

Treasure Talk SA

March - April 2016

Vol 31 - 2



- **Toughest place you ever hunted .**
- **Destruction of our History - Botshabelo**
- **27 Th Annual Hunt photo's-Wolfgang Roux**

TREASURE QUEST TREASURES


QUALITY METAL DETECTING ACCESSORIES



- Beach Sand Scoops
- Relic Spades
- Hand Diggers
- Finds Pouches
- Treasure Hunting Books
- Detector Harnesses



LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN

WEB: www.treasurequesttreasures.co.za
EMAIL: info@treasurequesttreasures.co.za
 TREASURE QUEST TREASURES
PHONE: 083 366 9445 / 072 297 7833



QUALITY PRODUCTS



Now exporting to France
USA & Australia.

Products also available at



FROM THE EDITOR
VAN DIE REDAKTEUR



Can only say..kaboom !



This photo was published by Robin Broadbridge on Facebook - Says it all for this Issue.

Be careful out there !

Contents / Inhoud



Beach Hunting Dangers
Page 6
Henry Clapton

Botsabelo
Page 9
In the News



27 Th Annual Hunt Natal
Page 14
Wolfgang Roux



Botsabelo Hunt
Page 13
Lukas van der Merwe

Sand Scoop ?
Page 27
Henry Clapton



You Can send your Story under these Headings



Field Test



Treasures in the Headlines

**BREAKING
NEWS**



Beach Finds



Coins



War Relics



Dump Digging



Club News



More about my Find ?





Although metal detecting is a peaceful hobby the beaches do hold a fair amount of dangers. Besides our fellow man there are some natural and manmade dangers a beach hunter needs to be wary of. Things can turn bad very quickly if you are not aware of your surroundings.

From the dry sand to the water, there are nasties lying in wait for us.



Beach hunters detect where people play. This means lost goodies and trash. Unfortunately drinking on the beach is a common problem and the glass that's left behind is very dangerous. I have found glass from the dry sand, wet sand to in the water. Many times have I felt a broken bottle crunch under my feet in the water. It's a daunting feeling, especially if there is blood involved.....

Always wear protective footwear regardless of where you are hunting. I have seen hunters with flip flops and even bare feet digging up a storm. It just takes one piece of hidden glass to put you out of action. Always remove the glass if you can. If not, make it visible to the beach cleaners by moving it out hiding and into the open. I regally find bottles hidden flat in the sand. I just stand these bottles up and make them visible if I can't carry them.

Henry Clapton

25 April 2015



In the surf I empty the water from them and throw them out onto the sand as far as I can to make them visible to beach folk.

Rusty cans are always a pain. Beer cans are the favourite on the beaches. Remove what you can, if not make them visible. In the water they pose more of a treat. I have dug so many jagged cans or tins from the murky waters. Every time I thank my lucky stars for my dive gloves. These cans deteriorate into ninja throwing stars with many

nasty edges just waiting to slice your hands. Wearing gloves when water hunting is an absolute necessity in my opinion.

Blue bottles and Jellyfish stings are right up there in the top ten dangers of beach hunting. I've been stung so many times and believe me it's no joke. Jellyfish stings are not as common as the old Japanese Man-O-War. This guy (bluebottle) just loves sneaking up on swimmers and water hunters alike. Bluebottles get washed in from the deep when the coastline gets onshore winds. Its little air bubble that keeps it afloat acts like a sail and it ends up on our beaches causing havoc with everything that touches it. Even a small fragment of the stinging tentacles can zap you if you're not careful. They are super sticky and get stuck to everything from your shoes to your scoop and coil.

I found a fishing sinker one day and decided to bite the nylon line off it so I could stow it away. I did not see the tiny fragment of bluebottle tentacle on the line and I paid the price. My lips and tongue were in pain for at least 30 min. On another occasion I got stung on the inner

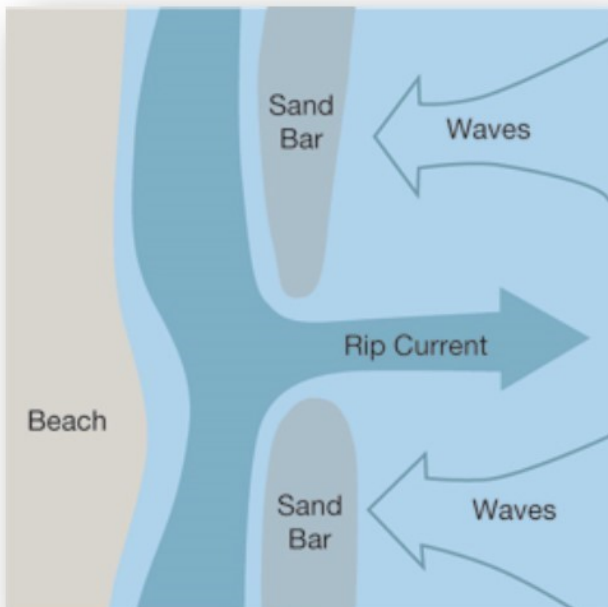


BLUEBOTTLE STING TIPS

- Pick off tentacles
- Pour hot water over the sting to ease pain
- It's going to hurt, but don't panic
- Seek help as allergic reactions can occur
- Seek immediate help if sting area is larger than half a limb

thigh while water hunting. Within 5 min I could not walk as the poison shot through my body. I was dizzy and disorientated and had to sit down and wait it out. Luckily I made a quick water exit the second I felt the burn. You don't need to lose consciousness in the water. Nowadays when the blue bottles are present I cover my body with a full wetsuit if water hunting. I've had too many bad experiences with these guys.

Rip currents are probably the most dangerous out in the water. As water hunters we are attracted to anything out of the ordinary in the surf. This usually means hunting in areas where the water is unsettled or flowing fast. The idea is to get to where the sand has been moved by the waves. This often puts us in harm's way as far as rips are concerned.



I love finding a rip zone in the surf. It often ends up with gold in my scoop. It also more than often makes me backtrack like a man who has just seen a shark in the water. A rip current can drag you and your gear out in the blink of an eye if you are not careful.

The outer edges of the rip are where I normally hunt. The current under the water is very tricky to judge most of the time but it can be hunted with caution in mind. Sometimes the current is so strong you can't even place your scoop. I often hunt backwards letting the current take the scoop and place it for me. This type of hunting is exceptionally dangerous and I would not recommend it to guys getting into the water for the first time.

Being able to recognise a rip is exceptionally important. Look closely at the photos provided. Lifeguards will often stand and watch me hunt in these areas and it's a comforting feeling. Be that as it may, rips are no joke and should be treated with absolute caution.



Sharks, if you are a water hunter and you've never thought about this little critter ill be very surprised. Every time I enter the water (especially on rough murky days) the thought of meeting a shark face to face in his back yard is present. I don't let it consume me; otherwise I'll never get in. This is one guy you won't see coming. After all we are in their environment and this is the risk we take.

I try not to hunt deeper than my chest, not that this will help if there is a shark around, it's just my personal safety zone. Sharks are

everywhere, period. This is their home. Humans are not their given prey (I keep telling myself this in the dark murky water) but accidents do happen. I don't have any fail-safe method of avoiding sharks besides the obvious. If I'm bleeding I'm out of the water like lightning. I never hunt in the water at night, that's just way to freaky for me. I often wonder what the metal detector must sound like to a shark with its super sensitive receptors.....



Happy hunting and be safe out there.

In the news



By— Gerhard Rheeder Middelburg Observer

“A crime against South African land reform,” has finally led to the irreversible destruction of one of Middelburg’s most internationally recognized heritage sites.

I had the opportunity to visit Botshabelo on March 2 nd 2016 with David Pienaar. My grandmother was born in 1911 and was baptized here when she was 3 years old. Remember she told me some years ago. We visited ot in the early 1970 when the place was in a good state. I remembered that we still picked up old coins on the graves , and she said the ghost will chase us . But anyhow...no ghosts so far . It is always great to Hunt with the Pienaars—Ed

Botshabelo’s historical stone church, with original stained glass panels, yellow-wood chairs, pulpit and stone baptismal font, is busy imploding.



A back wall of the church has already crumbled with signs of more destruction evident throughout the church, built in 1868.

The unholy mess on arguably Middelburg’s holiest site, was borne from a land claim.

The church, like Botshabelo, was a sanctuary for late 1800 Christian converts – from there its name, “Place of Refuge” was born.

Botshabelo, which was handed over to 1000 families in a land claim in 2005, are in dire straits with no prospects for salvation.

The historical village also comprised a general dealership, large mill, bookbindery, blacksmith and school, with the original buildings in tact until 2005.

As a result of the land claim the village’s historical buildings have systematically been vandalised and burgled, while funds totalling millions, from among others the National Lottery, has simply vanished.

The maladministration resulted in an order of the High Court, disbanding the board of Botshabelo trustees, rendering the Place of Refuge without any proper management structures for the past two years..

Not even a single Velvet Monkey can be found on the thriving game reserve, once overrun by Blesbuck, Klip-springer, Oribi, Springbok, Eland, Zebras and Black Wildebeest.

Fort Merensky curator, Mr Arthur Barlow, believes the land claim should never have been awarded, prompting him to engage with the Public Protector, to investigate whether the Land Claims Commission caved under political pressure in awarding the claim.

“The matter regarding ownership of Botshabelo has been dealt with by the Supreme Court in 1905, when the Berlin Mission Society’s ownership was upheld – Source: History of the Berlin Mission Society 1824 – 1924 by Julius Richter (Berlin 1925),” Mr Barlow says.

“The awarding of the land claim is nothing less than contempt of a court order, a ruling against which the Botshabelo Development Trust or Land Claims Commission first had to appeal, and successfully overturn,” Mr Barlow argues.

“The restitution epitomises Botshabelo as South Africa’s most notable land claim disaster, and its demise is a crime against democracy and the country, as well as international stakeholders like Dr Klaus Merensky, whose legitimate claim on Botshabelo was simply ignored by the Land Claims Commission” Mr Barlow fumes.

He also accuses the office of the Public Protector of being politically biased – “The Public Protector’s office issued a report explaining why they would not investigate the Botshabelo land claim any further. I’m however relieved to say, that the report has been formally retracted, and the investigation relaunched,” Mr Barlow says.

The Public Protector’s flawed findings hinged on the fact that the land claim was Gazetted and therefore above board. The Public Protector however failed to investigate whether the claim was lodged fraudulently, with the assistance of former Mpumalanga Premier, Mr Thabang Makwetla.

Former Premier and current Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr Makwetla, is one of the restitution owners of the heritage site. The Botshabelo land claim was awarded during his Premiership.



A Jenny Boon painting of Botshabelo.

Apart from Minister Makwetla, a number of other prominent figures also grew up at Botshabelo, like political analyst and veteran journalist Harald Pakendorf, former member of Parliament, author and senior Institute for Security Studies researcher Mr Peter Gastrow, and current Mpumalanga Democratic Alliance leader Mr James Masongo.

Two of the historical buildings, the Pakendorf house and the Gastrow house, have been named after the prominent families and still bear their names today.

Last year, local historian Ms Yolandie van Rooyen, struck an agreement with the Botshabelo Development Trust (claimants), the local municipality and Nkangala District, to remove whatever historical artifacts were left in the parsonage, built in 1865.

The parsonage was converted into a museum after the Middelburg town council bought Botshabelo for R191 000, from the Berlin Mission Society in 1972. Since 2005, almost all historical artifacts have been stolen from the museum, including pieces on loan from other museums.



Under the municipality's watch, Botshabelo quickly evolved into a self sustaining international tourist attraction, drawing up to 2000 foreign visitors a day.

The municipality however withdrew all support after the land claim was awarded, alongside the SA Heritage Resources Agency who, likewise argue that nothing can be done as the heritage site is privately owned. Existing heritage legislation however compels any owner of a heritage site to protect and maintain it.

A brief history on the establishment of Botshabelo – a Place of Refuge:

In December 1858 two young Berlin missionaries, Alexander Merensky and Heinrich Grützner, arrived in Natal to spread the Gospel among the Zulu's.

Two years later, they were sent to Swaziland and after experiencing problems with the chief, they decided to establish a mission station at Gerlachshoop, in the region of Pedi Chief Maleo.



Alma Nortje Photography

Continuous harassment however forced them to resettle near Mashego, the village of Chief Sekwati. Sekwati was succeeded by his son, Chief Sekukhuni after his death in 1861.

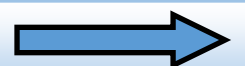
Sekukhuni begun persecuting Christians and on 21 January, 1865, the missionaries bought a farm, approximately 11km North of Middelburg for 500 Prussian talers.

Merensky named it Botshabelo, or Place of Refuge.

Merensky built a home for himself and his followers, including Chief Sekukhuni's brother, Johannes Dinkwanjane. A parsonage and stone fort, Fort Merensky was declared a national monument, was later constructed followed by the church, general dealer, mill, bookbindery, blacksmith and school.

The heavyweights say:

Deputy Justice Minister Thabang Makwetla: Did not respond to the Middelburg Observer's request for comment before print.



Mr Harald Pakendorf: "I was born and christened at Botshabelo. My daughter also got married in the church. Myself and the Erfenisstigting have exhausted all avenues to get the SA Heritage Resources Agency to do their job. One of SAHRA's executives flew down to Pretoria especially to meet with the Erfenisstigting and a faction of the Botshabelo Development Trust, who urged SAHRA to come to the table, sadly that was the last we heard of the agency. I have personally tried to make fire under the national media in regards to Botshabelo, but unfortunately they would not bite. The demise of the church is sad news indeed. I simply don't know what to do anymore".



A Jenny Boon painting of Botshabelo.

Mr Peter Gastrow: "I fully understand Ms Fraser's sentiments, one feels one has to shut Botshabelo out of one's mind. What is occurring there is deeply saddening. The house I grew up in alongside my brother Hans, has deteriorated so much, and every time you return to Botshabelo, the situation has got progressively worse. Its counterproductive to say the least, going backwards and not forwards. If one looks at the important role Botshabelo plays in the history of the Transvaal North of the Vaal River, there's simply no excuse for the ongoing degradation. Botshabelo is in a state of decay and no one wants to do anything about it, not the government, not the heritage agencies, not the community nor the claimants themselves". Hans Gastrow, brother of Peter: "I predicted that the church would cave more than a year ago. I also heard that the claimants had sold off all the game, to cover expenses. Its a disgrace".

Botshabelo was my child.

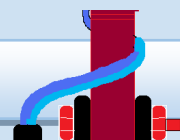
And that child is dead".

and crime against the collective. The only way South Africa can be salvaged is by overthrowing the ANC at the polls. Everything is falling apart and in Botshabelo's case, I believe we've moved beyond the point of no return. The DA will lay formal complaints against government and the Botshabelo Development Trust, for breaking the law, which clearly states that heritage sites must be protected".

SA Heritage Resources Agency: The Middelburg Observer was referred to SAHRA's communication manager, Mr Thomas Khakhu, who did not respond to the newspaper's request for comment before print.

Public Protector's office: The Middelburg Observer was referred to the media office, the phone just rang the entire week, without being answered.

Former Botshabelo curator Ms Jeanette Fraser: "There's one reason for Botshabelo's demise and that is the lack of maintenance! The claimants just don't care. As curator I inherited historical buildings and I can assure you we regularly did restoration work, dirtying our hands because it was a labor of love. I visited Botshabelo three weeks ago, and I can honestly say I just want to purge Botshabelo from my system, because what is happening there, is a heartbreaking disgrace. Botshabelo was my child. And that child is dead".



Day out with David @ Botsabelo



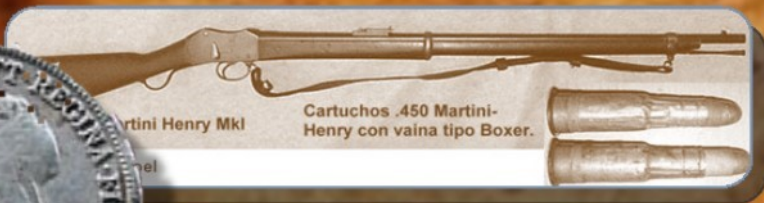
by Lukas van der Merwe



27 TH Annual Boer War THunt



NATAL



Martini Henry Mkl
Cartuchos .450 Martini-Henry con vaina tipo Boxer.



Spionkop
Harrismith
Moorivier
Chieveley
Tugela
Swartkops



ILLUSTRATING Lukas van der Merwe
e-mail



ZAR.skattejagters@gmail.com
Tel - +27820727747



31 - 07 Sept 2012

.....continued !



The badge was found by me and is an exceptional find in that it refers to the Transvaal Republic history after the war. ZAR stands for South African Riders 6th Group. The Boers and their horses were as one and were divided into groups when needed in time of need.

How the badge ended up in Natal at Spearmans is anyone's guess. It was however the "Find of the Day" and I am delighted with it.

British Camp at Harrismith: Day 3 & 4

On the third and fourth day of our hunt we visited an old British camp at Harrismith that we have hunted before in 2006 and 2008.

The old camp site is a massive place and is currently the botanical gardens of Harrismith. During the Anglo Boer War some 20000 soldiers and 33000 horses were stationed there.

The camp did not close down when the war ended in 1902 but carried on for another decade and was finally closed down just before the start of the First World War.

An old map showed us the location of the different units during the Anglo Boer War (Infantry, artillery etc), officers' and married quarters, post office, sport fields, jail houses, etc.

The following pic shows a modern Arial picture with the red markings superimposing the old locations according to the old map.

As this is an important site that we visit as often as possible the map has enabled us to concentrate on selective searching of areas that could be productive.





In previous years great finds were made here including a solid gold sporting medal, sterling silver temperance medal, many badges, coins, etc.

This year was probably the best year of them all and fabulous finds were made in the camp including an 1885 British Gold Half Sovereign and a Gold signet ring (hallmarked for Chester 1901) that were both found by Mike Conradie within half an hour after each other.

Other great finds were a Sterling Silver men's ring with a Birmingham hallmark for 1902 found by John, a 1873 Young Head Victorian Shilling found by Dave, a Natal Police badge found by Wolf, a Mounted Infantry badge found by Tonie, a Natalia marked spoon and 1896 Silver 3-penny found by Gerry, an enormous hoard of bullets in their original wrappings found by Dave and a stunning Bed Plate for Private W Lock of the Army Service Core. Jewelry pieces were found as well as old canteen tokens (very rare items).

Many coins were found spanning the period from the 1870s to the early 1900s. Pierre found a Victorian tickey dated 1912 that was issued a year before the camp closed down!

Mike and Tinus also found an old ash dump where many bottles and ceramic items were dug out.

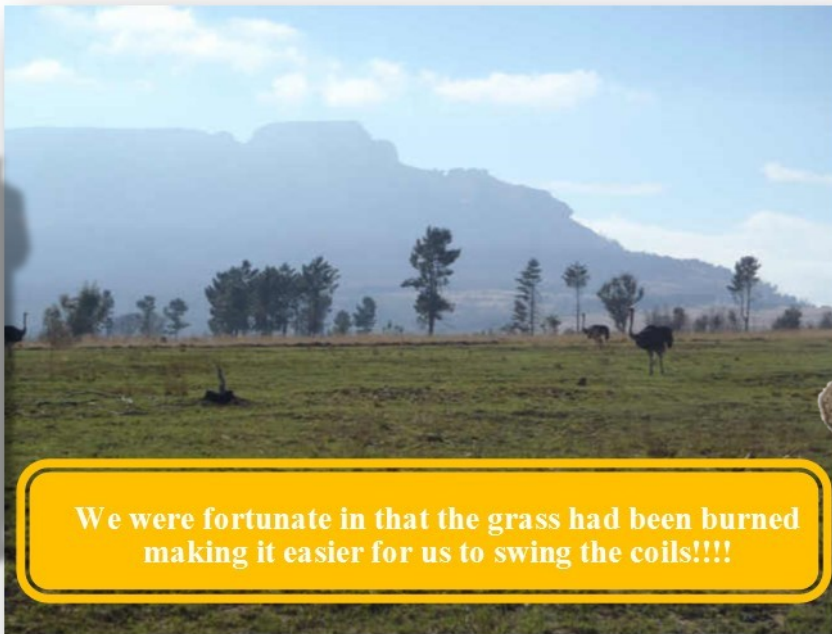


Here are some pictures of day 3 and 4 at the camp:



This camp went on after the war till 1912 when it was offered to the Harrysmith municipality by the British Military. They however declined and pleaded poverty. The British then decided to demolish the entire camp by blowing it up!!!

The cars and some of us are standing on a stable foundation which is all that was left after the British had left.



These two pictures shows what we found after 100 years. This is how our displays in the museum come about.





The following picture shows the uncleaned 1885 Gold Half Sovereign ("Young Head") found by Mike and the picture following that the gold ring he found half an hour later near the spot where he found the gold coin! I searched the site the next day and found a 1901 Penny there.



John found this silver ring of 1902 two minutes after we started detecting on the first day at the camp. It was his second signal. The pendants were found at the same spot (the map showed us that it was the married quarters in the old days when officers could have their wives stay with them at large camps like these).



The following pendant was found by Stefan:

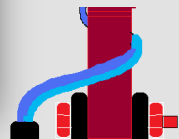




Badge of the Natal Police. These were local citizens recruited by the British to keep the peace and only existed for 6 years until 1910 when the Union of South Africa was established making the badge an exceptional find. I was fortunate in making it on the third day giving me my 2nd "Find of the Day". It may be asked why not the gold coin!!!! And we felt that the badge was less likely to be found as there were so few of them in circulation.

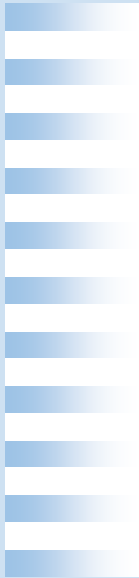


We are still trying to find out about this one???





The Artillery badge is one of a few we found. I have a special interest in this being an Artillery Sergeant in the Cape Field Artillery.

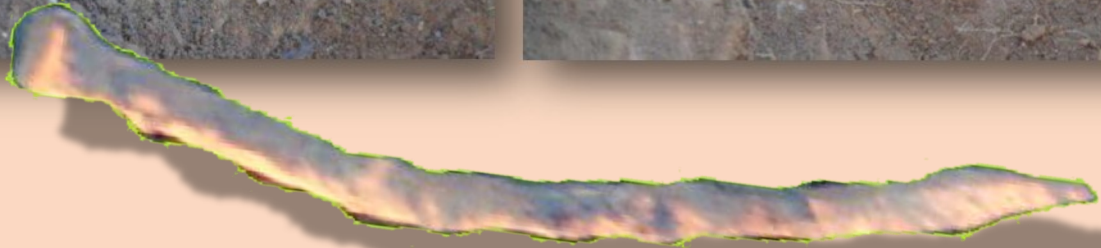


Gerry took this pic of his 1896 tickey before taking it out. The second picture shows a close up of the coin.



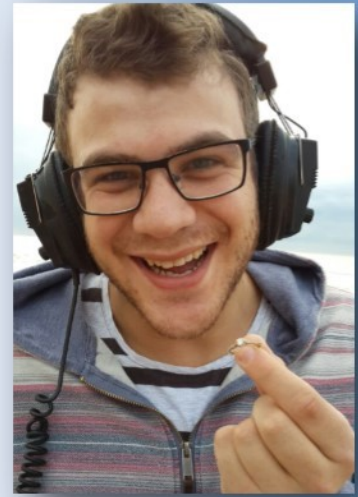


Silver spoon made in Natal



to be continued..Next issue!

Field Test



By Darren Epstein

Garrett Ace 250 – My First Love

One of the most well know and ever-present detectors around, the Garrett Ace 250 is seriously one fantastic machine.

The Ace 250 is considered an entry level machine. It is lightweight, easy to use and reasonably affordable. It is hands-down one of the best starter detectors. The detector may be low on weight but is very high on features and performance.

The Ace 250 was my first detector and my only machine for close to two years. I detect mainly inland and the Ace excelled in relic hunts and park hunting. Although you can simply turn it on and go with a lot of success, there are a lot of little tricks you can learn to really improve your game. This of course comes with putting in the hours of learning your machine. I go by the rule that you need at least 100 hours operating time before you can fully appreciate your detectors abilities. Low and slow is the game and you will be amazed at the items you will find. When I “upgraded” to my AT Pro, I really felt that I had wasted my money for the first few weeks. The Ace was way simpler to operate and I could not really see the difference in performance. Even now, I will still run my Ace instead of my AT Pro and will always come out with amazing finds.

One of the great features of the detector is its ‘Touch-n-Go Operation’. This technology allows you to start detecting as soon as you’ve assembled the machine. That means no fiddling with any settings! Just turn it on, and go with the factory pre-sets.

Even though the LCD screen is not backlit, it is a very decent size and the Graphic Target I.D. with 12 element notch discrimination is invaluable. Other great features include a battery level indicator, depth indicator and the most important, a built-in pinpoint function that can cut your recovery time drastically. To fully benefit from the pin-point function, lots of practice at home is needed to understand where the target lies. Once this is mastered, there is no going back.

The 5 pre-set search modes are useful but the best feature is that you can always alter them with the notch discrimination feature.

My only issues with the detector are the color and the shape of the shaft. The color gives off the impression that you are using a toy. It is very bright and “out there” and not so good for the hunts you do not want to draw attention to yourself. As for the shaft, I would think a straight shaft similar to the G2 would work wonders for the Garretts. Luckily this detector is so light that the poor shaft design can be forgiven.

For the beach, it rocks on the dry sand. Just go slow and low and you will not be disappointed. On the wet sand, the results vary. Depending on the mineralization of the beach, the detector can range from inoperable to stable. The coil itself is also waterproof for shallow water hunting.

For someone who is looking to detect mainly relic sites, the Ace 250 is a beast. The bang you get for your buck is incomparable and you will not be disappointed. That said, it is still a great all round detector that can hold its own against detectors double and triple its price. One thing for sure is that I will never get rid of my beloved Ace 250. It is the reason I fell in love with this hobby and the reason I never gave up. It is extremely reliable and never has the temperamental episodes the AT Pro has now and again.





BRING HUNTED-OUT SITES BACK TO LIFE
Impressive recovery speed, target separation and detection depth!



Pro Mode Audio

Proportional Audio and Tone Roll feature allows user to hear subtle changes in target's response to better judge its conductivity, size, shape and depth.

High Res Iron Discrimination™

Allows user to set iron discrimination to one of 40 levels for precise ability to separate good targets from trash.

Iron Audio™

Allows the user to hear discriminated iron and to alter the detector's mid-tone signal's range.

All Terrain Versatility

Weatherproof housing designed for dusty, humid, or wet environments; unit can be submerged to a maximum 10-foot depth.

Fast Recovery Speed

Allows greater ability to pick out good targets amongst trash.

More Info: Continuous Coin Depth Indicator to determine target depth. Battery Condition Indicator shows battery life. Graphic Target Analyzer identifies target's conductivity.



Instructional DVD Included
PN: 1679990



Land headphones included
PN: 2202400

PN: 1140560

doculam

IDENTIFICATION, SECURITY, SAFETY SOLUTIONS & EVENTS
www.metaldetectors-africa.com



A collection of European finds spanning 800 years of history. Found by AT Pro International user Geoff M. of Austria.



Standard Searchcoil
8.5" x 11" PROformance™ DD coil

Ground Balance

Automatic and manually adjustable for improved performance; includes saltwater.

Entire detector is fully waterproof to 10 Feet

Digital Target ID

0 to 99 Target ID scale offers increased ability to distinguish one target's conductivity from another.

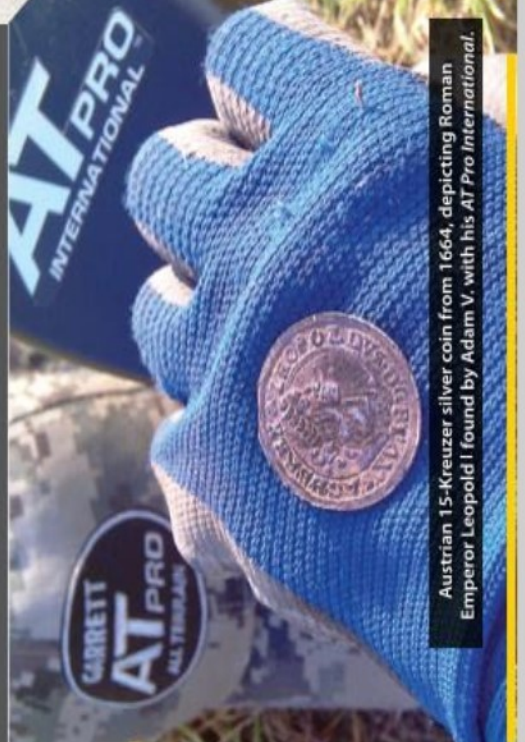
Six Search Modes

Choose from Custom, Coins or Zero discrimination patterns in either the easy-to-learn Standard Mode or in the more advanced Pro Mode. Also includes electronic Pinpointing.



0 to 99 Target ID scale offers increased ability to distinguish one target's conductivity from another.

Choose from Custom, Coins or Zero discrimination patterns in either the easy-to-learn Standard Mode or in the more advanced Pro Mode. Also includes electronic Pinpointing.



Austrian 15-Kreuzer silver coin from 1664, depicting Roman Emperor Leopold I found by Adam V. with his AT Pro International.

Bay man finds 137-year-old cannonball

Relic dating back to Anglo-Zulu War discovered in Meerensee park

Mia Moorcroft

USING a metal detector to search for old coins, a Richards Bay man on Sunday found something far more valuable - a relic from the annals of history.

Ron Blom was screening an area near swings at a Meerensee park when the detector suddenly blared its signal next to a tree. 'I started digging and excavated 30cm deep when I hit this object. 'I carefully removed the soil to slowly expose its shape and that is when I suspected I had found a cannonball,' said Ron.

First task was to make sure it was not still 'live', and SAPS Explosives Unit Captain Gawie Visagie inspected the ammunition and gave the all clear, adding that the cannonball dated back to pre-World War I.

Local historian and author JC van der Walt then verified its origin and significance - a cannonball fired on 24 April 1879 by the British forces on the Zulu impi guarding

uMhlathuze's shores.

'The cannonball in question is a symbol of British intimidation during the Anglo-Zulu War.

'During the war, the British forces suffered a massacre at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879.

'Some 10 400 additional troops arrived to relieve the troops trapped at eShowe for 72 days and to defeat the Zulu nation at Gingindlovo, and finally at Ulundi on 4 July 1879.

'Five large war ships arrived under command of Commodore Frederick William Richards, the man after whom Richards Bay was named.

'One ship, *HMS Tenedos*, fired her shells (including this one) at Zulu impi who gathered on the beaches of uMhlathuze (later Richards Bay) and eSikhawini.

'This was done as a show of strength in an attempt to get the coastal Zulus to surrender.

'The anchor of *HMS Tenedos* is on display at the eShowe museum.

'This cannonball is an important relic of the Anglo-Zulu War,' said van der Walt.

Ron Blom holding the cannonball he discovered in a Meerensee park on Sunday



The ship that probably fired the cannonball found in a Meerensee park

HMS "Tenedos". She fired her 64-pound cannon shells at the Zulu impi on the beach at Port Durnford on 24 April 1879

THE ANCESTORS promised Alfred unbelievable riches buried in his yard.

So he started digging for the treasure he believes is still under the ground, just out of reach.

AND TODAY, 10 YEARS LATER, ALFRED IS STILL DIGGING . . . AND DIGGING . . . AND DIGGING.



Even though the 50-year-old Alfred Manamela's dwelling is now like a little house on a mountain, balancing on the edge of a cliff, he has never given up. His yard in Phasha section near Klipgat, north of Tshwane is filled with huge craters. The cracked house seems as if it might at any moment fall into the deep trenches surrounding it. But despite the obvious danger to himself and his neighbours, Alfred just will not stop! "My riches are all underneath here. I will not stop until I get to them," he said. Every day he does the same thing: He wakes up and gets dressed, takes a pick and a shovel and starts digging. Daily Sun first published Alfred's story in March 2012 after he had dug through his living room, causing his wife and kids to flee. Four years later, nothing has changed. Only the holes have grown bigger and Alfred older. He claims his ancestors spoke to him in a dream in 2006. They told him there was R110 000 buried in the yard, along with valuable old cars and trucks. Solly Phasha, who owns the plot, said he had tried to talk to Alfred many

times, but he simply refuses to listen.

Stubborn Alfred said that if Solly wanted him to stop digging, he first had to give him what he was looking for. "He must leave me alone or give me my treasure." Neighbours said they could not believe he was the same man who was once rich and respected in the area. Some of them even complain because their livestock falls into the big, unfenced holes. "It's only a matter of time before people kill themselves in those holes," said a neighbour.

"He is trying to recover the money he misspent, but we know he is only dreaming. There's nothing in that yard," she said. Another neighbour said the cops had spoken to Alfred but even they could not stop him from digging. Ward councilor Thabo Moabi said they are aware of the situation and the matter has been referred to the relevant department.



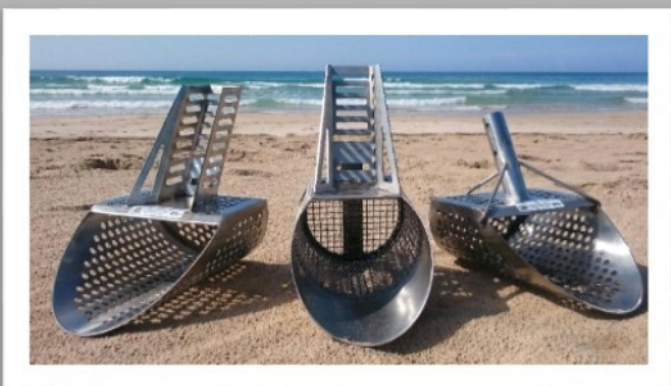
As a beach hunter you need the right tool for the digging job. I started many years ago with a plastic milk jug, believe it or not. I was not of the impression I needed nothing fancy to get that crusty coin out of the sand. I can only laugh at myself now. I progressed from a jug to about five different spades thinking I was saving money. The money was not the issue, it was the frustration involved that made me think about this.

I got serious about the hobby some years back and the one thing that was lacking in my arsenal was a good retrieval tool. So I did what many South Africans do, I built my own. It was really a hit and miss affair at first. After a couple of attempts things started going in the right direction.

A good scoop needs to have a few basic characteristics; ease of use, functionality, light and strong and above all it must be able to take the abuse some hunters throw at it. There is a fine line between building an

indestructible heavy scoop that will last a lifetime. One is always faced with a trade off; weight versus strength.

This has been the everlasting challenge of any scoop supplier. The whole scoop idea was pushed into top gear by my fellow hunters seeing and wanting what I was using. What a brilliant way to start a manufacturing business with a hungry army of treasure hunters wanting scoops. Treasure Quest was born and today SABRE scoops are all over the world. Almost one in three hunters in South Africa uses these scoops.



Sabre scoops are constantly evolving from the first early designs. We have had failures, believe me. But with every failure comes a new tweak and a design change. We are constantly evolving by listening to our clients and watching the results. Today we have seven variations to choose from in our scoop design.

Every aspect of our beach scoops has been looked at to create a user friendly tool. From the angled foot plate to the offset pole, all these angles are there for a good reason. The idea is to keep the user digging and digging with minimal fatigue.

MESH SCOOPS:



Long Surf Scoop, Med Pole Scoop, Travel Scoop (No pole)

These scoops were, and are still the flagship in the range on offer. Many hunters like the design and fast drainage this scoop has to offer.

The latest design features filleted laser cuts, extra reinforcement at the pole base and a stronger angled back plate. The leading edge bottom lip has also been lengthened to give that little extra sand catchment. The leading upper edge of the scoop mouth is bent over offering 4mm of strength to prevent deformation of the basket.

PERFORATED SCOOPS:

Long Surf Scoop, Med Pole Scoop, Travel Scoop with pipe fitting, Travel Scoop with bracket fitting (No pole)

These scoops were incorporated into the range recently as an alternative to the mesh scoops.



Some hunters just prefer this design to the Mesh scoops. It's a personal choice at the end of the day.

The perforated scoop offers a wide but shallow mouth. The extra width is great at retrieving target on the first attempt. Drainage of these scoops in the water is good and the scoop empties in just one or two shakes.

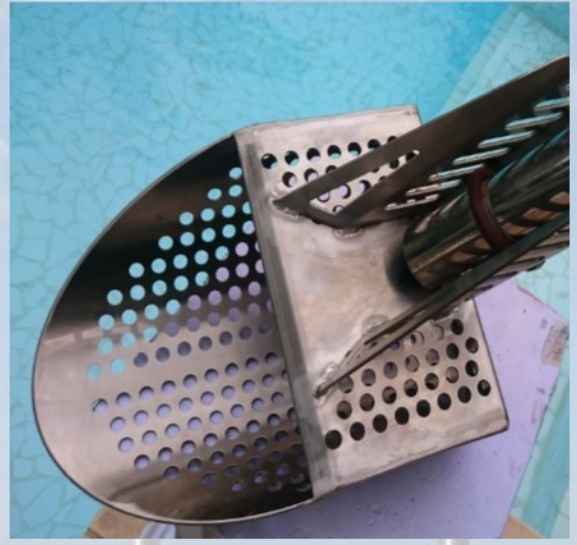
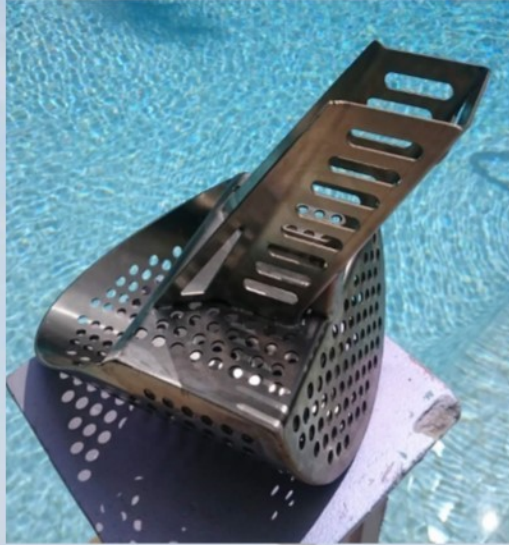
These scoops offer exceptional strength due to the all in one construction of the basket. The poles are mounted and braced at the front and rear of the pole. The leading upper edge of the scoop mouth is bent over offering 4mm of strength to prevent deformation of the basket.

Technical Specifications of all scoops:

- 2mm Laser cut Stainless Steel baskets.
- 1.5mm thick Stainless Steel pole and handle.
- Rubber grip.
- 8mm drainage holes on all variations.
- Drainage hole at pole base allowing water flow through entire pole.
- 8mm x 8mm woven stainless steel mesh.
- Travel scoops weight – 1.7kgs
- Pole Scoops weight – 2.3kgs to 2.8kgs pending on pole length.

If you are beach hunting invest in tried and tested quality. From dry and wet sand to water hunting, Sabre scoops get the job done. Scoops are available from Treasure Quest Treasures (PE) and Metal Detectors 4 Africa (Cape Town).

Perforated Travel Scoop - Bracket Fitting



Mesh New With Brace



Travel Mesh Scoop



Henry (PE) – 083 366 9445 – Email: info@treasurequesttreasures.co.za

Wolfgang (CT) – 083 500 3723 – Email: wolf@metaldetectorsafrica.com



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.

Join the
Historical Metal Detectives SA
Today

hmdrsa@gmail.com

Scorpion Scare

By Chris van der Merwe



We have always been keen to hunt Pampoen-nek also known as Klein - nek situated in Hartbeespoort, north of the dam. After getting the go-ahead from nearby business to cross through their land to get closer to the mountain we made our way as close as we could to the site. After approximately 1.5km, 1.5 hours, following fence line, making our way up a steep curve and dodging baboons we finely arrived to a beautiful site with blockhouse, camp, canteen, and various other fortified structures.

After finding a few 303's, buttons and other bits I continued making my way searching the edge of the blockhouse. I must point out that with my experience I have learned to never pick up a large rock with my hands and always use my 500mm pick to flip it over.

This time was no different and after picking up a medium signal under a rock, I flipped the rock over and got a fright of my life when a scorpion the size of my hand ran from under it. After composing myself and making sure no one heard me scream like a girl.



I went about just admiring the beautiful creature. The scorpion stayed relatively calm as I was attempting to keep it in the open to take a picture.



After taking a picture and put the rock back where I got it and left the scorpion to be and continued hunting relics. Hunting sites that remote has various dangerous and just for that day we had to deal with extremely steep rocky hills, hunting at shear drop offs, falling over loose stones (cracked a tow), dehydration, taking the wrong turn whilst finding your way down and keeping an eye on very aggressive baboons keeping a eye on you.

Still adventure in its own right.



Next Treasure Talk SA

Jono General

Historical Metal Detectives
Together with
Pretoria University
Mission Kraaipan

**Breaking
News!**

Gen. De la Rey attacks the armoured train, Mosquito

The first shots
of the Anglo Boer War
are fired at Kraaipan

Treasure Hunting in the Wild

By Lukas van der Merwe

Months before the Annual Hunt , we take the road to the Area we hunt and stay over for a couple of days to get the best sites , accommodation and the permission. That is where I got the idea for this issue . We got special permission to hunt the outskirts of the Battle of Spionkop. Here are some photo's of the Road Trip before the Annual Hunt 2014.

Organizing of the Annual Trip takes a lot of time and money to organize.....So , it is not just Pack and Hunt....? Next issue I will explain the whole organizing of the trips

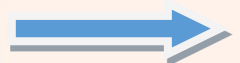
Permission at Battle of Spionkop Natal



Tonie Hunting in the Wild



Tonie , Lukas , Eugene and our Digging Buddy



Permission at Mooi River - British Hospital - Asheap



Accommodation and visit Boer War Collectors

Duggie's Blockhouse museum



Tugela Heights Lodge- Annual Hunt Stay for a week



Finds for 3 days - and Spionkop at the Back



I WANT YOUR STORY

ALFRED
LEE

FOR THE NEXT

"Treasure Talk"