



The Free State Branch held two Branch meetings during the current financial year. Please note that no meetings were held in the second semester of 2013, due to the occurrence of the 18th Annual National Conference.

1.1. First Branch Event

The first branch event was held on 17 March 2014 at the National Museum in Bloemfontein. Dr Lloyd Rossouw (National Museum, Bloemfontein) explained the need of Heritage Impact Assessments within the Environmental Authorisation Process and gave us a glimpse on some of the valuable knowledge and interesting findings he made during such assessments. Refreshments were served afterwards and attendees were provided with the opportunity to walk through the Museum, meet researches at the Museum or socialise with one another.

Number of attendees: 23



Dr Lloyd Rossouw, presenter at the first branch event for 2014.



Attendees had the opportunity to view findings made by Dr Lloyd Rossouw during some of his Heritage Impact Assessment Studies.

1.2. Second Branch Event

Our second branch event was held on 25 June 2014. This was the first Free State branch meeting held at the Digital Planetarium, Naval Hill, Bloemfontein. Professor Matie Hoffman from the Department of Physics, University of the Free State took us on a trip through space.

Our small existence on Earth was highlighted as the “flight” took the crowd through the solar system to beyond the galaxies. Marike du Plessis (assistant presenter at the planetarium and also an IAIA Free State Branch Committee Member: Student Affairs) used Science On a Sphere (SOS) simulations to discuss climate change factors that affect planet Earth, for example the release and movement of carbon monoxide in our atmosphere. A pre-recorded show entitled “Our Fragile Planet” was also shown, focussing on the complex system of Earth’s climate and the life-giving properties of Earth’s atmosphere. Refreshments were served afterwards to fight the cold and this also provided the opportunity for attendees to socialize with one another and see unexpected visitors such as the giraffes, zebras and other wildlife from the Franklin Game Reserve of which Naval Hill forms part of.

Number of attendees: 24



The Naval Hill Digital Planetarium.



Mariuske du Plessis and Professor Matie Hoffman, ready for action.



Everyone enjoyed the refreshments that were served after the intriguing discussions.



Two of the unusual guests that made their appearance at tea-time.