

Treasure

Talk SA

July - December 2020



Special Edition



Tribute to a legend

35 consecutive years of Annual Hunts in South Africa





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**Congrats Lukas with
35 years of
organized Annual Hunts
Minelab SA**



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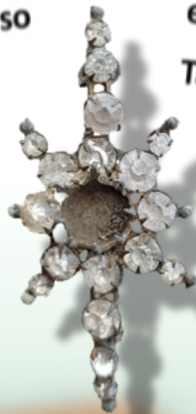
From the Editor

I just want to thank God for 35 years of Annual Hunts, during this time there were never any serious injuries.

2020 prohibited us from hunting for many weeks, during this time many of us went through our treasures to clean, sort and mark them. Hope you did yours as well so that we can preserve the history.

Happy hunting in 2021!

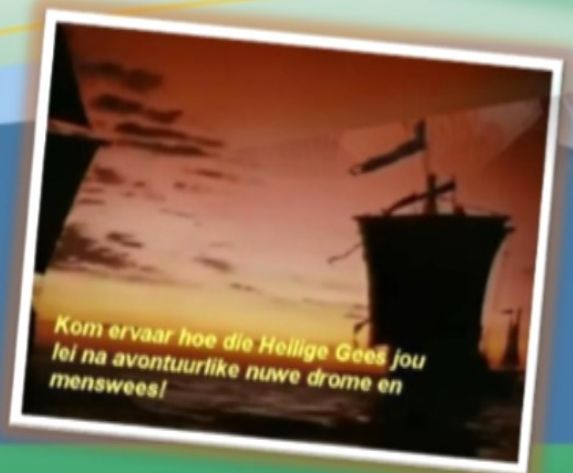
Lukas van der Merwe



Message from the Co-Editor

Going through all the articles I am reminded of how much I love our hobby. We are seeking treasures, adventures and memories. Each hunt is an unknown and finding a piece of history never disappoints. If you have not yet been on an Annual Hunt, make a plan, the comradery, the knowledge, the stories and the history is fantastic. It is a highlight in my yearly diary. Thank you Oom Lukas for making it happen every year.

Tanya Vosloo



WHY ANNUAL HUNTS

Treasure Talk end 2020

July—Des 2020

Why did I start it back in '86

I have been treasure hunting since 1979. I saw a lot of opportunities for relic hunting all over South Africa. I wanted people to enjoy the outing, fresh air, bon fires and making new treasure hunting friends and most off all to get a group together to preserve our heritage. 1986 we had our first annual hunt.

Why Preserve

Our history is being built over by developments, squatter camps and farming activities. The more we can get out of the ground, the more we can save.

When we started...

Before 1986 we visited a lot of places in Natal that were out of bounds for Metal Detectors. We got permission to hunt Vaal Krantz and stayed over and detected for a whole week. We wanted to detect more but all the farmers showed me away with "You will be shot". I gave them my card hoping for the best, after the land claims in 1994 they all phoned me to come through and take the relics out of the ground.

Places that we have visited during Annual Hunts

Spion kop, Railway Hill, Siege of Ladysmith, Colenso, Monte Christo, Blood River, Amajuba and many more....!

Geotagging

Back then I used a Garmin to log our finds. All relics I have found from 1986 have been Geotagged and is displayed in the Metal Detector Museum at Mount Ingwe.

Provincial Annual Hunts

We were just a hand full of metal detectorists in the late 80s, those who joined in 1986 kept coming back each year as everyone was scared to miss out...because if you're out ...you're out, only 15 hunters per hunt.

Now with so many metal detectorist and the hobby exploding in South Africa we had to change it. Now each province organises its own hunt.

Hope to see you all in the field soon !!!

The General



In This Issue

- All the Annual Hunt news
- Beach Hunting
- Christmas Treasure
- Geluk net so voor ons foto sessie.
- Mis een van my beste skattejag Vriende ! Mike Conradie !



Mike at the Battle of Majuba & Laings Nek - We were hunting there in the early 80's

How does it work?

Any relic you find is yours to keep, the relics you don't want to keep are left and put in display cases and given back to the farmers. Please geotag the site and take a picture of every relic and send it to us hmdrsa@gmail.com. We will keep it secret until you think you want to make it public to your next Treasure Hunter friend, or use the Freshly Grounded App.

Donate

You can always donate your relics to a museum but remember to still document where you found it and take a picture.

Archaeologists

Blaauwberg Hunt 2017 – It is was all about the Archaeologists and Treasure Hunters getting together. All the relics had to be given to the Archaeologists for research. Our main sponsor was Minelab. They are the leaders in Metal Detecting and that is why we contacted them to be part of the Battle of Blaauwberg 1806 Hunt...not to be the best in Treasure...but also to be the best in preserving history.

We want your support to show the archaeologist that we are not there to clean out...but to preserve! If you don't geotag your find – history is lost.



Tinus Johan Conradie is with Micheal Andre Conradie. ...
August 31, 2020

Aai Dad (Micheal Andre Conradie),

Ons harte is stukkend en die verlange is groot...

My beste vriend, my adviseer, my bottle grawer en detecting buddy, my leermeester, my Pa en my held.

Die virus het jou kom haal, en ek weet die lewe sonder jou gaan nooit weer dieselfde wees nie.

My eerste oproep oppad werk toe, en weer as ek die pad huis toe vat. Elke dag, jy was daar.

Jou familie was vir jou alles, en jy het hard gewerk om vir ons alles te gee wat jy kon.

Party het gese jy lyk kwaai, maar ons almal weet die soetie wat jy was. Lief vir gesels en nuwe mense leer ken. Jy kon n gesprek selfs met n dowe persoon aanknoop of iets in gemeen kry. Die een wat selfs in die moeilikste situasie die mediator kon speel en die vrede bewaar. Altyd n plan en altyd goeie raad vir enigeen wat vra. Nie bang om informasie of kennis te deel nie, en altyd bemoedigende woorde.

Jou hele lewe lank n versamelaar, en so het jy my ook geleer... Sien die waarde selfs in die kleinste dingetjies om jou. Jou familie was die kroon van jou versameling, met vriende en harts mense n amper gelyke tweede.

Jy het ons die waarde van familie geleer, en ook die daar waarde van al die klein dingetjies rondom ons. Gemors is net in die oog van die houder, en vir die regte persoon, is daar onskatbare waarde. Dit geld nie net vir "goed" nie, maar ook vir die mense en vir die situasies waarin ons onself mag bevind. Sien die goeie raak en fokus daarop, maak nie saak hoe skeef of sleg dinge om ons mag lyk nie.

God was en is jou anker, en ons weet jy is nou by Hom. Sonder pyn en in Sy volkome liefde besig om ons ook aan te moedig om die wenpaal te haal.

Ons is hartsser dat jy so vroeg van ons af moes weggaan, en ons, Ma, en al die kleinkinders gaan uitmis op hul Oupa. Ons sal hulle daaglik leer en herinner aan als wat jy ons geleer het, en saam ook dankbaar wees vir die wete dat ons in die ewigheid weer herenig sal word in Jesus se volkome liefde.

Dankie vir die Pa wat jy vir ons was, vir my, Melissa, Adele en vir Riaan.

Dankie vir die rolmodel wat jy vir ons was met die liefde en respek wat jy vir Ma gehad het.

Dankie vir jou baklei en positief bly deur die Kanker behandeling.

Dankie vir die steunpilaar wat jy vir jou broers was en die sagte sorg wat jy vir al ons Oumas en Oupas gehad het.

Dankie vir die Oupa wat jy vir ons dogtertjie Talita was. Ons sal al die ander kleinkinders leer van hul Oupa se liefde vin oudhede, grawe en metaalverklipper loop, maar ook van die groot liefde en belangrikke rol van familie en godsdiens.

Dankie vir die man wat jy vir ons Ma (Mariana Conradie) was. Al die liefde en omgee, al die raad en vir die voorbeeld wat jy gestel het van hoe die liefde moet wees. Sy mis jou al klaar sooo baie, en ons ook...

Dankie van al jou kolegas, al die bottel grawe buddies, die skattejagters, die versamelaars en al jou kosbare vriende en familie.

Die leemte is groot, jy is nie meer hier by ons nie, maar altyd in ons harte.

Ons is lief vir jou!

Rus sag Pappa...

SUFFOLK METAL DETECTORIST FINDS COIN HOARD IN FIELD BEHIND PUB



A metal detectorist who has spent 10 years searching for hidden treasure found "the biggest hoard of his life" in a field behind his village pub.

Luke Mahoney, 40, discovered more than 1,000 silver coins on land belonging to The Lindsey Rose pub in Lindsey, Suffolk.

The hoard is thought to be worth at least £100,000. Mr Mahoney said: "That feeling of scraping the dirt away and seeing the coins is indescribable." The father of three, who runs his own metal detector shop, had been out in the 15-acre (6.1 hectares) field on 26 July when he made the discovery.

He said he had found a gold coin and a sixpence in the morning, before retiring to the pub for Sunday lunch.

On his return, he "almost immediately hit this signal and I pulled out this Charles I coin. Then I hit another signal, and another". He added: "They were everywhere. It was pandemonium."



Charles Buckle, 26, who runs the pub, said: "Luke gets quite excited about everything he finds so I was like 'yeah OK,' but he kept ringing and told me I had to come down and see what he had found."

Mr Mahoney unearthed 1,061 silver coins dating back to the 15th to 17th Centuries.

He said the most popular theory from experts and historians was the coins were buried by a wealthy landowner who had gone off to fight in the Civil War.

Nigel Mills, from international coin specialists Dix Noonan Webb, said the coins would fetch at least £100,000 at auction.

He said the earliest coin in the find was an Elizabeth I era shilling dating back to 1573-78, while it also contained a number of Charles I half crowns from 1641-43.

Michael Andre Conradie



Mike and I were great treasure hunting friends since the 80's. We met on the beach in Durban while both of us were detecting. He later moved to Johannesburg and this is when we started hunting together as often as we could. He helped in organizing many of the Annual Hunts. He loved bottle and ash heap digging. A wonderful friend and treasure hunting enthusiast.



Mike was also a great family man !



VISITING THE METAL DETECTOR MUSEUM



Contributed a lot to the Metal Detector museum





Beach Hunting

Mark Coetzee



The gear and Transport to get to those Hunts .

Phoned by a man who explained that his wedding ring, of a month back, was lost while taking post-photos - after ceremony, while on Honeymoon...The gentleman was reluctant to supply the exact location of the loss but suggested we meet at the Halyards Hotel in Port Alfred.



I agreed and after we met up, followed him until we arrived at the Fish River Sun Resort, some 183 kilometres from when my day started out...

We were transported further by safari vehicle to the river bank below the hotel area where I was roughly shown the approximate area where the wedding band was lost. This search/hunt took quite

some time and using the Garrett Sea Hunter Mark II, was hopeful that we would get lucky.

Taking in consideration that the tide of rivers also are prone to ebb and flow, concentrated search in both water and wet sand areas. At one point, I dug a ring but Alas, it was not the one described....



Fortunately, at a later point, higher up on the bank, a good signal was received!

Out came the husband's 7.4 Gram Platinum wedding ring.



As the husband was unable to make the search day due to distance etc., he arranged that his wife's younger brother (who lives nearby) take care of the day's arrangements. The wedding was back on...:) and mission was accomplished.



LYDENBURG
**35TH ANNUAL
 HUNT
 2020**



24-27 September



Darren Cheek 072-882-0820

35th Annual Hunt Eastern Transvaal.

Darren Cheek

Helga Breed supporting the
hunt logistics

ROYAL LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

The South African War in 1899 (the Second Boer War) took 1st Battalion on another long spell of active service which won further renown for the regiment. It was embodied in the force led by the gallant General, Sir William Penn Symons, which attacked the Boer position at Talana Hill on 20 October. Then came the hurried retirement on Ladysmith. For four months the Battalion fought splendidly throughout the stubborn defence of Ladysmith, during which the garrison was reduced to almost starvation rations. Before the town was relieved one tenth of the defenders had laid down their lives.

Restored by a brief rest, the Battalion took part in the operations that carried the war into the Orange Free State, and the Transvaal, and was present at the storming of Laing's Nek and the capture of Amersfort, Ermelo and Belfast, and in the operations around Lydenberg.

The excitement was palpable as all the detectorists gathered on the 24th September 2020 to forget about the Pandemic and to do what we all love, unearthing our wonderful history.

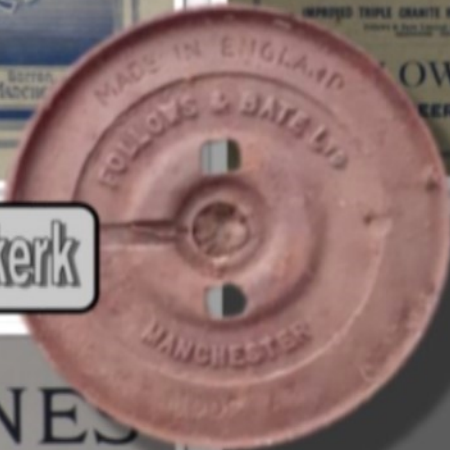
The first historic site we visited was the famous Fort Howard which once again delivered up her treasures as if she knew that this was a special occasion. All participants found a great deal of relics. The father and son team Frans and Franco

Krause found an ash pit containing lovely relics which in the end solidified them to win the

best finds of the hunt, a nearly complete period pocket watch and a Leicester

regiment shoulder badge. Helga Breed and Ethan Cheek showed enormous perseverance and dug out a large relic which took them over 3 hours to free it from its 130 year slumber.





Found by Eugene van Niekerk

Follows & Bate

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1868 Founded by Frederick William Follows.

1870s: Maker of horticultural appliances

Early 1880s: began developing a business in paint mills and drug machinery of all descriptions, from small bench machines to large granite mills driven by power.

1889 An improved paint mill.

1890 Details of their new paint grinding mill.

1893 Issued 'Monthly Circular' of products made by themselves and others

1937 Listed Exhibitor - British Industries Fair. Side-drive and Roller Lawn Mowers, Garden Seats, Garden Barrows, Grindstones, Chimney Cowls, Ventilators, Hose Reels, Tennis Markers, Marmalade Machines, Potato Chippers, Slicers, Bread Cutters, Wringer Stands, Lawn Sprayer and Tidy.

The Eastern Transvaal Annual Hunt Crew



Prizes for the day Went to

1st Frans and Franco Krause for finding the pocket watch and shoulder badge



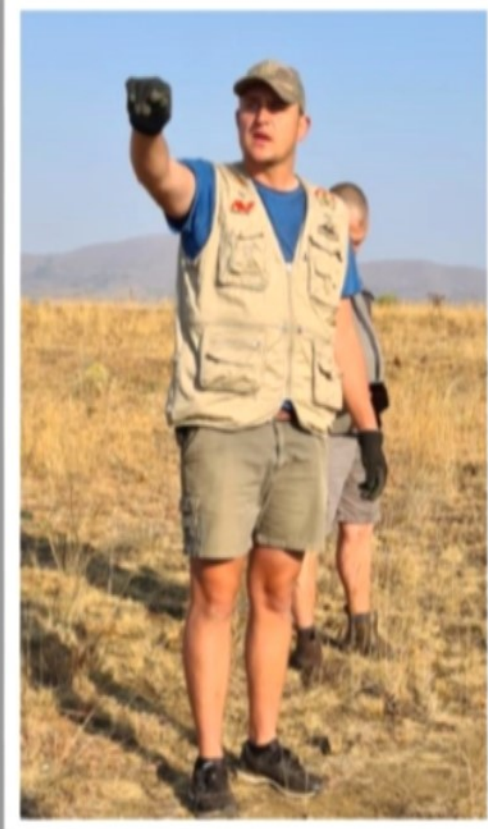
2nd Eugene van Niekerk for finding a very rare 1950's Husky dinky toy in near perfect condition and Royal Artillery Ball Button



Spot prize Helga Breed and Ethan Cheek for perseverance in the heat .

DAY 2

The Second day dawned and all competitors were all hyped for a magical day which found us at the old Berlin Missionary "Mission Camp". Once again the heat was over powering but they battled on hoping and looking for that elusive bucket Lister or personal item that could be traced, spirits were high and once again lovely finds gave up their resting place in the dirt to be discovered and lamented over as to their history and significance.



Prizes for the day Went to

1st Carl and Carolin van Den Berg for numerous coins



2nd Bertus Pienaar Ladies Buckle

Spot Prize Arend Moelich and Ethan Cheek for determination.

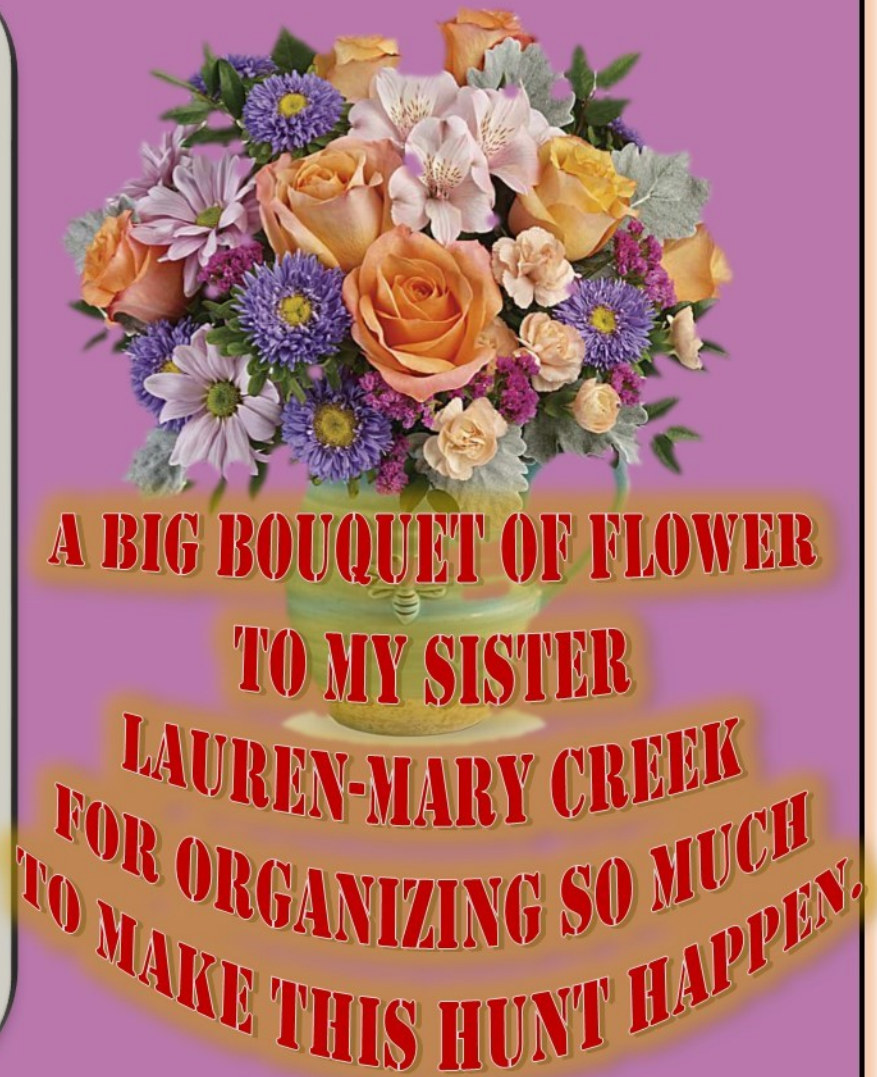


DAY 3

The third day arrived all too quickly and we were on our way to the further East of our dedicated sites namely the old stage coach depot of Wemmerhuis in Belfast, after a quick stop at Belfast Wimpy to build up strength for a long and exciting day ahead we headed out in different directions to see not what fate awaits but rather what history awaits, it was a hard day so we did not expect many finds and that proved to be so true as the finds were far and slow in revealing themselves but on the whole the day was thrilling to be in the open with new friends and enjoying the company and stories that everyone shared.

The Prize giving was held at Hop Inn Lydenburg and was a lovely in-formal setting.





Firstly to Lukas van der Merwe for being the inspiration for 35 years of hosting and organising this fundamental yearly event and the prizes sponsored.

To George Olivier from Minelab SA for the absolutely awesome prizes namely 3 state of the art Minelab Vanquish metal detectors for the winners.

Lauren-Mary Cheek for sorting out the scrumptious food and lunch packs.

Eugene van Niekerk for daily small gifts for the daily winners

Helga Breed for supporting the hunt logistically

Arend Moelich for the drone footage on day one and all subsequent photo footage.



2nd Place Overall Find

Vanquish 440 Metal Detector
Carl and Carolin van den Berg
for SA Red Cross Badge



Morning Oom Lucas we had a great time in Lydenburg with Darren . Thanks for the prize my wife and I won I know you where the judge. Now we can both dig . The guys there all speak highly of you. I hope we can meet one day. I'm actually coming down to East London and Hogs Back for a quick visit it's my moms birthday perhaps you can tell me if it will be worth taking my metal detector with and where I should go regards Carl

The Birth of an Idea

The Red Cross idea was born in 1859, when Henry Dunant, a young Swiss man, came upon the scene of a bloody battle in Solferino, Italy, between the armies of imperial Austria and the Franco-Sardinian alliance. Some 40,000 men lay dead or dying on the battlefield and the wounded were lacking medical attention.



Dunant organized local people to bind the soldiers' wounds and to feed and comfort them. On his return, he called for the creation of national relief societies to assist those wounded in war, and pointed the way to the future Geneva Conventions.

"Would there not be some means, during a period of peace and calm, of forming relief societies whose object would be to have the wounded cared for in time of war by enthusiastic, devoted volunteers, fully qualified for the task?" he wrote.

The Red Cross was born in 1863 when five Geneva men, including Dunant, set up the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded, later to become the International Committee of the Red Cross. Its emblem was a red cross on a white background: the inverse of the Swiss flag. The following year, 12 governments adopted the first Geneva Convention; a milestone in the history of humanity, offering care for the wounded, and defining medical services as "neutral" on the battlefield.

Eastern Transvaal 18



Annual Hunt Best Find Winner & Best Rookie!



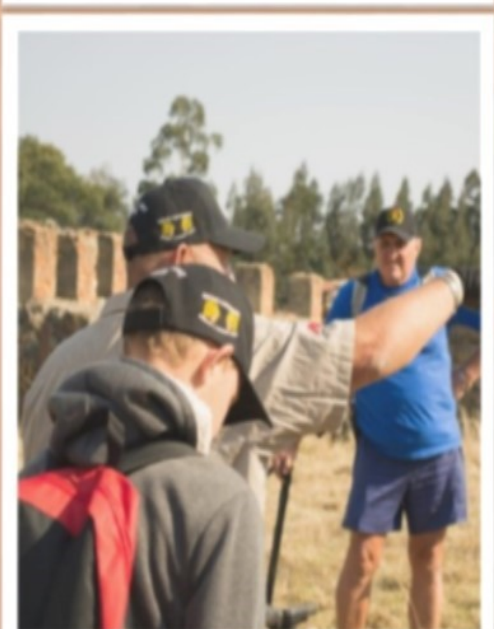
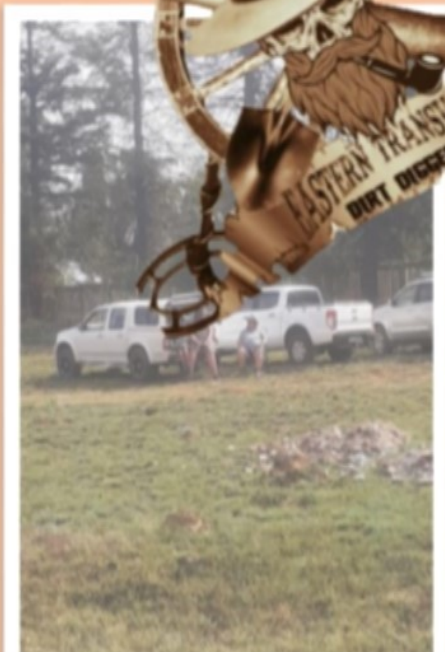
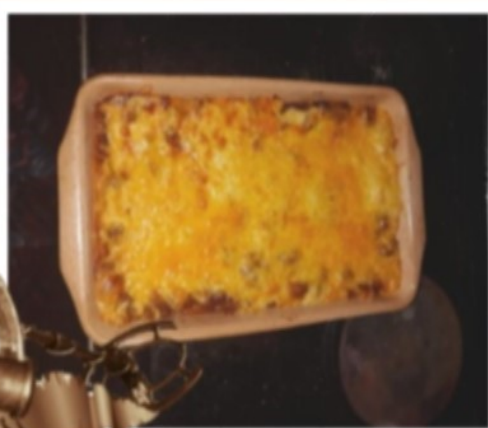
Frans & Franco Krause



1st Place Overall
Vanquish 540 Metal Detector
Frans and Franco Krause
a nearly Complete Pocket Watch
and Leicester Shoulder Badge.

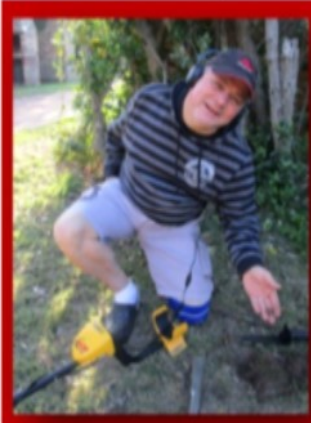


Ethan Cheek



Beach Hunting

Mark Coetzee



Been detecting for over 11 years, mainly Beach hunts, seldom do inland hunts - but have in the past. Occasionally, I am called out to help search for lost jewellery, keys etc.

I share a story of such a day, when, I received a call from a elderly lady. She provided her address and explained that her and her husband then, recently, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The lady sounded very concerned as she explained how her wedding ring was lost while gardening!



Arriving for duty, the lady showed me the area of the garden where she could have lost it - Also described the lost ring as follows: a three-band (joined) yellow gold ring featuring a 0,85 ct diamond.

After some time of scanning, both of us were relieved when the lost wedding ring was recovered!

Some pics of a "treasured" day and visit with other detectorists at Mount Ingwe and the Metal Detecting Museum!



Truly unforgettable!



By John Carne

The festive season has always been a very special time for me. The Christmas holidays provide what is often the only time one gets to spend quality time with family and friends, and to me, it's also a time that brings back so many childhood memories. I'll never forget those Christmas holidays I spent in



Uvongo, at my grandparents' home "dad's side". My grandfather tended to really get into the Christmas spirit and went all out with his Christmas decorations. You really knew and felt it's Christmas time upon arrival at his home. He had the tradition to put me to work, shortly upon arrival. I had to water his little dining room Christmas tree so that it could bare small Cadburys chocolates, to be picked by me and my sister the very next morning. I also miss visiting my

grandparents' "mom's side" in Ventersburg...To be honest, there's really not all that much to do in that little town, but to explore... It's a typical, very small farm style community, with plenty of old buildings, historical sites as well as very old cemeteries. We would patrol the streets of Ventersburg, making sure to pop in to all of the well-known historical landmarks, looking at all the Christmas lights. Of course, we would also keep a

keen eye out for Santa's slay lol. I firmly believe that Ventersburg played a big role in developing the passion I now have for history. Sadly the old town is now badly deteriorated with minimal maintenance being done to preserve its history, and honestly, it is now a true eyesore. That being said, should you know where to look, there re-



remains plenty of history to be found.

Yes, those days were good and so very different. Sadly many of our family members and friends of those

Christmas Eve, putting this ashtray to good use? Was he/

Who did this ashtray belong to, and how did it end up where it was found?

she happy at that very moment? Its Christmas time after all, but it's also a time of much unrest. It's during this time, that the Boer war is being fought in South-Africa, resulting in families being broken up not only in SA, but all over the world... Perhaps he/she was one of the luckier ones. The war had a

home, enjoying some of the finest tobacco available, whilst watching the kids playing with the newly gifted toys. Unfortunately, life isn't always that simple, and perhaps he was one of the many to suffer the



days are no longer with us, as are the original owners of this Victorian Christmas ashtray I have found. I can only imagine what Christmas would have been like back in those days. Who did this ashtray belong to, and how did it end up where it was found? Did they share my tradition of enjoying some of my absolute favourite tobacco on



wrath of war. His family had been taken from him, and has been escorted to one of the many concentration camps. He spends most of his time, wondering if his family is still alive, and wondering where they find themselves. Or, perhaps he was a general in



minimal effect on the owner's life, leaving him/her to sit at



in the army, and had just lost some of his men in battle. He now spends his Christmas Eve, wishing he died alongside the brave men that died obeying his orders. He sits all alone, drawing on a sweet cigar, Christmas ashtray beside him. He's lost in thought, reliving the past, upon every draw. He wishes for the war to end so that he can reunite with his family, currently an ocean crossing away. As with most of our finds, we'll never get to know the true history behind this artifact. It's sad that the true story of the artifact is lost; however, this allows us to recreating the past. We get to create our own story, with the only limit being our imagination. This in itself is one of the best parts of our hobby.

Anyway, I wish you all a joyful festive season. Have a great Christmas, and enjoy all of the new years' celebrations. Be safe out there hunting and all the best of luck with finding those amazing relics!

Geluk net so voor ons Foto Sessie !



Johan Smit

Ek sien nou post op Facebook ek dog ek deel my storie van my oudste find nog.

So is die kinders uiteindelik groot genoeg dat ek en my vrou in 2018 vir die eerste keer in n lang ruk op ons eie kan weggaan. Ons reël n road trip Kaap toe, en my vrou boek toe vir ons n fotosessie by n fotograaf op Bloubergstrand een dag. My sus hulle bly toe op daardie stadium op Sunset Beach, waar ons toe tuisgaan. Ek was nog nooit op die strand met n detector nie, aangesien ons in die binneland bly en ek toe eers onlangs die stokperdjie opgeneem het. Maar sonder die kinders se tasse is daar toe plek vir my detector.



Die dag van ons fotosessie het ek letterlik n uur op my eie tydens my vrou se make-up sessie voor die foto's en glip gou af strand toe. Ek kom toe vinnig agter my AT Gold is nie lief vir die soutwater nie en ek hou maar in die droë sand. Na n paar los stukkies gemors en ander metaal, draai ek om en op pad terug stap ek toe teen die duinhang lang. Ek kry toe n sterk sein so 30cm diep en omdat mos los sand is grawe ek

maar. Tot my verbasing is dit n stokou munt. Ek het egter geen idee wat dit is nie, en na so bietjie asyn en Google sien ek dis n cartwheel penny van 1797, die eerste Britse eenheid wat in SA gebruik is.



Ek weet nie of dit beginners luck is of gestuur van Bo nie, maar my vakansie is gemaak, en ek het ekstra breed gesmile op ons foto's!



CHANGE Checker

Cartwheel Penny

During the 18th century, the practice of melting down official copper coins and making lightweight forgeries had become so widespread that it prompted industrialist Matthew Boulton to offer a solution.



George III Cartwheel Penny

He proposed that each coin should actually be made to contain its value in copper, the quality should be improved by using a retaining collar during striking (to give a perfectly round coin) and thick raised borders would prevent them wearing so easily.

In 1797 Boulton was awarded a contract to supply 480 tonnes of pennies, each weighing one ounce and these were the very first British coins to be minted by steam power.

The George III Cartwheel Penny was also Britannia's debut appearance on the penny – a position she held until decimalisation in 1971.

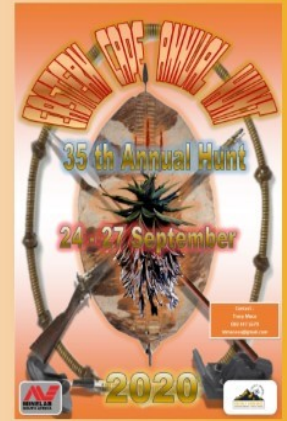


The modern 10c coin compared to the 20c coin

Because of their large size, Boulton's coins soon earned the nickname 'cartwheels'.

It is highly unusual for a low denomination to have such a substantial size and weight, and unsurprisingly they are in high demand from collectors for their status as Britain's heaviest ever penny.

EASTERN CAPE ANNUAL HUNT 2020



Eastern Cape Annual Hunt Reports

24—27 September 2020

Hi George,

Once again, I cannot express our appreciation to you and Minelab enough for your generous contribution towards our annual hunt in the Eastern Cape.

The Results are as follows:

1st Prize to Shane Van Niekerk for his British Foreign Legions Shako Plate. Truly a rare find as you will see in the brief description below.

2nd Prize to Greg Atlasik for his complete locket. Many times only the metal parts are found, but having both the paper from the photo and the glass intact is super rare and a very personal item.

3rd Prize to Charmaine Struyweg for her 1891 coin Brooch. EC cannot have a hunt without awarding a prize for coins. This not only being a personal find whereby it was coins made into a brooch, but EC always awards for coin finds due to the fact that many times, the soldiers back in the day could have lost most, if not all their weeks wage. Making us very much aware of the hardships experienced in those days.

Our provincial entry will certainly be the Shako plates found by Shane with the history of the find as follows...

“BRITISH FOREIGN LEGION”; Shako Plate....

The first commission to this unit was on 29th April 1855. Following the 1854 Enlistment of Foreigners Act a British German Legion, British Swiss Legion and a British Italian Legion were formed and for a short period known as the British Foreign Legion. All were disbanded at the end of the war in 1856.

As you will notice, this legion would have been actively wearing these plates for approximately 1 year. Shako plates are relatively rare, but this would make this BFL Shako plate find on SA soil a very rare find.

I have attached both a video compiled for the Hunt as well as the winning find pictures for your records.

Lastly and most importantly, we would like to report that our group had a wonderful time, with many laughs and good memories made. This would probably not have taken place without Mine-lab's support. Thank You!

Kind Regards
Tracy



The Xhosa Wars (also known as the Cape Frontier Wars or the Kaffir Wars) were a series of nine wars or flare-ups (from 1779 to 1879) between the [Xhosa](#) Kingdom and European settlers in what is now the [Eastern Cape](#) in South Africa. These events were the longest-running military action in the history of [African colonialism](#).¹

**METAL DETECTING
CODE OF ETHICS**

**KNOW THE
RULES**

26



I WILL ALWAYS CHECK LOCAL LAWS BEFORE SEARCHING. IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO "KNOW THE LAW"

I WILL RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY AND WILL NOT ENTER PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT THE OWNER'S PERMISSION. WHERE POSSIBLE, SUCH PERMISSION WILL BE IN WRITING.

I WILL TAKE CARE TO REFILL ALL HOLES AND TRY NOT TO LEAVE ANY DAMAGE.

I WILL REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF ANY AND ALL TRASH AND LITTER THAT I FIND.

I WILL APPRECIATE AND PROTECT OUR INHERITANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, WILDLIFE AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.

I WILL AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE HOBBY, USE THOUGHTFULNESS, CONSIDERATION AND COURTESY AT ALL TIMES.

I WILL WORK TO HELP BRING UNITY TO OUR HOBBY BY WORKING WITH ANY ORGANIZATION OF ANY GEOGRAPHIC AREA THAT MAY HAVE PROBLEMS THAT WILL LIMIT THEIR ABILITY TO PEACEFULLY PURSUE THE HOBBY.

I WILL LEAVE GATES AS FOUND.

I WILL BUILD FIRES IN DESIGNATED OR SAFE PLACES ONLY.

I WILL REPORT TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES ANY INDIVIDUALS WHO ENTER AND OR REMOVE ARTIFACTS FROM GRAVES AND MONUMENTS.

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Historical Metal Detectives SA
Today

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Dome Diggers



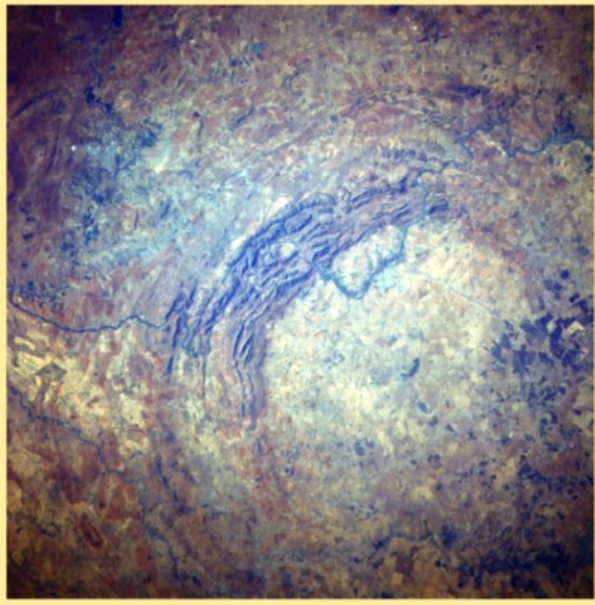
Vredesfort Dome Annual Hunt



OCTOBER 23 ~ 25

Vredefort Dome Annual Hunt 2020

Johan Smit



The Vredefort crater is the largest verified impact crater on Earth. More than 300 kilometres (190 mi) across when it was formed what remains of it is in the present-day Free State province of South Africa. It is named after the town of Vredefort, which is near its centre. Although the crater itself has long since been eroded away, the remaining geological structures at its centre are known as the Vredefort Dome or Vredefort impact structure. The crater is calculated to be 2023 ± 4 million years old, with impact being in the Paleoproterozoic Era. It is the second-oldest known crater on Earth.

A group of about 25 detectorists participated in the second annual hunt in the world-famous Vredefort Dome between Parys and Potchefstroom on the weekend of 23-25 October 2020. The Vredefort Dome has been listed as a

geological term referring to the basement granite that was uplifted in the central part of the structure (where the crater once was). Erosion has since flattened the area so that only the remnants of upturned



The Vredefort Crew !

UNESCO World Heritage Site as the world's oldest and largest meteorite impact structure. The term 'dome' might be confusing to the average tourist who come here expecting to see a crater.

sedimentary rocks form a series of semi-circular hills between Parys and Potchefstroom, surrounding a central plain underlain by the granite 'dome'.

If it weren't for the impact that created these hills and valleys, we would probably not have enjoyed the weekend here. The hills offered protection to many civilizations throughout history. The oldest is at a site called Askoppies, an archaeological



site that can be dated back to the late stone age and early iron age. The site is located on a hill and is characterized by old stone circles and ash dumps (hence the name Askoppies). We visited the site on Friday afternoon and found some iron age artefacts like arrow heads, spear heads, what appears to be chisels, and a hoe. Of course we had to take the iron discrimination way down since most metal here are ferrous. Most, since one copper bracelet was also found. Oh, and a piece of human skull and teeth, but that's off the record. Some of the iron artefacts found by Greg Atlasik are believed to show signs of northern African influence,

especially some Arabic tribes.

The real aim was of course to go after Anglo-Boer War history. Our rendezvous was the Old Imperial Inn, dating back to 1891. It served as a bar and hotel and hosted everything from pimps to presidents. It is rumored that President Kruger wrote some diary entries under a tree nearby. On Friday morning after arrival at the Venterskroon Camp Site behind the Inn, most of us scattered into the surrounding hills in search of some lost treasure. Gideon, the local 'bergie', gave some directions to where he believed some treasure could be found in the hills, but most



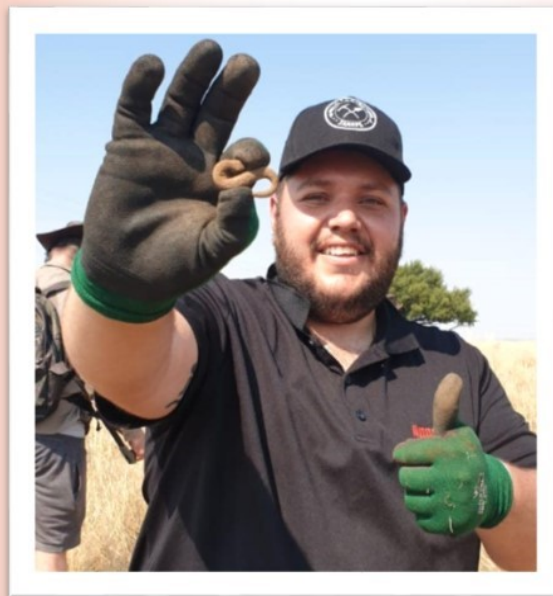
finds popped up at the camp site. Finds here included coins, both recent and colonial, bullets and casings (Martini Henry, .303), the usual buttons and pulltabs, and a nice miner's blikbeker probably dating back to the pre-war gold rush in the area.



landowner Charlotte Smalberger. She gave us a quick briefing before we headed out to the koppie. This morning was probably the highlight of the weekend with Leon van Zyl finding his bucket-list snake buckle, Danny MacHattie and Steven Elliott both found shoulder badges from Durham and Suffolk respectively and Petra Smit found a friction pin used for the cannons. Danny also found a rosette and Greg Atlasik a Royal Engineers button.

Back at the Inn the beers offered welcome relief from the extreme heat of the weekend.

For the main event on Saturday we saddled the horses to head south towards Koppies.



We spent the morning at an English outpost opposite the Vredefort Road concentration camp where plenty of nice finds were collected by local



We later moved to where an old dump site is located just north of the outpost. Here Greg Hogan found a silver coin spill consisting of two tickies, a sixpence and a shilling, enough to make any treasure



The Hoard

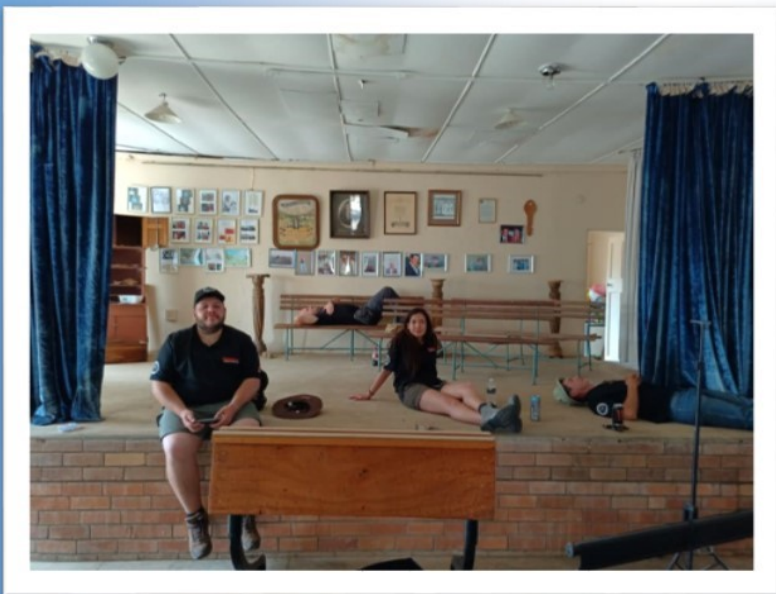


2 x 3 Pence, 6 Pence and 1 Shilling.

hunter jealous! For lunch we had a burger braai at the old museum building before heading to the actual concentration camp site for the last shift before heading home for a well-deserved beer.

A big thanks to our main sponsor Minelab for the awesome prizes, and to Lukas and the team at HMDSA.

See you next year!







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Western Cape 2020 Annual Hunt

Although 20/20 vision refers to normal vision, it doesn't mean you have perfect vision, it just means that at a distance of 20 feet you can see what you should be able to see. As with most of this year, I have had to step back to focus on what

our Western Cape Annual Hunt had to offer and the lessons taken from it.

Jan-Hendrik did his magic and organised guest house on a farm in the Karoo just outside of Laingsburg. Watching the chatter on the Whatsapp group as we got closer to Her-

itage Day, you could start feeling the excitement. This year only a handful of guys were going and the WhatsApp chatter mir-



rored the skill and years of experience in the group. Sites had been researched, old maps discussed, alternative sites proposed and I started getting that familiar feeling in my gut telling me the hunt is on and we were soon standing around Jan-Hendrik's bakkie

discussing where to go first. By the end of the first day we had ticked off the first site. As we sat around the campfire watching Frans finishing off the sosaties and wors, the discussion turned to where to hunt next. By the

time the sosaties were done, the day was planned.

Day two found us following the farmers bakkie up into the mountains in search of an old camp site, how old, no one was quite sure, but the farmers story was that an old wagon wheel had been

had been found up in the gorge. Every so often, along the way, the farmer would stop and point to areas on the side of the track. We



finally reached an area which had been recently graded to make a place for cars to park, the farmer got out, pointed to the graded area and informed us all excitedly, that this is the area of the old camp site. Taking a bunch of guys who have been swinging a coil for a few years to a graded parking lot high in the mountains, could have ended badly. I don't think all the detectors were even turned on and we were back around Jan-

Hendrik's bakkie – now what. Luck was in our favour and the farmer soon headed off up the mountain and we could make our escape.

By the time we got back to the guest house, we had hunted anything that looked flat or old and with a handful of not so old, not so great finds we headed off to the next site. After a quick chat with the farmer and a general idea on the direction, a few old graves as a land mark, we found the site and just as quickly worked out there wasn't much worth detecting here either

and we were once again around Jan-Hendrik's bakkie. Nothing is close in the Karoo and with 3 hours of light left we headed on to see if we could get permission on the next site. Once again it was introductions, a quick 101 in detecting and we had permission. With an hour of sun-



light left we all decided to take a "quick" look and see what tomorrow had in store for us. By the time we finally got back to the guest-house it was after 9pm, finds were being discussed, researched and talk turned to how early was too early to leave to get

back to the site.

Day three was like kids in a candy stall. It had it all, old coins, bullets, buckles, buttons and old

bottles and a handful of things still to be researched to put a name on the piece of old brass with that dark green almost brown patina staring back at you. By midday we were back at the farmer's house to show and tell and gave him a few choice finds and then we were off to find the last site. We followed a farm track and as it had fresh tracks, we convinced ourselves that it must be a road. Soon the track was gone and there were only tire tracks we were following. From time to time it took a few guys in front of Lance's 4X4 to find the best way

through the rocks. We ended up on the top of a small mountain looking thing and a bunch of guys had to go scout out in front to find which way the tracks went. With three hours of light left we came to the last farm fence between us and our site, just to find it locked. We were so close we could see the site, but all agreed we didn't want to try and find our way back in the dark so with that we turned around and headed back up the mountain.

Once back on the road, we found the farmhouse and went through the introductions, 101 and which is the best way to where we are trying to get to. The farmer explained that he had been out that way just yesterday to take fodder to his sheep. In his words,

the road does get a bit bad but it is ok and he suggested we take the road along the train tracks as it is much better, and it was, 20 minutes later we were there and were able to do a quick "look" for next time as by now it was getting dark. On the way back to the guesthouse, I casually commented that I was going to be a day late as my wife was expecting me back today. A quick pit stop to grab a burger on the way back to the guesthouse was the first food of the day other than coffee and rusks which was breakfast. That night, around the fire as Frans did his magic with the meat, talk turned to how soon could we get back as there was still so much ground we didn't cover. It feels like I still have dust on my shoes

, but almost 2 weeks have passed. I still have not cleaned my finds as the real world is constantly tapping me on my shoulder each time I stop to take a look at them, but I have found time to reflect on this year's annual hunt. It had it all, we didn't drive over to a site that someone had hunted before with a list of finds we should expect, this year we actually hunted for a site, we met the local farmers and have been able to start friendships which we can build on over time. We went off the beaten track in search of that site that no one has found and we may just have found it. But for me the true value of this year's hunt was being part of a group of friends that stepped out of all the frustrations of 2020 for a few days, there was no lock

-down, no COVID, no deadlines, no timelines.

Thanks George and the guys from Mine-lab for making this possible. Also a special thanks to Jan-Hendrik for all the time and effort you put into making this year's hunt a success. Until our next Western Cape Annual Hunt.

Happy Hunting
Alan Wright



First Prize - Bernard Jacobs



Second Prize - Werner Bouwer



Third Prize - Alan Wright

Michael Andre Conradie

6-5-1959 – 30-8-2020

By Tinus Conradie (Son)

How does one tell the story of the life of a collector, even harder when he was your father, collecting buddy and best friend?

My Dad, Michael Andre Conradie, or Mike as most of you would have known him, was born in Cape Town in 1959. Even from a young age, my



Grandad would take my Dad down to Woodstock beach in order to pick up old glass bottles and wooden matchboxes that would wash ashore from the passing ships, so basically born a collector.

Dad was always interested in History and loved reading up as much as he could. Dad's first old coin was a Bun head Victorian Penny that was kicked up by one of the lawnmow-



ers whilst growing up in the Cape. After Grandad moved the family down to Durban, Dad and his brothers, the naughty buggers that they were, saw one of the neighbours burying something in the garden. After she disappeared into the house, they quickly dug it up. This was Dads first encounter with medals, and he clearly recalled the



name on the WWII group as E.E.I. Glass. No idea what happened to these, but remember him telling



this is the day that Dad started digging for antique bottles on the banks of the Umbilo river in Durban. It was also around this time that Dad and Mom met Lukas and Daleen van der Merwe on one of the Durban beaches.

I think Oom Lukas must have been walking with his metal detector, something Dad was also very interested in. This meeting was also the start of a great friendship and metal detecting partnership as Dad then were to move up to JHB shortly after my birth.

me the story time and time again.

Stamp collecting quickly became a big passion, with my Dad and my Grandad collecting and sharing in the hobby.

Fast forward to July 1982 when my Dad married the love of his life, my Mom Mariana. Suppose you could call them high school sweethearts, even though they have known each other much longer. Now this is very important, as it takes a very special woman to tolerate a collector bordering on being a hoarder.

15 November 1985, the day I was born, but also an important date, as



As a young family, mom and dad worked very hard to make ends meet, and here, the bottle collecting helped a great deal with some extra cash when needed. As Dad would call it, bottle collecting was the "poor man's" way of collecting.

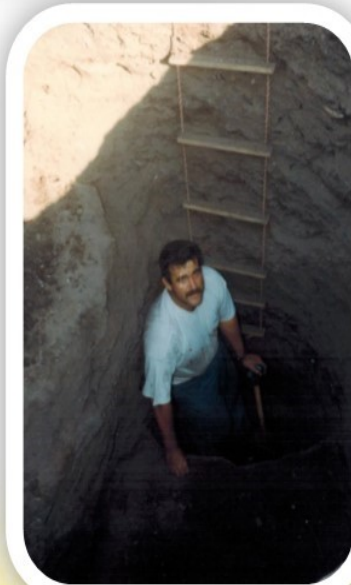
Anyone could do it, all it takes is time and dedication. Dad had with the money made from trading and selling some of these bottles managed to pay for 2 big building alterations, all the while managing to build up a nice collection for himself.

Dad had also taught me from a young age to appreciate things, and that nothing is without value. He created in me, that same love of history and old thing, teaching many important life lessons along the way.



Trips with Dad and Oom Lukas, Wiaan and Marnus, we sure are blessed to have had so many great trips and great memories to look back on.

He said that I had asked him at the age of about 7, if I could have his bottle collection one day. This was all the motivation he needed. I have many pictures where Dad and I went digging or detecting even as young as 5 years old.



Dad was transferred down to Durban in my Grade 11 year, and here, bottle digging became much more difficult than when we were up in Jhb.

Beach detecting was now the name of the game with our annual detecting hunts

something to look forward too. Here Dad and I started to collect Military medals from the various wars, and also doing the research on the men. We started trading in antiques and collectables, that has now become my full time job/hobby (something you love can never be called work). Dad was to join me at the shop as soon as he retired from the SABC.

Sharing the hobby and the sharing of information was something Dad did with great joy. Creating an interest among the youth and encouraging them to start collecting and peeking their interests, even giving them some bottles to get them started. He had a way with people and truly loved the hobby of collecting. So many great friends made, and how awesome that



we are all preserving history together.

I have so many great stories and memories that I can share, and think I will do so in future copies.

I would like to thank each and every one of you who have been a part of Dads amazing journey in the world of

collecting.

I don't know about you, but every time I swing the detector, every time I go digging, any nice find whilst looking for something for the shop, and every item I know he would have loved. That is when I know Dad is with me, smiling and encouraging me to continue in all that he has taught me. I also like to think that I now have an unfair advantage when detecting, as he is now pointing me to all the great treasures, ha ha.

Dad would have wanted us to keep at it, research and go out to find that next great item, preserving history and sharing in each other's joy.

Thank you for all your friendship, and happy hunting.

The "Settlers" 35TH Annual Hunt 2020

The Treasure Hunters came together in Port Elizabeth, due to the Covid we didn't stay together in one place as we did the last 34 years. All were divided.



Our Hunting venue where called the "Bush" The main sand bypass, known as Drift sands, covered the whole area between Schoenmakerskop and Summer-

strand.

In the late 1800's the dunes started to threaten Port Elizabeth and plans had to be made to stabilise them. At first a steam train was used to dump the town's garbage on the dunes and you still find areas where pieces of old bottles, plates and other objects can be found.

In the beginning of the 1900s the area was stabilised by planting Australian wattles such as Rooikrans and Port Jackson as well as Eucalyptus



trees in an attempt to start a commercial forest. This stopped the Drift sands dune field from moving sand into the bay.



Breeding of P.E. rhino on a shifting sand dune c1900

In the 1960's the municipality built sewerage maturation ponds in Cape Recife. These fell right into the path of the moving Noordhoek dune field and a decision was made to stabilise the leading edge of the dunes by planting vegetation.

Hunting Day 1.

Wakeup call at 05h00 and meet at 07h00 near our digging area. If



Every one scatter to his / her own Hotspot !

you late
....a "Straf
dop".....!

The Bush
are very
scary and
not save .
You had to
hunt in a
group and

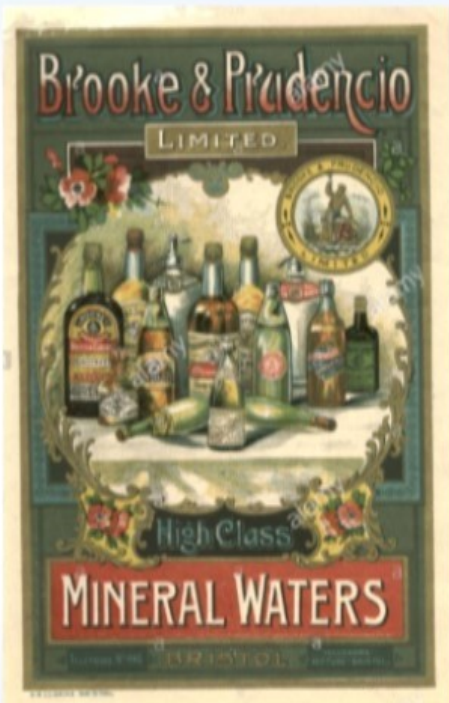
have to wear a

pistol or something to defence yourself.

The group were also divided so that we don't hunt close to each other . Bobby had to look after Tanya and has got the most experience of the " Bush " ! While Hunting you have to be aware of your vicinity and also make sure that you don't get lost . The " Bush " is very unpredictable . I was attacked once by two scavengers . Not a good experience . In the background you can also hear the chainsaws of the wood cutters.



All the Help to ID the relic— Team Sport !



Beaconsfield mineral soda water



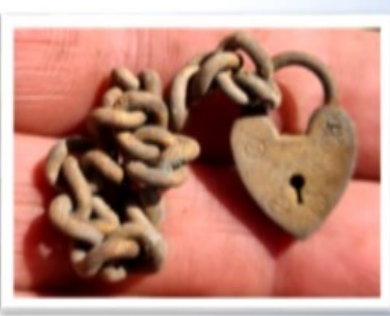
Johan was looking after as...food wise



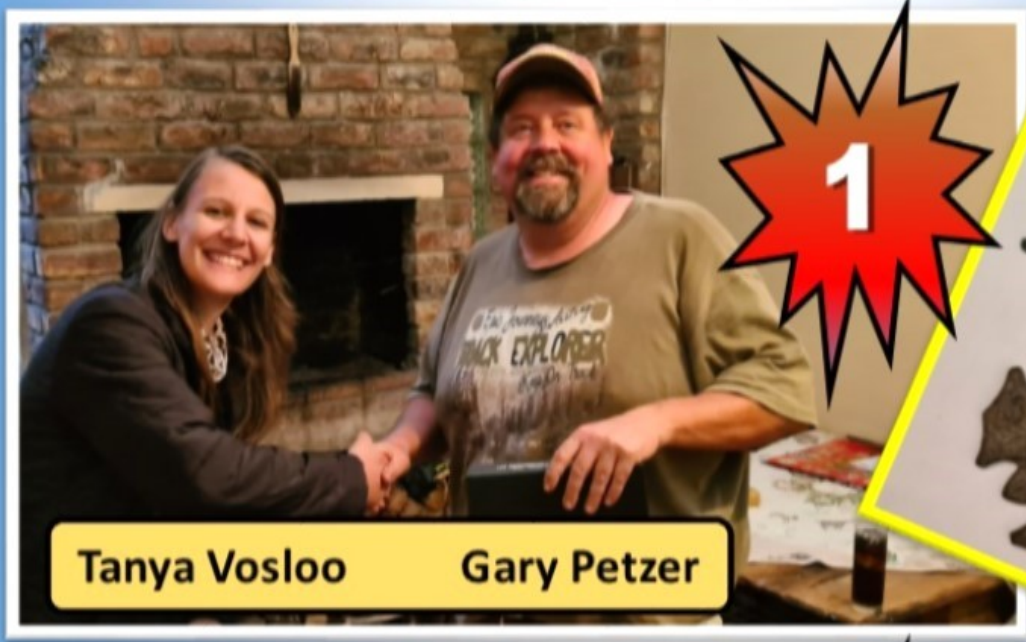
THE 2020 CREW



Johann , John , Lukas , Kobus , Wesley , Gary , Bobby , Ryan and Tanya



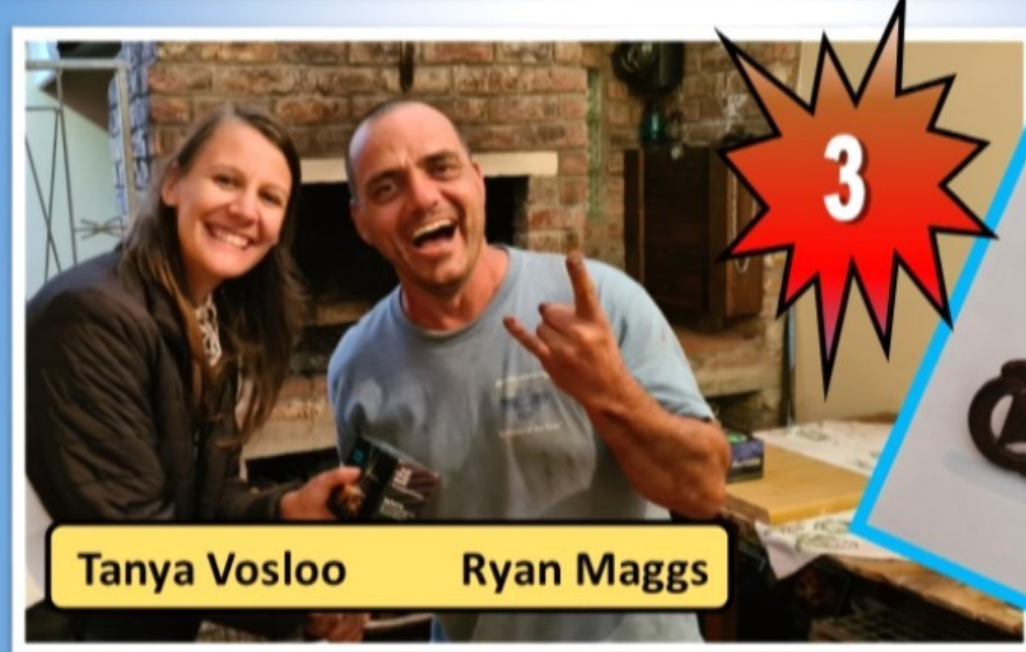
WINNERS DAY ONE



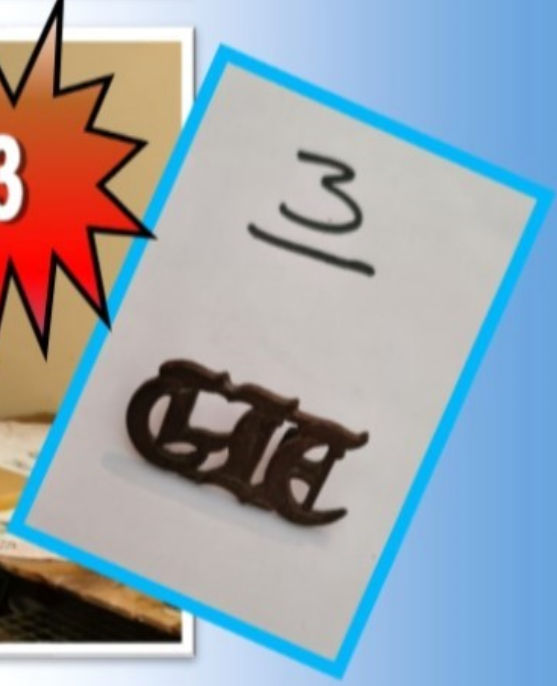
Tanya Vosloo Gary Petzer



Tanya Vosloo Kobus Nel



Tanya Vosloo Ryan Maggs



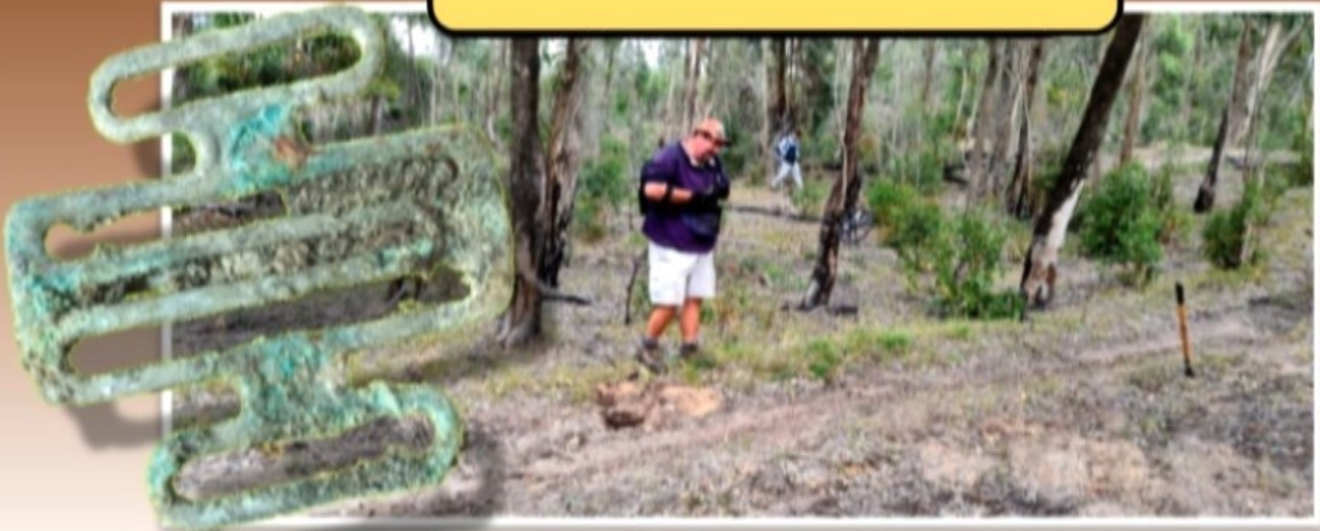
Day 2



Ryan was first in the morning to hit the breakfast table



Hitting the " Bush "







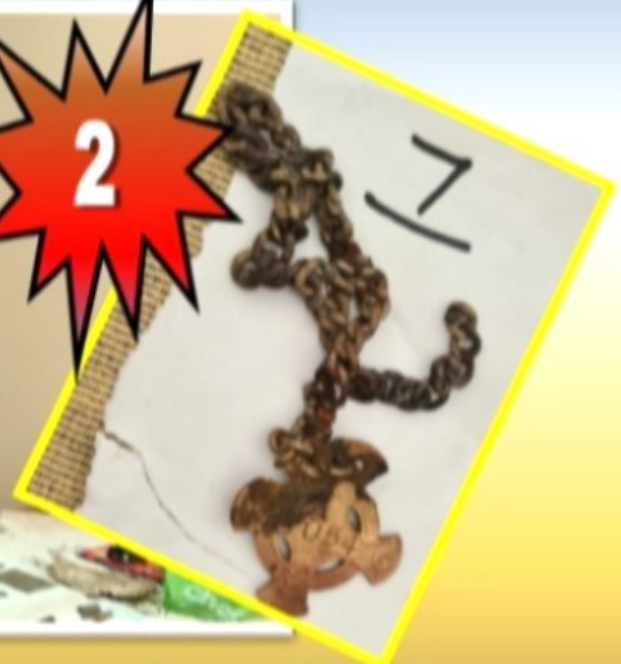
WINNERS DAY TWO



Tanya Vosloo Johann Meyer



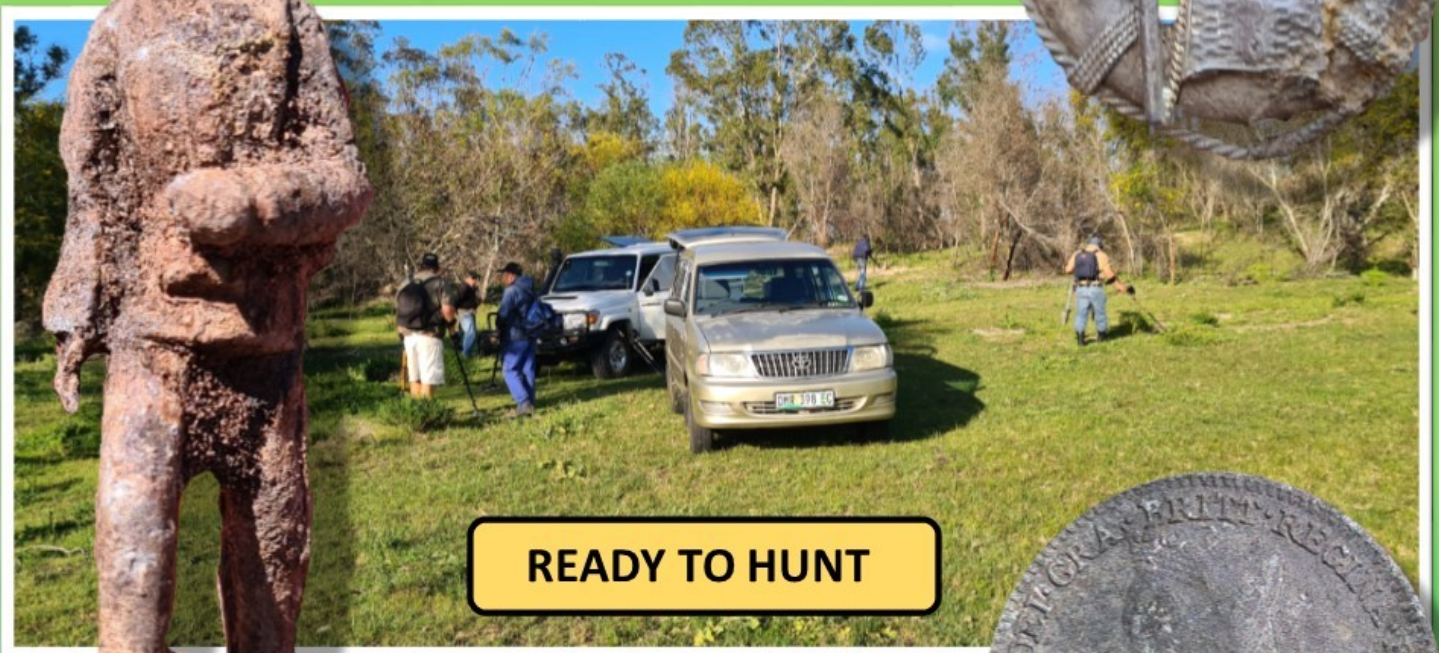
Tanya Vosloo Gary Petzer



Tanya Vosloo John Carne



OUR RENDEZVOUS - DAY 3



READY TO HUNT



OUR "STEAK" GETTING READY FOR LUNCH



JOHANN "BEST BUSH" COOK!



THE " BUSH " MINELABBERS



My 2020 Annual Hunt Crew



WINNERS DAY 3



Tanya Vosloo Ryan Maggs



Tanya Vosloo Gary Petzer



3 rd Prize Winner Tanya Vosloo

....and the Winners are !



Tanya Ryan



CAPE MOUNTED POLICE
1882 - 1904



Tanya Gary



Sherwood Foresters Derbyshire
1881 to 1970



Tanya Westley

Westley Clarke
 Got the Prize for the Best upcoming and most enthusiast Treasure Hunter at the " Settlers " Annual Hunt 2020 . Westley only Hunts now from July 2020.
 Congratulations !

Dog licences and the practice

of taxing dog's



BY TANYA VOSLOO

have a long and international history. The oldest documented history of dog licences is from Utrecht, Holland in 1446. One of the oldest known surviving dog licences dates from 1775 and is from Rostock, Germany. The oldest known American dog licence tag is dated 1853. The oldest known dog licence from South Africa we could find is from Port Elizabeth and dated 1884.

In 1847 regulations were promulgated in Port Elizabeth requiring all dogs to be registered at a charge of 1 shilling per annum. The first promulgation relating to the control of dogs in the town also mandated that "every dog found in the public streets without a collar, and not been so registered, shall be destroyed from time to time." In 1861 the owner of an unlicensed dog was fined 10 shillings. The Dog Tax Act of 1884 increased the annual registration fee to 2s 6d (one half crown).

Originally dog licences were in paper form but luckily for us, this changed. Metal dog tags and licences are highly collectable and there are even some clubs that are dedicated to this hobby.

If you have a dog licence older than 1884 please get in touch with us by sending an email to

historicalmetaldetectives@gmail.com. We have also created a Telegram group called Dog Licence Collectors South Africa, join us there and share the dog tags and licences you have found.



The Basenji originated in central Africa, and are amongst the oldest dogs in the world. "Basenji", means "small wild thing from the bush"

Africanis is the name of all dogs native to Southern Africa. The name derives from *Africa*, the continent and *Canis*, meaning dog. The history of the Africanis dates back 7000 years, when dogs were brought into Africa by the Neolithic tribesmen. Dogs were domesticated along the Nile river before the Egyptian dynasties sprang up, and made their way via migration and trade into the Sahara. The Bantu brought their own domestic dogs with them in 200 CE (common era), when they left the Cameroon grasslands and eventually settled in Southern Africa.

Gauteng Annual Hunt



2-4 Oct 2020



Leon - 060 567 0244

zarrpsmetaldetectingsa@gmail.com

Gauteng Annual Hunt

That time of year again. An amazing group of people got together to participate in the 2020 Gauteng Annual Hunt. ZARRPS Metal Detecting South Africa hosted this year's Gauteng Annual. 3 Days of hunting finding some incredible relics. Catching up with old friends and making new ones too.



I decided to make some tokens and hid them around the sites for the hunters to find for some nice prizes. It turned out the tokens were a low iron signal and not a high tone, so it took a while before the first one was found as most of the hunters discriminated the iron tones. 2 of the 5 tokens were found by Adrian.

We visited many sites over the three days and had lots of fun. Even the Heidelberg Concentration Camp still delivered her treasures. On this site Matt found a cache of Mauser rounds and Petra found the trigger mechanism of some sort of rifle.



Sovereign Holder

The overall winners for the Gauteng Hunt were:

- 3rd Place – Adrian for his token finds
- 2nd Place – Matt for his cache of Mauser rounds
- 1st Place – Gavin for the sovereign holder he found

You can go watch the full video of the Hunt and the fun we had on the Zarpps Metal Detecting SA YouTube Channel. Leon van Zyl—(ZARPPS Crew)



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**Congratulations Lukas with your 35 th years of consecutive Annual Hunts
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OVERALL 1 WINNERS NATIONAL

Shako Plate, other ranks, British Foreign Legion, 1855



2
British Foreign
Legions
Shako Plates

In addition to raising a British Swiss Legion during the Crimean War (1854-1856), the British Government also enlisted German and Italian legionaries. At first the German contingent was known as the British Foreign Legion, but Queen Victoria intervened to have the appellation changed, writing to the Secretary of State for War on 3 September 1855: 'The Queen wishes to remind Lord Panmure of the Foreign Legion being called the German Legion... She is sure that this will have a good effect in Germany and help the recruiting; the German papers have been taunting them with not being allowed to bear their own name.'



Shane Van Niekerk

Annual Hunt 2020

2020

2

Cap Badge - Cape Mounted Police 1882-1904



The formation of the Cape Police followed a four-year period of warfare in southern Africa, which included the [9th Frontier War](#) (1877-78), the Northern Border campaigns (1878-79), the [Morosi](#) campaign in [Basutoland](#) (1879), the [Basutoland Gun War](#) (1880-81) and the Transkei (a.k.a. 'Mpondomisi') Campaign (1880-81). In addition to its ordinary policing duties, it was a para-military organisation, which saw active service in several campaigns and operations, including the [Anglo-Boer War](#) (1899-1902).



Ryan Maggs

Thanks to our Sponsors



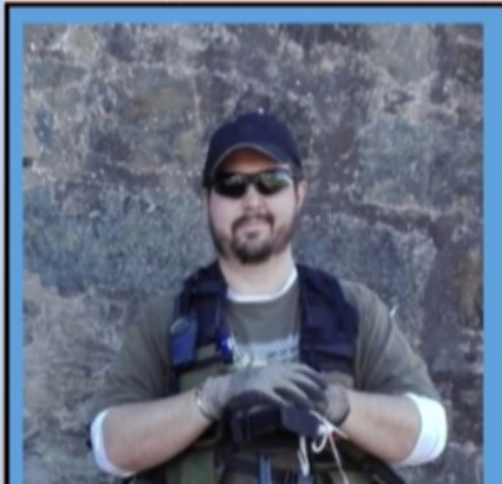
winners ?

3

Iron Age Tools 1700s AD.



Iron Age technology was transmitted across Africa by Bantu-speaking people who migrated to the south from North and Central Africa. Their language and culture mixed with those of the groups they met, which is why many African people are Bantu-speaking. They also brought iron smelting technology and agriculture to these groups and founded great kingdoms like Great Zimbabwe, Mapungubwe and Thulamela.



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Story for the Next

Treasure Talk