

Editorial

Weird ET stone gets even weirder

A stone from space found in Egypt in 2013 continues to baffle scientists after a detailed analysis of its components revealed it was unlike any other extra-terrestrial rock ever found.

In 2013, researchers announced that the Hypatia Stone – named after a third century Egyptian female mathematician – was not from earth, and by 2015 other teams using noble gas analysis and nuclear probes confirmed that it was not part of a meteorite or comet.



This, of course, left the question of its origin still begging. Now research from a team at UNISA has produced a thorough analysis of the pebble's component parts and the mystery, far from being resolved, has only deepened.

It's now official: the Hypatia Stone is deeply weird.

To conduct their analysis, the team, led by Jan Kramer, first separated the stone's intrinsic components from the terrestrial bits and bobs that had accumulated in and around it.

Looking at the former, the first thing Kramer and his colleagues confirmed was that it was nothing at all like the make-up of most meteorites. Like the Earth itself, meteorites typically contain a small amount of carbon and a large amount of silicon.

Hypatia, in contrast, "has a massive amount of carbon and an unusually small amount of silicon", says Kramer.

That's odd, but by no means the oddest thing the researchers found.

"Even more unusual, the matrix contains a high amount of very specific carbon compounds, called polyaromatic hydrocarbons, or PAH, a major component of interstellar dust, which existed even before our solar system was formed," says Kramer.

"Interstellar dust is also found in comets and meteorites that have not been heated up for a prolonged period in their history."

This suggests that the stone is immensely old. Just how old, remains to be determined, but other discoveries made by Kramer's team are generating immense excitement.

Most of the PAH compounds have transformed into tiny diamonds – the result, the researchers suggest, of the force of impact when the much larger rock of which Hypatia is a surviving fragment smacked into Earth. Other elements, however, protected inside the rock, have remained unchanged, and are confounding expectations.

Hypatia contains aluminium in a pure micro-nugget form – something never before seen on earth or in space rocks.

"We also found silver iodine phosphide and silicon carbide grains, again in highly unexpected forms," says co-author Georgy Belyanin.

"The grains are the first documented to be found in situ without having to first dissolve the surrounding rock with acid. There are also grains of a compound consisting of mainly nickel and phosphorus, with very little iron; a mineral composition never observed before on Earth or in meteorites." The scientists suggest that these components – along with some strange nickel-phosphorus-iron grains – mean that significant parts of the Hypatia Stone were formed in pre-solar times – that is, before the sun, let alone the planets, had formed.

Clearly, the mysteries of Hypatia are still to be fully resolved.

Submitted by Barry Cleveland

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Wynberg



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August in Rotary

Membership and new club
development month

**Wynberg Rotary meet every Thursday,
6 for 6.30pm,
Palm House, Wynberg.**

For more information about our club, like us
on Facebook or visit our website:

Wynbergrotary.org.za



BE THE INSPIRATION

Minutes: 9 August, 2018

Compiled by Stephanie Thomas

Attendance	13 members, 1 make-up
Visitors	Phil Peckett, Amien White, Peter Thomas (Guest Speaker)
From the chair of President Biffy	<p>Pres. Biffy welcomed all present at the Rotaract Club house, thanking them for braving the heavy rain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biffy visited Don at Barrington House this week. She noted that it is far for Edith to travel from Hout Bay each day, and asked if fellow Rotarians could also visit him occasionally.• Bruce is having a hip replacement operation next week.• Rotary Family Health Day has unfortunately been cancelled this year. Hopefully certain issues will be resolved by next year.• Marshals are needed for the Cape Town Marathon on 23 September. A minimum of 10 people needed. Justin will co-ordinate and request a position within the Wynberg/Constantia area.• The old President's chain of office is missing. Does anybody know where it may be?• Mini Conference in Mossel Bay 13 October: Biffy is booking accommodation. Please contact her if you are wanting to attend.
Members' moments	Dennis' heart landed him in hospital and ICU overnight after having 3 stents. Fortunately he is back in good health and enjoying his wine again.
Slots	<p>Barry announced that a number of key members will not be available to assist at Proms this year. Please can all assist, as well as co-opting other Rotarians and friends to help. Graham will be co-ordinating manpower for the event.</p> <p>Stacy will be collecting donations for toiletry care packages for a R1500 Interact project and movie day at St Michael's Home.</p> <p>Blisters for Bread will take place on 22 September. Members are encouraged to sign up and join a 5Km walk with our Interact and Rotaract Clubs. Citation points are up for grabs, Please wear Rotary branded clothing.</p> <p>Justin: Questions are all ready for the Quiz Night on Tuesday 28 August. Vouchers and prizes have been coming in, but more are needed for extra prizes on the night. Tables are still available. Keela, Biffy and Mike's tables have places for members who don't have a team. Reminder to get there early and order pizzas and drinks before the Quiz starts.</p> <p>String has taken over the duty of liaison with Palm House. Please let him know by mid-day Wednesday if you won't be attending the following day.</p>
Fellowship	None recorded for the next week
Guest Speaker	Peter Thomas from Participlan spoke about how organisations can engage more productively. It turns out that Wynberg Rotarians could make up a very scary and efficient 'Mob'!!
Swindle	Peter Thomas drew the 6 of hearts (shame!); and Dave won the R20 attendance.
President's Words of Wisdom	Thinking positively will attract positive things into your life.

Duty Roster	August		September	
	23	30	6 Business	13
Sergeant	Cleveland	NO	Jackson	Overbosch
Wynpress Editorial	O'Driscoll	MEETING	Schonegevel R	Schreiber
Wynpress Minutes	Bredenkamp		Cleveland	Maunder
Door Duty	Todd		Van Niekerk	Barnard
Grace	Howard		Jackson	Murphy
Loyal Toast	Schonegevel R		Smith	Thomas
International Toast	Dietrich		Gowdy	Howard
Speaker Intro and Thanks	Van Niekerk		N/A	Bayes
Entertainment for the month	Dietrich, Munday, Schonegevel J, Jackson, Barnard		Bayes, Gowdy, Murphy, Thomas, Schonegevel R	

Dates To Diarise

23 August	Guest Speaker: ex SA cricketer Vince van der Bijl will tell us about working with young people in disadvantaged communities
28 August (Tuesday)	Quiz night
30 August	No club meeting: See you all at the Quiz Night!
31 August (Friday)	Barnyard fundraiser (RC Melkbos)
6 September	Lowell and Linda Rice from California will talk about their project in Victoria Falls, assisting local women to start their own business as seamstresses.
13 September	Report back on Rotarians' Club visit to Karmøy, Norway. TBC Packing of Santa's Shoeboxes (Keela)
20 September	Belinda Speed to talk about her PhD project on forensics (Stacy) TBC
27 September	Cyber phishing/Hacking/Rotary website (Stephen B) TBC
29 September (Saturday)	Last Night of the Proms at 20.00 in the City Hall
30 September (Sunday)	Last Night of the Proms at 17.00 in the City Hall

Tailpiece

Bizarre Sleeping Habits of the Rich and Famous

submitted by Rob Murphy

Do optimal amounts of sleep lead to success in life? Not necessarily...

When it comes to getting a good solid sleep session, some people will go to extreme lengths to ensure it goes ahead without disturbance or hindrance. But for others, sleep is not considered a priority and they are capable of functioning on as little as a 2 or 3 hours per night.

Here are a few of the most bizarre sleeping habits followed by the rich and famous:

Scientists and Inventors:

Name	Albert Einstein	Marie Curie	Thomas Edison
About Person	A German born Theoretical physicist - particularly famous for developing the theory of relativity, one of the two pillars of modern physics.	Otherwise known as, Madam Curie, was a Polish physicist and chemist who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity.	Edison was an inventor and businessman from Ohio, USA. He has been described as the greatest inventor America has ever seen.
Sleep Fact	Einstein slept a solid 10 hours each night and took a few day time naps when needed.	Madam Curie slept with a jar of radium at her bedside. This caused her to develop aplastic anaemia due to the exposure to radiation - leading to her early death.	Edison was a polyphasic sleeper. He slept for 20 minutes, every three hours. He once worked for 72 hours straight, without any breaks for rest.

Artists & Writers:

Name	Leonardo Da Vinci	Vincent Van Gogh	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
About Person	Leonardo was an Italian polymath of the Renaissance with a large area of interest, including: invention, painting, sculpting, architecture, science, music, writing and palaeontology. He is considered one of the greatest painters of all time.	The talented Dutch painter is among the most famous and influential figures in the history of Western art. He is well known for the act of cutting off his ear and creating the famous "Self-Portrait with bandaged Ear", merely a year before taking his own life in 1890.	A composer of the classical era, born in Salzburg.
Sleep Fact	The polyphasic sleep process, Da Vinci observed is called "The Da Vinci Sleep Schedule". Da Vinci slept between 20 minutes and 2 hours per session - several times a day.	The artist treated his insomnia by dousing his mattress and pillow with camphor, a relative of turpentine. The camphor slowly poisoned him and was one of the factors that pushed him to suicide.	Mozart was a monophasic sleeper who would go to sleep at 1am and wake up at 6am sharp.

Politicians:

Name	Winston Churchill	Thomas Jefferson	Barack Obama
About Person	Former British Prime Minister, politician, writer and army officer - born in Blenheim Palace, United Kingdom.	One of the Founding Fathers of America and the principal author of the Declaration of Independence. He later went on to become the third President of the USA.	He graduated from Harvard in 1991 and became the 44th President of the United States in 2009.
Sleep Fact	Churchill was classified as a "biphasic sleeper". Every day at 5pm, he would drink a weak whisky and soda before taking a 2 hour nap (this sounds pretty normal, right?). He would then more often than not work straight through the night.	Jefferson was what we call, a polyphasic sleeper. He slept only 2 hours a day at different times. He devoted a minimum of 30 minutes to creative reading prior to going to bed. He would then wake together with the sun.	Obama claims to always sleep 6 hours per night. He goes to bed at 1 am and gets up at 7 am.

Entertainment and Sports:

Name	Tom Cruise	Mariah Carey	Lady Gaga	Jimmy Kimmel	Michael Phelps
About Person	An American Actor / producer most commonly known for his role in the Mission Impossible movies. The 55 year old has been nominated for 3 Academy Awards and has won 3 Golden Globe Awards.	An award winning American singer-songwriter, referred to as the "Songbird Supreme" by the Guinness World Records.	The controversial singer of the hit single Poker Face, from New York, USA. She is known for her unconventionality and provocative work.	The hilarious host and executive producer of Jimmy Kimmel Live! From New York, USA.	Phelps is an American competitive swimmer and easily the most successful and most decorated Olympian of all time, with a total of 28 medals.
Sleep Fact	Mr. Cruise sleeps in a sound-proof "snoratorium", because of his tremendous snoring. This ensures he will not be heard outside the locked door.	This feisty female sleeps an astonishing 15 hours each day! This is almost twice as much as the average person. She sleeps with 20 humidifiers around her bed, which basically turns her bedroom into a steam room. Talk about beauty sleep!	Gaga sleeps inside of the egg, which she used for the performance of her hit single "born this way". She refers to it as a "vessel" and claims to have stayed inside of it for 3 days. Yikes!	Kimmel is a narcoleptic sleeper. This causes him to fall asleep at the most inappropriate times. He had admitted to falling asleep while driving and during writers meetings for Jimmy Kimmel Live.	Phelps sleeps in a chamber with air comparable to that at the altitude between 8500 - 9000 feet. This forces his body to work harder to produce more red blood cells and deliver oxygen to his muscles. This method of sleeping claims to give him optimal physical performance. Well, it showed!

As you can see, some of the world's most successful people have claimed to operate on minimal sleep, because it frees up a ton of time to get more work done.

Whether that is the key to becoming rich and famous is not known....

Speaking of the 'rich and famous', look who the roving camera found at Kenilworth Racecourse last Saturday!



Peter Thomas explaining to the Wynberg mafiosi how to do it properly, and without leaving evidence (note the hooch in the foreground)

