



NEWSLETTER – MAY 2005

1. **JOURNAL OPTIONS:** Update from Digby Cyrus

17th May 2005

To: Membership, SASAqS

From: Prof Digby Cyrus, Incoming President, SASAqS

Although the handover by the old Exco to the new is not yet fully complete, we have been trying to take up the reins as we move into our first year of office. The new Exco comprises myself, Dr Wynand Vlok (Vice President & Chairman of the Medals Committee), Dr Rodney Owen (Secretary) and Dr Hendrik Jerling (Treasurer).

To say that we have been flung headlong into it would be an understatement, as the first issue that we have been trying to resolve is the increase in price of the Journal and the associated implications on the Society's subscriptions. Rodney has already given you the initial background to the issue and a number of you have responded, both positively and negatively and in some cases with extensive comments. I must apologise for not having responded to these comments but events have overtaken us and we now have to move in order to ensure that we will still have a journal produced this year.

The situation that has developed is awkward in that issues related to the cost of the Journal to the Society has to be resolved by the end of this month whilst (traditionally) the AGM is only to be held in July and is the only time when proposals and ratifications can be made. The bottom line, however, is that the journal costs have increased significantly this year and, according to our contract with NISC, it can only be terminated, by either party, six months after written notice has been received. Based on this we have made the decisions laid out below and will seek the membership's guidance and approval of proposals that will be put forward at the July AGM.

The following are the rates for 2005 from NISC:-

1. **Hard Copy of Journal PLUS Online on Ingenta (Including VAT for RSA & postage)**

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|--|-----------|
| a. <i>RSA - <u>Print run of 200</u> (basically whole membership takes this option)</i> | R 300.00 |
| b. <i>RSA - <u>Print run of 30 upwards</u> (anyone who wants subscribes)</i> | R 380.00 |
| c. <i>African Members</i> | R 397.00 |
| d. <i>International Members</i> | \$ 111.00 |

2. **For Online on Ingenta only (with online access to back issues* & search facility)**

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| a. <i>South African Members</i> | R 164.00 |
| b. <i>African Members</i> | R 164.00 |
| c. <i>International Members</i> | \$ 70.00 |

* 91 articles currently online - going back from Volume 29(2)

Based on the above, we believe that, due to having no official mandate from the membership, we have no option but to register all the members for the online subscription @ R164.00. This would leave a balance of R9.00 for the Society based on the 2004 individual subscription rate of R175.00. The Exco intends to apply at the AGM to increase the membership subscription to R200.00 which would still mean that only R36.00 per member would accrue to the Society.

Your name and e-mail address will be forwarded to NISC for you to be provided with online access. If your name is not obvious in your e-mail address, as in the case of a student number or otherwise cryptic identifier, please reply by return e-mail to rowen@pan.uzulu.ac.za giving your initials, first name, surname, title and postal address (We are in the process of reconciling the membership and mailing lists).

However should you wish to receive a hard copy of the journal as well you will need to request this of the Secretary by e-mail, along with your name, postal address and e-mail address. By doing this you commit yourself to paying a subscription of R 416.00 for 2005 (R 380.00 for the Journal and R36.00 for the Society). Requests for hard copies must reach the Secretary by the 30th of May 2005 and will only be implemented if NISC print 30 or more copies.

The Exco realises that this is not the ideal situation but it believes it is all that can be done in the interim. This will be followed by a call for comments and proposals from the membership, taking these into account (and those already received) a proposal will be put to the AGM for approval by the membership.

Could you please supply your Name & e-mail address to the Secretary asap and clearly indicate should you wish to opt for the hard copy subscription for 2005.

Regards
Digby Cyrus

2. PALEOLIMNOLOGY / ECOLOGY: Submitted by Janine Adams

Postgraduate bursaries are available for 2005 to join a group working on Holocene paleolimnology in the Wilderness Lakes, Lake St. Lucia and Knysna Estuary. The project is funded by the National Research Foundation. Project members are Dr Felipe Garcia-Rodriguez, Prof JB Adams and authorities of Kwa-Zulu Natal and the South African National Parks.

These studies are aimed at the BSc and MSc level, although PhD projects are possible. Funding consists of NRF bursary plus potential top-up, as well as required running expenses.

The project aims to reconstruct paleoecological conditions in relation to sea level variation and climatic change. A biogeographical comparison to similar South American systems will also be done. Major activities include, coring sediments, diatom taxonomy, opal phytoliths, multivariate statistics, and nutrient analysis, to reconstruct paleosalinities and climatic changes and trophic state for the last 10,000 years. Human impact assessments will also be done.

Applicants should preferably have at least a 3rd year or Honours degree in aquatic biology, aquatic botany, aquatic ecology or limnology/oceanography.

Please contact Janine Adams for further information. If you are interested send a curriculum vitae to:

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