

Programme 2010

Western Cape Branch [Including the Southern Cape]

NEWSLETTER: 2010-1: FEBRUARY - JUNE

The branch offers monthly talks from February to November and occasional outings and overnight excursions.

For information contact Connie Feast on 021 689 5921 or Yvonne Viljoen at yv3@mweb.co.za

9 March 2010 INTRODUCING THE FIRST LADY: THE RECENT DISCOVERY OF A 35,000 YEAR OLD FIGURINE FROM HOHLE FELS CAVE IN SOUTHWESTERN GERMANY. *Lecture by Nicholas J. Conard. University of Tübingen.*

13 April 2010 HUNTER-GATHERER COMMUNITIES IN THE DUTCH WETLANDS IN THE NEOLITHIC TRANSITION PERIOD 5500 – 3200 BC: HARDINXVELD AND YPENBURG. . *Lecture by Florentien Wijzenbeek*

11 May 2010 MPUMALANGA TERRACES. *Lecture by Tim Maggs*

8 June 2010 PERU. *Lecture by Lambert Vorster*

INTRODUCING THE FIRST LADY: THE RECENT DISCOVERY OF A 35,000 YEAR OLD FIGURINE FROM HOHLE FELS CAVE IN SOUTHWESTERN GERMANY

Nicholas J. Conard

Date: TUESDAY 9 March 17:30 for 18:00 .

***Venue: At the SA Astronomical Observatory auditorium,
Observatory***

Charge: Members free; Non-members R10

Ongoing excavations of the University of Tübingen at Hohle Fels Cave in the Swabian Jura of southwestern Germany have produced a number of unexpected finds. Perhaps most notable among these is a depiction of woman carved from mammoth ivory recovered from the basal Aurignacian deposits at the site. The figurine is ca. 6 cm high and weighs 33 grams. While lacking a head, the sculpture has highly pronounced sexual attributes that call to mind the much younger Venus figurines of the Gravettian period. This remarkable discovery is the earliest depiction of a human and throws much new light on the beginnings of figurative representation. This lecture describes the discovery of the Venus from Hohle Fels and its implications for our understanding of Paleolithic art.

**HUNTER-GATHERER COMMUNITIES IN THE
DUTCH WETLANDS IN THE NEOLITHIC
TRANSITION PERIOD 5500 – 3200 BC:
HARDINXVELD AND YPENBURG**

Florentien Wijssenbeek

Date: TUESDAY 13 April 2010 17:30 for 18:00 .

***Venue: At the SA Astronomical Observatory auditorium,
Observatory***

Charge: Members free; Non-members R10

In this talk I will discuss how Mesolithic hunter-gatherers in the Netherlands introduced Neolithic elements (pottery, stockbreeding and farming) into their lives. The conclusions are mainly based on Archaeological findings in two key sites, Hardinxveld and Ypenburg.

In 1997 and 1998 two excavations were carried out in Hardinxveld, The Netherlands, by Archol (Commercial Archeological Bureau University Leiden) under supervision of Professor Louwe Kooijmans. The archaeological sites were situated on Pleistocene riverbanks in the river estuary in the middle of Holland and were later overgrown by peat as a result of which beautiful organic remains were found. Revolutionary excavation techniques were used to excavate ten meters below surface. The findings suggest that hunter-gatherer communities used this riverbank as semi permanent base camps in winter during several phases between 5500 and 4450 BC.

In the Ypenburg district of The Hague, old human remains were discovered as a result of a search for Second World War bombs. Archaeological excavations were organized in 1998 by Hans Koot, the Municipal Archaeologist. This prehistoric burial site was situated on a dune belonging to the first structural coastal formations of the Western coastline of Holland. Forty-two individuals were found in thirty-one graves. Archaeological research in the following years revealed occupation traces and even house layouts. A reconstruction was made which showed a hunter gatherer community that sustained life with small-scale agriculture and stockbreeding (3800- 3200 BC)

MPUMALANGA TERRACES

Tim Maggs

Date: TUESDAY 11 May 2010 17:30 for 18:00 .

***Venue: At the SA Astronomical Observatory auditorium,
Observatory***

Charge: Members free; Non-members R10

PERU

Lambert Vorster

Date: TUESDAY 13 April 2010 17:30 for 18:00 .

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Charge: Members free; Non-members R10

Western Cape Branch Committee 2009/2010

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Asst. Meetings Co-ordinator	Audrey Joubert	761 2112	audrey@jouberts.net

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..
