

GRAAFF-REINET MUSEUM

VISION

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

MISSION

We collect, conserves, research and display the rich cultural history and heritage of the Camdeboo area and promote the educational upliftment of the community and visitors whom we serve.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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MUSEUM PERSONNEL

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Mrs. A.F. Kayster	-	Principal Museum Human Scientist
Mrs. J.J. de Gama	-	Auxiliary Service Officer, (Snr)
Ms. D.D. van Wyk	-	Auxiliary Service Officer
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Mr. J.I. Pylman	-	General Assistant

BOARD OF TRUSTEE EMPLOYEES

Mr. D.D. van Wyk	-	Custodian
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RELIEF STAFF

Mrs. H. Baartman
Mrs. E. Boggenpoel
Ms. Y. Arnesen
Ms. L. du Toit
Ms. A. le Roux

ANNUAL REPORT: CHAIRMAN

Well, it's World Cup fever throughout the whole of South Africa – and for that matter, throughout the world – and must start my chairman's report by congratulating the entire Graaff-Reinet Museum staff on their sterling support and enthusiasm and their success in spurring the Bafana Bafana team on to their set of world records: Bafana Bafana the nation to score the first goal in the 2010 World Cup and Bafana Bafana the team to crush France, themselves World Cup winners.

And to think that without our sterling museum's support this history may never have been written. Bafana Bafana can sit back and watch the rest of the World Cup knowing that they have done us proud and at last we may have become a world class team.

The Graaff-Reinet Museum is as we all can attest, a world class Museum. We do not copy or mimic any other Museum. How many of our international visitors who are keen patrons of their own museums have congratulated our Curators and staff on our big world-class

museum in a little town? It's known as an authentic entity, and this concept of authenticity runs through every fibre of our Museum, starting with the management of the museum and staff, through to our dealings with the public, visitors and schools, our buildings, our exhibitions and our artifacts on display. We are a history-making museum!

To continue my tradition of short speeches, let me as a Chairperson of the Board of Trustees share the one matter which puzzles me endlessly. I share it in the hope that we as a close knit family can jointly find a solution to a yet unsolved riddle.

So let's lay out the scenario: The Graaff-Reinet Museum receives a provincial subsidy from the Department in order to run and maintain our museum, and this in order to serve the general public. We are also encouraged to be enterprising and to grow and improve our exhibits in order to be of public service to many yet underprivileged communities.

We have raised funds most successfully to the tune of

hundreds of thousands of Rand and have improved and extended our buildings to house the ever increasing needs of our community.

As we grow in stature and service our subsidy is geared, we are told, to grow proportionally to our growth and we begin to cut our coat to suit our cloth. This is all very well but as a management body we are only too aware that to keep abreast with the times we must grow to survive and be of meaningful service to the ever increasing community needs and to the call from the department to reach out into the communities.

We are enterprising enough to meet our current needs but find ourselves reluctant to embark on new ventures that could well bankrupt the Graaff-Reinet Museum. Our goal is to build our base which we have achieved and then to reach out into the very needy communities creating satellite branches that our museum is now equipped to service.

So there we have it. Do we take the plunge and will we, by doing what we in essence must do, sink the ship? I do not want to cloud the issue by talking on

and on and I am most open and want to be available to discuss solution based ideas and remedies.

I do plan to travel with the senior staff of our Museum to the next Heads of the Museum meeting to put this matter to the most senior heads of our department in the hope that we can achieve equity and the ability to serve effectively. However, I do believe that the remedy may well lie within these four walls. We rely on you our faithful friends not merely for funding but mainly for your support in times of need and for your involvement and any creativity involving our museum.

In saying that we are “a history-making museum,” let me assure you that we are neither shortsighted nor are we rudderless and without direction. We know full well where and how we should advance. The question however is “should we jump the chasm or build the bridge?”

Thank you

ANNUAL REPORT HEAD OF THE MUSEUM

Tydens 'n onderhoud vir 'n pos waarvoor ek al die pad Kimberley toe gery het, was ek glad nie verbaas toe ek die vraag "Where do you see yourself in ten years?" hoor nie. Ek het per slot van sake deeglike navorsing gedoen en het slag gereed gestaan met 'n ontwerpersantwoord so reg vanaf die internet. My antwoord het duidelik my ambisie en my verbintenis tot die bewaring van kultuur en erfenis weerspieël en die paneel het gepas beïndruk gelyk.

Vandag, amper tien jaar gelede, kom ek voor dieselfde vraag te staan en die antwoord verskil nie baie van dié van tien jaar gelede nie. Bykomend is egter die besef dat dit moeilik is om jou toekoms te bepaal en dat jy nie eintlik tyd moet verwyd deur daarvoor te tob nie. Vandag besef ek dat mense rondom jou na tien jaar kom en gaan en dat baie van hulle hul stempel op jou afdruk. Natuurlik verander jou omstandighede en daarmee saam jou prioriteite. Minder as tien jaar

gelede was akademiese prestasie hoog op my prioriteitslys en selfs dit het gekom en gegaan en 'n bietjie van sy towerkrag verloor.

Vandag besef ek dat ek gebalanseerd wil wees: toegewyd aan my werk, maar ook 'n liefdevolle ouer en eggenoot en nie noodwendig in dié volgorde nie.

Wat egter nie sal verander nie is dat ek sal voortgaan om my vaardighede, my kennis en vermoëns asook entoesiasme aan te wend tot voordeel van die museum want my visie vir hierdie museum sal altyd dieselfde bly: 'n instelling wat die bewaring en die behoud van die kulturele sowel as natuurlike erfenis van die Camdeboo en al sy mense op die hart dra.

PERSONNEL

I would like to give the staff of the Graaff-Reinet Museum a standing ovation. They have once again proved that they are worth their weight in gold. During my four month absence the senior administrative staff

rotated as head of the museum and had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with conflict resolution procedures, decision-making as well as innovation and creativity. All the key performance areas of management were dealt with in an efficient and competent manner, specific project goals and objectives were successfully completed and budget control and procedures were implemented effectively.

A year ago I boasted that our staff organogram was completed. Unfortunately this did not imply that we were functioning at optimum level. The size of the museum complex necessitated additional staff which the present organogram did not make provision for. With the retirement of Mrs Baartman we had to reshuffle staff work schedules. We had to rely heavily on staff commitment and loyalty to the museum to keep our doors open, especially over weekends. Luckily the Directorate Museums & Heritage has agreed to pay out shift work allowances but it is always a battle for it to be paid on time and on a regular basis.

A team investigating the organizational structure, in other words staff shortages and gaps in job descriptions of certain staff members, visited the museum and together with our input was able to compile a new organogram. At present all staff members are doing work outside of their job descriptions, but the new organogram makes provision for specialized posts, e.g., state accountant, artisans and exhibition officers. All these challenges, however, inspired us to work even harder and to always do our best.

I am very sad to announce that Oom Dennis will be retiring at the end of June 2010. Oom Dennis has become an integral part of the museum and will be sorely missed. The time has come for him to put his feet up and have a well deserved rest. I am very happy to report however, that Oom Dennis will still be available for weekend duties.

A warm welcome to Mr Jacobus Pylman who was transferred from Burgersdorp and joined our museum family in January 2010. He has adapted well and is a welcome addition to the museum.

The staff experienced many joys, but in some instances were not spared grief and sorrow. My husband and I were blessed with a healthy baby boy in January 2010 and Miss Pika with little Cwenga in November 2009.

On 16 November 2009 my grandfather was called to higher service. Miss Blouw lost her life partner in October 2009, but was then blessed with the birth of a healthy grandchild in February 2010.

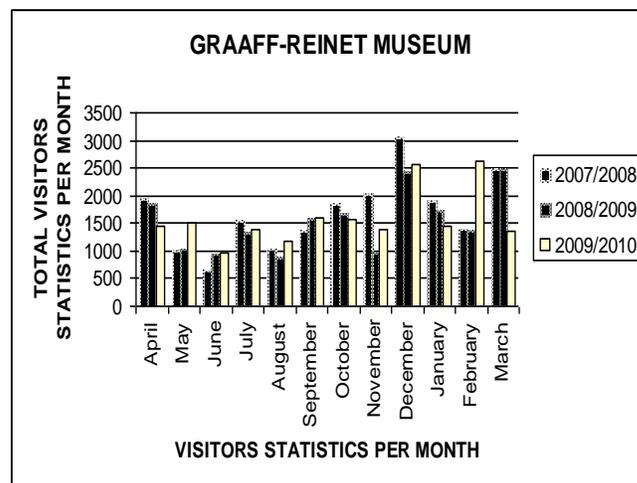
I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our relief staff who are always on standby to keep the doors of the museum open.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr van Rhyners on obtaining his driver's licence. He was thrown into the deep end when I went on maternity leave but eventually proved to be a cautious and law abiding driver. Congratulations, Mr van Rhyners.

All staff members are submitted to a quarterly and annual evaluation. Performances of staff are scrutinized and problem areas

are addressed. I am proud to announce that after evaluations all staff members received very good results and were awarded cash bonuses for their efforts.

VISITORS & VISITOR STATISTICS



Visitor statistics show a slight increase and once again we were able to survive the financial year largely due admission fees.

Visitors find our museums neat and tidy and most importantly compare our museum most favorably with museums in larger metropolitan areas. Of course, we cannot begin to compare to the musea in Europe, but that does not mean that we do not aspire to. The eagle eyes of visitors keep us on our toes and we are happy to consider

any suggestions they might have.

The only celebrity to visit the museum this year was Steve Hofmeyer – a very good natured, well mannered and friendly personality.

Once again people from all over the world visited the museum and their comments, as always inspired us: *Great polish smell, a beautiful collection and very knowledgeable staff, Hier voel ek ge-anker, spectacular exhibition, outentieke atmosfeer, ‘n wonderlike ervaring saam met Vuyo – een van die dae wat ons lank sal onthou, Lovely domestic feeling, baie netjies en Vriendelike ontvangs, SA se verlede in een huis, creaky and beautiful, One of the best in SA, vrot van die geskiedenis (Steve Hofmeyer), Dennis is such an enthusiastic guide, exceptionally nice, Those Scots get everywhere (Dorothy & Allan Sutton Smith, Scotland).*

TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS

As always we remain committed to transforming our exhibitions and our

organizational structure. Already in 2001 it became the mission of the Graaff-Reinet Museum to exhibit the history of all the members of the community. Although lack of funding has placed great restrictions on the process of transformation, the Graaff-Reinet Museum once again took the initiative and applied for outside funding to transform our displays. Transformation cannot be measured, since transformation in present day South Africa is a continuous process, which the next generations will probably come to experience as a finished process.

Our transformation projects for the financial year commenced in May 2009. As part of our International Museum Day celebrations, the drama “Walking Tall” was performed at three previously disadvantaged schools in the area. The play told the story of the evolution of man and gave the museum the opportunity to create awareness about our museums.

Apart from our educational programmes, we also established the National

Orders and Symbol Exhibition with the assistance of the Bureau of State Heraldry. The Exhibition was afforded wide media coverage, especially since the National Orders were awarded on 16 December 2009. It was officially opened in January 2010.

In the Spirit of Soccer and the FIFA World Cup, we opened the Uyawuzu'u Moya (It is here, South Africa!) exhibition on Tuesday, 15 June 2010 with a special gathering of Graaff-Reinet Soccer Veterans at the Old Library Museum.

The exhibition has been in the pipeline for the past six years and after putting our heads together, the museum decided to involve the community in the opening. Thus, soccer veterans gathered on Tuesday, 15 June to share stories of how soccer was played in Graaff-Reinet. The Uyawuzu'u Moya exhibition will be on display until the end of the year. It depicts the history of soccer in South Africa and also pays tribute to Bafana Bafana. A special panel is dedicated to Soccer in Graaff-Reinet.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Most of our educational programmes focus on creating awareness of the museum and its functions. Our target group is previously disadvantaged learners and people who have never visited a museum before.

Once again we continued with our Rock Art Educational Programme. It was so successful that we presented it to three groups in the past financial year: The farm schools in the area, learners from the Sundays River Valley and Grade 4 learners from Union Prep School.

We also introduced a World Cup Awareness Programme to the learners from the Sundays River Valley, focusing on the history of soccer in South Africa and Bafana Bafana.

The Historical Building Educational Programme has become an annual event. Once again our actors gathered in different historical buildings throughout the town to surprise the children. It is still a huge success. Apart from our regulars, Mr Charles Maasdorp assumed the role of

a Cold Stream Guard at the Powder Magazine and entertained the children with bugle tunes. A Big Thank you to all of the Friends of the Museum who so willingly put up with our requests.

Apart from our educational programmes more than a thousand went through our hands. They came from all over the country, Tarkastad, Grahamstown, Mosselbay, Uniondale, Kroonvale, Pearston and Saldanha Bay, just to mention a few.

DONATIONS

The Camdeboo Municipality donated a cashbook dated 1842 and Mr Kroon augmented our information of the Van Rhyneveld's Pass Dam.

The Museum received a sizable financial donation from the Estate of S G Wolhuter including all of his war medals and books. We are, of course, very grateful and forwarded pictures to his wife.

I also have to mention the donation of a panorama of the opening of the railway lines donated by a couple from

Scotland as well as a woollen blanket made during the Anglo Boer War.

We encourage people to donate modern and contemporary clothing as well as costumes for our clothing bank, as a special fundraising project.

THE WEBSITE

Our website designed by Mark Senekal is up and running. This, together with our new letterhead and logo, placed in the centre of the hub which is the world wide web. Any suggestions are welcome. Please visit our site; it is user-friendly and has an old world feel to it.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Apart from the website, Stadig oor die Klippe, a travel programme on Kyknet visited Reinet House and broadcasted the recording in November 2009. This was my television debut and all went well.

I was also interviewed by the Sunday Times with regards to Graaff-Reinet's historical buildings and our International Museum Day

drama "Walking Tall" featured in Die Burger.

I also had time to write one article and it was published in The Cape Librarian in July/August 2009.

THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Oral History project, also a transformation project, received quite a blow when I went on maternity leave and our chairperson; Rev Nancy Charton took a bad fall.

When I returned, many things needed my immediate attention. In the mean time members continued with the interviews and made an effort to source funds.

The Oral History project was revived, especially after soccer veterans were interviewed with the start of the Soccer World Cup. If there are any names to be added to our interviewee list, please submit them as soon as possible. At present the members are doing the rounds and the interviewing has started.

As previously stated we hope to have enough material to

eventually publish a book and make a documentary film.

PUBLIC ENTITY STATUS

Our Public Entity Status is still under intense scrutiny especially since an advert appeared in a newspaper inviting applications to the Board of Trustees. This was very confusing since the new Museum Act does not allow for a Board of Trustees and the Directorate of Museums has put themselves in the firing line in this regard.

At present I cannot comment on this except to say that efforts are being made to have the new Museum Act amended.

FUNDRAISING

During the past financial year the Board of Trustees agreed to embark on aggressive fundraising efforts. The annual government subsidy is not nearly enough and the fact that it has not increased with inflation left us with no other option but to source funds from elsewhere.

Our first effort was *A Night at the Museum*. It required intensive planning and careful

organisation but on 4 and 5 December the Museum presented *A Night at the Museum*. Members of the community were treated to a tour of the museums complete with actors to tell the stories. We received praise from far and wide and also requests to make this an annual event. We are happy to oblige.

Our annual street stall was also a huge success. Once again thank you to all who so diligently contributed to our annual street stall and once again in June, when we tried a winter street stall.

I would also like to extend a big thank you to Stephen Welz and Co. who once again had a very successful valuation day. All proceeds were donated to the museum.

We have many fundraising events planned for the near future and we beg you to have patience with our efforts, but most importantly, we beg your support.

MAINTENANCE

A year or so ago, the garden next to Reinet House was a miniature wasteland. This was

quite an embarrassment to Mr van Rhyners who took the initiative to establish a new garden. At present, the garden is a sight to behold and people are very keen to have their wedding and even Matric farewell pictures taken there.

Funding for maintenance is almost non-existent. However, we do our best and the general assistants have become jacks of all trades. They mend furniture and sash windows, do restoration, white wash buildings and repair electrical equipment. During the course of the year the back of Reinet House was white washed and the doors treated with a pesticide. The doors were also sanded and painted.

Summer rainstorms are problematic and Mr van Rhyners is required to fix damaged roofs and shutters. He has become quite adept at it.

Maintenance is a priority and we always try to present the bright side to the public. At present all our male staff are involved in white washing and painting of Reinet House, Old Residency and Urquhart House. We just cannot afford

to employ a contractor and have to find ways and means to do our own maintenance.

THE PETER FLACK PROJECT

I am not in a position to comment on the Peter Flack project since very few meetings were called by the Camdeboo Municipality.

According to Mr Zorb Caryer, a consultant was appointed to investigate the possibility of raising funds for the Natural History Museum. We still have no idea if the museum is going to be erected on the grounds of the museum or if it will be moved elsewhere. We will, however, keep all our friends informed.

NEW MUSEUM HOURS & ADMISSION FEE INCREASE

After a casual survey, we found that very few people visit the museum on a Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Thus, the Board has agreed to change the opening hours and introduce winter museum hours from 1 June to 31 August annually.

It is not worth our while to keep the doors open for

extended hours as we don't make a cent. Sometimes it is not even enough to pay relief staff. We cannot afford to lose money, but try our very best to curb unnecessary expenses and not to compromise service delivery.

After careful consideration, the Board also decided to increase donation fees. In view of the increased inflation rate and day-to-day costs of living, we have no other option but to implement increases. Visitor figures remained steady and no complaints were received regarding the admission fee increase. Please note that a new ticket system has been implemented to account for all tickets sold.

WINTER HOURS:

Reinet House

Monday – Friday: 08h00 – 16h30

Saturday: 09h00 – 14h00

Sunday: 09h00 – 14h00

Old Library

Monday – Friday:

08h00 – 13h00 & 13h45 – 16h30

Saturday: 09h00 – 14h00

Sunday: 09h00 – 14h00

Old Residency

Monday – Friday:

08h00 – 13h00 & 13h45 – 16h30

Saturday: 09h00 – 12h00

Sunday: 09h00 – 12h00

Urquhart House

Monday – Friday:

08h00 – 13h00 & 13h45 – 16h30

Saturday: 09h00 – 12h00

Sunday: CLOSED

Military History Museum

Monday – Friday:

08h00 – 13h00 & 13h45 – 16h30

Saturday: 09h00 – 12h00

Sunday: 09h00 – 12h00

PROVINCIAL STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

On 14 and 15 October 2009, the Graaff-Reinet Museum hosted the Provincial Strategic Planning meeting of the Directorate Museums and Heritage. This is quite a momentous occasion which requires careful planning and organisation. All went well and once again showed that we truly are like a well-oiled machine.

HOURLASS

We aim to compile, print and distribute “The Hourglass” twice a year. Unfortunately we

cannot send copies of those whose subscriptions are not up to date. Printing and distribution are costly and since we have to prioritise our spending, we cannot afford to send the newsletter to those who are not paying the membership fees.

Dames en Here, ter afsluiting: ek is terug met nuwe entoesiasme en nuwe planne. Daar is niks beter as ‘n vier maande lange vakansie om kop skoon te maak en aan nuwe idees te werk nie. Graag wil ek almal hartlik bedank wat ons so getrou finansieël en moreel steun. Ons taak is ‘n gemeenskaps taak, maar ons kan dit nie doen sonder u volgehoue ondersteuning nie.

Graag wil ek ons vennote in toerisme en die bewaring van erfenis bedank vir hul ondersteuning, onder andere Tercia Moos en Sandi Will by die Toerisme kantoor, Mariette, Corrie, Barbara en Mariaan by die Advertiser en Chantelle en Buks Marais van Karoopark Gastehuis.