

ISSN 0378-9336



NEWS
PAL NUUS

Biannual newsletter of the Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa
Halfjaarlikse Nuusbrief van die Paleontologiese Vereniging van Suider Afrika
Vol./Band 10(2) Jun. 1995



Dryosaurus, a small Hypsilophodontid dinosaur (ornithischian / ornithopod)

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

Editor:	Dr Billy de Klerk	(Tel. 0461 - 22312 Fax 22398)
	Albany Museum	(email - amwd@giraffe.ru.ac.za)
	Somerset Street	
	GRAHAMSTOWN, 6140	

Front Cover: Reconstruction of *Dryosaurus*, a small Hypsilophodontid ornithomimid dinosaur. Fossils of similar dinosaurs have recently been found in the lower Cretaceous sediments of the Kirwood Formation (see p.11).

FROM THE EDITOR

Well, as one will see from the snippets of news that have been submitted by various members, we all seem to be very busy at this time of the year - either traveling abroad, in the field or in the lab. Perhaps that's the reason for the late arrival of this issue of Pal News on your desk - what with my involvement in a field trip during June and then the frenzy of the National Festival of the Arts in Grahamtown thereafter, I haven't been able to get this issue out before mid year.

Ed.

A MAN CALLED HORACE by Kettle and Christine



News from Roger Smith - South African Museum, Cape Town.

Annelise has finished preparing the Madagascan fossils brought back last December and we now have six skulls of *Hovasaurus* and one of *Claudiosaurus*. The skull of *Hovasaurus* is incompletely described, these specimens should allow us to finish the description. Clive Booth has developed a "soft" silicone recipe which he is using to cast these delicate impressions (bone moulds) without damaging them. I will be taking some of the fossils and the silicone casts to Sue Evans at University College London in September.

The prep lab has two splendid skeletons nearing completion, "Mamafura" the *Rachiocephalus* that Bruce and John Nyapuli helped us excavate many years ago and "Clive" the big old *Lystrosaurus* that we collected a couple of years ago from Bethulie district. Mamafura shows some interesting healed wounds on her ribs and a serrated canine within the skeleton suggests that she was scavenged. Both are destined for display.

A couple of weeks ago Tom Mason and I visited a therapsid trackway site in the Permo-Triassic rocks near Estcourt, Natal. The site was discovered 2 years ago by the farmer David Green whilst he was excavating a reservoir. The original site is now under thick mud but recently a student of Tom's, Dawn Green, has opened up a nearby site in the same strata. She has been systematically mapping the trackways on several horizons and hopes to do some fancy reconstructions of the biomechanics of the tracemakers. Tom and I will be monitoring progress and perhaps commission silicone casts to be made of the most diagnostic tracks. Meanwhile I've been writing-up the Elliot study on sediments and taphonomy of the "Tritylodon Acme Zone" and will soon have a manuscript for James to tear apart. Two manuscripts with Sue Evans on the juvenile aggregation of *Youngina* and morphological description of new *Youngina* material are being refereed at the moment and the P-Tr paper is in 3P's (116) out later this year.

In August there is another "Friends of the Museum" field trip to Fraserburg. Twenty-five have signed up for a week of fossiling and cleaning up the trackway site in readiness for the British Wall-to-Wall TV team to make a documentary on life in the Permian.

September will be spent with Sue Evans in London, Paris Museum and Newcastle for the VP meeting. November we hope to do justice to the Omingonde Formation in Namibia in cahoots with Roger Swart of Namcor. The next Madagascar trip will have to wait till after the rains next year when I hope to locate the P-Tr boundary.

Roger Smith

oOo

News from Anusuya Chinsamy - South African Museum, Cape Town.

Time really does fly when you're having fun! I can hardly believe that it is already 9 months that I am back in South Africa. It's great to be working at SAM and its absolutely super to be in Cape Town. And yes, its a wet winter, but still a great place to be!

In June I had the good fortune to participate in an expedition to the Algoa Basin with Billy De Klerk (Albany Museum), Callum Ross, Donna Rowsell & Cathy Forster of SUNY at Stony Brook, Blythe Williams (Duke University), and Scott Sampson (NY College of Osteopathic Medicine). We had a tremendously successful trip! Some truly amazing fossils were collected - the first Mesozoic bird from Africa (partial skull and braincase), a mammal tooth, and several Ornithiscian skeletal elements including jaw fragments with teeth (see Billy's contribution on page 10 for more details of our trip).

I recently obtained a grant from The Dinosaur Society (which is an international non-profit organisation that promotes dinosaur research) towards my studies of dinosaur bone microstructure. And Peter Dodson, University of Pennsylvania and I have done it again! For the next three years the National Science Foundation USA will fund our paleobiological research of dinosaurs. The funding begins with a send-off! I will be going to China in August for the Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems Meeting, and to collect *Protoceratops*, *Shunosaurus*, *Omeisaurus* and *Lufengosaurus* bones which Dong Zhiming has very kindly agreed to provide for bone histology. I will also spend time looking at the collections at the Zigong Museum and the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology, Academia Sinica. Moreover, I will have the wonderful opportunity to go on a field excursion in Southern China. After returning from China, I will be attending the BPI 50th Birthday Bash. I am really looking forward to visit my old haunt again and to see all my friends there! In September, thanks to the FRD, I will be presenting a paper at the Comparative Anatomy and Vertebrate Palaeontology meeting, Newcastle upon Tyne, England. I will, no doubt, have lots of news for the next PalNews!

Between applying for grants, planning my travels, and doing fieldwork, I have actually managed to get ahead with some research projects. Luis Chiappe (AMNH, NY) and I have conducted a fascinating study of the dental apparatus of Pterodaustro - a filter feeding pterosaur from Argentina. We have recently submitted a MS for publication. Currently, I am writing up (in collaboration with Tom & Pat Rich, Australia) the bone histology of dinosaurs from the high latitude Dinosaur Cove locality in Australia. Hopefully in the next Pal News, I will be

able to report that these MS are *in press*.

Recent Publications:

- Chinsamy, A. 1995. Ontogenetic changes in the bone histology of the Late Jurassic Ornithomimid *Dryosaurus lettowvorbecki*. *Journal of vertebrate paleontology*, **15**(1), 96-104.
- Chinsamy, A. 1995. Within the Bone. *Natural History*, **6**, 62-63.
- Chinsamy A. & Dodson P. 1995. Inside a Dinosaur Bone. *American Scientist*. March-April, 174-180.

In press:

- Chinsamy, A. 1995. Dinosaur Bone Histology. McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology.
- Chinsamy, A., Chiappe L. & Dodson, P. 1995. The bone microstructure of *Patagopteryx* and *Enantiornithines*. *Paleobiology*
- Chinsamy, A., Hanrahan, S. A., Neto, R. M. & M. Seeley 1995. A skeletochronological assessment of age in *Angolosaurus skoogi*, a lizard living in aseasonal an environment. *Journal of Herpetology*.
- Farlow, J. O. Dodson, P. & Chinsamy, A. 1995. Dinosaur Biology Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics.

SPECIAL APPEAL

Are you aware of ANY specimens from the Kirkwood Formation which are in personal / private collections? Please let me know.

Dr. Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan

SA Museum, P O Box 61

Cape Town 8000

phone: (021) 24-3330 email: achinsam@uctvax.uct.ac.za

Anusuya Chinsamy

oOo

News from Richard Dingle - British Antarctic Survey (BAS), Cambridge UK.
Richard has asked me to inform members that he is no longer based at the SAM in Cape Town and he is now at the BAS working on a palaeoenvironment change programme looking at the climate change in Antarctic during Cretaceous and Tertiary times. The first field season was to the northern Antarctic Peninsula (James Ross Island area), and to the South Shetland Island (King George Island). In addition Richard is still continuing his work on the Benguela palaeo-oceanographic data. Ed.

oOo

News from Tom Mason - Geology & Applied Geol, Univ. of Natal, Durban

I'll shortly be off to the Third international Ichnofabric conference at Bornholm in Denmark in August and will present a paper on west coast ichnofabrics used as depth indicators, from the Kleinsee area.

Publications: Submitted a paper on 2 new trace fossils from Namaqualand - *Stellavellum* and *Plicofarius*, a shallow marine trace and a terrestrial overprint (tiered trace fossil).

Papers in prep:

1. With Roger Smith and Dawn Green (one of my students) on a vertebrate trackway site near Estcourt.
2. With another colleague on a fossil "midge" trail from the Beaufort Group near Nkwalini, Natal.
3. With Roger on Namibian trace fossils in the central Namib, near Gobabeb, Namibia. It is a "fossil" ephemeral water body, with root casts, reed stem casts and an abundance of trace fossils of the *termitichnus* ichnofacies.

JOB VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy for a Curator of our Display and Education Centre at the University Geology department. We are seeking a geologically trained person with good communication skills. Anybody needing more information should contact our Personnel Department for more details.

Tom Mason

oOo

News from Wits BPI Palaeontology - Chris Gow

Judging by the difficulty of getting contributions out of people, BPI folk are either lazy, overworked, or, and this is more likely, both. Our indomitable leader, **Bruce Rubidge**, not only has to handle the frustrations of admin., annual reports, stropky people, and trying to communicate with Michael Shishkin in Moscow re their joint research, but will shortly depart for Germany for two weeks, to give a lecture at Wolfgang Maier's Institute at the University of Tubigen (as the man says on the TV add, "On the receiver of course!").

After that a brief holiday and then off to China. Then back for the BPI's jubilee celebrations in August, and a busy teaching term. And he still manages to get papers finished - remarkable.

James Kitching is not quite as active as ever, preferring to work a four day week (wonderful idea that, but I don't somehow see Bruce buying it).

Your scribe (**Chris Gow**) is also up to the armpits in crocodiles, seeing as how the nature of his research requires he do his own preparation in addition to a 'normal' teaching load and all the little nonsenses that happen day to day in a big institution with a tiny staff. Parareptiles are high on the agenda at present, including a new procolophonid that Pat Bender found in the Tap zone, but in August I will be talking about cynodonts. Given a years sabbatical I might get the swamp drained. [Please note I am not moaning - just stating the position!]

The plant ladies are all very active. **Ann Cadman** continues to monitor pollen country wide, with the assistance of **Jo Dames**. Ann recently attended the Second Symposium on African Palynology in Brussels and managed to arrange to have the next one here in 1997 (so as not to clash with the PSSA meetings no doubt). In this Ann will be assisted by Marion Bamford, Sue de Villiers, and Prof. Rudi Verhoeven of Free State University.

Marion Bamford's fossil wood studies are taking off; fortunately she has **Richard Lewis** to keep the thin sections coming - a muddy business this. Marion has West Coast wood, Sterkfontein wood and wood from Australia, Madagascar, and the Karoo of course. It is really pretty stuff, some of it - pity we can't stretch to colour photos. Since Marion took over the palaeoherberium in October it has been cleaned and tidied, with everything nicely sorted and locatable.

Student wise, **Elizabeth Latimer** is well into her MSc revision of some of the 'flat frogs' from the Beaufort; she has helped enthusiastically with some of the third year Zoo. lectures this year.

Sue de Villiers is photographing pollens flat out for her PhD.

Alain Renaut has started an MSc study of *Kannemeyeria* and has some amazingly

well preserved new material which will produce interesting results.

No longer in the department but not forgotten are PhD students **John Hancox** (*Cynognathus* zone), **Heidi Fourie** (therocephalians), **Grigor Aitken** (fossil pollens) and MSc student **Carol Aston** (*Hipposaurus*).

Patrick Bender is in the initial stages of a PhD study of Karoo fossil fish - not the easiest but very necessary work.

Lynne Meyer will complete her Hons. this year. The 'fish bowl' (preparation lab) in the museum is occupied again, this time by **Joseph Mncube** whom we pinched from library services. He is reading up on fossils and trying his hand at preparation.

REMINDER: BPI Palaeontology Jubilee Symposium 30 August 1995.

Chris Gow

oOo

News from Norton Hiller - Christchurch, New Zealand

Life in NZ continues to treat us fairly well and although Carol is happy at work I am still looking for a permanent position. I am off to Australia for a week towards the end of July with Dave MacKinnon (the chap with whom I have been working at Canterbury University) to visit museum collections in Adelaide and Melbourne and to go to a brachiopod site outside Adelaide. I have also managed to beg and scrape enough support to allow me to attend the International Brachiopod Congress in Canada in September. All I have too do now is put together a talk!

Norton Hiller

oOo

News from Billy de Klerk - Albany Museum, Grahamstown.

Palaeontological focus at the Museum during the past six months has been on the design and construction of our new gallery, emphasising the fossil heritage of the Eastern Cape. Earlier on in the year our artist, Gerhard Marx, completed the first (*Tapinocephalus* Assemblage Zone) in a series of full-scale paintings (1.86 x 2.78m) of the Karoo palaeo-reconstructions. An early pen sketch of this painting was illustrated in the previous issue of Pal News (Dec. 1994, p.26). Since March however we have been busy researching and reconstructing a full-scale model of *Paranthodon africanus* - the Cretaceous stegosaur which was discovered locally in 1845 by Dr William G. Atherstone in the Bushmans River Valley. This being the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the first dinosaur in South Africa we have planned a bit of a song-and-dance for September when we will host a "Dinosaur Week" at the Museum. Our director, Wouter Holleman, has obtained permission from the postal authorities to launch a postage frank commemorating this event which will also depict stylized stegosaur.

Before moving to Natal, Robert Gess completed the sorting and preparation of the numerous fossils that he had excavated from the Grahamstown N2 by-pass Devonian plant and fish site. All fossils recovered from this site have now been lodged at the Museum and an illustrated catalogue has recently been published by Robert and Norton Hiller - the full reference is:

Gess, R.W. and Hiller, N. 1995. A preliminary catalogue of fossil algal, plant, arthropod, and fish remains from a Late Devonian black shale near Grahamstown, South Africa. *Annals of the Cape Provincial Museums (Natural History)*, 19(5), 225-304.



Earlier in the year Drs Callum Ross and Cathy Forster from the State University of New York at Stony Brook US approached me to collaborate on a survey for possible mammal and dinosaur fossil in the Algoa Basin, Kirkwood Formation. They submitted a grant proposal to the Dinosaur Society in the US which was successful and once the money was approved I set about organising the logistics of the field trip which took place during June. Anusuya Chinsamy (see p.5) also joined the team as she had earlier expressed an interest in getting her teeth into field work in the Algoa Basin. Anusuya joined me 4 days before the rest of the US party arrived and she stayed on for about two and a half weeks of the trip.

The US party of five consisted of Drs Callum Ross and Cathy Forster; Dr Scott Sampson from NY Inst. of Tech., Dept. of Osteopathic Medicine; Dr Blythe Williams from Duke Univ. North Carolina; and Ms Donna Rowsell - Callum's wife. Sue Frost, who is currently completing her MSc on the palaeosols of the Kirkwood Formation at Rhodes, was only able to join us for the last week of the trip. We spent three weeks scratching around exposures of Kirkwood sediments and visited numerous localities throughout the basin. Better known exposures like those at Kirkwood Bridge, Dunbrody, Bushmans River and numerous road and canal cuttings in the Kirkwood area; and also those that had not previously been reported in the literature like those at the game reserves of Shamwari and the Addo Elephant Park. The US party were in the field for all three weeks (13 June - 3 July) and I must have spent at least two full weeks in the field with them.. Being close to home there was nothing going to keep me away from the World Cup Rugby on TV over the weekends!!!

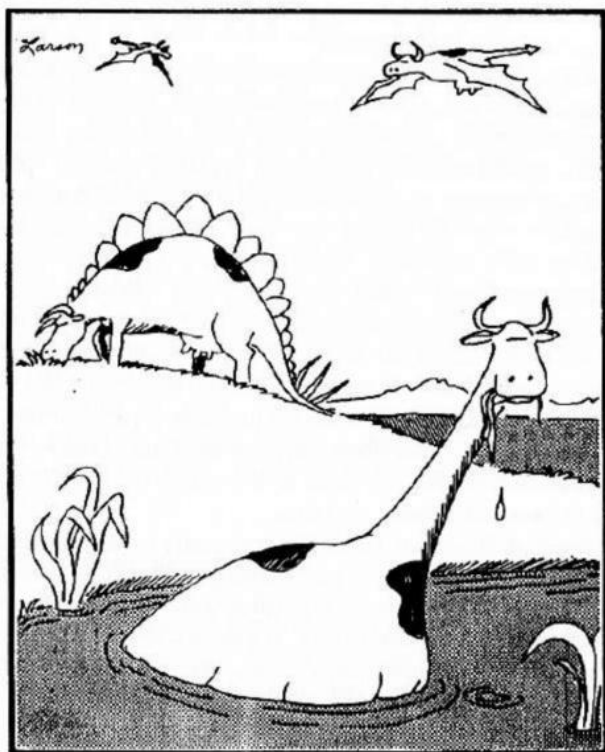
The "reluctant" Kirkwood Formation continued to be stingy about giving up its secrets, but the trip was a great success nonetheless. Included in the faunal list of specimens collected were crocodile (scutes, teeth, and partial skull elements), fish (misc. stuff), turtle (carapace fragments), a partial mammal tooth (perhaps the first from the Cretaceous of southern Africa?), sauropod (teeth and one large tail vertebra the size of a 5 litre paint can! from a Brachiosaurid), and theropod bits (two sizes of teeth and misc. frags). The two highlights of the trip are numerous Hypsilophodontid bones recovered (c.f. *Dryosaurus*), including miscellaneous juvenile and adult specimens (jaws, teeth, vertebrae, limb elements) and the most exciting find of all is a partial bird skull, including an almost complete braincase that I found. It is truly exquisite, despite the fact that some of it is still embedded in rock. We also have a probable bird tooth and some very birdy looking partial limbs. After Scott Sampson and Cathy Forster had contacted a couple of palaeo-bird fundis we came to the conclusion that this is the first Mesozoic bird to have been found in Africa.

The management at Shamwari Game Reserve really treated us royally and put us up in one of their remote luxury game cottages. Working at Shamwari was quite an experience as the Kirkwood exposures were no more than 100m away from the lion camp/enclosure (electrified). We were constantly being watched by seven adult lions which was quite creepy, especially as they were forever licking their chops. During this trip we were treated to wild Africa all round with lions, elephants, cobras, monkeys, rhinos, ostriches, etc. - much to our US party's enjoyment. All in all, it was a great field experience with a great crew and I now

have a much better collection of dinosaur material at the Museum. When the US party left Grahamstown they swung past the Port Elizabeth Museum to see Mike Raath to have a chat with him and show him some of the goodies. They then travelled up to Wellwood (Graaf-Reinet) and on to BPI Palaeo before splitting up - Callum, Donna and Blythe going on to a mammal site in Botswana and Cathy and Scott onto Madagascar.

Billy de Klerk

oOo



Sixty-five million years ago, when cows ruled the earth

News from the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria

Dr. Francis Thackeray is currently doing fieldwork and excavations at Kromdraai for the whole month of July. This work is being done in collaboration with teams from Harvard University and the University of Cape Town. The KA breccia looks very promising and is yielding plenty of microfauna and one very well preserved pig skull is being prepared. **Heidi Fourie** and a full-time volunteer, **Andries Prinsloo**, are at present preparing the material with both acid and mechanical techniques. We are as usual flooded with visitors from abroad studying our hominid collection. At present I am putting the finishing touches to my PhD on the postcranium of therocephalians.

Heidi Fourie

oOo

News from Patrick Bender - Council for Geosciences Museum, Pretoria

The Museum of the Council for Geoscience is progressing well in the year 1995. We hope to open a new Economic Geology Hall soon, with special emphasis on the importance of minerals and rocks in the economic world. More importantly we have at last placed some fossils back into the Museum, much to the delight of the visitors, and we plan more!

I am becoming increasingly involved with the project on palaeoniscid fish from the Beaufort Group; **Bruce Rubidge**, and **John Long** from Perth, Australia, are assisting and supervising my efforts. I have personally been through all the major relevant fossil fish collections in South Africa, the last being the Albany Museum in Grahamstown and McGregor Museum in Kimberley which I visited early in July. These personal foraging excursions have proved very interesting, and hopefully helpful to the various collections managers.

At present I am looking at the Atherstoniidae family; it has not been previously fully described and its taxonomy needs to be sorted out, at this stage I'm getting some interesting results, **WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE!** I've begun by examining material from a site at Wilgebosch near New Bethesda, and will move on to a site on the farm Blourug near Victoria West. Preparation and analysis of the material is delicate and complex, but I'm sure to become more fluent in time.

Patrick Bender

oOo

News from Johann Welman - National Museum, Bloemfontein.

After 18 months of preparation by technicians of the Karoo Palaeontology Department, the *Euskelosaurus* specimen collected on Damplaats near Ladybrand went on display in our Palaeontology Hall at the end of April. The new displays were opened by the chairman of the Board of the National Museum Prof. C. Nel during a function attended by Mr Ken Stofberg owner of Damplaats, his family and invited guests from local institutions. The almost complete, well preserved, 4,5m long specimen, is displayed in its death pose. Also new on display is a large individual of the early ornithischian dinosaur, *Lesothosaurus*, found in the upper Elliot Formation. This fossil was collected in 1991 near Jamestown.

At present I am continuing with research on the South African archosauromorph braincases. At the end of last year, Mr Koos Viviers of the Institute for ground water studies at the UOFS found a well preserved and almost complete specimen of the Permian fish, *Atherstonia seelyi* on the Philippolis commonage. This rare fossil was identified by Mr J.C. Loock and excavated by a team from the Museum and is now being studied by Patrick Bender in Pretoria (see p.13). The discovery of this fish fossil, as well as the opening of the *Euskelosaurus* display, received good coverage in the local media as well as on TV News.

Johann Welman

oOo

News from James Brink - National Museum, Bloemfontein. Florisbad Quaternary Research Department.

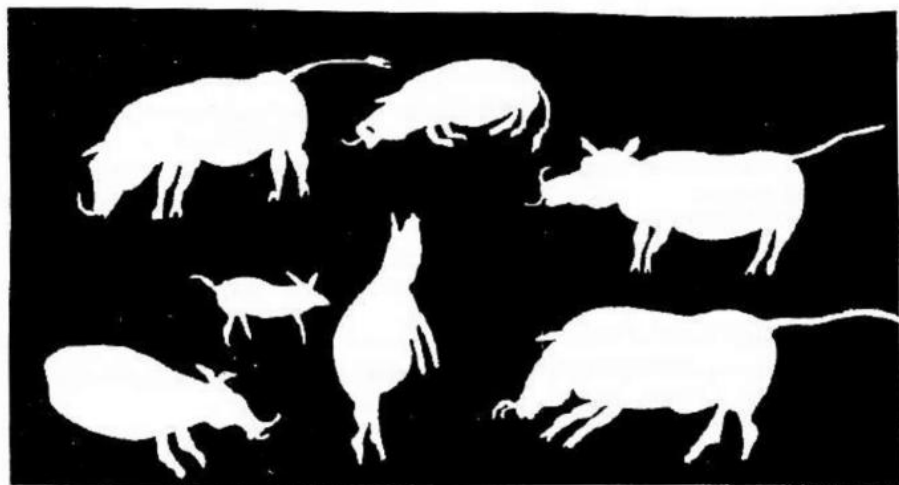
The ESR/OSL dating project, with Rainer Gruen and Nigel Spooner (ANU), is progressing well. We have managed to get a "direct" date on the Florisbad human skull and also a good series of dates on the Florisbad sediments. We presented preliminary results of this work at the Pan African Congress on Prehistory in Harare and we are now preparing the manuscript.

Besides carrying on with my work on the South African ass-like equid and the goat, I am doing a description of the postcranium of *Megalotragus priscus*.

Lloyd Rossouw, who joined us in September 1994, has started with a project on the extraction of phytoliths from fossil bovid teeth. Preliminary results are encouraging.

James Brink

oOo



A South African rock art panel.
Obviously the inspiration for A.A. Milne's Piglet.

At the time of going to press with the December 1994 issue of Pal News I neglected to incorporate the minutes of the Biennial General Meeting which was held in Grahamstown in September 1994 during the PSSA'94 conference. For the record here they are. Ed

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PALAEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, HELD AT RHODES UNIVERSITY, GRAHAMSTOWN, SEPTEMBER 7th, 1994.

1. Welcome: The President of the PSSA, Dr Bruce Rubidge, opened the meeting at 16:40h. Approximately 50 members were in attendance.
2. A moment of silence was held as a tribute to the late Barney Newman.
3. Apologies were received from Eric Harley, Carla Botha, Ann Cadman, Gillian King and David Norman.
4. Minutes of the previous Biennial General Meeting, having been distributed previously, were approved. Proposed: Bruce Rubidge. Seconded: Chris Gow.
5. Matters arising:
 - a. No response had been received to the circular regarding conditions to ensure minimum standards of excavation (circulated on 23/10/92).
 - b. No modification was to be made to the code of ethics.
 - c. It was decided that the new Executive would take up the matter of brochures and other material to promote an awareness of palaeontology.
6. Treasurer's report: Roger Smith presented an audited report up to 31/7/94. Although there was a healthy positive balance of R5738.66, it could have been better. Subscriptions were in arrears by R2500.00. However there had been a good response at this conference and the subscriptions would be maintained at R40/member/year and R20/student/year. Billy de Klerk suggested putting a reminder in PAL NEWS. Roger said that there had previously been poor responses to notices in PAL NEWS; individual reminders were required. He suggested that these be sent out soon so that membership lists could be updated. This motion was proposed by Jurie van den Heever and seconded by Johan Look.
7. Venue for the 1996 PSSA Conference: Jurie van den Heever proposed Stellenbosch

as the venue for the PSSA conference in 1996. Bruce Rubidge thanked him for this. Chris Gow asked about Natal. Tom Mason declined the invitation and suggested Namibia. This was considered not suitable at the present time. Hope was expressed that Natal would host the conference at some time in the future.

8. International Human Palaeontological Conference, 1997: Francis Thackeray had attended the International Human Palaeontological Conference in Israel in 1992, and an invitation to host the 1997 conference in South Africa had been accepted at that time. The conference is scheduled to be held in August 1997 (dates to be confirmed), and the venue is likely to be Johannesburg and/or Pretoria. The conference is likely to attract palaeontologists from around the world. The conference will serve as an opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the discovery of "Mrs Ples".

9. Election of the PSSA committee for 1994 - 1996:

In terms of the Constitution of the PSSA, Francis Thackeray succeeded Bruce Rubidge as President. Bruce Rubidge serves the Committee in his capacity as Immediate Past President.

Billy de Klerk had sent out an invitation for nominations for the new Committee. The following nominations were received and accepted unanimously:

Roger Smith	Vice President
Gin Watson	Secretary
Pippa Haarhof	Treasurer
Billy de Klerk	Editor

10. The role of palaeontology in the New South Africa: Bruce Rubidge listed a number of points to be considered in making the PSSA more relevant to the people of South Africa:-
- a. Education
 - b. Lobbyist in government
 - c. Permits
 - d. Tourism

- a. Education:

The need of some lobbyist to make sure that palaeontology became part of school syllabi was discussed. Mike Raath mentioned that forums do exist with working groups and that it would be advisable that contact be established, through regional and national routes.

Eddie Van Dijk, who is involved in the content of biology textbooks and syllabuses, said he was unhappy with the fact that when biology was called a science it was expected by pupils to learn things off by heart. He stated that it was impossible to teach evolution as a science - it was not a subject to be learnt parrot fashion, rather it was essential to an promote understanding about evolution among school children.

Jurie van den Heever said that people who compile syllabi "don't know enough". He emphasised that we must write and make plans to inform these people. Both he and Mike Cluver had already written and had a favourable response from government representatives. Mike Cluver confirmed that Minister Ben Ngubane had requested the kind of input that won't change text books.

Francis Thackeray put out a general invitation to those wishing to write such letters. Anyone interested must please let the secretary know. He also mentioned a proposal to distribute casts of important fossils (initially one set of casts for each of the nine new provinces, later perhaps copies of particular fossils such as "Mrs Ples" to many if not all schools), as part of a 20-year plan beginning in 1994, to promote an awareness in palaeontology, focusing on school children.

Janette Deacon stated that the man to contact in this regard was Minister Bhengu, Minister of Education. Francis Thackeray said he would contact the Minister about this.

Jurie van den Heever wanted to know if the PSSA could provide a white paper or similar item. Francis Thackeray replied that the Minister Bhengu would be informed about the proposal to prepare pamphlets on palaeontology, and to manufacture casts, to promote an awareness of palaeontology.

Arthur Cruikshank stated that the PSSA could invite relevant politicians to the next conference, or alternatively the PSSA could send a body to the minister in question.

Johann Welman said that perhaps we should aim at getting palaeontology into the history syllabus rather than the biology syllabus. Eddie van Dijk mentioned that there was a specific person involved with such syllabi.

Tom Mason stated that besides the official compilation members should write individually and target history, biology and natural science avenues. It was asked that individual letters be channelled through the secretary of the PSSA.

b. Lobbyist in Government:

Lee Berger confirmed the need for a lobbyist who should be kept informed. He suggested the PSSA appoint someone to keep an active eye on what is happening in government. Colin McRae suggested Janette Deacon to be just such a person. Francis Thackeray seconded this. Janette Deacon said that she has had dealings with the minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, and stated that the PSSA could liaise with this Department. Alternatively, or additionally, it could liaise with the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, or the Department of Environment and Tourism. Palaeontology could have an active interest in any or all of these. However it was difficult for one person to keep an eye on all of these and that the PSSA must decide where it wants to slot in. Bruce Rubidge suggested the new Executive decide this. Janette Deacon recommended a submission of some kind to Government.

Mike Raath reiterated that this suggestion was a very important one and that the Members of the PSSA will need information on it but that it should be left to the new Executive. Agreed.

c. Permits:

On this subject Tom Mason said that firstly most people were uninformed about the law and the illegality of collecting fossils. Secondly he felt that we were injuring our science by blocking amateurs by not allowing them to collect fossils. He felt that we needed publicity, we needed amateurs and that collecting of fossils was an occupational hazard.

Jeff McKee stated that the context in which a fossil was found was of utmost importance in understanding the find. Thus it was important to educate people in this regard and that they were to be discouraged from picking things up at random. Mike Raath agreed with Jeff.

Francis Thackeray said that when palaeontologists speak in public this matter could be emphasised.

Arthur Cruikshank expressed his concern that some people on the coast were selling ammonites to tourists.

Norton Hiller felt that many students would be discouraged if they were unable to collect fossils and that a potential conflict existed.

Eddie van Dijk felt that this conflict could be resolved by emphasizing the need for documentation - students should be taught this so that if they did find fossils they should inform local museums.

Francois du Randt said that after taking amateurs into the field on excursions and informing them, the desire to collect illegally ceased.

Chris Gow felt that the talk was too general and that each group of palaeontologists should decide whether or not collection was permissible or not.

Arthur Cruikshank felt that one should look at management in the field with ecotourism in mind. Perhaps communities could be encouraged to manage collection.

Bruce Rubidge felt that this needed to be looked at in more detail and to decide the need for laws and permits.

Janette Deacon stated that the Council would be guided by what the PSSA thought. The Council has had requests to sell fossils - this matter could be reconsidered and must be guided by the PSSA.

Mike Raath said that the question of collection must be considered very carefully. For example in Brazil the peasants who collect and sell fossils refuse access to scientists wishing to study the sites.

Lee Berger cautioned that if collecting of fossils by the public was allowed, in some instances a conflict would exist. Where would a collection area begin and where would it end?

Colin McCrae also felt that selective collection of fossils was unwise - soon one would start placing monetary value on fossils which was undesirable.

Tom Mason said that by initiating this discussion he never mentioned money or sale of fossils. He just wondered if permits were the right thing - he felt that labelling illegal collectors as criminals was a bit excessive.

11. General

- a. The Gondwana Dinosaur symposium and collaboration with the Argentineans was brought up. Mike Raath reported that he had attended the symposium in Argentina. He had been the only representative from Africa. Delegates from all the Gondwana fragments had been present with the exception of India. The conference had been very

successful and it was decided to reconvene it every four years. There was a possibility that South Africa could be the next host country. He asked whether we were in a position to host it? Whether the PSSA should host it or possibly the next International Gondwana Symposium? Roger Smith mentioned that the next International Gondwana Symposium was to be hosted in Cape Town in 1997. Roger then said that the International Fluvial Symposium would possibly incorporate the International Gondwana Symposium. Mike Raath said that the Argentineans wished to collaborate with us.

b. Bruce Rubidge raised the matter of the letter from the Department of Foreign Affairs involving a Chinese delegation later this year, or early next year. They wish to discuss two travelling dinosaur exhibitions and one travelling fish/bird/mammal exhibition. The costs of these is estimated at R3.6 million with an insurance coverage in excess of R90 000. He suggested that the exhibitions could be combined with all the museums.

Mike Raath expressed his concern as to whether this country was ready for this, taking into account the "Dinamation Debacle". Francis Thackeray said that "Dinamation" had not succeeded in South Africa, and there were several reasons for this. The Management of a company which had called itself "Dinamation South Africa" had tried to bring robotic dinosaurs from America in too great a hurry and the Company had been liquidated. Pippa Haarhof felt that we did not have the paying public to support such a thing. Mike Raath said that our country needed travelling shows but that one must be extremely careful about them. *Agreed.*

c. The Humbolt Award: Two research rewards are available and the FRD requests nominations.

d. The suggestion of moving the biennial PSSA meeting to July instead of September was rejected. September was far more popular.

12. *Closure:* The meeting was closed at 17.30.

RECORD OF PSSA CONFERENCE AWARDS

For the record I thought it would be worthwhile to list the recipients of the various awards that have been presented at previous PSSA conferences. I have tried to be as accurate as possible but I'm sure that omissions and errors are evident. Could these please be brought to my attention - thanks. Ed.

The first PSSA Conference took place at the National Museum, Bloemfontein in July 1979 thereafter they were held on a biennial basis at the following venues:

2. 1982 - Pretoria 3. 1984 - Stellenbosch 4. 1986 - Cape Town
5. 1988 - Graaf-Reinet 6. 1990 - Golden Gate 7. 1992 - BPI Wits
8. 1994 - Grahamstown

The Order of the Boot, awarded to the "biggest liar" (instituted by Juri van Heerden).

- 1979 - Burger Oelofsen
- 1982 - Burger Oelofsen
- 1984 - Bob Brain (?)
- 1986 - Roger Smith
- 1988 - Norton Hiller
- 1990 - Francis Thackeray
- 1992 - Dick Rayner
- 1994 - Tom Mason

Lystrosaurus wooden shield for best student paper.

- 1988 - Anusuya Chinsamy
- 1990 - Pascal Chesselet
- 1992 - Lee Berger
- 1994 - Lynsey Firm

Lystrosaurus cast trophy for best poster.

- 1988 - Gideon Groenewald
- 1990 - Patrick Bender and James Brink
- 1992 - Billy de Klerk, Mike Raath and Norton Hiller
- 1994 - Robert Gess

Palaeontology resources on the Internet (WWW)

Those members who have access to a computer which is linked to the Internet (World Wide Web) may find the following information useful to access palaeontology resources available on the net. A FAQ (frequently asked questions) document on Palaeontology resources has been compiled by Una Smith (una.smith@yale.edu) of the Department of Biology at Yale University in the US and I have reproduced parts of this document. Should you wish to receive a full copy of this and other documentation relating to Palaeontology resources on the internet please contact me and I will email them to you.

From: una@doliolum.biology.yale.edu (Una Smith)
Subject: FAQ Paleo resources
Date: 29 May 1995 22:33:38 GMT

Here is some information about palaeontology resources that are available in one way or another over the Internet, or would be of general interest to readers of the sci.bio.paleontology newsgroup.

(A) MAILING LISTS

DINOSAUR Dinosaur Discussion List
To subscribe, send e-mail containing the text
subscribe dinosaur <Your Name>
(where <Your Name> is replaced by your own name) to
listproc@lepomis.psych.upenn.edu

MICROPAL Micropaleontology List
To subscribe, send e-mail containing the text
subscribe micropal <Your Name>
(where <Your Name> is replaced by your own name) to
listproc@ucmp1.berkeley.edu

PALAEOBOTANY Palaeobotany List
To subscribe, send e-mail containing the text
subscribe <Your Name>
(where <Your Name> is replaced by your own name) to
palaeobotany-request@alpha1.rhbc.ac.uk

PALEONET Paleontology Network List
To subscribe, send e-mail containing the text
subscribe paleonet <Your Name>
(where <Your Name> is replaced by your own name) to
majordomo@nhm.ac.uk

Note: If you subscribe to any of the following lists,
you will also be subscribed automatically to PALEONET.

- PALEONET sub-list CollectionsNet
To subscribe, send e-mail containing the text
subscribe collectionsnet <Your Name>
(where <Your Name> is replaced by your own name) to
majordomo@nhm.ac.uk
- PALEONET sub-list CommNet
To subscribe, send e-mail containing the text
subscribe commnet <Your Name>
(where <Your Name> is replaced by your own name) to
majordomo@nhm.ac.uk
- PALEONET sub-list DataBaseNet
To subscribe, send e-mail containing the text
subscribe databasenet <Your Name>
(where <Your Name> is replaced by your own name) to
majordomo@nhm.ac.uk
- PALEONET sub-list TrainingNet
To subscribe, send e-mail containing the text
subscribe trainingnet <Your Name>
(where <Your Name> is replaced by your own name) to
majordomo@nhm.ac.uk

POLPAL-L Pollination and Palynology
To subscribe, send e-mail containing the text
subscribe polpal-l <Your Name>
(where <Your Name> is replaced by your own name) to
listproc@uoguelph.ca

ROCKS-AND-FOSSILS
To subscribe, send e-mail containing the text
subscribe rocks-and-fossils <Your Name>
(where <Your Name> is replaced by your own name) to
majordomo@world.std.com

VRTPALEO Vertebrate Paleontology Community
To subscribe, send e-mail containing the text
subscribe vrtpaleo <Your Name>
(where <Your Name> is replaced by your own name) to
listserv@vm.usc.edu

Note: for the most part these mailing lists are small, quiet, and quite professional forums. They are used by scientists to keep in touch with one another and discuss current research. The articles posted there can often seem very dry and dull, unless you happen to be passionately keen on the topic of discussion. You're more than welcome to subscribe, but be sure to get an idea of the tone and quality of articles expected there before contributing any yourself.

(B) INTERNET ARCHIVES

WORLD WIDE WEB SITES

Field Museum of Natural History	http://www.bvis.uic.edu
California Academy of Sciences	http://www.calacademy.org
Cornell University MUSE Project	http://muse.bio.cornell.edu
Illinois Natural History Survey	http://denr1.igis.uiuc.edu
Missouri Botanical Garden	http://straylight.tamu.edu
Australian National University	http://life.anu.edu.au
Univ. California Museum of Paleo.	http://ucmp1.berkeley.edu
Plant Fossil Record 2	http://sunrae.uel.ac.uk
The Natural History Museum London	http://www.nhm.ac.uk
Natural History Museum (Switzerland)	http://www-nmbe.unibe.ch
Swedish Museum of Natural History	http://www.nrm.se
US National Museum of Natural History	http://nmnhwww.si.edu

GOPHER

gopher.nhm.ac.uk	The Natural History Museum (London, NHM)
gopher.peabody.yale.edu	Yale Peabody Museum of Nat. History (YPM)
nmnhgoph.si.edu	US National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)
huh.harvard.edu	Harvard University Herbaria (HUH)
osprey.erin.gov.au	Australian National Botanical Garden (ANBG)

ANONYMOUS FTP

ftp.nhm.ac.uk	The Natural History Museum (London, NHM)
ngdc1.ngdc.noaa.gov	paleoclimatology datasets

TELNET

serfis.by.uga.edu	SERFIS Southeastern US Herbaria (user "public")
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Some of the natural history museums listed here offer Internet access to their collections databases and/or their library catalogs. Others provide no offerings beyond useful information about public exhibits and programs. Those museums with catalog data online (preferably both collections and library information) are especially valuable to the research community, as they facilitate vital fact-finding research conducted from a visitor's home institution, *before* travelling to the museum to work with the materials housed in the museum.

PSSA members on e-mail

I have started to keep a PSSA membership E-mail address list. This list will be updated on a regular basis as I receive new or changed addresses. Send to amwd@giraffe.ru.ac.za That's me, Ed.

Dr Eric Anderson	ihma@guppy.ru.ac.za
Dr Graham Avery	bcage@uctvax.uct.ac.za
Dr Lee Berger	055lrbs@chiron.wits.ac.za
Dr Barbara Brauer	055bjbs@witsvma.wits.ac.za
Mr James Brink	nmjsb@rs.uovs.ac.za
Dr Anusuya Chinsamy	achinsam@uctvax.uct.ac.za
Dr Arthur Cruikshank	aric1@leicester.ac.uk
Dr Billy de Klerk	amwd@giraffe.ru.ac.za
Ms Fiona Evans	9467815@rga.sun.ac.za
Dr Chris Gow	106GOC@cosmos.wits.ac.za
Prof AV Hall	avhall@uctvax.uct.ac.za
Prof Eric Harley	harley@chempath.uct.ac.za
Dr Norton Hiller	GEOL039@csc.canterbury.ac.nz
Kevin Kuykendall	055klks@witsvma.wits.ac.za
Ms Elizabeth Latimer	106eml@cosmos.wits.ac.za
Charles Lockwood	055cals@witsvma.wits.ac.za
Prof Tom Mason	MASON@geology.und.ac.za
Dr Jeff McKee	055jkms@witsvma.wits.ac.za
Dr Dave Norman	dn102@esc.cam.ac.uk
Dr Mike Raath	PEMMAR@zoo.upe.ac.za
Dr Gideon Rosouw	zlagjr@zoo.upe.ac.za
Dr Bruce Rubidge	106gar@cosmos.wits.ac.za
Prof Izak Rust	glairc@orca.upe.ac.za
Dr Russell Shone	glarws@orca.upe.ac.za
Dr Roger Smith	ROGSMITH@uctvms.uct.ac.za
Dr Francis Thackeray	Tmuseum@iafrica.com
Dr Juri van den Heever	javdh@maties.sun.ac.za
Dr Anne Warren	zooaw@zoom.latrobe.edu.au
Mr Johan Welman	nmjw@rs.uovs.ac.za

Happy cyber-surfing. :)

CONFERENCE

* 9th PSSA Conference

Stellenbosch University, Western Cape - *September 1996*

Contact: Dr Juri van den Heever, Dept. of Zoology, University of
Stellenbosch, STELLENBOSCH 7600,
Tel: (021) 808-3223/36 Fax: (021) 808-4336
808-9111 e-mail: javdh@maties.sun.ac.za

FRANK AND ERNEST

I'M GOING TO CRAWL UP ON THE BEACH AND EVOLVE.
CAN I BRING YOU ANYTHING?



**Reminder: Deadline for contributions for the next issue of PAL NEWS is
30 November 1995**

Addendum to PAL NEWS - Vol. 10(2), June 1995.

I have just gone to press and to my dismay have just found Anne Warren's news buried on my desk which I neglected to include. Sorry Anne! Ed.

News from Anne Warren - La Trobe University, Australia.

Work continues on Australian temnospondyls although I have two papers in press on non- Australians and am working on several other foreigners, a product of my travels over the last three years. Of these the collection of Late Triassic plagiosaurs collected by Farish Jenkins in Greenland consumed much of my preparation time this year. I have also been playing with two skulls from 'Thabanchu' in the Karoo. Collected by Peabody in 1947 and labelled *?Bothriceps*, these were located at the back of a drawer in the Museum of Palaeontology at Berkeley during my visit in 1993. They appear to be juvenile and are probably not brachyopid - further than that I am not prepared to commit myself.

We are looking forward to the arrival next week of Dhurjati Sengupta from Calcutta and Claudia Marsicano from Buenos Aires, who are spending six weeks here looking at temnospondyls with me in various museums and field sites on the east coast.

I have two new graduate students. Ross Damiani did an honours project at La Trobe on some new brachyopoid specimens from the Arcadia Formation and is now beginning a PhD on capitosaur including some skeletochronology. Adam Yates comes from Adelaide where he completed honours on small shelly Cambrian faunas but has seen the light and is now working up the collection of Arcadia Formation mini temnospondyl skulls for a PhD. Caroline Northwood is busy writing up her PhD which has become increasingly coprolitic of late. She gave excellent papers at both the CAVEPS and Taphonomy conferences in Canberra this in May.

In Press:

Warren, A.A., Rich. T.H. and Vickers-Rich, P.V. (in press). The last last labyrinthodonts? *Palaeontographica*.

Warren, A.A. and Schroeder, N. (in press). Changes in the capitosaur skull with maturity: an extension of the growth series of *Parotosuchus aliciae*. *Alcheringa* 19.

- Warren, A.A. (submitted). *Laidleria* uncovered, a redescription of *Laidleria gracilis* Kitching. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society of London*.
- Warren, A.A. (in press). *Plagiosternum granulosum* Fraas: a plagiosaurid temnospondyl from the Middle Triassic of Crailsheim, Germany. *Stuttgarter Beitrage zur Naturkunde*.
- Damiani, R.J. and Warren, A.A. (submitted). A new look at the Superfamily Brachyopoidea (Amphibia, Temnospondyli) from the Early Triassic of Queensland and a preliminary analysis of brachyopoid relationships. *Alcheringa*.

Anne Warren

oOo

News from Arthur Cruikshank arrived a day after going to press. Ed.

News from Arthur Cruikshank - Leicester, UK

Leslie Noe is to start a project on Callovian (Oxford Clay) pliosaurs in September, based at Derby University (one of the many new ones created over the last five years), supervised by myself and Dr Don Smith, who cut his teeth on N.African Eocene chelonians, so he has a good marine tetrapod backup. I hope to visit John Long in Perth in February next year, to look at his recently recovered plesiosaurs, and then to look at as many Aussie plesios as possible thereafter. The very big archosaur skull that I was going on about last year has been (alternatively) a rhamphorhynchoid pterosaur and a spinosaur. It has had MSS refused for both taxonomic homes, but at present is again among the theropods and off to the Geol. Soc. Journal as a quickie communication; watch this space!! The dinosaur egg project has been on show in Cambridge twice - at Easter and at present (July). It had good press coverage, and this time we have a colour booklet to go with it. There is a promise of our embryos being incorporated in a National Geographic article...watch this space too! Our latest piece of taphonomy is what appears to be an almost complete yolk sac, with an early embryo hiding away under it. Anyway we have yolk! But if it is just that or mineralized I cannot say yet: but oil is just preserved fats...enough.

Best wishes to all.

Arthur

oOo