

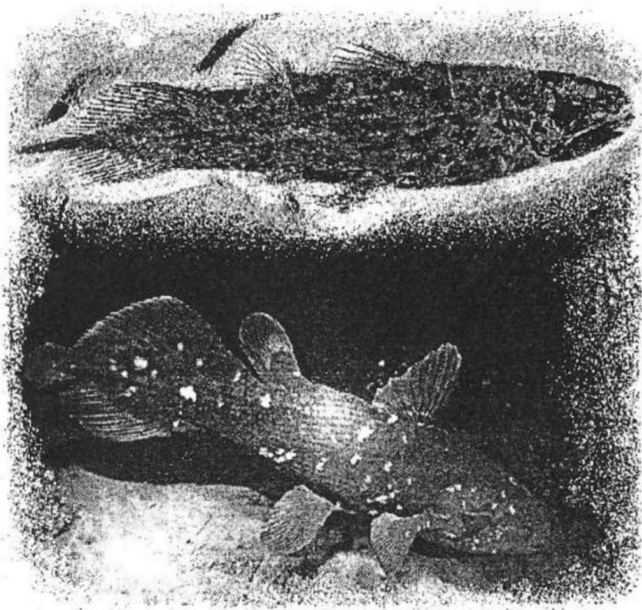
PAL NEWS NUUS



Biannual newsletter of the Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa.
Halfjaarlikse Nuusbrief van die Paleontologiese Vereniging van Suider Af

Vol/Band 13(1)

January 20



CONTENTS

• From the Editor	pg 3
• Minutes from the PSSA-meeting	pg 4
• News from:	
Darlington Munyikwa - Bulawayo	pg 11
Arthur Cruickshank - Leicester	pg 12
BPI Palaeontology, Johannesburg	pg 13
Billy de Klerk - Grahamstown	pg 17
Roger Smith - Cape Town	pg 18
Council for Geoscience, Pretoria	pg 21
Heidi Fourie - Tvl Museum	pg 24
East Africa	pg 25
• Members E-mail addresses	pg 26

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.

Editor: Johann Neveling (jneveling@geoscience.org.za)
(Tel: 012 - 841 1388/ Fax: 012 - 841 1278)

Postal address: Council for Geoscience, Private Bag X112, Pretoria,
0001.

Front cover: *Coelacanth*s - the Carboniferous genus *Caridosuctor* on top
and the living (now South African) genus *Latimeria* below.

FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings all palaeo-people and welcome to the new millennium (yes, I know we said the same thing last year, but this time we REALLY mean it)! I hope that this issue finds you well rested after a fantastic festive season and may it be the start of an exceptional year (both personal and palaeontological-wise).

Judging from the reports in this issue, the year 2000 was an extremely busy one for all our members. Most notable of all palaeontological events was, of course, the 11th *Biennial meeting of the PSSA* in Pretoria. Congratulations are due to Francis Thackeray and Heidi Fourie for the work they've put in to make the conference a success. The PSSA-meeting remains the best exhibition of up to date palaeontological research in Southern Africa and was further enhanced by the involvement of the French Embassy and palaeontologists. After three days of palaeontological thought and discussion, the post-conference fieldtrip took us to the most important hominid sites in the vicinity of Krugersdorp which I, from a more personal (Karoo-inclined) point of view, found especially enlightening and very fascinating. *Pal/News* also changed editors at the same time and moved from the Geological Museum to the Council for Geoscience (all still in Pretoria) where it will reside with me for the time being. Keeping it in the family so to speak.

Lastly a word of thanks to the contributors for the current issue. Included are news from all over the region and beyond, which shows that palaeontological research at the tip of Africa is alive and kicking. May you enjoy a great six months in palaeontology. All the best until next time...

Johann

MINUTES OF THE PSSA GENERAL MEETING

Held at Transvaal Museum (Pretoria) on the 6th of September during the 11th Biennial Conference of the PSSA

Chairman: Dr Billy de Klerk (President of the PSSA)

1. Apologies

Eric Anderson.

2. Deaths

Roy Oosthuizen passed away in late 1999. He had been actively collecting fossils since 1974 and many palaeontologists have visited his private museum which had many Karoo fossils and particularly Bokkeveld trilobites. His whole collection has been handed over to the South African Museum in Cape Town. Roger Smith and his team have sorted, curated and re-boxed the whole collection and the catalogue has been computerised.

A few moments silence were observed in his memory.

3. Matters arising from the Windhoek (1998) Meeting

None. Minutes accepted: Proposed - Billy de Klerk, Seconded - Francis Thackeray.

4. Treasurer's Report

Johann Welman reported that bank charges had increased and the newly opened cheque account charged R35 per month. The Windhoek conference made a profit of about R1 500. There is a balance (before this conference and contribution from the French Embassy) of over R40 000 so suggestions for using the money were made and discussed.

Suggestions:

- Sub-venting students attendance at PSSA conferences



Picture taken at the Swartkratz hominid site during the post-conference fieldtrip:

Back Row: J. Treil, M. Bamford, P. Bender, J. Botha, S. Badenhorst, T. Frantz, L. Meyer, S. Gess, R. Gess, H. Laubscher, L. Döhne.

Mid Row: Y. Fernandez-Jalvo, Y. Coppens, L. Scott.

Front Row: F. Thackeray, P. Haarhoff, D. Gommery, B. de Klerk, B. Battail, J. Welman, J.v/d Heever, B. Rubidge.

Foreground: S. de Villiers, J. Neveling.

- Increase the subscriptions to increase the capital and use the interest for student participation
- Cash prize of about R1 000 to go with the *Lystrosaurus* Prize for the best student presentation, and second and third prizes
- Fund an Honours student because MSc and PhD students are ineligible for NRF funding
- Obtain some money from palaeo-tourism to increase capital and use the interest to subsidize an Honours student's studies

Conclusions:

- No prize money because it will make things too competitive
- Rather subsidize student attendance at conferences
- Students should apply to the committee for financial aid

5. New Committee - Nominations & Election

President:	Dr Juri van den Heever
Vice President:	Dr Marion Bamford
Treasurer:	Dr Johann Welman
Secretary:	Dr Patrick Bender
Editor Pal-News:	Johann Neveling
Extra Members:	Heidi Fourie, Hymne Laubscher (to be called upon if necessary)

6. Venue of PSSA Conference 2002

James Brink of the National Museum, Bloemfontein, was asked to host the next conference, which he accepted and will be helped by Lloyd Rousseau. The date has not been set, but the *Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems* conference to be held in Cape Town will be followed by the *International Association of Sedimentologists* conference at RAU, Johannesburg in mid 2002, will need to be considered. James and Lloyd were thanked.

7. Honorary Membership

After discussion it was decided that:

- The person's contribution to the PSSA, not just to science, must be considered
- Nomination should be not be automatic at retirement age
- Motivations for nominations for Honorary Life Membership to the PSSA should be submitted to the executive committee.

Bob Brain officially thanked the PSSA for his Honorary Life Membership and for the specially bound volume of *Palaeontologia africana* (Vol 36, 2000) which was dedicated to him. He also expressed his hope for all the best for the PSSA in the future.

8. General

8.1 Permits and SAHRA

Mary Lesley was the representative present. After much discussion it was decided that:

- The committee would apply for a current permit as a conservation body
- We consider representatives, as in the past, for the scrutiny of permits, for:
 - A) national council for SAHRA
 - B) council for provincial sections of SAHRA
- It's important to keep in touch with all members of the society regarding legislation, changes, development. This could be done through Pal News and directly by e-mail
- Copies of the draft document, Archaeology and Fossils: for planners, developers, local authorities and communities were made available for members

Potential problems with parochial provincialism were voiced but no solutions were found. Mary Leslie, however, urged the PSSA to be pro-active and get involved.

8.2 Palaeo-Tourism

This session was led by Bruce Rubidge and Marion Duncan

It was recommended that:

- Sites for tourism were established at the outset in order to avoid damaging important research sites
- We draw up a list of potential fossil sites
- Co-ordinators were nominated for each area
- The PSSA must drive the tourism and every member should become involved
- PSSA must rubber-stamp or give accreditation to approved tours/tour companies. Tour guides also need accreditation
- A subcommittee be nominated to draft the protocol and agreements for palaeo-tourism and circulate the document by E-mail for members comments and input
- Standardization of qualifications for tour guides (SAQA and the relevant SGB - talk by Ian McKay) should be done as soon as possible
- Need to find out about universities intellectual property policies
- Payment to guides & universities depends on the university/ department concerned

Sub-committee for Palaeotourism:

Prof Bruce Rubidge, Wits University, Johannesburg

Ms Marion Duncan, Wits University, Johannesburg

Mr Colin Menter, Wits University, Johannesburg

Ms Pippa Haarhoff, South African Museum, Cape Town

Dr Gideon Groenewald, University of the North, Qwaqwa

8.3 Awards

Lee Berger requested that certificates be issued with the *Lyttosaurus* shield, and be done in retrospect too. Proposal accepted. The same will be done for the other awards with the

exception of The Boot.

2000 Awards:

1. *Lystrosaurus* Shield (Best student presentation): Lucinda Backwell, Wits University (special mention to Rosie Adendorff and Jennifer Botha).
2. *Lystrosaurus* Cast (Best Poster presentation): Eddie van Dijk for his very high standard in 4 posters.
3. The Boot (Biggest liar - tongue-in-cheek): Darryl de Ruiter, Wits University.

8.4 Other

Bruce emphasised that the PSSA must address the SAHRA and Permits issue as a matter of urgency and the problems of possible provincial parochialism and access to research sites be detailed to Andrew Hall (SAHRA) so he can try to clear the issue. We are bound to the provincial law as long as they have the competence to deal with the palaeontological aspects, issuing of permits, etc. Juri suggested using terminology such as Permo-Triassic rather than specific regions for permit applications but it was thought that this would not solve the problem. Mary Leslie mentioned that Natal already had an independent Provincial SAHRA office.

Brigitte Senut said that she experienced problems with the PSSA web page. According to Billy there was a problem with the Rhodes University server and would be seen to.

Developments for proposed sundial - Millenium Event. News from Francis Thackeray: DACST has already given money for this project and the granite slab is at Sterkfontein Caves. The engraving around the dial incorporates the origin and evolution life right up to hominids, and PSSA's support is acknowledged. Soil samples from Gondwana and Pangaea have been included. There will be an unveiling

ceremony before the end of 2000.

Bob Brain thanked the outgoing President and committee for their services over the past two years. Billy de Klerk thanked Francis Thackeray and Heidi Fourie for their organization of the

The following table shows the results of the analysis of variance for the two-way interaction between the two factors of the model. The results show that the interaction between the two factors is significant at the 0.05 level.

www.thelancet.com/journal/2008/09/08



NEWS FROM:

DARLINGTON MUNYIKWA, NATURAL HISTORY
MUSEUM, BULAWAYO

radiometric age of the Karoo basalts was obtained.

During the forthcoming year the department is hoping to carry out a bio-and lithostratigraphic study on the Lower Karoo sediments following the completion of Darlington's dissertation project of the dinocephalian therapsids from Hwange. Studies on the Karoo sediments in the Limpopo Valley will also continue in 2001.

ARTHUR CRUICKSHANK, LEICESTER

Yes, I know its way past 25th November, but I have just discovered that I am alive and well, and trying to finish projects, supervise students and prepare for a month in New Zealand next February, to help describe new and important plesiosaurs in the Canterbury Museum, along with Norton Hiller.

Leslie Noe has just submitted his thesis on Callovian pliosaurs, and I am co-supervisor with Sarah Gabbott of a lad doing a PhD on Greek Miocene mammals...well, well, well! The Dinosaur Society has receded a bit into the distance, but ther are still publications to see to, and Trustees meetings to attend.

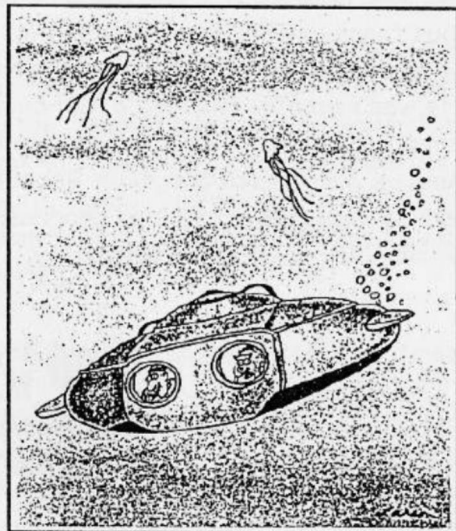
Recently we have been excited to discover a Portlandian (late Jurassic) marine reptile locality, which is quite significant because stuff of this age is extremely rare. So far the hints are of a beast rather like the *Leptocleidus* I described in 1996, plus at least one ichthyosaur and some other bits of plesiosaur (indet).

No publications to report, but several pending. Quite a lot to do yet!

Regards, *Arthur*

BPI PALAEONTOLOGY

The Palaeoanthropological Unit for Research and Exploration (PURE) under the leadership of Dr Lee Berger has been amalgamated with the BPI Palaeontology and for this purpose the Wedge Building has been renovated with the assistance of a generous grant from the Palaeoanthropological Scientific Trust (PAST). This is now a wonderful facility which has good office space as well as accommodation to house the huge collections of Plio-Pleistocene fossils which the BPI (Palaeontology) curates. The incorporation of PURE into the BPI is a logical synergy which will greatly enhance the research capabilities of the Institute and makes it a powerful palaeontological asset for southern Africa. The event was celebrated with a big bash on 7 August at the Wedge, hosted by the trustees of PAST and Wits. Professor Colin Bundy, PAST chairman Mr Tony Trahar, Prof Bruce Rubidge and Dr Lee Berger opened the festivities.



The living hell of Maurice, Jacques Cousteau's cat

Bruce Rubidge continues with his research on early Karoo tetrapod faunas, particularly with regard to the earliest mammal-like reptile (therapsid) faunas from Gondwana. To this end he has undertaken several field excursions to the lower Beaufort of the Eastern and Western Cape Provinces. Just recently he and his team of researchers, which

includes postdoc student **Sean Modesto**, Billy de Klerk (Albany Museum) and **Johan Welman** (National Museum), have discovered dinocephalian fossils as far east as Grahamstown. This greatly increased the geographical distribution of the *Tapinocephalus* Assemblage Zone (one of the lowest biozones of the Beaufort Group) and will have important implications for future basin development models of the Karoo. In July Bruce attended the 18th *Colloquium of African Geology* in Grätz, Austria, where he presented a keynote address on fossil vertebrates from the Karoo and their use in basin analysis. **Sean Modesto** has returned to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Canada, to do a post doc there but will be back here sometime next year for some field work.

Ross Damiani, a postdoctoral fellow from Australia, **Johann Neveling**, a PhD student and **John Hancox** (Wits Geology Department) are working on the Early Triassic strata in and around Senekal and have found numerous fossil amphibians, fish, reptiles, wood and macroplants. Ross and **Sean Modesto** are also working on small Triassic reptiles, and Ross was recently awarded a National Geographic Society grant to conduct fieldwork in the lowermost Triassic rocks of the Karoo. **Andrea Sandersen** and **Alain Renaut** are writing up their theses, **Romala Govender** is making progress with her MSc research and **Sue de Villiers** with her palynology.

In August this year **Marion Bamford**, **Rose Adendorff** and **Ray Renaut** attended the 6th *Quadrennial Conference of the International Association of Palaeobotany* in Qinhuangdao, Heibei Province, China, where they presented papers on "Tertiary fossil woods", "*Glossopteris* fructifications" and "Sphenophytes", respectively. After the conference and tour of historical Beijing,



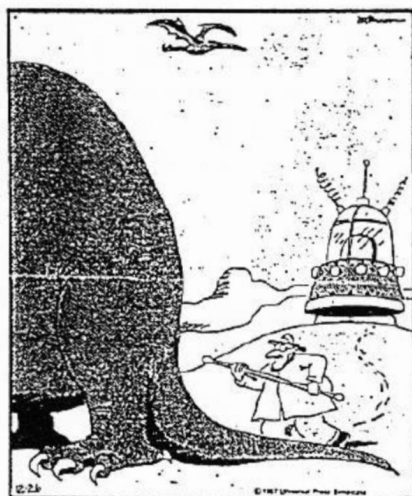
"That's just not impressive, Doris. ... The brain!
Hold up the big brain!"

Rose and Ray participated in the Permian field trip to western China, visiting fossil plant sites in the Turpan Basin, Urumqi, Tianchi and Qitai. Marion went on the excursion to northeast China to have a look at the fossils from the Jurassic and Cretaceous sediments at Yanji, Dalazi, Fushun, Yixian and Beipiao. Marion also spent time in France doing research, followed by a short field season at Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania.

The 11th biennial conference of the Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa was held in Pretoria at the Transvaal Museum (now Northern Flagship Institution) at the beginning of September. Of the 49 presentations, 24 were by BPI palaeontologists and palaeoanthropologists. Papers covered a whole variety of fields

from amphibians to fish, insects, parareptiles, dinosaurs, hominids, pollen, plants, biodiversity, tourism and education. The French Embassy assisted with finances and also brought out several French palaeoanthropologists, including the well-known Yves Coppens who gave the Robert Broom Memorial lecture. Delegates were also invited to a gracious reception at the Embassy in Pretoria.

The high standard and diversity of the papers on the Karoo led to the BPI having an internal symposium at the end of September with the aim to highlight the current research, look at potential cooperation and the future path of Karoo Research, integrating geology, palaeontology and palaeobotany. Shortly afterwards, at the beginning of October, Bruce Rubidge, Ross Damiani and John Hancox attended the 60th annual SVP meeting (Society of Vertebrate Palaeontology) in Mexico City. They each presented papers on their research, and sampled some of the local cuisine but did not have complimentary things to say about it!



BILLY DE KLERK, ALBANY MUSEUM, GRAHAMSTOWN

Well the PSSA conference has again come and gone - what a delight it was to see all our friends in the palaeo world in Pretoria in September. Attendance at any PSSA conference is always a highlight of a year!

This half year has largely been devoted to the preparation of the considerable amount of material that we excavated from the Kirkwood Cliffs in 1999. This material continues to yield numerous small bones of at least 13 baby dinosaurs that will in time be described as a new species of ornithomimid dinosaur.

Our contracted artist, Mrs Gill Maylam, had made very good progress in the painting of the lower Cretaceous landscape that will form a backdrop to the lower Cretaceous display in the Museum. This backdrop consists of five large sheets of chipboard depicting the coastal landscape of the Port Elizabeth area around 135 million years ago. A considerable amount of time was spent with Mrs Maylam to plan and conceptualise the landscape and include animals and plants of that time period. This work is now completed and will be put on display in Early December 2000.

On the education and outreach front I have over the past three years presented a "Dinosaur Focus Week" each August and this had been done in collaboration with the Museums Education Department. The focus week has become a popular annual event and this year some 18 classes were presented to groups of primary school children. This outreach programme is definitely a success.

Billy de Klerk

IZIKO MUSEUMS - CAPE TOWN (News from SAM)

The annual Summer School activities in February included running the "Cedarberg Retreat" twice. This is a very popular 4-day weekend trip to the northern Cedarberg mountains where 40 members of the public get a full on the natural history experience - including geology, fossils, astronomy, dendrochronology, ornithology, anthropology and campfire gastronomy. In April three weeks were devoted to excavating more of the richest Early Pliocene fossil occurrence in the world at the now fully open *West Coast Fossil Park*. Some superb *Sivatherium* remains are coming out which looks as if the skeletons just fell apart right there.

In the following month Dr Roger Swart and I led a long weekend field excursion for 30 members of the Namibian Geological Society to the Omingonde Formation exposures on Etjo Mountain in central Namibia. I spent a few days afterwards in Damaraland looking at modern giraffe carcasses that had drowned in a flash flood. This data may help to illustrate the taphonomic history of the West Coast Fossil Park bonebed.

A field excursion in the Canadian Rockies looking at valley glaciers and the Burgess Shale site in June, served as a precursor to *Geocanada 2000* where I presented a paper on our work on the P-Tr boundary in the southern Karoo. Afterward I spent a couple of days amongst the dinosaurs at Drumheller Museum getting lots of good ideas on how to exploit the educational aspects of a fossil dig site. This was followed by a week spent with Peter Ward in Seattle, writing up the P-Tr extinction work that we have been doing.

After *Geocongress* in Stellenbosch in July, the Karoo palaeo team of myself, Paul October and Georgina Skinner, led 40 Friends of Museum on a 5 day fossil-finding trip based at Meltonwold, Victoria West District. They were treated to a blizzard that turned the veld into a winter wonderland. Afterwards the crazy palaeo crew camped near Aberdeen to excavate the back half of "Oompies", a spectacular 3.5metre long articulated *Dicynodons* skeleton (the front of which was recovered last year). This specimen has good display potential and is being considered for an interactive fossil lab installation in the display area of the Museum. On the third day of the excavation serendipity struck. Whilst answering the call of nature I found the back end of a perfectly preserved biarmosuchid skull. Then about 50 metres down the gully I spotted the snout half buried in loose rubble. It fitted perfectly to give me a superb specimen of *Proburnetia* - a primitive carnivorous mammal-like



"So! Planning on roaming the neighborhood with some of your buddies today?"

reptile and the only specimen of its kind to have been found outside Russia. This generated some publicity with a national TV news insert, front page Cape Times, Beeld, Burger and Voksblad and national radio interviews. Annelise Crean has prepared it and Bruce Rubidge and I will describe the specimen next year.

At the September meeting of the PSSA in Pretoria, I teamed up with John Hancox (Wits) and Claudia Marsicano (Buenos Aires) to travel to southern Lesotho to re-investigate the dinosaur trackway surfaces that were discovered by Ellenberger, a French missionary, some 50 years ago. We luckily managed to obtain a permit to work on the surfaces and returned with about 3 square metres of plaster cast which are a valuable addition to our trace fossil collection as well as a potential display. The long awaited article on the P-T extinction finally appeared in the September issue of *National Geographic Magazine*.

The Karoo palaeo team travelled to Bethulie district in October where they were joined by Prof Peter Ward (University of Washington) and Johann Neveling (Council for Geosciences) to continue field work on the cause of the end-Permian Mass Extinction. Fossil highlights from this trip include a track way surface from the boundary interval that shows both dicynodont and cynodont trackways- these were cast in a single large Plaster of Paris slab. A couple of specimens of an unusual snub-nosed carnivore of uncertain origin and a pair of intercurled juvenile cynodont skeletons are among the haul of fossils. We now have 250 *in situ* vertebrate fossils from the boundary sections at Bethulie and Lootsberg Pass. Two papers have recently been published on this work in *Science* and *Geology*.

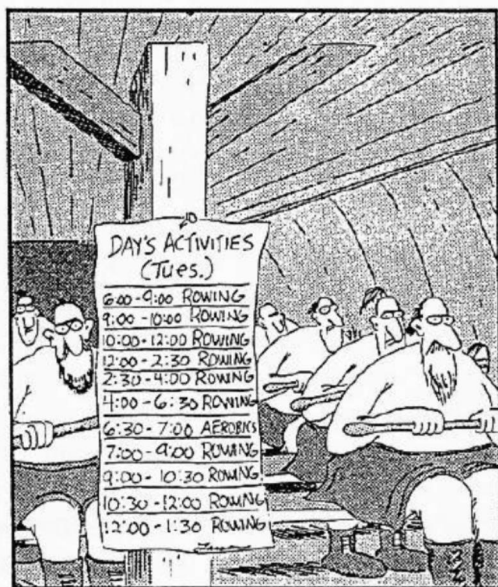
Pippa Haarhoff and I gave a presentation on the West Coast Fossil Park to delegates of the *South African Association of Science and Technology Centres* (SAASTEC) that was held at Pretoria University in November. The feedback was very positive and we are confident that incremental growth of the Park is best development strategy. I will be managing the excavating team at the Park from 4-15 December 2000.

Roger Smith

COUNCIL FOR GEOSCIENCE:

Another six months have flown by with the 11th *Biennial conference of the PSSA* in September, right here on our doorstep, the main event on our calendar. Not only did papers presented at the conference interesting and thought-provoking, but the conference provide an excellent opportunity to meet with palaeo-friends again.

Ever since **Patrick Bender** received the good news that he passed his PhD thesis (as we have briefly reported in the previous issue of *PalNews*), he has embarked on the paper-making business - converting chapters into articles and his thesis into a bulletin. He is also casting a roving eye onto other promising fishing spots and is currently busy with collaborative projects with John Hancox, doing groundbreaking research on lungfish toothplates as well as working on fossil fish from the Upper Beaufort. After the PSSA-meeting in early September, he and Johann Neveling participated in the internal BPI seminar for Karoo Research in late September. In November Patrick and Johann joined Bruce Rubidge, Ross Damiani,



Slave-ship daily schedules

John Hancox (BPI), Ken Angielczyk (Berkeley) and Cynthia Kemp (SASAP) in the Cradock district for work on the P-T boundary. Good use was made of this opportunity and a number of known fish fossil sites were visited on the journey to and from Cradock. New material was collected and Patrick was able to significantly enlarge the current sample of lungfish toothplates. Back at the Geoscience Museum he and Anke Raath are also preparing for, amongst other things, a new palaeontological display that will be put up in 20001.

Hymne Laubscher attended the 18th *Colloquium of African Geology* in Grätz, Austria in July 2000. Upon returning, she continued with her

work on the Pleistocene fossils from Basaansklip while also spending a significant amount of time to design and put up the website for the Collections Management Unit. (Go and have a look at the website at: www.geoscience.org.za/Divisions/Collections/index.htm) In the mean time she managed to give a workshop on palaeontology for schoolchildren before leaving for Cape Town on extended leave to enjoy the sunshine and fresh air before she will return to Council early in the new year.

Johann Neveling was able to escape the confines of his office with several small fieldtrips this semester. A very short trip to the Senekal district with Ross Damiani and John Hancox to work on the fascinating *Cynognathus* Zone sites in this district, preceded the PSSA meeting in Pretoria. In early October he joined Roger Smith, Paul October, Heddi Stummer (SAM) and Peter Ward (University Washington) for almost two weeks around Bethulie to work on the P-T boundary documented here - a trip he describes as thoroughly enjoyable experience and great learning curve. After a short, three-day visit to Punda Maria in the Kruger National Park to have a look at their dinosaur fossils (1st reported on by Francois Durand in 1995), it was off to Bergville for two weeks in early November to work on the *Lystrosaurus-Cynognathus* Zone contact. This was immediately followed by the above-mentioned trip to Cradock, before a short trip to Senekal concluded the field-season for 2000. Now it is back to the office, the computer and loads of paper work.

On a sadder note we also had to bid goodbye to colleagues and friends during the last few months. **Magdel Gricius** went on early retirement and left the Council at the end of October, while at the same time **Abraham Motgale**, one of our preparators, decided to

accept a voluntary retrenchment package. Magdel was responsible for all the logistical support and administration and kept the unit together in more than one sense. Her reliable assistance, caring nature and cheerful demeanor will be sorely missed. Abraham was, without a doubt our best preparator and his departure after the progress made by the preparation team in recent years, is a huge blow. We hope that they will experience as much happiness and laughter in coming years as they have given us - God bless.

TRANSVAAL MUSEUM

I would like to thank everybody who made the Palaeontological Conference such a huge success. Thank you to the Management of the Transvaal Museum for hosting it.

The Transvaal Museum, as a constituent museum of the Northern National Museums is in the process of internal restructuring. Only three core units will exist, namely Research, Collections and Public Communication, with the individual support services. The collections will consist of three units, i.e. Vertebrates, Invertebrates and Information. The vast Palaeontology collections will reside in Vertebrates. Researchers will no longer be in charge of collections or curate them. If you need to study any of the Palaeontology material, please contact the Collection Manager, E-mail Fourie.h@nfi.co.za

Heidi

EAST AFRICA

Although strictly speaking not PSSA-news, Martin Pickford and Brigitte Senut, who are both well known in the Southern African palaeontological community, received a great deal of international coverage with the recent discovery of 6-million year old hominid fossils in Kenya. The following insert was gleaned from a report by *Reuters* that appeared on the internet in early December 2000.

"Find adds 1.5-million years to human history - 04-12-2000 -

A team of French and Kenyan scientists has unearthed fossil remains of humankind's earliest ancestor that predate previous discoveries by more than 1,5 million years, it was announced on Monday.

Millennium man, as the hominid creature has been nicknamed, was discovered in the Tugen hills of Kenya's Baringo district on October 25 by a team from College de France in Paris and the Community Museums of Kenya. "This discovery concerns all humans on earth," palaeontologist Martin Pickford told a news conference in the Kenyan capital. "It is at least six million years old, which means it is older than the remains found at Aramis in Ethiopia, which were 4,5 million years old."

Scientists found fossilised body parts belonging to at least five individuals - male and female - which showed the creature was chimpanzee-sized and walked predominantly on its back legs, but also had strong arms for climbing trees. - *Reuters* "

Anyone interested in more info can visit the following websites:

- www.discovery.com/news/briefs/20001204/hi_di_reu_earlyhuman.html
- www.theglobeandmail.com/gam/International/20001205/UMILLN.html
- www.iol.ca.za/html/frame_search.php

PSSA MEMBERS & FRIENDS ON EMAIL

If you spot any mistakes (addresses or names) please let me know at jneveling@geoscience.org.za so that I can update the list.

Dr Rose Adendorff	Adendo@sci.pg.wits.ac.za
Dr Eric Anderson	ihma@giraffe.ru.ac.za
Dr Heidi Anderson	jma@nbipre.nbi.ac.za
Dr John Anderson	jma@nbipre.nbi.ac.za
Ken Angielczyk	etranger@socrates.berkeley.edu
Dr Graham Avery	bcage@uctvax.uct.ac.za
Graham Avery	gavery@samuseum.ac.za
Shaw Badenhorst	c/o Fourie,h@nfi.co.za
Dr Marion Bamford	106mab@cosmos.wits.ac.za
Dr Bernard Battail	bbattail@cimrs1.mnhn.fr
Dr Patrick Bender	bender@nfi.co.za
Dr. Lee Berger	berger@icon.co.za
Lucinda Blackwell	055lucs@chiron.wits.ac.za
Jennifer Botha	jbotha@botzoo.uct.ac.za
Dr J. Braga	jbraga@anthropologie.u-bordeaux.fr
Dr James Brink	jbrink@nasmus.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	B.deKlerk@ru.ac.za
Dr Sue de Villiers	nifoasa@iafrica.com
Daryl de Ruiter	djderuiter@hotmail.com
Ludwig Döhne	LudwigDohne@flysaa.com
Dr. Francois du Rand	fd@rau.rau.ac.za
Heidi Fourie	Fourie,h@nfi.co.za
Ms. T Franz	tfranz@botzoo.uct.ac.za
Rob Gess	c/o S.Gess@ru.ac.za
Dr Dominique Gommery	gommery@ivry.cnrs.fr
Dr Gideon Groenewald	gideon@bhm.dorea.co.za

Pippa Haarhoff	pippah@iafrica.com
Prof AV Hall	avhall@uctvax.uct.ac.za
Dr John Hancox	065PJH@cosmos.wits.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
Mrs Lynn Meyer	c/o Fourie.h@nfi.co.za
Mariette Kotze	mkotze@mme.gov.na
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
Mary Leslie	mleslie@sahra.org.za
Johan Looock	geoci@rs.uovs.ac.za
Marius Loots	mloots@medic.up.ac.za
Dr Tom Mason	trm@star.arm.ac.uk
Ian McLachlan	mclachlai@petroleumagencysa.cm
Dr Jeff McKee	mckee.95@osu.edu
Darlington. Munyikwa	palaeo@telconet.co.zw
Johann Neveling	jneveling@geoscience.org.za
Dr Martin Pickford	c/o bsenut@cimrs1.mnhn.fr
Ms S Potze	micromammal@yahoo.co.uk
Ms S Prat	sandrineprat@hotmail.com
Dr Mike Raath	106mar@cosmos.wits.ac.za
Alain Renaut	106AJR@cosmos.wits.ac.za
Ray Renaut	RRenaut@sci.pg.wits.ac.za
Dr Gideon Rossouw	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
Prof Louis Scott	scottl@plk.nw.uovs.ac.za
Frank Senegas	senegas@evol.isem.univ-montp2.fr
Dr Brigitte Senut	bsenut@cimrs1.mnhn.fr
Dr Russell Shone	glarws@orca.upe.ac.za

Dr Roger Smith
Dr Francis Thackeray
Dr Juri van den Heever
Dr W.F. v Zyl
Annie v/d Venter
Dr Eddie van Dijk
Dr Anne Warren
Dr Johann Welman

rsmith@samuseum.ac.za
thack@nfi.co.za
jvdh@maties.sun.ac.za
gideon@bhm.dorea.co.za
micromammal@yahoo.co.uk
eddie@vandijk.co.za
zooaw@zoom.latrobe.edu.au
kvertpal@nasmus.co.za

Reminder:

*Deadline for contributions for the next issue of
PAL NEWS is 25 May*

