



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 (Resigned December 2013)
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
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
Ms R Scheepers	-	Museum Assistant (Resigned October 2013)
Mr Z Isaks	-	General Assistant
Ms M Jantjies	-	General Assistant (Resigned in April 2013)
Ms M Arnolds	-	General Assistant (Resigned September 2013)
Ms L Uithaler	-	General Assistant (Since November 2013)

RELIEF STAFF

Mr Douglas van Wyk	-	Since December 2013
Ms Y Arnesen		
Ms L Du Toit		
Mrs L Struwig		
Mr G Deysel		

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Introduction:

Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentleman, it is an honour for me to now present the Chairman's report for the Graaff-Reinet Museum for 2014.

I would, at the outset like to extend my sincere gratitude to the members of the Board of Trustees and to Mrs. Kayster for making my task as chairman an easy one. It is a privilege to serve with a group of people committed to the well-being and development of this important institution for our town.

The year under review has been one of fluctuating fortunes for our Museum characterised by significant events that have enjoyed a high degree of public exposure and accolades playing out against a background of troubling constants.

Staff

The Board of Trustees once again owes the staff of the Museum a considerable debt of gratitude for the manner in which they have executed their duties, often in the

face of adversity. One can in fact state, without fear of contradiction, that each and every staff member performs at a level well in excess of what we have grown to expect from our public servants. Mrs. Kayster and her staff are truly deserving of the accolades that are showered upon them from time to time and far too infrequently in my view. Given the amount of work they get through in any given period, their coherence as a team and commitment to regularly work beyond the call of duty, one can only but wonder what could be achieved if the Museum were blessed with a full compliment of staff.

Regrettably this is simply not the case as only six of the eleven provincial government posts are currently filled. The Provincial Department of Sports Recreation Arts & Culture persists with a policy of not filling posts vacated as a result of resignations, retirements and transfers, such posts eventually becoming frozen and unfunded.

This year we have once again lost a post as a result of dismissal. Each and every provincial post lost, places an extra burden on the remaining staff, a situation which the Board is essentially powerless to address effectively owing to financial constraints, albeit that the Board currently employs a museum assistant, a general assistant and relief staff who all make an invaluable contribution to the operation of the Museum. Given that the Museum has five separate buildings it becomes a matter of inevitability that staff members are effectively required to act outside their job descriptions on a regular basis, a practice which is both unfortunate and not fair on the staff concerned. Current vacant provincial posts are: 1 Chief Auxiliary Service Officer, 1 Senior Auxiliary Service Officer, 1 Auxiliary Service Officer and 1 Tradesman's Aid.

Visitor numbers, successful transformation projects and sound administration have, by the public admission of a senior Department official, placed our Museum

amongst the top museums in the province and as a potential future development point. Mrs. Kayster also formed part of an elite group selected by the Department to present papers at a museums conference in Lower Saxony, Germany a clear acknowledgement of the significant role that she is playing in the welfare of our Museum; a just acknowledgement for which we congratulate her.

The Board urges the Department to act consistently and provide us with the staff compliment which we are due.

Buildings:

The Museum is the custodian of 4 prominent heritage buildings in the town and the relatively newly constructed Military Museum / Archive building in the grounds of Urquhart House. The maintenance of buildings is accordingly a significant outlay but financial constraints regrettably dictate that the Board cannot do full justice to this important function. For this reason it was particularly satisfying to report last year that the Department had received funding

from the National Treasury for special needs projects for museums in the province. This we thought to be the ideal opportunity to tackle the long-overdue repairs to the thatched roof of Reinet House; this was however not to be. After many months of silence the Museum was notified that the disbursement of the funds would be managed by the Public Works Department based on a needs assessment done by their officials. Although rather ill-prepared officials did subsequently arrive at the Museum and did their best to verify our most pressing maintenance needs, this was the last we ever heard of the project. The funding has, to our detriment, been disbursed elsewhere in the province.

The Board urgently needs to find an alternative source of money to attend to the Reinet House roof. While basic maintenance work has fairly recently been concluded on the Old Residency and the Old Library, Urquhart House and Reinet House will be next in line when the provincial subsidy funds become available.

The need to improve environmental conditions and safety standards in our archive is also an issue which needs to be addressed in the near future to ensure the longer term security of our document, photographic and textile collections. This will be a costly exercise for which outside funding will also need to be sought.

Special Projects:

Over the last number of years special projects have been launched, and concluded successfully, as a means of promoting transformation in the Graaff-Reinet Museum so that the collections and functions of the Museum can more accurately reflect the composition of the community which it serves. Thus in the past we have mounted permanent exhibits like the Mangaliso Robert Sobukwe Exhibit, the Slavery and Road to Restitution Exhibit and a permanent exhibit dedicated to the fine cabinet work of Lucas Borman.

This year the Robert Sobukwe Exhibit was re-interpreted and

remounted and the interior of the Robert Sobukwe Hall completely redecorated. The upgraded exhibit was officially opened at a formal function on 23 April 2014.

In 2011 the Museum lodged an application and business plan with the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund for funding to expand and formalise the Museum's oral history project. Notification was received during the course of the period under review that R1.8 million had been granted to the Museum for the completion of an extensive oral history project. A Steering Committee has been formed, training of volunteers has been concluded and the work on the collection of oral histories from the wider Graaff-Reinet Community will shortly begin in earnest. This is a significant project for our Museum which is extending particularly our staff resources to the limit, but will be a major feather in the cap of the Museum once successfully concluded.

Finances:

Despite an increase in the Provincial subsidy, reported last

year, the financial position of the Museum remains cause for concern. In the traditionally lean months when visitor numbers are down and the income from admission fees and shop sales are low it becomes particularly problematic to balance income and expenditure.

The problems reported in the last Chairman's report remain and concepts like:

- Hand-to-mouth existence
- Delays in funding precipitating minor crises
- A battle to keep doors open
- Lack of corporate patrons, ring as true today as they did a year ago. Thankfully owing to tight financial control the minor crises have been weathered up to now and the Museum has never had to close its doors.

The hard work and dedication of the staff in arranging special fundraisers like the annual Dinner at the Museum provides a welcome source of additional income. We are also most grateful to our benefactors for their generosity when arranging events of this nature.

It is indeed an irony that there is currently considerable funding available for special projects, but the day-to-day running of the Museum is threatened by fluctuating income levels and delays in receipt of the Provincial Subsidy. The Museum is of incalculable value to Graaff-Reinet as a tourist attraction, secure repositories of valuable cultural artefacts and documents, research and education resource, custodian of significant examples of our architectural heritage and community resource. Until this institution receives the financial support of the authorities and a groundswell of moral support commensurate with its value to our town and community, our financial problems are bound to persist.

Support

Our Museum cannot fulfil its true potential without the support of the community of Graaff-Reinet so in closing I would like to renew the challenge which I set to those present at the last AGM.

- non-subscribers please become Friends of the Museum,
- subscribers sign up at least one new Friend and
- Let us all in the future make a point of bringing Graaff-Reineters to visit the Museum on a regular basis.

Our Museum seriously needs an active, passionate and vibrant Association of Friends to take the institution into the future. We don't primarily need money, although this would also obviously be welcome 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 new ideas. The galvanising of support is the one factor 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 to canvas for more friends?

Thank You.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE MUSEUM

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues and friends,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to lend us an ear. Some might say same old, same old, but I know that all of you sitting here really have our best interest at heart and that what we do and what we have to say is important to you. I am happy to see all the familiar faces.

Let me remind you: the Graaff-Reinet Museum is the fourth largest province-aided Museum in the Eastern Cape with a floor space of more than 4000 m². It is one of the biggest tourist attractions within the Camdeboo area and one of the largest international tourist attractions within a 203km radius of Port Elizabeth. The Graaff-Reinet Museum is a complex comprising five museums namely Reinet House, our flagship, The Old Library, The Old Residency, Urquhart House and the Military History Museum and archival repository completed in 2005. According to *The National Handbook of Archives* the archival repository is of national importance and of great significance.

The Graaff-Reinet Museum is dedicated to be an institution which preserves and reflects the cultural history and natural heritage relevant to all the inhabitants of the Camdeboo area. It collects, conserves, researches and displays the rich cultural history and heritage of the Camdeboo area for the education, recreation and upliftment of the community and visitors whom it serves.

This past financial year clearly illustrates that our emphasis and efforts have shifted to living histories. Museums today are public institutions in service of all members of society. As such, The Graaff-Reinet Museum strives to preserve people's heritage without alienating them. We have also realised that these attempts should not be halfhearted as this would have serious implications for the sustainability and viability of the museum. The common objective is to focus on the intangible aspects of inherited culture also termed living histories: cultural tradition, indigenous knowledge systems, popular memory, performance and ritual. Living heritage is regarded as the common ground, the cement that binds the

museum and the people whom they serve, together.

The Oral History Project is just one example of how living history is being brought to life at The Graaff-Reinet Museum. In October 2013, we received a sizable grant from The National Lotteries Distribution fund for our Oral History Project. In January 2014 a community-based Steering Committee was established and volunteers were identified to collect oral history. The community's enthusiasm was astounding and as word of mouth relayed the idea behind oral history, more and more people presented themselves to be interviewed. This project is certain to continue for many many years, and as long as it takes. Oral History is living heritage and has a place in the transformed South African Museum.

We have extraordinary people working at The Graaff-Reinet Museum, people who are prepared to go the extra mile without batting an eyelid. Together we help each other to realise our objectives and live out our dreams.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a special thank you to the wonderful staff of the museum.

They need to be present here today so that they can be reminded of all the work they have done, all the projects they have completed, the bottles of *Withond* bottled, the many guided tours presented, the many miles travelled and most importantly, all the satisfied visitors that have passed through our doors. One is inclined to forget as the year goes on, but I never forget and today I say here's to you, the best colleagues one can ever hope for!

Our Board of Trustees is a fully transformed and very active body. Their support and encouragement keeps us going. We are also appreciative of the fact that they fully understand our challenges and that they work just us hard to find solutions to our problems. Thank you.

I would also like to extend a special word of thanks to our calm and level-headed chairman, a person whom we completely rely on.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an honor to present the 2013/14 Annual Report of The Graaff-Reinet Museum.

FINANCES

A Short Overview

Our financial situation is cause for great concern as it has become a daily battle to make ends meet. I am not sure whether the government comprehends the enormity of the financial challenges we face and how impossible our task has become to remain sustainable and viable. Museums are goldmines but we can only realise our full potential if we can convince our government to provide substantial financial support.

We have also come to realise that the sustainability of the museum is tied to our own creativity and innovation. Transformation is a serious and expensive business and the only way in which we can implement transformation is to raise funds ourselves.

During the past year we have succeeded in obtaining funds from the National Lotteries Distribution fund for The Oral History Project, held a successful dinner at The Museum and continued to distill and sell *Withond*. It should be noted that funds from the Lotteries Fund cannot be used for anything other than The Oral History Project and

quarterly financial reports have to be submitted. Spending R1,8 million is not easy.

The *Withond* initiative continues to be our biggest moneymaker. This, together with admission fees and the sales from the museum shop keep us afloat during difficult times. We work extremely hard for every cent earned and we are always very reluctant to use our hard-earned money. We cannot help but to carefully scrutinize every single potential expense to ensure that it is absolutely necessary. We also switch lights off, buy only the necessary stationery, and try to keep the telephone account down to the minimum.

It is our greatest wish to get an audience with the Camdeboo Municipality to explain our situation. It is our firm belief that we bring tourists to our town and that, as one of the major tourist attractions in our geographical area, deserve a helping hand to ensure that Graaff-Reinet does not lose its appeal, but unfortunately when it comes to financial matters, the opportunity to speak to the right people, appears to be elusive.

Our subsidy was reduced with R20 000. This does not bode well for the present financial year. It is a miracle that we manage to survive every financial year. We agonise about our financial situation as if it were personal. No employee should be subjected to this far from ideal situation.

Ms van Wyk has borne the responsibility of keeping diligent financial records for the past eight years and she is doing an exceptional job. In Afrikaans we would say: *Sy kwyt haar goed van haar taak!* And that says it all.

The auditing firm of Van Wyk Theron will be presenting our financial statements today. We appreciate your hard work and advice on financial matters and look forward to your continued backup during the financial year ahead.

Besoekers en Besoeker-statistieke

Ons besoekersgetalle toon 'n duidelike afname, alhoewel ons gedurende Mei en Junie 2013 oorval is met vakansiegangers wat die winter-skoolvakansie benut het. Ons bly dankbaar vir elke voet in die museum en doen ons ons bes om in

elke besoeker se behoefte te voorsien.

Ons internasionale besoekersgetalle het ook afgeneem. Ons hoop egter dat die nuwe opgegradeerde Sobukwe uitstallings nuwe geesdriftiges na die museums sal bring. Besoekers kom van heinde en vêre, veral van lande wat 'n affiniteit met Suid-Afrika voel.

Wat bekendes en berugtes betref, het ons geen noemenswaardige besoeker gehad nie, alhoewel President Zuma aan ons ringmuur geraak het op pad om die nuwe Opvoedkunde gebou te open.

Educational Programmes

The year had barely commenced when schools started booking their first quarterly visits.

The Museum presented the *Careers in Museums* workshop to more than 90 learners from Lingcom Primary. This was a huge success mainly due to inspiring talks delivered by our volunteers. They consisted of Jak of *Propix*, who showed the children around the photographic exhibition, Marthinus Smith who demonstrated furniture restoration and Zandisile Sakata who explained archival practices. The children were treated

to lunch packs made by the staff and the volunteers to a sumptuous lunch. More than a 100 tiny tots from Khanyisa Day Care Centre visited the Museum. The collections did not capture their attention for very long, but they entertained us with song and spent a lovely morning having a picnic under the trees in the garden.

We also hosted the grade 4 learners from Union Prep School and compiled a special programme for them which had to correlate with the new CAPS syllabus. In the end we focused on Oral History, Water, Transport and Music. We made use of knowledgeable volunteers to assist us since this programme was requested at very short notice. I would like to extend a big thank you to Mr Walter Murray, who focused on local history, Oom Andries Smit who explained the wagons and water wheel and Jac from *Propix* who explained music and all the musical instruments. Right at the end, the learners completed a fun activity sheet. Forty four learners participated in the *A day at The Museum* programme which was presented over a period of two days. They also attended *The Rock Art programme* later in the year.

More than three hundred children from Thembalisiwe Primary visited the Museum in March 2014 to participate in our *Historical Building Educational Programme*. They visited the gaol, the church, all the museums and the Hester Rupert Art Museum. Ms van Wyk and I were on duty: we like to boast how three hundred children went through our hands in a few days.

Working with learners lies very close to my heart, even more so because we get to introduce them to the wonders of living history. In the smaller museum, where the curator is also the educational officer, you will be surprised by how inventive and creative we can be. At the Graaff-Reinet Museum any learners may visit the museum free of charge every Friday afternoon if they are in school uniform. We work quite closely with schools in our areas and appreciate the feet that these schools pass through our museums.

Bemarking en Media-aangeleenthere

Verskeie geleenthere om die Museum te bemark het hom voorgedoen. Die plaaslike toerismekantoor staan altyd gereed indien ons 'n geleenthere of nuwe

uitstalling wil adverteer. Hul elektroniese nuusbriëf bereik baie mense en die Graaff-Reinet Museum word ook gereeld op hulle Facebook-blad gesien. Hierdie publisiteit doen ons goed.

Die afgelope jaar het die *Graaff-Reinet Advertiser* koerantspasië afgestaan aan die opening van die nuwe Sobukwe uitstalling, die dinee, skoolgroepe wat die museum besoek het, die mondelinge oorleweringe projek en nog vele meer. Wie lees nie die *Advertiser* nie? Die *Advertiser* is een van ons belangrikste mondstukke en die hoop is dat ons altyd nuuswaardig sal bly.

Ons het ook onderhoude toegestaan aan *Christian Television* wat 'n dokumentêr oor Andrew Murray vervaardig het. Die DVD sal binnekort beskikbaar wees.

Die media klop somtyds onverwags en vroeg aan jou deur en dan is daar nie tyd om krullers uit te pluk en snorre te skeer nie. Gelukkig staan die Trusteeraad altyd gereed en so het dit een môre ook gebeur dat Mnr. Daniel Smith 'n televisiespan te woord gestaan het. Baie Dankie, Mnr. Smith. Alle publisiteit is goeie

publisiteit en jy het jou uitstekend van jou taak gebruik.

The Trip to Lower Saxony, Germany

I was very surprised when Mr Grootboom, Senior Manager of Museums and Heritage, invited me in February 2014 to be part of a museum delegation to Lower Saxony, Germany.

I had to prepare a synopsis of a talk to be presented to the German Museum fraternity and came up with the dramatic title of *My Mother groaned, my father wept and into the dangerous world I leapt: a new age of birthing heritage in the museums of the Eastern Cape, South Africa*. My synopsis was approved and in April I found myself preparing to go to Germany. As described in the recent edition of *The Hourglass* it was a wonderful opportunity, one that will be remembered for many years to come.

Exhibitions

The highlight of our year was the opening of the Sobukwe exhibition. After many months of researching the exhibition, interpreting known information, preparing the exhibition space and battling issues

of funding and copyright the exhibition was finally transported from Port Elizabeth and erected at the Old Library. The exhibition consists of thirteen large panels designed by Mr Mark Senekal. We are very happy with the end result. One of our board members, Mrs Lipshitz, wrote a lovely poem which also forms part of the focus panel fixed above the fire place. We have so many people to thank, with whose help we managed to keep the cost of mounting the exhibition to a minimum of R36 000. Mrs Heunis helped us to arrange transport for the panels from Port Elizabeth while all the staff helped to hang the panels and to prepare the exhibition space. We had the grand opening on 23 April 2014 sponsored by The Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture. We are really satisfied with the end results and compliments are abundant.

One of the biggest donations during the past year was a collection of farm implements donated by Mr and Mrs Vorster. Mr Van Rhyners and I went out to their farm to identify pieces that could be assimilated into the Museum collection. Mr Talla Crouse transported the items from

the farm and charged us a very small fee to deliver the items. Mr Sakkie van Zyl offered his services free of charge and delivered the bulk of the collection, including donating one or two hay bales to augment the exhibition. We are very happy with the outcome.

Many acquisitions, which included more items from Mrs Musket, books from Dr. Pheko, former leader from the PAC, and linen items were entered into our acquisition register and the three card system. These items were also numbered, labeled and put on exhibition. One lady, Mrs Cloete, who donated a honeymoon nightshift, requested a photograph of the clothes on a doll. We complied with her request since she is 92 years old and unable to come to Graaff-Reinet. Unfortunately I do not have time to mention all the acquisitions received this year, but each item has been recorded meticulously.

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. It is very unfortunate that I have to report that two Anglo Boer War medals were stolen. A

case was opened with the police but it came to our attention that we were only one of a number of museums targeted. All medals were taken off exhibition: this is not an ideal situation. Security cameras will be installed in the current financial year.

Mev Annemarie Carelsen, bemaamde tekstiel, keramiek en histories metaalkenner het die museum besoek en dit op sy kop gekeer. Aanvanklik sou sy net navorsing op die tekstielversameling gedoen het, maar nou is die klere volgens periodes ingedeel, ons argief is geherorganiseer en selfs die museum interieurs is volgens periode verander. Ons is tevrede. Sy sal vir die volgende twee jaar aan die res van ons versameling werk.

Good Service Delivery

One of the main services that we are renowned for is genealogical research. We were once again inundated with research inquiries. A very interesting inquiry was submitted by a Mr Arenhold, a ninety year old German. I was quite excited to provide him with the information that we had on record, and was quite put out when I discovered that he had asked several

people in Port Elizabeth and in Graaff-Reinet to do the same research. Can you imagine my surprise when I suddenly discovered that the world had an interest in a certain Mr Hans Frederich Arenhold!

We try to do our best with the meager resources at our disposal. We answer all research inquiries, never turn a single person away even if it is minutes before closing time. We talk to all our visitors and answer all emails and telephone calls. Our exhibitions are always neat and tidy but do admit that it is sometimes difficult to keep a firm hand on the garden in the rainy season. But then again, we do not have a problem to set aside a whole day to help Mr van Rhyners in the garden.

Die Uurglas

Die Uurglas word aan al ons vriende, vennote en ander belangstellendes gestuur. Twee uitgawes verskyn elke jaar en iemand het genoem dat hy regtig stomgeslaan was om te sien hoe die kurator lyk! Hy het 'n idee van 'n gryse ou dame gehad, vol lewenswysheide. Ek wonder of ek dit as kompliment moet beskou?

Vennootskappe

Almal gaan gebuk onder finansiële druk. Ons verwag nie altyd geldelike ondersteuning nie maar ons kan wel af en toe die hand op ander maniere uitsteek. Alle Graaff-Reineters mag die museum elke eerste Saterdag van die maand gratis besoek. Ons vra nie toegangsfooie vir plaaslike skole nie en stal ons ons dienste en inligting oor die museum by verskeie programme van ander staatsdepartemente uit.

Een van ons belangrikste vennote is die plaaslike Toerismekantoor en tans werk ons aan 'n manier om plaaslike gidse op te lei om besoekers op begeleide toere deure die museumkompleks kan neem.

ADMINISTRATION

The Board Of Trustees

We are very sad to announce that Mr Jacob Daniels had to retire as board member after serving for almost ten years. He also retired as Friends of The Museum representative. Mr Daniels was a wonderful board member, always friendly and always very enthusiastic. He seldom missed a board meeting and we came to rely on his valuable input. He will

always be part of our museum family.

Staff matters

Board of Trustee appointments

In July 2013 The Board of Trustees appointed a general assistant and a museum assistant. The two new additions to the staff did not cope as well as we had hoped and required more than a few counseling sessions. A lot of time and energy went into settling insignificant incidences of internal staff conflict, but also to coach and train the new appointees. I maintain that it requires a special kind of person to work in, and tolerate, the museum environment. Those individuals are extremely hard to come by or our standards are just too high and the remuneration too low. Both Ms Scheepers and Ms Arnolds resigned only months after their appointment. No new permanent appointments were made since, although Ms Letishia Uithaler was appointed to work three days per week.

Government appointments

All government employees are still under duress due to the enormous workload arising from staff vacancies and frozen posts. The posts of two auxiliary service

officers, one chief auxiliary officer and one general assistant are still vacant. The question remains: how do you 'unfreeze' a frozen post. The situation remains unchanged with no prospect of improvement in the near future.

Although performance evaluation is a compliance regulation, none of the staff members of this institution were evaluated on their performance. Various letters, reports and complaints were written to our superiors but to no avail. To date none of the staff members have received a performance bonus or the 1.5% increment that is their right. Unfortunately had no other option but to refer the matter to the relevant bargaining council as a dispute.

On a brighter note: The Museum family also welcomed three new additions namely Duwayn, a baby boy born to the Isaks family on 18 February 2013, Joshua born on 19 February to the Williams family and Morgan born to the Jacobs family on 3 July 2013. Congratulations to our colleagues on the birth of their beautiful and healthy babies.

Relief Staff

The time finally came to bid farewell to Oom Dennis who has decided to spend weekends with his family instead of at the museums. He served the museums diligently for almost twenty years and deserves a rest. Mr Douglas van Wyk, was appointed in his place and commenced work in December 2013. We are very glad to have him on board. He has proved to be quite level headed when confronted with a crisis.

We are also very happy to report that Mr Greg Deysel is now responsible for keeping the doors of The Old Residency and Urquhart House open on weekends. He is an asset on our staff and we look forward to a wonderful working relationship.

Ms Du Toit and Ms Arnessen are always at their post on weekends. They are truly reliable and always ready to help. Thank you very much, we cannot do without you.

FASILITEITSBESTUUR

Ons het daarin geslaag om broodnodige onderhoudswerk aan twee museums te doen. Dit beteken dat ons wonderbaarlik daarin

geslaag het om elke sent te rek en rek. 'n Kontrakteur is aangestel om die Ou Biblioteek te verf. Ongelukkig kon ons net die fasade, 'n syaansig en die dak verf. Die onderhoudswerk is in Augustus voltooi.

In Maart het ons ook die Ou Residensie 'n nuwe, blink gesiggie gee. Op daardie stadium was die geld alreeds gedaan en moes die manlike personeel met behulp van 'n bykomende paar hande, die onderhoudswerk aandurf. Hulle het 'n uitstekende van hul taak gekwyt. Mnr. Van Rhyners hou sy hand op die tuin en die tuin sien goed daar uit. Hy het self 'n elektroniese saag gemaak om die spekbome te sny. Hy is voorwaar 'n staatmaker. Ons maak gedurig planne om die tuine te verfraai en is tans besig om roossteggies in te lê om in die randakkers te plant.

Geld vir onderhoudswerk is skaars. Die strooidakke het dringend aandag nodig, maar om ongeveer R30 000 uit ons begroting daarvoor aan te wend is ondenkbaar. Tóg het ons onderneem om na ons erfenis te kyk en wees verseker dat ons alles in ons vermoë doen om die nodige fondse iewers vandaan te kry.

Ons implementeer goeie huishoudingspraktyke. Dit beteken dat ons gedurig afstof, vee, hark, stofsuig en blink maak. Ons glo ook dat voorkoming beter is as genesing en daarom kyk ons mooi na geboue en versamelings.

DANKIES / THANK YOU'S

Dames en Here, dit sluit dus die 2013/14 verslag van die Hoof van die Museum vir die 2013/14 boekjaar af. Baie dankie vir u Samuelsoor ek sien daarna uit om u volgende jaar weer te sien.