

# THE WORKING DAY OF CAPE TOWN'S ARCHAEOLOGY-COOL-KIDS-CLUB

July 27, 2013 Keneiloe Molopyane Day of Archaeology 2013, Historical Archaeology, Maritime Archaeology, Museum Archaeology, Osteology Anthropology, Archaeology Department, Assistant Collections Manager, Canada, Collections Assistant, Collections Manager, curator, curator of Maritime and Historical Archaeology, Ethno Hall, Jaco, John Drury, journalist, Netherlands, Next Magazine, PhD, Swaziland, taxidermist, United States, Wil, York

Cape Town has been relatively grey this week; I woke up this morning thinking I was back in York. Having got my bearings correct I set about the morning getting ready for work. I'm the new archaeology intern at the Iziko South African Museum ([www.iziko.org.za](http://www.iziko.org.za)) and for Day of Archaeology I'm basically going to play the role of a journalist, going around asking people about their day and taking photos. So let's start with my day.



*Iziko South African Museum*

**Keneiloe (Keni) Molopyane**



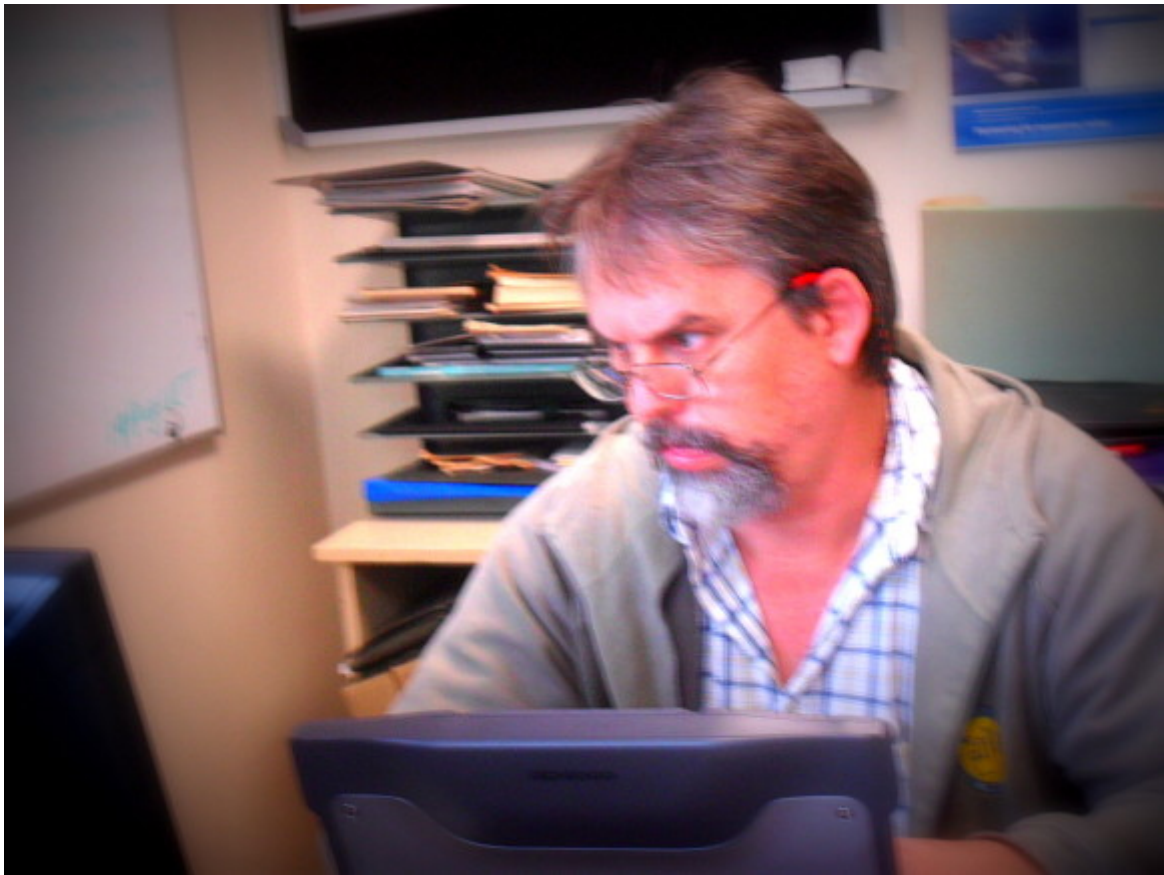
*Bioarchaeologist turned Physical Anthropology PhD candidate*

At some point in the morning I finally made it to my office in the Archaeology Department bracing myself for a relatively calm day filled with admin work, gathering Physical Anthropology data for my potential PhD proposal and sorting out my relocation logistics... I quickly slip into my general intern routine that includes running up and down the stairs to collect the mass amount of prints I send to the printing machine one floor above us. Then it's a quick scanning of the notice-board, which I inherited from the last intern. I decided it didn't need any updating today besides; I have somehow managed to paste the wall around the actual notice-board with short articles, notices, comics and job/funding posts. The actual notice-board is bare!! I seem to have some mad skills there. Right, then it's my favourite part of the day, reading emails. Depending on how many emails I've sent out the previous day determines how many responses I get back and for how long I'm going to be sat in front of my computer. The most interesting bit of news from the electronic mailman is that my new office at the next institution I'll be tutoring at is in the basement! How awesome, I get a crypt-like office!! My dream of becoming "Bones" is that much closer to becoming reality; I'm a bioarchaeologist by the way. I'm more interested skeletal or mummified remains of past peoples than I am of the artefacts left behind. I'm the creepy chick in the department.

Emails, done; printing, done; coffee \*slurp\* finished; and so I grab my camera and dash out over to Iziko Social History centre to go bug the guys up at Historical/ Maritime Archaeology. I started my Iziko career over in that building in Maritime Archaeology, so it's always grand to just chill up there with the guys over a cup of coffee, laugh and be teased at. So, I get there and do my paparazzi gig and stare, dumb-

founded, at all the shipwreck material in the lab.

### **Jaco Boshoff**



#### *Getting into the proposal writing zone*

Jaco is the curator of Maritime and Historical Archaeology. This morning I found both him and Jake (maritime archaeology intern) in the wet lab calibrating the ph reader, so they can start using it on a series shipwreck material that dots the lab and the balcony. Once that's out of the way, it's back to serious curator business...making the hardworking interns some delicious coffee =). Hie, hie, jokes aside, Jaco gets settled in working on publications and research monies to keep myself and Jake coming back for more work experience and most importantly the awesome diving adventures that are in the works. Leaving Jaco to get on with his day, I turn my attention to Jake.

### **Jake Harding**



*The “not sure if Jaco is talking to me or himself again” look.*

Jake is the maritime archaeology intern on the same funding programme I’m on (DST-NRF). Now Jake, just like Jaco, is crazy about all things maritime archaeology related, aka shipwrecks. He’s day starts out with checking on the many shipwreck artefacts that are in the lab. Documenting and treating numerous cannon balls and strange iron pieces, as well as your occasional knocking off concretion with a chisel and hammer is all a part of Jake’s day. I haven’t a clue what’s going on with all these artefacts, and Jake is just going on about each iron piece in solution and how they all fit together or not, with this pure, unadulterated excitement. I wonder if I get that way when talking about skeletons.

I had a video recording (or at least I thought it was) of Jake taking me through his day and the artefacts, but because technology is way higher grade for me, I can’t find the video on the camera. =(

One cup of coffee later, I’m making my way once more to the South African museum or ISAM as it is known among the inner circles of Iziko.

So, I’m sat in my office after a quick run upstairs to the printers again and I hope to finally sit down and type out the pathology report I put together a week ago. An email pops in and it’s from the University of York’s alumni about taking part in their “where are you and how you doing” survey. I can foresee this is going to take me a while, so I’ll put it off for Monday. Wilhelmina pops in and we sit down and go through her day.

## Wilhelmina (Wil) Seconna



*Now where would that Khoe pot be?*

Wil is the Assistant Collections Manager...actually she's the best Collections Manager ever! She makes sure that all the operations going on in the department run smoothly and that everybody is happy. It seems that we have similar morning routine going on here. Wil's morning begins with going through a mass amount of emails and research requests for access to the archaeology collections. All the SAHRA permits applications and all things admin were taken care of with a quick session at the computer, and Wil just make's it look so easy. A quick run to the printers is followed by a mini adventure in search of a Khoe pot for the Land Act exhibition coming up soon

Naturally, when you have a department filled with girls, you can expect there to be shopping talk involved at some point in the day. Today, Wil & Erica kidnapped Pascal and went out shopping...for safety gear quotes. Overalls, boots, gloves and hard hats aren't exactly what us girls want to be shopping for, but hey, we'll take it. Why are we buying safety gear? The museum is currently going through a major revamp and so there's construction being done in the building...as you would have it, the archaeology collection is required to move. So yes, we need heavy duty outfits that can be worn while we methodologically relocated the storeroom which houses over 100 (at least) sites in and around the Cape. Shopping trip over it's time to get the shelving out from the storeroom and into the main lab, and Erica takes charge.



**Erica Bartnick**



*“Kenni, stop with the paparazzi-ness”*

Erica is the Collections Assistant working on the Physical Anthropology collection.

Her day today went along these lines: first task was to photograph the de-installation process of the casts made by former taxidermist, John Drury, in the Ethno Hall. It's been decided that the casts of the human figures are to be removed and replaced with wire figurines; it's all very futuristic and arty looking. Then there was the shopping trip followed by admin work regarding the Physical Anthropology collection. New labels for the skeleton boxes were prepared as well as a mapping system for the new layout of the collection. As already mentioned before, the archaeology storeroom is being shifted around and so today's main activities were centered the moving of the shelving and ensuring that the next site collection (Klasies River Mouth) to be moved is all prepped and ready to go.

### **Packers**



The manpower behind moving the shelving and super heavy boxes containing Stone Age material are our resident packers!! Sam, Angus, Pascal and Manzi

These guys do all the heavy lifting so that pretty girls such Wil, Erica and (depending if it's a bad hair day or not) myself don't have to.



*And that's a wrap folks, off to the pub I go!!*

Ok, it's the end of the work day and I need to head off to a farewell gig for one of my SAHRA mates and dive buddy. She's heading out to the USA for some warm-water-diving adventures. Goodbyes always suck, but it's the one time in what has felt like forever since I hung out with the SAHRA (South African Heritage Resources Agency) Underwater Unit, it'll be great...they're great! Here's a short piece and video link to what my awesome Maritime Archaeology mates do =).

**Sophie Winton**





*Can I get in the water now?*

When I sat down to write something for Day of Archaeology, my mind went blank! As a maritime archaeologist in South Africa, there are just too many wonderful things that I want to share about the world below the waves.

So instead of writing a 20 page essay, I thought I would let this video sum it up for me. This was filmed during SAHRA's Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Field School in 2012, hosted in Cape Town. Table Bay was a toasty 10 degrees Celsius and we were doing NAS training with some wonderful students from South Africa, the Netherlands, Swaziland and Canada.

If you would like to find out more maritime archaeology in South Africa, visit [www.sahra.org.za/about/maritime](http://www.sahra.org.za/about/maritime)

[https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B9j8kQpZi2daSUc4cEIONUZvaUk/edit?usp=drive\\_web](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B9j8kQpZi2daSUc4cEIONUZvaUk/edit?usp=drive_web)