

# Bridging Ages



International Organisation in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels

Newsletter No. 1, 2008, March



## Welcome to South Africa, a Diverse Democracy! Bridging Diversity

International Conference on Time Travels  
and Historic Environment Education  
Worcester museum, Cape Wine Lands, October 8-10 2008



## Diversity, conflict or abundance

Like many other countries in the world South Africa is rich in cultural diversity. Diversity can be a source of conflict or it can offer opportunities and challenges in strengthening societies to create a wealth of cultural abundance.

The conference in Worcester will focus on diversity in the past and present. Local and international examples will be presented. Debates will cover the bridging of diversity and what role does the past play in moulding modern day society. Is there a balance between the positive or negative memory and can education play a role in local heritage and time travels to assist in bridging diversity and healing divided societies?

## Worcester Museum and Wolwekloof Learning Academy

The conference will be held at the Worcester museum, an agricultural open-air museum in South Africa and active in Time Travels in the Western Cape. Wolwekloof Learning Academy is a new school for lifelong learning modelled on the Swedish "Folk High School" tradition, and will also be used for the conference.



Worcester Museum

## Bridging Ages. International Organisation in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels

The conference is the annual meeting of the Bridging Ages organisation. Bridging Ages includes members from schools, museums, universities, local and regional municipalities from ten countries in Europe, USA and Africa, all focusing on time travels and heritage education.

The conference is relevant for South African schools, museums and regional organizations interested in living history, education and implementation in the Western Cape as well as museums, heritage organizations and schools from Europe, USA and Africa. All are invited to attend and participate in the conference.

## Time travels in South Africa

During 2006 time travels started in Cape Wine Lands, South Africa as cooperation between the Kalmar region in Sweden and the Cape Wine Lands District Municipality. Up to date five historical sites, from the San, 2000 B.C. until the struggle for freedom 1976, have been used for educational and time travels with schools, museums and universities. The result has been amazing. Time travels has offered the opportunity to role play and discuss issues of relevance such as inequality, democracy, communication and diversity, in a historical context. History is allowed to come alive as a method to heal divided societies.



## **Presentations and workshops**

The experiences from the South African time travels will be presented by people from schools, museums and universities in the Western Cape. European and American examples of how to bridge diversity in heritage education and time travels will also be presented at the conference. In the workshops different topics of time travels/historic environment education will be offered: research, costumes and props, organization of time travels, curriculum, key questions-then and now, how to start with a time travel program etc.

## **Time Travel and African night**

The conference will include a time travel to 1773, a time of rapid change and upheaval in the Cape Colony. Different groups of people will meet at the outskirts of Wolwekloof farm: servants, slaves, the last Khoisan, foreigners and even some drosters (outlaws) from the mountains. How can we bridge diversity? Is violence the only solution? The Time travel will address questions of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and of today.

We will also experience an evening in the township of Zweletemba, Worcester. A place where the struggle for freedom took place in the 1980s. The programme will be an African evening with food, music and dancing.

*Historic Environment Education uses local historic sites and local history, in an active way of learning, inspiring the people and communities about their past.*

*Time Travels is an educational method, where the participants actively research and role play going back in time to an historical event, in order to learn about themselves and their society.*



## **Program, preliminary**

### **Wednesday, October 8**

- 12.00 Registration  
14.00 Bridging Ages meeting. Reports from the board and the participating institutions.  
Coffee/Tea  
19.00 Informal meal at a wine cellar

### **Thursday, October 9**

- 09.00 Welcome to Cape Wine Lands, Western Cape and South Africa  
News from Bridging Ages  
Time Travels in South Africa, education perspective  
Coffee/tea  
Time Travels in South Africa, museum perspective  
Time Travels in South Africa, university perspective  
12.30 Lunch  
13.30 Time travel to 1773 at Wolwekloof  
Wolwekloof Learning Academy  
19.00 South African braai (barbeque)
- Minister and organisers  
Ebbe Westergren  
Teachers, curriculum advisor  
  
Museum professionals  
Nigel Penn, professor Discussion  
  
Gunnar Aldestam  
Host: Clarence Johnson, mayor

### **Friday, October 10**

- 09.00 Summary  
Historic Environment Education and Time Travels in Europe  
Coffee/tea  
Historic Environment Education and Time Travels in the USA  
Community engagement in a diverse town, Clanwilliam  
12.30 Lunch  
13.30 Workshops. Choose the topic you are interested in: research, costumes and props, organization of time travels, curriculum, key questions-then and now, how to start with a time-travel program etc.  
Conclusion  
16.30 End  
18.30 African evening in the township of Zweletemba
- John Parkington, professor

## **Welcome**

Cape Wine Lands District Municipality  
Mr Clarence Johnson, Mayor

Western Cape Museum Services  
Ms Eureka Barnard, Deputy Director, Manager of Museum Service, Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport

Bridging Ages, International Organisation in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels  
Mr Ebbe Westergren, President

## Registration form

Name .....

Organization .....

Address .....

Phone ..... Cell phone .....

Fax ..... E-mail .....

For participants from overseas

Arrival, date, time, flight .....

Departure, date, time, flight .....

Accommodation. Prizes on all levels in Worcester

Do you book accommodation yourself?

Do you want the organizers to assist in the booking?

Any meal preferences .....

The registration should be sent by mail to Tizzie Mangiagalli, Worcester museum, PO Box 557, Worcester 6849, South Africa or by e-mail to [manager@kleinplasiae.org.za](mailto:manager@kleinplasiae.org.za)

Deadline to register: August 20, 2008

Conference fee (including meals and transport) = R650.00

For more information:

Tizzie Mangiagalli, Worcester museum, [manager@kleinplasiae.org](mailto:manager@kleinplasiae.org)

Tel: 0027 8 40411473

or Rozanne Hattingh, Worcester museum

Tel: 0027 23 342 2225/6

or Ebbe Westergren, [ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se](mailto:ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se)

Tel: 0046 70 6729406

**Welcome**

## Excursion, South Africa

### Take the chance to see the Western Cape, South Africa, time travels and heritage sites

There will be an opportunity mainly after the conference, to take part in time travels with students and also to see Cape Wine Lands, Cape Point, Robben Island, Cape Town, and other heritage sites. The choice is yours.

#### Excursion program, preliminary

Wednesday 8 am Visit one of the time travelling schools  
Saturday 11 Tour of Cape Wine Lands: mountain pass, heritage sites, vineyard, Stellenbosch, Cape Town evening  
Sunday 12 Cape Town museums, Table Mountain  
Monday 13 Cape Point, Robben Island  
Tuesday 14 Time Travel in Clanwilliam, 2000 B.C., the San-culture, with students from Clanwilliam, afternoon/evening. Rock paintings and heritage sites from the San-culture.  
Wednesday 15 Back in Cape Town

The program will be adapted to the desires of the participants. Any comments to the program or special desires

#### Registration for the excursion program

Name .....  
Organization .....  
Address .....  
Phone ..... Cell phone .....  
Fax ..... E-mail .....

Excursion program, all days

Excursion program, single days .....

Special desires .....

The cost for the program, including transport and accommodation, is still under negotiation. It will be presented as soon as possible.

For more information: Ebbe Westergren, [ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se](mailto:ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se), 0046 70 6729406

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To be part of the mailing list, subscribe to the newsletter or send your contributions,  
please e-mail [ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se](mailto:ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se)

**Next newsletter August 2008.**  
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