

NewsLetter



GROTTO BAY PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE

Beautiful One Day - Perfect The Next



September 2023

Letter from the editor

Jacqui Miller

The phenomenal winter rains have produced an incredible wildflower season this year. The fields all around us and the West Coast National Park have been awash with colour. More wildlife has been spotted at our 2 watering holes in the estate of late. Unfortunately, our monthly beach clean-ups have not been well attended. Please try to help with some of these and help save our oceans. September is "International Coastal Clean-up Month".

Welcome to the new residents of Grotto Bay, we trust you will be very happy here.

Massive ocean discovered beneath the Earth's crust containing more water than on the surface.

People are only just realising that there's a massive ocean hidden under the Earth's crust. It turns out there's a huge supply of water 400 miles underground stored in rock known as 'ringwoodite'. Scientists previously discovered that water is stored inside mantle rock in a sponge-like state, which isn't a liquid, solid or a gas, but instead a fourth state.

The scientific paper titled 'Dehydration melting at the top of the lower mantle' was published in 2014 and laid out the findings. "The ringwoodite is like a sponge, soaking up water, there is something very special about the crystal structure of ringwoodite that allows it to attract hydrogen and trap water," said geophysicist Steve Jacobsen at the time. "This mineral can contain a lot of water under conditions of the deep mantle," added Jacobsen, who was part of the team behind the discovery.

He added: "I think we are finally seeing evidence for a whole-Earth water cycle, which may help explain the vast amount of liquid water on the surface of our habitable planet. Scientists have been looking for this missing deep water for decades."

Scientists made the findings at the time after studying earthquakes and discovering that seismometers were picking up shockwaves under the surface of the Earth.

From that, they were able to establish that the water was being held in the rock known as ringwoodite.

If the rock contained just 1 per cent water, it would mean that there is three times more water under the surface of the Earth than there is in the oceans on the surface.



Recycling – If you haven't already, please join the Grotto Bay Recycling Program

Recycling should be part of our everyday lives to ensure that our children have a future that has enough resources to meet their needs, as well as a clean environment.

Recycling is the process of separating, collecting, and remanufacturing or converting used or waste products into new materials. Recycling helps extend the life and usefulness of something that has already served its original purpose, by producing something that is useable.

Difference between recycling and reusing. The difference between recycling and reusing is that while reusing is merely just a repeated use of old products, recycling uses the core elements of old products, such as plastic water bottles, computers, packaging pallets, and cell phones as raw materials to manufacture new goods.

Why is recycling important?

Recycling is one of the best ways for you to have a positive impact both on us and the world in which we live. With recycling, a substantial portion of our waste can be broken down into their original elements and be used to produce new materials.

Some of the important benefits of recycling are:

- saving energy,
 - saving money,
 - reducing air and water pollution,
 - creating jobs,
 - protecting wildlife, forests, and wetlands,
 - preserving natural resources,
 - freeing-up space at overfull landfills / waste disposal sites.
-

Some Local History

Due to a resident's discovery, while walking on Long Beach recently, we decided to share some history about a shipwreck off our shores. This find must have been lying buried for quite some time under the sand by the looks of it. Could it be an ancient wooden boat or from a more recent fishing vessel that sank and washed up here or from a raft? Anyone know?



Please read the [article](#) to learn about the ship, The British Peer that sank off Kabeljou Bank on the 10th of December 1896. (PDF 406 KB)



Long Beach Cleanup – Saturday 30th September 10am

Let's make Cape Nature proud of us and make this a record BEACH CLEAN UP! August's clean up managed to attract 17 people which was almost a new record. Let's make this one a BIG ONE, so BIG that there may be a tractor ride involved to get all of us trash collectors down there! We need 4x4 permit holders please, to help with lifts to the Mud River. Meet at the CC at 10am on Saturday the 30th of September. Bring & Braai afterwards at the CC weather permitting.



As plastic production and usage has surged, so has plastic pollution, resulting in altered habitats for many species globally in our oceans and on land. This can damage ecosystem function and services.

Check out the link below for ways in which you can make a difference when in natural areas:
<https://zurl.co/lmdc>

We are also excited to announce the #Don'tBeTrashy Drive that will start during the month of September.

The drive includes calendar days such as National Clean Up Day celebrated on 18 September, International Coastal Clean Up Day celebrated on 21 September, and Recycle Week celebrated between 20-26 September.

The aim of this drive is to collect as much waste as possible during our clean-up events across the province. For more information on our clean-up events, please contact learning@capenature.co.za

Gardening Tip

As the weather improves seize the opportunity to clean artificial turf if you have any. Hose and brush the area regularly to clear loose dirt and fluff up the "leaf blades". Clear pet odour with a solution of vinegar and water or use an anti-microbial cleaner like Sannitree TurfPong or Makhro Smella-way Artificial Grass Concentrate. Apply in the late afternoon for optimal overnight breakdown and avoid using during the heat of the day.



This is a Heart-Warming article from the Daily Maverick 4 September by Tony Carnie

Africa's beleaguered rhinos have been thrown a significant lifeline with the announcement that nearly 2,000 semi-wild rhinos owned by South African rhino breeder John Hume will be "rewilded" into reserves across South Africa and other parts of the continent over the next 10 years.

African Parks, a private Johannesburg-based conservation NGO that manages 22 protected areas in partnership with 12 governments across Africa, confirmed on Monday, 4 September that it had "stepped in as the new owner of the world's largest private captive rhino breeding operation", the Platinum Rhino project, a 7,800-hectare property in North West.

The project was started by Hume, a wealthy property developer turned wildlife rancher who has earned both opprobrium and praise for his decades-old initiative to breed rhinos, harvest their horns without harming them physically and then sell the horns to buyers in the Far East.

However, with no indication that the majority of member states of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) are willing to overturn the 1974 international ban on the trade in rhino horns, Hume announced earlier this year that he had run out of funds to keep his project going and was offering them for sale via an online auction.

But by all accounts, very few bidders showed any interest, casting the future security and welfare of the about 2000 rhinos into jeopardy. That changed on Monday, 4 August when African Parks CEO Peter Fearnhead confirmed in a statement that his organisation had agreed to purchase the Platinum Rhino farm and all its rhinos – with the endorsement of the South African Government and the African Rhino Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Dr Mike Knight, chairman of the IUCN specialist group, told Daily Maverick on Monday he regarded African Parks as a credible and responsible conservation organisation and was optimistic that the animals could be successfully rewilded. "The key thing will be finding conservation areas that are large enough and secure from poaching... The conservation sector is delighted that African Parks can provide a credible solution for this important population, and a significant lifeline for this Near Threatened species."

African Parks said it had agreed to purchase the farm and all 2,000 southern white rhino with one clear objective: "To rewild these rhino over the next 10 years to well-managed and secure areas, establishing or supplementing strategic populations, thereby de-risking the future of the species".

"This is one of the largest continent-wide rewilding endeavours to occur for any species," the NGO said, noting that Hume's captive-bred rhinos represented nearly 15% of the world's remaining wild rhino population.

"Given African Parks' experience in effectively managing protected areas and carrying out wildlife translocations at scale, including bringing rhino back to Rwanda, Malawi and Democratic Republic of the Congo, African Parks was approached by numerous concerned individuals from the conservation sector to provide a solution to prevent a potential conservation crisis, and to help secure the future for a species in decline.

"The scale of this undertaking is simply enormous, and therefore daunting. However, it is equally one of the most exciting and globally strategic conservation opportunities. We will be working with multiple governments, funding partners and conservation organisations, who are committed to making this rewilding vision a reality."

'Easy' Rewilding

Dr Richard Emslie, a Pietermaritzburg-based rhino conservation expert, told Daily Maverick he was confident that the mostly captive-bred rhinos could be "rewilded very easily".

"I would call them 'semi-wild' rather than 'semi-captive'. It's interesting that some of John Hume's black rhinos were sent to a property in Eswatini a few years ago – and within just a few months of their arrival one of the females had been mated by a wild rhino. So I strongly suspect his white rhinos will also do fine. Obviously, this will depend on where they are going."

Emslie said he also believed that Hume deserved credit for building up such a large population and protecting them at his own expense at a time when other state-managed rhino populations had been decimated.

The white rhino as a species is under extreme pressure, especially in South Africa, because of poaching. White rhinos historically consisted of two subspecies: the southern white and the northern white. The northern white rhino is functionally extinct, with just two non-breeding females in captivity in Kenya.

Southern white rhino reached an all-time low of 30 to 40 animals in the 1930s, but through effective conservation measures, increased to about 20,000 individuals by 2012. However, with the dramatic rise in poaching for their horns for the illegal wildlife trade, their numbers have fallen to below 13,000 today. DM



BE WATERWISE – El Niño is coming!

Our Western Cape dams are nearly full, but we must remember that water in the Western Cape is a precious commodity. We are headed for a long hot summer. Keep up with water wise gardening practises. Hydrazone your garden by arranging plants with similar water needs together. Mulch with wood chips, bark nuggets or compost or plant with groundcovers to reduce the soil's exposure to sunlight and evaporation. Water less frequently but deeply to encourage roots to go hunting for water. Check water tanks and irrigation fittings, fixing leaks and clearing blockages in sprinklers.



WATERWISE PLUS

Doing More With Your H₂O

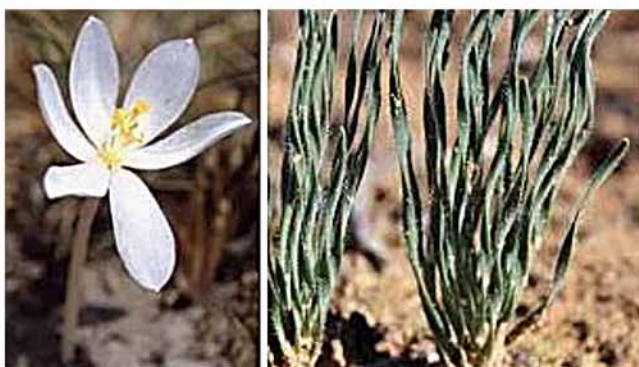
Walk and Talk with Petra Broddle of CREW

13 enthusiasts (7 Grotto Bay residents) joined Petra Broddle of CREW on Saturday 9th September. We spent two wonderful hours in the sunny reserve with Petra, who identified various plants for us, adding some interesting details . We found two noteworthy plants:

One was the Kukumakranka (*Gethyllis villosa* of the Amaryllideae family). This little plant has loosely spiralled strap like leaves covered in white hairs. The leaves are evident now; once these leaves wither at the end of the winter growing season, its white or pink flowers will bloom alone, without any foliage. A fragrant fruit will follow. Our estate manager has marked the spot and will return to track its growth cycle.

The second plant of interest was the currently endangered *Ruschia Indecora* of the Aizoaceae family. A shrublet rather than a low growing type of Vygie, this one has white flowers rather than the pink ones we are accustomed to.

Kukumakranka



We hope to repeat this walk next year.



Kabeljou Bank Update

The meeting that Michelle van Acker (Michelle's name was left out of the minutes of the 19th July, apologies Michelle!) and I had with the various departments at Swartland Municipality is finally bearing fruit. They have already given us a brand-new notice board which has been erected at the entrance to the parking area and they have now agreed to put up the barriers to stop vehicles from driving down into the Coastal Zone. This will take place during September. This practice has caused the area to erode so much over the years. While we wait for these barriers to be erected, you are able to report any vehicles transgressing past the parking area into the coastal zone to the number noted on this board, 0800 205 005. You can remain anonymous, should you wish but remember to capture the relevant vehicle registration numbers with a photo. The DFFE (Dept. Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment) Law enforcement will be making regular inspections of the area and 1st transgressors will receive an immediate on-the-spot fine. This should also make it harder for poachers to hide their vehicles down the hill and out of sight. Michelle has worked long and hard to get to this point, and I do so appreciate her ongoing assistance.



Things to do in September



South African NATIONAL PARKS

FREE ENTRY

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL PARKS WEEK

16–24* SEPTEMBER 2023

The 18th annual South African National Parks Week provides South Africans with the opportunity of exploring their local National Park at absolutely no cost. We invite you to visit us during this year's SA National Parks Week between the 16–24th September 2023, at one of the Cape Regional Parks including Agulhas, Bontebok, Table Mountain, Tankwa Karoo and West Coast National Park.

Come and access your natural heritage during South African National Parks Week for FREE!

Please note that the free entry is not applicable to Boulders Penguin Colony within Table Mountain National Park, the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway, and the Cape Agulhas Lighthouse in Agulhas National Park.

*Table Mountain and West Coast National Park will only partake in #SANationalParksWeek between 16 - 22 September 2023, and will not extend to 24 September 2023.

Bring along your SA ID to gain free entry
For more information, visit our website at www.sanparks.org




IN PARTNERSHIP WITH




!KHWATTU

Heritage Day Festival

Sunday, 24 September

Come dressed up in your heritage and win great prizes!!

JOIN US, ALONG WITH MANY OTHER MUSIC, FOOD AND WINE LOVERS TO SHARE IN THE JOY OF OUR DIVERSE CULTURE

Featuring the beats of our finest indigenous musicians, delicious local food, craft beer, lekker wine and lots of fun activities.

Time to celebrate!

Rielands Drumming
San language lessons
Flower walks
Herbal tea tasting

!Khwa Ttu
THE GREAT ESCAPE

Find us on the R27, just outside Yzerfontein
Tel. (022) 492 2998 • www.khwattuu.org



Darling Art Collective



We will be hosting an open art weekend to promote arts and crafts in Darling. Come and spend a wonderful day with us to experience our spectacular wild flowers, lovely restaurants and lots of art....

Local artists will be opening their doors to visitors to showcase and sell their creations.

These venues and studios will be shown on a map of the town that will be available at shops, restaurants and online. Entry to these venues will be free.

15 - 17 Sept 2023
10 am - 4 pm

darling ART collective

Things to do in September - continued



Vendors invited!
Join us for our Spring Market on 15, 16 & 17 September and look forward to:

Lots of **natural foot traffic** as Darling Brew's premises are one of the official car parks for the hop-on/hop-off village bus of the popular Darling Wildflower Festival

Free entry for visitors and only **R300 per stand for vendors**

A 3-day, family-friendly event with a night market and live entertainment



15-17 Sept 2023
DARLING WILDFLOWER SHOW

Wild-Flower Display
Outdoors Goods Market
Food & Refreshment Stalls
Wine/Beer Tasting & Sales
Covered Seating
Entertainment / Music
Free Internet
Off Street Parking
(nominal cost)
Hop On/Off Village Bus
(nominal cost)
Free Entry to Museum

Entrance Fee
 Adults R80 / Pensioners R60
 Online Bookings: www.quicket.co.za/events

Happenings at Die Koelkamers
 Teater in Paternoster

KOOS KOMBUIS

15.09.2023 | 19:00 | R288 - R115

LOUISE CARVER PRESENTS HOME TOUR LIVE

ft. Simz Kulla

16.09.2023 | 17:00 | R299 - R184

ROOIKAPPIE & WOLF | Oos Wes, Tuis Bes

The Stage Performing Arts Studio

23.09.2023 | 12:00 & 15:00 | R140

STEVE NEWMAN

ft. Wendy Oldfield & Ashish Joshi

27.09.2023 | 19:00 | R288 - R138

LUNA PAIGE | LADY SINGS THE BLUES

ft. Shaun Johannes (Bass) & Michael Bester (Guitar)

29.09.2023 | 19:00 | R230- R115

SJARRAP EN EET JOUKOS!

met Ilne Fourie | Eenvroutoneelstuk

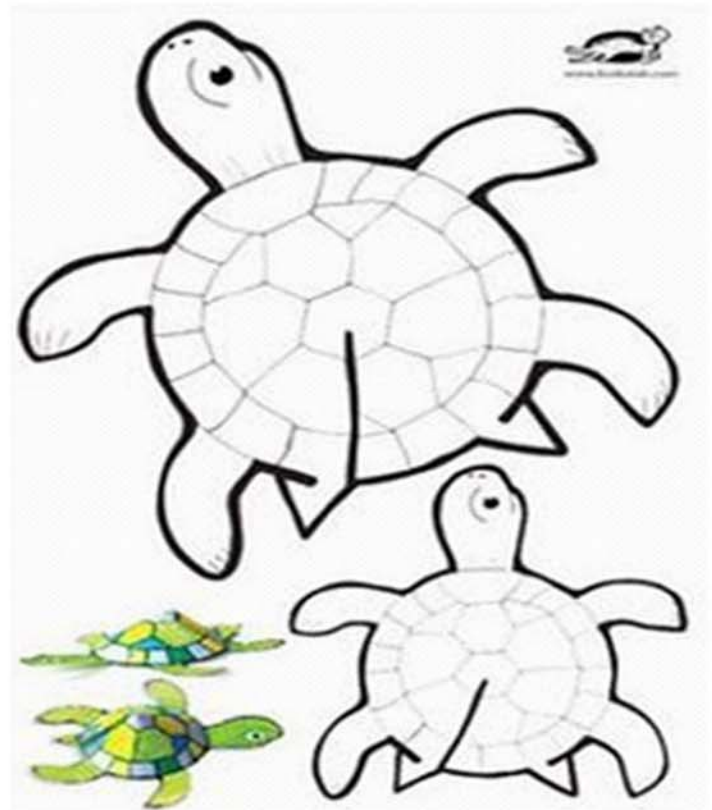
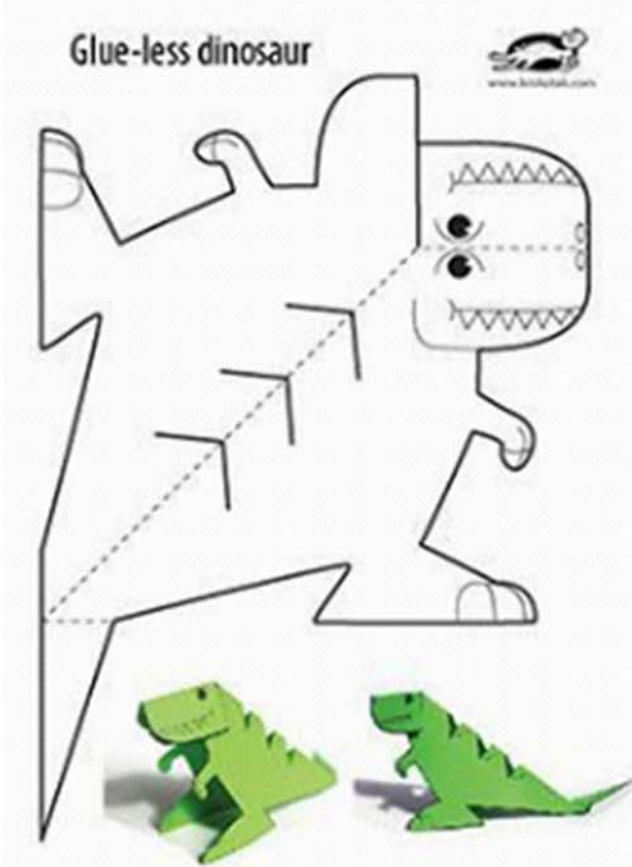
30.09.2023 | 17:00 | R253- R138

Kid's Corner

Did you know?

- A chameleon's tongue can shoot out at 5 times the acceleration of a jetfighter?
- Zebras are black with white stripes.
- A boomslang has the most potent venom of any snake in South Africa. Luckily, it rarely bites!
- Dassies aren't elephants' closest living relatives. Dugongs and Manatees are, yes marine animals!
- You cannot get warts from touching frogs.
- Owls' eyes are fixed in place, they have no muscles to move their eyes.
- Not all Kingfisher species catch fish.
- Ostriches do not hide their heads in the sand, it's a myth.
- Bats are not blind.
- Elephants are the only mammals that cannot jump.

Holiday crafts, Make a paper dinosaur and a turtle.



can



pea



robot



snake



brown



house



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| e | o | r | b | b | k |
| a | h | b | y | n | e |



Look at the plates in the picture. All of them are turned over. However, there are a few that are not upside down. The moment you identify those, all the plates will be turned over!...

TWO VICTIMS OF THE WRECK OF THE "BRITISH PEER"*

M.L. WILSON & W.J.J. VAN RIJSSEN

*South African Museum,
P.O. Box 61,
Cape Town, 8000*

*Accepted for publication December 1993

ABSTRACT

Human remains recovered from a building site near the coast in the Malmesbury district have been identified as those of two of the crew of the "British Peer" which was wrecked near there in 1896. The remains are described and the evidence provided for their identification.

INTRODUCTION

In November 1991, workers on a construction site at Ganzekraal, a public recreation area on the coast some 60 km north of Cape Town (Fig. 1), exposed two clothed human skeletons. The site foreman notified the police at Darling, who requested the assistance of the South African Museum's archaeologists in investigating the matter. The remains were removed to the Museum for study, and this paper reports the results of the research. At first, nothing was known about the remains, except that they were probably Caucasian and of relatively recent date. However, a farmer in the Darling district read a report on the finds (Cape Times 21 November 1991) and suggested that they could be those of the crew of a ship wrecked at Grotto Point in 1896 or 1897 (F. Duckitt 1991 *in litt.*). The vessel was subsequently identified as being the "British Peer", which was wrecked off Kabeljoubank on the night of 10 December 1896, with the loss of her captain and all but four of her 23 crew (Turner 1988:144). The identity of the wreck and its location were also confirmed by Mr Duckitt (1991 *in litt.*), whose grandfather had been alive at the time of the wreck and had pointed out its location.

There was some initial confusion as to the actual site, as the first report (Cape Times 10 December 1896) stated that the wreck had occurred at Tierfontein (Tygerfontein), a farm immediately adjacent to and south-east of Yzerfontein. The second report (Cape Times 12 December 1896) gave the location as "near the Izerfontein (*sic*) Point", with the Dassen Island light about six miles (9,6 km) away on the beam. The correct location, off Kabeljoubank, was finally confirmed by Messrs Malcolm Turner and Reg Dodds (1992 pers. comms), the latter of whom had dived on the wreck and salvaged some of its cargo and the ship's bell. The report of the judgement of the Court of Inquiry (Cape Times 9 January 1897) gave the location as "near Jacob's Cove" (now Jacobsbaai) and the coordinates as 33.31S; 18.19E

(actually 33.30.20S; 18.18.40E). Figure 2 shows Kabeljoubank and the location of the wreck, the remains of which are still to be seen at low tide, about 9 m below the surface. Mention of the place was also made in the memoirs of Mr Duckitt's aunt, Mary, the daughter of Albert Melck, the owner of Ganzekraal farm. She wrote that "the desolate cape was named British Peer Point" after the wreck (Kuttel Keegan ed. 1991:65). Water-worn building bricks, fragments of china and pieces of bottle-glass, remnants of part of the cargo (Cape Argus 12 December 1896), are to be found among the boulders on the shore nearby; and the remains of a wooden mast lie further away in the vegetation above the high-water mark.

The survivors' accounts of the wreck and the subsequent controversy over the treatment of the survivors, the dead and the cargo, make an interesting item of local history. However, for reasons of space, these cannot be included here; but a comprehensive report (Wilson & Van Rijssen 1994) has been deposited in the library of the South African Museum.

THE HUMAN REMAINS

The two bodies were found on the seaward edge of a dune at the southern end of the bay, about 50 m from the shore (Fig. 1). They had been buried in a single grave about 1,8 m below the present surface, with their heads towards the east and their feet towards the sea. They lay in a fully extended, supine position with their arms by their sides, and had been laid together on canvas and wrapped in an open-weave material like hessian (Fig. 3).

In order to remove the remains, it was necessary to cut through the shroud so as to separate them. At the Museum, the upper covering was removed, and as much as possible of the incorporated sand, before they were X-rayed. The skeletons were examined by J. Kovacs of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, University of Cape Town Medical School. Samples of the clothing

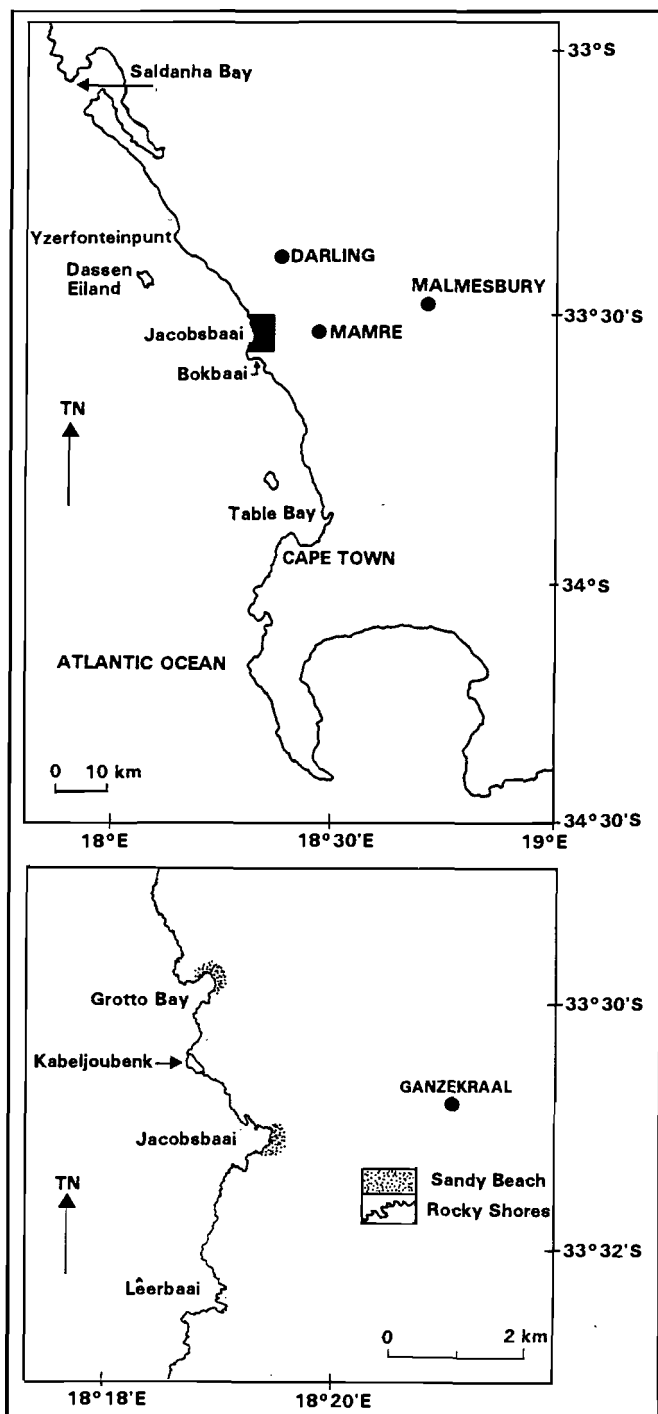


Fig. 1 Maps of the coast between Cape Town and Saldanha Bay showing the location of places mentioned in the text.

were studied by A. Hart, Assistant Curator, Textiles and Dress, Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Information from their reports (Kovacs 1992 *in litt.*; Hart 1992 *in litt.*) is incorporated in the following descriptions. The remains are designated 'L' and 'R' on the basis of their position on the left or right of the grave as seen from its foot.

'L'. This skeleton was found intact, but the feet became disarticulated when the sand was cleared away and the boots fell. It was brought to the Museum in this condition. The man had short, curly hair and a full beard, but there was no evidence of a moustache. The right side of the face had been shattered and the front of the right humerus sheared in a tapering cut for some



Fig. 2 Kabeljoubank and the location of the wreck (arrowed).



Fig. 3 The human remains as found at Ganzekraal.

120 mm from the top of the shaft, cutting right through the bone. This suggests that the man had been struck from above by a sharp object. Most of the right maxillary dentition was missing, possibly as a result of the same trauma. The left maxillary incisors and premolars were displaced as a result of overcrowding and the left mandibular molars were absent, probably lost before burial. There was heavy occlusal wear on the incisors and some staining that suggested that the man may have chewed tobacco. X-ray photographs of the torso did not reveal any damage, but the accumulated sand prevented clear definition of the bones. Since the skeleton was still mostly covered by clothing, it was not possible to obtain the measurements necessary for estimation of living stature. However, comparison with the femur of 'R' (see below) suggested that the men were of about the same height. Age at death was estimated at 45-55 years.

The man wore a loose-fitting, collarless, sleeved black jacket or jerkin of herringbone twill that ended at the waist in front. There were impressions of at least two buttons, but these were not present. They were probably made of a material such as casein, since metal and bone survived. There was no evidence of a shirt or other garment under the jacket. Baggy russet-coloured trousers were held at the waist by a leather belt fastened by an iron buckle and had a fly with brass buttons embossed

'G. King Sheffield' at the top and bottom around their circumference (Fig. 4). M. Pearce, Principal Keeper, Applied Art, of the City Museum in Sheffield, advised (1992 *in lit.*) that G. King was one of the partners of the Sheffield firm G. & J. King, merchants and manufacturers, which had been in business since at least 1865. The belt was 65 mm wide and made of a single thickness of leather with two patches stitched on each side of the front (*i.e.*, two adjacent to the buckle and to its left, and two to the right of the last hole on the tongue end). These patches were stitched all round their edges, which eliminates a suggestion that this might have been a money-belt. The feet were encased in ankle-high leather boots, reinforced at the back of the heel, and with ten brass eyelets for laces on each side, but laces were not present.

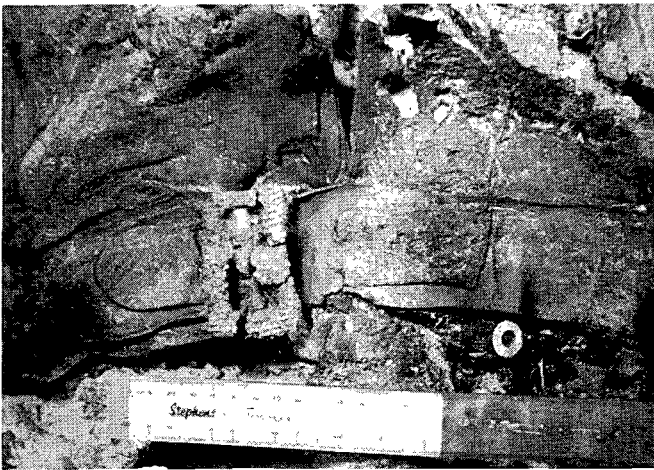


Fig. 4 Detail of the belt and one of the buttons worn by 'L'.

'R'. This was the first skeleton discovered and the lower limbs were disarticulated and damaged by the digging. Parts of the bones were missing, as were the right foot and the boot that encased it. The skull had also been separated from the body. There was some damage to the upper face, including loss of teeth, but this may also have resulted from the digging. Occlusal wear on the teeth of the left maxilla and mandible suggested that this individual had been a pipe-smoker. He wore a full beard but, as in the case of 'L', there was no evidence of a moustache. Age at death was estimated at 40-45 years. Using the femur:stature ratio of 26,7 per cent devised by Feldesman & Lundy (1988), living stature was estimated to have been 1,82 m.

This man was dressed better than the other. He wore a black, collared twill jacket that reached to his waist in front and had cut-away points. Below this was a waistcoat of dark fabric on which the impression of a button about 20 mm diameter could be seen, but the button itself had disappeared. Under the waistcoat were a cotton shirt and a linen vest, of which all but one of the buttons had disappeared. The button that remained, which was about 10 mm diameter and made of a material like casein, had been preserved because it underlay a clasp made of a copper-silver alloy. This clasp, which may have been for holding money or letters, was fastened to



Fig. 5 The metal clasp found on 'R'.

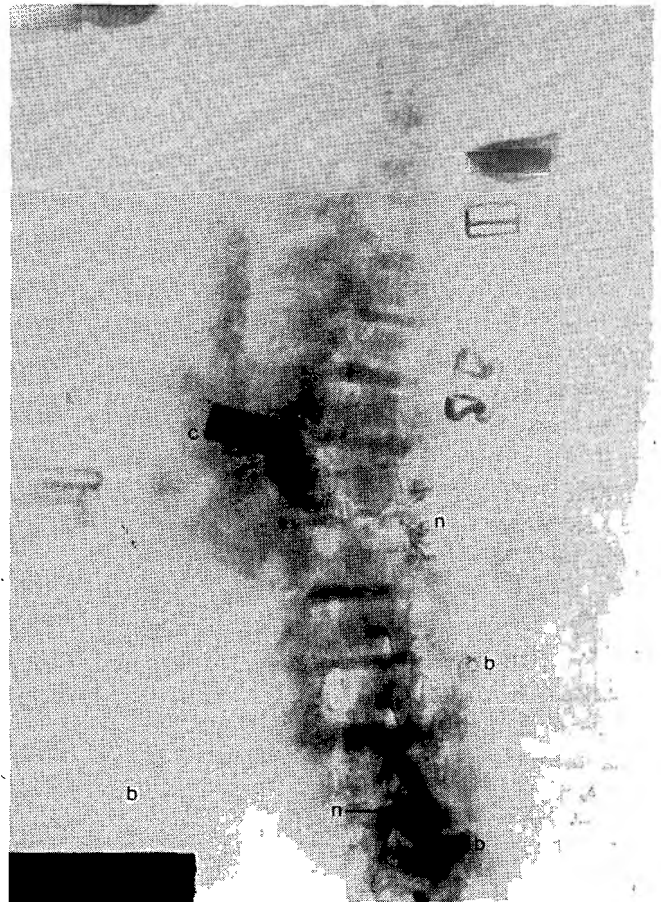


Fig. 6 Reverse-image X-ray photograph of the torso of 'R' showing the location of various metal objects.

a strip of silk-like material that had no evident connection with the rest of the garments (Fig. 5).

The X-ray photograph of this man's torso (Fig. 6) also shows a number of buckles and buttons that suggest that he may have been wearing overalls or dungarees, although the part of these below the pelvis was missing. Alternatively, they could have been part of a pair of braces. Copper staining on the lowest vertebrae present suggested that a belt may have been worn, but there was no trace of this and it is possible that the stains came from a brass button, corroded fragments of a number of which were found, similar to those on the clothing of 'L'. In two places, on and beside the vertebrae, other

metal objects were indicated, which were found to be small square-headed nails similar to those used in the manufacture of the boots.

Ten small lead pellets were found in the left acetabulum or hip-socket, similar in shape to those used in airguns but unlike any that are manufactured today (H.D. Noli 1992 pers. comm.). Their function is unknown.

The ankle-high boot (Fig. 7) had a separate, decorated toe-cap but no reinforced heel. The top was closed by three pairs of hooks similar to those found today on hikers' or climbers' boots, followed by five pairs of eyelets. A leather shoelace was still threaded through these. The boot is typical of an English one known as the 'Balmoral', which was fashionable from the 1880s to 1919.



Fig. 7 The 'Balmoral' boot worn by 'R'.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Three of the four survivors were carried by the current down the coast to the only place for a considerable distance where there is a sandy beach (Cape Times 12 December 1896). This is Jacobsbaai (Fig. 1) and it is thus probable that some of the bodies of those who drowned were also brought there. The Cape Times and Cape Argus of 12 December 1896 reported that five bodies had been found the day after the wreck and two more the following morning. A correspondent to the Cape Times wrote on 30 December 1896 that the bodies had been buried on a elevation about 60 yards (approx. 55 m) from the shore, which is similar to the location of the two bodies discussed here. The report may, however, refer to the ridge extending southward from Kabeljou-bank, where Mr Duckitt's father told him there were graves of the crew; but Mr Duckitt (1993 *in litt.*) also considered that other bodies would have been buried

close to wherever along the coast where they were washed up. On 4 January 1897, another correspondent to the Cape Times said that a total of fourteen bodies, including that of the captain, had been recovered.

The most compelling evidence in support of the remains being those of crew of the "British Peer" is the 'Balmoral' boots worn by 'R', especially given the limited period that they were in fashion.

The Maritime History Archive of the Memorial University of Newfoundland at St John's holds the original documents relating to the crew of the "British Peer". These are the Agreement and Account of Crew, Foreign-going Ship (Eng. 1) and the Account of Crew and Other Particulars of a Foreign Going Ship (List C). They include full details of the names, ages, addresses and nationalities of the crew; and List C also records who of the crew were drowned and who were discharged. From these, it is possible to suggest that 'R' was the 42-year-old steward, George James Whyte, since he was the only member of the crew in the 40 to 45-year age-group. However, this cannot be taken as a certainty due to the lack of suitable and accessible skeletal parts, particularly the pubic symphysis. Three of the victims, all able seamen, were in the 45 to 55-year age-group: C.P. Oberg, 51; H. Peterson, 48; and Gustav Rumbach, also 48. The identity of 'L' must thus remain in doubt.

On the basis of the foregoing, it is concluded that the remains of the men found at Ganzekraal are those of two of the crew of the "British Peer". Ganzekraal being a public resort, the remains were reburied on the adjacent property, Buck Bay (Bokbaai), owned by the Duckitt family. The location of the grave is on record in the Archaeological Data Recording Centre at the South African Museum.

An extensive article on our research into the wreck of the "British Peer" and its aftermath, published in the Weekend Argus of 16 October 1993, produced a surprising and gratifying response. The article was read by Mr Philip Alston, a visitor from England who had just arrived in Cape Town, who informed us that he was a grandson of Joseph Olsen, the 18-year-old third mate who was one of the four survivors. Olsen, who changed his name to Alston, became a captain at 22 and eventually owned his own fleet of ships, which traded between Britain and India (see Weekend Argus 6/7 November 1993).

Thus, in "communicating technical and academic discoveries to the public in ways that are appropriate and factually accurate" (Miller 1993:58), both Mr Alston and ourselves were rewarded by being provided information we could not otherwise have obtained.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report would not have been possible without the assistance of a great many people. Thanks are due, first and foremost, to Mr Fred Duckitt for putting us on the right track and for the considerable amount of information he provided. We also thank Mr Risely Geldenhuys, the site foreman, and his workers, who

found the remains and assisted in their removal; and Adjutant J.F. Conradie of the South African Police at Darling, who notified us of the find and provided guides to take us to it. Messrs Malcolm Turner and Reg Dodds assisted us with regard to the precise location of the wreck and other information.

Ms Paula Rudkin of Lloyd's of London's library referred us to the Guildhall Library, which now holds many of Lloyd's' marine records, and whose Ms Phyllida Melling provided details of the *British Peer* and told us where to obtain information about the crew. Ms Mary Bridson of the Maritime History Archive, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St John's, arranged the provision of the crew lists. Ms Liza Verity of the Maritime Information Centre, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, provided information about 19th-century seamen's clothing; Ms Avril Hart of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, advised on the clothing found with the remains; and Ms Mary Pearce of the City Museum, Sheffield, provided information relating to the brass buttons.

Ms Rachel Alexander of the Shark Research Unit based at the South African Museum X-rayed the remains and the Museum's Mr Aubrey Byron provided reverse-image photographs of the X-rays. Mr Jonathan Kovacs of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, University of Cape Town Medical School reported on the skeletal remains.

Colleagues in the Archaeology Department, Mrs Vivien van Zyl and Mr Louis Lawrence, made the maps as well as assisting in the preparation of the remains. Messrs Charles Cloete and Brian Pedro of the Museum's workshop made the coffins in which the remains were reburied. We are grateful to Mr Duckitt for providing the reburial site, to Rev Dawid Botha of Darling for conducting the graveside service, and to Museum colleagues Messrs Paul October and Noel Fouten, as well as Louis Lawrence, for their assistance at the site.

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