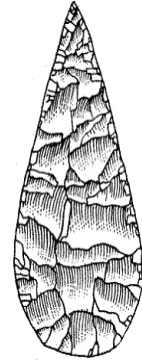


Hessequa Vereniging vir Argeologie Annale Hessequa Association for Archaeology Annals

29 September 2016
Jaargang 9 No. 5

29 September 2016
Year 9 No. 5



FIELD TRIPS

2016 has not been a memorable year for field trips. Each time we have specified a date, the weather has turned out to be execrable and we have had to cancel the outing.

The cancellation of the visit to the shell midden near Rietfontein was particularly disappointing, since the Society had planned to use the occasion to evaluate the possibility of doing a formal dig at the midden.

Why investigate another midden? After all, numerous middens have been evaluated. There are a number of reasons why an investigation of this midden at this time may be appropriate.

- If, as current data suggest, sea levels are rising and this trend continues, the midden will be inundated in the not too distant future.
- Any data or artefacts it now holds, will be lost permanently.
- The origin of the fish traps is still in dispute. One school of thought is that the traps were created by the early colonials, the “vryboere”. Another holds that the technology is ancient. If the midden were to contain fish bones at the lower levels, and if they are associated with dateable material, this issue may just be settled once and for all.
- Most of the local middens which have been investigated, can be associated with fish traps built of Tafelberg sandstone. Fish traps on this part of the coast will have been built on aleolite reefs using aleolite rocks.
- Such an excavation will give members a real chance to get their hands dirty and to experience doing a proper dig.

Two options remain: Jan de Vynck and Renée Rust can do the evaluation when it suits them, and the field trip can be done independently. This would allow us to await a period of more amenable weather. The alternative is that we wait until next year and hope we will then be lucky with the weather.

OPENBARE LESING

Op 3 Oktober ontvang ons vir dr. Sarah Wurtz. Sy is tans die leier van die derde ondersoek na die grotte by Klasiesrivier. Lede sal weet dat moderne argeoloë nooit ’n hele terrein in ’n enkele ondersoek opgrawe nie. Die gebruik is om ’n gedeelte te doen, maar baie materiaal ongeskonde te laat, sodat argeoloë later ondersoeke kan hervat, waarskynlik met meerdere kennis en meer moderne tegnieke en toerusting as wat by die aanvanklike ondersoek beskikbaar was.

Klasiesrivier is na alle waarskynlikheid een van die heel belangrikste vindplekke langs die Suid-Kaaplandse kus. Daar is meer as een grot of skuiling. Hulle is vir lang tydperke bewoon

deur Middelsteentydperk-bewoners, maar daar is ook reste van bewoners van die Latere Steentydperk.

Daar is 'n verdere onderskeiding: daar is by hierdie kompleks mensereste gevind en die hoop bestaan dat verdere soortgelyke vondste gemaak sal word en dat die materiaal herwin sal kan word vir genetiese ondersoek.

Ons vertrou dat dr. Wurtz ons sal inlig oor haar span se verwagtings, en moontlik ook of daar enige nuwe inligting na vore gekom het.

Ons lede is vertrou met die werk by Pinnacle Point en Blombos. Hierdie voordrag sal lede die geleentheid gee om insig te kry oor die derde, en moontlik die belangrikste van die grotte aan ons kus wat tans ondersoek word.

UNVEILLING OF “THE STILL BAY”

Long before Blombos became a focal point, Still Bay was already on the international archaeological map. In the 1930's C H T D Heese, a self-trained archaeologist, wrote a study on the methodologies used in the making of various stone tools. This study was published in the Annals of the University of Stellenbosch. It described a specific technology.

Heese described a stone tool which later became known as “The Still Bay”. The tools are beautiful bifacial points which are better finished and have sharper edges than similar tools of that period.

This technology is, in fact, Stilbaai's first claim to archaeological fame, yet very few members of the public are aware that it even exists. In order to rectify this, the Hessequa Society for Archaeology decided to erect a statue commemorating these particular tools.

The previous Council kindly granted permission that the statue be erected. A local artist carried out the commission. This has now been completed.

On 5 October premier Zille is visiting Stilbaai for discussions on heritage issues and we asked her to unveil the statue. She accepted the invitation and will be doing so at 11 o'clock that morning. Appended to this newsletter is an invitation to all members – in fact, to all who are interested in attending the occasion.

The programme is simple:

- A word of welcome – prof. John Willemse.
- Address and unveiling – the honourable ms. Hellen Zille, Premier of the Western Cape.
- Vote of thanks – dr. Chris Heese

'N INISIATIEF VAN DIE WES-KAAPSE REGERING?

U het verneem dat die premier, me. Zille, Stilbaai toe kom om te praat oor 'n argeologiese roete vir die Wes-Kaap. Sy het die vergadering belê en ons het tot op datum geen agenda ontvang nie.

Die HVA en die Stilbaai Saga Inisiatief word verteenwoordig deur Gustav Radloff, wat waaskynlik die ontwikkeling ontlok het, en Chris Heese, ons voorsitter. Dié twee berei hulle voor vir 'n veelheid gebeurlikhede. In die geval dat die vergadering wel gaan oor die vestiging van 'n argeologiese roete langs die Suid-Kaapse kus, het ons 'n goeie vriend van die HVA, dr. Janette Deacon, gevra om kort aantekeninge saam te stel oor 'n potensiële eindpunt op so 'n roete. Sy het ingewillig en ons sal, as die geleentheid hom voordoen, 'n afskrif aan me. Zille oorhandig.

'n Verdere ontwikkeling is dat ons in gesprek wil tree met prof. Richard Cowling van die NMMU. Hy beoog die vestiging van 'n Instituut vir Paleo-wetenskappe en ons wil hom nooi om 'n satellietkampus van sy instituut by die Inligtingsentrum te vestig. Dit sal die navorsingsbeen van die inisiatief help verseker.

Ons vra ons lede nie alleen om duim vas te hou nie, maar ook om die boodskap te versprei. 'n Mens weet nooit waar 'n saadjie kan val en dalk ontkiem nie.

BOARD MATTERS

We are happy to announce that Izak Venter has been co-opted on the management of the Society. Mr. Venter was logistics boss at Nampack and clearly commands skills which we can utilise to the advantage of the HSA.

Initially he will take over responsibility for the fish traps. This has been an area of concern for many years and now, it would seem, the politicians have at last taken the required decisions; Cape Nature has made the resources available, the traps have been repaired and they can now be put into commission again.

How they are to be incorporated into the tourist activities will now have to be explored. We thank Jean du Plessis for his continued interest and involvement in this crusade. We may finally have put this matter to rest.

Finally, members are reminded that some of them have been remiss in paying their dues. If you are one of them, you will be receiving a reminder presently.