archaeological contexts. Can we identify 'unnatural' deaths in the past, and what do they mean?

This talk will look at the nature of forensic anthropological evidence and how it sheds light on violence in historic and prehistoric cases from South Africa. The talk will also be an opportunity to launch Prof Morris' new book on forensic anthropology entitled "Missing and Murdered". Although the book is mostly about forensic cases, it also contains a long chapter on archaeological remains and discusses some of the same issues that will be raised in this talk."

[Note: Prof Morris's book will be on sale at the reduced cash price of R190]

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

VENUE, SHERRY & PARKING:

VENUE: Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held at the lecture theatre of the **SA Astronomical Observatory, Liesbeeck Parkway, Observatory.**

SHERRY: Those attending Society meetings are invited to enjoy a glass of sherry or port before the meeting from 17:30.

PARKING: Entry via security control. Secure parking in grounds.

OUTINGS:

A fee is payable, depending on the nature of the outing. See announcement of outing.

Each person must see to his/her own refreshments and First Aid for ALL outings. Unless otherwise stated, walking on outings is not strenuous, but may involve rough terrain. Wear a hat, adequate leg covering and stout shoes on "veld" outings.

The Society's website address is:
<http://www.archaeologysa.co.za/>

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

2011

ORDINARY: R230-00
JOINT: R245-00
JUNIOR < 25 yr R160-00

Membership is a national society matter and is not dealt with by the branch. Queries, applications, renewals, and change of address: Phone or e-mail – see below.

Postal Address:

The S.A. Archaeological Society,
P.O. Box 15700, Vlaeberg 8018.

Direct deposit to:

South African Archaeological Society,
Standard Bank, Cape Town
Branch Code 02 50 09
Account No. 07 051 012 1

Enter your WCA number and surname in the reference section on the deposit slip so that your payment can be identified; also, fax a copy to 021 712 3629, or e-mail **archsoc@iziko.org.za**.

2011/12	COMMITTEE	TEL [H]: (021)	E-MAIL
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Arch Soc Library	In storage for 4 years		n/a
S.A. Museum		021 481-3800	n/a
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