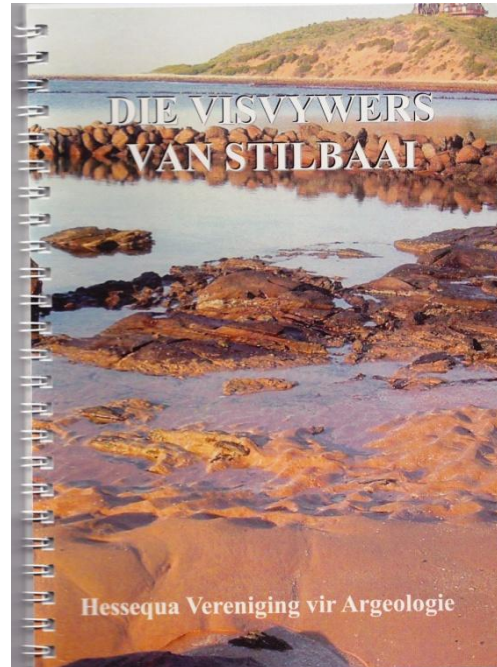
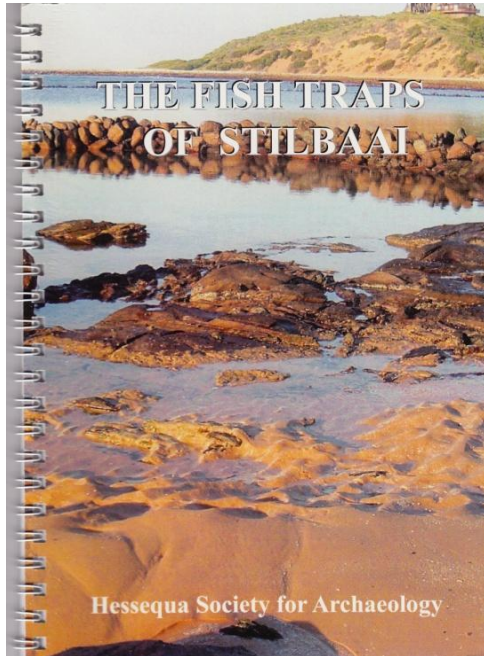


The Fishtraps of Stilbaai / Die Visvywers van Stilbaai

These two booklets are available for sale at the Blombos Museum for Archaeology



Die klipkraalagtige visvywers in die tussengetyzone wat tydens laaggety in die voorgrond waargeneem kan word, is die nalatenskap van die oorspronklike Khoisan bewoners van die Suid-Kaapse kusgebied wat die strukture gebou en benut het om deur middel van die gety-aksie, vis te vang. Hierdie mense het vir duisende jare in die betrokke kusgebied gewoon, dog die visvywers is waarskynlik nie ouer as twee tot drie duisend jaar nie, aangesien see-vlakke voor daardie tyd heelwat verskil het van dié van vandag. Toe die eerste blanke koloniste in die laat 1700's en vroeë 1800's hierdie gebied betree het, het die inheemse Khoisan (*Strandlopers* genoem deur die koloniste) steeds die viskrale benut en die nuwe intrekkers het spoedig hul vindingryke visvang-tegnieke oorgeneem en uitgebrei. In later jare was dit nodig om „n permit van die plaaslike magistraat te bekom ten einde „n visvywer te bou en te bedryf. Oor die jare het die “aangenome eienaars” van viskrale die strukture herbou, in stand gehou en daaraan toegevoeg, om uiteindelik die ingewikkelde sisteem tot stand te bring wat hier te sien is. „n Toegewyde en kundige groep Stilbaai-bewoners hou steeds die tradisie van visvang by die Rooikoppe deur middel van die visvywers tydens donkermaan-springgetye, in stand. Hierdie vywers is „n kultuurhistoriese erfenis van groot waarde en geen versteuring van die strukture of verwydering van artefakte is toelaatbaar nie. Help ons asseblief om hierdie belangrike erfenisterrein ongeskonde vir ons nageslag te bewaar

The stone built structures in the intertidal zone, in the foreground at this spot represent a legacy of the indigenous Khoisan inhabitants of the southern Cape coast, who built and used such enclosures as tidal fish traps. For many thousands of years these people lived on this coast, but the traps are probably not older than 2 – 3000 years, as sea levels before then were different to the present. When the first white colonists arrived in the late 1700's and early 1800's the indigenous Khoisan (called “Strandlopers” by the colonists in view of their

hunter-gathering life style) were still working the fish traps, and the new settlers quickly adopted their ingenious techniques. Later operation of the fish traps required a permit from the local magistrate. Over the years, the adopted “owners” rebuilt, maintained and added to the Khoisan walling as well as building new traps to create the elaborate system seen before you. A dedicated and knowledgeable group of Stilbaai residents still maintain the tradition of fish trapping during spring tides here at the “Rooikoppe” now declared a national heritage resource site. The traps are a cultural historic heritage of great value and no disturbance of these structures or removal of artefacts is permitted. Please assist us in maintaining this important site unspoilt for future generations