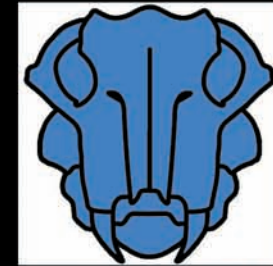


# PALNEWS

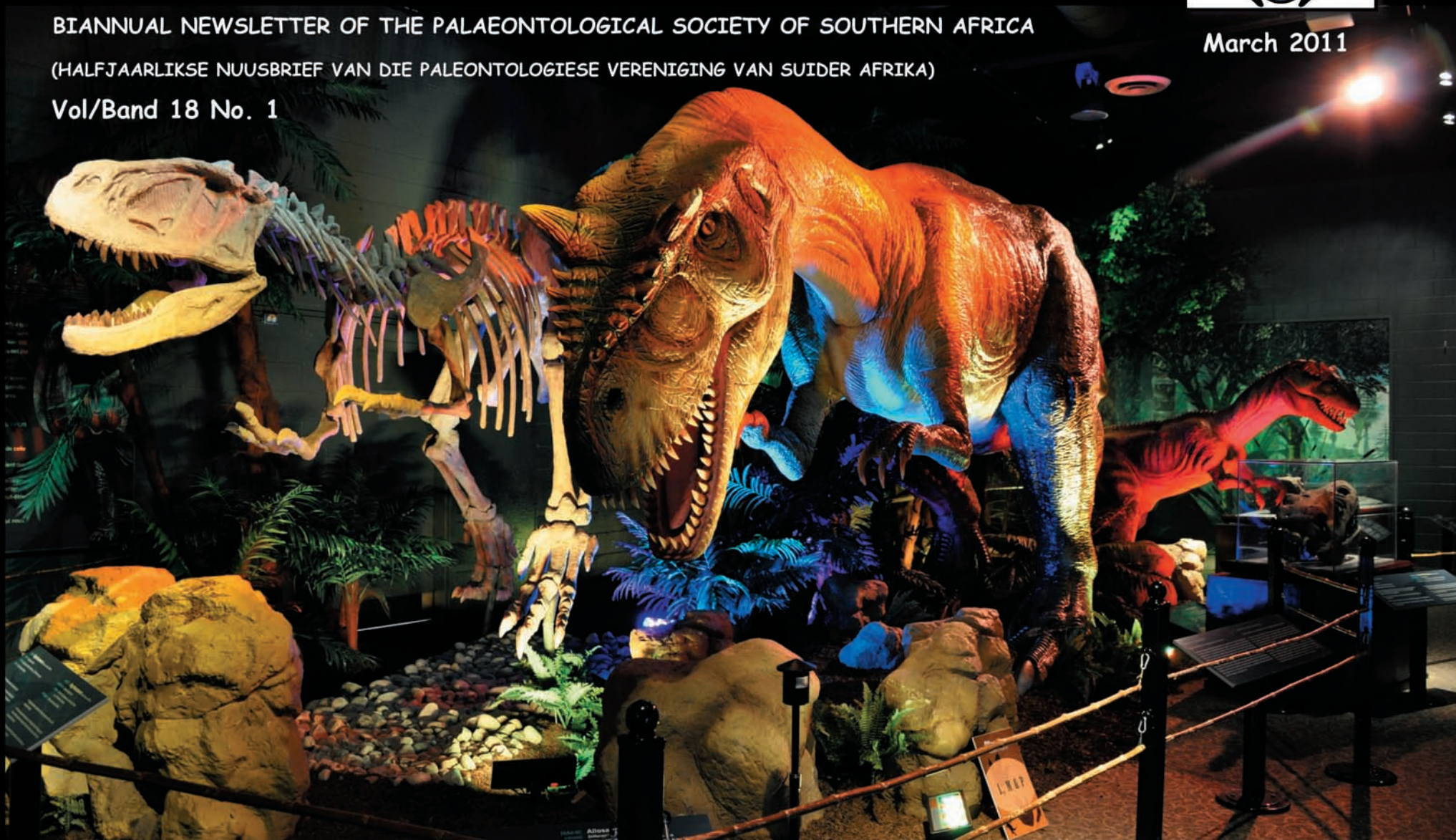


BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PALAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(HALFJAARLIKSE NUUSBRIEF VAN DIE PALEONTOLOGIESE VERENIGING VAN SUIDER AFRIKA)

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From the Editor	3		
News from:		16th Biennial Congress of the PSSA	20
Albany Museum & Rhodes University	4	Delegates - photo	20
Billy de Klerk	4	Conference Programme	21
Rose Prevec	5	Minutes of the BGM - Lucinda Backwell	24
		Awards	26
BPI & I HE Wits, Johannesburg	8		
Bruce Rubidge	8	Note from P.A.S.T.	31
Francis Thackeray	14		
Ditsong: National Museum of Natural History	15	Ichnological Association - membership	32
Stephany Potze		In the news	33
Iziko SA Museum	17	Palaeo-poem: Keith Holmes	33
University of Cape Town	17	PSSA members and friends - email	35
Palaeobiology Research Group		Next Deadline for News	36
From Around the World	19		

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**Front cover:** Photograph provided by Rose Prevec - 'Dinosaurs Unearthed' temporary display at Science North, Sudbury, Canada.



## EDITORIAL

Dear Friends and Members of the PSSA,

Thank you to those of you who managed to send in a contribution to this rather late, post-conference edition of Palnews. It is a little light on the news side - I hope this means that the rest of you are bursting at the seams with news for the next issue (hint, hint)!

It was with great sadness that members of the PSSA received news from Johann Neveling, of Dr Andre Keyser's passing in August last year. In lieu of an obituary (which will hopefully be included in the next issue), and because I don't think Johann had a complete email address list at the time, here is the notification that was sent out to the members:

Dear colleagues

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Dr Andre Keyser early on Sunday 15 August. Andre was a long standing and founder member of the PSSA. Most of his career was spent working for the Geological Survey of South Africa (now The Council for Geoscience). Andre undertook taxonomic research on both Permian and Triassic dicynodonts, and was responsible for an extensive fossil collecting campaign in the Beaufort Group for biostratigraphic refinement. Late in his career Andre's research interest changed to the search for new fossil hominid sites, initially with the excavation of a cave at Haasgat, and later at Drimolen which led to spectacular discoveries of *Paranthropus* and *Homo*.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11h00 on Tuesday 17 August at the NG Church, 207 Erasmus Street, Meyerspark, Pretoria.

Kind regards  
Johann Neveling

The past six months seem to have been fraught with sadness and natural disasters - floods in Brisbane, an earthquake in New Zealand, and the massive quake, associated Tsunami and nuclear disaster in Japan. I am sure I am not the only member who had family affected by these disasters, and at least one of our members was caught in the midst of this large scale destruction. Norton Hiller and his family

live in Christchurch, NZ. News via Prof. Hugh Eales of the Geology Department here at the Rhode University, is that Norton and his family are safe, although life has been difficult as far as basic amenities etc. are concerned. I gather that the Canterbury Museum where Norton works is still closed off, as are entire parts of the town, as cleanup operations continue. I am sure I speak for all of us in wishing Norton and his family a speedy return to some sort of normality in their lives.



The beautiful Canterbury Cathedral in ruins

Canterbury Museum closed

On a happier note, I gather the PSSA congress held last year in Howick, KwaZulu-Natal, was a great success, so well done to Mike Mostovski, Mike Watkeys and their team of organisers. The minutes of the BGM are on p. 24, along with some photos of the revelry. Next year, the PSSA congress will be in the capable hands of Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan in Cape Town.

If you could not attend the congress, and would like to see what the members have been up to, see p. 21 for a copy of the programme. I also came across the full abstract volume from the congress on the web, at: <http://www.archive.org/details/ProceedingsOfThe16thConferenceOfThePalaeontologicalSocietyOfSouthern>

This is possibly something that needs to be discussed, perhaps at the next PSSA gathering. Following the 2006 PSSA here in Grahamstown, we published most of the abstracts in *Palaeontologia africana*. There were a number of presenters who declined to have their abstracts published (albeit in a non-peer reviewed forum) because the content was going to be submitted to high profile journals. The concern was that some journals have policies regarding (a) the originality of content in a prospective publication and (b) embargos on pending publications that preclude the release of information into the public domain.

I had a quick look at the policies of some of the top journals:

**Science** (instructions to authors):

**Prior publication** Science will not consider any paper or component of a paper that has been published or is under consideration for publication elsewhere. Distribution on the Internet may be considered prior publication and may compromise the originality of the paper as a submission to Science. Please contact the editors with questions regarding allowable postings.

**Prior press coverage** Reports of the main findings of a paper in the mass media may compromise the novelty of the work and thus its appropriateness for Science. Authors are free to present their work at scientific meetings but should not overtly seek media attention or give copies of the figures or data from their manuscript to any reporter, unless the reporter agrees to abide by Science's press embargo. If a reporter attends an author's session at a meeting and writes a story based only on the presentation, such coverage will not affect Science's consideration of the author's paper.'

**Nature:** 'We encourage discussion and exchange of ideas among scientists, and in no way object to the presentation of unpublished data at scientific meetings and the online or print publication of meeting abstracts.' (2005. Editorial, Nature Methods 2, 561; doi:10.1038/nmeth0805-561).

**PNAS:** 'If you plan on presenting your embargoed paper at a conference prior to publication, please contact the PNAS News Office immediately'.

So I guess it depends on the journal, and if you are fortunate enough to be considering these issues, best to check with the particular journal you have in mind before presenting your big discoveries at a conference. Perhaps some of you big publishers out there have advice to offer?

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) in Pretoria, after a long tradition of palaeobotanical endeavour thanks to John Anderson and Heidi Anderson Holmes, no longer hosts any palaeontological specimens or expertise. How this could happen, is beyond me, at a time when our government appears to be so genuinely enthusiastic about promoting, supporting and developing the palaeosciences in South Africa. However, one benefit to the new arrangement is that the fossil plant collections of SANBI and the Bernard Price Institute are now united, in what is a truly first class facility at the newly renovated BPI. This palaeobotanical collection is really unparalleled in the world as far as Gondwanan plant fossils are concerned.

On a final note, congratulations to PAST on their slick new website. It is just fantastic! I urge members to take a look (see p. 31; [www.past.co.za](http://www.past.co.za)).

I hope to hear from you soon, and wish you all a happy and productive second half of the first half of the year...

Best wishes  
Rose

## ALBANY MUSEUM & RHODES UNIVERSITY

– Grahamstown January '11

Billy de Klerk, Rose Prevec, Robert Gess, Marius Vermaak, Emese Bordy

It was great to have had the opportunity to attend the 16th Conference of the PSSA in Howick, KZN (5th – 8th August '10). Discussions at PSSA'10 with the Deputy Minister of Science and Technology, Mr Derek Hanekom and his DST team, will hopefully bear fruit and see an improvement in the government's perception of the crisis faced by palaeontology and palaeontologists in South Africa at present. Our message to the DST was that we needed more scientific posts and funding in museums and universities and already the NRF had responded by creating contract technical posts for 2011. I can report that we have been granted three of these preparator posts – but only for one year with a vague "promise" that there may be money available in 2012 to keep these newly trained personnel on.

The year 2011 started off well with the return of Rose Prevec and her family from an extended sabbatical in Canada for the past six months. Welcome home Rose.

On a happy and congratulatory note, I'm really pleased to report that **Robert Gess** handed in his PhD (Wits) in January '11. It would appear that his *magnum opus* is just the start in his quest to unravel the faunal and floral complexities of the Grahamstown upper Devonian estuary. Well done Robert!

For the past couple of years now, Prof. Marius Vermaak and I have been tossing around the idea of getting an exhibit of the Chinese feathered dinosaurs to tour through South Africa for about a month. As director of the Confucius Institute at Rhodes University, Marius was able to meet up with Chinese officials at both the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP) and the Beijing Museum of Natural History (BMNH) and was able to set up exploratory meetings with them during October 2010. As a consequence, and a great highlight, I was invited by Marius and the Confucius Institute in Beijing, to travel with him to Beijing, from 22nd - 31st October, to explore the possibility of bringing such an exhibit to South Africa in 2012. This initiative was well received at both the IVPP and the BMNH. Motivations to secure sponsorships and finance for this venture will be pursued in early 2011.

During November and December I was able to undertake five Palaeontological Heritage Impact Assessments in the Eastern Cape. At present my Department of Palaeontology at the Albany Museum is operating on a zero budget and so it's necessary for me to undertake contract work to keep my department operational. These Heritage Impact Assessments (PIA's of HIA's) invariably take one to new localities where you would not generally choose to go and look for fossils. Occasionally this leads one to unexpected new discoveries.

On the work front I can already see that 2011 is going to be an interesting and outdoor-active year. As a start Marius Vermaak and I will be joining Bruce and his extended international field team in the western Karoo during mid-February to look for fossils in the basal Beaufort sediments. Can't wait... Cheers, Billy.

## Rose Prevec

Exciting news from **Emese Bordy** but sadness for the Geology Department at Rhodes, is that she has accepted a job in the Geology Department at the University of Cape Town, starting in mid-April this year. Congratulations Emese! The Eastern Cape will miss you...

For the second half of last year, the Prevec family migrated to Canada, where Steve made productive use of his sabbatical leave. Not so great for me in terms of work, but an eye-opening experience nonetheless.

We spent a fair bit of time up north in Sudbury, where Steve was occupied at Laurentian University. Sudbury (affectionately referred to by the locals as 'Sludgebury' or 'Suckbury', depending on the ambient weather and mood), owes its status as the largest city in northern Ontario to the area's world-famous deposits of nickel-copper ore - the product of a massive meteorite impact in the Proterozoic.



Victoria mines roast yard (early 1900's); and Vale's 'Superstack.'



One of the town's claims to fame is that NASA astronauts paid it a visit in preparation for the Apollo moon landing missions. The purpose of the visit was to examine meteorite impact shatter-cones and associated lithologies, but the myth still persists that the region was selected because it was so desolate and polluted that it resembled the moonscape! Back



in the day (early to mid-20th century), when smelting was performed by open-bed roasting of the ore, the pollution in the area was so bad that much of the vegetation died from acid rain, combined with intense logging activities to sustain this particular smelting method. The lakes in the area were sterile (the water undrinkable in some) and everything was coated in a layer of black. Today you can still see outcrops of the beautiful naturally pink-grey granites of the area, dyed black (up to 3 inches deep) from acid rain. Fortunately, concerted efforts to regreen the area since the 1970's, along with improved mining methods and the construction of stacks, has resulted in vast improvements in the condition and appearance of the region. Sudburians are very proud of their 'Superstack' - part of the Inco (now Vale) Copper Cliff processing facility, the largest nickel smelting operation in the world. This massive chimney is the second tallest free-standing chimney in the world (380m) and towers so high that most of the pollution it emits day and night is sent up into the jet stream - making all those sulphuric acid fumes just disappear...right? Well, Inco (Vale) also introduced scrubbers, which have reduced the amount of  $\text{SO}_2$  in the emissions by 90%, and apparently most of what is seen spewing out is water vapour and  $\text{CO}_2$ .

So our experience of Sudbury was of lovely green suburbs, with lakes of all shapes and sizes around every corner. There are 330 lakes within the boundaries of Greater Sudbury alone. To go along with this beautiful setting of stark outcrops, evergreen trees and lakes with multiple islands, and huge, multi-storied houses perched all along the lake edges with elaborate wooden decks and jetties, is a culture of pontoon boating and 'pond jumping' in bush planes. Of course in winter it is a different story...

The biggest and best surprise that Sudbury had to offer, was the education centre, Science North. What an amazing facility! This massive, highly interactive learning centre, complete with planetarium, IMAX theatre, mini zoo, hands-on



experiments, levers, buttons, puzzles, electronics, toys, and even a huge multi-story theatre for live chemistry experiments was an inspiration. The cherry on the top, was an incredible dinosaur display, produced by a company called 'Dinosaurs Unearthed'. We were really lucky to catch this temporary display. Based in China, they pride themselves on using absolutely up-to-date information and reconstructions in their displays. The many motion-activated animatronic dinosaurs (the best I have ever seen), fossil displays, spectacular backdrops and well-written posters were a palaeontological feast that kept my two terrified (initially) toddlers and me entertained for many hours. The displays were also highly interactive, and were manned by well-versed and enthusiastic local students.

The centre was packed with adults and kids of all ages, every day. Would this kind of enterprise thrive similarly in South Africa? Science North is only open from March-October, and the general entrance fee was \$20 pp. (around R160).

Wonderful as our sojourn in Canada was, it is great to be back home. I am now, because of new tax laws, no longer eligible for postdoctoral funding in South Africa, so I am trying to make my own way by doing Palaeontological Impact Assessments. It has been a steep learning curve, but I am hoping to get back to doing more research soon.





*'Dinosaurs Unearthed'* display at Science North in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.



## BPI FOR PALAEOLOGY & INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN EVOLUTION

WITS UNIVERSITY, JOHANNESBURG

### Bruce Rubidge

2010 has been a milestone year for the BPI Palaeontology and the Institute for Human Evolution (IHE) at Wits University. Lee Berger announced his remarkable *Australopithecus sediba* fossils with all the very positive press coverage this received, and the van Riet Lowe Building was completely renovated.

This involved completely rebuilding the internal walls of the ground and lower ground floors to accommodate administrative offices, collections lecture room, museum and all technicians. The first floor, which houses BPI staff and students, was also totally remodeled to provide maximum office space, in order to accommodate all MSc and PhD students.

The disruption was immense - apart from all the noise and a huge amount of dust which took ages to clear up properly afterwards (as dust seems to permeate everywhere), all staff had to move out of their offices for a time. All fossil collections had to be moved out, stored in an accessible place and then brought back again. Miraculously **Berhard Zipfel** was able to ensure that all visitors had access to the fossils required. With the retirement of John Anderson from SANBI in Pretoria, this institution has discontinued palaeontology as a research discipline and have loaned their fossil collection to Wits on a long term basis. This huge collection, which has been amassed over many years thought the efforts of **John and Heidi Anderson** is a great asset to the BPI Palaeontology, and it means that we now have a very large and comprehensive collection of Karoo fossil plants. We are very grateful to the directors of SANBI for making this possible, and to John and Heidi for their help and co-operation in making it happen. Thanks to **Marion Bamford's** foresight in planning requirements for the new building we now have excellent storage and research facilities for our palaeobotanical collections.

Thanks to the huge untiring contribution of **Cynthia Kemp, Dumisane Ngema** and **Lloyd Bogopa** (volunteers at the BPI) they achieved the virtually impossible task of safely moving all the fossils from one area to another, then placing them onto the wonderful new mobile shelves and completed their task at the same time that the builders finished building. The result was that **The Palaeosciences Centre** (as our new building is known) which houses both the BPI Palaeontology and the IHE (and we share all technical facilities) was officially opened at a cocktail function on 17 September 2010 by the Minister of Science and Technology, **Ms Naledi Pandor**. This has brought about a new era in Palaeosciences at Wits as we now have really nice spacious premises.

The field of Palaeontology has been revolutionized by the development of what is increasingly called 'virtual palaeontology'. The growing use of medical computed tomography, industrial high resolution computed tomography (micro-CT), and laser/white light surface scanning has allowed the production of 3D images of fossil specimens. These virtual representations have opened a number of new possibilities for the analysis of the specimens. Micro-CT in particular, captures information about a fossil, such as the internal morphology, at a very high resolution, and this type of virtual data arguably has greater applications than the original fossils. The palaeosciences centre has, with the assistance of the NRF and Wits University and the patient guidance of **Kris Carlson**, set up a Virtual Image Processing Room (VIP Room) which has superior computing facilities with eight workstations running the programmes Avizo and VGstudio Max. This allows for the virtual preparation of scanned fossils and facilitates work on morphometrics, shape analysis and restoration. In addition this laboratory has surface scanning and microscribe equipment, and the Karoo fossil database with GIS capabilities. These facilities are available to all researchers, and we look forward to welcoming you to The Palaeosciences Centre.



Bernhard Zipfel reports that the Department of Human Evolution at Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany, routinely CT scans specimens with a slice thickness between 0.1 and 0.02 mm, resulting in a spatial resolution beyond the accuracy of most casts of fossil specimens. The MPI had requested a second phase of a micro-CT scanning project with the Institute for Human Evolution at Wits, whereby larger specimens (including crania and postcrania) would be scanned at Wits and at the Ditsong National Museum of Natural History. The latter institution had already signed an Agreement with the Max Planck Institute and scanning of hominid fossils had already begun at the museum in Pretoria. This situation resulted in new questions and issues regarding conservation and distribution of data. Because of these new innovations, museums and curators are more often requested to allow CT scanning of specimens that are stored in their collections. With the realization that the data represents 'virtual fossils', concerns were expressed that by allowing uncontrolled access to this data, the intellectual property value of this precious resource may be compromised. This issue was therefore debated at the 2011 PSSA meeting in Howick. Subsequently, a collaborative agreement was signed between Wits and the MPI to carry out high resolution computerized tomography (micro-CT) for selected collaborative projects. In terms of the draft agreement, the data from the CT scans would remain the property of Wits. Staff of the MPI visited for several weeks and set up a mobile CT laboratory within a large container outside the medical school. The Micro-CT procedure was carried out without any problems and the data will become available to scientists, but will be required to go through the usual fossil access procedure. It is hoped that the Wits Palaeocentre will have its own micro-CT facility in future which would be applied more broadly to palaeontology.

**Marion Bamford** writes that Prof Charles Peters and she spent about a week in the field at Seekoeivlei in the eastern

Free State in April to continue our research on modern sedges and taphonomy. In June 2011 she again joined the Koobi Fora Field School in Kenya to teach the students modern plant ecology on a private game ranch and then they all went to Koobi Fora Base camp for the palaeoanthropology section of the course. Just prior to this trip Dr Raymonde Bonnefille (recently retired palynologist from the CNRS), she and Prof Jack Harris spent a few days in the Kibwezi Groundwater Forest in south eastern Kenya to map the vegetation. According to Tim White and colleagues this forest is supposed to be an analogue for those inhabited by the hominin *Ardipithecus ramidus*. Then she spent a week on Rusinga Island, Lake Victoria excavating Early Miocene fossil leaves with Will Harcourt-Smith, Kieran McNulty, Dan Pepe, Thomas Lehman, Dan Maxbauer and students before joining the OLAPP team at Olduvai Gorge. They are still refining the Stratigraphy and palaeoecology while waiting for a special issue on their research to be published in the Journal of Human Evolution. The PSSA conference in Howick provided a wonderful opportunity to catch up with the local palaeontologists and hear what projects they are working on. Marion also managed to squeeze in a trip to Tswaing Crater with MSc student Amr Metwally and interested helpers to collect modern soil samples for his palynology project. After lecturing in the last block she went to Xi'an in western China to a conference on Wood and Culture. It was a most interesting conference and included a visit to the Terracotta Warriors and Shaanxi Museum of Culture.

Ph.D. student **Natasha Barbolini** has collected samples for pollen analysis from various parts of the Karoo with help from Bruce Rubidge, Michael Day and others. Not all samples are productive but she will persevere. **Joseph Chikumbirike**, PhD student, has collected archaeological charcoal samples from Great Zimbabwe and in March will go there to collect modern reference material. A generous funding allocation from the NRF has enabled the BPI to buy a furnace and phase contrast

microscope for Joseph to use. **Amr Metwally**, from Egypt, has completed his MSc project on a core from Tswaing and is just waiting for the reports on his dissertation before returning home. Post doctoral fellow, **Frank Neumann**, will return to Germany to take up a teaching post at Munster University. We wish him success in his new job.

After much drama (rain, sagging cabinets, building delays and so on) the palaeobotanical collection from SANBI, Pretoria, has been moved to BPI and is now housed together with the BPI plant collection in the new basement herbarium. The cabinets are on rolling stacks so take up much less space. There is also a new microscope room, palynology laboratory, wood store and thin section laboratory so the palaeobotany research can continue in comfortable surroundings.

Marion and colleagues have managed to publish a number of papers on their various projects. For Koobi Fora there is an article about dating, diet and vegetation (Braun et al., 2010) and the woods (Bamford, in press). **David Steart** has finished the first part of a leaf physiognomy project (Steart et al., 2010) and Frank Neumann has completed the Princessvlei project (Neumann et al., in press) as well as the first part of the Malapa coprolite project (Bamford et al., in press). The long awaited two volume book on the palaeontology, geology and vegetation of Laetoli, Tanzania, is due to be published at the end of January (Harrison, 2011).

#### Recent Publications

Bamford, M.K., (in press). Late Pliocene woody vegetation of Area 41, Koobi Fora, East Turkana Basin, Kenya. Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology DOI : 10.1016/j.revpalbo.2011.01.004

Braun, D.R., Harris, J.W.K., Levin, N.E., McCoy, J.T., Herries, A.I.R., Bamford, M.K., Bishop, L.C., Richmond, B.G., Kibunjia, M., 2010. Early hominin diet included diverse terrestrial and aquatic animals 1.95 Ma ago in East Turkana, Kenya. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America 107 (22), 10002 – 10007.

Harrison T. (Ed). 2011. Paleontology and Geology of Laetoli, Tanzania: Human Evolution in context. 2 volumes. Springer, Dordrecht.

Neumann, F.H., Scott, L., Bamford, M. K. (in press). The late Holocene Fynbos vegetation at Lake Princessvlei (Western Cape) and the human disturbances since the European settlement. The Holocene.

Steart, D.C., Spicer, R.A., Bamford M.K., 2010. Is southern Africa different? An investigation of the relationship between leaf physiognomy and climate in southern African mesic vegetation. Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology 162, 607-620.

**Lucinda Backwell** and colleagues conducted two large mammal bone modification experiments in Botswana in July. The first was designed to test whether surface interferometry can differentiate between fresh and delayed cut marks, as a model for early hominin hunting and scavenging activities. To this end a wildebeest carcass was ravaged by a pack of wild dogs and the remains scavenged by people using stone tools. Preliminary results of this research were presented by Ph.D. candidate **Aurore Val** at the 11th International Council for Archaeozoology meeting in Paris. The second experiment was designed to model large mammal bone breakage patterns following heating, and was conducted by six Bushmen using stone hammers and anvils.



**Fernando Abdala** of the BPI Palaeontology in camp at Dqae Qare (pronounced 'gay curry'), waiting to retrieve a wildebeest carcass ravaged by a pack of wild dogs.

In August Lucinda began a taphonomic analysis of hominins and associated fauna from Malapa in collaboration with



**Lee Berger** (I HE), **Francesco d'Errico** (University of Bordeaux) and **Aurore Val** (PhD candidate, BPI). The high degree of skeletal articulation preserved at Malapa indicates little post-mortem bone alteration at the time of burial. Fleshed animals or even desiccated remains involved in the processes of skeletonization are highly attractive to insects, which together with their traces may be used to reconstruct past events such as the duration of corpse exposure, season, palaeoenvironment and palaeoclimate. Evidence of insect damage in the fossil assemblage led to the establishment of a number of ongoing experiments that will document the effects of gnawing by a wide range of insects on bones of different taxa and type, and in various stages of preservation.

#### Recent publications

- Backwell, L.R. & d'Errico, F. 2010. Comment on Shipman "The animal connection and human evolution". *Current Anthropology*. 51(4): 525-526.
- McCarthy, T.S., Ellery, W.N., Backwell, L.R., Marren, P., de Klerk, B., Tooth, S., Brandt, D., Woodborne, S. 2010. The character, origin and palaeoenvironmental significance of the Wonderkrater spring and peat mound, South Africa. *Journal of African Earth Sciences*. 58: 115-126.

**Fernando Abdala** reports that after five years of an extended loan of a Bauriid ae specimen from the Iziko-South African Museum, a manuscript was finally submitted in December (with T. Jashashvili, B. Rubidge and J. van den Heever) and the beautiful specimen returned back to Cape Town. Fernando is currently working with Tea Jashashvili on a second, more functionally oriented paper on the skull of southern African Bauriidae. Two brand new projects on synapsid postcrania were initiated in the second half of 2010: one on homologies and evolution of the hand of synapsids in collaboration with V. Abdala (Argentina) and S. Kummell (Germany) and another about vertebral zonation in therapsids with M. Sanchez-Villagra (Switzerland). A field trip was undertaken to the Middle Triassic Omingonde Formation with **R. Smith** (South Africa), **C. Marsicano** (Argentina) and **R. Swart** (Namibia).

Several new specimens were collected, but the most promising new fossil this time is not cynodont but a tuskless dicynodont (the first one from this fauna). Finally, he got together with **J. C. Cisneros** (Brazil) at the end of December and early January 2011. After tons of Christmas and New Year's Eve daiquiris (and Argentinean mates) they sat down to work on new, very exciting basal therapsids from the Brazilian Middle Permian.

**Adam Yates** had a mostly quiet year, busily writing as many papers as possible in an attempt to clear a large backlog of unfinished projects. He was partly successful and had three major papers accepted along with several smaller efforts. As a diversion from dinosaurs Adam has begun a project with Frank Neumann and **John Hancox** to examine a large sample (>5000 specimens) of coprolites from the Lower Triassic site of Driefontein in the Paul Roux district. This project has turned up several interesting results, including insect wings and the oldest known Triassic freshwater bivalves preserved in these coprolites. A big surprise came when he oversaw the moving of the dinosaur collection into the new shelving in the renovated BPI collections area. Several large bones from the lower Elliot Formation were identified as belonging to a single giant dinosaur skeleton. Preliminary results indicate that this dinosaur probably massed in the vicinity of 10-12 tons and is the largest known Triassic land animal ever found.

#### Recent Publications

- Yates, A. M., Bonnan, M. F., Neveling, J., Chinsamy, A. and Blackbeard, M. 2010. A new transitional sauropodomorph dinosaur from the Early Jurassic of South Africa and the evolution of sauropod feeding and quadrupedalism. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 277: 787-794.
- Yates, A. M. 2010. A revision of the problematic sauropodomorph dinosaurs from Manchester, Connecticut and the status of *Anchisaurus* Marsh. *Palaeontology* 53: 739-752.

**Bruce Rubidge's** time for the past year has been taken up with architects plans, builders and building operations, but despite this he managed to get on with some research and has submitted several papers for publication. He will be taking

a six month sabbatical as from February in order to finalise several long-unfinished projects. In addition he has been involved in the supervision of several student projects. **Valerie Nxumala** has submitted her MSc on the stratigraphy and sedimentology of Karoo basins in Botswana, and **Andrea Leenan** has submitted her MSc on cut marks made on cow bones as a result of butchering experiments undertaken by bushmen using stone tools. **Rob Gess** has also submitted his mammoth task describing lampreys, sharks and coelacanths from his Waterloo farm locality near Grahamstown, and providing a synthesis of Gondwanan and Devonian biodiversity. **Luke Norton** continues to work on his gorgonopsian project for his MSc, and **Saniye Guven** is enthusiastically working toward completing her mammoth PhD project on Tapinocephalid dinocephalians. **Mike Day's** PhD project involves re-examining the vertebrate biostratigraphy of the lower Beaufort Group, Karoo Super Group, South Africa. The aim of the project is to create an up-to-date image of biodiversity changes through the Middle Permian and investigate the extinction of the Dinocephalia and its possible connection to the Capitanian marine extinction event. He is also attempting to refine basin development processes in the Karoo during this time. **Sifelani Jirah** is studying the lithostratigraphy of the Abrahamskraal Formation in the central Koup, between Prince Albert and the escarpment north of Merweville for his MSc. He is also considering the vertebrate fauna to clarify the biostratigraphic boundaries in this part of the basin.

Both students have undertaken several trips to the Karoo and in October 2010 they conducted a month long fieldtrip together round the western Karoo deposits. Apart from enjoying the hospitality of farmers, sampling the delights of boiled dassie and getting stuck in sandy tracks, they found time to collect some fossils and measure stratigraphic sections and look at many, many rocks. Both will be heading back to the Karoo in the near future.

**Shahed Nalla** (MSc student at BPI and IHE, is a lecturer in the Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology, Faculty of Health Sciences, at the University of Johannesburg) is working on the thoracic elements of extant and extinct primates and is also currently working on the costal elements of the Malapa fossils. He intends furthering his studies by registering for a PhD (Palaeontology) in 2011. Shahed (with **Bernhard Zipfel**) delivered an oral presentation entitled 'The Hominin First Rib at the 16th Conference of the Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa, Howick KwaZulu Natal, August 5 – 8, 2010, and was awarded "The Lystrosaurus Award" for the "Best Oral Presentation by a student in Palaeontology" for this presentation. Shahed, together with Dr. Bernard Zipfel, presented a poster entitled 'The First Rib - a key to Hominin identification?' at the 3rd Postgraduate Cross Faculty Symposium of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 26-27 October 2010.

**Brigitte Cohen** reports that she has completed her Honours degree with distinction at the BPI. For her Honours project she identified and described the mesomammals (families Viverridae, Mustelidae, Herpestidae, Hystricidae, Leporidae and Pedetidae) of Cooper's D. Cooper's D has the most diverse mesomammal assemblage of the Witwatersrand, with 63 specimens making up a minimum of 39 individuals, representing nine species. Cooper's D is the third site in the Witwatersrand to produce the extinct porcupine *Hystrix makapanensis* and the only site other than Swartkrans to produce the springhare (*Pedetes capensis*). The hare material is made up of maxillary and mandibular fragments with characteristic taphonomy. Brigitte has now started on her Masters research project in which she will undertake feeding experiments with carnivores and birds of prey on mesomammals and investigate the taphonomy of the mesomammals of Cooper's D.

**Aurore Val**, PhD student is working on the taphonomy of the hominins from the Plio-Pleistocene cave site of Malapa.



In order to understand the fossilization processes of two australopithecine individuals from the Plio-Pleistocene cave site of Malapa (Gauteng Province, South Africa), she has conducted a digital 3D reconstruction of the hominin remains within the site. Using pictures, field data, CT scan images and 3D reconstruction of the hominin bones, she has created a 3D image of the original position of some parts of the two skeletons that have been found *in situ*. She will carry on this study this year in collaboration with **Dario Conforti** and **Matteo Sgrenzaroli**, to combine the 3D reconstruction of the hominins with the scan and the reconstruction of the complete cave site that they have already done.

At the PSSA conference Aurore presented her work on 'Micro CT scanning and identification of an elephant shrew mandible from the Plio-Pleistocene cave site of Malapa, Gauteng Province, South Africa'. Together with **Kris Carlson** she conducted a micro CT scan, and a segmentation of a small fossil hemi-mandible recovered in the cave site of Malapa. In order to identify the specimen, they used the digital 3D reconstruction of the specimen (which was too fragile to be manually removed from the matrix block and therefore to be identified) to compare it with modern microfauna specimens from the Transvaal Museum reference collection. That allowed them, with the help of **Job Kibii** and **Christine Steininger** to identify the fossil specimen as an elephant shrew. This provided some information about the palaeoenvironment of the Malapa site. These results were presented at the PSSA conference (oral presentation) and an article has recently been submitted to the South African Journal of Science.

Aurore is involved in a collective research project in France about Neanderthal subsistence strategies (head of the project: Céline Thiébaud). In the course of that project, she undertook experimental archaeology (butchery of ungulates, exploitation of the different raw material from the animals, such as meat, bone, marrow, and skin, as well as processing

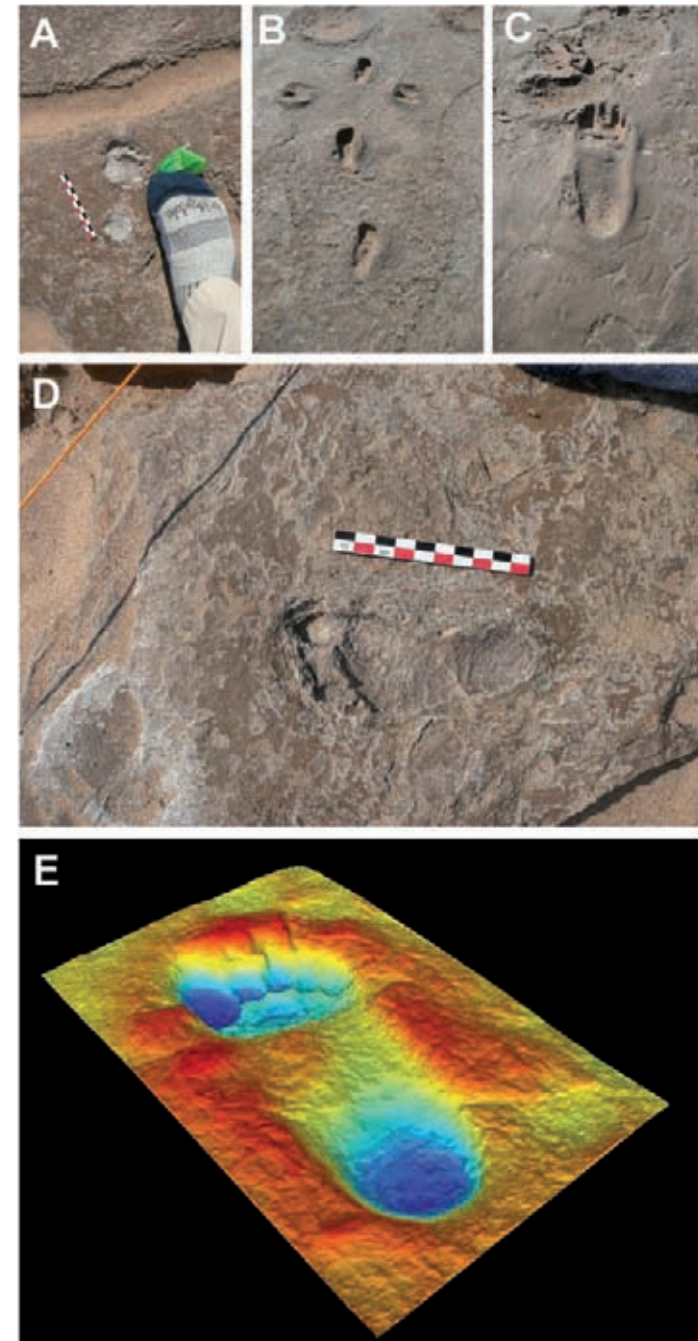
of wood and other vegetal matter). The aim is to compare the marks left by stone tools on bones, as well the use-wear pattern on the tools produced by different activities, with marks found on fossil remains (from Middle Palaeolithic sites, in the South West of Europe). Her task on the project is to compare and analyse cut marks on bones made by different raw material (flint versus quartz) and by different kinds of tools (unretouched flake, retouched flake, biface). This year she made replicas of experimental cut marks and analysed them under a scanning electron microscope, which yielded to some preliminary results. Together with her Master's supervisor, Jean-Baptiste Mallye (researcher in zooarchaeology at the University of Bordeaux), she submitted a paper on the results obtained during her Masters, concerning skinning marks produced by taxidermists on small carnivores bones. She also submitted a paper on an experimental study undertaken in 2009 on the effect of sieving on small mammal body-part representation and the different implications in terms of interpretation of archaeological assemblage. This paper will be published this year in the "Actes de la Table Ronde sur la Taphonomie des Petits Vertébrés, Bordeaux, Octobre 2009.

Aurore accompanied her supervisor Lucinda Backwell to the field in July 2010 to help her with an experimental study involving people from the Bushmen community of Kaikoi in Botswana. The Bushmen people conducted two butchery processes on wildebeest carcasses (one complete and one that was previously given to wild dogs, in order to reproduce the pattern of hunting versus scavenging). The carcasses are currently being prepared and the next step will be to look at the different cut marks left on the bones from the two carcasses under the microscope, to see if it's possible to make any distinction between cut marks made on very fresh carcasses from the ones made on a 2 day old carcass. Aurore presented a poster about this project at the ICAZ (International Council for Archaeozoology) Conference in August 2010, in Paris.

## Francis Thackeray – Director, IHE

The Institute for Human Evolution at Wits continues to be active in many fields. **Ron Clarke** has been working on “Little Foot” at Sterkfontein. **Lee Berger** and his team continue to work on two remarkable skeletons of *Australopithecus sediba*. **Chris Henshilwood**, **Lyn Wadley** and others continue to find extraordinary things from their Late Pleistocene sites.

I have been involved with a study of Late Holocene human footprints from old flood plain deposits associated with the Kuiseb Delta in the Namib inland of Walvis Bay. I am working with Matthew Bennett (Bournemouth University), Cindy Liutkus (Appalachian State University, USA), Sarita Morse (University of Liverpool), as well as Dominic Stratford and Julie McClymont who are associated with the Institute for Human Evolution at Wits. Examples of human footprints are shown in the adjacent Figure. Almost 200 human footprints have now been discovered and scanned using laser technology. One trail includes 70 prints of a single person, walking north in the direction of a high concentration of animal prints. The work is extremely exciting, as part of our African Footprint Programme (AFP). We are extremely grateful to Johan Kinahan (who reported a few human footprints in 1996) and to Fanie du Preez, a conservationist and guide who takes visitors to the footprint sites in the Namib, avoiding damage to the footprint localities. He can be contacted through his website: [www.kuisebonline.com](http://www.kuisebonline.com)





## DITSONG: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

### Stephany Potze

A very happy 2011 to all you palaeo-peep's! Cheers to another fun filled fossil year!

I am happy to inform you that in October, Ms Bona Nyawose, took on the position as Director of the Museum. Bona has worked at both the Natal Museum and Durban Natural Science Museum. In the short space of time that Bona has been appointed in this role, she already secured three new positions (a preparator and two casting technicians) in the Plio-Pleistocene Palaeontology Section. We are grateful to the National Research Foundation for funding the salaries of these three positions. Prof. Francis Thackeray has kindly offered that the casting technicians at WITS assist the museum in training the new staff once the positions have been filled. It is so nice to see that positions in palaeontology are being created and we look forward to producing our own casts, and preparing many more fossils this year!

In November 2010, we opened an exhibition focusing on the fossil site of Bolt's Farm at the museum. The exhibition was a collaborative effort between the museum and French colleagues; **Dominique Gommery** and **Frank S  n  gas** from the CNRS in Paris. The exhibition would not have been possible without Vincent Baron who sourced financial support from the French Embassy. Sadly, I have to report that the anticipated dinosaur exhibition, Mesozoic Monsters, has not opened yet. Due to reasons beyond our control there has been a temporary hold put on the production, but we hope that it will be open to the public soon. For those interested in tracking the progress of the exhibition and any other museum activities can do so on our Facebook page, Transvaal Museum = Ditsong National Museum of Natural History. November was also the month that Lazarus Kgasi braved the cold winter weather in Grenoble, France, to scan some hominin specimens at the European

Synchrotron Facility along with Tanya Smith from Harvard. The snow storms made travel plans back to South Africa rather exciting, but I am happy to report that Laz made it back safe and not too frozen!

Work at Bolt's Farm has been going very well. The HOPE Research Unit (HRU) has discovered three more fossil pits, which brings the total now to 30. One of the new pits discovered is proving to be very exciting and a formal announcement will be published soon. Fieldwork at Bolt's Farm will continue again in April 2011 when Dominique and Frank return to South Africa. Along with Justin Adams from the Grand Valley State University in Michigan, we have also secured a SAHRA permit to work at the fossil site of Haasgat. Fieldwork at Haasgat will start in May 2011 when Justin will be back in the country.

Last year (2010) also saw Matthew Skinner, Tracy Kievell, Colin Moore, Adam Sylvester, Heiko Temming and Patrick Sch  nfeld from the Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology moved into the building for a little over a month to scan the hominin collection. Along with them came an equipment container of note and many hours of scanning fossils.

The museum is still undergoing RAMP (Renovations & Maintenance Programme) and it has not (yet) affected work on the collections as much as we anticipated. The contractors are almost finished with the new outside chemical preparation laboratory and we look forward to the handover, after which we will be able to put in most of the finishing touches to get the lab. up and running. Justin Adams made a contribution with funding secured from the National Science Foundation (USA) towards the completion of this lab., and we are sincerely grateful to him for this.

Operations in the Plio-Pleistocene Palaeontology Section started again on the 10th January 2011 and already we have had six researchers visit the collection...so if this is a taste of things to come for the year, I see us being very productive in 2011!



The HRU team and DI TSONG staff at the opening of the Bolt's Farm exhibition in November 2010.



Outside and inside view of the outside chemical laboratory - as you can see, still much a work in progress but exciting times!



The Haasgat team during a 2010 field trip. From left to right is Jason Hemingway, Lazarus Kgasi, Stephany Potze & Justin Adams.



This is an image regarding the Max Planck scanning: The gentleman in the hat is Patrick Schonfeld and the one behind him in the black t-shirt is Heiko Temming. The others are Bona Nyawose, Lazarus Kgasi and myself.



## IZIKO SA MUSEUM

### Roger Smith

Roger was indisposed when I was soliciting Palnews in December. He was at the US base at McMurdo, Antarctica, about to be airlifted to the Beardmore Glacier. Not fair! We look forward to hearing all about it Roger, in the next issue (hint, hint). -Ed.



McMurdo snow school

## UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

### Palaeobiology Research Group

We are looking forward to hosting the PSSA 2012 conference in the Mother City (Cape Town). Plans are currently underway to finalise venues and accommodation, and you can expect the first circular towards the end of this year.

A new website for the Palaeobiology Research Group is under construction (<http://zoo.adu.org.za/staff.php>). It will provide an in-depth description of our current research activities as well as list upcoming projects and publications. Watch that space! We've

also just recently joined the social network via facebook: check us out by searching for "UCT Palaeobiology"; "like us" and join in the conversations!

Here's some news from each of us:

**Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan** has spent the last few months finishing off an edited book on the non-mammalian therapsids, entitled "The Forerunners of Mammals: Radiation. Histology. Biology". The book is being published by Indiana University Press, and it should be out later this year! Besides the book, she has been busy on various other research projects, such as polar dinosaurs, ornithopods from Argentina and South Africa, a mosasaur from Turkey, a *Kentrosaurus* from Tanzania, as well as a variety of palaeobiological research with her postdocs (see below). As part of her work on Mesozoic birds, Anusuya is going to China in April. Thereafter she will be in Spain for the Paleohistology meeting, and she also hopes to make it to SVP in Las Vegas in November.

**Sandra Jasinowski** is in her final year of her postdoctorate in Zoology and Cerecam (computational mechanics). For the past year she has been involved in several collaborative and interdisciplinary projects including biomechanics of the cynodont skull using the finite element method, histology of bone and dental tissues in cynodonts, and computational modeling of mammalian cranial sutures. At SVP in Las Vegas, she will present her findings on the feeding mechanics of *Thrinaxodon*, and at the Paleohistology meeting in Barcelona, she will describe the histology and patterns of tooth replacement in *Tritylodon*.

**Romala Govender** is also in the final year of her postdoctorate on the marine vertebrates and palaeo-environment of Langebaanweg. The collaborative research with Becky Ackermann (Archaeology, UCT) on the morphometric analysis of the seals from Langebaanweg is in the final stages of completion, and is expected to be submitted shortly. The research on the pathologies evident among the phocid seals at Langebaanweg has also given some insight into their behavior - this work is currently in press. Current research involves a survey of the Langebaanweg cetaceans, which has provided evidence of

interactions between sharks and the cetaceans during the Early Pliocene.

**Daniel Thomas** will continue studying the diagenetic alteration of Western Cape fossils in the second year of his postdoc at UCT. This year he will broaden his study to include a variety of Western Cape sites, and describe diagenetic alteration across the region. A key instrument in his suite of analytical methods is our Palaeobiology Group's new handheld x-ray fluorescence spectrometer that permits non-destructive analyses of fossils.

**Yasemin Tulu** finished her Ph.D. in geological sciences last year at Michigan State University, USA. She has been a part of the Palaeobiology Research Group since July 2010. She is working on the fossil elasmobranchs from Langebaanweg, assessing their diversity by making comparisons to contemporaneous faunas in addition to making inferences of the palaeoenvironment. She intends to also perform oxygen isotopic analysis on the fossilised shark teeth in order to determine the water temperature at the time the elasmobranchs were alive, which may provide new palaeocological data and information about the lifestyles of particular taxa.

**Aurore Canoville** is the latest member of our team. She obtained her PhD at the University Pierre and Marie Curie (Paris, France) last November. She obtained a postdoctoral fellowship from the Claude Leon Foundation and will be part of our research group for the next two years. Her research involves an extensive paleoecological survey of the Karoo tetrapod fauna, using bone microanatomy and histology.

#### Recent Publications:

- Canoville, A. & Laurin, M. 2010. Evolution of humeral microanatomy and lifestyle in amniotes, and some comments on paleobiological inferences. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* 100: 384-406.
- Buffrénil, de V., Canoville, A., d'Anastasio, R., & Domning, D. P. 2010. Evolution of sirenian pachyosteosclerosis, a model-case for the study of bone structure in aquatic tetrapods. *Journal of Mammalian Evolution* 17: 101-120.
- Chiappe, L.M., Marugán-Lobón, J. & Chinsamy, A. 2010 Palaeobiology of the Cretaceous bird *Confuciusornis*: a comment on Peters & Peters. *Biology Letters* 2010 6: 529-530.

- Erismis, U.C. & Chinsamy, A. 2010. Ontogenetic Changes in the Epiphyseal Cartilage of *Rana* (*Pelophylax*) *caralitana* (Anura: Ranidae). *Anatomical Record* 293: 1825-1837.
- Jasinoski, S.C., Rayfield, E.J. & Chinsamy, A. 2010. Mechanics of the scarf premaxilla-nasal suture in the snout of *Lystrosaurus*. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* 30:1283-1288.
- Jasinoski, S.C., Rayfield, E.J. & Chinsamy, A. 2010. Functional Implications of Dicynodont Cranial Suture Morphology. *Journal of Morphology* 271: 705-728.
- Jasinoski, S.C., Reddy, B.D., Louw, K.K. & Chinsamy, A. 2010. Mechanics of cranial sutures using the finite element method. *Journal of Biomechanics* 43:3104-3111.
- In press:
- Botha, J., Abdala, F. & Chinsamy, A. The Radiation and Osteohistology of Nonmammaliaform Cynodonts. In: *Forerunners of Mammals: Radiation. Histology. Biology*. Indiana University Press.
- Chinsamy, A. Dinosaur Growth: Egg to Adult. *Encyclopedia of Life Sciences*.
- Chinsamy, A. The Microstructure of Bones and Teeth of Nonmammalian Therapsids. In: *Forerunners of Mammals: Radiation. Histology. Biology*. Indiana University Press.
- Chinsamy, A. & S. Ray. Bone Histology of the Some Therocephalians and Gorgonopsians. In: *Forerunners of Mammals: Radiation. Histology. Biology*. Indiana University Press.
- Govender, R., Avery, G. & Chinsamy, A. Incidence of pathologies in Early Pliocene phocid seals from Langebaanweg, South Africa. *South African Journal of Science*.
- Hurum, J. & Chinsamy, A. The Radiation, Bone Histology and Biology of Early Mammals. In: *Forerunners of Mammals: Radiation. Histology. Biology*. Indiana University Press.
- Jasinoski, S.C. & Chinsamy, A. Biological Inferences of the Cranial Microstructure of the Dicynodonts *Oudenodon* and *Lystrosaurus*. In: *Forerunners of Mammals: Radiation. Histology. Biology*. Indiana University Press.
- Ray, S., Botha, J. & Chinsamy, A. Dicynodont Growth Dynamics and Lifestyle Adaptations. In: *Forerunners of Mammals: Radiation. Histology. Biology*. Indiana University Press.



## NEWSFLASH

Eddie van Dijk was recently recognised by the University of Stellenbosch for his dedication and contribution to biological sciences in South Africa, notably for his palaeontological work. Eddie was heralded as an inspiration - 85 years old and still publishing!

(Thanks to Billy & Viv de Klerk for the Afrikaans-English translation).

### DR. D.E. VAN DIJK: SENIOR CAPTAIN SCOTT MEMORIAL AWARD MEDAL

**Citation:** Prof. A.J. Reinecke (delivered by Prof. Alan Channing).

This medal is awarded to any biologist in southern Africa who has excelled in their field of endeavour. The medal recognises work of an applied nature that is of outstanding quality, and that has advanced the status of Biological Sciences through, for example, exceptional research, teaching or supervision.

The prize is awarded to prof. D.E. (Eduard) van Dijk, emeritus professor of the former University of Natal (now the University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal), Pietermaritzburg.

Prof. Van Dijk has delivered exceptional and innovative contributions, particularly in the area of palaeontology over a long period of time. This year he will be 85 years old. His most recent publication, which appeared in 2009, outlines new evidence supporting continental drift. It is indeed impressive that someone of such an advanced age is still producing work of such a high calibre.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

### Juan Cisneros

Hi everybody, since May 2010 I moved to the city of Teresina, the hottest state capital in Brazil (only 4° south from the equator!), to work as a lecturer at the Federal University of Piauí. This is a very interesting place for a palaeontologist interested in Permo-Triassic, as the huge Parnaíba Basin, where I am based now, is rich in sedimentary rocks of this age that are poorly studied. The area is well known for its large concentrations of Permian fossil wood (see photograph), vertebrates are also there and with a little luck they will show in an upcoming campaign with my friend Ken Angielczyk.

During December-January I managed to visit South Africa again, after four years. I was nice to see again many old friends and to have some Amarula. The purpose of my trip was to work at the BPI in some secret projects with Fernando Abdala - soon we will reveal an interesting surprise related to this!

best wishes for 2011  
Juan Cisneros

New email address:  
[juan.cisneros@ufpi.edu.br](mailto:juan.cisneros@ufpi.edu.br)



#### Recent publications:

Cisneros, J.C., Cabral, U.G., de Beer, F., Damiani, R. & Fortier, D.C. 2010. Spondylarthrosis in the Triassic. PLoS ONE 5(10): e13425.doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0013425

Cisneros, J.C. & Ruta, M. 2010. Morphological diversity and biogeography of procolophonids (Amniota: Parareptilia). Journal of Systematic Palaeontology 8(4): 607-625

16th BIENNIAL CONGRESS OF  
THE PALAEOONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA  
HOWICK, 2010







The 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the  
Palaeontological Society  
of Southern Africa,  
Howick, August 5–8, 2010



The Conference has been sponsored  
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## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday 5 August 2010

16:00–18:00 REGISTRATION

18:00–20:00 ICE-BREAKER FUNCTION

## Friday 6 August 2010

08:00–08:45 LATE REGISTRATION		
08:50–09:00	Mostovski, M. Watkeys, M.	Opening
NEOPROTEROZOIC & PALAEOZOIC (Chair: M. Watkeys)		
09:00–09:30	Brain, C.K.	Continuing investigations of sponge-like microfossils from Neoproterozoic limestones in Namibia
09:30–09:45	Gess, R.W.	Relative abundance or variable preservational potential? A Late Devonian study
09:45–10:00	Nxumalo, V.	Lithofacies, ichnofacies and facies associations of the Karoo Supergroup in the Gembok Sub-basin of Botswana and Namibia
10:00–10:15	Schneider, J.W.	<i>Arthropleura</i> , <i>Meganeura</i> and Co. – gigantism related to Cope's rule or atmospheric oxygen?
10:15–10:30	Barbolini, N.	Initial report on the palynology of an Early Permian coal seam in Karoo deposits of Botswana
10:30–10:45	Botha-Brink, J.	Bone histology of carnivore coprolites from the Upper Permian South African Karoo basin
10:45–11:00	Van Dijk, D.E.	Further Permian insect fossils from Bulwer, KwaZulu-Natal
11:00–11:30 TEA BREAK		
PALAEOZOIC: SEDIMENTOLOGY, STRATIGRAPHY & PALAEOLOGY (Chair: J. Neveling)		
11:30–11:45	Jirah, S.	Sedimentological, palaeontological & stratigraphic analysis of the Abrahamskraal Formation (Beaufort Group) in an area south of Merweville, South Africa
11:45–12:00	Rubidge, B.S.	The first radiometric dates for the Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup of South Africa
12:00–12:15	Van de Walt, M.	Utilising GIS technology for refining Beaufort biozonation
12:15–12:30	Groenewald, G.H.	Palaeontology and construction – A case study at the Ingula Pumped Storage Scheme – Eskom Holdings (Pty) Ltd
12:30–12:45	Groenewald, G.H.	Geology and palaeontology of the Ingula Pumped Storage scheme – Eskom Holdings (Pty) Ltd
12:45–13:00		Discussion
13:00–14:00 LUNCH		
NON-MARINE LATE PALAEOZOIC (Chair: B. Rubidge)		
14:00–14:30	Schneider, J.W.	Biota of playa environments – Permian and modern compared
14:30–14:45	Day, M.	Middle Permian continental biodiversity changes as reflected in the Beaufort Group of South Africa: An initial review of the <i>Tapinocephalus</i> and <i>Pristerognathus</i> assemblage zones
14:45–15:00	Göven, S.	Taxonomic reassessment of the dinocerid family Tapinocephalidae
15:00–15:15	Jasinoski, S.	Cranial suture morphology and its implications for skull function in therapsids
15:15–15:30	Norton, L.A.	Study of tapinocephalid dinocerid dentition using synchrotron microtomography
15:30–15:45	Huttenlocker, A.K.	Preliminary report on the bone microstructure and paleobiology of the Permo-Triassic therocerid <i>Moschorhinus</i> (Therapsida: Eutheriodontia) from South Africa
15:45–16:00	Kurkin, A.A.	New locality with dinocerid fauna in the European Russia
16:00–18:00 CHAMPAIGN FUNCTION & LAUNCH: <i>Scatterlings of Africa, PAST's 20/20 Vision*</i>		
18:30 DINNER		

\*Sponsored by the Palaeontological Scientific Trust (PAST) & Mr Mike Nayler

## Saturday 7 August 2010

08:00–10:00 DST WORKSHOP <i>Policy Review: African Origins Strategy</i>		
10:00–10:30 TEA BREAK		
NON-MARINE PALAEOZOIC & EARLY MESOZOIC (Chair: M. Mostovski)		
10:30–11:00	Schneider, J.W.	Insects and tetrapod tracks from the Late Palaeozoic and Early Mesozoic of Morocco, North Africa, as a gateway between Laurasia and Gondwana
11:00–11:15	Bordy, E.M.	Recent sedimentological and palaeontological discoveries in the Lower to Mid-Triassic Tarkastad Subgroup (Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup), Transkei, Eastern Cape, South Africa
11:15–11:30	Krummeck, W.	Large burrows of uncertain origin in the Triassic Katberg and Burgersdorp formations, south-eastern main Karoo Basin, South Africa
11:30–11:45	Hancox, J.	Life in an Early Triassic lake: New developments from the Driefontein site, Burgersdorp Formation ( <i>Cynognathus</i> Assemblage Zone), South Africa
11:45–12:00	Neveling, J.	Sedimentology of the Early Jurassic, Spionkop fossil locality in the northeastern Free State (Karoo Basin, South Africa)
12:00–12:15	De Klerk, W.J.	The status of the ornithomimid dinosaur <i>Hererodontosaurus tucki</i> in the light of new discoveries from southern exposures of the upper Elliot Formation in the Dordrecht area of the Eastern Cape, South Africa
12:15–12:30		Discussion
12:30–13:30 LUNCH		
LEGISLATION, EDUCATION AND PALAEOLOGY (Chair: W. de Klerk)		
13:30–13:45	Galimberti, M.	Palaeontology and legislation: the current situation and the way forward
13:45–14:00	Rossouw, C.	An overview of Amafa/Heritage aKwaZulu-Natal's objectives in managing palaeontological and geological sites in KwaZulu-Natal
14:00–14:15	Zipfel, B.	Fantastic fossil facilities at the Wits Palaeocentre – upgrading of research and storage areas
14:15–14:30	McKay, I.	Kitching Fossil Exploration Center (KFEC): an experiment in South African palaeotourism
14:30–14:45	Durand, J.F.	The understanding and acceptance of evolution by first year students at the University of Johannesburg
14:45–15:00	Van Dijk, D.E.	Palaeontology for Hands as well as Eyes
MESOZOIC (Chair: E. Bordy)		
15:00–15:15	Kemp, T.S.	On the limits of cladism in palaeobiology, or why we should be looking more carefully at 'characters'
15:15–15:30	Schneider, J.W.	Triassic/Jurassic beetles from Antarctica and their environment
15:30–15:45	Mostovski, M.B.	The Upper Cretaceous Mzamba Formation at Trafalgar, KwaZulu-Natal: A proposed heritage site
15:45–16:00	Brothers, D.J.	Upper Cretaceous (Turonian) Hymenoptera (Insecta) from Orapa, Botswana: an updated review
16:00–16:30 TEA BREAK		
16:30–18:00 POSTER SESSION (Please refer to the list of posters below)		
18:30 BRAAI		



Sunday 8 August 2010

CAINOZOIC PALAEOBOTANY AND INVERTEBRATE PALAEOONTOLOGY (Chair: T. Kemp)		
09:00–09:15	Yates, A.M.	The enigmatic “ <i>Gaskoinia</i> ” <i>bullaeformis</i> Tate, an African cowrie (Gastropoda: Cypraeoidea) in Australia?
09:15–09:30	Bamford, M.K.	Early Miocene floras from Rusinga and Mfangano Islands, Lake Victoria, Kenya
09:30–09:45	Chikumbirike, J.	Archaeological and palaeoecological implications of charcoal assemblages from the Holocene from Great Zimbabwe and the immediate environment
09:45–10:00	Metwally, A.	Palynological analysis of the Holocene section of a new core from Tswaing Crater, South Africa
10:00–10:15	Neumann, F.H.	A Holocene sequence of vegetation change at Lake Eteza, coastal KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
10:15–10:30		Discussion
10:30–11:00 TEA BREAK		
PALAEOANTHROPOLOGY AND ACTUOPALAEOONTOLOGY (Chair: F. Thackeray)		
11:00–11:15	Zipfel, B.	The ‘second australopithecine species hypothesis’ in Sterkfontein Member 4: the post-cranial evidence
11:15–11:30	Nalla, Sh.	The hominin first rib
11:30–11:45	Tawane, M.G.	Dental size and frequency of anomalies in the teeth of a small-bodied population of mid-late Holocene Micronesians, Palau Micronesia
11:45–12:00	Caruana, M.V.	Social learning strategies underlying Early Pleistocene bone tool use
12:00–12:15	Parkinson, A.H.	The effects of termites on mammal and bird bone
12:15–13:30 LUNCH		
LATE CAINOZOIC (Chair: P. Lewis)		
13:30–13:45	Backwell, L.R.	Report on excavations at Wonderkrater, a late Pleistocene spring and peat mound site in the Limpopo Province, South Africa
13:45–14:00	Vilakazi, N.	The identification of fossil herpetological remains from selected Plio-Pleistocene aged fossil bearing sites in South Africa
14:00–14:15	Val, A.	Bat remains from the Plio-Pleistocene site of Malapa (Gauteng, South Africa)
14:15–14:30	Govender, R.	Evidence of shark and cetacean interaction at Langebaanweg, West Coast of South Africa
14:30–14:45	Taru, Ph.	Taxonomic identification of fossil hairs in <i>Parahyaena brunnea</i> coprolites from Middle Pleistocene deposits at Gladysvale Cave, South Africa
14:45–15:00	Collins, K.	Morphological examination of an articulated carnivore ankle using virtual preparation and disarticulation of the specimen
15:00–15:15	Baker, S.E.	A detailed analysis of fossil fauna from Taung, North West Province
15:15–15:30	Cohen, B.	The small mammal assemblage of Cooper’s Cave, South Africa
15:30–15:45	Carlson, K.J.	Virtual preparation of fossilized eggshell from Taung and analysis of surface curvatures
15:45–16:00 TEA BREAK		
16:00–18:00 Awards, PSSA Biennial General Meeting, and Closure		
18:30 CONFERENCE DINNER		

## POSTERS

- Browning, C.* – A preliminary study of Quaternary fossil dune snails of the West Coast: Implications for climate change
- Butler, E. & Botha-Brink, J.* – The biology of the South African non-mammalian cynodont *Galesaurus planiceps*
- Galimberti, M.* – Investigating the use of oxygen isotopes in *Turbo sarmaticus* and *Donax serra* for marine palaeoenvironment reconstruction during the Middle Stone Age in South Africa
- Houghton, K.* – Morphometric comparisons between crania of late Pleistocene *Homo sapiens* from Border Cave (BC 1), Tuinplaas (TP 1) and those of modern southern African populations
- Kennedy, A.M., Bhullar, B.-A.S., Lewis, P.J. & Thies, M.L.* – A preliminary analysis of a Plio-Pleistocene herpetofauna from Botswana: A conservative apomorphy-based identification
- Linkermann, S.A., Bordy, E. & Prevec, R.* – New macrofloral assemblages from the Middle to Upper Permian of the southern main Karoo Basin, South Africa
- Mokhanya, S.* – Towards establishing a workable strategy for management of palaeontological resources in KwaZulu-Natal Province: Embracing a broad management
- Ortiz, D., Lewis, P.J., Kennedy, A.M., Bhullar, B.-A.S. & Hancox, J.* – Preliminary analysis of lungfish (Dipnoi) tooth plates from Driefontein, South Africa
- Ovechkina, M.N., Green, A.N., Uken, R. & Mostovski, M.B.* – Quantitative changes of calcareous nannoflora from the Holocene off the eastern coast of South Africa
- Roberts, D.* – Palaeotemperature and vegetation reconstruction of Neogene deposits near Cape Town using biogeochemical and palynological tools
- Thackeray, F.* – Genetic and morphometric analysis of Neandertals and *Homo sapiens*
- Thackeray, J.F. & Odes, E.J.* – Cranial comparisons between Sts 5 (Mrs Ples) and other African Plio-Pleistocene hominids: the lack of a clear boundary between *Australopithecus* and *Homo*
- Thies, M.L., Aguilar, M. & Lewis, P.J.* – A morphometric comparison of *Aethomys chrysophilus* and *Micaelamys namaquensis* from northwestern Botswana
- Viglietti, P.* – Origin, sedimentology and taphonomy of an Early Triassic *Lystrosaurus* bone-bed, Katberg Formation, Karoo Basin, South Africa
- Yates, A.M.* – A multidisciplinary study of a rich assemblage of coprolites from the Lower Triassic of Driefontein, Free State, South Africa
- Yates, C.* – Unmasking the teeth and skull of *Australopithecus sediba*

# Minutes of the Biennial General Meeting

Howick – 8th August 2010

**Lucinda Backwell (Secretary)**

## 1. Welcome

Presidential Address and welcome by Johann Neveling.

## 2. Apologies

Roger Smith, Fernando Abdala, Ian McKay, Rose Prevec.

## 3. Minutes of the previous BGM

The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the previous meeting held in Matjiesfontein on the 14th of September 2008. Proposed by Bruce Rubidge and seconded by Jennifer Botha-Brink.

## 4. Matters arising

To be discussed later in the agenda.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

A financial report compiled by Lloyd Rossouw for 2008-10 was presented by Johann Neveling.

No change was reported in PSSA bank account details. Many Members are said to be in arrears with Society payments.

Student fees are to increase from R20 to R40 per annum. An additional R100 is to be added to conference attendance fees in future, excluding students and retired Members.

Life Membership or longer payment cycles welcome.

## 6. Scanning of fossils: Policy & related matters

Francis Thackeray introduced the audience to the concept of scanning fossils at high resolution in 3D. He explained that the opportunity for collaboration between the Institute for Human Evolution at the University of the Witwatersrand and the Max Planck Institute for Human Evolutionary Biology in Germany had raised issues concerning policy, including intellectual property rights and who owns the data. Matt Skinner from the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig addressed the audience, saying scanning is a worthwhile endeavour for scientific purposes. He raised the following points: the need for large comparative data sets, including modern material; data storage is a problem; data acquisition and storage are expensive; data segmentation (into different tissue types) may be a subjective process. He suggested that a memorandum of understanding be drawn up between institutions (presumably Wits, The Max Planck Institute and outside collaborators); an embargo period should be requested because the process is lengthy and time is needed to conduct research; there should be no claim to ownership of scans or material; 3D data sets would be curated by the collaborating institutions.

There was much debate and it was decided to establish a sub-committee regarding a way forward. Members include Bernhard Zipfel, Bruce Rubidge, Francis Thackeray, Sandra Jasinoski, Kris Carlson, Lee Berger and someone to be decided from SAHRA.

## 7. DST Review Process

Johann Neveling asked the following Members to comment on the draft documents by Friday 13th August.

- a. Legislation: John Almond, Marion Bamford, Billy de Klerk.
- b. Research: Jennifer Botha-Brink, Roger Smith, Mike Mostovski, James Brink.



- c. Human Capital Development: Adam Yates, Francis Thackeray, Bernhard Zipfel.
- d. Collections and Sites: Bruce Rubidge, Kris Carlson.
- e. Public Interaction: Francois Durand, Andrea Leenen.
- f. Palaeotourism: John Almond, Ian McKay, Gideon Groenewald, Bruce Rubidge.

John Almond voiced concern about Palaeotourism guidelines. Bruce Rubidge suggested that a central body at SAHRA control these matters.

- g. Funding: Everyone above.
- h. Infrastructure: Everyone above.

## 8. SAHRA - matters

PSSA Members feel strongly that a qualified Palaeontologist needs to be represented at SAHRA.

PSSA Members are unanimous that Palaeontology be managed at a National and not Provincial level.

## 9. Heritage Impact Assessment & Technical Reports

Mariagrazia Galimberti (SAHRA representative) and Jennifer Botha-Brink (incoming PSSA President) to liaise regarding permits, and resolve the matter by the end of December 2010. John Almond proposed and it was accepted that a PSSA sub-committee (comprising himself, Marion Bamford, Lloyd Rossouw and John Pether) be established with regard to accreditation, heritage impact and technical reports.

## 10. PSSA Accreditation & Training

It was decided to contact Amanda Esterhuysen (Wits) regarding a way forward as she has much experience with this from an archaeological perspective.

## 11. PSSA Communication

a. Palnews – Members expressed their gratitude to Rose Prevec for doing such a wonderful job. It was suggested that a comment on evolution be posted on the PSSA website, but circulated first in Palnews.

b. Website – Billy de Klerk proposed that someone else manage the website, and Alex Parkinson (Palaeontology Honours candidate, BPI, Wits) volunteered.

Suggestions for the PSSA website included a tourism protocol, comment from the Society on evolution, aids for teaching evolution, 'what's happening', and the PSSA archive.

The incoming Committee will decide on a way forward.

c. *Palaeontologia africana* – Tom Kemp and other Members appealed to have the journal available online, possibly on the PSSA website.

## 12. PSSA Archive

Billy de Klerk reported that there is a lot of outstanding information about the Society, and appealed to Members for copies of Proceedings and any other historical documents. He also proposed that the archive be made available on the PSSA website.

## 13. Venue of PSSA conference 2012

Jennifer Botha-Brink suggested approaching Anusuya Chinsamy about organising the next conference in Cape Town, and all Members agreed wholeheartedly. If this is not possible, then Bloemfontein will be the 2012 venue.

## 14. Election of New Committee

**President:** Jennifer Botha-Brink

**Vice President:** Bernhard Zipfel

**Secretary:** Lucinda Backwell

**Treasurer:** Elize Butler (in consultation with Lloyd Rossouw)

**Committee Member:** Adam Yates

**Palnews:** Rose Prevec

**New student Members:** Natasha Barbolini and Alex Parkinson. (Both are postgraduate students, so the incoming Committee must go through the correct procedures to appoint them).

**Web Officer:** Alex Parkinson (in consultation with Billy de Klerk)

## 15. General

### *a. Funding for aged postdocs.*

Postdocs are now taxed after 5 years and funding is of major concern. The matter is to be taken up with host institutions.

### *b. Seven year statute of limitations.*

Lucinda Backwell raised concern that some researchers postpone handing over fossil material that has exceeded the time limit, and that there is no recourse for those waiting. Francis Thackeray volunteered to resolve the matter.

### *c. Karoo database.*

Bruce Rubidge asked if everyone is pleased with the way in which the database established by Merrill Nicolas is working. All Members said that they are very happy, to provide and access data, but would like to see access controlled by Wits, and limited only to researchers and those conducting impact assessment studies.

## AWARDS

**James Kitching award (Harrismith Mug)** **Sandra Jasinowski**  
for best overall presentation:

***Lystrosaurus* shield** **Shahed Nalla**  
for best student presentation:

***Lystrosaurus* award** for best poster: **Alicia Kennedy**

Bob & Laura Brain '**Fun with Fossils**' award: **Rob Gess**

**Order of the boot** (for the most unbelievable presentation, even though it may be the brilliant truth): **Rob Gess** for discarding half his sample to improve the result of his analysis.

**Friends of the PSSA:** **Bernard Battail, Andrey Kurkin**  
**Tom and Malgosia Kemp,**  
**Jörg Schneider**





**Clockwise: Upper Beaufort site on road to Injasuti; Bernard Batail being batty - making tea on his instant fire instead of looking for fossils; At Bulwer quarry, plant & insect site - Claire, Pia, Tom, Saniye; Mike Mostovski and Francois Durand; centre: misty and wet at Bulwer Quarry (photos and captions courtesy of Billy de Klerk)**





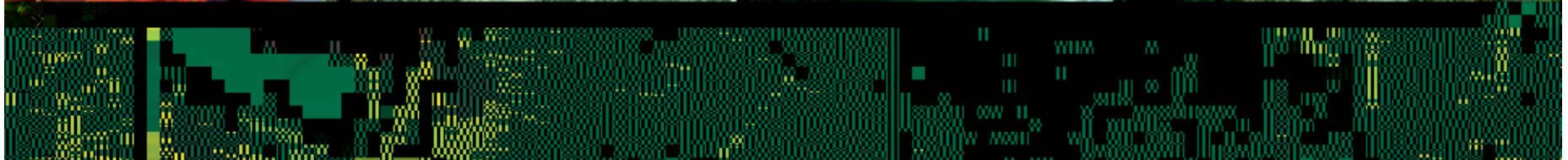
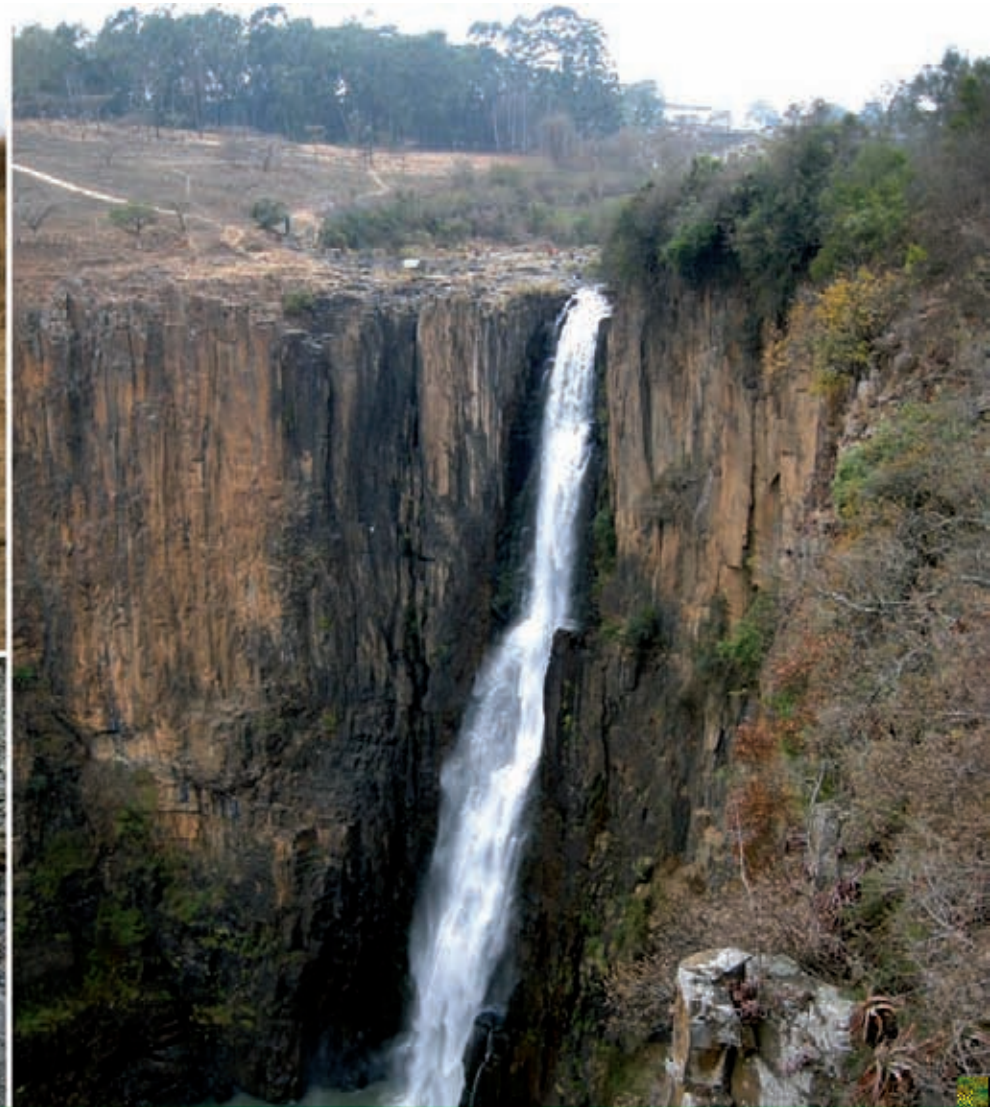
**Clockwise:** - Pres. Johan Neveling thanking the PSSA'10 organising committee; Sean Linkermann, Claire Browning, Natasha Barbolini (new PSSA committee member) and Luke Norton; Francis Thackeray leading the assembly in singing the Pangean Anthem, along with all international delegates including Bernard Batail, Tom And Malgosia Kemp, Adam Huttenlocker, Andrey Kurkin (European Russia) and Jörg Schneider (invited speaker from Germany); Robert receiving the "Fun with fossils" award from Bob Brain. Rob also received the Order of the Boot; Adam Huttenlocker (from Toronto), Bruce Rubidge and a bevy of Wits beauties (photos and captions courtesy of Billy de Klerk)





Clockwise: Mike Watkeys in his magic tuxedo; Sandra Jasinowski receiving the James Kitching award (Harrismith Mug, best overall presentation) from Pres. Johann Neveling; Rob Gess receiving the OTB (photos courtesy of Billy de Klerk)





(photos courtesy of Billy de Klerk)



## A NOTE FROM PAST

Dear colleagues and friends of PAST,

The PAST website revamp has been completed and we invite you to visit our new and improved showcase at [www.past.co.za](http://www.past.co.za) or [www.past.org.za](http://www.past.org.za).

The website provides an informative combination of what the organisation is, what we do, our various programmes, our grant applications forms and guidelines, as well as providing informative knowledge on fossils, famous African fossil sites, etc.

It also reflects the new brand profile that PAST has created, which has been reinforced across all our brand platforms.

We have introduced four new features, namely:

- *The GALLERY section*, which will showcase photos from VIP visits, launch events, the Annual Lecture, Walking Tall productions, the ReVerse productions (once operational), as well as interesting photos from researchers in the field
- *Off The Wall*, which is a platform where we encourage students, learners and friends of PAST to share their views on what we do as an organisation (please browse the letters and comments that have already been uploaded)
- *PAST Donations*, which can now be done through a safe and secure link to the well known and respected PayPal system – we look forward to those donations!
- *The PAST newsletter*, which Rob Blumenschine will be creating and updating on a regular basis,

We trust that you will enjoy viewing the website and it will be the informative tool that we hoped to create.

To view the full functionality of the website we recommend that you upload Internet Explorer version 8 or 9 or Mozilla Firefox 2 or 3. You can get this free of charge from <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/downloads> or <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/new/>

We have also created links to these free uploads at the bottom of the PAST website.

Enjoy browsing!

**Andrea Leenen**

CEO  
PAST (Palaeontological Scientific Trust)  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE ICHTNOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The International Ichtnological Association was established in 2009, and in 2010 an agreement with Taylor and Francis was reached in order to have the journal *Ichnos* as the society publication. *Ichnos* is now covered in the Thomson Reuter's Web of Science and in the Science Citation Index Expanded.

To become a member of the association, please submit the membership form opposite. Note that subscription to the journal *Ichnos* is a requirement for full membership. The membership form must be returned to Taylor and Francis, and a copy thereof (without credit card information) should be sent to the IIA Secretary ([ichnologicalassociation@gmail.com](mailto:ichnologicalassociation@gmail.com)).

Luis A. Buatois - President of IIA  
Jordi M. de Gibert - Secretary of IIA

### Ichtnological Association

2011 New Membership/Journal Subscription  
*Ichnos: An International Journal for Plant and Animal Traces*  
Quarterly, Volume 18 (2011)  
Print ISSN: 1042-0940 Online ISSN: 1563-5236

**Date of Renewal/Application:**

(Membership are accepted on a calendar-year basis only; dues include a subscription to *Ichnos*)

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## IN THE NEWS

There have been loads of wonderful palaeontological discoveries in the past six (+) months, but thanks to Lucinda Backwell and Emese Bordy for pointing out this report of an extraordinary dinosaur:

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/01/110124-new-dinosaur-one-fingered-linhenykus-xu-xing-science-t-rex/>



*Linhenykus monodactylus* was found in deposits of the Late Cretaceous in Mongolia. The theory proposed by its discoverers, as to why a dinosaur might have two of its fingers reduced to functionless 'nubs', is that the single remaining long finger on each arm was used to dig for termites.

As Emese Bordy (Rhode University) noted, back in 1972 Mike

Raath proposed that the strong thumb claw of *Massospondylus* may have been used for breaking open termite mounds. But this little guy, the size of a parrot, doesn't even have a long finger that might have been useful in prising termites out from their nest. As you can see from the reconstruction featured in the National Geographic article, this creature had a tiny, stubby finger on each tiny little arm. Maybe he had a really long tongue, and only used his two minute fingers for gripping onto the termite mounds...?? Hmm.

This calls for a limerick:

There once was a one-fingered dinosaur  
Whose temper was worse than his roar,  
Though a bit of a midget,  
He was quick with his digit,  
And now we all know what it was used for.

- Ed.

## PALAEO POEM

Thanks to Keith Holmes for the following (real) poem, about one of Roger Smith's memorable digs for dinosaurs at a crater lake dated to the Campanian/Maastrichtian boundary around 74 Ma on the Stompoor farm near Marydale in the Northern Cape Province. Keith, Marion Bamford and I were lucky enough to accompany the crew on this National Geographic expedition. We didn't find much in the way of dinosaurs, but instead unearthed an astonishing wealth of pipid frogs, at various stages of development. (See:

Roček, Z. and Van Dijk, E. 2006. Patterns of larval development in Cretaceous pipid frogs. *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 51 (1): 111-126.

Trueb, L., Ross, C.F., and Smith, R. 2005. A new pipoid anuran from the Late Cretaceous of South Africa. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* 25: 533-547.).



## Stompoor Crater Dig - 1999

by Keith Holmes

Hazy horizons hem this vast shimmery moor,  
Thorn bushes and pink sand and rocks of Stompoor.  
No sounds in the silence, no clouds in the sky,  
This harsh arid land utters not even a sigh.

But look! On the rise there is movement, a white coat and black head,  
A fle of lean Dorpers shows that the land is not dead.  
There is a far call of a Korhaan hidden from sight,  
An ant hurries for cover from the bright blinding light.

Look! There are small dots in the desert, man breaks the strange spell,  
A crane and a bucket dropping halfway to Hell  
And raising up rock slabs to be split by the crew,  
For dinosaurs, f shes, anything new.

But what do they f nd in this ancient of lands?  
Fossilised frogs with spredeagled hands.  
Eons old frogs preserved in the stone,  
But no muscles attached to the whitened squashed bone.

No more will they jump and croak in the night,  
They are frozen forever in petrified f ight.  
Then man departs with his loot of dead frogs,  
Packed in brown boxes with numbers and logs.

Crane engine and rockdrill are thankfully stilled,  
Split rock heaps are cleared and the yawning hole f lled.  
Again peace comes to this vast arid moor  
And silence rereigns on the sands of Stompoor.

**Royal Society of South Africa**  
Eastern Cape Branch

**RHODES UNIVERSITY**  
Where Leaders Learn

### Robert Broom Colloquium

A series of palaeontology lectures presented in memory of Dr Robert Broom.  
Eminent South African palaeontologist, palaeoanthropologist and medical doctor.

**Date:** Monday 18th April  
**Time:** 14h00 – 17h30  
**Venue:** Eden Grove Blue, Rhodes University

- **Prof Bruce Rubidge** *Director, Bernard Price Institute of Palaeontology, University of the Witwatersrand*  
*A legend in his time - Broom's mentorship in understanding mammal origins*
- **Dr Rose Prevec** *Research Associate, Albany Museum & Rhodes University*  
*Exploring ancient forests of the Karoo - new perspectives on an old science*
- **Dr Adam Yates** *Bernard Price Institute of Palaeontology, University of the Witwatersrand*  
*The Karoo Basin and the Rise of the Dinosaurs*
- **Dr James Brink** *National Museum, Bloemfontein*  
*The origin and evolution of modern large mammal faunas in southern Africa*

*Followed, as part of the colloquium programme, by the*

### Amy Jacot-Guillarmod Memorial Lecture

*by*  
**Prof Francis Thackeray**  
*Director of the Institute for Human Evolution, University of the Witwatersrand*  
*Human Evolution, Climate and Statistics*

**Date:** Monday 18th April  
**Time:** 19h00  
**Venue:** Eden Grove Blue, Rhodes University.

## PSSA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS - EMAIL

Abdala, Fernando  
 Allinson, Matt  
 Almond, John  
 Anderson, John  
 Anderson Holmes, Heidi  
 Angielczyk, Ken  
 Avery, Graham  
 Backwell, Lucinda  
 Baker, Stephanie  
 Bamford, Marion  
 Battail, Bernard  
 Bender, Patrick  
 Berger, Lee  
 Blackbeard, Marc  
 Blumenschine, R.J.  
 Bordy, Emese  
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 Braga, Jose  
 Brain, Bob  
 Brink, James  
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 Butler, Elize  
 Carlson, Kristian  
 Chinsamy, Anusuya  
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 Coates, Michael  
 Codron, Daryl  
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 Hiller, Norton  
 Hopson, Jim  
 Huttenlocker, Adam  
 Jasinowski, Sandra  
 Jinnah, Zubair  
 Johnson, Mike  
 Kammerer, Christian  
 Kemp, Tom  
 King, Gillian  
 Klinger, Herbert  
 Leenen, Andrea  
 Lehmann, Thomas  
 Leslie, Mary  
 Linkermann, Sean  
 Long, John  
 Looock, Johan  
 Loots, Marius  
 Maguire, Judy  
 Mason, Tom  
 Matthews, Thalassa  
 McCrae, Ceri  
 McKay, Ian  
 McKee, Jeff  
 McLachlan, Ian  
 Meyer, Lynn c/o  
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## New Email Address:

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## Please don't forget to notify me if your address changes!

I try really hard to keep the members' email list up-to-date. Please let me know if your email address changes, or if you do not have success with any of the listed addresses. Needless to say, the list is only as good as the information I receive from you all. Many thanks for helping to keep this useful resource current!

-ed.



## NEXT DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:

**FRIDAY 15 JULY 2011**