

Museum Spring Newsletter 2016

Recent Fundraising Events

Diamonds & Skulduggery - The Inside Story

Peter Shout entertained Museum Friends with his fascinating tales about his career in the diamond mining industry as Security Manager for Namdeb (formerly Consolidated Diamond Mines). He told of the extraordinary lengths that some people go to in their attempts to secrete diamonds from the secured diamond mining area. He made the point that if only these people spent this time in trying to improve diamond mining & diamond retrieval, what a better place the diamond mining industry would be! The picture on the left is of a pigeon used to transport stones and the crossbows were sometimes used to catapult diamonds out of the secure diamond mining area.



Understanding San (Bushmen) Culture Through Rock Art

The subsequent talk was given by Dr Janette Deacon who has spent most, if not all, her working career understanding San rock art and what it teaches us about their culture. It was intriguing to learn that their rock art does not solely epitomise their lifestyles. Rather, it is a graphic interpretation of their belief system. Janette explained that the San did not keep sheep or cattle and this explains why these animals do not feature prominently in their paintings. It is the eland which one recognises, interspersed with human forms morphed with birds. The human forms were often depicted with hunting bows and arrows. The human bodies were typically elongated with accentuated buttocks. Janette explained that while the San may have had physiques like this, it is more feasible that this representation had a trance or ritual connotation. During a trance-like state, people talk of feeling their body parts being stretched, this would explain the distended figures. Additionally, the San valued “fat” and this would account for the extended buttocks. The talk was fascinating, many thanks to Janette.



Groote Post Country Market

Darling Museum Friends will be aware of “Ouma’s Treasures”, the shop located in the Museum which sells items on consignment and is a meaningful contributor to the Museum’s income. The Committee recently decided to increase the exposure of the shop items and rented a stall at the Groote Post monthly market. It proved to be a worthwhile venture and the next market will be on Sunday, 25th September. If you have any unwanted bric-a-brac that is collecting dust in a cupboard, why not consider selling it through Ouma’s Treasures. Or come and visit us at the market.



Museum Visitors

Visitors to the Museum during the winter months were down on the previous year but this trend was reversed in August when we had 417 compared with 378 in August 2015. There were two school groups; the Cape West Coast Biospere guides (as part of their outreach programme) brought 36 learners from Darling Primary to visit the Museum and then 10 little pre-schoolers from Alexanderfontein came to visit last week, see picture below.



Darling Wildflower Show - We Need Your Help

The annual show is once again upon us and is a very exciting time of the year for Darling. Visitors to the Museum increase dramatically, particularly with the shuttle running from the Wildflower Show to the Cat Show and Museum. We would welcome help from any Museum Friends who could help out for an hour or two over the period of the show. All that is required is help at the front desk to direct visitors into the Museum. Please contact Dianne at the Museum if you are able to help out.



Upcoming Event

Diarise this Date

Our next fund raising event is scheduled for Friday, 21st October. Anthony Corin will be our speaker and the title of his talk is “Solar PV: Affordable Energy Autonomy for All”. Posters will be distributed in due course.