



SEDIBA NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Pilansberg , PO Box 70723, Bryanston, 2021
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Welcome & General

Hi All ,
 At last, we have found a Sediba Editor. Please all welcome Jacqui Higgins to the 'team'. If you have any articles or points you would like to include in the Sediba please contact Jacqui on sediba@fops.org.za .

Sediba will now published on a bi-monthly issue, starting with June/July 09. Next issue will cover August / September news and updates.

Welcome once again Jacqui

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL :

Membership renewals are due in July/AugustPlease submit your proof of renewal payments to : secretary@fops.org.za. If you pay on-line, please quote your surname and membership number as the reference. If you deposit money into the account, please fax the deposit slip to: 086 644 2477

Please remember: R110 individual membership; R140 for a family membership with children UNDER 18years old.

TENTS:

FOPS Tents are R150 per night, available to current paid up members only. Please CALL Lindy on 082 8900534 to book. Please have your membership number handy when calling.

Our Committee

Title	Name	Contact numbers	Email
Chairman	Errol Blecksley	082 920 9211	ebleksley@wol.co.za
Treasurer	Mark Viljoen	082 773 8855	mark@jvms.co.za
Special Projects – Pilansberg	Paddy Coombe-Heath	082 459 4339	lindys1@worldonline.co.za
Special Projects - Borakalalo / Kgaswane:	John Bennett	011 615 3340	
Secretary (Membership renewals, applications & queries)	Fiona Chapman	079 517 4475	secretary@fops.org.za
Sediba Editor	Jacqui Higgins	082 385 4444	Sediba@fops.org.za

Pilansberg Work party Overview

Hi Folks,

This is a joint venture of the last couple of W/P. Ok lets start by going all the way back in time to...

MARCH 2009

This was a fairly average W/P with 26 people and 5 cancellations. We welcome Mike and Glynys Harris as first timers. Due to low numbers we undertook 4 projects.

Makorwane

We finished up the last little odds and ends on the hide to make it presentable for the opening.

Ruighoek

This is coming along slowly as there have been a couple of hiccups, like the generator not working and a couple of poles being dislodged by people who can't seem to reverse their cars. It may be worth painting the poles red and white.

Iron Age Site

The guys worked like slaves to keep the grass and other bits like Pride of India and Syringa at bay, I think we are winning.

APRIL 2009

This time a good crowd with 40 people and only 2 cancellations.

Iron Age Site

A whole bunch of guys really got stuck in and cleared and sprayed. (The spray is working) Neville is happy.

Ruighoek

Things a starting to take shape and most of the big poles are in place – let's hope they won't be run over again!

Rathlogo

This is the time of year when fires break out at any time, for this reason fire breaks had to be put sorted, as a result a face lift was in order, clearing and spraying. Looks safe to me - fingers crossed.

Makorwane

This place really needed a clean up, what with the old burnt wood and rubbish left lying around, the parking area needed a good clean too. It looked great for the opening. We had a big turnout, both from the Parks Board and the Honorary Officers.

A special thanks to Joel Papenfus from Bakubung for taking the time to attend. The spread was cheese and wine, with a couple of other snacks and beers. I do believe it was enjoyed by all.

MAY 2009

A disappointing turnout (you winter woosies) only 19 people and 1 cancellation.

Ruighoek

Did a fair amount of work, but rain stopped play and Ingrid retired hurt.

Iron Age

Cleared, sprayed - looks like its coming together and at least Neville has stopped whinging, always a good sign!

Camp

This needed a really good clean up, which was mainly spearheaded by Denis and Jan. On Sunday they all pitched in and finished it off, it looks great guys well done.

That's it from me for now

Regards

Paddy

Bora Workparty – April 2009 (Kevin Lesser)

Hi Sediba readers.

With the good rains this year, the vegetation load is rather high. So without waiting for trouble to happen when the annual fires come raging through Borakalalo, we decided to make sure we had good fire breaks around the hides. We usually battled through with weedeaters, but with a good mix of grasses and sedges we constantly had to change between the cord and blade cutting heads.

This delayed the process significantly every year, so John our Team Leader decide to bring along his lawnmower in an attempt to “Rolux Magnum” our way through the vegetation material bordering the hides. With a couple of small modifications to the mower, Belinda took ownership behind the driver’s seat and set off to cut the fire breaks. With the Weedeater and Mower combination we managed to cut a good 2 meter fire break around the two hides at the wetlands and the Sefudi hide.

The team also took care of a couple of loose walkway planks and some minor odd jobs around the hides.

Welcome back to the team Jacques, glad to get you back from the UK. We can clearly see you haven't seen the son for awhile.



Bora Workparty – May 2009 (Kevin Lesser)

Hi Sediba readers.

What trail?

Oh, the Noka trail, which is where?

Well that's what you could quite rightly think because the visibility of the Noka trail would be a challenge for the likes of Sherlock Holmes to find. The trail was originally marked out with rocks, which were placed neatly in a line along the designated paths. Over the years the animals, mainly the baboons and shifted the rocks around looking for tasty morsels. Some would say they did this on purpose in order to watch lost & confused humans bungling through the bush cursing. One can almost picture a big "Bobo" sitting on a rock laughing his head off and pointing at the hopelessly lost trailist.

Half the crew started tackling the trail, whilst others headed for the walkway at the wetland hides which were in need of replacement.

The trail was tackled in much the same way we had cut the fire breaks at the hides last month, the "Rolux Magnum" method. The stones were all lined up again and a lawnmower width was cut into the grass next to the rocks to clearly indicate the trail. We also ensured that all the nasty branches dangling into the pathway were neatly trimmed back.



Thank you John, Belinda, Carmen and Liezl, at least Bora now has a clearly marked walking trail again.

As for the walkways at the Gadinonyane Bird Hides, Kobus and a new FOPS visitor, (Johan Fourie) started dismantling the planks on the walkway so that we could replace them with new ones. This was a large task for the two young fellows, but after lunch-time the rest of the crew pitched in, and with the combined effort we managed to remove and replace the entire walkway on one of the hides. We'll tackle the other hide at one of the next workparties.



PUBLIC RELATIONS & FUNDRAISING (PR&FR)

JORG HINKE

Hi there everyone at FOPS,

In March this year (2009) Fiona repositioned from PR&FR to the Secretary of FOPS, Paddy asked if I would be willing to step into the vacant position. After some (short) deliberation I agreed to join the committee, considering I am retired and have time available to assist FOPS in raising funds for our Pilanesberg projects. My years as director for Siemens Ltd. South Africa gave me good exposure to local industry, which may help in our fundraising efforts.

We are all aware of the global economic down turn, a phenomenon that has unfortunately managed to find its way to South Africa. I found out soon enough that many of the companies I contacted had to decline any donations or sponsorship, due to the economic situation. However, we resolve not to lose hope, I'm sure things will improve, I just have to work a bit harder until then.

Nonetheless there are a few companies out there willing to assist. With our expenditure of close to R35.000 for the Makorwane hide in mind, it was important to raise funds, which would help our bank account to recover. I briefly list the companies/individuals with their financial contributions for your information:

Electronis Security Solutions (ESS)	R5000,-
Fujitsu Siemens Computers	R5000,-
Gametrackers	R3000,-
Jorg Hinke	R1000,-

Other Contributions:

Bosch Home Appliances donated a washing machine, retail value +/- R5000, This machine is available to all FOPS members for R2500 - an absolute bargain if you need a washing machine! Visit www.boschappliances.co.za, look up product number WAE16161ZA for more information and contact me if you are interested.

Robert Bosch SA will most likely donate some tools out of their wide range of power tools.

Legacy Hotels (Kwa Maritane/Tshukudu/Bakubung lodges) have committed themselves to a financial contribution; details to be finalized.

All in all the FOPS bank account and I are quite happy with what has been achieved. I'm looking forward to working with the committee and all of you in the future and hope that together we can keep FOPS going for many years to come.

All the best,

Jorg

THE FOPS GEOLOGICAL SITES – A WORLD FIRST

CHAPTER ONE – A PREAMBLE

Today it is accepted by most Geologists that there have been at least 4 super continents in planet Earth's unbelievably long history.

Hundreds of millions of years ago virtually all of the exposed land masses on Earth crashed together to form a huge continent known as Rodinia.

Rodinia was situated on the Equator, the ocean that surrounded it has been named the Mirovia Ocean. As there was no land vegetation during Rodinia's lifetime (+/- 300 million years) the mud flows and erosion that will have taken place during wet spells must have been absolutely awesome. The hills that dot the landscape around Aggenys in the Northern Cape were laid down during Rodinia's lifetime.

Rodinia disintegrated into various sized bits and pieces and evidence is beginning to surface that they later rejoined to form the super-continent called "Panotia". Panotia investigations are at an early stage, not much is known about it and it does not feature in the 4 super continent line-up mentioned in the first paragraph.

Bear with me - I am passing on this information for good reason...

The restless bits and pieces of land that resulted from the break-up of Panotia eventually formed 2 new super continents. One was situated in the Northern Hemisphere and has been named Laurasia the other, Gondwana, was in the South. The two separate continents eventually crashed together to form a land mass that stretched from pole to pole and is called Pangea.

By this time, ocean plants, ocean insects and ocean animals (in that order) had colonised the land. The bits and pieces that resulted from the inevitable break-up of Pangea are the continents that we recognise today when we look at the map of Earth. The 'time span' that covers the details of these events is beyond the grasp of any human and as a point of interest, that little kopje situated in front of the FOPS base camp in Pilanesberg is actually far older than this 'time span,' a phenomenal thought!

The kopje, Potokwane, began life as a magma intrusion into the base of a stand alone volcano. The magma froze and stayed hidden for well over a billion years, it is now exposed on the surface in the game reserve because the volcano that produced it has been worn away by various eroding forces.

VOLCANOS

There are two different geological processes that cause volcano's, the process that took place in the Pilanesberg, known as a 'plume' was caused by a hot molten magma that began its journey in the earth's molten core, burnt its way through the solid mantle and upon reaching the cold crust, burnt a magma chamber in the crust before violently bursting through the remaining crust above this chamber, this action causes a cone shape formation like that of Kilimanjaro. The volcano that forms on the surface as a result of the plume action can have a life span of up to a million years during its lifetime it will alternate between varying spells of dormancy and levels of activity. Over the volcano's long lifetime, the make-up of the magma in the underlying chamber changes. There are various reasons for these changes but they have no bearing upon this tale so we'll ignore them. Because of these magma changes, a plume volcano can very often be an absolute treasure chest of different types of rocks. In the relatively small confines of Pilanesberg there are 16 major rock types (rock is frozen magma) and at least 30 other smaller deposits of other types of rocks such as Kimberlite – (Kimberlite is a type of potassic volcanic rock best known for sometimes containing diamonds, it is named after the town of Kimberley) this deposit is very small indeed. The major rock types as well as the effort to display this rock bounty to tourists will be dealt with in future issues of Sediba.

The story will contain elements of revelation, point blank refusal, subterfuge and a brush with a murderous elephant. There were lots of illegal practices, some amazing coincidences, an irritating interlude with some education hungry pachyderms and running through all this there was a quiet determination by a fair number of work party attendees to wrap up what we all thought was a very good idea.

As averse as I am to articles that contain lots of "I did this and I did that and I did the other" I unfortunately, cannot spare you just such diatribe in the forthcoming chapters 'cause that's the way it was. I apologise in advance.

Till the next Sediba – go well.

JOHN BENNETT

