

# *Graaff-Reinet Museum*

## *Vision*

Our vision is to be an institution, which preserves and reflects the cultural history and natural heritage of all the inhabitants of the Camdeboo area.

## *Mission*

We collect, conserve, research and display the rich cultural history and heritage of the Camdeboo area, for the education, recreation and upliftment of the community and visitors whom we serve.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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Mrs. G. Yalolo	-	Co-opted
Miss. A. Booysen	-	Co-opted

## **PERSONNEL**

### **GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

Mrs. A.F. Kayster	-	Principal Museum Human Scientist
Mrs. H.J.W. Baartman	-	Auxiliary Service Officer – Chief
Mrs. J.J. De Gama	-	Auxiliary Service Officer – Senior
Miss. D.D. van Wyk	-	Auxiliary Service Officer
Miss. V.Z. Pika	-	Auxiliary Service Officer
Mrs. N.A. Jacobs	-	Auxiliary Service Officer
Miss. X.P. Blouw	-	General Assistant
Mr. J. van Rhyners	-	General Assistant
Miss. K. Booysen	-	General Assistant
Miss. T. Fihla	-	General Assistant
Mr. J. Isaks	-	Trade man’s Aid

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEE EMPLOYEES**

Mr. D. van Wyk	-	Custodian & Security Officer
Mr. Z. Isaks	-	General Assistant

### **RELIEF STAFF**

Ms. A. Le Roux  
Ms. Y. Arnesen  
Ms. L. Du Toit  
Mr. B. Le Potha  
Mr. J. Strydom

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

Aviation is on the tip of every tongue this afternoon and in fact quite the talk of the town. Many thanks to Mr. Ivor Markman of the E.P. Herald for agreeing to join us this afternoon as our guest or should I say, VIP speaker. In a small town like Graaff-Reinet secrets so easily slip out and we all look forward to your talk this afternoon.

While on the subject of journalists, daily newspapers and hot topics: The Daily Dispatch carried an article (4<sup>th</sup> June 2008), featuring this year's flavour of the day throughout every museum in the country:

**TRANSFORMATION”.**

Perhaps a number of our contributors and supporters have read this article, which places the Graaff-Reinet Museum and for that matter, many other museums, in a very bad light.

On visiting Graaff-Reinet one cannot help being impacted

by colonial architecture and history. But one cannot label oneself historian by wiping away the colonial era: this is the history of a beautiful and noble little town, which visitors and tourists flock to, providing lifeblood to the era. Our task is to find, research and flesh out our entire heritage.

I think however that we have found ourselves a champion for our transformation projects in Mr. Litho Suka, the Eastern Cape Legislature's chairperson for the Sports and Culture Portfolio Committee.

It was quite unfair to Mr. Suka to have quoted him saying that “the only representation of the Black community was a collection of Robert Sobukwe photos and books.”

The Graaff-Reinet Museum is famous for its in-depth historical research and

archival material and Robert Sobukwe. The Sobukwe Wing is a prominent show-piece which is continually visited by researchers and tour groups, both South African and international.

Still vivid in my mind is the visit and presentation, to a jam-packed house, by Robert Sobukwe's lifelong friend Benjamin Pogrand; his insight into Sobukwe's life, work and ethic was a complete eye opener. Three rooms filled to the brim with every colour and creed you may wish to name. Open discussion from the floor, questions, answers and passionate discourse. One could go on and on.

Leading from the Robert Sobukwe Wing, a newly-constructed complex houses a display from another era of our history, particularly pertinent to Graaff-Reinet and for that matter South Africa, namely, 'Slavery and the long road to restitution'.

Construction costing in the region of R450,000.00 has reached completion and the

complex is currently being equipped with displays, the latest media equipment, community interactive areas and facilities which will flesh out the total budget to R640,000.00. All of these particular funds have been raised by the Graaff-Reinet Museum management staff.

(Our sincere appreciation goes to Lotto and its board).

Of course there were other armies in South Africa as quoted in this article: the Azanian People's Liberation Army, and uMkhonto weSizwe. But where are their champions, where are the contributors of memorabilia and, for that matter, where are the champions providing the funding to launch and house such valuable and important historical evidence before it is lost to our children?

Our greatest disappointment and resounding loss to the Graaff-Reinet Museum was that of Beyers Naudé House which the Museum had earmarked to house our next

transformation project, 'The Struggle'.

Beyers Naudé House will now be home to the Department of Education in Graaff-Reinet.

This transformation project would without doubt have – in the spirit of the great man, Beyers Naudé – been the dynamic catalyst to mobilize and incorporate the entire Graaff-Reinet community into a participative understanding and embrace of just what a living museum is: where the struggle started and where it will ultimately be laid to rest.

What a disappointment, what a loss! No stone was left unturned, from local municipal participation to personal representation and documentary presentation to the offices of the MEC Eastern Cape, but to no avail. Transformation has lost that battle.

Where will we find another transformational opportunity to set the tone, carry the stories and hand down the valuable legacy of visionaries

and friends, like Beyers Naudé, Nelson Mandela and their comrades?

The best places for housing the records of the past are, in fact, valuable buildings that in themselves are iconic memorials!

We will find one, but never a better historical memorial will be found for 'The Struggle' in Graaff-Reinet. The stage was set, the audience thronging to hear and understand the tales and lessons of those days.

But the curtain came down on nothing. No memento to the early days and formative years that shaped the minds of those brave men. No school buses and busy shuffling eager little feet. No magic!

Yes ... perhaps the office of some important man in education.

*But how important?*

Sometimes, to win great battles plans need to be changed, to win the struggle.

We'll have to leave it to that important man.

I must stress that we are making a concerted effort for change and for TRANSFORMATION.

Graaff-Reinet has an outstanding track record in transformation and we are open to anyone who would like to help or fund projects which further transformation.

We have a Xhosa tourist attraction at the entrance to town which operates intermittently and can very easily be revived to contribute to transformation.

But what of the Khoisan, their historical roots and authenticity? Perhaps we could consider a research program and correctly establish an authentic Khoisan village and cultural interactive facility within our museum. We will leave that decision to the Management of the Museum. I'm told that there is departmental funding for transformation projects.

These museums are not alone in this struggle. We are part of a provincial infrastructure that is just as passionate and dedicated to our mission.

Does one give advice to the provincial legislature in considering this matter of transformation and the promotion and funding of transformation?

I believe that it is our duty to look up, wipe our busy hands and give advice from the floor. "If you want an important task accomplished and well maintained give it to a busy worker."

We at the Graaff-Reinet Museum are busy workers. We want to interact and we want to transform!

I am proud of our Museum: always learning, ready to listen, hard working, dedicated, eager, smiling, and ready for any challenge.

We fight battles, some we win, some we lose, but we fight for transformation.

Thank you

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE MUSEUM

Ladies and gentlemen, The Graaff-Reinet Museum always aspires. We aspire to be the best possible museum in the Eastern Cape, we aspire to be representative of the community through our exhibitions and the research we undertake, we aspire to have fully trained staff to deliver the best possible service and so the list continues. I am of the opinion that a museum cannot exist without having aspirations. Aspirations are our dreams and the goals we intend to realize. That is what keeps us focused.

Once again I would like report on the progress that we have made towards achieving our goals. The road to excellence is not easy, but I believe that the Graaff-Reinet Museum is well on its way.

## PERSONNEL

I am very glad to report that the staff organogram is completed. All 11 vacancies were filled with the appointment of two Auxiliary Services Officers and three General Assistants. We would like to welcome Mrs Amanda Jacobs, Miss Vuyokazi Pika, Miss Katriena Booysen, Miss Thomokazi Fihla and Mr. James van

Rhyners on board. All the new staff members received in-house training and I would like to express a sincere thank you to all our permanent staff who have imparted their knowledge and assisted the new staff members in various ways.

In April of this year, staff also attended a team building exercise presented by SANParks. We spent a fruitful morning at the Camdeboo Educational centre where we saw how effective it was to work together and how to assist each other to cross hurdles, figuratively and literally.

During the course of the year, we lost the services of Mrs Anita van Tonder to greener pastures. It takes a special kind of person to keep a museum door open at weekends, since dedication and commitment are required. The museum is always ready to train people who would like to be part of our relief staff. Thank you to our relief staff team for their diligence and willingness to assist during weekends and public holidays. At the same time we would like to welcome Mr. Johan Strydom on board. This position of custodian has already been advertised in the local



newspaper, but the community did not respond to the advert.

Miss Jessie Gouws and Mr. Jesmond de Gama decided to tie the knot in September 2007. We wish her and her husband many happy years to come.

## **STAFF WORKING HOURS**

In the past, staff accumulated hours of work during weekends and then took one day per month off. Unfortunately this practice became illegal in 2007 and now staff has to work shifts to accommodate a forty hour work week. The Museum has risen to the occasion: a meeting was held and staff agreed to work every other Saturday to accommodate tourists and keep the doors of the museum open. I would like to commend staff for their commitment to the museum and for the spirit in which their daily tasks are done. It is always a pleasure to work with a motivated and enthusiastic team who have pride in their work and who put the museum first.

## **VISITORS AND VISITOR FIGURES**

The museum is still very much dependent on admission fees to ensure sustainability. Since its

inception the Military Museum has had 1050 visitors. Visitor figures are slightly lower than the previous financial year but higher than the 2005/6 financial year.

We had a visit from Sarfu President, Oregon Hoskins this year, which proves that rugby is not everything in the lives of South African men. We also had visitors from all over the world which include Mozambique, France, the Netherlands, Germany, UK, United Arab Emirates, Ireland, Zimbabwe, Australia, Belgium, Oceland and the Ivory Coast.

As always visitors had only positive comments:

“Fantasmagonies” – Munro & Elize Delareyville

“Gee mens perspektief in die moderne wêreld” – Eddie & Charlotte, Brackenfell

“Really interesting – we were given a wonderful talk, everyone has been really helpful” – Esme & Erin, London

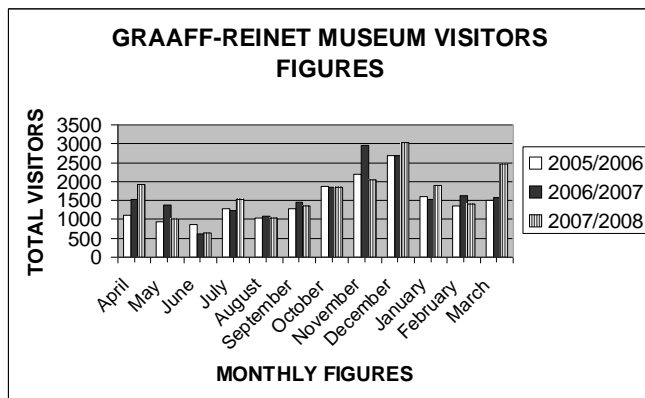
“Super! Good guide as well” – Schmal, Germany

“Vuyo is an excellent tour guide” –  
 Opperman, Randburg  
 “Dankie vir die sappige stories” –  
 Walbrugh, Jappie en Gaffles,  
 Grabouw  
 “Jammer om te hoor van Mabel  
 (Urquhart)” – Mostert, Gauteng  
 “Goeie uitleg – take all 5 museums!”  
 – Rippe, Holland

## THE MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM

The Military History Museum has been thoroughly introduced to the community and further a field.

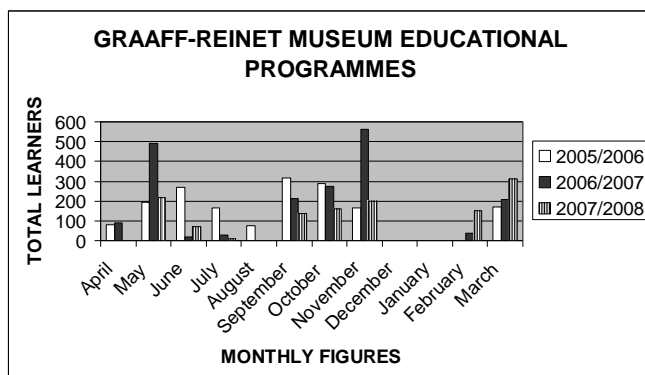
After months of organizing and sheer hard work, all the military exhibitions were grouped together under one roof, the Military History Museum. The Graaff-Reinet Museum reached a milestone in history when the museum officially opened its doors on 16 November 2007, ensuring that the Graaff-Reinet Museum became one of the largest museums in the province.



The museum has proved to be very profitable as many visitors flocked to the museum during the warm summer months, but it also necessitated new brochures and relief staff to man the museum.

## EXHIBITIONS

July 2007, saw the introduction of the new Harriet Rabone Room at the Old Residency. When the DMR Exhibition was transferred to the Military History Museum, it left a large empty room, begging for a new exhibition. It was decided to re-introduce Harriet Rabone, since she



lived at the Old Residency for a short while.

The *Touch a Woman, Touch a stone* Exhibition was on display for a short while in 2007, until the Directorate requested to use the travelling exhibition at Heritage Day Celebrations.

In 2007, Dr Jack Laubscher donated a large collection of dental equipment and other interesting dental paraphernalia to the Museum and thus the Laubscher Dental Exhibition was established in the former Withond Room. We would like to thank Dr Laubscher for donating his father's collection to the museum.

At the beginning of 2008, The Bethesda Arts Centre was invited to exhibit their craft at the museum. Their quilts, which are currently on exhibition at the Old Library, measure an enormous 3m x 4m and are indicative of the hard work and love that went into producing such extraordinary craftsmanship.

The fossils at the Old Library were also highlighted with new colourful prints and organized in a more user-friendly way. Continuous attention is given to the maintenance of artefacts and all the new staff members have

been trained to practise preventative conservation.

We are also well on our way with the Achievers of Graaff-Reinet Exhibition. The Board of Trustees has identified Dr Anton Rupert, Prof. Anna Neethling-Pohl, Rev. Frederick Hufkie, Prof. James Kitching and Dr Beyers Naudé to be honoured in this manner. We would like to thank the Parsonage Congregational Church for sponsoring the Hufkie panel and the local ATKV branch for sponsoring the Neethling-Pohl panel. At present we are inviting donors to sponsor the Naudé panel.

## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

At the beginning of the year the Graaff-Reinet Museum was inundated with public programs hosted together with the Department of Sport, Recreation Arts and Culture and the Directorate Museums and Heritage.

### **The 30<sup>th</sup> Sobukwe Commemoration**

On 1 March 2008 the Graaff-Reinet Museum joined the PAC and the Directorate Museums and Heritage in commemorating the death of Sobukwe 30 years ago. The Museum supplied the venue where meetings were held. We assisted in hosting a

morning tea for all the esteemed delegates who attended the meeting. The head of the museum represented the museum and the Heritage Society at a gathering held at the Methodist Church in Umasizakhe in honour of Sobukwe.

### **The Graaff-Reinet Museum Transformation Charter**

At the end of 2007, the Graaff-Reinet Museum was requested to publicly declare our commitment to representativity through a transformation charter. We put our heads together and eventually produced a document that in our opinion did justice to the request. The transformation charter was launched on 11 March 2008 at the Old Library. Members from the community, government officials, learners and representatives from the sixteen province - aided museums were in attendance. The event was a huge success.

For weeks a banner proclaiming that the Graaff-Reinet Museum is transforming, spanned Church Street, until a vicious wind ripped it to shreds. We repaired it and the banner will be used at public meetings

### **DONATIONS & ACQUISITIONS**

Miss Pam Barkley donated a beautiful painting aptly name *Little Girl in Blue* which now graces the Harriet Rabone Room. A small article about the painting and the artist also appeared in the local media.

Rev. Gawie Basson donated two display cases, which used to grace the shop of Cleghorn and Harris, as well as a set of paints used to colour photographs and a very large collection of anthropological books. We have decided to exhibit porcelain and silver in the display cases respectively.

Unfortunately, the van Heerden armoire, which was on loan to the museum, was claimed by Mrs Heather Meyer, who inherited it. The loss was sorely felt and we had to re-organize the exhibitions at Reinet House to cover up the empty space.

The Police Academy donated their academic dress which dates back from the time when College was still affiliated at UNISA. Four robes are currently on display in the clothing hall.

The Camdeboo Municipality finally agreed to transfer the *Africana* Collection, previously housed at the Horseshoe Library, to the museum. The collection is presently housed at the Old Library, where we have made provisions to keep it in a museologically correct environment.

## **ACHIEVERS' AWARDS**

Mrs Hermi Baartman and Mrs Kayster both received awards at the Cacadu District award ceremony held in February 2008. Mrs Baartman received a special award in recognition of her dedication in complementing the Department's strategic role in museums and heritage. Mrs Kayster's awards were given in recognition of her contribution towards the transformation of museums.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees is still in limbo, until the implementation of the Public Entity is finalised. At present, Mr. Fynney remains the chairperson of the Board until such time a new board is elected. New Board members were co-opted during the previous financial book year and the members are still very active. I would like to express my great appreciation for the

support of the Board of the Museum. It is an honour to work with such diligent and loyal members of the community. I look forward to a very prosperous relationship, especially during a period when we will certainly become a Public Entity.

## **PUBLIC ENTITY**

The sixteen Province-aided museums are still set to become part of the Eastern Cape Public Entity. This, of course, was not realised during the past financial year, but it is something that is inevitable. An advertisement for nominations for the Eastern Cape Museum Council appeared in the media on 11 June 2008.

In the interim, our financial statements have been adapted since we are being audited as a public entity. You will notice that the audit report for 2005/6 was received during this financial year and we have not been audited for the 2006/7 and 2007/8 due to uncertainty regarding our Public Entity status. However, we are presenting preliminary financial statements for the past financial year.

## **THE ANDRIES PRETORIUS MONUMENT**

It was decided that the monument should be erected on the SANParks

premises and this concludes the museum's involvement in the relocation of the monument.

## **THE SLAVERY AND LONG ROAD TO RESTITUTION PROJECT**

The final instalment of the grant was deposited into the museum's bank account in April 2008. This concluded our struggle with the National Lottery Distribution Fund for payment of the final instalment. After months of submitting reports, affidavits and detailed budgets, the Steering Committee once again assembled to plan the way forward. The Steering Committee has committed itself to complete the project by the end of the year. We look forward to this, with great enthusiasm and anticipation.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Although the museum is a non-profit institution, in today's poor financial climate we are left with no other option but to generate our own funds to see to the long list of financial priorities.

We would also like to take this opportunity to request your assistance in this regard.

## **Annual Street Stall**

The Graaff-Reinet Museum once again organised an annual street stall to raise funds. Our target of R3,000.00 was reached and we would like to express our gratitude to Mrs Marie Biggs for rallying support for this fundraising effort.

## **Sale of second hand building material**

The Board of Trustees decided that all second hand building material should be put up for sale. The Museum approached Mr. Poggenpoel, the auctioneer and he agreed to do this free of charge. The sale earned a neat some of money and a sincere thank you goes to Mr. Poggenpoel for his assistance.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

### **Human Rights Day Awareness Program**

Mrs Amanda Jacobs was tasked with educational programs. Our first educational program was conducted on 18 March 2008. Learners from previously disadvantaged communities were invited to participate in a Human Rights Day

awareness program, which was sponsored by the Cacadu District Office. They shared their ideas on human rights and presented them to an audience which consisted of members from the community, the DSRAC and the Education Department.

## **Rock Art Project**

The museum also hosted a rock art project. Learners were made aware of the origins of and the historical value of rock art. Afterwards they were encouraged to stencil their own rock art picture on a rock. They all had a fun time, so much so that we decided to invite all the local schools to participate in the project.

## **STAFF TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

### **Bursary recipients**

Two staff members received bursaries towards completion of their studies. Miss Fihla and I are very thankful for the opportunity to develop ourselves with the assistance of the DSRAC.

### **Customer Care Workshop**

Miss Nancy Tietz, esteemed museologist and SAMA fellow,

agreed to present a Customer Care workshop to all the new staff of the sixteen Province aided museums. The Graaff-Reinet Museum hosted the workshop and eighteen delegates received intensive training on reception, answering of telephones and dress codes. We are very grateful to the board which funded this extremely important project.

## **MAINTENANCE**

Apart from general maintenance such as repairing blinds, ablution facilities, doors, the water wheel, small electrical repairs and the odd paint work now and then, Reinet House also received a much needed coat of paint. Funding for maintenance is always very scarce, but since our museum is situated in a very busy tourist area, we do our best to prioritise and put money aside for maintenance.

## **MEDIA COVERAGE AND PUBLICITY**

We are always very grateful to our local newspaper, The Graaff-Reinet Advertiser, for being so willing to afford us publicity. During the course of the year, *Radio sonder Grense* broadcasted a special insert on the Military Museum. The Sobukwe

exhibition featured on SABC's *Morning Live*. *Die Burger* also ran an article on Sobukwe during the 30<sup>th</sup> Sobukwe Commemoration and the story of the *Withond* was introduced to the rest of the country.

I also wrote an article for the *Semantics*, a journal concerning museum matters. The article was specifically concerned with the Military History Museums and the heroic deeds of Job Masego.

## **SPONSORS & DONORS**

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to our sponsors: thank you to Montego Feeds, The Rynheath Trust and the Acacia Street Festival Committee who have opened their hearts and purses to our cause.

## **INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY**

This year, the Graaff-Reinet Museum celebrated International Museum day with a colouring-in competition, hosted in conjunction with The Graaff-Reinet Advertiser. The enthusiasm was overwhelming and our sincerest appreciation goes to our sponsors: Steers, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Foto First, Wimpy & RJS,

Bella Rose, McNaughton's Bookshop, XTT, PDK and Waltons.

We also attended the Provincial celebrations which were held at the Uitenhage Museum on 17 May 2008.

Ladies & Gentlemen, the Graaff-Reinet Museum is a public institution in service of the public. We are in service to everybody present here today. Thank you for the support which we cannot do without. Last, but never the least I would like to thank all the staff members, not only for putting the museum first, but for supporting me in realising my vision for the museum. I would like to say a heartfelt thank-you to those staff members who have made a special effort to keep the wheels of the museum turning while I was away on study leave. It is an honour to work with you and I can never thank you enough.

Thank you.

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