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# **PAL** NEWS NUUS

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( see page 4 )

CONTENTS - INHOUD

1. Editorial	1
2. Contact with NMC	2
3. Biostratigraphy Task Group	2
4. Unusual Vertebrate Track	3
5. Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists	6
6. News from Members	7
7. PSSA Conference Proceedings	17
8. Date and Venue: PSSA 5, 1988	17

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*Editor:*

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## EDITORIAL

### Once more into the breach...?

Is the Society heading for another crisis? The signs look as if they are all there, but perhaps we now have enough committed members out there to help hold it all together if the going gets tough in the near future.

Why do I say this? Well, once more we are teetering on the brink of a crisis of leadership. Most members will probably know by now the devastating news that our President, Dr Burger Oelofsen, is leaving active palaeontology and also South Africa itself. He has already left Stellenbosch University to take up a post in the Directorate of Seafisheries in SWA/Namibia. While I am certain that every member wishes Burger well in his new career, and warmly congratulates him on his appointment to his prestigious new post, there must be many who fear that the dark ages are about to descend on our Society once more as they did in the early eighties.

However, I am happy to report that in a recent letter from Burger he told me that the Executive Committee (Francis Thackeray and Juri van den Heever) persuaded him not to resign. So he will be carrying on, even though it will be by remote control from South West. With Francis and Juri looking after things locally we need not panic, but we do need to pull together to see the Society through this tricky spell.

I still want Burger to give me an editorial on his vision of palaeontology in this neck of the woods, so even though he is going to be a little distanced from palaeo by the demands of his new job, he needn't think he has got off Scot-free...!

Best wishes, Burger, and may it go well with you. Stay in touch because we need your guidance and leadership still. Come back to us soon.

Mike Raath  
EDITOR

## **CONTACT WITH NATIONAL MONUMENTS COUNCIL**

Our Hon. Secretary reports on a meeting that took place between the executive committee, led by the President, Dr Burger Oelofsen, and the Director of the National Monuments Council, Dr Chris Loedolff, on May 26th, 1987.

The discussions arose out of matters debated at the Fourth PSSA Conference in Cape Town in September 1986, especially the matter of illegal trade in fossils collected from South Africa.

During the meeting Dr Loedolff expressed the wish that members of the PSSA should inform the National Monuments Council of any incident(s) of illegal trading which they might come to know of. He also asked that members should state how serious they considered the matter to be and whether they would be prepared to stand up in court. Dr Oelofsen replied that he had no doubt that, should the need arise for a member of PSSA to appear in court as a witness to defend the interests of palaeontology, he/she would certainly do so. Any incident concerning illegal trading in fossils was felt to be a serious matter.

On the question of the activities of amateur palaeontologists and their possible impact on the scientific value of collectable fossils, it was suggested that means should be found to make the public aware of the importance of contextual information, and that they should contact professional palaeontologists should they find fossils. The possibility of distributing pamphlets with summary information (including addresses of Museums/Universities) was raised. Also, it was suggested that a network of displays of fossil material in private collection, curated with guidance from professionals, might encourage interest among members of the public. These suggestions would be pursued by the Committee together with members of the Society.

## **BIOSTRAT TASK GROUP STARTS WORK**

The Biostratigraphy Task Group of the South African Committee for Stratigraphy (SACS) held its inaugural meeting in Pretoria in March. Members of the Task Group include Prof Mike Raath (Chairman), Dr Herbie Klinger, Bruce Rubidge, and Ian McLachlan, with Dr André Keyser as Secretary.



Dr Mike Johnson attended this first meeting as Secretary of SACS to make sure that everything was "SACS kosher", and Dr Coertze of the Geological Survey directorate was also there to launch the Task Group and guide it through its initial steps. Procedural matters dominated this meeting, and preliminary ideas about biostratigraphic zonation of some parts of the South African succession, especially on the basis of Permian palynology, Stormberg tetrapods, and the Eccu-Beaufort transition, were discussed briefly. Formal proposals, drawn up in accordance with the requirements of SACS, have been invited for these specific items, but intending contributors do not need to wait for formal invitation to submit proposals. Guidelines will be drawn up and circulated widely.

### AN UNUSUAL VERTEBRATE TRACKWAY FROM THE LOWER BEAUFORT

by

Roger Smith

South African Museum, Cape Town

Located on the farm De Hoek near Beaufort West, this mysterious vertebrate trackway is unlike any described from the lower Beaufort to date. The footprints (+20 impressions) are preserved on the undulating top surface of a distal crevasse-splay sandstone being part of a sequence of argillaceous overbank deposits assigned on their fossil content to the *Pristerognathus*/*Diictodon* Assemblage Zone.

The surface is covered with straight to slightly sinuous-crested small current ripples indicating two flow directions linked by a zone of interference ripples. Palaeocurrent readings taken from numerous tool marks (scour grooves, skip and prod marks) correspond to the ripple azimuths. These marks were probably made by floating vegetation. Wrinkle marks are evident but the lack of rills and desiccation cracks indicates that this surface never fully emerged before being buried.

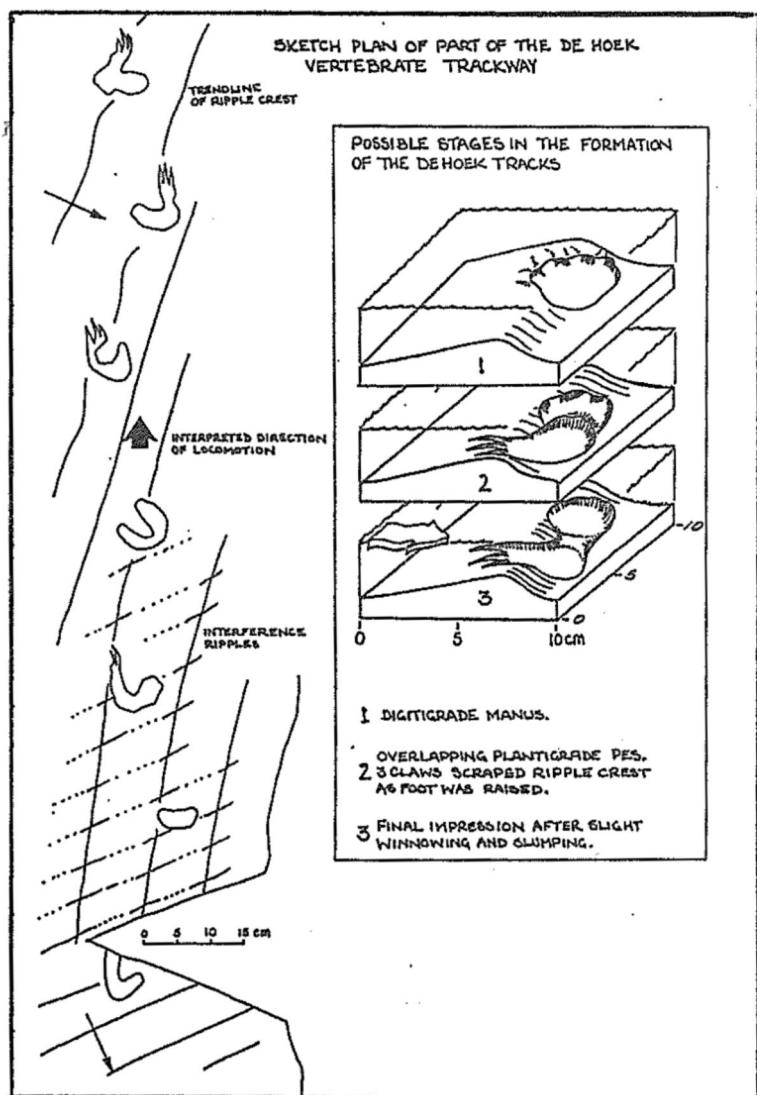
The tracks post-date the ripples, scour marks and wrinkle marks and were almost certainly made underwater by what at first glance appears to be a bipedal animal. Ruling out bipedalism amongst therapsids (and amphibians) we are left with the assumption that each impression represents a superimposed "pes-upon-manus" print.

Because the tracks were made under shallow moving water into waterlogged sand, it is likely that they have been somewhat modified by substrate liquifaction and localised turbulence. These effects however were not enough to eradicate the three distinct V-shaped grooves emanating from the presumed anterior margin of several impressions. These are interpreted as claw scrapes made by three digits of the pes as it was raised from the sand bed and impinged on ripple crests.



Closeup of a single "pes-upon-manus" print from the De Hoek trackway

The De Hoek trackway differs from others found in the Lower Beaufort in its narrowness and high degree of overlap of pes upon manus prints. Both these features point to a more upright, mammalian gait, as opposed to a sprawling reptilian progression. It is concluded that the tracks were made by a small fleet-footed predator - about the size of a domestic cat with long powerful hindlegs - running through the shallows of a distal flood basin lake. Therapsid candidates for such a trackway include a juvenile pristerognathid, a juvenile gorgonopsian, or perhaps an ictidosuchid.



## SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY (USA)

*(I have had a letter from Professor Bob Carroll regarding membership of South Africans in the SVP. He writes:)*

"Dear Mike,

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology is now making a special effort to attract members from outside North America. Although the Society was founded in the United States, our activities are certainly international, and I think you will agree that all persons actively working with fossil vertebrates would benefit from membership.

Only four vertebrate paleontologists from South Africa are currently members of the Society, but I presume there must be quite a number of other active scientists, and especially students, who would be interested in joining. Would you be willing to write to potential members and offer to nominate them for membership, as either student, affiliate, or full member? A copy of the nomination form is enclosed (see centrespread).

It would be helpful to the profession if you were willing to accept this responsibility.

Sincerely,  
Bob Carroll"

*I am more than happy to do as Bob asks, so anyone who is interested in joining the SVP may certainly send a completed copy of the nomination form to me and I will sign it as nominator. The SVP Bulletin is a really useful newsletter that allows you to keep right up to date with what is going on in VP around the world, and members get a preferential deal on the very important Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates published by the SVP. In these days when many other international bodies are turning their backs on South Africans, it is a welcome change to see one that actually wants us as members!*

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

*(Once again as Editor I have a gripe about the poor response to my call for items for this issue. I suppose chronic - (?terminal) - frustration at the inertia of society members is an occupational disease that goes with being editor of any society publication; certainly members' apathy seems to be one of the inexorable cosmic burdens of the office! Anyway, to those who did respond with their news, my undying gratitude! Members like you are worth their weight in gold, whatever the prevailing gold price!)*

### SOUTH AFRICAN MUSEUM, CAPE TOWN:

*Members will be interested to learn that the new extensions to the South African Museum will be officially opened on August 6th, and that a prominent figure in international palaeontology, our old friend Nick Hotton III, will be involved in the opening ceremonial. Ever since the SAM extended to our society the privilege of letting us hold our 4th PSSA Conference there, I'm sure many of you, like me, feel certain paternal and proprietary interests in what goes on in the "Moeder Museum". We wish Mike Cluver and his team every success and happiness in the new-look museum, and we look forward to exciting new palaeo displays. I can also recommend a visit to the new palaeo research department facilities - they are super! But don't just roll up and expect a conducted tour! Make prior arrangements with your colleagues first.*

#### Roger Smith

Current research is concentrated on the field description and taphonomic analysis of Lower Beaufort palaeosols. This is to be written up in preparation for a conference in September. Earlier this year, a couple of weeks were spent in the Karoo mapping some more exhumed palaeomeanders from the "Reiersvlei river". This time I was able to document several "shoestring sandstones" that represent the preserved deposits of narrow, low sinuosity distributary channels that were originally incised into the ancient floodplain. Whilst in the area, I excavated a complete helical burrow cast with the spiral and terminal

*(turn to page 10...)*

SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY  
Membership Application

Dear Secretary-Treasurer:

I want to become a member of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology:

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

(Please type or print)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Degrees with Dates & Schools \_\_\_\_\_

Major Interest(s) in Vertebrate Paleontology \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
Membership categories (please check one)

Regular Member \$57.00/yr \$\_\_\_\_\_  
(Receives Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, News Bulletin and has voting rights)

Associate Member \$22.00/yr \$\_\_\_\_\_  
(Receives News Bulletin only; no vote)

Student Member \$36.00/yr \$\_\_\_\_\_  
(Same as regular member)

Foreign Air Mail \$10.00/yr \$\_\_\_\_\_  
delivery of News Bulletin (optional  
(foreign members only)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$\_\_\_\_\_

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Please detach and return with appropriate dues, IN U.S. CURRENCY ONLY, to: Dr. David P. Whistler, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, Natural History Museum, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007 U.S.A. Thank you.

Membership Approval Procedure : After Dr. Whistler has received several nominations, he sends them to the SVP executive Committee for election to the Society. Upon election, new members will receive whatever publications their membership dues entitle them to. Membership is for the calendar year (January 1 - December 1). Dues notices are mailed in August. Members are charged an additional \$10.00 if dues are not received by January 10. Members are dropped if dues are not paid by February 1. Reminder/drop notices are mailed in January.

Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates : All volumes from 1973-77 to 1983 are available from SVP offices. The 1984 EFV is due to be published in September of 1987.

chamber intact. It is already mounted in the new palaeontology gallery due to be opened, with much ceremony, on August 6th this year. Nick Hotton III has accepted an invitation to attend opening week and deliver an evening lecture. Afterwards we hope to spend a week fossiling around Beaufort West.

During October last year we spent a few days in Bruce Rubidge's palaeontological wastelands down on the Ecca/Beaufort boundary. After hours of fruitless searching we decided that Bruce's "*Eodicynodon* Acme Zone" wasn't anywhere near Prince Albert! The sedimentology on the other hand was well worth the visit and we spent many hours walking in and out of the water before coming to rest on his palaeobeach.

Work is continuing on an open-air fossil exhibit in the Karoo National Park. The threat of the fossils being washed away caused Clive Booth, Annelise Crean and myself to make a rush trip to Beaufort West to lift the already prepared fossils, along with a fair chunk of their surrounding rock, and carry them to a more suitable site closer to the new information centre.

In April I attended the the SASQUA conference in Bloemfontein, giving a talk on Cretaceous crater lakes as part of the symposium on fluvial and lacustrine features. During the proceedings John Ward of Geological Survey, Windhoek, persuaded me to join his fieldtrip to the Namib/Kuiseb River area and take a close look at modern fine-grained ephemeral stream systems as a modern analogue to Upper Karoo sedimentation. The trip, organised by GSSA Sedimentology Division, was extremely informative, especially for the ichnologists. We saw that hardening of waning-flood silt drapes in both channel and overbank environments meant that no special circumstances are required to preserve palaeosurfaces. They last at least five years between successive floods and even survive the flash floods too. John and I are hoping to get together over Christmas to take a closer look at some relict Kuiseb overbank deposits known as the "Homeb Silts".



In September I am due to attend a GSA Penrose Conference in Oregon to learn about the palaeoenvironmental interpretation of palaeosols. Afterwards I will spend some time with Kay Behrensmeyer at the Smithsonian discussing our taphonomic work and learning something of her work on modern bone taphonomy before joining Nick Hotton's field trip to Texas.

Recent publications:

Smith, R M H (1987). Morphology and depositional history of exhumed Permian point bars in the south-western Karoo, South Africa. *J. Sed. Petrol.*, 57 (1): 19 - 29.

Smith, R M H (in press). Helical burrow casts of therapsid origin from the Beaufort Group (Permian) of South Africa. *Palaeogeogr., Palaeoclimatol., Palaeoecol.*, 60.

Smith, R M H (1986). Crater lakes in the age of dinosaurs. *Sagittarius*, 1 (1): 10 - 15.

Smith, R M H (1986). Trace fossils of the ancient Karoo. *Sagittarius*, 1 (3): 4 - 9.

Smith, R M H (1986). Sedimentation and palaeoenvironments of the Late Cretaceous crater-lake deposits in Bushmanland, South Africa. *Sedimentology*, 33: 369 - 386.

NATIONAL MUSEUM, BLOEMFONTEIN:

James Brink

I have completed my Masters thesis on the Florisbad fossils, which will be published in the *Memoirs of the National Museum*. A new phase of excavation is being planned at the site with the object of exploring the center of the spring mound and to further uncover a Middle Stone Age occupation horizon, which has been partly uncovered by recent excavations. This occurrence appears to be in primary context and can provide valuable insight into Middle Stone Age human behaviour.

A session on Florisbad, which formed part of the recently held SASQUA conference, was held at the site. This session included papers by Prof N J Grobler and Mr J C Looek on the regional geology and a paper by myself on the restudy of the Florisbad Old Collection.

### Bruce Rubidge

The Karoo Palaeontology Department of the National Museum is still involved in trying to work out what goes on in the Ecce-Beaufort contact in the southern Karoo as regards the palaeoenvironment as well as the reptilian fauna.

The dominant reptile is *Eodicynodon oosthuizeni* of which there are now slightly more than 35 prepared skulls. We have also started preparing postcranial material and have a number of forelimbs prepared, but unfortunately very few hindlimbs. Five dinocephalian skulls have been recovered and appear to have tapinocephalid affinities, although their taxonomic position is a bit of a problem at the moment. One of the gems of this collection is a small well-preserved skull of a dromosaur which I am describing at the present time.

In April I attended a very worthwhile two-day symposium on stratigraphic problems relating to the Beaufort-Ecce contact. This symposium was held at the new building of the Geological Survey in Pretoria, and was the first symposium to be held in that building. My paper at the symposium was entitled "South Africa's oldest land-living reptiles and the Ecce-Beaufort transition in the Southern Karoo", in which I pointed out that fossil reptiles have now been recovered from immediately above the stratigraphic position of the palaeoshoreline of the "Ecce Sea".

In October-November last year my field assistant, John Nyaphuli, and I spent two weeks collecting fossils from the Ecce-Beaufort contact area near Prince Albert and also mapping the position of the palaeoshoreline of the "Ecce Sea". Roger Smith, Annelise Crean and Paul Oktober spent a few days in the field with us in the beginning of November. As always, this proved to be a useful opportunity to exchange ideas while in the midst of the rocks rather than in the laboratory.

In April Prof Steve Fourie and I took the third year Zoology students of Free State University on a two-and-a-half day palaeontological excursion to Graaff-Reinet and Aliwal North. Our trip to Aliwal North was made possible by the efforts of Mr Boet du Plooy, who arranged

accommodation for the students and also took us to excellent fossil exposures.

Steve Fourie is having a fresh look at *Tritylodontoideus* and once again considers it to be quite distinct from *Tritylodon*, and rather to have closer affinities with the *Bienotheroides-Bocatherium* group.

Recent publication:

Rubidge, B S (1987). South Africa's oldest land-living reptiles from the Ecca-Beaufort transition in the southern Karoo. *S. Afr. J. Sci.*, 83: 165 - 166.

#### **BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, PRETORIA:**

##### **Heidi Anderson**

John and Heidi Anderson are busy completing vol. 2 of the Molteno Palaeoflora. This is a review of all the gymnosperms (excluding *Dicroidium* which has already been published as vol. 1). This will hopefully be completed in time to be published before the end of July when John reads a paper at the International Botanical Congress in West Berlin.

#### **PETER GALTON, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, USA:**

I have been concentrating on European prosauropods (*Plateosaurus* cranial anatomy, *Sellosaurus*) and more recently (for the last couple of years) on the stegosaur *Stegosaurus*. However, I have done a little research on southern African dinosaurs:

1. Partial hindlimb of *Blikanasaurus cromptoni* n. gen. and n. sp., representing a new family of prosauropod dinosaurs from the Upper Triassic of South Africa, *Geobios*, 18: 509-516 (with Jacques van Heerden) - from Lower Elliot Formation, an extremely massive tibia and pes;

2. Notes on the Melanosauridae, a family of large prosauropod dinosaurs (Saurischia: Sauropodomorpha). *Geobios*, 18: 671-676 - recognizing *Melanosaurus* as a valid genus separate from the plateosaurid *Euskelosaurus*, contra Jacques van Heerden and Michael Cooper's interpretations.

3. Cranial bones and endocranial cast of the stegosaur *Kentrosaurus* from the Upper Jurassic of Tanzania, East Africa. *Geol.*

*Palaeontologica Marburg* (in press). Complete redescription of long mislaid and recently rediscovered material in a supposedly empty drawer in the basement of the Humboldt Museum für Naturkunde - it only took me six years to finally locate this material!

#### ARTHUR CRUICKSHANK, LEICESTER MUSEUM:

I have been working in the Leicester Museum since January cataloguing their large collections of Jurassic marine crocodiles, ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs. The crocs are now just about sorted out, but the Augean Stables-like assemblage of ichthyosaurs looms ahead!

The collections were started in the 1840s and were adequately curated up to WW2. However, they were dispersed to "safe" storage between 1939 and 1948, and with staff changes and the loss and mislaying of records, their unpacking and subsequent curation has left a lot to be desired. As is not unusual, the Museum is basically understaffed and has only recently been able to raise "temporary" money to make good the backlog of curatorial problems inherited from the past. The competition for "worst-curved specimen" is still open! Entries can be submitted to me for refereeing, but the competition is very stiff!

The intention is to use the material to redo the Jurassic marine scene, to run in parallel with the display of our almost complete cetiosaur skeleton. Field work has concentrated on the County Geological Site Recording programme. It has involved confirming the existence and state of known sites, but there is hope that a new open-cast (strip mine) excavation will yield more than the few lung-fish scales so far recorded.

My publication programme has slipped a bit, and consists of a rebuttal of the refutations of Mike Benton and my re-interpretation of archosaur ankles ... not helped by the palaeo editor of *Nature* going to a new job and mislaying his files in the process. However, when all the paperwork has reached its addressees, and we get the replies to our comments, then one more note will happen!

Sue Gay's PhD on Tanzanian dicynodonts is drawing to its completion. She has been able to synonymise *Dicynodon huenei* Haughton with *D. leoniceps* Owen, thus equating the Kawinga Formation even more strongly with the "*Daptocephalus* Zone". She has also been able to

rationalise the *Dicynodon locusticeps* Huene problem - by confirming that it is in fact a species of *Pelanomodon* - but which...? As we do not have direct access to the types, this one will have to wait. *Pelanomodon* and *Geikia* do not seem to have the same close relationship which has been suggested recently. The taphonomy of *Geikia* (a unique set of holes in sandstone) is a study in itself, and all that can be said for it now is that it still does not have any close relationship with *Lystrosaurus*. She will round off the work with an analysis of dicynodont jaw musculature - comparative study - and other functional aspects of their anatomy, with submission due for late this year.

As the government, through its various agencies, continues to hack the British University system about indiscriminately, I'm afraid that I have nothing very much to amuse you in the way of palaeontologically light-hearted stories.

#### **BERNARD PRICE INSTITUTE, WITS UNIVERSITY:**

*There have been some pretty drastic changes here, too. Mike Raath resigned as Director and went to take over the directorship of the Port Elizabeth Museum, and Oom JWK has taken over as Acting Director. Now on top of everything he has to arrange for the opening of the new building in July - as if he doesn't have enough hay on his fork already!*

#### **Anusuya Chinsamy**

I am presently undertaking a study in the field of palaeohistology. Bone histology is thought to reflect directly or indirectly the growth rate, metabolic rate and/or activity levels of the animal concerned. My study concerns the variation in bone histology, bone vascularity and bone thickness index through ontogeny in the Nile crocodile, the Secretary Bird and the coelurosaurian dinosaur, *Syntarsus rhodesiensis*. The descriptive aspect of the thin sections has proved to be very interesting; however, it is the manner of quantification of this that is proving to be most fascinating. I am using Image Analysis as a means to quantify the data. Using this technique, I would be able to assess the size distribution of the blood vessels through the cortex of the bone, as well as gain insight into the percentage vascularisation of the bone at a particular stage of the animal's growth. I have just begun using this

technique, and am most eagerly awaiting the outcome of the study. Hopefully I should be able to present a more detailed report in the next issue of *PAL News/PAL Nuus*.

### Chris Gow

The early Jurassic crocodiles are rare, fragmentary, and poorly understood as a consequence. Some time ago James Kitching found an almost complete skeleton which turns out to be a second and smaller specimen of *Pedeticosaurus*; it looks like an agile, bipedal, terrestrial predator, and lacks the aquatic adaptations of protosuchian crocodiles, such as sculpted dermal bones and ear flaps. In fact it seems several "crocodilian" characters are plesiomorphies forced on them by their equally poorly known pseudosuchian ancestors.

More recently James returned from a weekend at Golden Gate with a beautiful baby *Protosuchus* (same size as the one published by Crompton and Smith in the Colbert Festschrift). I'm sure that's what it is and that the genus has a long list of synonymies (e.g. *Baroqueosuchus*, *Lesothosuchus*). The other Redbed croc is *Notochampsia/Orthosuchus*. I suspect both of having a cosmopolitan distribution. James and Chris are looking forward to publishing these superb new finds, in spite of being spread a bit thin workwise this year.

Right now we have to get a museum display together for the opening of the BPI building (in July), and then teaching will hit us. VP recently experienced episodic catastrophism at first hand when a four-inch water main burst and flooded the specimen store basement. At least next time it happens (and it will!) we will know what the problem is.

Chris Gow is tearing his hair out (what was that, Colin?) trying to get Francois Durand to finish off his MSc. Anusuya Chinsamy, in between getting engaged, seems to be going well with her bone histology work (see report above) and experiencing all the joys and tribulations of opening up a new field - for us in the RSA, that is. We don't know about the fossils, but Anusuya has a marked tendency to hibernate in the cold weather we have been experiencing lately.

On the Orapa side, Ian McKay is at the handing-in stage with his MSc on the goggas, and Marion Bamford is well into the plants for her PhD.

Down in the basement Patrick Bender is seeing if he can get an MSc out of the fossil pigs.

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#### **FOURTH PSSA CONFERENCE: PUBLICATION OF PROCEEDINGS**

A few of the papers promised by authors at the PSSA Conference in September last year are still awaited, several weeks after the original deadline! Patience is ebbing low, and the volume will be shut by the time this issue of *PAL News/PAL Nuus* hits the streets. Even without all of the originally-promised papers, the proceedings volume will be viable and interesting. Please remember, though, that the contributions must still go through the rigours of the *Annals of the South African Museum* refereeing procedure - so don't count any chickens yet!

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#### **DATE AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT PSSA CONFERENCE**

Our Hon. Secretary, Dr Francis Thackeray, writes:

##### *Venue for PSSA Conference, 1988:*

At the last PSSA conference it was agreed that "the next meeting would take place at Giant's Castle in Natal in 1988, provided the venue was available and suitable facilities could be provided". The Executive Committee contacted the Natal Parks Board and learnt that the Giant's Castle Camp could be made available to the PSSA and the entrance fee would be waived. However, there are a number of problems, including:

1. limitation of the number of people that can be accommodated;
2. The conference would have to be held at a time which does not coincide with school holidays;
3. the camp is not really suitable for the delivery of lectures. Although we could bring our own generator and slide/overhead projectors, we would find it difficult to darken the hall sufficiently, and air pollution is a potential problem (with little or no circulation of air in a room darkened for slides, etc.)

We therefore feel that a more appropriate venue should be considered. The Mountain Zebra National Park near Cradock is a possible candidate. Any comments would be welcomed.

*Date for 1988 conference:*

If any member has a preference for the date of the conference, please let Francis Thackeray hear from you. Those members teaching at Universities are particularly asked to let Francis know the dates of their University vacations in 1988, and when they would prefer the conference to be scheduled.

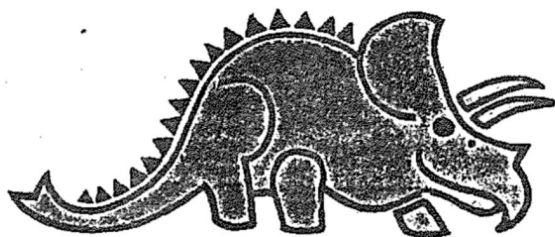
You can contact him at:

Dept. of Archaeology,  
University of Stellenbosch  
Stellenbosch  
7600

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*Francis Thackeray found this item in the Cape newspaper Die Burger (not to be confused with Oelofsen!). Wonder if the NMC issued a permit?*

## TROETELDIER TE KOOP



Opreggeteelde TRICERATOP. Troetelnaam Tersia.  
Vasvoetige, 4-voetige Ornithischian. Vriendelik en  
liefdevol. Eet omtrent alles en enigiets. Sindelik.  
Skakel onmiddellik.

**U kan enigiets koop  
of verkoop in *Snuffelgid's*  
Skakel 25-4888 vir vinnige resultate.**