

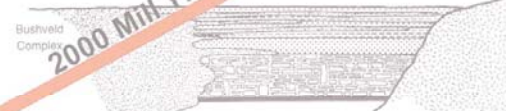
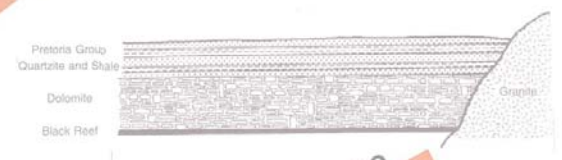
Middle & Late Iron Age: Ruins of the Late Iron Age culture was found on the southern slopes of the Magaliesberg. "Unlike people of the Early Iron Age, they tended to settle on hilltops rather than in valleys. This may indicate greater military activity and a need for security." (Curruthers, V: 226) Their huts were cylindrical. The first stonewalls in the Magaliesberg were built in about 1600. The largest village, was Ho Bupye sited on what is now Ollifantspoort farm. Late Iron Age pottery is thinner. Ornaments and decorations were important to these communities. By 1800 the gold, copper and ivory trade from the area had become well established.

In 1800 Kwena Magopa (Tswana) settled on the northern side of the Magaliesberg in the area between the Oori (Crocodile) and the Pembane (Apies) river. Early Ndebele (Nguni) advancing from the eastern coast lowlands moved into the area east of present day Pretoria. Of these the Po later settled at the Wonderboom before moving further west.

Period of disruption unprecedented in SA history. Beginning of the Difagane, a period of social and economic breakdown due to rivalry and warfare. It was initiated when several Nguni clans retreated over the Drakensberg to escape Zulu expansionism. They attacked and displaced the main branch of the Tokwa who had settled in the Caledon River basin. They in return set about raiding other weaker groups nearby and a chain reaction of devastation swept through the southern high veld. In the early stages of the Difagane the settlements in this region were not abandoned. Arrasment from the Marauders was severe and the difficulties it caused were compounded by a general increase in inter-group fighting.

2300 Mill Yrs Ago

Transvaal Sequence, formed timeball hill (Salvokop), Daspoort, Magaliesberg and Smelterskop formations.



The Bushveld Complex: As a result from the upheaval of molten magma, contains a variety igneous rocks and considerable mineral wealth. The rock "norite" are found immediately north of the Magaliesberg, and are quantities of chrome, the richest platinum deposits in the world, and the largest known reserves of iron ore. The southern perimeter of the Pretoria Group broke out separately into parallel ridges, the highest of these being the Magaliesberg. The upper surface became the northern slope of the ridge after it tilted. As this surface was the closest to the magma, the quartzite melted in the heat and recrystallised into large, pebble-like crystals, sometimes combining with feldspar.

Acrimony and Cival war, 1856 - 1864:

January 1864, two Boer armies confronted each other at the Crocodile River, just north of the present Hartebeespoort Dam.

1857
The firsts church built in Church Square.

1856's
Cival War
Naturalists & Explorers, 1840- 1879



1932's
1933's

1864's
Buffelspoort Dam completed

The subsequently elected President Burgers visited the Wonderboom

1823's

The Pedi Invasion: The Pedi army was led by Maleleku, son of the Pedi chief Sekwati. As they approached the Magaliesberg, they grew in numbers by wandering bands displaced by the disruptions to the south. At the Pebane (Apies) river they encountered the Kwena (Apies) A battle took place at present day Onderstepoort. The young heir to the Po chiefdom, Mokalhe, later the mountains will be named after him by a corruption of his name "Magalies". The Pedi still penetrate deeper to the west.

1827's
Ndebele Invasion: Mzilikazi invaded the Magaliesberg in 1827, suppressing the Tswana and established a new kingdom with the Magaliesberg as its centre, the confluence of the Limpopo and Crocodile Rivers forming the northern most border and the Vaal River its southern border. It is estimated that there must have been atleast 50 Ndebele settlements in the area, one of the largest of these being Kungwini situated in the proximity of the Wonderboom mountain.



570 - 410 Mill Yrs Ago

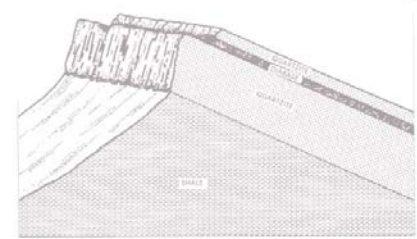


1877's
British annexation of the Transvaal: The British were tired of the Boers exploitation of the Africans. Aggressive imperialists took the opportunity to annex the Transvaal, with little resistance, sir Theophilus Shepstone hoisted the Union jack in Pretoria on 12 April 1877. British rule changed Pretoria into a boisterous military camp and in the mountains themselves several English speaking families acquired farms.

1949's
Proclaimed as the Wonderboom Nature Reserve

1828's

1828's
Griqua & Korana War (1828 - 1831): The Griqua and Korana were frontiersmen of mixed racial origin who lived in scattered bands on the Vaal, Hartebees, and Orange rivers. They were persistent raiders of cattle and their use of horses and firearms compensated slightly for their tactical incompetence. They raided under Jan Bloem's command, the Ndebele settlements in the Magaliesberg, when Mzilikazi's main force is away. Three days later the Ndebele overtook the Griqua's and Korana's. The Griqua's traditional trading and hunting routes has dimished as a result of Mzilikazi's kingdom expansion.



1977's

12 August 1977 the Magaliesberg was formally proclaimed the first "nature area" in South Africa

1879's

"The wonderboom, however belied its name. Perhaps some few years ago it might have had a striking appearance, but at present the rooted branches have been chopped away for firewood, and nothing remains but a moldy dilapidated stump."

It is evident from this unpublished report of R. Atcherly, that the Wonderboom was subject to vandalism even during the early days

1985's

One of the daughter trees of the Wonderboom collapsed. It was later discovered that the tree was infected by the fungus Ganoderma apalanatum.

1881's

1881's
The Transvaal War, 1880-1881: Boers was unhappy with British rule, they reproclaimed independence, a war broke out at Bronkhorstspuit, it lasted 15 minutes. British commander surrender. Siege of Pretoria. The British then build forts (Fort Royal, Commeline and Tullichewan) and blockades. The Boers cried victory in the end.

1829's

1829's
Robert Moffat and other early European visitors: The first European visitors, hunter-traders to the area, were three scotsmen from Grahamstown, William McLuckie, Robert Scoon and David Hume. Mzilikazi acquired firsthand information as to the work that the missionary Robert Moffat was doing among the Tswana in Kuruman. Moffat was then invited to Mzilikazi's residence. Their friendship open the road to Kuruman.

345 Mill Yrs Ago

The Karoo Sequence - Dwyka Glaciation: Erosion occurred during the long ages that followed the creation of the Magaliesberg and brought the landscape to a stage in the carboniferous period. During the meteorological conditions, in Europe the southern hemisphere was subject to extreme cold and vast sheet of creeping ice. The Magaliesberg was totally submerged beneath the ice. The effects on Magaliesberg were considerable, the high quartzite crest was planed away all to the same height. Where

2011



1988's

The Wonderboom including the Wonderboom as a National Monument

1994's

The large new church in central Pretoria built in 1881 was demolished

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND 02



1. INTRODUCTION
2. NATURAL HISTORY OF THE MAGALIESBERG AREA
3. CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE MAGALIESBERG AREA
4. CONCLUSION

Summary of the background of the natural and cultural history of the Magaliesberg ridge, and of Pretoria.

2.1 Introduction

In the following chapter the natural and cultural history of the Magaliesberg area will be discussed to give background to the research study. Everything started with the tectonic geological episodes which created the quartzite ridges. Many thousands of years later indigenous people started moving into these mountains. Hundreds of years later the Europeans came and Pretoria came into existence. "This is a story of immense diversity, of science and aesthetics, wilderness and war." (Carruthers, 2000: 1) It is this combination of geology, climate and nature which creates this spectacular scenery.

The background history of the study area is important, because by knowing what has happened in this area as well as in the Magaliesberg mountain, a better understanding of why the place is so significant and why it should be protected but also why everyone should be made aware of its existence is so important. This chapter will also give some background on some of the artefacts and aspects found on site. A better understanding of that will shed light on why the specific theory is investigated and why some design interventions are made the way they are.

2.2 Natural history of the Magaliesberg area

The formation of Pretoria's landscape began some 2300 million years ago, when quartzite, shale, dolomite and chert rocks were deposited in a series of layers. The series of cataclysmic events which produced this distinctive geomorphology can be grouped for convenience into four phases: deposition of the quartzite and shale from which the mountains are

constructed; tilting of the range through subterranean disturbances; burial of the range under ice and till; and re-emergence of the range and subsequent erosion to its present form. (Carruthers, 2000: 6)

The Voortrekkers who began settling in the area in the late 1830's named the northern most ridge the Magaliesberg after a local chief, Mohale (Mogale). Before that it was known as the Cashane (Khashan) mountains after another chief, and even earlier than that, it was called Boradi Mountains. (Carruthers, 2000)



Illus. 12: Map of the Magaliesberg Region (Carruthers, 2000:1)

2300 Mill Yrs Ago

Pre-Cambrian period

Transvaal Sequence of sedimentary rock deposited in the following sequence: Black Reef Quartzite Formation, Malmani Subgroup (dolomite and chert), and the Pretoria Group, which included the Magaliesberg Quartzite Formation.

The four stages in the formation of the Magaliesberg

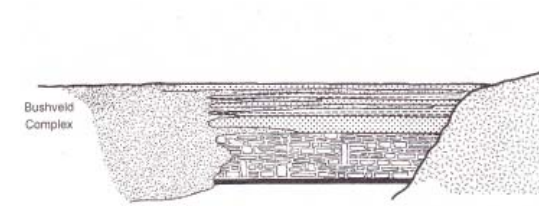


Illus 13: Stage 1, Deposition of the Transvaal Series on the floor of a shallow sea. (Carruthers, 2000: 14)

2000 Mill Yrs Ago

Bushveld Complex

Transvaal Sequence tilts to form monoclinical ridges of quartzite and shale.



Illus 14: Stage 2: Molten magma builds up on the north and intrudes between the sedimentary layers. (Carruthers, 2000: 14)

570-410 Mill Yrs Ago

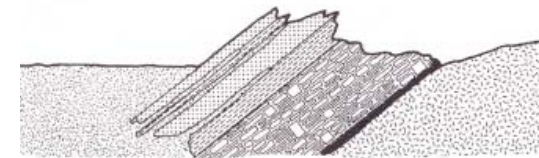
Cambrian Period, Ordovician Period, Silurian Period and Devonian Period

These periods were the periods of exposure and erosion.

345 Mill Yrs Ago

Carboniferous Period

Exposed ridges levelled by glacial abrasion and buried beneath the following Karoo Sequence sediments, called the Dwyka Formation (glacial)

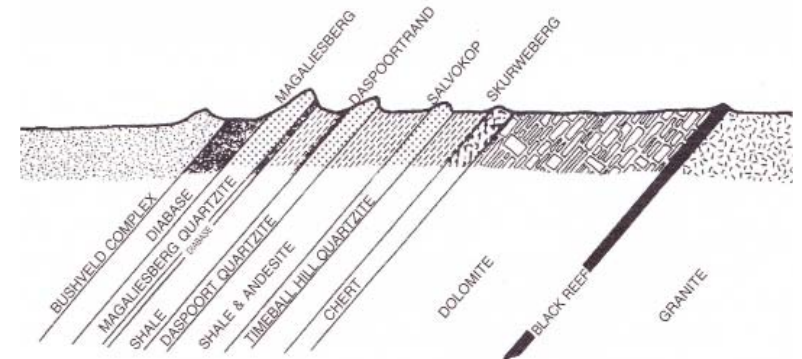


Illus 15: Stage 3: Rocks of the Transvaal Series subside into the magma. (Carruthers, 2000: 14)

280 - 63 Mill Yrs Ago

Permean, Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous and Palaeogene Periods

During these periods the following groups developed, namely; Ecca, Beaufort, Stormberg, Drakensberg Basalt Group. During the Palaeogene Period, erosion and removal of Karoo Strata started, the warping of subcontinental watershed and the development of river beds and poorts came to existence.



Illus 16: Stage 4: The exposed edges of the tilted rocks are weathered by ice and other elements, the more resistant quartzite forming ridges (Carruthers, 2000: 14)

20 Mill Yrs Ago

Neogene Period and Quaternary Period

During these periods, erosion continued and northward movement of the ridge started.

2.3 The cultural history of the Magaliesberg area

Introduction

Before Wonderboom Nature Reserve's cultural resources (aspects) can be discussed in detail, a background regarding the different phases of human history in the Magaliesberg is needed. This will enable the reader to better understand the sites found during a survey by Anton van Vollenhoven in 2008. These sites will be discussed in further detail in chapter five.

From the time of their earliest evolutionary emergence human beings have been an integral part of life in the Magaliesberg. For hundreds of thousands of years a succession of societies, each with its own culture and technology, has inhabited the mountains (Carruthers, 2000: 210). According to Carruthers, "In consequence, the archaeological interest of this region is as important as that of the wildlife. It provides glimpses into the long unwritten history of southern Africa and the early development of mankind." (Carruthers, 2000: 210)

The Stone Age Period

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic material was mainly used to produce tools (Van Vollenhoven, 2008:13). In South Africa the Stone Age can be subdivided into three periods. The division for the Stone Age according to Korsman & Meyer (1999: 93-94) is as follows:

- Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 million – 150 000 years ago
- Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 – 30 000 years ago
- Late Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 - A.D.

According to Van Vollenhoven (2008: 13) it is important to note that some of the oldest humanoid fossils have been found close to Pretoria, namely at Kromdraai, Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Gladysvale and Drimolen (in the Krugersdorp area). These hominids include Australopithecus Africanus, Australopithecus Robustus and Homo Habilis and can be as old as 3 million years. These early people were the first to make stone tools.

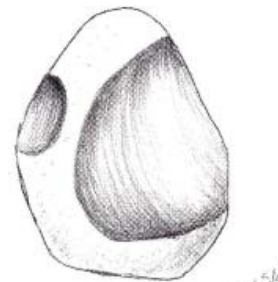
It is important to mention this as one of the important Early Stone Age sites are situated just east of the Wonderboom Nature Reserve. (Van Vollenhoven, 2008: 13)

Early Stone Age

The early Stone Age is represented by large multipurpose hunting and butchering tools. The Wonderboom Early Stone Age site covers an area of approximately 650 square meters with a deposit of up to 3 meters deep and contains immense numbers of hand axes, cleavers, scrapers and stone flakes. This period is associated with the emergence of Homo habilis (toolmaker) and Homo erectus. (Mitchell, 2002)



Illus. 17: Early Stone Age hand axe (Carruthers, 2000: 213)



Illus. 18: Core stone (Carruthers, 2000: 214)

2 Mill - 150 000 Yrs Ago

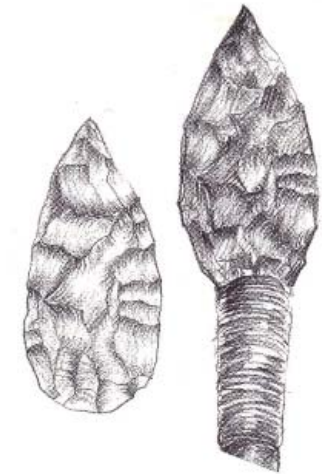
150 000 - 30 000 Yrs Ago

According to Anton van Vollenhoven (2008: 13) the Wonderboom site is a so-called Late Acheul site. This means that it is the later phase of the Acheulian culture, which is an Early Stone Age culture. These stone tools were probably manufactured by the earliest hominids as indicated above. These people would have undoubtedly utilised the area now known as the Wonderboom Nature Reserve as it would have been easy to hunt in the gateways through the mountain. (Van Vollenhoven, 2008: 13)

The artefacts (found by prof. Revil Mason in 1955) at Wonderboom were both useful tools and core stones showing that this part of the Magaliesberg was a place for camping and feasting on hunted game as well as a tool manufacturing centre. There are considerable similarities between these tools and those which had been made at Sterkfontein more than a million years previously by an earlier species of man. The later tools were, however, more often in the form of pear-shaped hand axes or cleavers between about 100 - 200mm in length. (Carruthers, 2000: 214-216)

Middle Stone Age

Although no specific Middle Stone Age site has been identified in the Wonderboom Reserve, numerous artefacts and sites have been found in the Tshwane area. The Middle Stone Age was characterised by a reduction in tool size, and a refinement of stone tool technology. This also implied a refinement of hunting techniques, such as the hafting (attachment to a bone or wooden handle) of stone tools. A much larger range of stone tools makes their appearance in this age and typical Middle Stone Age tools include blades, knives, and spear points. The Middle Stone Age also marks the arrival of anatomically modern humans - Homo sapiens.

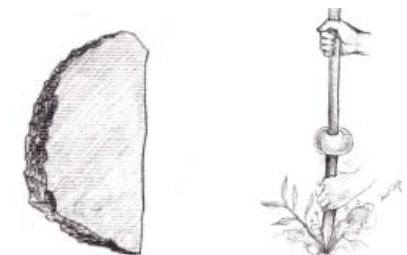


Illus 19: Tools of the Middle Stone Age (Carruthers, 2000: 217)

Middle Stone Age material was identified some years ago on the western side of Voortrekker Road across the Magaliesberg Mountain. This would have been inside the reserve (Van Vollenhoven, 2008: 14). Refer to chapter 5 for illustrations of these artefacts.

Later Stone Age

The Later Stone Age is characterised by a further refinement of stone tools. Very small artefacts (known as microliths), requiring high skill levels to manufacture are typical of this period. This period is associated with hunter gatherers such as the San, a florescence of rock art and other symbolic behaviour, wide-spread expression of art in the form of ostrich eggshell beads, ostrich eggshell flasks, pendants. Bone points and stone inserts were used in composite poisoned arrows.



Illus. 20: Late Stone Age blade (Carruthers, 2000:218)

Illus. 21: Digging stick with stone weight (Carruthers, 2000:218)

According to Van Vollenhoven (2008) a Late Stone Age site has been identified to the west of Wonderboompoort. This phase of the Stone Age is associated with the San people. Although many San sites are associated with rock art it does not seem that rock art is present at the Wonderboom Nature Reserve.

Although only two Stone Age sites were identified during the survey, by Anton van Vollenhoven (2008: 14) a number of stone tools were found throughout the reserve. The lithic tools represent all three phases of the Stone Age and it is, therefore, clear that the hunter-gatherers associated with these tools utilised the area extensively.

40 000 Yrs Ago - 1850 A.D.

The Iron Age Period

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artefacts. (Van Vollenhoven, 2008: 16) In South Africa it can be divided into two separate phases according to Van der Ryst & Meyer (1999: 96-98), namely:

- Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.
- Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii), however, indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles according to Van Vollenhoven (2008: 16), are:

- Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.
- Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.
- Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.



Illus. 22: Open hearth smelting (Carruthers, 2000: 222)

Early Iron Age

For the first time man identified with the land on which his crops were growing or from which he was mining iron ore. Informative relics of early Iron Age have been found at Broederstroom on the banks of the Hartbeespoort Dam. Inhabitants of the Moot valley were goatherders and metal workers. The huts were assembled in small villages. The metal was smelted in charcoal furnaces in the village. (Carruthers, 2000: 220-224)

Middle & Late Iron Age

Ruins of the Late Iron Age culture was found on the southern slopes of the Magaliesberg. "Unlike people of the Early Iron Age, they tended to settle on hilltops rather than in valleys. This may indicate greater military activity and a need for security." (Carruthers, V: 224) Their huts were cylindrical, and according to Carruthers, they were mud-plastered walls capped with a coarsely thatched conical roof. Cattle enclosures and fences around settlements were made from branches of thorn trees. On the perimeter of each settlement sorghum and other crops were grown. (Carruthers, V: 224)

The first stonewalls in the Magaliesberg were built in about 1600. There was no apparent break between middle and late Iron Age, and indeed the lineage continued directly to modern Tswana people living in the area today.

Late Iron Age pottery is thinner, and Pottery found in the Magaliesberg bears a pattern of notches around the lip and broad bands of different colouring around the circumference. Ornaments and decorations were important to these communities, and according to Carruthers may have had religious or superstitious significance (Carruthers, 2000: 226). Basket weave, pottery, wooden spoons and iron knives were also things noticeable from the iron Age.



Illus. 23: Late Iron Age pot (Carruthers, 2000: 228)

250 - 900 A.D.

900 - 1840 A.D.

Early travellers have moved through the area that later became known as Pretoria as early as 1829. This was when the first white people visited the area, namely Robert Schoon and William McLuckie. During the same year the well known missionary Dr. Robert Moffat also visited the area (Rasmussen 1978: 69).

The first Bantu language speakers in the area were the so-called Transvaal Ndebele, specifically the southern group. Their history goes back to Chief Msi (Musi) and the genealogy of the Manala (Mahbena) clan, the Ndzundza (Mapoch) clan, the Mathombeni (Kekana) clan and the Hwanda clan (Horn 1996: 23).

Chief Msi lived in the Pretoria area somewhere between 1600 and 1700 A.D. His sons divided the tribe into three groups, namely the Hwaduba, Manala and Ndzundza (Horn 1996: 23). The Manala lived to the north of Pretoria and the Ndzundza to the north and west. The Hwaduba stayed in the vicinity of the confluence between the Pienaars and Apies River. This group took over the culture and language of the Kgatla, a Tswana group (Bergh 1999: 108).

It is also said that Msi had a son called Tshwane. This has not been proved yet and neither has it been proved that he stayed at the Wonderboom. Louwrens and Van Vuuren give lengthy discussions on why they believe such a person never existed. Although their arguments are logical and scientifically sound, there is an element of doubt which could only be clarified by further (archaeological) research, according to Van Vollenhoven (2008: 17).

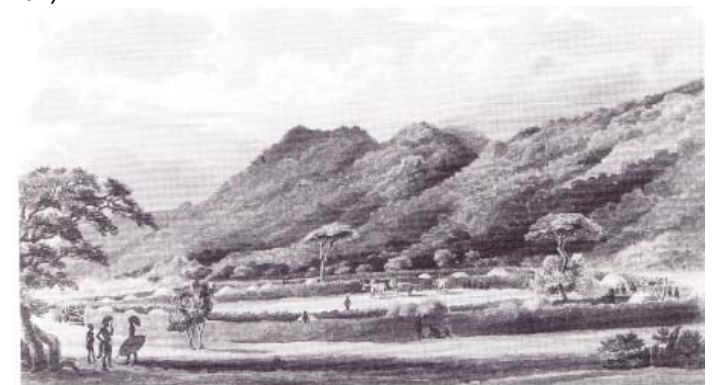
The largest group of Bantu speaking people in the Pretoria area is the Northern Sotho, but Southern Sotho's and Tswanas are also present. These groups have a typical building tradition consisting of large building complexes and round huts with conical roofs. At the beginning of the nineteenth century two Tswana groups, the Kwena and Kgatla stayed to the north and west of Pretoria in the vicinity of the Crocodile-, Pienaars- and Apies Rivers (Bergh 1999: 106).

It seems as if all these groups fled from the area during the Difaquane when Mzilikazi came here in 1827. He killed the men, burned down their villages, confiscated the livestock and took the women to marry members of his impi (Van Vollenhoven 2000: 156). Mzilikazi had many villages in the area. Particular mention is made of him staying at the Wonderboom. The site was called Kungwini (Carruthers 1990: 245).

An interesting argument Van Vollenhoven (2008: 17) makes is that "one can however not help to wonder why Dr Robert Moffat on a visit to this site did not mention the Wonderboom tree. One would expect that such an exceptional natural phenomena would have been mentioned as Moffat gives a very detailed description of his visit."



Illus. 24: Late Iron Age village. (Carruthers, V.2000: 226)



Illus. 25: Ndebele kraal in the Magaliesberg. Painted by C. Bell, 1835. (Carruthers, 2000: 243)

The missionary Jean-Pierre Pellissier even visited Mzilikazi in March 1832. In June/ July of that year he was attacked by the impi of Dingane, the Zulu chief. As a result he left the area during that year (Bergh 1999: 112). This left an area described as being deserted by the missionary Robert Moffat. Sotho groups, however, started moving back into the area after Mzilikazi left (Junod 1955: 68).

The first white people also came to the Pretoria area during this time (Coetzee 1992: 11). In 1839 JGS Bronkhorst settled on the farm Elandspoort. He was the first permanent white settler in the area (Van Vollenhoven 2005: 17-45).

Erasmus de Oude was the first owner of the farm Wonderboom 302 JR which is the farm on which the Wonderboom Nature Reserve was established. The boundaries of the original farm were the Wonderboom airport to the north, the Montana agricultural holdings to the east, Booyesen Street to the south and the Apies River to the west. (Van Vollenhoven, 2008: 17)

Voortrekker invasion (1836 - 1837)

The Voortrekkers are known as people who became dissatisfied with life under the British administration, they migrated from the colony. At that time, they referred to themselves as "the emigrant farmers", but after half a century their movement became woven into Afrikaner national culture and they acquired the more heroic name of "Voortrekkers". (Carruthers, 2000: 259)

The Voortrekkers came from the Eastern Cape to the grassland highveld. Mzilikazi became uneasy with the Voortrekkers in his domain. Mzilikazi attacked, but the Voortrekkers built a defensive laager to hold off the Ndebeles. In the end Mzilikazi was evicted from the Magaliesberg through joint forces and various raids by the Tswana, Griqua, Zulu and the Voortrekkers. (Carruthers, 2000: 258) Mzilikazi abandoned his former territory and fled north of the Limpopo River. There he re-established his capital at Bulawayo and the descendants of his people are to be found in that region of Zimbabwe today. (Carruthers, 2000: 262)

South African Republic

Hendrik Potgieter and Andries Pretorius both wanted independence from the British. Both Potgieter and Pretorius played a major part in the settlement of white farmers in the Magaliesberg. Potgieter had led the successful campaign against Mzilikazi and claimed the right for Boers to occupy the Ndebele kingdom. (Carruthers, 2000: 270)

A major difference between Pretorius and Potgieter is their methods of gaining independence from Britain. Where Potgieter preferred to move beyond British jurisdiction, Pretorius chose to confront the British directly. (Carruthers, 2000: 270)

A few months after the battle at Boomplaats (1848), Pretorius called another meeting at Derdepoort (present highway to Bela-Bela passes through the mountains). A draft constitution was approved and a joint Volksraad was established to govern all Boer communities north of the Vaal (1852). (Carruthers, 2000: 271)

In 1852 Pretorius saw a chance to accomplish through negotiation what he had failed to achieve by force at Boomplaats. The British public were growing tired of the financial cost of their involvement in the political instability north of the Cape colony. Pretorius hoped to exploit this feeling of dissatisfaction to gain Boer independence. (Carruthers, 2000: 271)

1836's - 1837's

1840- 1852

Andries Pretorius negotiated and received Boer independence of the Vaal River from British on the Sand River. Two years later, the new state, the Zuid-Afrikaansch Republiek was born (1854). (Carruthers, 2000: 272)

1855's

Founding of Pretoria

Soon after Potgieter and Pretorius' reconciliation, they both died. Marthinus Pretorius, followed in his father's footsteps, and among the first undertakings was the acquisition of two farms on the southern slopes of the mountains where he intended to establish a seat of government for the inherent Volksraad. He continued to live at Grootplaas and the Magaliesberg remained at the centre of political developments in the Transvaal. It was only in 1855 that the proposed town was laid out, along the banks of the Apies River and named "Pretoria" in honour of Andries Pretorius. (Carruthers, 2000: 273)

1877's

British annexation of the Transvaal

The British were tired of the Boers' exploitation of the Africans. Aggressive imperialists took the opportunity to annex the Transvaal, with little resistance, Sir Theophilus Shepstone hoisted the Union Jack in Pretoria on 12 April 1877. Although it only lasted four years, British rule changed Pretoria into a boisterous military camp and in the mountains several English speaking families acquired farms. (Carruthers, 2000: 278)

1880's - 1881

The Transvaal War (First Anglo Boer War), 1880-1881

The Boers were unhappy with British rule, they proclaimed independence of the South African Republic, after four years of annexation, on 16 December 1880. Paul Kruger, Marthinus Pretorius and Piet Joubert were the Boer leaders. Their declaration was delivered to the British High Commissioner in Pretoria, Sir Owen Lanyon, who immediately repudiated it and the situation erupted into war.

The 3600 troops of the British military under the command of Colonel William Bellairs were distributed in small garrisons throughout the Transvaal. On the other hand the Boer - directed under Commandant-General Piet Joubert - strategy was to besiege the widely scattered British troops in their isolated outposts, thus leaving the majority of the Boer force unharassed to defend the Natal border from the expected British invasion.

The first battle broke out at Bronkhorstspuit and lasted for 15 minutes. The Boers won the battle.

Pretoria was located between the Magaliesberg mountains, and not easy to defend, but after the British heard what happened at Bronkhorstspuit, the town prepared for a siege. The main fortification was Fort Royal, close to the site of the present day railway station, which guarded the roads from Heidelberg and Potchefstroom. On the northern side of Pretoria, however, there were no fortifications and it was defended by Bellairs, who patrolled alone.

In preparation of the siege, martial law was proclaimed and the entire population was relocated to fortified camps. The Loreto Convent in Skinner Street was commandeered and linked to the old goal to form a walled enclosure in which civilians were accommodated. Others were housed within the military camps at Fort Royal. (Clayton, 2010)

Two forts were hastily constructed on the hills to the south of the town. They were Fort Tullichewan, sited on Timeball Hill (Salvo-kop) and Fort Commeline on the hill to the west of it. They were stone structures each manned by a garrison of 25 men of the Royal Scots Fusiliers and a four-pounder Krupp gun.

General D.J Erasmus, in command of the siege, decided to set up ten blockades on the access routes to the town, and not to adopt an offensive strategy. Four of these blockades were to the south on the roads to Heidelberg and Potchefstroom. Three were to the east of the town on the Magaliesberg and Bronberg ranges. Two were in the Magaliesberg to the north at Wonderboom and Derdepoort and one was on the Daspoortrand to the west. (Van Vollenhoven, 1998)

Throughout the siege, minor skirmishes frequently broke out between British patrols and the surrounding Boer laagers.

The Boers cried victory in the end. The Union Jack was lowered in Pretoria and taken by a group of British loyalists to be formally buried in a secret ceremony outside the town. (Carruthers, 2000: 287) According to Carruthers, the following day, the Royal Scots Fusiliers exhumed the flag, and the flag then remained in the care of the regiment until nineteen years later, when as the first British soldiers to set foot in the Transvaal during the South African War, the Royal Scots Fusiliers once again hoisted the same flag in Potchefstroom.

The Second Anglo Boer War (1899 - 1902)

The most important reason behind the Boers' fortification of Pretoria was probably the Jameson Raid of 1895/96. This event and the contemporary unrest amongst the foreigners on the Rand made the Government of the ZAR aware of an increasing foreign threat against peace that was present (Van Vollenhoven, 1998:50)

The 'Reformers' prepared a supply camp near Irene and were ready to march from there against Pretoria on 27 December 1896. Two hundred and fifty horses were allegedly kept at Halfway House for this purpose. Commandant-General Piet Joubert repeatedly expressed his fears about a possible attack on Pretoria. On New Year's day 1896 Commandant D.E. Schutte requested him to guard the roads between Pretoria and Johannesburg. (Van Vollenhoven, 1998:50)

The fact that the capital had been divided into defence wards and that a vigilance committee had been introduced there, proves that Pretoria did expect an invasion. All commandants in the Republic were instructed to have their men ready and Johannesburg was surrounded by Boer Commandos. (Van Vollenhoven, 1998:51)

The situation became even more serious when a secret map of Pretoria was discovered in the trunk of a British spy, Captain Robert White. He had already drawn this map in April 1895. Other proof of espionage activities were also found on him. It is a fact that the Jameson Raid was directly responsible for the Boers fortification of Pretoria (Van Vollenhoven, 1998: 51).

The Government of the ZAR built only four forts during the second Anglo Boer War, namely those at Schanskop, Wonderboompoort, Klapperkop and Daspoortrand.

War broke out between the British and the Boers once again, and battles took place in different places. It was the Boer leaders who dominated the Magaliesberg war, with their strategies, for example the guerrilla strategy.

The capture of Pretoria was an anticlimax for the British, according to Carruthers (2000), because even though the Union Jack was

1899-1902

hoisted at a victory parade in Church square, the ceremony could not disguise the fact that there could be no real victory over an enemy which had not accepted defeat.

South African War ruins in the Magaliesberg provide a valuable record of guerrilla military architecture.

The nature area

The Physical Planning Act of 1975 provided for the concept of a "nature area" wherein land ownership might remain in private hands but changes in land use would be prohibited except with the permission of the Department of Planning and the Environment. The Magaliesberg was not yet proclaimed as a "nature area", but was cited as the type of land which should be proclaimed. (Carruthers, 2000: 346) On 12 August 1977 the Magaliesberg was formally proclaimed the first "nature area" in South Africa. (Carruthers, 2000: 347)

2.4 Conclusion

In conclusion from the above mentioned background on the natural and cultural history of the Magaliesberg and Wonderboom Nature Reserve in specific one can deduce that this study site is very important. It contains evidence of war, Stone Age and Iron Age sites with artefacts, ruins of the Anglo Boer Wars and remnants of other celebrated events. This site also takes you as far back as the origin of the Magaliesberg with its geology layers and the result of a series of cataclysmic events which produced this distinctive geomorphology thousands of years ago, named the Magaliesberg ridge. This site has layers of history which one can explore and through design create awareness, access and understanding of these significant features.

In the following chapter the theoretical approach will be discussed. Ways in which one can communicate these heritage and history will be explored, the communication of the site's cultural and biophysical aspects.