



**Namibia
Scientific
Society**

**Namibia
Wissenschaftliche
Gesellschaft**

NEWSLETTER/ MITTEILUNGEN

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Dear members,

The first half of this year had many of us say goodbye to loved ones. Two authors of books published by the Namibia Scientific Society have also passed away. We pay due respect to Samson Ndeikwila, who died on 10 June 2021 at the age of 77, and Dr Jürgen Krause, a few days later at the age of 86. They left a legacy! May they rest in peace! Our condolences go to their families, as well as to all who knew them.

We also mourn many members and friends who had frequented our offices on a regular base. We miss them!

Due to restrictions, we have not been able to work as usual. Some smaller events with limited audiences were offered in our hall, and we made use of the parking lot behind our offices for book launches. For outreach and a larger audience, we streamed events via Zoom and engaged with participants from all over the world. However, this is still not the same as when we accommodated over a hundred participants in our hall for discussing major issues. Hopefully this will happen again soon.

We are proud to say that we accomplished a lot, as we had more time because of less visitors. For example, the Namibia Scientific Society's entire accounting system changed from Pastel to Xero and was linked to our new website with an integrated online shop. We received orders from as far as Canada, and Texas, USA, and managed to send some packages.

We want to expand our website by adding an archive of our previously published Journal articles to make them open access. Since 1926, 68 editions with more than 400 articles have been published. We are now working on Volume 67. For our online archive, all previous versions are currently being digitally captured and processed step by step using OCR software, and are proofread to provide the reader with a result that is as accurate as possible.

Responding to a need for local travel, we offered some exciting excursions. At the beginning of May, one group went on the *Sea of Sand Tour* into the desert along the Kuiseb Rivier. A second group set off shortly afterwards to explore the Skeleton Coast up to the Kunene Mouth and return through Kaokoland and Damaraland. The last, and thus third excursion, was a weekend trip to Gobabeb Research and Training Centre with Dr Erik Holm. You can read about all three tours in this Newsletter.

Kuiseb Publishers have released an extended version of Hans Hilpisch's book „*Wo sind die Herero geblieben?*“ Since the beginning of the year our first two e-books are available on Amazon. The first is the classic *Der weiße Buschmann* by Peter Stark, followed shortly after by *Journey into the Unknown* by Kalumbi Shangula. We look forward to expanding the range of e-books.

Hannah Iitula is a new colleague in the library. This Newsletter introduces our new intern. Thus the library of our Society has six librarians, who are all very busy because of donations coming in. Two more collections were processed and incorporated: marine archaeologist Gunter von Schumann requested that his book collection be catalogued and indexed as part of the Namibia Scientific Society data base and Dr Kirchner's family handed over interesting writings on boreholes and the water conditions of Windhoek and Stampriet.

We are making the best of the current situation and trust that our members will approve of all the exciting developments.

Stay healthy and remain happy!
Kind regards from the NSS Board and Team

NEWSLETTER
NAMIBIA SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY
MITTEILUNGEN
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The opinions expressed in the articles do not necessarily represent the view of the Namibia Scientific Society.

Die in den Beiträgen veröffentlichten Ansichten oder Meinungen geben nicht unbedingt die der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft wieder.

In Memoriam—Samson Ndeikwila

Erika von Wietersheim



Samson Ndeikwila on 30 July 2019.
Photo: Isdor Kamati.

On 10 June of this year Samson Tobias Ndeikwila died at the age of 77. He was buried on 19 June in Nakayale, where he had grown up. He is sadly mourned by thousands of Namibians, especially young people, who were always close to his heart.

He himself left his school in northern Namibia as a young boy in the mid-1960s, going into exile together with many other young Namibians to join those who were fighting for freedom. However, he and some of his companions soon challenged the SWAPO leadership, calling for a party congress for Namibians in exile. As a result, he was detained for fifteen months in Tanzania. A long journey

through Africa and some European countries followed, during which Ndeikwila always tried to learn as much as possible about his continent, Africa.

After Namibian independence, when he had spent a year at a pan-African Christian ecumenical centre in northern Zambia in 1994, he came back, as he himself said, ‘with more questions than answers about the future of Africa, including my own country Namibia.’ At that time he vowed ‘to do whatever it will take to bring about positive changes - as long as there is life and strength in my body.’

This remained his resolve to his last day.

Ndeikwila became a founding member and chairperson of *Breaking the Wall of Silence*—a movement established in 1996 to seek closure for the detentions, deaths, and disappearances of Namibians in exile in southern Angola during the liberation struggle, and thus bring healing to our society.

In 1998 he formed the *Forum for the Future* (FFF), a strong civil society organization, and remained its Executive Director until his death. Through the Forum he succeeded in bringing Namibians together to discuss freely the issues affecting their lives, their communities, their country, and their future—always beyond the barriers of race and ethnicity, religion, or political affiliation. He had a clear vision of a just, democratic, and vibrant civil society, and never tired of working to make this vision come true.

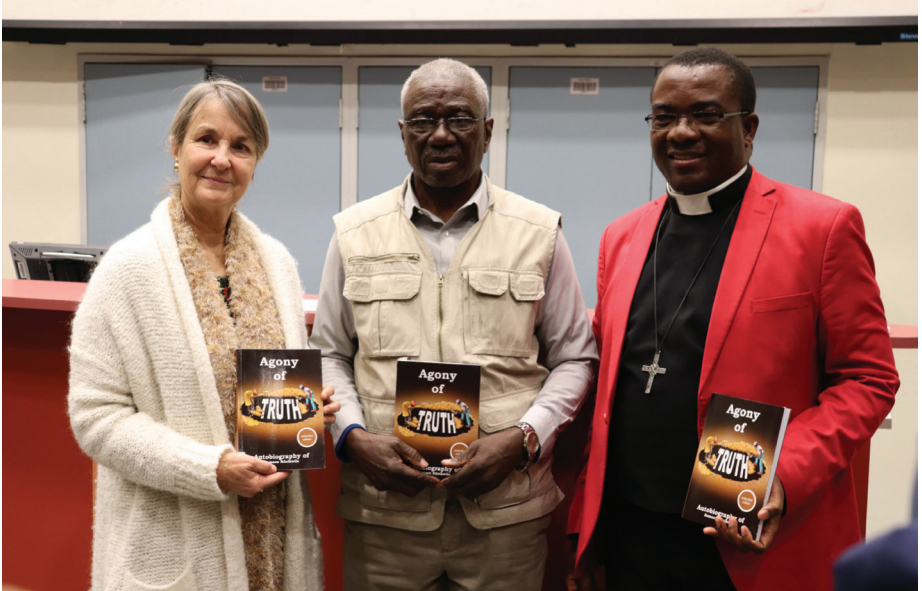
Through radio broadcasts in all Namibian languages, involving especially young journalists, about topics like corruption, national unity, and the Namibian Constitution, he reached a countywide audience; and through workshops and discussion groups he brought people of different ethnicity and political affiliations together to achieve the bigger picture of a united and strong Namibia.

He was one of the first Namibians to invite representatives of all religions in our country to meet, so that Moslems, Christians, Buddhists, and Jews could get to know one another and so that our country could benefit from the wisdom of all.

He also used modern social media like Facebook to educate his followers about current affairs, or about historical events that had either been forgotten or excluded from official history, and which he felt were important for understanding the present.

He was active, he was motivational, he was passionate, but he always stayed in the background and involved as many people as possible. It was never about himself as a person, but about truth, about human relations, about peace and mutual understanding. ‘The library has burned down. RIP’, commented a follower after his death.

Fortunately, he left a legacy to be found in Namibian libraries. ‘On my part, the road ahead in my life is also growing shorter day by day’, he wrote in 2014.



Erika von Wietersheim, Samson Ndeikwila and Bishop Lukas Katenda at the book launch of the extended edition of his autobiography *Agony of Truth*. Photo: Isidor Kamati

‘I, therefore, feel an unavoidable responsibility to share ... what I have seen, heard, done and learned.’ He sat down and wrote his biography, which was published by the Namibia Scientific Society in 2014 and republished as an extended edition in 2019.

‘Truth’ for Ndeikwila was an important concept. He believed that only a truthful recording of a nation’s history would liberate people’s minds from the baggage of the past and pave the way to building a common and healed future. Knowing that the truth was often painful, and even agonizing; he called his book *Agony of Truth*.

It is an honest, personal, but also well-researched account of the years of the Namibian liberation history and soon thereafter. It looks behind the facade of official versions and exposes what went wrong, what has caused pain to this day, and what is hidden behind a wall of secrecy—not to accuse or condemn, but to initiate public debate. He dedicated his book ‘to the Namibian youth in search of truth, remembering that only the truth and nothing but the truth shall free Namibia.’

Already in 2014 Joseph Diescho wrote about Samson Ndeikwila: ‘We ought to remain eternally grateful for those men and women of our Motherland, the likes of Samson Ndeikwila. They made it possible for us to be spurred by their hope in the face of so much agony, so that we today and those tomorrow have this opportunity to dream our own dreams. Thank you, Tate Samson. *Kulupa nomesho!*’

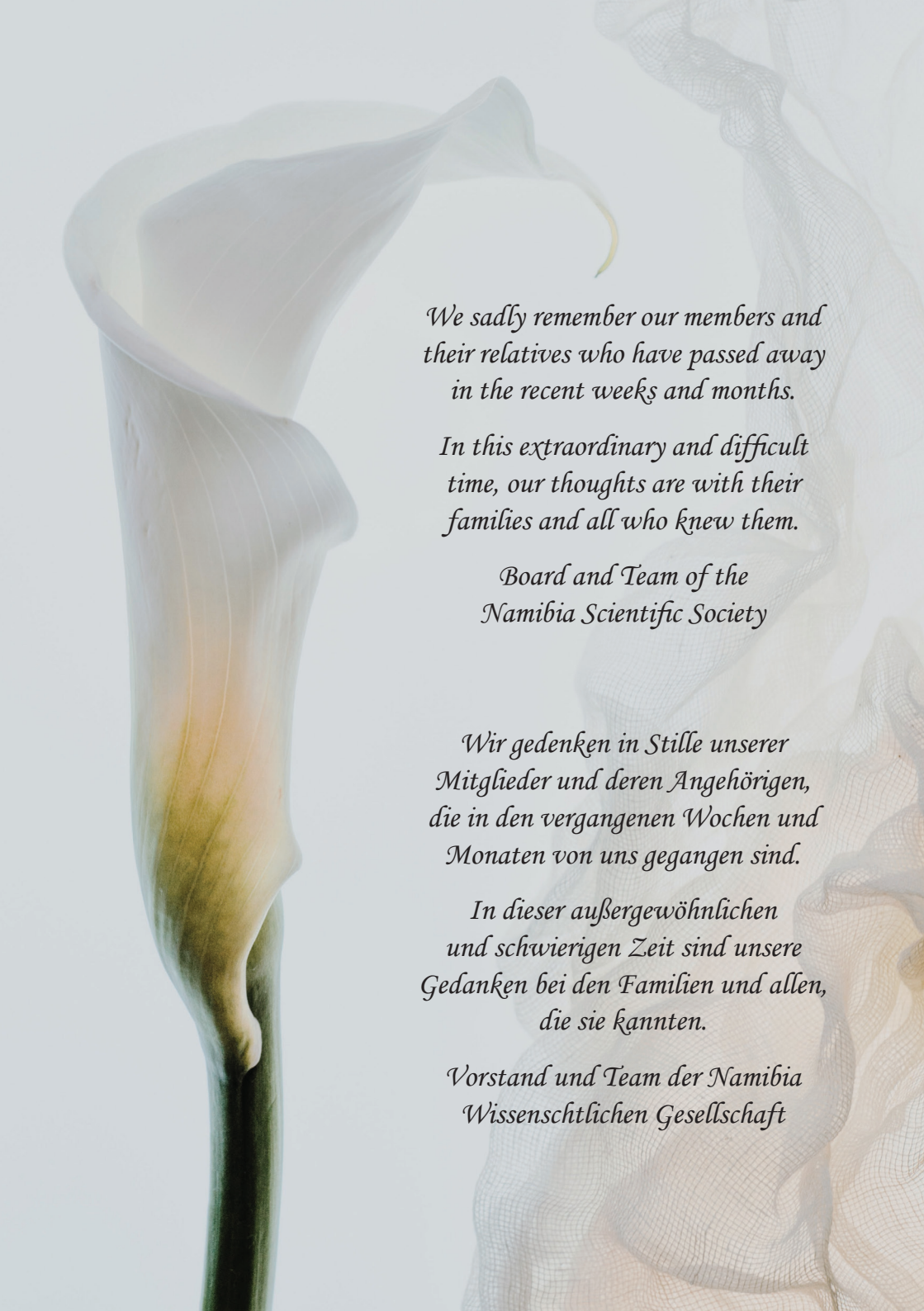
The Namibia Scientific Society expresses its deep-felt sympathy to Samson Ndeikwila’s family, and its sincere thanks for his positive and rewarding engagement with our society.

In Memoriam—Dr Jürgen Krause



Dr. Jürgen Krause at the book launch of *Children in Exile* at 19. July 2017. Photo: Isidor Kamati.

Jürgen Krause. Born in 1935 in Aschersleben, Saxony-Anhalt. Attended school in Gera, Krenau, Halle/Saale. Educated and worked as an expert in metal work on locomotives. Studied pedagogy, biology, and sport in Halle/Saale. Teacher and school inspector in the Nauen/Potsdam district. Research associate at the *Academy of Pedagogical Science of the DDR* (APW), Potsdam and Berlin from 1971. In 1976 received a PhD in the subject of teacher training. Member of the Scientific Council on Intercultural Education (APW). From 1970 taught and conducted research activities in the African countries of Guinea, Algeria, Congo, and Cameroon. From 1985 to 1990 responsible at the APW for the content of the lessons for Namibian students in the DDR (*School of Friendship*). After 1990 conducted research for the *German Institute for Educational Research* (DIPF) (Frankfurt am Main), and taught intercultural education at universities and colleges in Berlin, Hamburg, Weingarten, Heidelberg, and Kassel until 2014. Published a number of scientific papers. In 2009 PhD at the University of Oldenburg on the possibilities and limits of intercultural education on the example of the *DDR—Namibia Solidarity Project(s)—School of Friendship*. From 2012 worked on the pictorial documentation of the *Namibian Children in Exile*. Since 2000 lived mainly in Namibia.



We sadly remember our members and their relatives who have passed away in the recent weeks and months.

In this extraordinary and difficult time, our thoughts are with their families and all who knew them.

*Board and Team of the
Namibia Scientific Society*

Wir gedenken in Stille unserer Mitglieder und deren Angehörigen, die in den vergangenen Wochen und Monaten von uns gegangen sind.

In dieser außergewöhnlichen und schwierigen Zeit sind unsere Gedanken bei den Familien und allen, die sie kannten.

*Vorstand und Team der Namibia
Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft*

New Intern & Librarian: Hannah litula

Hannah litula



In relation to the new face at the Namibia Scientific Society as from April 2021, I am Hannah Felani litula, born in Tsandi in the Omusati region. I was recently admitted to the Namibia Scientific Society (NSS) as a Librarian, and there is no limit to my dreams. I spend time alone, reading, resting, and listening to gospel music. My all-time favourite remains solitude. To describe myself—I am young, hardworking, soft-hearted, and dynamic (socially and politically). I believe in harnessing potential, whether as an individual or as a nation. I always choose life regardless of the struggles that I might have gone through the previous day; I constantly

choose to thrive under every circumstance because tomorrow I will be better than my mistakes of yesterday.

I attended Onangalo Primary School from grade 1 to 7, and then finished at Mwaala High School in Tsandi. I hold a Diploma in Library and Information Science, and am pursuing Bachelor of Education (Honours) degree, majoring in English and Home Economics, both qualifications from the University of Namibia. I have completed many online courses in various fields such as Life Coaching, Teaching Assistant, Accounting & Finance, Bookkeeping, and Public Relations. Where I come from has made me who I am today and whom I will become. It made me achieve all these qualifications, and this opportunity at the Namibia Scientific Society. I am strong; I am not lucky, but I am a survivor.

I am responsible for cataloguing, listing, and describing the books in the database, and organizing and issuing library resources. I am responsible for helping library users with academic research or assisting with the retrieval of valuable e-documents to satisfy their needs. I am an ordinary girl and believe that anyone can achieve her potential.

I am very proud to be working at the Namibia Scientific Society, where I can see myself in few years as a Doctor in Information Scientific. Your library does not end here; open new doors by visiting our ABCD database resources. I am sure you will never regret it. Save money and time.

When you are in doubt come to the Namibia Scientific Society Library because our library is the delivery room for the birth of ideas, a place where history comes to life ...

Wear your mask, wash your hands every hour, and fight Covid-19.

Sea of Sand Tour—A Travel Report

Jackie Morgante, Photos: Heiner Dillmann

Introduction

Entering through the gate of the Namib-Naukluft National Park (World Heritage Site) I feel excited: I immediately perceive the privilege of being able to enter the gate that will bring us to the heart of the Namib desert. I have many times passed this gate on the way to Sesriem or on the way back to Walvis Bay and have wondered what marvels could be seen beyond this gate and fence!

The sensation was like opening a door that would bring a new vision of this vast desert, with the valued presence of Gunter, Frank, Achim, Armin, and the expert guiding by Simon in the upcoming days.

It would bring us closer to all the living forms that are found there and have had the ability to adapt, by evolving in an environment that appears so hostile to us, to the changes in the millennial course of the Tsondab and Kuiseb rivers. We would realize at the same time how much generosity the desert can offer, the gift of fresh water right to the coast (Conception water and Kuiseb delta), a place where one sees “only” an infinite expanse of sea water, the Atlantic Ocean, and behind one, an ocean of sand as far as the eye can see.

On our arrival at the coast, Gunter involved us in his historical reconstructions, making us relive the often extreme difficulties that those who over the last century and for different reasons (customs and police officers, company managers, captains of ships, sailors, shipwrecked passengers ...) had found themselves on this coast, facing the thousand hostilities of these isolated places: unpredictable winds, dense and cold fog, and so much more. Nor can we forget those men who, with true commitment, arduously collected diamonds by sifting sand all day long; or those sailors who found themselves having to provide for everything necessary when their ship ran aground due to thick fog, such as the Eduard Bohlen in 1909.

Our Journey

Our journey began, in fact, the day before the actual departure date. Our meeting was at the Bushmen’s Desert Camp, chosen as the starting point for our adventure, where Boesman, Yuri, and a Namibia Scientific Society representative welcomed all of us and where each of us in turn presented themselves to the newly formed group of “adventurers”. Dinner time was a good opportunity



to meet one another, and after a wonderful dinner we all went to bed, happy and excited.

After an early breakfast with the help of Simon and his team, we mounted our two-way radios that would keep us all in communication.

Our first stop was at the first dunes, where we deflated our tyres as directed by Simon. The initial approach is gradually to learn how to drive on sand, evaluating the best approach and speed to tackle the soft sand; all this with the valuable advice given by Simon and Rudi on radio. Thanks to them we learned fast and gained in confidence.

It was time for our first lunch stop. Unfortunately, Armin had a mechanical problem with his vehicle, with thick oil dripping slowly from a joint of the right wheel.

Simon, immediately realising the seriousness of the problem, got in touch with his mechanics in Walvis Bay to replace the part and arranged to meet at a mutually suitable point. From then on he led the convoy at a slow pace until we reached the rendezvous, which was the Kuiseb river bed.

The slow “rhythm” was actually much appreciated because it offered us the opportunity to observe the landscape in greater detail; also, because during the first day of driving there were lots of new things to observe.

At the end of the day, tired but happy, a last stop was made where the Kuiseb river appeared before us, a meandering green strip of vegetation that stretched from east to west, a dynamic and generous river thanks to the water that it holds below its sandy surface. The Kuiseb River acts as a barrier between the towering orange-coloured sand dunes on the south side and the rocky plain on the north side.

The surprises, however, were not over yet; to reach our camp, which was going to be in the river bed, we had to drive down our first long slip-face sand dune; what an indescribable emotion! At the bottom, to our surprise, we found the mechanics waiting for Armin to replace the broken part. Simon was excellent at organising all this; the mechanics expertly replaced the damaged part, and all was solved way before dinner.

We waited until the following day to admire the Kuiseb River and its banks, rich in vegetation; the imposing Ana trees and much other smaller vegetation. With our 4x4, we slowly climbed a steep stretch of rocky track that would lead us to a truly amazing viewpoint overlooking the Kuiseb River, meandering between the gravel plains and sand dune desert to our left. Then we returned to the river bed, which took us to the track that would lead us directly into the heart of the desert, and right there we got the news that Dee-Dee and Mike had made the decision to withdraw from the expedition. This was the only sad note of the whole trip.

After our lunch break, with temperature at its peak, we set off towards the beautiful desert landscape. By this time, the dunes had gradually become more challenging to drive over. Around 17:00 we arrived at our overnight spot, where we pitched camp. In the evening, around the fire of course, we chatted while waiting for the tasty dinners prepared by Simon and Rudi, with the help of his assistant who was always at the ready. The good harmony that had become established within the group led me to make a small contribution that night.

The absence of the moon and the cloudless sky was ideal for viewing some constellations, and after asking Gunter and Frank if I might, I started pointing my laser at the constellations of Orion, then Canis major and Canis minor, where one could also see a perfect triangle formed by Betelgeuse, Sirius, and



Procyon. On the horizon, we could still see the Big Dipper, the Lion constellation, the Southern Cross with the two pointers, Scorpio, the Clouds of Magellan, and many more stars, completing everything with some mythological stories.

The next morning we would drive towards the coast, where we would camp for two nights at the same location. As we drove towards the west the dunes gradually changed colour, from orange to a light gold. The temperature was much cooler and it was quite windy.

Every morning before our departure we had interesting lectures by Gunter, Frank, or Achim, giving us lots of information: from desert geology to water resources, historical information, the complex nature of the Namibian desert and its extreme vulnerability; but also her great generosity in providing food and water to her creatures: from small insects to large antelope such as the oryx. A perfect food chain with prey and predators: beetles, golden moles, lizards, geckos, snakes, jackals, hyenas—a real living desert.

The future of this precious desert is in the hands of today's men and women, who will have to reflect and evaluate very carefully the exploitation of its aquifers, in order not to cause their impoverishment in the near future.

Once on the Atlantic coast, each morning the desert gave us breathtaking landscapes: the fast-moving clouds played a contrast of light and shadows over the dunes, alternating quickly. We visited Conception Bay, the remains of the diamond settlements, the wreck of the Eduard Bohlen.

On our last day of driving, we stopped to see the Shawnee wreck and the beautiful Sandwich Harbour lagoon.

Once in Walvis Bay it was time to greet everyone, a moment of sadness, especially since the trip had given more than anticipated in many ways. But before heading home, a delicious traditional Japanese dinner was cooked by Yuri in Swakopmund. I dedicate special thanks to Yuri for the variety and goodness of her dishes.

We thank the Namibia Scientific Society for the perfect organisation of the trip and the added value of having Gunter, Frank and Achim for further enriching our knowledge; also Simon and his team for having led the trip in an impeccable way. Thanks to everyone, including all the participants, who made us feel that we belonged to one big family.

Skeleton Coast—Kunene River Mouth and Western Kaokoland Tour

16-23 May 2021

Ume Goldbeck



Exploring the Skeleton Coast up to the Kunene mouth,
back through Kaokoland, incredibly beautiful, despite the drought.

A tour organized by the Namibia Scientific Society in collaboration
with Route Africa Expeditions, known for their excellent reputation.

On board, 30 courageous characters, each one with a unique personality,
four guides, two scientists, and Gunter with his rich knowledge of history.

Bushman—with his love for the desert and its biosphere,
Armin—responsible for a happy group atmosphere.

After a quick 'meet & greet' at 07:30 on 16th May,
everybody heads out north, happy to bypass Henties Bay.

While driving through thick fog, Simon does the first radio check,
then Gunter tells the story behind every shipwreck.

After a lunch stop with coffee and toast
next to an old oil rig, we passed through the Ugab gate, entering the famous Skeleton Coast.

At Terrace Bay, we had the last chance to refuel our cars,
and the last shop to buy beer and chocolate bars.

Leaving Möwe Bay, we left the last sign of civilization,
and reduced our tyre pressure, ready for deep sand exploration.

On the shore we camped for the first night of our trip.
Three fearless men went for a skinny dip.

After a beautiful sunset we did short introductions around the fire;
the ice was broken; no more need for stiff etiquette and attire.

Simon explained the dining system and introduced his team.
That night we enjoyed Gail's Chili con Carne with sour cream.

The next morning we had delicious porridge prepared by Simon with smile.

Afterwards Peter and Roger entertained us for a while.

Everybody was ready to roll;

only the Fortuner had to have its slow puncture brought under control.

While we were all on the go,

Gunter entertained us over the radio.

Different shipwrecks, Rocky Point, and a constantly changing view
were definitely highlights of day two.

After a wet and foggy night,
everybody was happy to see the first ray of sunlight.

As we drove through stunning moon-like scenery,

Roger shares his geological knowledge eagerly.

During the afternoon we experienced an exciting drive on the shoreline.
Then finally we turned off into the dunes. So far everyone had been doing fine.

Suddenly one of the Toyotas showed signs of smoke.

Wolfgang opened the bonnet, causing the fire to ignite. That was no joke!

Thanks to the extinguisher from Friedrich Geiger,
we were able to put out the fire.

Once everyone had survived the shock, we continued to move,
until a few minutes later when the same Toyota again refused.

The group was split and time was not on our side;
everyone did their best, contributing to a positive team vibe.

While Simon and Rudi were working under the car,
the other group opened the beer and played the guitar.



Three songs, three beers, and three hours later,
 The sun was down and we had Simon back, our navigator.
 After a few more challenges, pushing over the dunes with power,
 we arrived at the famous Bosluis Bay Camp and a hot shower!!!

Couscous salad with noodles and the best Stroganoff ever
 concluded an adventurous day spent together.

While all of us enjoyed a peaceful night's rest,
 Simon, Rudi and their team went on a water quest.
 Arriving back in camp at three o'clock, after being stuck,
 they had one hour of sleep that night—good luck!

At 07:50 we were on our way to the Kunene mouth,
 looking onto the shores of Angola's deep south.

Now a long day of dune driving awaited us.

Simon shared the five rule 'stay in the track'; no big fuss.

The sun was burning, thick sand, one car after the other got stuck;
 over the radio we heard Rudi's voice, 'Ok ich bin auf Pad'!

Before sunset, we arrived at the campsite on the Kunene shore,
 a refreshing swim and a tasty braai completed day 4.

A drive through the spectacular Hartmann's Valley,
 and lunch in the Marienfluss after driving down a rocky alley.
 Singing and drinking whiskey around the fire in the marble camp;
 another unforgettable day had come to an end.

On day 6 of our incredible vacation,

Roger passionately showed us the rock formations.

After an extensive lunch in the Hoarusib under the Ana trees,
 we spotted elephants strolling along the river, completely at ease.





North of Purros in a community camp
 we enjoyed a shower and pitched our tents.
 Around the fire Waldi and Kai used the opportunity,
 to say 'thank you' to Matinus, David, Simon, and Rudi.
 The next morning the Bückendorfs and von Maltzahns left the team,
 while the rest of us stopped in Purros at the Manchester United Shebeen.
 Here we supplemented our stock of wine and Tafel
 before heading down the Hoarusib to visit the clay castle.
 Crossing south to the Hoanib through the Giribis plain,
 we enjoyed our lunch under a massive Ana tree again.
 What a perfect spot to start a competition amongst peers,
 jumping up a 1.4 metre river bank—don't dare to show fear.
 Lorenz and Alek performed with an elegant flow;
 Björn missed the landing and injured his toe!
 Continuing our journey up the river bed to Sesfontein,
 we spotted giraffes and elephants and drove through very dusty terrain.
 Our last night we camped at Ongongo, enjoying steak and chips for supper,
 topping it with salad, gem squash, bread, and garlic butter!
 The next morning we said our farewells and everybody packed up the camp;
 an unforgettable tour had come to an end.
 We discovered new perspectives and made new friendships.
 A big 'thank you' to everyone for being part of this trip!

Gobabeb Excursion with Dr Erik Holm

Miriam Hutterer

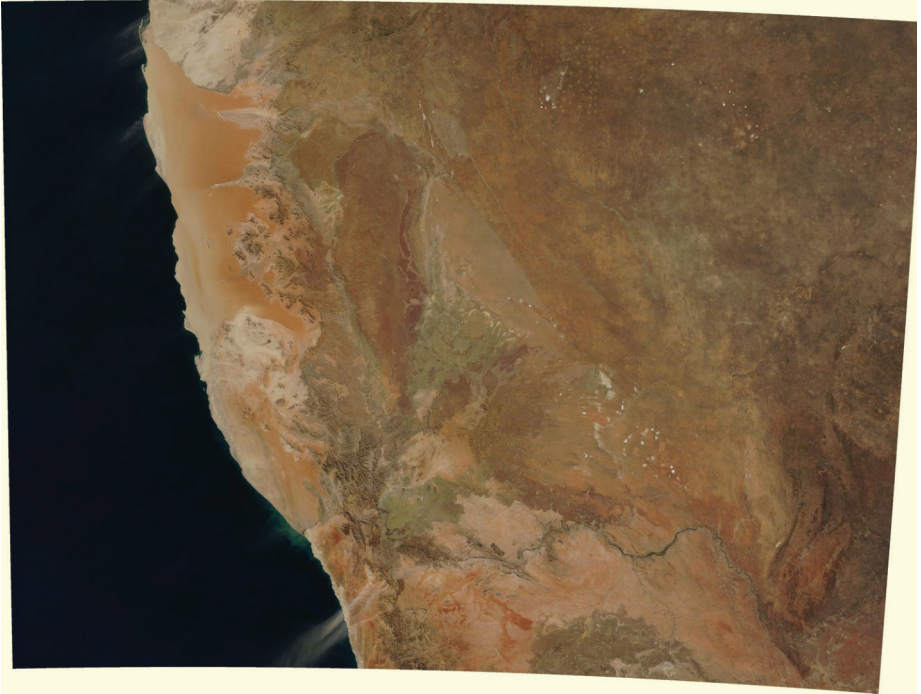
The Gobabeb Training and Research Centre is located in the Namib Desert, about 120 kilometres south-east of Walvis Bay. Gobabeb conducts research in the fields of climate, ecology, and geomorphology and promotes the development of relevant technologies. Scientists visit Gobabeb from Namibia and from all over the world to conduct new research, review previous findings, or go deeper into the subject matter with new technologies. Several scientists also live permanently at Gobabeb to monitor long-term projects.

In addition, the station offers regular events for interested laypeople such as school and student groups, as well as tourists, to promote general knowledge about desert ecology. International journalist teams are also regular guests, as was the case on the weekend of our visit. Contrary to popular belief, anyone can visit the research centre. Gillian Maggs-Kölling and her team are always happy to welcome guests, who have several rooms and a well-equipped campsite at their disposal.

Gobabeb was founded in 1962 by entomologist Charles Koch, and will therefore celebrate its 60th birthday next year. A few years after its foundation, Erik Holm became Koch's scientific assistant. Dr Holm also studied entomology, at the University of Pretoria, and later became the Head of Entomology there. Today, Gobabeb is led by Dr Gillian Maggs-Kölling, who is particularly engaged in the nurturing of young Namibian students. She is supported by Dr Eugene Marais, who, as Research Manager, takes care of the development and supervision of the research projects.



Sundowner on the Station Dune. Photo: Andy Chase.



The dust plumes from the 5th June 2021. Photo: We acknowledge the use of imagery from the NASA Worldview application (<https://worldview.earthdata.nasa.gov/>), part of the NASA Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS).

On the first weekend of June, the Namibia Scientific Society undertook an excursion to Gobabeb. After the arrival of all participants, the official programme for the weekend started with a sundowner on the Station Dune, where everyone could get to know one another. The interesting conversations were then continued over dinner.

Afterwards, Dr Erik Holm gave his first lecture, telling many anecdotes about his early days at Gobabeb, describing his collaboration with Charles Koch, and his first research work. He showed several photos from those days to illustrate his talk.

After the exciting lecture, everyone settled down in their sleeping quarters. Around midnight the east wind set in, and blew until the afternoon of the following day. After a communal breakfast, Dr Maggs-Kölling and Dr Marais gave a brief overview of the history of Gobabeb, and then all drove into the desert in a large Mercedes truck. We got out at several research stations, sought shelter behind the vehicle from the driving sand, and were informed about the various projects on site.

Slightly delayed due to the exciting narrations we arrived back at the station for lunch and enjoyed a light meal—fresh kingklip in the desert. After a short rest there was a second presentation by Dr Holm: ‘My 12 notorious entomology student expeditions to the Namib.’ This time he gave an entertaining presentation on his research trips to the Namib with various student groups. By today’s safety standards, expeditions like those would no longer be possible. Besides the studies of the environment, Dr Holm himself learned a lot about the dynamics and composition of research teams and reported, among others, on leaders, worriers, and alpha females. Again, he was able to support this talk with various pictures.

For the sundowner, this time, we went to Mirabib, an island mountain about 40 kilometres away. After a short walk we were rewarded with a beautiful view and some cool drinks. For dinner, we went back to the station.

Afterwards everyone sat around the fire with a full belly. Some participants also joined the night walk and learned interesting facts about the scorpions before going into the river bed, equipped with UV torches, to observe the animals themselves.

The next morning, after breakfast, we had a short guided tour through the research station. In addition to some of the equipment used to measure solar radiation, humidity, and temperature, we were shown the solar generating system, which provides about 90 per cent of the electricity, and the two generators, which can close gaps in the supply. We were also allowed to take a look at the workshops and various laboratories.

We thank the entire Gobabeb team for the informative and enjoyable weekend, as well as the delicious food provided by Hendrik and his team, and can only encourage everyone to come and see the Gobabeb Research Station for themselves. For more information, please visit www.gobabeb.org.

A few days after the trip we received the sad news that Elsabé Holms had passed away on 17 June. The excursion to Namibia and Gobabeb had been her last one, and she called ‘our visit to Namibia such an awesome and memorable adventure!’ We mourn a very special person who managed to sneak into our hearts in just one weekend!



Dr Erik and Elsabé Holms. Photo: Wiebke Schmidt.

Book launch: *Reptiles of Namibia* by Alfred Schleicher

Photos: Isdor Kamati



Alfred Schleicher



Brigit and Prof. David Senn



Waltraut Fritzsche



Alfred Schleicher



Prof. David Senn



Zum Namen „Augustineum“

Walter Moritz



Augustineum in Okahandja. Foto: Namibia Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft Archiv

Ein sehr guter Aufsatz von Prof. Dr. E. Dammann steht im Afrikanischen Heimatkalender 1981 über Gotthilf Büttner. Doch mir fiel auf, dass er schrieb, das Augustineum sei nach der Fürstin Lippe-Detmold genannt worden. In der Anmerkung fügt er hinzu: „Der Name Augustineum hat seinen Namen nicht, wie man bisweilen hören kann, nach dem Kirchenvater Augustinus (354-430) erhalten“ (Dammann S. 32 Anmerkung 2).

In der Buchbesprechung in den Mitteilungen der SWA Wiss. Gesellschaft (Nr. XXI/7-8 S. 15) wird Prof. Dammann mit seinem Artikel zitiert und gewürdigt und hinzugefügt: „Gleichzeitig liefert dieser Beitrag einen einleuchtenden Hinweis auf die oft fragwürdige Dokumentation historischer Quellen“. Damman sagt über die Namensgebung des Augustineums: „Hier errichtete Hahn 1866 ein Institut für eingeborene Gehülften, das nach der Fürstin von Lippe-Detmold, die eine Summe Geldes stiftete und gleichzeitig das Protektorat übernahm, Augustineum genannt wurde“.

Pastor W. Moritz berichtet hingegen in seinem Heft Namibia S. 25 „Seinen Namen hat es, wie Hans-Hartmut Diehl es kürzlich einmal herausgestellt hat, nicht von der Fürstin Augusta zur Lippe, sondern nach dem Kirchenvater St. Augustinus erhalten.“ „Vielleicht aber haben beide Autoren Recht und der

Täufer wollte zwei Fliegen mit einer Klappe schlagen?“ (SWA Wiss. Gesellschaft 1980 ebd. S. 15). Wer das hier schreibt, kann ich nicht sagen. Bei meinem Heft geht es um: „Namibia, Begegnungen, Erfahrungen, Erinnerungen“. Das Buch wird dann auf S. 16 herabgewürdigt, wenn es hier u. a. heißt: „Es hat schon etwas für sich, wenn so ein krasser Aussenseiter, wie es der Pastor ja nach 6 Jahren Abwesenheit von Südwest geworden war, sehr freimütig von seinen Eindrücken berichtet.“ Vorher war von Würdigung historischer Quellen die Rede. Aber ich habe ja gerade die Quelle zitiert. In dem Buch über Hugo Hahn hat Hans-Harmut Diehl in seiner Magisterarbeit von November 1973 „Carl Hugo Hahn in Suidwes-Afrika 1842-1872“, vorgelegt bei der Randse Afrikaanse Universiteit, freilich gut geforscht. Auch habe ich, als ich in Namibia 1966-1972 das Archiv der Rheinischen Mission in Windhoek ordnete, mir eine Kopie von der Zeitschrift der Gründung des St. Augustineum gemacht.

Prof. Dammann aber sagt in seiner Anm. „... wie man bisweilen hören kann“. Er geht nicht den Quellen nach. Die Quelle aber ist die Stiftungsurkunde selbst.

Schon die Überschrift macht es deutlich „Copie der Gründungsakte des St. Augustineum“.

Dann heißt es:

Ihrer Durchlaucht, die regierende Fürstin Elisabeth zu Lippe, die Prinz Adolph zu Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt und der Prinz Ernst zu Schöneburg haben, angeregt durch die Berichte des Missionars Hugo Hahn, den Entschluß gefaßt zu des Herrn Ehre und zur Ausbreitung Seines Reiches im Vertrauen auf seinen gnadenreichen Beistand, für die Gründung eines Institutes in dem bisherigen Verbreitungsgebieten des Missionar Hugo Hahn zur Ausbildung von Katecheten, Lehrern und Predigern aus Hereros, Namaqua und den umherziehenden Völkern ...

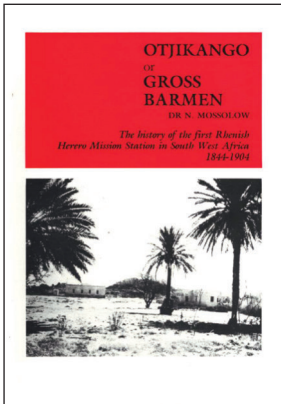
1. Die genannten Durchl. Herrschaften geben zur Begründung der Anstalt 2.500 Thaler, welcher Betrag alsbald und zwar bis spätestens zum 1. Januar 1864 der Casse der Rh. Miss. Ges. eingezahlt werden soll.

2. Die genannten Durchl. Herrschaften sind bereit, zunächst für die Dauer von zehn Jahren, sollte ihnen Gott das Leben erhalten und das Institut wirklich b..., einen jährlichen Beitrag von eintausend Thalern zur Erhaltung desselben zu geben u. zwar vom 1. Januar 1864 ab ...

Das Institut erhält den Namen St. Augustin Stiftung u. tritt, wenn auch nur in den Anfängen, im Laufe des Jahres 1864 ins Leben.

Nur schwierig war der Text auszumachen. Aber es sollte doch nun ein für alle Mal deutlich sein, woher der Name kommt.

Weshalb nun Missionar Heinrich Vedder in seinem immer wieder aufgelegten Werk „Das alte Südwestafrika“ von 1934 (S. 496) schreibt: „Da gingen ihm 2500 Taler von der Fürstin Augusta von der Lippe zu. Prinz Ernst von Schöneburg und Prinzessin Matthilde von Rudolstadt hatten mit ihr ihre Gaben



Otjikango or Gross Barmen
ist bei der Namibia
Wissenschaftlichen
Gesellschaft erhältlich.

vereinigt ... Zu Ehren der Fürstin Augusta von Lippe wurde das Institut ‚Augustineum‘ genannt“.

Inspektor H. Driessler besuchte auf seiner Reise 1931 auch das Augustineum, das seit 1889 nach Okahandja verlegt wurde, als Missionar Viehe dort seine Arbeit begann. Er schreibt in „Reiseberichte aus Südwestafrika“: „Für die Hereromission eröffnete Dr. Hugo Hahn im Jahre 1866 in Otjimbingue eine Ausbildungsstätte für Lehrer und Evangelisten, die er Augustineum nannte. Die Fürstin von Lippe-Detmold gab jährlich eine namhafte Summe für die Anstalt und übernahm die Protektion“ (Berichte der Rheinischen Mission 1931 S. 364f.). Hier ist es Hugo Hahn selbst, der den Namen gibt. Jedenfalls wird dabei die Fürstin von Lippe-Detmold genannt.

Was dann aber von Missionar H. Vedder einmal in die Welt gesetzt wurde, das bringen sozusagen fast alle weiteren Autoren. Wahrscheinlich ist das bei

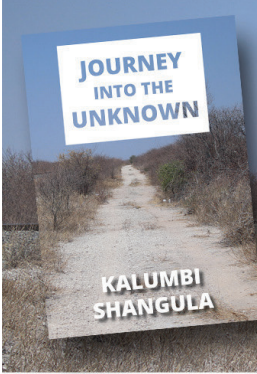
Prof. Dammann der Fall, und dann geht es weiter über J. Metzkes (Otjimbingwe, Windhoek 1962, S. 54), O. Milk (Das Augustineum in: Festschrift Dr. h.c. H. Vedder 1961, S. 24), J. Baumann (Van Sending tot Kerk, Windhoek 1967, S. 68), E. Esslinger (70 Jahre Augustineum, in Afrikanischer Heimatkalender 1938, S. 90), J. J. Kitzinger (Sending in Suidwes-Afrika, S. 354). Alle werden bei Diehl zitiert (S. 144 Anm. 80). Doch Diehl weist zugleich darauf hin, dass bei T. Hahn (Aus meiner Jugendzeit, Stuttgart 1921, S. 152) und auch Dr. Mossolow in dem uns bekannten Buch „Otjikango oder Grossbarmen“ (Windhoek 1968, S. 42), das Augustineum nach dem Kirchenvater Augustin genannt wurden.

Und in der weiteren Anmerkung 80 (bei Diehl, S. 145) schreibt er: „Dr. Mossolow und J. Rust is albei deur die archief van die vorstedom Lippe – Detmold meegedeel dat geen vorstin Augusta in hul stamregister verskyn nie“ (E. Du Preez versameling Korrespondensie van C. H. Hahn en vrou ... o.J.).

Wir sagten schon, dass die Überschrift der Urkunde und die Fürstin selbst nach Augustinus verweist.

Zur Zeit erarbeite ich ein Manuskript über „Das Augustineum und die Auszubildenden in Namibia und am Kap“. Dabei fiel mir mein Text vom 06.01.1981 in die Hände, den ich wiederum überarbeitete.


First NSS e-books available at Amazon



Now available as ebook on Amazon:
**The autobiography of Namibia's
 Minister of Health and Social Services
 Kalumbi Shangula**
Journey into the Unknown

"I encourage everybody to read this book."
 Sam Nujuma, Founding President of Namibia

Namibia Scientific Society/Kuiseb Publishers
 e-mail: kuiseb@namscience.com • Tel. 061-225372 • 110 Robert Mugabe Ave., Windhoek



During the past few months, for the first time, two books of the Namibia Scientific Society have been available for purchase as Kindle e-books via the Amazon Kindle Shop, or for reading via the Kindle Unlimited lending programme.

The first book was the classic *Der weiße Buschmann*, by Peter Stark, available since February. *Journey into the Unknown*, by Kalumbi Shangula, followed in April. Both titles are still available in printed editions.

Further electronic publications by the publisher are to follow in due course.

Erste E-Bücher bei Amazon erhältlich



Jetzt auch als E-Book erhältlich:
Der weiße Buschmann
 Vom Wilderer zum Wildhüter
 von Peter Stark

*„Peter, alter Jagdgefährte, um Deine
 Offenheit bewundere ich Dich.“*
 aus dem Vorwort, Helmut zur Strassen



Namibia Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft/Kuiseb Verlag
 e-mail: accounts@namscience.com • Tel. 061-225372 • 110 Robert Mugabe Ave., Windhoek

Seit einigen Monaten können die ersten beiden Bücher der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft über den Amazon Kindle Shop als Kindle E-Book erworben beziehungsweise über das Ausleihprogramm Kindle Unlimited gelesen werden.

Den Startschuss gab es im Februar mit dem Klassiker *Der weiße Buschmann* von Peter Stark. Im April folgte *Journey into the Unknown* von Kalumbi Shangula. Beide Bücher sind auch weiterhin als gedruckte Ausgabe erhältlich.

Nach und nach sollen weitere Veröffentlichungen des Verlags erfolgen.

News on the Admin Front...

Ruth Moldzio



In March 2021 the time had finally come: The idea of having a website that incorporates an online shop platform had become a reality and was ready to go live. After numerous months of checking lists, entering data, looking for attractive images, and contemplating how best to handle this and

that scenario, we finally had a beautiful and effective website:

www.namscience.com!

Recurring problems and limitations had encouraged the Board of the Namibia Scientific Society to change to a more user-friendly accounting program. The switch to the new software (XERO) was also concluded in April, automating several processes as well as making a connection to the Website program (AIRSQUARE) possible.

One can imagine the jubilation when just a few days later an order came from America. Never before had we been able to access the market worldwide! Since then several orders and queries from all over the world have been received and successfully processed. As with all new programs, several glitches were encountered (of which most have already been resolved), and the full use of all the features is still being explored.

The website not only provides all the information about the Namibia Scientific Society, its library, and the publishing department, but also offers an online shop. Once the member or retailer is logged in with username and password, all articles available will be depicted, with the relevant discount already subtracted. Since the site is connected to our accounting program, the ordering of articles will become much faster and more efficient.

Should you not have received your username and password yet, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Happy snooping and shopping!

Womit sich die Verwaltung der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft so beschäftigt hat ...

Ruth Moldzio



Im März 2021 war es dann endlich soweit. Nach monatelanger Vorbereitung, Überlegung von „wie am besten“ und Umstellung war unsere Webseite endlich online. Das seit Jahren anvisierte Ziel einer online Bestellplattform war endlich erreicht; und es ist richtig schön geworden!

Immer wiederkehrende Probleme mit Pastel haben den Vorstand der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft (NWG) dazu bewegt, auch das Buchhaltungssystem auf XERO umzustellen. Obwohl die Umstellung schon einige Monate vorher erfolgt war, war diese auch erst Anfang April mit dem Versand der meisten Mitgliedschaftsrechnungen vollständig vollzogen. Viele Prozesse wurden mit der Umstellung auf das neue Programm und Verknüpfung mit der Webseite automatisiert und vereinfacht.

Inzwischen bestellen verschiedene Buchläden über die Plattform (vielen Dank dafür!) und sogar Bestellungen aus Amerika und Kanada sind schon eingetrudelt!

Auf der Webseite www.namscience.com können nicht nur Informationen rund um die NWG, die Bibliothek, das Journal und den Verlag eingesehen werden, sondern auch alle Verkaufsartikel eingesehen und bestellt werden. Die Webseite ist so konzipiert, dass ein jedes Mitglied der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft und verschiedene Buchhandlungen ein Benutzerkennwort und Passwort von uns zugesandt bekommen können und sich dann mit diesem selbst einloggen können. Nicht nur kann dann ein jedes Mitglied seine Kontaktdaten ändern, sondern auch gleich die Bestellung, sei es für Bücher, Exkursionen oder Veranstaltungen, online selbst tätigen und bekommt automatisch den relevanten Rabatt gutgeschrieben.

Da die Webseite mit unserem Buchhaltungsprogramm gekoppelt ist, ist auch sofort ersichtlich, ob es einen Titel noch gibt oder ob eine Exkursion noch Platz frei hat.

Gerne schicken wir Ihnen auf Anfrage eine Mail mit den relevanten Daten zum Einloggen.

Wir wünschen viel Spaß beim Ausprobieren und Bestellen!

Prosopisbäume

Armin Jagdhuber, Fotos: Hartmut Voigts

Wer unseren NWG Hinterhof oder Parkplatz kennt, der weiß wie schön schattig die Prosopisbäume unsere Parkplätze im Sommer machten. Leider, da der Prosopis zu den “unerwünschten” oder “Eindringlingen” (aus: *Le Roux and Müller’s Field Guide to the Trees & Shrubs of Namibia* by Coleen Mannheimer, Barbara Curtis), gehört und er viel Wurzelschaden an unseren Mauern machte, wurde zusammen mit der St. Georges Cathedral und DIOCESE OF NAMIBIA (Anglican) von den Nachbargrundstücken beschlossen, dass Hartmut Voigt diese Bäume fällen soll. Er brauchte zwei Wochen dafür und viel Holz wurde verteilt und die Äste abgefahren.



New Books/Neue Bücher

„Wo sind die Herero geblieben?“ von Hans Hilpisch

Was veranlasste den deutschen Oberbefehlshaber von Trotha, nach den Gefechten gegen die Herero am Waterberg 1904 und während der erfolglosen Operation in der Omaheke, in sein Tagebuch zu schreiben: „*Wo sind die Herero geblieben?*“ War die Omaheke wirklich so wasserlos, wie einige Historiker sie beschreiben?

In dieser zweiten, überarbeiteten und ergänzten Auflage gibt der Verfasser einen Einblick in die moderne geologische und hydrologische Forschung in der Omaheke. Gleichzeitig stellt er die äußerst interessanten Ergebnisse neuerer archäologischer Untersuchungen in der nördlichen Omaheke vor; er bezieht sich dabei auch auf den Bericht von Kai-Uwe Denker, der dort jahrzehntelang gelebt und gearbeitet hat.



Deutsch • ISBN 978-99945-76-73-9 • 128 Seiten • 148 x 210 mm
Price N\$190, members' price N\$165

*The library of the
Namibia Scientific Society sincerely
thanks all donors for the books
received during the last months.
They add great value to our library!*

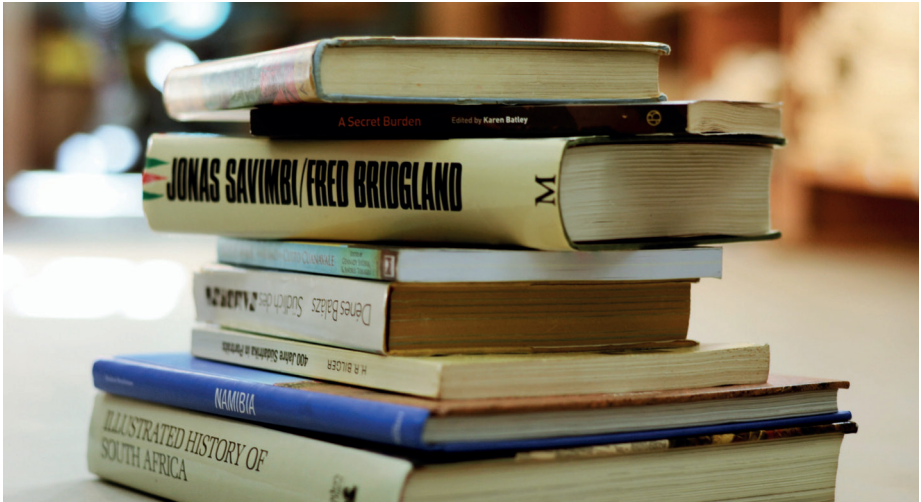


Photo: Isdor Kamati

*Die Bibliothek der
Namibia Wissenschaftlichen
Gesellschaft bedankt sich sehr
herzlich bei allen Spendern für die
Buchspenden der letzten Monate.
Sie sind von großem Wert
für unsere Sammlungen.*

Schiffahrt-Buchsammlung von Gunter von Schumann

Armin Jagdhuber

Gunter von Schumann hat darum gebeten, dass seine Schiffahrt-Bücher-sammlung katalogisiert, indiziert und in die Datenbank der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft aufgenommen wird. Es handelt sich um 1330 Bücher, die von Heike Urich auf ABCD aufgenommen wurden und in das bestehende Bibliothekssystem integriert werden konnten. Dies geschah bei Gunter von Schumann zu Hause. Die Arbeit nahm knapp vier Monate in Anspruch. Wir danken ihm recht herzlich dafür.



Prof. Jürgen Kirchner Collection

Armin Jagdhuber



On 28 April 2021, we had the privilege to be offered a very specialized and scientifically well-founded collection by the family of Prof. Jürgen Kirchner. Gunter von Schumann and Armin Jagdhuber

immediately went to pick up all the books (see photo). Now Isdor Kamati is responsible for adding this collection to our database, which will be incorporated into our library under the name Prof. Jürgen Kirchner Collection. As Prof. Kirchner was a hydrologist, this collection contains valuable information about the boreholes and water conditions at Windhoek and Stampriet. Once the collection has been catalogued and indexed, the records will be available to our members and users of the Namibia Scientific Society Library.

The Namibia Scientific Society would like to thank Prof. Kirchner and his family!

Die Prof. Dr. Jürgen Kirchner-Kollektion

Am 28.04.2021 hatten wir das große Glück, dass uns eine sehr spezialisierte und wissenschaftlich gut fundierte Kollektion der Familie von Prof. Dr. Jürgen Kirchner angeboten wurde. Gunter von Schumann und Armin Jagdhuber machten sich sogleich auf den Weg, um die vielen Ordner und Bücher abzuholen (siehe Foto). Nun ist Isdor Kamati dafür verantwortlich, diese Kollektion, die unter dem Namen *Prof. Dr. Jürgen Kirchner-Kollektion* bei uns in der Bibliothek eingegliedert wird, in unsere Datenbank aufzunehmen. Da Herr Prof. Dr. Jürgen Kirchner ein Hydrologe war, sind in dieser Kollektion wertvolle Informationen über die Bohrlöcher und Wasserverhältnisse von Windhoek und Stampriet enthalten. Sobald die Kollektion erfasst ist, stehen die Unterlagen den Mitgliedern und Benutzern unserer Bibliothek zur Verfügung.

Die Namibia Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft bedankt sich bei Prof. Dr. Jürgen Kirchner und seiner Familie!

A Letter from Australia

During the various “lockdowns” in Namibia, the library did not only digitalize and catalogue precious material but also reply to many queries. The following letter was a query that particularly stood out!

DLC CFCP 453
24 03 21 06h44

Namibia Scientific Society
PO BOX 67
Robert Mugabe Ave 110
Windhoek 11001, Namibia



POSTCODE

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Dear Namibia Scientific Society

My Name is Denver And I am interested in The mysterious Otjikoto Lake, famously called the Lake of Gold for the rumoured lost gold at the bottom of this lake The Otjikoto Lake is the smaller of only two permanent natural lakes in Namibia. During World War I, German troops dumped war materials in the lake before surrendering. According to legend a sealed safe containing gold, was also dumped into the lake Now with the help of advanced sonar equipment the entire lake was mapped and explored, giving historians and scientists a clear view of it's contents and contours. While no safe was discovered, as we continue to advance understanding more of the mystery will surely be solved. I would like to know more about it. Would you please Send me some information in English on it.

Scan your Slides or Photos for Storage as Digital Data

Archivieren Sie Dias und Fotos auf digitalen Datenträgern



Dear members and friends of Namibia Scientific Society,
Contact our library when you think of scanning your slides and photos for digital data storage – our colleagues in the library will assist you on appointment – cost per slide N\$ 3.00. Members' price N\$ 2.50 per slide.
NSS-Team

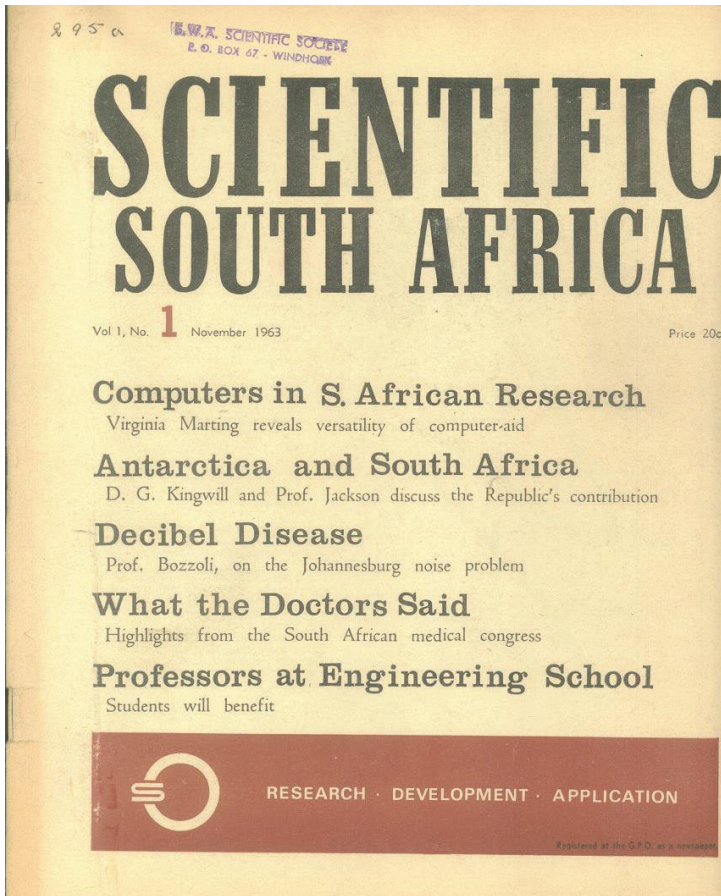
Liebe Mitglieder und Freunde der NWG,
Wenn Sie Ihre Dias auf einem digitalen Datenträger archivieren möchten, aber nicht über die technischen Möglichkeiten verfügen, dann besuchen Sie uns doch einmal in der Bibliothek. Dort steht Ihnen unser moderner Dia-Scanner nach Vereinbarung zur Verfügung. Die Gebühr beträgt N\$ 3.00 pro Dia; für Mitglieder N\$ 2.50.
Ihr NWG-Team

Diamonds Found in our Library

The following pages are a contribution from the library, a nostalgic view into the past. Something to smile about, advertisements from the past or some interesting and almost forgotten information.

Die folgenden Seiten sind ein Beitrag aus der Bibliothek, ein Blick in die vergangenen Jahre. Etwas zum Schmunzeln, vergangener Jahre Werbung oder interessante und fast vergessene Informationen.

The cover of the 1st issue of *Scientific South Africa* in November 1963



Das Stück *Goldene Sonne* von H. Ant. Aschenborn veröffentlicht in Meinerts Monatsmagazin Jahrgang 1 Nummer 10



Leicht bewegt. **Goldene Sonne.** *Herm. Erdlin.*
(H. Ant. Aschenborn)

1.) Blau ist die Him - mel und blau sind die See - en
2.) Weiß sind die Li - ba und blau sind die See - en

1.) groß ist die Step - pe und rot unsere Er - de
2.) groß ist die Her - ras so weiß in der Fer - ne

1.) Zeit und die Bla - ven doch der - weg die Bla - ven
2.) Sonn' ist mein Her - z, es ja - bels vor Wien - en

— 476 —

die Lie - re und es ist ein Trau - er, und
die Frei - heit und gold - ene die See - en und

ja und - die die See - en

— 477 —

Events/Veranstaltungen

The Namibia Scientific Society offered a variety of interesting events, some of which are mentioned briefly.

Please note that the opinions expressed during presentations, films, or other events do not necessarily reflect those of the Society.

In diesem Jahr fanden bei der NWG verschiedene Veranstaltungen statt. Einige werden hier kurz erwähnt.

Bitte beachten: Die während der Vorträge, Veranstaltungen und Filmvorführungen geäußerten Ansichten stellen nicht unbedingt unsere Meinung dar.

The Fugitive, a Mother's Endeavour Online presentation and discussion via Zoom organized by Andrew Fordred, Cynetio Cyber Security Solutions 8 March 2021

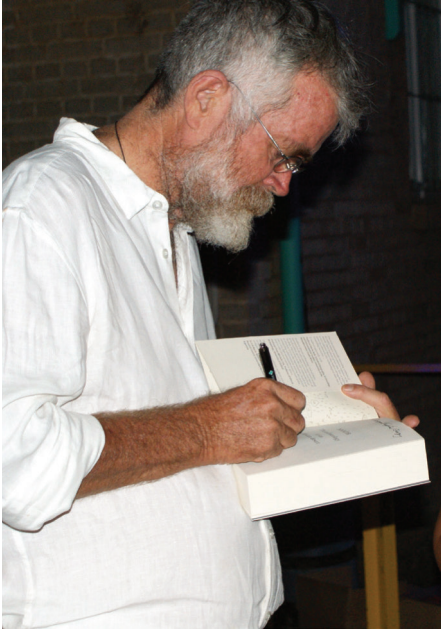
During June 2016 Krystal Jaye Mitchell was murdered in San Diego, California; she was 30 years old. The perpetrator was her former boyfriend, Raymond McLeod, known as 'RJ', who immediately after the murder fled the United States.

A 2019 research report by the United Nations stated: '87,000 women were killed globally in 2017 of whom 30,000 were killed by a current or former partner'. The same report states that 'Africa is the region where women run the greatest risk of being killed by an intimate partner'.

Namibia, as with other African countries, is not immune. NAMPOL crime reports show that not a week passes without incidents of rape, violent assault, or murder, perpetrated against women of this country.

We were honoured to bring you Josephine Wentzel, the mother of Krystal, who shared the events surrounding the murder. These importantly provide precursors of looming violence, a full insight into her unrelenting hunt for the fugitive 'RJ' McLeod, who remains at large, and her experience of currently providing support to families in similar circumstances.

Book Launch: *Namib: The archaeology of
an African desert* by John Kinahan
Arranged by the University of Namibia Press
and the Namibia Scientific Society
16 March 2021



Dr John Kinahan. Photo: UNAM Press.

‘This is a story of human survival over the last one million years in the Namib Desert—one of the most hostile environments on Earth.

‘The resilience and ingenuity of desert communities provide a vivid picture of our species’ response to climate change, and ancient strategies to counter ever-present risk. Dusty fragments of stone, pottery and bone tell a history of perpetual transition, of shifting and temporary states of balance. *NAMIB* digs beneath the usual evidence of archaeology to uncover a world of arcane rituals, of travelling rain-makers, and of intricate social networks which maintained vital systems of negotiated access to scarce resources.

‘The book is more than a work of scientific research; it is a love song to the desert and its people.

‘This is the first ever full-length, comprehensive overview of the archaeology of the Namib Desert. *Namib* goes a long way toward reclaiming the history of the desert’s people from narrow empiricism and difficult-to-access specialised archaeological literature. It is a significant achievement.’

Peter Mitchell, FSA, Professor of African Archaeology, University of Oxford

Artificial Intelligence (AI) *Online presentation and panel discussion via Zoom* 13 April 2021

The Namibia Scientific Society in collaboration with the University of Namibia, the University of Turku, Finland, and the MindsInAction, hosted a panel discussion on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Education and Agriculture in Namibia. Artificial Intelligence is one of the aspects of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. However, many people are sceptical about its impact on human lives. AI has raised significant expectations in the Namibian and wider African context relating to the demands in areas such as education, farming, art, smart city, smart rural, data analytics, and creation of future jobs. Realizing the promises of AI requires creativity and courage for innovation to be released through start-ups that work in open collaboration in order to contribute to Namibia's inclusive growth.

The panel discussion was based on the Artificial Intelligence course offered by the University of Namibia in collaboration with the University of Turku. There were student presentations on AI for education and AI for agriculture, and MindsInAction gave a demonstration on robotics.

The panel comprised: Prof. Erkki Sutinen—Director of the Future Tech Lab, University of Turku; Ms Anastasia Shipepe—Lecturer, School of Computing, University of Namibia; Mr Lannie Uwu-khaeb—Intern, Future Tech Lab, University of Turku; Mr Ndaundika Mulundileni—Co-founder/CEO of MindsInAction; Mr Andreas Leonard—Co-founder/CEO of MindsInAction; Students: Sini Hölsä, Topias Kähkönen, Moisés Felisberto Da Silva, Magdalena Kashanu, Tjijandjeua Hamauka, Uzuwira Kukuri, Sylvano Ekonde, Ignatius Valombola, Johannes Sheepo Akawa, Yakomba Ngongo, Vuyelwa David Ruwodo, Setson Vatilifa, Keneke Kasaona.

Touring the Sea of Sand–Kuiseb, Eduard Bohlen Wreck, and Sandwich Harbour: Everchanging Desert and Beach *Presentation by Gunter von Schumann and Frank Wittneben* 21 April 2021

After two amazing tours with the Namibia Scientific Society, so much information, so many photos and stories, were shared.

Corporate Members/Korporative Mitglieder

Corporate Membership was introduced for businesses and institutions wanting to support the Namibia Scientific Society in its mission to promote education, scientific research and public awareness with regard to current and cultural issues in Namibia. Credit is given to the following businesses:



African Kirikara



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