

PAL

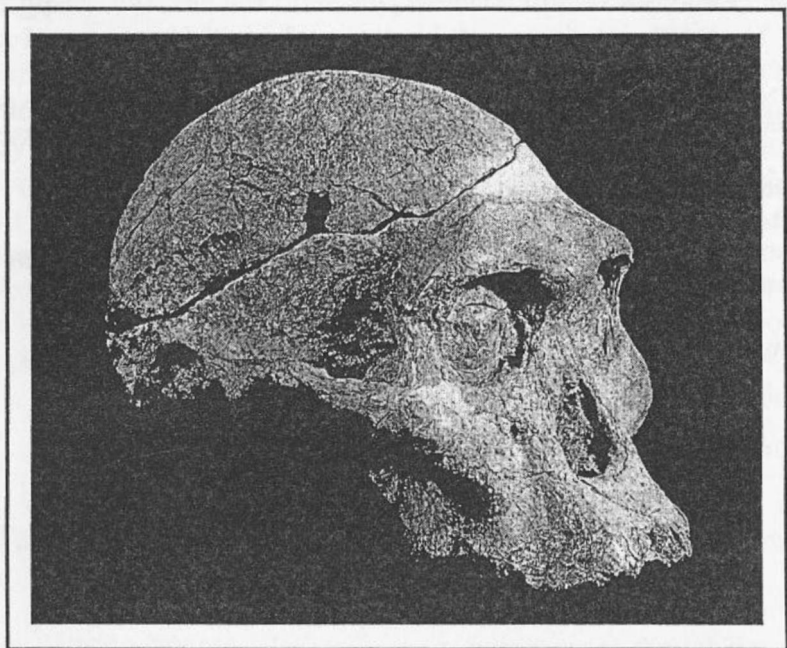
NEWS
NUUS



Biannual newsletter of the Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa.
Halfjaarlikse Nuusbrieff van die Paleontologiese Vereniging van Suider Afrika.

Vol/Band 12(4)

July 2000



CONTENTS

•	From the Editor	pg 3
•	News from:	
	Eric Anderson, JLB Institute	pg 5
	BPI, Wits University	pg 6
	Johann Welman, National Museum	pg 14
	Billy de Klerk, Albany Museum	pg 15
	Council for Geosciences	pg 17
•	PSSA 2000	
	Third call for abstracts	pg 20
	Accommodation	pg 21
	Nominations	pg 22
•	Members email addresses	pg 23

Pal News / Pal Nuus is published by the Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa for its members. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Society or its Officers.

Editorial team:

Editor: Patrick Bender (tel: 012 322-7122/ Fax: 012 - 320 0178)

Museum of the Council for Geoscience (email - bender@nfi.co.za)

Postal address: Private Bag X112
Pretoria, 0001.

Assistant editor: Johann Neveling (email - jneveling@geoscience.org.za)

Front cover: Mrs Ples (*Australopithecus africanus*) as she is to be seen in the collection of the Northern Flagship Institute, Pretoria. (Photo from: *Life etched in stone* by C.S. MacRae.)

FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings Everyone

Thanks to the contributors of this issue, the last before the 11th biennial conference of the *Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa*. In this issue, you will find 'PSSA 2000' details concerning the final (final!) call for papers, and other matters such as consideration and deliberation of the new committee. This issue marks the end of a two year, one volume (four edition) PALNEWS cycle. Every biennial PSSA conference heralds a new PALNEWS volume so here's looking forward to volume thirteen!

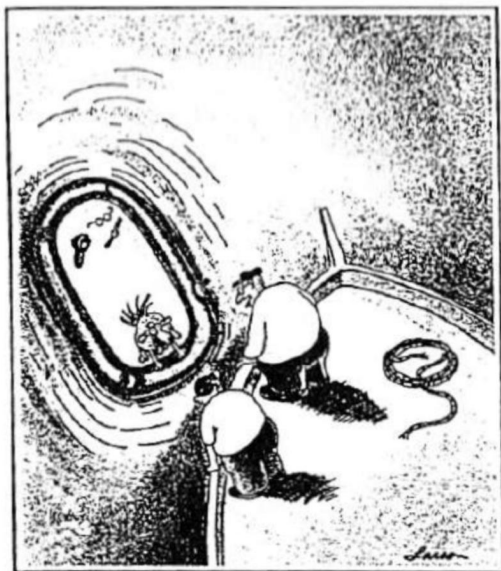
I have certainly found putting together the volume 12 cycle of the newsletter stimulating, and would like to join assistant editor Johan Neveling in thanking members for their support and interest over the two year period.

Looking back over the last three PALNEWSSES, indications are that its been a busy research time for many of the members. Plenty of new palaeontological research has been forthcoming over the last two years, in particular: the Krugersdorp hominid cave sites have yielded a number of very exciting finds; the Karoo basin research front is presently probably the most productive its ever been with researchers based at a number of southern African institutions (often collaborating with overseas scientists) actively involved in describing new finds, extending the Beaufort Group biozonal framework, and contributing to the palaeontological heritage of the Karoo basin. In terms of education, it seems that many members have been very energetic and involved in articulating the wonders of the fossil world to scholars, students, members of the public, and tourists. Yet another of the South African PAL community has moved on... for sunnier shores? Barry Millsteed has left the Council for Geoscience after a Karoo basin palynological stint, I'm sure PSSA members would join me in wishing Barry well for the future.

Now that 'PSSA 2000' is almost upon us, it appears as though time has shifted pretty swiftly since the last PSSA meeting which was so success-

fully held in Windhoek. Pretoria is of course the upcoming conference venue. At the moment we're in the middle of some chilly weather, but by the time PSSA 2000 comes to pass on the 4th September, spring will probably be in the air!

All the best and take care
Patrick



"Hey, boy! How ya doin'? ... Look at him, Dan. Poor guy's been floating out here for days but he's still just as fat and happy as ever."

NEWS FROM:

ERIC ANDERSON, JLB SMITH INSTITUTE OF
ICHTHYOLOGY, GRAHAMSTOWN

I attended the *Ninth International Conference on Early/Lower Vertebrates* in Flagstaff, Arizona, USA (old stomping grounds), in mid-May. Some 80 participants from 15 countries were represented, and papers were presented on a variety of subjects ranging from Ordovician agnathans to Permian tetrapods. A joint paper with chondrichthyan expert Johan Maisey from the American Museum of Natural History was presented on the evolutionary significance of *Pucapampella*, a stem-chondrichthyan collected in the Emsian of SA and Eifelian of Bolivia. This taxon is known from braincase parts and associated probable visceral arches. The SA material is represented by an entire braincase from the Gydo Formation and was reported on in the *Gondwana-10* symposium held in Cape Town in 1998. The main point of our recent paper was that, from cladistic analysis, some previously held bony fish (osteichthyan) synapomorphies are seen in our chondrichthyan material making these now primitive for Gnathostomata. John has expressed interest in mounting a field trip sometime next year into the Gamka River cuts where more of this material may be waiting.

Much more will come as a result of the conference, now seen by most palaeo-fish people I talked with as the most important gathering of our kind in the world - more so than the *SVP* meetings which are dominated by tetrapod-types. It was good seeing old friends again, like John Long and other Aussies, and to learn of all the new finds in palaeoichthyology these last few years. Probably the most stunning recent discovery was the phylogenetic placement of the conodonts ahead of lampreys and hagfishes. In a joint paper presented by Phil Donoghue of the U.K., character coding was altered to address several contentious hypotheses of homology in the earliest vertebrates. Experiments were run to take a compromise position over some of the contentious hypotheses and these

resulted in no effect to tree typologies with respect to the position of conodonts and the living chordates. Thus, although jawless, conodonts are now placed in the Gnathostomata!

BPI PALAEOONTOLOGY, WITS UNIVERSITY

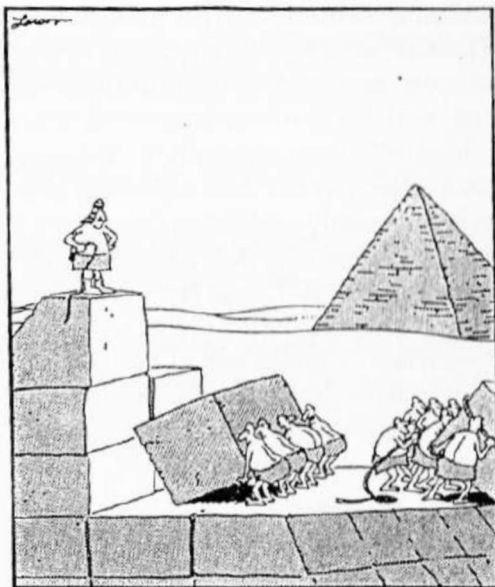
At the beginning of 2000 *The Palaeoanthropology Unit for Research and Exploration*, which was previously based in the department of Anatomical Sciences at the University, joined up with the BPI Palaeontology. This has greatly increased the number of people in the Department thus providing a lively and stimulating research environment, and means that the BPI will from now be able to research a greater range of palaeontological issues.

Mike Raath who is in charge of collections in various university departments, is continuing with the mammoth task of getting our collections more user friendly. At the end of last year a new extension was added to our fossil stores and the entire research work area was sound proofed and carpeted to provide researchers with a much more pleasant working environment. Work continues on the upgrading of the Karoo Vertebrate computerised catalogue. The bulk of the work has been completed, and the catalogue is now in operation as a convenient search-and-retrieval tool. The catalogue has been compiled as a Microsoft Access database, and what is happening now is that digital images of significant fossils are being progressively added as linked and embedded objects in the database. This will be a long process, simply because of the time it takes to extract the fossil, photograph it with a digital camera, 'manipulate' the photo (e.g. crop, annotate with catalogue number, etc) and embed it into the database. It makes for an ENORMOUS file, but we think the end result will be worth it, as users will be able to see a good resolution picture (or different views) of the specimen while searching the catalogue. For those who don't want to look at pretty pictures, a faster 'non-pictorial' version is also available. Initially we will focus on taxo-

nominally significant specimens (i.e. types and figured specimens), and later we will roll it out to include other prepared or important specimens, depending on computer resources - notably hard drive space. While this has been going on, work has also been progressing on a re-organization of the Cenozoic fossil collections, especially the Makapansgat collection, in preparation for a major move of these collections to new super-duper storage facilities in the recently established *Palaeoanthropological Unit for Research and Exploration* ('P.U.R.E'), under Dr Lee Berger. PURE is just over the road from the BPI, so at last fossil activities at Wits are beginning to cluster together on the main Wits campus. Barend Strydom is the one faced with this enormous task of numbering and site-colour-coding the specimens in the Cenozoic collections. It is truly a huge task, and will take many months before any light begins to glow however dimly at the end of a very, very long tunnel.

At the end of December we were sad to say farewell to **Chris Gow** who retired after 40 years of service to palaeontology; 30 years at the BPI, and a previous ten years at the South African Museum. He has now moved to Knysna where he has installed a new workshop at his home and when not fishing, spends his time making knives. Chris submitted three papers just before he retired.

Karoo research has continued with **Bruce Rubidge** still collecting fossils round the Ecca-Beaufort boundary. The BPI team together with Billy de Klerk of the Albany Museum, and John Nyaphuli from the National Museum had a most successful two weeks in the field to the Eastern Cape Province in the area between Grahamstown and Jansenville. This area, renowned for its paucity of fossils, has now yielded a whole bone bed of dinocephalians from immediately above the Ecca-Beaufort contact. This will make an exciting future taphonomic study. Moving northwestwards a further two weeks were spent in the area around Middelpos where therapsid fossils were discovered for the first time and will greatly assist in elucidating the biostratigraphy of the lower Beaufort in that part of the basin. Later Bruce joined Johann Welman and Johann Looock from



"Remo! Lift with your knees, not your back!"

Bloemfontein in a collecting and mapping trip to the Ecca-Beaufort contact in the vicinity of Philippolis in the Free State. While in the Northern Cape, Bruce and Sean were joined by Patrick Bender to excavate a shoal of fossil fish which they had discovered last year near Carnavon. Only a small excavation was made for now, but several beautifully preserved complete fish were collected. Patrick Bender has also recently submitted his PhD thesis on the fossil fish from the lower Beaufort of South Africa and is currently awaiting examiners reports.

In January we welcomed **Alain Renault** to the BPI staff as Research Officer in the place of Chris Gow. Last September Alain (with Marion Bamford and John Hancox) attended the *VI Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems Conference* in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and presented a paper on the jaw mechanisms of dicynodont therapsids and in particular

the different masticatory strategies of the Triassic form *Kannemeyeria*. The pre-conference field trip visited the bleak and awesome beauty of the Ischigualsto Basin and Talampaya Canyon of north-western Argentina. Apart from enjoying the magnificent scenery, the fascinating formations and fossil riches, the delegates delighted in the wealth of pre-Columbian pictographs festooning the canyon walls. While in Argentina Alain and John Hancox took the opportunity to study several South American dicynodont fossils, and we await the submission of exciting morphology and taxonomy papers. In the meantime Alain is moving toward completion of his PhD thesis on the cranial morphology and taxonomy of *Kannemeyeria*.

Marion Bamford continues her research on Karoo fossil woods and is also researching fossil woods from other parts of Africa: Mali, Tunisia and Tanzania. Research on the palaeoclimate of the Sterkfontein hominid deposit continues and has extended to the Plio-Pleistocene vegetation of Olduvai Gorge which she will be visiting later this year. This research formed the basis of her lecture on the vegetation at the *Wits Millennium Celebration Seminar on the Origins of Humankind in Africa*. Marion also presented a paper on the Cretaceous vegetation of southern Africa at the *VI Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems Conference* in Buenos Aires. The post conference field trip to Patagonia enabled delegates to visit the well known fossil plant sites and enjoy the stark scenery and wide vistas of the plains and the beauty of the mountains and glaciers. Sue de Villiers continues to study the west coast palynoflora and is particularly interested in the origins of the fynbos.

Lee Berger is conducting research and excavations at a number of sites on the Witwatersrand including Gladysvale and the Coopers site with Christine Steininger. He attended and presented papers at several international conferences in Europe, the US and Mexico. Lee is also surveying Botswana and cataloguing fossil bearing sites throughout the country. He has continued his collaborative survey work with James Brink at sites in the Free State and this work has resulted in a number of

new sites being discovered. His book, *In the Footsteps of Eve*, was recently published by National Geographic Adventure Press.

Andre Keyser continues his work on the Drimolen site and announced the discovery of a female skull and male mandible of robust australopithecines earlier this year. The female skull is the most complete skull of an early hominid ever discovered and garnered worldwide attention. With Colin Menter and Travis Pickering Andre continues to undertake cave formation research on the Witwatersrand.

Postdoctoral fellows **Ross Damiani** and **Sean Modesto** have been working up a storm, and a plethora of papers have recently emerged from their offices. Ross Damiani from La Trobe University, Australia, has been doing extensive work on the temnospondyl amphibian fauna, and biostratigraphy, of the Upper Beaufort Group (after several field-trips in conjunction with John Hancox from Geology and PhD student Johann Neveling who is researching the contact between the *Lystrosaurus* and *Cynognathus* Zones around the basin). Ross has submitted exciting manuscripts on the first trematosaurid and capitosaurid amphibians from the Early Triassic *Lystrosaurus* Assemblage Zone, the presence of the capitosaurid *Paracyclotus* in the Early to Middle Triassic *Cynognathus* Assemblage Zone, as well as a multi-authored paper on the oldest known stereospondyl amphibian from the Upper Permian of Namibia. It appears that Sean is working his way through every small fossil tetrapod from the Karoo, with papers submitted on *Eumotosaurus*, *Acanthotoposaurus*, *Mesosaurus*, and the recently collected *Elliotsmithia* as well as several new dicynodont taxa from the Ecca-beaufort boundary which he is describing with Bruce. The National Geographic Society is getting full value for its grant money, with Sean and Bruce Rubidge spending another four weeks in the field in the Eastern and Western Cape provinces where lots of great stuff was collected. Last October Sean attended the annual meeting of the *Society of Vertebrate Palaeontology* in Denver USA, and presented a combined paper with Bruce documenting some of the major South African tetrapod discoveries over



"He's making his nest now. ... There! See it?
That son-of-a-... He's got himself a futon!"

the past few years and their implications for the palaeobiogeography of ancient southern Africa.

Palaeobotany PhD student, **Rose Adendorff**, has made several collections from her Lawley site and is uncovering some interesting fruits and seeds amongst a wide variety of *Glossopteris* leaves. She is doing collaborative research on this southern hemisphere flora with Stephen McLoughlin from the University of Melbourne, Australia. **Ray Renaut** (MSc) has found a new type of sphenophyte (horsetail) from a new site in the Karoo, and is ploughing through the taxonomy of this group of plants. Both Ray and Rose have just returned from a collecting trip to the lower Beaufort in the Williston area where they have made extensive sphenophyte and *Glossopteris* collections. **Andrea Sandersen** (PhD) has made good progress on the palynology and palynodebris of the SOEKOR

off-shore cores that she is analysing. The cores go through the K-T boundary and will provide some insight into vegetation changes. On the palaeoanthropology side **Lucinda Backwell** completed her Masters degree *cum laude* on the bone tools from Swartkrans and has registered for a PhD studying bone tools and pseudo-tools from Plio-Pleistocene sites around Africa. She went on a research trip to France where she is undertaking collaborative research with Francesco D'Errico of the University of Bordeaux. **Darryl de Ruiter** is almost finished with his PhD on the relative abundance of hominids and other fauna at the Swartkrans site. He plans to submit by mid-year. During the process he recovered a number of previously unidentified hominid fossils in the Swartkrans and Sterkfontein collections of the Transvaal Museum. After attending the *Paleoanthropology and American Association of Physical Anthropology* society meetings in the US, Darryl worked with Randall Sussman of Stony Brook University in New York on describing new hominid fossils. With Lee he has completed research on carnivore accumulations on the Witwatersrand and further studies of taphonomy are planned in the area.

Colin Menter is also in the final stages of his PhD on the forearm and elbow of early hominids. Besides his laboratory work he is actively involved in a number of excavations including sites in the Schurverberg with Lee and at Drimolen where he acts as co-director of excavation in collaboration with Andre. In the Schurverberg a previously unknown site has yielded remains of fossil baboon, waterbuck and a number of good carnivores. Colin also attended the *American Association of Physical Anthropology* society meetings and his paper on Drimolen was well received.

Dorian Staps is in the process of converting his MSc work on a comparative study of the vertebral column of *Australopithecus africanus* and *A. afarensis* to a PhD. He has also recently completed studies of two mid-Holocene human skeletons from the Free State. He undertook a series of research trips to Europe collecting data for his thesis. Dorian

plans to undertake fieldwork on a site in the Witwatersrand in the near future. **Christine Steininger** is writing up her MSc thesis on the Cooper hominid face that she discovered in the collections of the Transvaal Museum. She presented parts of her research at the American Association of Physical Anthropology society meetings in the US. With Lee she has also continued excavations at the Coopers site and larger digs are planned in the near future.

Joe Nigro has returned to the US after he completed his 3D reconstruction of the Swartkrans cave that was being undertaken as part of his M.Sc studies. This work will add greatly to our understanding of the stratigraphy of the site and will allow detailed intra-site faunal comparisons to be made.

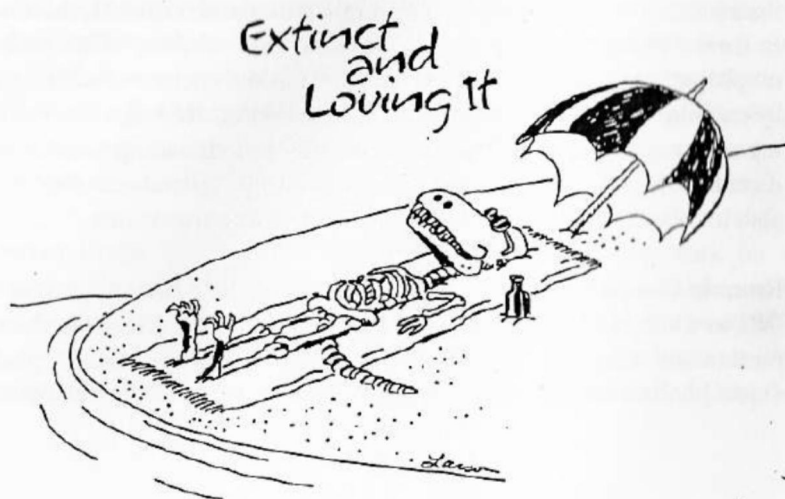
Several new post-graduate students have joined the department this year. **Peter Chaushev** is presently a research officer in the Unit and in charge of the field operations at Gladysvale. He is planning on registering for a MSc that will focus on the cranium of the robust australopithecines. Peter is also assisting Lee and Rodrigo Lacruz in surveys of Botswana and the Free State as well as assisting in staff training on the Witwatersrand. **Ivanka Donlic** is from Croatia and is undertaking PhD studies on the niche of the South African robust australopithecines and their interaction with other early hominid species. **Kristine Drinhausen** is from Germany and is registered as a PhD student. She will be investigating the palaeoecology of Botswana and northern South Africa by examining fossil bearing sites across the region. **Rodrigo Lacruz** has recently registered for a Masters and will be undertaking studies of a recently discovered Plio-Pleistocene site on the Witwatersrand. He is also involved with the Gladysvale site and other excavations.

Romala Govender successfully completed her BSc Hons degree at the BPI in 1999, and this year has registered for an MSc to describe the postcranial skeleton of *Tapinocaninus*, the basal tapinocephalid dinocephalian from the Ecca-Beaufort contact which Bruce has been

preparing up for the past 15 years. **Darlington Munyikwa** from the Natural History Museum in Bulawayo has also registered for an MSc to describe some new dinocephalians from Zimbabwe, and has recently spent some time at the South African Museum and BPI comparing his specimens with those in the South African collections. **Lloyd Rossouw** working at the National Museum in Bloemfontein will soon be submitting his MSc on the taxonomic status of the fossil springbok *Antidorcas australis*.

KAROO VERTEBRATE PALAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT, NATIONAL MUSEUM, BLOEMFONTEIN.

Following a highly interesting visit to the *IVPP*, Johann Welman recently returned from Beijing. He was privileged to become involved with Chinese scientists in studies on the brain cases of some of the feathered reptiles extensively reported in National Geographic magazine. While in Beijing, Welman also attended the *SAPE* conference. Research in the Palaeontology Department in Bloemfontein continues on the evolution of archosauromorph brain cases and biostratigraphic projects in the Karoo with Bruce Rubidge and others.



BILLY DE KLERK, ALBANY MUSEUM, GRAHAMSTOWN

In late January it was again a pleasure to join Bruce Rubidge, Sean Modesto and their BPI field crew to do a spell of field work along the Ecca-Beaufort contact of the southern Karoo. This time we based ourselves only 40km to the North of Grahamstown in the Carlisle Bridge and Fort Brown area. What a pleasure to have a field area so close to home!! This part of the lower Karoo had in the past been somewhat neglected as it was perceived as being low in outcrop and high in "valley bushveld" vegetation cover in the Great Fish River valley. We were therefore delighted to find two promising fossil localities - one, a bone bed and the second yielded a juvenile dinocephalian (skull and upper body) very close to the Ecca - Beaufort contact. This must have been one of the easiest fossil ever to have been collected as it was contained in a single slab of rock which we just lifted onto the back of a bakkie. It is currently being prepared at the BPI at Wits.

After the fieldwork it was on to teaching my annual one month Palaeontology module at Rhodes to the 2nd year Geology students - always stimulating! Planning for *SciFest'2000* at the end of March was then the order of the day and just before SciFest started I jointly hosted (with the Department of Anthropology at Rhodes) Dr Valerie Galichon of the College du France in Paris. She presented a public lecture on new findings in hominid evolution. Once again, Priscilla Hall (my departmental volunteer at the Museum) and I were very involved in SciFest'2000 which took place at the end of March and beginning of April. This annual event in Grahamstown has really become a regular meeting place for many palaeontologist both local and international. This year, while I was conducting fossil preparation workshops in my lab and daily palaeontology gallery "walk-about", Francis Thackeray and his team from the Transvaal Museum were explaining, displaying and preparing fossils from hominid localities in Gauteng. Francis was later joined by Brigitte Senut and Martin Pickford to present a lecture on "*Who's Who in the Plio-Pleistocene: new views on our heritage and ori-*



"Hell, Ben, you catch a few bullets through your hat during every holdup, and I'm finally gonna say I ain't ever been much impressed."

gins". Other palaeo folk that attended SciFest'2000 included Mike Raath who presented a lecture - "*Dragons perching in the family tree? Are birds descendants of the dinosaurs?*" and Bob Brain with his lecture "*Austin Roberts, the man behind the birding boom in southern Africa*". Marvin Carstens was based at the City Hall "Millennium Palaeo Focus" with his BIG African dinosaur models. In all, Palaeontology had a high profile at SciFest'2000!!

After SciFest I had the opportunity to travel to central Sweden for five weeks (on Rotary business) and while there I was introduced to the (limited) spectrum of palaeontology in the area - mainly in the form of conical Silurian *Orthoceras* fossil in limestone, seen in the decorative stone-work of many large buildings - particularly in the floors. I was often seen to be walking with a distinctive stoop trying to get a better look as these fossil were beautifully preserved showing a lot of fine detail.

Work on our Museum palaeo gallery is progressing rather slowly now that our talented artist, Gerhard Marx, has left for the USA. At present a large detailed Cretaceous landscape backdrop (5x sheets of chipboard = c.10 x 2,8m) is being painted by contract artist Gill Maylam and this will form the backdrop to the Cretaceous fauna and flora display depicting the Enon, Kirkwood and Sundays River formation times. Update on the Devonian - Grahamstown N2 road cuttings fossil locality. Recently the N2 by-pass road cuttings, through this estuarine/lagoonal fossil site, was upgraded and repaired. Much of the southern hill-slope was constantly failing and sliding onto the road. The consulting engineers on this job, Jaffares and Green, were very willing to help with the recovery and conservation of the fossils from the site and once again Robert Gess came to the rescue!! He has for a number of years been interested in these fossils and it was Robert that initiated the salvage operation. This project has already yielded some remarkable new Devonian fossil plants and (complete) fish fossils - ideal for research and display. Hats off to Robert Gess and Jaffares and Green consulting Engineers!

See you all in September at the PSSA'2000 conference, Pretoria!!

Billy de Klerk

COUNCIL FOR GEOSCIENCE, PRETORIA

Since our previous report **Patrick Bender** has completed and handed in his PhD on the fossil fish from the Lower Beaufort. The latest news (and this is hot of the press) is that it was well-received by the examiners and he was awarded his PhD. Many congratulations!! This now leaves him free to cast his net wider and he plans to focus some of his attention on the Upper Beaufort fish fossils. The Triassic strata of the Beaufort has been the scene of some interesting work recently and Patrick wants to see what the fishy things will add to that story. Also on the cards is collaborative work with John Almond on the fossil collection housed at

the Council's Belville office. This collection contains numerous invertebrates, trace fossils and fossil fish collected from the Cape Supergroup and this work promises to be fascinating. (It is also good to know that John Almond is not irretrievably lost to SA palaeontology).

Hymne Laubscher was another who burnt the midnight oil and she recently handed the first draft of her Masters thesis on the Late Pleistocene fossils at Basaanskop in the Western Cape, to her supervisors. After that she will be off to Grätz, Austria, to attend the *Colloquium of African Geology* where she'll present a paper on her findings and also two posters of Patrick and Johann on the 'Fossil fish in an African biozonal context' and 'Recent developments in Karoo stratigraphy'. Meanwhile she also assisted **Magdel Gricius**, with the reorganization of the Council's collections. Steady progress has been made with this gargantuan task that involve all the mineral, geological and fossil collections housed at the Council. For more information contact Magdel at +27 12 841 1382.

Johann Neveling continued with his research on the *Lystrosaurus-Cynognathus* zone contact in the Karoo and spent 5 weeks doing fieldwork in the Eastern Cape during April. The Council's team was joined by a small band of volunteers from SASAP (*South African Society for Amateur Palaeontologists*) during the latter two weeks of April. They were a valuable addition to the team and their dedication in the field were eventually rewarded when they found some of the best specimens of the entire fieldtrip! In June Johann joined Ray Renaut and Rose Adendorff (BPI Palaeontology) for collaborative work on a spectacular plant site in the Williston district, preceded by a brief visit to the South African Museum to work on the *Trirachodon* material in their collection. After one day back in the office it was off again when he accompanied a group of first and second geology-students from RAU on a sedimentology trip to Aliwal North.

Recent months also saw us bidding farewell to some of our colleagues in the Palaeontology Sections. After ten years of toiling, both **Barry Millstead** and **Hana Mazus** decided to cover their microscopes, turn off

their computers and leave the Council at the end of June. Not only will they be missed for the dear friends they have become, but their departure also means that the Council has now lost its capability to do palynological research. Their loss will surely be felt by the whole Southern African palaeontological community. We wish them the best of luck and all happiness as they try their hands at new endeavours. **Frans Tshabalala**, our senior technician, also announced that he will retire at the end of August 2000. His wealth of experience and exceptional qualities was a key factor in the success of most fieldtrips in recent years and he will be sorely missed. But he has certainly earned his rest after 35 years' service and we hope that he will have a happy retirement.



"Fair is fair, Larry. ... We're out of food, we drew straws—you lost."

PSSA 2000

THIRD AND FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS!!!

The 11th biennial conference of the Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa will be held at the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria from the 4th to the 8th of September 2000. (Also visit the conference web page at: www.ru.ac.za/pssa/index.html)

Abstracts:

Deadline 30 July 2000 and abstracts can be submitted via E-mail or snail mail.

Send titles and abstracts (Wordperfect/Word) to:

Francis Thackeray (Chair): mrsples@global.co.za

Heidi Fourie (Secretary): Fourie.h@nfi.co.za (Tel: 012 322 7632)

OR MAIL TO:

Transvaal Museum

PO Box 413

Pretoria

0001

Please supply the following info:

Name: _____

Will attend: Yes / No

Will present a paper: Yes / No

Will present a poster: Yes / No

Will join fieldtrip: Yes / No

Wants paper published: Yes / No

There is a possibility that papers will be published in a special volume, and if so, manuscripts should ideally be submitted at the time of the conference.

Conference Programme:

Sunday 3rd 18:00-20:00 Registration and light supper.

Monday 4th 8:30 Late registration, Papers.

Tuesday 5th 8:00 Papers.
Wednesday 6th 8:00 Poster session; Field trip
Thursday 7th Field trip.

Conference fee: Members R 600:00; Students: R 400:00.

Field trip: R 100:00

ACCOMMODATION

Manhattan Hotel

(Tel) 012 322 7635; (Fax) 012 320 0721

Single room R 310:00 B&B

Double room R 370:00 B&B

Holiday Inn Garden Court

(Tel) 012 322 7500; (Fax) 012 322 9429

Single room R 334:00

Double room R 418:00

Park Lodge

(Tel) 012 320 8230; (Fax) 012 320 8230

Single and Double rooms

R 130:00 pp

"Family Room" for up to 5 people sharing

R 75:00 pp.

Please book your own accommodation!

Reminder

Please forward reply slips, titles and abstracts a.s.a.p. As mentioned in the circulars, the conference is scheduled to end on the 8th. This last day may be used to include visits to additional palaeontological sites in the vicinity of Sterkfontein."

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Greeting from Grahamstown! I do believe that it is time for us to call for nominations for the next PSSA committee that will be elected at the BGM in September. This is required as per the constitution of the society. By definition Juri will be the incoming President so nominations for the 2001 - 2002 terms are required. The current positions is as follows:

1999 - 2000

President: Billy de Klerk

Vice Pres: Juri van den Heever

Secretary: Marion Bamford

Treasurer: Johann Welman

Editor Pal-News: Patrick Bender

Co-Ed.: Johann Neveling

Conference: Francis Thackeray

2001 - 2002

Juri van den Heever.

Nominations for the executive committee must be signed by the proposer and supported by a seconder (both members of the PSSA) and lodged with the Secretary (Marion Bamford - 106mab@cosmos.wits.ac.za or Billy de Klerk (B.deKlerk@ru.ac.za) on or before 5th September 2000 (second day of the conference). Voting will take place at the BGM.

Many thanks

Billy

PSSA TROPHIES

All trophy holders are reminded that they have to return their trophies at or before the conference as they have to be re-awarded at the conference dinner. If you forgot whether you are a trophy holder or not, have a look at the names below:

Order of the Boot - Barry Millstead

Lystrosaurus Shield for best student paper - Alain Renaut

Lystrosaurus Cast for best poster - Roger Smith

PSSA MEMBERS ON EMAIL

Dr John Almond	gscience@iafrica.com
Dr Eric Anderson	ihma@giraffe.ru.ac.za
Dr Graham Avery	bcage@uctvax.uct.ac.za
Graham Avery	gavery@samuseum.ac.za
Dr Marion Bamford	106mab@cosmos.wits.ac.za
Patrick Bender	bender@nfi.co.za
Dr Lee Berger	055PARG@chiron.wits.ac.za
James Brink	florisbd@internext.co.za
Dr Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan	achinsam@samuseum.ac.za
Dr Arthur Cruikshank	aric1@leicester.ac.uk
Dr Ross Damiani	106ross@cosmos.wits.ac.za
Dr Billy de Klerk	amwd@giraffe.ru.ac.za
Ludwig Doehne	doehne@global.co.za
Dr Francois Durand	fd@na.rau.co.za
Heidi Fourie	fourie.h@nfi.co.za
Pippa Haarhoff	phaarhoff@samuseum.ac.za
Prof AV Hall	avhall@uctvax.uct.ac.za
Prof Eric Harley	harley@chempath.uct.ac.za
Dr Norton Hiller	nhiller@cantmus.govt.nz
Madel Joubert	mjoubert@samuseum.ac.za
Dr Gillian King	gmk20@cam.ac.uk
Dr Herbert Klinger	hklinger@samuseum.ac.za
Dr Kevin Kuykendall	055klks@witsvma.wits.ac.za
Hymne Laubscher	helaub@geoscience.org.za
Elizabeth Latimer	elatimer@mediswitch.co.za
Dr Julia Lee-Thorp	jlt@beattie.uct.ac.za
Johan Loock	geoci@rs.uovs.ac.za
Marius Loots	mloots@medic.up.ac.za
Dr Tom Mason	trm@star.arm.ac.uk
Ian McLachlan	mclachlai@petroleumagency.sa.com
Dr Jeff McKee	mckee.95@osu.edu
Dr Barry Millstead	bmillstd@geoscience.org.za
Dr Sean Modesto	106sean@cosmos.wits.ac.za
Johann Neveling	jneveling@geoscience.org.za

Dr David Norman	dn102@esc.cam.ac.uk
Dr Martin Pickford	c/o bsenut@cimrs1.mnhn.fr
Dr Mike Raath	106mar@cosmos.wits.ac.za
Mr Alain Renaut	renaut@hixnet.co.za
Dr Gideon Rosouw	zlagjr@zoo.upe.ac.za
Prof Bruce Rubidge	106gar@cosmos.wits.ac.za
Prof Izak Rust	icrust@iafrica.com
Dr Friedmann Schrenk	schrenk@hrzpub.th-darmstadt.de
Frank Senegas	senegas@evol.isem.univ-montp2.
Dr Brigitte Senut	bsenut@cimrs1.mnhn.fr
Dr Russell Shone	glarws@orca.upe.ac.za
Dr Roger Smith	rsmith@samuseum.ac.za
Dr Francis Thackeray	mrsples@global.co.za
Dr Juri van den Heever	javdh@maties.sun.ac.za
Dr Eddie van Dijk	eddie@vandijk.co.za
Dr Anne Warren	zooaw@zoom.latrobe.edu.au
Dr Johann Welman	kvertpal@nasmus.co.za

Reminder:

Deadline for contributions for the next issue of PAL NEWS

is 24 November