



Prof HC (Jatti) Bredekamp, Iziko CEO

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## Iziko CEO, Prof Bredekamp, retires

Prof HC Bredekamp, better known as Jatti, joined the amalgamated group of Iziko Museums of Cape Town in November 2002 as Chief Executive Officer. Looking back at his eight year tenure, he shared memories of not only his prolific career as an educator, historian, researcher, writer and leader, but also a few things about him we did not know.

Shakespeare said there is method in madness. So too, Prof wants to be remembered as a "mad guy" coming from a mad rural family; Jatti, the unorthodox - a man who does things differently, and is of service to others.

Strangely/ironically, while growing up on the Genadendal mission in the early 1950s it was his life's ambition to learn how to become a Cape Town *skollie*, so that everyone could marvel at his ability to master the trade of gangsterism. This desire emanated from an incident he observed as an eight-year-old. However, the teachings of his amazing grandmother (also named Jatti) firmly established and reinforced his Christian identity at defining moments in his early childhood.

His retirement at the end of October coincides with his 40th wedding anniversary with his lovely wife, Florence. To this "*oumakindjie*" and wanna-be gangster from the Overberg we say: "*Sininqwenelela ikamva elizele amathamsanqa nolonwabo! Ons by Iziko wens jou 'n toekoms vol voorspoed en geluk.*" We wish you luck and success in all your endeavours, now and eternally.

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Melody Kleinsmith, Communications Coordinator

## Editorial

Join us in bidding farewell to an Iziko museologist, historian (and an institution in his own right) as he bows out of the museum game at the end of the month. Melody Kleinsmith caught up with CEO, Professor HC (Jatti) Bredekamp for a walk down memory lane.

The year is winding down, but Iziko curators seem to be getting their second wind, as the last of the exhibition openings for 2010 start gaining momentum. We visit the Bo-Kaap for the *Mapping Bo-Kaap* opening, and head to the Gallery for an exhibition with a difference. Staff are out and about, locally at the SAMA conference in Durban, wasp-hunting in the Eastern Cape, making friends at the West Coast Fossil Park and Robben Island; and abroad in South Korea and Egypt.

With a masque theme, the staff year-end function is bound to be a *jol* this year. You're invited, so bring along your dancing shoes, and don't forget your mask!

The e-news editorial team

# Looking back with retiring CEO, Prof HC (Jatti) Bredekamp

(continued from page 1)

Prof Bredekamp shared some of his experiences, reflections and dreams on being the first black CEO of Iziko. He recalls feeling accepted by most of the staff, and being impressed by the collective professional expertise within the four core functions and three support services divisions of Iziko. However, he joined the organisation at a time when individuals still preferred to promote the separate image and identity of the particular museum they had joined prior to amalgamation, when all fifteen museums became known collectively as the Southern Flagship Institution in 1999.

When he started his first term of office in 2002 his main concern was the absence of a common purpose and lack of spirit amongst the members of the "Directing Team" at senior management level, and at governance level, the dysfunction of the first Council whose members were annoyed by the prescripts of the Public Finance Management Act of 1999. The constructive critical approach of the leadership of the South African Museum Workers Association in contributing to a more stable institution throughout his two terms of office will stay with him.

Prof Bredekamp hailed the appointment of the second Council in May 2003, under the stewardship of Prof Eltie Links, as a turning point in the evolution of Iziko. The realignment of the senior management structure in 2005 contributed to greater management efficiency. The introduction of the Department of Institutional Advancement located within the Office of the CEO was a positive development in facilitating the marketing and communication of the organisation, initiating awareness of the Iziko brand within the public realm.

These developments ultimately resulted in Iziko becoming a more effective public entity and heritage institution. Thanks to the CFO and her team, Jatti Bredekamp leaves Iziko with a clean audit by the Auditor-General for the fifth time; the two former executive directors, Patricia Davison and Veliswa Baduza, and particularly the Human Resources department, played no minor role in this proud Iziko achievement.

The retiring CEO shared three endearing memories of special significance to him. The first was the reaction of Dr Pallo Jordan, shortly after his appointment as Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology in 2004. Prof's PowerPoint presentation about the state of neglect and structural collapse of the National Mutual Building on Church Square shocked the new minister. It was nonetheless instrumental in securing government commitment and funding for the renovation and upgrading of the building, and resulted in the launch of the Iziko Social History Centre on International Museum Day this year.

Another achievement he treasures is the resuscitation of the South African National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM-SA) at Iziko in October 2006. Very few museum workers today know about the suspension of ICOM-SA in the mid-1970s because of the UNESCO cultural boycott against apartheid. Despite attempts to re-establish the ICOM structure in South Africa after 1994, it only materialised in 2006 when he was asked by ICOM (international office) to champion the cause from an Iziko perspective.

He is, thirdly, very proud of the day he signed, in the desert town of Timbuktu in Mali, the agreement between Iziko and the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Learning and Islamic Research. Though former President Mbeki had laid the foundation for the wider South African-Mali initiative, the Iziko-Ahmed Baba agreement prepared the hosting of the exhibition *Timbuktu: Script & Scholarship* at the Good Hope Gallery and other heritage centres in South Africa in 2008.

When asked to share a pearl of wisdom Iziko members could use to build their success, his response was simply this: "Hold on to the inspiring message of our new national motto: *!ke e: /xarra //ke* (people who are different joining together). This, together with our faith, should remain the guiding light on our journey to make Iziko, our country, our continent and the heritage world a better place for all. This we can only achieve but by the grace or *genade* of the Almighty."

# Putting the Bo-Kaap on the Map

The *Mapping Bo-Kaap* project aimed to identify sites of significance in the Bo-Kaap and to identify cultural values and associations as expressed by members of the community. Participants were eager to share their stories, memories and glimpses into 'their Bo-Kaap'. The interviews provided a wealth of base information in drafting a statement of significance for the Bo-Kaap, aimed at declaring it a national heritage site. However, a need existed to involve the local community in such a declaration process. Thanks to the enthusiasm and insight of Iziko's Lalou Meltzer and Katie Mooney, work on the *Mapping Bo-Kaap* exhibition commenced. Local interest and passion for the project was very clear. Whilst photographing the Bo-Kaap with Carina Beyer and Katie, residents were keen to provide their perspectives, the most common query being, 'why was I not interviewed?'

The launch of the exhibition was well attended by local residents, those interviewed and those wanting to share their stories. The exhibition provides an important platform to stimulate debate and discussions regarding identity and history, evident in the groups of people who huddled around for hours after the launch, relating memories with deep-rooted respect and pride. Having grown up in Bo-Kaap, I've always had a sense of it being a special place. What makes it special for me now is the passion and love I see in the eyes of those whom I've had the honour to interview. The exhibition is based on the views of those people whose contributions made the project possible, and it is hoped that further interviews will be conducted, providing an opportunity for the Bo-Kaap community to record and conserve their rich memories and histories.

Quahnita Samie, Director, *vidamemoria* heritage consultants



L to R: Iziko's CEO (designate) Rooksana Omar, Social History Collections Director Lalou Meltzer and Curator Katie Mooney at the exhibition opening.



L to R: Iziko Site Manager Rashaad Ajam and his mother Mrs Gadija Ajam, both Bo-Kaap residents.

# Hot & Happening

- The **Save our Seabirds** exhibition runs at ISAM until 21 November, showcasing photographs from the Save our Seabirds Photographic Competition. Direct enquiries to Olga Jeffries.
- Iziko, in partnership with UWC and the Ifa Lethu Foundation, present **Home and Away: A Return to the South** at the Old Town House. Direct enquiries to Hayden Proud.
- **Roger Ballen and Boarding House** opens at ISANG on 6 November, featuring beautiful photographs with an enigmatic quality. Direct enquiries to Pam Warne.
- **Made in Translation, Images from and of the Landscape** opens at ISAM on 21 November, with paintings and engravings from the southern African landscape. Direct enquiries to Petro Keene.
- **Imagining Beauty, Body Adornment from Iziko Collections and Young SA Designers** opens at ISANG on 27 November, featuring an installation of the work from Mercedes-Benz Fashion Awards' winning designers, shown in Berlin last year. Direct enquiries to Carol Kaufmann.
- With the school holidays around the corner, be sure to plan a visit to the Iziko Planetarium. **Davy Dragon's Guide to the Night Sky** shows until 5 December.
- Join the Friends of the Iziko South African National Gallery for the following activities:
  - Tuesday, 9 November:** A visit to **Stellenberg House and Garden** in Kenilworth.
  - Wednesday, 17 November:** A lecture entitled '**A Platform for African Artists - The 2010 Dakar Biennale**', by Marilyn Martin.
  - Friday, 26 November:** Meet the artist, **Brett Murray**.
- Friends of the Iziko South African Museum present their monthly lecture, entitled '**Journeys in Search of the Whale - Rethinking our Place in a Changing World**' on Tuesday, 30 November, with speaker, Noel Ashton.

Details for all these events are available in the *Iziko What's On*.

## Staff News

### Retirement:

Professor HC (Jatti) Bredekamp retires as CEO of Iziko Museums of Cape Town at the end of October 2010.

## IA Team-building

The department of Institutional Advancement went on a team-building exercise to the West Coast Fossil Park on Friday, 1 October. Pippa Haarhoff provided background to the Park, and explained the process of evolution, and how fossils are formed. The lecture was followed by a visit to the dig-site, and lunch at the Strandloper restaurant.

## Iziko Star

There is a star in our midst who has been shining over many months - CSM staff member Claude November, based at the Iziko Social History Centre.

The Social History Centre reached the stage of Practical Completion in November 2009. This meant that the building was ready for occupation, and Social History and Customer Services Management staff started moving in towards the end of 2009. It also meant that the work on site was not yet complete, and that snags and outstanding issues were still being attended to. Claude played a tremendous supportive role, providing access to storage areas across the building's eleven levels. Security and control of keys were of great importance, as was working with the people on site, and developing an understanding of the newly installed intricate technical systems. Without Claude's assistance it would have been impossible to keep up with the demand for access to the spaces. At the end of many a day, it was clear to me that he had had a very active day.

I have appreciated Claude's willingness and helpfulness along each stage to get our building to a stage of Works Completion, and ready to be launched by the Minister of Arts and Culture, Ms Lulu Xingwana. I would like to thank Claude in particular for his past and continued support, whilst not forgetting the rest of the CSM staff, Rashaad Ajam and Paul October, and Tersia Makonie of Fidelity Security Services.

Esther Esmiol, Curator, Social History Collections



*Iziko Star, Claude November.*



# 74th SAMA National Conference

From 26-30 September, Iziko members from various departments attended the 74th South African Museum Association (SAMA) Conference, held at Riverside Hotel in Durban. The theme of the conference was "Museums in Action: To 2010 and Beyond".

Speakers from different museums presented papers, and topics included Heritage Management, Education, Research and Research Resources, Museums and Financial Realities, Archival/Memory related issues, Visitors and Partnerships, and Collections Management. Babalwa Ramncwana (Social History Collections Manager) and Lailah Hisham (Registrar for Social History and Art Collections) presented a joint paper entitled "Moving towards one story: Interpretation through integration" which dealt with amalgamation of the former South African Cultural History Museum collections, the South African Museum African Studies collections, and the creation of the Iziko Social History Collections department. Art Collections Curator, Robyn-Leigh Cedras, presented a

paper entitled "Cultural Exchange: The Practicalities of Loans from International Collections and Couriering Loans to other Countries". We were also excited to receive the Publication Design Award.

Over this period, Iziko Mobile Museum educators, Sithembele Harmans, Themba Matomela, Lucy Williams and Ntsikelelo Killimani were also in Durban, doing outreach work in libraries. Among those visited were the communities of Mpumalanga near Pinetown, Cato Crest and Claremont, and delegates on the last day of the conference.

We would like to thank the Iziko management for the opportunity to contribute to this 74th SAMA Conference. We also thank our colleagues for the teamwork and support that they gave us while preparing for these presentations.

Babalwa Ramncwana, Social History Collections Manager and Sithembele Harmans, Community Outreach Specialist



Iziko Mobile Museum educator, Themba Matomela visits the Mpumalanga Library near Pinetown, KZN.



The SAMA Publication Design Award, received for publicity material produced for the Not Alone campaign.

## No wasp too small for Iziko bug-huggers

Simon van Noort is part of a multi-national team from nine countries, awarded US\$ 2.6 million (about R19 million) from the National Science Foundation in the United States under its Planetary Biodiversity Inventory programme.

The five-year (2007-2011) project's main aims are to describe and name all 2 500 species of Platygastroidea wasps, to explore areas of the world rich in parasitic wasps (including forests of Brazil and southeast Asia, the Western regions of India and the arid lands of South Africa), and to map the evolutionary relationships using DNA sequences and morphology. There is a very important training aspect, with parataxonomists, Aisha Mayekiso, Nosiphiwo Goci and Mmamotswa Mosweu employed at ISAM to process and curate specimens. Their salaries are paid from this external grant.

Insect traps have been deployed at 20 sites across the Western, Eastern and Northern Cape provinces, encompassing a range of habitat types to target this poorly collected group of insects. Besides being trampled by elephants and buffalo, traps employed at high elevation bear the brunt of winter cold fronts, as recently experienced on top of the Nardousberg (part of the Eastern Cape Sneeuwberg range) where the traps were covered

by thick snow - making for a very different field experience! Platygastroidea wasps are often less than 2 mm long, but are significant as biological control agents of a range of pests; in maintaining the ecological balance; and as model systems for fundamental research. Since the project's inception, more than 43 000 wasp specimens have been collected, curated, identified and accessioned into Iziko's entomology collection. The majority of these represent new species unknown to science. Results are viewable on [www.waspsweb.org](http://www.waspsweb.org).

Simon van Noort, Natural History Collections



L to R: Mmamotswa Mosweu, Aisha Mayekiso and Nosiphiwo Goci in the field, at an insect trap.

# Echoes opens

*Echoes*, is a sound art cultural exchange project between Australia and South Africa, in which leading Australian sound artist Philip Samartzis has travelled to Cape Town to produce a surround-sound installation at the Iziko SA National Gallery.

A very different type of exhibition, the artist uses recordings of natural and constructed environments as his primary material to invite gallery visitors to enter a vast sonic space that brings to surface sound's impact on our everyday lives.

"Exhibitions like *Echoes* are the type of creative installation that is more frequently being mooted by the creative fraternity as the type of installation that the public is wanting", commented the curator, Jared Davis. From an Iziko perspective, we hope that we will be seeing (or rather, listening to) and experiencing many more creative installations of this nature.

Durie Mohamed, 2010 Projects Coordinator, IA



*Echoes* Curator Jared Davis, Australian sound artist Philip Samartzis, Iziko Curator Pam Warne, and South African sound artist James Webb at the exhibition opening.

## Iziko year-end function 2010

Well, it's nearly that time again - time to take out our party hats and celebrate the culmination of an eventful 2010. This year we do it carnival-style with a *Masked Jol* - the theme for the Iziko year-end function 2010. The fun takes place at the Belmont Square Conference Centre, Belmont Road, Rondebosch on Friday, 10 December.

Masks were initially used during carnival to hide people's identities. Wearing masks allowed people to cross class lines without fear or shame. This is your chance to have a bit of harmless fun, so whether you choose to go ethnic, Halloween or traditional, come to the party donning a mask. Find some feathers, glitter, sparkles or stones, whatever you fancy to make it your own. Buy one or make one, whatever you wish. (I must confess - I am a cheat, I went to a store and got mine cheap!)

It costs R150 to bring a partner, and special provision for payment has been made. Complete a payroll deduction form and submit to Human Resources by 8 November. These forms were included in the invitation sent on 22 October, and can be obtained from your committee representative. Cash partner payments as well as your RSVP form must be submitted to Sabrina Mentoor, Office of the CEO, 2nd floor, Iziko South African Museum or via email to [smentoor@iziko.org.za](mailto:smentoor@iziko.org.za) by 30 November.

Transport to the venue will be provided, and will depart from the Iziko SA Museum and Groot Constantia at 18:00. Transport home will be provided to those who indicated their requirements on the RSVP form. Ensure that you indicate your destination.

Dress smart casual (don't forget your mask) and I'll see you there. Let's have a *jol*!

Melody Kleinsmith, YEFC Chairperson



Right: Let your hair down or do your hair up, but come have a *jol*, wearing a mask at the Iziko year-end function 2010!

# Heritage Day: Commemoration of 500 years since the Khoi-Almeida confrontation of 1510

As part of the Heritage Day celebrations, Iziko Museums commemorated the Khoi-Almeida confrontation of 1510 with a symposium on 25 September, held in the Rock Art Gallery, at the Iziko South African Museum.

The CEO of Iziko Museums, Prof HC (Jatti) Bredekamp, introduced the speakers. In a poignant address, he commented back on the first KhoiSan Revivalism conference held at the same venue in 1997, and shared with a packed audience that this represented the last event he would be hosting in his capacity as CEO of Iziko Museums before retiring at the end of October.

Prof Bredekamp, who also chaired the symposium, showed his commitment as a lifetime historian as he shared his sentiment for the symposium, that, with the help of the speakers, we would be stimulated to see things differently; that we would gain new understanding into the history of the impact of the Portuguese landing in Saldanha; that new understanding would be reached in terms of what it means to be indigenous in post-apartheid South Africa; and that the conference would help us take a stance against forgetting in the age of remembrance.

Speaker, Desmond Sampson, Deputy Chairperson of the Khoi and Boesman Volksraad, spoke about the need for indigenous history to be recorded, as this is the only way to restore pride in a broken people who once lived in communities that shared in an advanced system of disciplined community life. He took to task the present government for continuing to show scant support in celebrating the history of KhoiSan culture, and blamed the insolence of office, academics and intellectuals for concealing KhoiSan history.

The Commission for Gender Equality's Dr Yvette Abrahams, in her address, took up where Sampson had left off, saying that history, as written by Europeans, has to be stripped bare of prejudices. She noted this confrontation's role in the suspicion and distrust that developed between the indigenous peoples and settlers. The Western Cape, which is home to a coloured majority, has evolved into the domestic violence capital of the

world. She emphasised that it was ironic, and a testament to the peaceful nature of KhoiSan society that it took 400 years after this confrontation for violence to creep into the social structure.

After a lively debate around indigenous culture in the twenty-first century, PhD candidate, Priscilla de Wet acknowledged that while conflicts existed within and between indigenous groups, respect for human life was the over-arching belief in KhoiSan society. Linking past injustices to present conflicts, she said: "The conflict in Hout Bay seemed very ironic in this era of moral and social justice. In this 21st Century the KhoiSan descendants are still having the need to use violence in order to protect their access to land. They are still dealt with in a hostile and violent manner by those in power."

Zenzile Khoisan, author and Editor of the *Eland News*, in a paper entitled "Distortions and Omissions in Reporting the KhoiSan Indigence Resurgence in Contemporary South Africa", spoke about censorship and media propaganda, and government's proposed media bill, saying that it represented the surest threat to freedom of expression. He criticised the extent of media coverage afforded indigenous issues, saying that in a coverage graph reflecting 8%, only 1% would be fairly and accurately reported.

The final speaker, Ron Martin, the Chairperson of the SA First Peoples' Museum Foundation, commended Iziko Museums' commitment to the forgotten peoples, and stressed the need for a museum dedicated to KhoiSan history and culture.

The Director of Education and Public Programmes, Dr Wayne Alexander, thanked the speakers, Iziko staff and Council for their support in making the symposium a success. He expressed the hope that Prof Bredekamp would continue to be the voice for memory, even after his retirement from Iziko Museums.

Marcia Marais, IA



Symposium speakers and Iziko convenors, Zenzile Khoisan, Ron Martin, Dr Wayne Alexander, Desmond Sampson, Iziko Council member, Marilyn Martin, Iziko CEO, Prof HC (Jatti) Bredekamp, and Priscilla de Wet.



A diverse audience of young and old attended the symposium, held in the Rock Art Gallery at the Iziko South African Museum.

# Lucky fish! Heritage Week winners celebrate

2010's Heritage Week may have come and gone, but the celebrations carry on. Young winners of the Treasure Hunt, which took place on Heritage Day, excitedly returned to the Iziko South African Museum with their parents on Friday, 15 October. Winners of the Iziko staff competition joined in the fun. These lucky fish may have won great prizes, but Iziko thanks everyone who participated.

Zyaan Davids, Media Officer



Excited young winners of the Iziko Heritage Day Treasure Hunt receive their prizes. L to R: Jason Davids (13); Senior Educator, Olga Hendricks; Jason's little brother, Chad Davids (9); Education and Public Programmes Director, Dr Wayne Alexander and Michaela Joseph (14).



Winners of the Heritage Week staff competition, members of EPP and IA in the gathering space at ISAM. L to R: Nokuthula Mbanyana; Quanita Green; Wandile Kasibe; Michelle van der Merwe; Dr Wayne Alexander; Merle Falken; Leon Jamarie; Khanya Sigcau; Zyaan Davids and Olga Hendricks.



Treasure Hunt winner, Nizaam Benting arrived just in time to receive his prize. Pictured here with EPP's Wandile Kasibe and Olga Hendricks.

# Do you know where you come from?

We all wonder this some time or another... so I was excited when I saw that, as part of Heritage Week, Iziko was partnering with the Western Cape Archives, and I had an opportunity to attend a Family History Workshop.

My journey to discover my family history began on Wednesday, 22 September 2010. We have all passed this building in Roeland Street, but are you aware of what rich history it holds for each one of us? I was quickly swept up by the passion and enthusiasm of the staff, especially Jaco van der Merwe. We received useful and practical information on how to trace our histories and were then taken on a tour of the record books. Rows and rows of documentation greeted us, bound, new and old, each with a story.

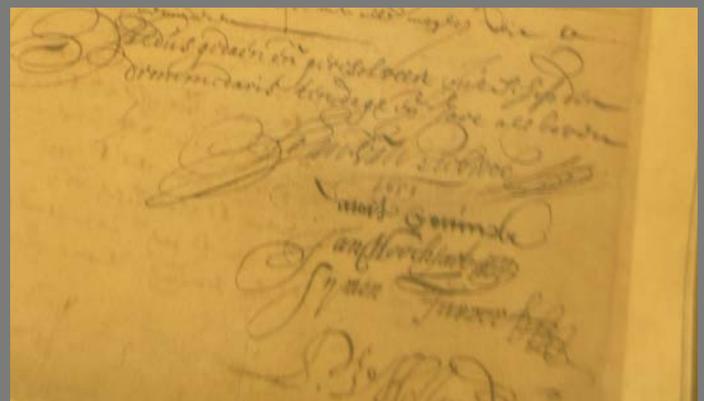
I was not prepared for the mixed emotions I felt as my great-grandfather's (b 1873) death notice was laid in front of me. I had arrived there only knowing his full name. In less than 20 minutes of opening a register, I learnt that he came from Birmingham, England, and was married with five children. I was always only told about four. (That is one thing Jaco warned us about, that potential "skeletons" exist in many of our histories.) He lived in Roeland Street. I learnt that he died in 1952, my great-grandmother in 1950. I have since found out that they divorced in 1932.

Thanks to this experience I can say that my journey has only started.

Pamela Court, Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator



Pamela Court at the Family History Workshop at the Western Cape Archives.



One is not prepared for the realisation that you are looking at Jan van Riebeeck's handwriting on the oldest document on record.

## Intercontinental Museum Network on a Global Platform

On 4 September, Dr Wayne Alexander and I left for South Korea to attend a Swedish African Museum Programme (SAMP) intercontinental museum network course. The aim of the course was to facilitate the development of museums as fora for cultural engagement - promoting human understanding and human rights together with the community, through the responsible use of heritage, history and science.

We arrived at the airport in the Chungju region in the early hours of the night and, having met our colleagues from Swaziland and the Philippines, travelled together over the most famous landmark in Seoul, the Incheon Bridge. In the morning, we met the rest of our colleagues from other participating countries, which included Azerbaijan, Mozambique, South Korea, Sweden, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Ms Elisabet Elofsson, the Executive Director of SAMP, together with Mrs In Kyung Chang, the Director of the Iron Museum, extended a warm welcome to all. Ms Elofsson took us through the rich history and founding purpose of SAMP, and its strategic plan (2010-2014). The following day, Mr Paul Mupira, a facilitator from the Mutare Museum in Zimbabwe, explained Logical Framework Analysis and took us through the nitty gritty of project development. Having gone through the project cycle (situation analysis, preparation, implementation and evaluation), we were divided into small groups. Each group was tasked with identifying a common problem affecting museums. With this problem in mind, we were asked to devise a project to help address and eventually alleviate the problem. In my group, we ascertained that museums lack innovative educational methods to attract diverse new audiences. Though most museums have basic technology to use as tools, it became apparent to us that proper training is needed for museum personnel to acquire necessary skills that would enable them to utilise this technology effectively. We looked into the possibility of capturing information on video camera, editing it and compiling it for interactive screens and other educational purposes. The network opened my eyes to the complexity of conceptualising, designing, implementing and monitoring a project.

*Enkosi, Dankie, Thank you, and as they say in Korea, Gasahamnida!*

Wandile Goozen Kasibe, Public Programmes Coordinator



*Delegates at the SAMP intercontinental museum network course.*

## Friends Visit: Robben Island

The much-anticipated overnight visit and hike on Robben Island began on a glorious Friday, with a smooth crossing to the island, but ended with a hasty evacuation at 7:30 the next morning when the weather started deteriorating rapidly. The return crossing was in considerable contrast to the previous day, with wind and unpleasant swells. An attempt to complete this geological experience had to be aborted due to the weather, and the trip has been postponed until a suitable time can be arranged - depending on the weather yet again!



*The Limestone quarry at dusk, with the famous cairn in the foreground*

## West Coast Fossil Park

On a perfect West Coast day, an enthusiastic group of Friends drove to Langebaanweg to visit the West Coast Fossil Park. The weather was ideal for enjoying a nature walk through the park, where the wild flowers were out in their glorious beauty. Lindy Warren presented an excellent talk on the background to the development of this unique site, and the different and unusual species that have been found in the area. We visited the dig site with Pippa Haarhoff and saw clear evidence of the fossil remains uncovered over the years. The *Sivathere* - a short-necked giraffe, *Hipparion* - a three toed horse, three species of elephant (one of which had four tusks), and many more interesting and unusual species, buried here for centuries, have been uncovered, with more being exposed and studied each year. The visit ended with a pleasant lunch in the restaurant garden.

Maxine Davies, Coordinator and Administrator, Friends of the Iziko South African Museum



*At the dig site with West Coast Fossil Park's Pippa Haarhoff.*

## Putting safety first around the world

My wife, Vicki, and I recently spent a week in Cairo. One of our sightseeing stops was the Museum of Antiquity. It is a large museum, with a beautiful ornate façade, about three times the size of our South African Museum, which afforded me the opportunity to discreetly examine their tangible evidence of security, health and safety accessories.

I can honestly state, without generalising, that we at Iziko Museums of Cape Town can hold our heads high. We have visited museums in three countries and I found that Iziko's health and safety is either on par, or in some instances exceeds that which I have observed. If everything goes well next year, we are off to Chile and Argentina, and I will once again observe and bring back some ideas that we could perhaps use locally.

André Badenhorst, Security, Health & Safety Officer, Customer Services Management

Right: André Badenhorst in front of the Museum of Antiquity in Cairo.

