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**8 March 2023**

**NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN CAPE BRANCH OF THE**

**SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Dear Member

The last few years have seen many changes in the ways in which the South African Archaeological Society fulfils its mandate to encourage and foster interest in archaeology and archaeological research by promoting adult education through lectures, excursions, publications and conservation.

The voluntary Western Cape Branch, led for many years by Yvonne Viljoen and her committee, has been exemplary in offering all this and more to widen public interest and guarantee a stimulating time for all our members. They have kept up with the times by offering a wide range of lectures on the second Tuesday in ten months out of twelve, stepped up during lockdown to offer them online, and organised some fabulous excursions to places as far afield as Mapungubwe on the Limpopo and caves on the southern Cape coast.

One of the drawbacks of our time with Covid-19 was the fact that we could not meet in person which limited our ability to hold an Annual General Meeting. We are now in a position where we need to re-group and move on to greater heights. Agatha Christie famously said that there were distinct advantages in marrying an archaeologist because the older you get the more interested they become. Nevertheless, when the majority of the members of your Branch Committee are in their 70s and nearing their 80s (or there already) and don’t wish to remain on the Committee, you might want some new eyes and ears to guide you.

To give a new cohort of members the chance to share the excitement of archaeology in the Western Cape and beyond, the Western Cape Branch will have its first Annual General Meeting since 2019 on Tuesday 11 April at 18:30 at the Observatory where members for a new Branch Committee must be elected.

We need you and other Branch members to identify at least ten people who have the energy and knowledge to begin a new era for the Archaeological Society. Please read the relevant extracts of the Constitutions attached and submit names or nominate them from the floor at the meeting as long as the person you propose is willing to stand and confirms this either in writing or in person.

Hon.Sec. Dr. Janette Deacon – S.A.A.S. COUNCIL