

2023 PRINCE MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI SILVER MEDAL AWARD

The Society is pleased to announce that this year's Prince Buthelezi Medal has been awarded to Ronald Collyer and Nicole Malan. For several years Ronald and Nicole – who are based outside Durban – have been spending their free time on the iSandlwana battlefield, tracing and recording the surviving cairns. Although those cairns on the main battlefield area - in front of the camp, and along the regularly-walked track of the 'fugitives' trail' – are well known and generally well kept, original burial reports and maps suggest that there were many more off the beaten track. Many of these are lost in the thick bush of the Manzimnyama valley, some are on outlying parts of the battlefields, and some have been lost to erosion. Ronald and Nicole have been painstakingly combing the battlefield, including the inaccessible parts, trying to match contemporary reports with existing remains, and marking those they have been able to relocate on a GPS system. The work can be physically tiring and challenging, particularly in areas of dense thorn bush; it can often take an entire day to locate a single missing cairn, or to prove that one was incorrectly marked on a map. Although their work is on-going, it will in the end provide the most comprehensive record of the iSandlwana graves that has yet been compiled.

Ronald Collyer and Nicole Malan

