

Welcome to South Africa, the rainbow nation!

Bridging Diversity International Conference on Time Travels and Historic Environment Education Worcester museum, Cape Winelands, October 8-10 2008

Diversity, problem or richness

South Africa is a diverse country like many other countries in the world. Diversity can be seen as a problem and lead to confrontations and clashes but can also create richness and opportunities.

The conference in Worcester will focus on diversity today and in the past and will describe many examples from South Africa and from all over the world. How do we bridge diversity? What role does the past play in forming the life in the communities of today, in a good sense or in a problematic way? Can education in the local heritage and time travels help in bridging diversity and heal divided societies?

Worcester museum and Wolwekloof Learning Academy

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

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

The conference is the annual meeting of the Bridging Ages organisation. Bridging Ages include members from schools, museums, universities and municipalities/regions from ten countries in Europe, USA and Africa, all working with time travels and heritage education.

South African schools, museums and regional organizations interested in living history, education and the experiences from Western Cape and overseas, are warmly invited to the conference

Time travels in South Africa

Time travels started in Cape Winelands, South Africa in 2006 as a cooperation between the Kalmar region in Sweden and the Cape Winelands District Municipality. So far five historical sites, from the San, 2000 B.C. until apartheid 1976, have been used for education and time travels with schools, museums and universities. The result has been amazing, Time travels have been a way to act and discuss issues of today, like inequality, democracy, communication and diversity, in a historical context. History has come alive today, a way of healing 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 workshop we will offer different topics of time travels/historic environment education: research, costumes and props, organization of time travels, curriculum, key questions-then and now 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 18th century and of today.

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

Historic Environment Education uses local historic sites and nearby history, as an active way of learning, inspiring today's people and communities about the past.

Time Travels is an educational method, where the participants research and take part in the life of another historical time period, in order to learn about themselves and their society.

Program, draft

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 Winelands, Western Cape and South Africa	Minister and organisers
	News from Bridging Ages	Ebbe Westergren
	Time Travels in South Africa, school perspective	Teachers, curriculum advisor
	Coffee/tea	
	Time Travels in South Africa, museum perspective	Museum professionals
	Time Travels in South Africa, university perspective	Nigel Penn, professor
	Discussion	
12.30	Lunch	
13.30	Time travel to 1773 at Wolwekloof Wolwekloof Learning Academy	Gunnar Aldestam
19.00	South African braai (barbeque)	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

John Parkington, professor

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 etc.

Conclusion

16.30 End

18.30 African evening in the township Zweletemba

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

There will be an opportunity to take part in time travels with students and also to see Cape Winelands, Cape Point, Robben Island, Cape Town and more. Choose what you like.

Excursion program, draft

Wednesday 8 am Visit one of the time travelling schools

Saturday 11 Tour of Cape Winelands: mountain pass, vineyard, Stellenbosch, Cape Town evening

Sunday 12 Cape Town museums, Table Mountain

Monday 13 Cape Point, Robben Island

Tuesday 14 Time Travel, Clanwilliam, 2000 B.C., the San-culture, with students from
Clanwilliam, afternoon/evening

Welcome

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

Western Cape Museum Services
Eureka Barnard?,

Cape Winelands District Municipality