



# *Graaff-Reinet* MUSEUM



Supported by The Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts & Culture

(Incorporating Reinet House, The Old Library, Urquhart House, The Old Residency and The Military History Museum)

P.O. Box 104, Graaff-Reinet, 6280 Tel: 049 892 3801 Fax: 049 892 5650

## **Vision**

Our vision is to be an institution which reserves 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**

Mrs H J W Baartman (Past Chair)	-	Subscribers' Representative (Resigned June 2012)
Mr P Whitlock (Chair)	-	Premier's Representative (Since June 2012)
Ms T Majoka (Vice Chair)	-	Premier's Representative (Since June 2012)
Mayor K E Kekana	-	Premier's Representative
Mrs P Wallis	-	Premier's Representative
Mr D S Smith	-	Premier's Representative
Mrs E van Wijk	-	Premier's Representative
Mrs A Malherbe	-	Premier's Representative
Mr A Gradwell	-	Premier's Representative
Mrs L Lipshitz	-	Premier's Representative
Dr R Stauth	-	Premier's Representative
Mr J Daniëls	-	Subscribers' Representative
Ms L King	-	Subscribers' Representative
Cllr F E Sigonyela	-	Municipal Representative
Cllr T Nonnies	-	Municipal Representative
M L F Mini	-	DSRAC Representative

## **PERSONNEL**

### **GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

Mrs A F Kayster	-	Principal Museum Human Scientist
Vacant	-	Chief Auxiliary Service Officer
Vacant	-	Senior Auxiliary Service Officer
Miss D D van Wyk	-	Auxiliary Service Officer
Vacant	-	Auxiliary Service Officer (Transferred on 1 October 2012)
Mrs N A Jacobs	-	Auxiliary Service Officer
Miss X P Blouw	-	General Assistant
Mr J van Rhyners	-	General Assistant
Miss K Booysen	-	General Assistant
Mr J Pylman	-	General Assistant
Mr J Isaks	-	Tradesman's Aide (Discharged on 6 January 2013)

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEE EMPLOYEES**

Mrs C Williams	-	Museum Assistant
Mr Z Isaks	-	General Assistant
Ms M Jantjies	-	General Assistant (Since April 2012. Resigned in April 2013)

### **RELIEF STAFF**

Mr D van Wyk  
Ms Y Arnesen  
Ms L Du Toit  
Mrs L Struwig

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Graaff-Reinet Museum is a position which I accepted with some trepidation, notwithstanding my experience on the Board of probably well over 15 years. The reason for my fear was in no small measure owing to the significant contributions made by my immediate predecessors Mr Mark Fynney and Mrs Hermi Baartman, but also that my father, many years earlier, served in this position with great distinction. The chairmanship was nonetheless accepted in deference to the trust placed in me by my fellow Board members and with the understanding, although possibly not verbalised, that I would do the best I could within the limitations imposed by my business responsibilities complicated by particularly trying economic conditions.

Thank you to the Board of Trustees and to Mrs Kayster for making my period as Chairman a positive,

enriching and, dare I say enjoyable, experience.

The convivial yet business-like atmosphere that we have maintained at our meetings, supported always by Mrs Kayster's most efficient administration, have made Board meetings events to look forward to.

The old adage "the more things change the more they stay the same" certainly holds true for the circumstances of the Graaff-Reinet Museum. The long-standing fundamental problem of marrying aspirations of growth and transformation with the limited means of realisation remains. We would possibly be forgiven the perception that the gulf between goals and means has indeed deepened and that virtually all available resources are harnessed purely to address current core curatorial, maintenance and public functions.

Adequate staff, finance and public support remain the pillars for the growth and transformation of our Museum.

**Staff:**

The Graaff-Reinet Museum is truly blessed to have such a dedicated and motivated group of people on its staff. People who will not think twice to act beyond the call of duty when the need arises simply out of a sense of pride in and responsibility toward the institution and the quality of service which they provide. There can be little doubt that if all government officials adopted the same ethos as our staff our country would be a much better place. I would, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, like to convey my most sincere thanks to the Museum team, under the excellent leadership of Mrs Kayster, for a job well done.

The performance of our staff is even more meritorious given the fact that the Department (Sports Recreation Arts & Culture) has for the past number of years not been filling vacancies which have arisen as a result of resignations, retirements

and departmental transfers. According to the approved organogram our Museum has 11 government posts of which only 7 are currently filled. Three of the four vacant posts are currently unfunded. This situation results in additional burden on the remaining staff and the growing tendency of staff members having to act outside of their job descriptions merely to keep the Museum up and running. This situation is simply not fair on the staff and has the potential to propagate underlying dissatisfaction to the detriment of our Museum. Personnel policies of the Department are clearly in need of serious review.

The Board, that currently employs 3 general assistants and a sizeable contingent of relief staff, simply does not have the financial resources to make meaningful inroads into resolving the staffing problem.

**Finance:**

The Museum, is a resource in our town second to none. It is difficult to conceive of Graaff-Reinet without its Museums Have you

ever paused to contemplate the impact of closure on our town? A major dent in the town's tourist appeal? What would become of the collections, the archive and yes, the buildings? Who or what would fill the void in the cultural education of the children of our community and what of the research that has firmly cemented the reputation of the Museum as the "go-to place" for all and sundry looking for all manner of historical information on the Graaff-Reinet area? In reality the above scenario is not as far-fetched as it may sound as the Museum operates very much on a hand- to-mouth basis.

The departmental subsidy has, in the past, barely covered our annual insurance bill while donations, fund-raisers and profit from the Museum shop are expected to cover operational costs. Unforeseen drops in income or delays in the expected receipt dates of any one of these income sources precipitates a minor crisis in the day-to-day operation of the Museum. How to totally resolve this situation remains a massive

problem. The absence of a large number of potential corporate patrons within the Graaff-Reinet community seriously compromises the chances of obtaining funding locally. The same businesses and persons are constantly targeted for financial contributions to many worthy causes and every cause can simply not be helped.

The most obvious manifestation of the financial woes of the museum is the current condition of the Museum's buildings. There is simply not enough money to do anything more than the most urgent repair jobs and regrettably it shows.

It is however not all doom and gloom. The Board is most grateful to the Department for the substantial increase in the subsidy and the recent announcement of National Treasury funding via the Department for special need projects for museums in the province. This has opened up the opportunity to undertake seriously needed maintenance work on the thatched roofs of the Reinet House complex and Urquhart House.

## **Support:**

The Museum can only be as strong and representative as it's support base will permit. It is a sad reflection on our community that it is invariably the same old faces that are relied upon to support museum initiatives, empty their purses and attend functions. I think it is also true that the most passionate supporters of our Museum are in the 60 plus age bracket, a smattering in the 40 to 60 bracket and very few below the 40's.

Our Museum seriously needs an active, vibrant Association of Friends to take the institutions into the future. We don't primarily need money, although this would obviously be welcomed, we need volunteer workers, we need people to take an active interest in the Museum, we need a broader based contact with the community to ensure that the Museum remains relevant, we need ideas.

The galvanising of support is the one factor, of the three selected, that we as members of the Museum community have direct control of. Is the time not once again ripe for a

significant and concerted effort to reach out to the community and canvas for more friends?

I would like to lay down a three fold challenge to all present at this meeting: firstly non-subscribers please become Friends of the Museum, secondly subscribers enlist the support of at least one new Friend and thirdly: let us all in the future make a point of bringing Graaff-Reinettters to visit the Museum on a regular basis.

Thank you.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE MUSEUM

Dames en Here,

Dit blyk tóg of daar lig aan die einde van die tunnel is. Ek is baie dankbaar teenoor die Trusteeraad en die personeel wat gedurig saam die stryd stry. Ek noem dit die goeie stryd.

Ons subsidie is van R186 000 na R250 000 verhoog. Dit is die grootste geskenk wat enige museumkind kan begeer. Ons kan die Sobukwe uitstalling laat opknap, meer kinders na die museum nooi, dalk ons storievertel-uitstalling voltooi, digitaal gaan, museum-publikasies laat druk en nog vele meer.

Maar nog is dit het einde niet! Die Department het ook aangekondig dat ons oor 'n tydperk van drie jaar R300 000, R250 000 en R100 000 onderskeidelik sal ontvang om na goeddunke aan te wend. Ons Wêreld is op sy kop gekeer want dit is nie al dag dat ons die *Jackpot strike* nie.

Dit is alles aan 'n vreeslose Trusteeraad, destyds onder leiding van Mnr Mark Fynney, te danke wat nie gehuiwer het om wapenrusting

aan te trek en die LUR vir Sport, Ontspanning, Kuns en Kultuur sommer tromp-op te loop en ons griewe en uitdagings duidelik te stel nie: *Madam MEC, at a Board Meeting, held on 21 April 2010 Cacadu Mayor Eunice Kekana proposed that a letter be written to the MEC of Sport Recreation, Arts and Culture to request your urgent intervention with regard to a multitude of problems and challenges that the Graaff-Reinet Museum has to face on a daily basis.*

Die Trusteeraad van die Graaff-Reinet Museum is as voorbeeld genoem wat kilometers sal aflê vir die behoud van die Museum en sy mense. Dit is voorwaar ongelooflik dat al ons gebede verhoor is. Hiervandaan is dit vol spoed voorwaarts mars! Daar is geen keer aan ons entoesiasme nie.

Ons skop alreeds in Julie af met die STRUT trommel-klerevertoning, so genoem omdat die klere in trommels gepak en van Plettenbergbaai na Graaff-Reinet vervoer word. Alle dames en ander belangstellendes word genooi om die geleentheid by

te woon. Alle winste gaan na die Museum en die ACVV Beskernde Werksplek wat ons help om die vertoning te bemark en te reël. Daar sal natuurlik 'n konsultant wees om die dames met woord en daad by te staan.

In Augustus wil ons graag die nuwe Sobukwe uitstalling open. Die huidige uitstalling is alreeds in 2001 voltooi. Mettertyd het nuwe inligting en interpretasie vorendag gekom. Met hierdie nuwe uitstalling poog ons dus om daaraan gestalte te gee.

Op 4 Oktober hou ons weer ons jaarlikse Dinee by die Museum in die historiese eetkamer van Reinet Huis. Hierdie is natuurlike dié geleentheid van die jaar op die Museumkalender en werk ons alreeds ywerig om borge te win en bemarking daarvoor te reël. Kom geniet dus heerlike spys en drank met 'n historiese geurtjie. Die gasspreker staan ook gereed, maar vir eers is dit 'n verassing.

I would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the Directorate Museums and Heritage and the National Treasury for making sure that this museum remains vibrant and sustainable. Unfortunately the

things that we dream of accomplishing cannot happen without money. Thank you for granting us the opportunity to realize many of our long-standing goals

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Board of Trustees: a group of fearless, hardworking, supportive and incredibly humorous individuals. Being a board member can sometimes be an ungrateful task but, I am sure you will all agree with me, that it can be most rewarding and enriching when you see the end results. I would like to extend a special thank you to Mayor Kekana and the Cacadu District Municipality for our Christmas gifts. It is very much appreciated and inspired us to work harder, faster and longer. What I mean to say is that it is wonderful to be appreciated.

At this Annual General Meeting I would also like to pay tribute to two special gentlemen, Mr John Biggs and Mr Jimmy Musket. Mr Musket passed away in October 2012 and Mr Biggs on 31 May. Incidentally both gentlemen were war heroes and Mr Biggs was the last member of the DMR residing in Graaff-Reinet.

Their wonderful legacy remains alive between the pages of the documents in our archive and the artifacts of the Military History Museum.

## **FINANSIES**

### **'n Kort Oorsig**

Die subsidie, wat tydens die pasafgelope boekjaar drasties verhoog is, het die swaar las wat 'n tekort aan fondse meebring, verlig. Ons geldelike probleme is vir eers iets van die verlede veral in die lig daarvan gesien dat die staatsubsidie weereens verhoog is. In die kort bestek van twee jaar is die subsidie met meer as 100% verhoog. Dit beteken egter nie dat daar voete gesleep gaan word nie. Ons projekte vir 2013/14 is alreeds volstoom aan die gang.

Die museumwinkel is steeds 'n belangrike lewensaar wat ons deur die maer maande voorsien. Ek kan met trots aankondig dat die Graaff-Reinet Museum 'n geregistreerde primêre pakhuis is wat sonder enige voorbehoud Withond mag produseer en verkoop. Die produksie van Withond is die afgelope paar maande met 'n arendsoog deur SARS gemonitor. Die Withond

word gereeld ge-oudit en maandelikse verslae word aan SARS gestuur. Ons Withond pryse is drasties verhoog om voorsiening te maak vir etikette wat deur die Departement van Landbou aangevra en goedgekeur is. Tóg bly Withond ons topverkoper en oorweeg ons dit geensins om produksie te staak nie.

Ons het verskeie fondsinsamelingsprojekte gehad waarvan die Dinee by die Museum die grootste was. Hierdie geleentheid is deur verskeie instansies en individue geborg en ons kan nie genoeg dankie sê nie. Ek moet egter die Dameskring bedank wat die voortou geneem het en as't ware die geleentheid moontlik gemaak het. Hierdie jaar maak ons weer so en ek hoop dat ons hulle skoene sal kan volstaan.

En wie kan dan tog die Nianell-konsert op die stoep vergeet? Nie net het ons fondse ge-in nie, die museum het ook hierdie geleentheid as bemarkingsgeleentheid gebruik om ons sigbaarheid te verhoog.

Verlede jaar is 'n oproep om finansiële steun ook aan die Camdeboo Munisipaliteit gerig. Mnr Jimmy Joubert, die hoof van

Finansies, het die Museum besoek en idees gedeel oor waar ons vir befondsing kan aanklop. Ek is egter van opinie dat die Camdeboo Munisipaliteit ook hul hand in die sak moet druk en saam met die res van die gemeenskap verantwoordelik vir een van die grootste toeriste aantreklikhede in die omgewing moet aanvaar. Die Trusteeraad het probeer om 'n vergadering met die Raad te belê om sekere knelpunte te bespreek maar die Raad voer aan dat verteenwoordigers van die Munisipaliteit op die Trusteeraad dien en dat hulle die skakel is. Ongelukkig woon hierdie verteenwoordigers nooit vergaderings by nie en is dus van geen hulp of waarde nie.

Verlede jaar het ons met oorgawe gebak en brou, totdat hierdie heerlikheid ook tot 'n einde gedwing is. Deesdae moet ons 'n spesiale permit van die Munisipaliteit hê om konfyt te kook, piccalilli te maak en druiwe of ander vrugte in te lê. Die dae van likeur en lemoncello maak is ook verby aangesien die Department van Landbou daarop aandring dat Withond slegs as skoon spiritus verkoop word. Wees egter

verseker dat rammetjie-uitnekke, binnekort weer op ons rakke sal verskyn.

Die dag-tot-dag uitgawes beloop duisende rande, soos Mnr Nel van van Wyk Theron sal verduidelik, waarvan die versekeringspremie die grootste sondebok is. Mej. Van Wyk is alreeds 'n ou hand met die boeke, sonder haar vernuf sou ons ons hand diep in die sak moes steek om 'n staatsrekeningkundige aan te stel. Dankie, Mnr Nel, vir bekwame leiding en advies - dit word hoog op prys gestel.

### **Visitors and Visitor statistics**

Admission money is still our biggest source of income Admission fees were not increased in an attempt to encourage visitors to visit all five museums When compared to museums such as the Owl House, The Graaff-Reinet Museum still has the most affordable admission fee and unfortunately this will need to change to more accurately reflect our actual income generating capability notwithstanding our non-profit basis.

Leaners often visit the museum and to their own surprise, find it very entertaining. Ghost are our biggest

attraction at the moment and, needless to say, we perpetuate the idea that they are roaming through all our old buildings.

Our one and only celebrity this year was the singer Nianell, although Prof. Grundlingh from the University of Stellenbosch also merits the same status, in my opinion. He was, of course, the guest speaker at our Dinner at the Museum, and managed to gather quite a bunch of followers.

There was a decline in visitor numbers which is reflected in the admission monies received. We are however, very happy that visitors still find it interesting to see and learn more about Graaff-Reinet through the Museum. People from all over the world visited the museum complex and only have praise for the exhibitions and the neat and tidy museums. One or two visitors complained about the fact that they had to make appointments for after-hour groups and to do research. The most interesting complaint received was one that suggested that we follow the cleaning routine of most European and other overseas museums by cleaning exhibitions at night and not

during the day.. It is so difficult finding loyal, honest and hard working people to work normal office hours, let alone find good employees to work at night!

As reported in the newsletter we also had to deal with recalcitrant individuals who exhibited little or no respect for historical artifacts. They were dealt with accordingly.

## **LINE FUNCTION**

### **Transformation Projects**

The Graaff-Reinet Museum once again assisted SAHRA with the declaration of the Sobukwe grave as National Heritage Site. We organized and provided the venue for meetings and even wrote press releases to invite the community to a public hearing which was scheduled for March 2013. Unfortunately due to certain hiccups with SAHRA, these meetings never took place and this project has come to a complete standstill. Hopefully it will continue during the current financial year.

Even with the limited funds at our disposal the Museum continued with research on the Oral History Project. Researching the different residential areas has become quite

challenging since there are no funds for petrol and for audio equipment. Volunteers, such as Ms Anne Rundle continue to record histories with the limited funds (only enough to buy recorder tapes) at our disposal. We also use our own vehicles and fund the petrol costs ourselves. This transformation initiative however, remains a continuous project and notwithstanding lack of funding, is still very much alive. It should also be mentioned that the National Lottery was approached in 2011 for funding of the project. In April of this year we were, quite out of the blue, requested to submit quotes and to clarify certain issues. It seems as if the project is once again on the roll.

### **Opvoedkundige Programme**

Opvoedkundige programme het groot kopsere veroorsaak. Ongelukkig moes ek en Me van Wyk sonder die dienste van twee hulpdienste-beamptes klaarkom. Die Hoof Hulpdienste-beampte pos is al sedert 2009 vakant. Ons sukkel om van Me Pika se verplasing en Mev De Gama se bedanking te herstel. Nietemin het ons daarin geslaag om vier suksesvolle opvoedkundige

programme aan te bied, selfs tot twee per kwartaal. Die dames Williams, Blouw en Booysen het ook soms ingespring en gehelp om die leerders te beheer en te begelei. Die Rotskuns program, die Krale-program en die Historiese Geboue was weereens groot treffers. Ons is oneindig dankbaar teenoor die Vriende van die Museum wat weereens beskikbaar was om rolle te vertolk: Mnr Walter Murray, Mnr Johan Minnaar, Mnr Charles Maasdorp, Mnr David McNaughton en Mev Hermi Baartman.

*Loopbane in Museums* het in Oktober 2012 afgeskop en is aan 60 leerders van die Sondagsrivier-vallei aangebied. Oom Andries Smit, Jac van Propix en Rosemary Scheepers van SANPARKE het die kinders met hul entoesiasme aangesteek. Leerders was duidelik verbaas oor wat alles in 'n museum gebeur en die hoop is dat ons hulle dalk kon aanmoedig om 'n loopbaan in museums te oorweeg.

### **Marketing and Media**

The museum received exceptional media coverage and positive feedback from the community who saw us on national television. Media

coverage always ensures that the museum is seen and heard.

The Graaff-Reinet Advertiser remains one of our partners who continuously afford space in their newspaper to promote the museum and its activities. The Graaff-Reinet Advertiser published four articles on the history of Reinet House as part of the build-up to the bicentenary celebrations. The museum archive also houses all past Graaff-Reinet Advertisers and facilitates use of this resource by the local community and other researchers.

Not only did the Museum feature in *Weg* magazine and *Die Huisgenoot*, but I was interviewed by *High Life South African*, a British Airways inflight magazine for the Southern Africa Region. This ensured that the Graaff-Reinet Museum was exposed to all who made use of the British Airways airline. I made good use of this once in a lifetime opportunity.

The Museum also provided the setting and props for the Graaff-Reinet promotional video. The promotional video was part of a prize won by Mandy Roets from the Tourism Office. The Museum

received free marketing, free publicity and excellent international and national coverage.

The Museum is always required to promote itself during Festivals, departmental programmes, awareness programmes and other campaigns. A pull-up banner was designed and printed by Mark Senekal from Propix, specifically for this purpose.

### **Uitstallings**

Baie artefakte is geskenk en is noukeurig met die drie-kaart stelsel aangeteken. Mev Marie Muskett het meer as tweehonderd items wat onder andere militêre uniforms en paraferalia, asook huishoudelike items soos 'n wiegie waarin haar man en sy broers al die pad van Engeland per skip gereis het, insluit. Graag maak ek melding van die Blackham bank wat goedgegunstiglik deur Candy Blackham en haar suster Cheryl Carter geskenk is. Hierdie bank het oorspronklik aan hul moeder behoort en is op haar versoek na sy plek van oorsprong na haar sterfte, besorg. Hierdie bank is uiters waardevol en beloop n aardige bedraggie volgens Stephen Welz & Co.

We are quite intrigued and happy with the sizable collection of old cameras donated by Mr Grobbelaar. He once passed through Graaff-Reinet, visited the museum and decided that the Graaff-Reinet Museum is where the cameras should be kept for posterity. We appreciate the gesture and will keep our promise of looking after your valuable heritage.

Mrs Marjorie Krige also donated very interesting artifacts to augment our collections: beautiful dolls, a shawl, books and household items Mrs Krige is the granddaughter of John Hayward who farmed in the Aberdeen district.

Apart from the daily housekeeping of museum collections, all the collections were successfully maintained at all five museums which include labeling and implementing good conservation techniques. This museum also continued with its transformation initiative by ensuring that labels in three official languages are available to accommodate the variety of visitors to the museum. All the worn labels were replaced. All the broken historical chairs received new riempies and all the

broken photographs were repaired. This was made possible when the subsidy was transferred, since specialized equipment was needed to do the restoration work. The extreme weather conditions require that the leather and woodwork be treated every three months. To save on long-term additional costs, all restoration work was done thoroughly and to the best of our abilities.

Ons is van mening dat ons aan die begin van die Toeristeseisoen graag planne prakseer en idees voorlê om ons uitstallings interessant te hou. Dus het ons die melkery na die meulhuis verskuif en dit vervang met 'n nuwe mansslaapkamer, met mooi bed, gordyne en merino velletjies op die vloer. Dit was harde werk wat ons moes die reuse karrings en 'n hele aantal piepklein implemente oppak en verskuif. Mnr Peter Whitlock het ook al ons grondplanne aangepas en nuwe grondplanne geteken wat aan besoekers uitgedeel word en baie professioneel vertoon.

## **Good Service Delivery**

All the researchers who visited the museum were very happy and complimented us on a well organized archive, knowledgeable staff and excellent service. Although the museum is severely understaffed we were able to answer all research inquiries via email and through our website. We presented guided tours to all the school groups who made advance bookings as well as other groups such as a group of international academics who visited from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. All visitors to the museum commended the museum staff on our friendliness and helpfulness. Working overtime ensured that the museums were open during the long weekends, the festive season and school holidays.

## **The Murray Family Reunion**

More than two hundred and fifty descendants from Andrew Murray, one of the founding fathers of Graaff-Reinet, attended the Murray Family Reunion which was held in June 2012. The Museum's involvement in the reunion started a year before the event when preliminary meetings were held and

and assistance and inputs were provided. The Museum's involvement was only to be expected since the *pater familia* of the family lived in Reinet House and all of his children were born there.

The Museum provided a registration venue, in the Military Museum, and m's van Wyk completed a panel exhibiting the history of the clan. A tea garden was established in the wagon house to accommodate the weary and thirsty.

## **Die Uurglas**

Die Uurglas word aan al ons vriende, vennote en ander belangstellendes gestuur. 'n Paar artikels het groot opslae gemaak soos die storie oor Graaffrikaans en die vermoedelike bruin Voortrekker, Gerrit Bantjes. Ons het baie positiewe terugvoering ontvang, soos ook genoem in die laaste uitgawe van die uurglas.

## **Partnerships**

This Museum is lucky to have an enthusiastic and loyal partner in the form of the Cacadu District Municipality. The District Municipality is always represented at Board Meetings by the Executive

Mayor who takes an avid interest and plays an active role on the Board.

We share a healthy and symbiotic relationship with the local Tourism office, especially when the town is inundated with visitors, as we assist them with distributing brochures and with accommodation inquiries if their offices are closed. We also feature regularly in their Newsletter and on their website. Thank you Sandi Will for always checking my spelling and grammar on short notice and thank you Tercia for your helping hand and advice.

The Department of Education remains one of our loyal partners as we accommodate learners throughout the year. This year, special attention was given to the learners of the Lingcom Primary School as we accommodated learners every month since February 2013. We also accommodate all learners every Friday free of charge, if they are in school uniform. We provide assistance with heritage assignments and projects and encourage learners to visit the museum and to make use of what we have to offer.

One of our most loyal partners is the Pioneers Restaurant, who have always so willingly assisted with fundraising projects in the past. Not only did Roelien and Almaré sponsor our end of year function but they continually provide us opportunities for fundraising. As some of you may recall, we hosted the Nianell Concert together with Pioneers Restaurant. We look forward to a “never-ending” relationship and many projects to tackle in the near future.

Graag sê ons baie dankie aan al ons vennote in erfenis. Julle ondersteuning beteken vir ons soveel. Ons hoop dat hierdie bande slegs sal verstewig en versterk.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **The Board Of Trustees**

I am glad to report that the Board of Trustees is operative and fully functional. Due to Mrs Baartman's departure a reshuffling once again took place in June 2012, shortly after the Annual General Meeting which saw Mr Peter Whitlock in the Chairperson's seat and Ms Thandeka Majoka as vice-chair. Mr Jacob Daniels and Mrs Liesl King were elected as representatives of

the Friends of the Museum and did a sterling job.

## **Personeel**

Die personeel tekort knaag en manifesteer op verskeie maniere: In Junie en Julie moes beide ek en Me van Wyk met siekverlof gaan nadat stene by ons gediagnoseer is en ons operasies moes ondergaan.

Dit blyk nie asof daar enige verligting in die vooruitsig gestel word nie, en sal ons op die Trusteeraad aangewese wees om bykomende hulp te bekom. Oor fondse om aanstellings te maak beskik ons nie, maar om die deure van al die museums oop te hou geniet voorkeur. Daar sal hard skouer aan die wiel gesit moet word om 'n markverwante salaris te genereer.

Me Margaret Jantjies het verkies om te bedank nadat sy haar aan verskeie dissiplinêre oortredings skuldig gemaak het. Na meer as twintig jaar in die staatsdiens is Mnr Isaks ook uit die diens ontslaan nadat hy hom vir jare aan verskeie dissiplinêre oortredinge skuldig gemaak het. Dit is 'n groot jammerte. Hierdie poste sal ook mettertyd deur die

Trusteeraad gevul moet word. Ongelukkig het die Departement nie daarvoor begroot nie. Intussen het die werklading van die staatsdiens-amptenare verdubbel en sal daar drasties oplossings vir die tekort aan personeel gevind moet word.

## **Relief Staff**

The Relief staff component of the Museum is still being weighed down by hardship and misfortune. Oom Dennis van Wyk became very ill and will not be able to work as in the past. Ms Arnesen was also struck down by illness and Ms du Toit has to take frequent trips to Port Elizabeth as a result of a serious medical condition.

The relief staff is dwindling and even though Ms Struwig has a permanent job, she still sees her way clear to work over weekends.

The relief staff are real gems, always ready, willing and able. It really shows that they have a love for the museum. We treasure you all. Thank you.

## **FACILITY MANAGEMENT**

Our main priority and focus of attention remained the visitor as we ensured that visitors were always

assisted and accommodated. In addition we also have to see to it that the premises and buildings remained neat and tidy and well maintained. So each morning before the working day started all staff members were required to pitch in to see to it that the premises were clean, the ablution facilities hygienic, the display cases dust free and floors shiny. During the January, February and March holidays more than 3000 people visited the museum. This implies that cleaning at that time, is a continuous task.

This year we were also plagued by one burglary after another. Not only does this place great strain on our emotional well-being, but also on the budget. We cannot afford burglaries, no one can. We encourage the community to report suspicious looking activities to the authorities.

Our application for a working team from the Camdeboo Municipality was also successful and from 14 – 17 January 2013 and again in April 2013, the local Municipality made a group of 25 people available to assist with the maintenance of the garden. This is much appreciated

and we would like to commend Councilor Gradwell who also serves on the Board, for initiating this project.

One of the biggest projects of the year was the upgrading of the ablution facilities at Urquhart House. Even though no money was available, we all stepped up and worked really hard to make a success of the project. We removed all the flaky paint from the ceilings, windows and floors, filled the cracks and removed all residue of previously used floor polish from the floors. We made curtains, added a flowery border and leaves, and spray painted the windows and the doors. This was completed in time for the Easter and school holiday. The end result is really gratifying.

### **DANKIES / THANK YOU'S**

Ek haal my hoed af vir 'n wonderlike, hardwerkende span mense. Dit is openbarend om elke dag saam met julle te werk en my dag is gemaak as Antie Pat en Katriena soggens op die stoep staan en sing! Dit wys hoe groot die genade van ons Liewe Heer is en dat maak my oneindig dankbaar vir elke dag se genade.