

**VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA
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TALK: REDISCOVERING THE VILLAGERS OF NAMIES IN BUSHMANLAND

*** FREE AND OPEN TO ALL**

DATE & TIME: Tuesday 21st June 2022 at 20H00

VENUE: Athenaeum, Newlands

SPEAKER: Dr Lita Webley

TOPIC: Namies is located in Bushmanland, to the south of Pella and Pofadder. It is the site of a San massacre in the 1860s. After about 1880 large groups of trekboers gathered there in March, after the summer rains, for the annual nagmaal service. They occupied the area around the kopjes in tents, wagons and matjies houses. A church was constructed in 1910, serving also as a school for the nearby farmers. I sketch the late 19th century inhabitants of Namies, drawing on a novel and old photographs. Today, the village is abandoned and in ruins. However, the name lives on in the Namies Wind Farm which is being constructed nearby.



PRESENTER: Vernac member, Dr Lita Webley, is an archaeologist and heritage practitioner with deep knowledge of the arid West Coast areas of Southern Africa, developed over a lifetime of community engagements, academic research and heritage impact surveys. As sometimes happens, a chance encounter with new evidence sparked a re-look at previous work, resulting in this fascinating story.

OUTING: CAPE TOWN CITY WALKABOUT

*** MEMBERS ONLY, PLEASE WEAR BADGES**

DATE: Saturday 25th June 2022

TIME: 09H30 (time to have coffee)

VENUE: Meet at Fidelis Coffee Shop, in corner of Church Square (<https://fidelis.capetown/>).

PARKING: Surrounding streets, around R20 per hour (until 1pm, afterwards is free), or there is a parking garage at 77 Burg St (close to the corner of Burg and Wale).

TOUR LEADER: Lesley Cox of Cape Town Walking Tours (<https://capetownwalkingtours.com/>).

TOUR STARTS: 10H00 (circular walk for about 2 hours depending on enthusiasm).

ROUTE: Church Square, the Grand Parade, Darling Street, Adderley Street, Longmarket Street, into Greenmarket Square, then Burg Street, St George’s Mall, the Company Gardens, and back via Victoria Street.



Church Square in the late 19th century (UCT Digital Library).



AFTERWARDS: Instead of a picnic, we can enjoy street food at the Open Air Dining Experience in the Bo-Kaap (<https://www.capetown.travel/event/bo-kaap-open-air-dining-experience/>).

