

Liewe Vriende,

2007 is met ons. Die personeel van die Graaff-Reinet Museum is gemotiveerd en begeesterd - ons vingers jeuk vir nuwe uitdagings. 'n Jaar propvol energie, synergie, kreatiwiteit en innovering wag op ons.

DIE MUSEUM IS DIE PLEK OM TE WEES!

'n Baie suksesvolle 2006 is afgesluit met 'n lesing deur die befaamde Benjamin Pogrund.

Benjamin Pogrund, personal friend of Robert Sobukwe visited South Africa late in 2006. When he was in Graaff-Reinet he called upon Mrs Sobukwe and went to places which brought back memories. He last visited Graaff-Reinet way back in 1978 to attend 'Bob's funeral'.

Benjamin and his wife, Anne emigrated to Israel in 1997 to found Yakar's centre for Social Concern in Jerusalem. The centre is devoted to dialogue between Jews and Jews, Jews and Muslims and Jews and Christians.

Benjamin, born in Cape Town, holds a Master's degree in Psychology. He joined the *Rand Daily Mail* in Johannesburg and pioneered the reporting of black politics and all other aspects of black existence under apartheid. He wrote extensively on malnutrition, the pass laws, education and labour.

Pogrund was deputy editor of the *Rand Daily Mail* when it closed its doors under pressure from the Government. He emigrated to Britain and became foreign editor of the new *Today* newspaper.

Pogrund has written *How can Man die Better*,

a very personal account of the life of Robert Sobukwe. He received the Award for Justice & Reconciliation of the Global Citizens Circle, USA, in 2005.

Benjamin Pogrund is a dynamic person who has the ability to keep you glued to your seat. His riveting accounts of Sobukwe's life captured the imagination of the audience and drew many questions from the floor. There is no doubt that meeting Mr Pogrund was a memorable occasion.

NUWE MUSEUM-URE

In Februarie 2007 is een van die Museum se drome verwesenlik: met 'n bietjie meet en pas het ons uiteindelik daarin geslaag om Reinethuis heeldag oop te hou en toeganklik vir die publiek te maak. Kollegas het hulself oortref met die aanpassings van die nuwe personeelroosters en aan die einde van die dag het ons tog daarin geslaag sonder om dienslewering te kelder.

Die ideaal is natuurlik om al ons museums deur die etens-uur oop te hou maar ongelukkig word ons telkens gekortwiek deur die holruggeryde personeeltekort-probleem. Ons sien egter uit na die dag wanneer al vier ons museums heeldag oop bly.

Vir u gerief publiseer ons die gewysigde ure aan die einde van hierdie uitgawe van Die Uurglas.

**LEEN DE GEUS -
38 JAAR IN DIE
MERINO - BEDRYF**

Die stamina van die merino-skaap is alombekend: goeie wol, goeie vleis - die enigste skaap wat die droogte van 1964 kon oorleef.

Die museum het onlangs 'n versameling uit die boedel van Leen de Geus, destydse

sekretaris van die Nasionale Ramtelersvereniging, ontvang. My belangstelling in Merino-skaapboerdery is onmiddellik geprikkel en ek het begin naslaan. So het ek Leen de Geus leer ken.

Van Hollandse ouers, gebore in Buenos Aires in 1911, het Leen de Geus op 'n veeplaas in die Argentynse Pampas (grasvelde) groot geword met skaap-en beesboerdery, skaapskeer, slag, perdry, rodeo's, windpompe, damme en lande bewerk – bedrywighede wat hom later goed te pas sou kom.

Toe sy ma hom eendag vra wat hy wil word, het hy kortweg geantwoord: “'n Gaucho (cowboy) te perd.” Min wetend wat vir hom voorlê.

Toe sy vader in 1928 besluit om af te tree en na Holland terug te keer, het sy twee seuns daar gematrikuleer. Leen se broer het na matriek na Suid-Afrika gekom en aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch sy B.Sc. graad in bosbou verwerf. As oudste seun moes Leendert eers sy militêre verpligtinge nakom en daarna is hy Grootfontein Landboukollege toe:

Toe skryf broer Harm ek moet na Grootfontein Landboukollege kom. In Desember 1938 reis ek per boot van Amsterdam na Kaapstad. Toe eers tot Februarie 1939 by Harm in Louis Trichardt gekuier. Toe kom haal hy my van die trein af op Pietersburg met 'n ou Fordkar (Ons het in Holland gery met my pa se Minerva wat saam na en van Argentinië gekom het.) Die agteras van die Ford raak toe aan die brand. Daar was 'n bottel bier in die kar. Dan vat ons 'n mondjievol bier en blaas en spoeg op die as. Dit was 'n helse skade. Toe die bier op was, toe p... ons hom dood. In Februarie 1939 reis ek per trein na Middelburg, Kaap. Op die trein ontmoet ek vir Gert Danhauser van Heilbron en Jannie Jacobs van Vrede.

Dan sit ons voor die treinvenster en kyk en dan wys hulle: “Dit is 'n merino” en “Dit is 'n persie.”

Ons was so 30 studente op Grootfontein. In Oktober 1939 eindeksamen. Toe skryf Bonny Rose op my diploma: “The best student of the year.”

Die Leen de Geus versameling bestaan uit geraamde foto's asook anekdotes geskrywe deur sy dogter Suzette.

Bemiddeling deur die de Geus dogters het die Museum in staat gestel om rare Lucas Borman meubelstukke te bekom.

Die meublement is 'n groot aanwinst vir ons slaweuitstalling. Ons opregte dank.

POELPETATER, WILDE HOENDER, TARENAAAL OR GUINEA-FOWL?

Have you ever come across the word *poelpetater*?

The word *tarentaal* is often used in the Western Cape where I grew up. As I became more accustomed to Graaff-Reinet vernacular, I came to realise that the word *wildehoender* used by the Graaff-Reinettters, also referred to a guinea fowl or *tarentaal*.

But *poelpetater*?

According to a letter, kindly donated by Dr Thornton, a Mr C J Kead from the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology wrote to Charles te Water that the early English travellers often used the word *Pintado* for guinea-fowl, a name derived from Portugese which literally means painted. As is the case with many foreign words, *Pintado* became *petater* and *poel* derived from the little water puddles often frequented by these birds. Thus: *poelpetater*.

Calls of the poelpetater

1) The advertisement call:

A sad, plaintive but far carrying cher, cheeng-cher, cheeng. This call is also heard after a fierce nuptial chase.

2) The chinking call: tscheenk, tscheenk. Mostly used while feeding.

3) The cackle: kekkekekkekek. Also known as the alarm call.

4) The kettledrum call: rapid keks, but soft and content, also known as the roosting call.

Today the guinea-fowl is a proudly South African product although it was supposedly imported in an attempt to clear lucerne crops from caterpillar infestation. Tourist prize a guinea-fowl feather and souvenirs with the little black and white dotted game bird sell very well.

So, if you ever come across a guinea-fowl, stop, collect the feathers and listen to its call.

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One of our guests at Reinet House's birthday celebrations presented the Museum with a scrap book with paper clippings dating back to 1870. It is packed with the most interesting news and other events in Graaff-Reinet and the wider world. The following are just a few that caught my eye:

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Visitors often ask, in jest, if ghosts do not haunt these old buildings. I must admit it often happens that a cold hand clutches my heart and I listen with dread to some strange noises from the nether parts of the Old Library! We always blamed the three sisters who lived at the back of the building. One of them was the librarian. The following news items gave some food for thought:

11 MARCH 1884

SUDDEN DEATH OF CLERGYMAN

We regret to have to announce the demise of the Rev Mr de Kock, a clergyman of the Dutch Reformed Church, which sad event took place suddenly yesterday afternoon at the Public Library.

The reverend gentleman, who was sitting in the Library, reading, complained all at once of a pain in his chest and of feeling faint. Mr Searle, the Assistant Librarian immediately offered his assistance, and having taken the reverend gentleman into the committee room, offered him some water and loosened his attire.

In the meantime, Dr Roux, who, however, was not at home, was sent for. The condition of Mr de Kock became gradually worse, and on the return of the messenger from

Dr Roux's, it was found that he was dying. Dr Falkiner was sent for, and arrived very shortly, but found that the reverend gentlemen had already breathed his last.

Dr Herman also attended afterwards.

The Magistrate was immediately communicated with, as did the brother of the deceased to whom the sad intelligence had already been conveyed.

The body of the deceased was consequently removed to the deceased's lodgings at Mrs Stadler's boarding house in New Street.

Mr De Kock was a widower, his second wife having recently died.

19 September 1871 TARKASTAD

On Monday night a large meteor fell from the north towards the west, illuminating the town of Tarkastad with a brilliant flash. It

exploded on reaching the lower air, the explosion being followed by a tremendous report sounding like a big 90-ton gun in the distance, and finishing up by a rumbling like thunder with a second or sharper sound. The report perceptibly shook the village. Much wonder has been expressed by those who heard the sound but did not see the meteor.

Somewhere near Tarkastad the earth must be strewn with bits and pieces of meteor. Are there any friends of the Museum in that vicinity who might be able to tell us if any bits of strange rock were ever found near Tarkastad?

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Sondagsrivier 1883 Die Mercury vra die volgende: Weet iemand miskien hoe en wanneer die Sondagsrivier sy naam gekry het? Ons vra die vraag, omdat dit steeds 'n geslote boek is. Ongelukkig is die oudste inwoner onlangs dood, voordat ons kon vra. Dis 'n feit dat die rivier reeds voor 1737 sy naam gekry het. Die informasie kom uit "Modie se Verslae", wat Sekretaris Tulbagh se verslag oor 'n handelsekspedisie wat deur die Transkei teruggekeer het van Natal, soos volg aanhaal:

"Hulle het al vegtend die aftog geblaas, desperaat om aan 'n sekere dood te ontsnap. Hul vyande het hulle vir twee nagte en drie dae tot op die verste grense van die land agtervolg. Met voortdurende dreigemente en aanslae op hulle lewens, wat God sy dank nie gebeur het nie, het hulle die land van die Gonaquas bereik en onder beskerming van Kaptein Babbelaar deur sy land begelei. Kaalvoet, en na vele ontberings het hulle die Visrivier bereik, waar

Christoffel Hoogriefde sy hoof neergelê het, te uitgemergel deur siekte en hongersnood om die pad huis toe aan te durf. Aangesien hulle nie 'n wa of perde gehad het nie, moes hulle hom noodgedwonge daar laat, terwyl hulle hulle reis voortsit na die Sondagsrivier, waar hulle Gerrit Oosthuizen en Jacob van de Venter, twee olifantjagters met vyf waens, raakgeloop het, en sodoende geleentheid huiswaarts kon kry."

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1883 PROGRESS – The first telephone put up in Graaff-Reinet is that of Mr Alex Laurie, the broker. It connects his dwelling house and office. To those who have not been out of Graaff-Reinet seaward, it is a great novelty. In connection with it he has put up an electrical bell and makes its own thunder.

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN.

8 Nov 1888. To the editor of the Zuid-Afrikaan.

"Sir, don't you think it is very strange that people make such a noise about the Dutch language. (I am one of those who call themselves Afrikanders) and still, whenever and wherever they find the opportunity, speak English, not only to strangers, but also among themselves; even many of the ministers of your church set this example. It is my humble opinion, if the Dutch Colonists were really in earnest, they would not be ashamed to own that they are such, as in now too often seen in the daily conversation.

Praying to be excused for trespassing on your valuable space."

1885 NOGAL 'N ERNSTIGE ONGELUK

'n Ruk gelede het Luitenant Frazer 'n gesellige kaartspeel-aandjie gereël vir 'n groepie van sy vriende op

Palmietfontein. Daar was ongelukkig nie genoeg stoele vir almal nie, en een van sy vriende het 'n vaatjie buskruit nadergetrek om op te sit.

Na 'n genoeglike aandjie het almal gereed gemaak om huiswaarts te keer. Luitenant Frazer het begin aan die kant maak en terwyl hy die tafel afstof, het daar ongelukkig 'n sigaarstompie in die kruitvat geval.

Die hewige ontploffing het die dak, die mure, die meubels en die ongelukkige Luitenant Frazer 'n aansienlike distansie die lug ingeblaas!

14 April 1867

A MONSTROUS OCTOPUS

Some people who were walking along the Noordhoek Beach about an hour's drive from Kalk Bay, saw on the beach what they thought were the dead body of a small whale. They afterwards discovered it to be a monster octopus, commonly known as sea-cat.

The monster had a body measuring four feet in diameter by eight feet ten inches in length. The arms measured 26 feet and when spread out on the sand the arms spanned to the enormous extend of 60 feet. The mouth was six inches in width and was formed of a hard horn-like substance with two tips somewhat similar to the beak of a parrot.

The octopus had 200 suckers on each arm. The fishermen have never seen such a horrible looking monster before.

KLAGTES, GEDAGTES EN NIKS NUUT ONDER DIE SON

DINSDAG 18 AUG 1885 "HET VOLKSBLAD"

Uit oorspronklike Hollands vertaal.

Noudat die ellendige parlamentsitting verby is, waaroor niemand iets goeds kan sê nie, kyk ons weer terug na die toestand

van sake wat geheers het voor die sitting. Het die situasie enigins verbeter sedert ons wyse wetgewers vergader het om die slapheid van optrede wat so wyd voorkom, te verbeter?

Die Koloniste wil graag weet watter voordeel hulle sal trek uit die groot bedrae geld wat belê is in die parlamentsgebou en reistoelae van parlamentslede. Sal hulle met enige blymoedigheid betaal vir hierdie uitgawes? Laat die leidende, beswaarde boer, die hongerlydende, verontagsaamde inboorling, die byna bankrot, veragte besigheidsman hierdie vraag beantwoord. 'n Donker wolk hang oor die land. Die geld is nie meer in die skatkis nie, maar in die sakke van ons skaamtelose verteenwoordigers.

Laat die herinnering van hierdie ramspoedige sitting nou maar as 'n waarskuwing dien in die toekoms. Die bevolking van die Kolonie moet met beslistheid die taak opneem om beter verteenwoordigers aan te wys om hulle in die parlement te verteenwoordig.'

So gaan die ellelange brief aan en aan. Die Departemente van Landbou en Spoorweë loop veral deur onder verbete kritiek.

DS CHARLES MURRAY, 25 FEB 1833 – 23 SEPT 1904

Onthulling van monument.

Nadat Charles so byna verdrink het toe hy 4 jaar oud was en sy lewe wonderbaarlik deur sy suster gered is, het hy op Graaff-Reinet skoolgegaan, is Kaapstad toe en daarna Utrecht, Holland toe, om te studeer. Sy eerste beroep was na Clanwilliam, waartydens hy die hele Namakwaland onder sy sorg gehad het.

In 1864 word hy sending-inspekteur en doen baanbrekerswerk in Afrika.

Na die afsterwe van sy vader in 1866 aanvaar hy die beroep na sy geliefde Graaff-Reinet, waar hy die volgende 38 jaar swoeg en sweet sonder om ooit te kla dat hy nie iets kon doen nie, omdat hy te moeg is. Hy het al die geld ingesamel vir die Grootkerk, die Midland Seminarie help tot stand bring en hom onvermoeid beywer vir die welsyn van sy gemeente.

Die obelisk wat onthul is, het £110 gekos.

Die marmer is uit Skotland ingevoer.

Sy seun Charles het 'n portret van sy vader aan die gemeente geskenk. Ds Murray word uitgebeeld met die arms gelig, asof hy die seën uitspreek, met een vinger wat na die hemel wys. Charles II het toe vertel hoe hy sy pa eenkeer gevra het hoekom moet die kerktoering so hoog wees en Charles I het toe geantwoord dat dit hoog genoeg moet wees sodat die hele gemeente kan sien dit wys na die hemel.

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Vernuwing in die Museum inspireer die personeel en maak 'n mens sommer weer lus vir jou werk. By die Ou Biblioteek word daar daaglik vooruit geboer. Die tuin is al amper op dreef, die potplante vir die binnehof is staangemaak en moet nou net hulle kant bring. Die kombuis lyk al amper bruikbaar, en so beur ons vooruit.

Die voorkamer van die Ou Biblioteek is 'n imposante, ruim vertrek wat met groot gemak 'n galery kon akkommodeer. Die pragtige lokaal is geormerk om die presteerders van Graaff-Reinet te vereer.

Die eerste uitstalkas, met erkenning aan die groot fossieljagter, Professor James Kitching, is voltooi. 'n Paar jaar gelede, tydens sy verblyf in Graaff-Reinet, het hy twee argeologiehamers en 'n stel beiteltygies geskenk. Die idee was dat ons sou leer om die gesteentes van die fossiele in ons versameling verwyder.

Ongelukkig was almal tot dusver te besig en nou verneem ek dat die jongste metode in gebruik, 'n lasertoestel verg. Vir my klink dit baie makliker. Die Museum was dus gelukkig om iets van James Kitching in ons versameling te he wat by sy portret en biografie uitgestal kan word.

Daar is ook kontak gemaak met Mnr Hannes Horn. Mnr Horn wat een van Anna Neethling Pohl se studente en sielsgenote was, het die Museum belowe om die hele versameling memorabilia en artefakte in sy besit, aan die Museum te skenk. So wil ons hulde bring aan een van die groot Afrikaanse teater-geeste, wat reeds 'n legende in haar eie leeftyd was. Mev. Susan Carty het ook etlike items wat sy bereid is om af te staan vir die uitstalling.

Nog 'n beoogde uitstalling sal oor Eerw. Hufkie handel. Eerw. Hufkie, ook 'n seun van Graaff-Reinet, het hom intens beywer vir die beëindiging van Apartheid en verskeie kere met die gereg gebots.

Dr Anton Rupert is, of course, one of the great achievers of Graaff-Reinet. The Museum would also like to honour a man of his caliber by devoting a panel to his life and achievements:

ANTON RUPERT

The life of a leader, the life of an icon



Anton Rupert was born on the 4th of October, 1916 in Graaff-Reinet.

He desperately wanted to become a medical doctor to save lives, but unfortunately his father, a lawyer, could not afford to send him to medical school.

Instead he completed a BSc. Degree in chemistry at the University of Pretoria, followed by a master's degree in applied chemistry.

Anton Rupert married Huberte, whom he met at Pretoria University, in 1940. They had three children: Hanneli, Johann and Anthony the youngest, who died in 2002.

Rupert, known for his endearing humanity, amassed great wealth with the establishment of his Rembrandt cigarette company. The company flourished during the early 1970's and later became a giant in the tobacco industry.

He drove his people hard, but worked like a slave himself. The only time that he deliberately stayed at home for a day was when the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. He was too depressed to go the office.

Not only does the Rupert family have shares in the Medi-Clinic group, but

the family also made their mark in the wine industry. Today the family owns L'Ormarins and La Motte and is also a partner in Rothschild Vignerons.

Rupert always had a soft spot for the place of his birth and used his wealth and knowledge of the region to restore and rebuild Graaff-Reinet.

The Save Reinet Foundation was founded by Rupert in 1981. This organization strived for the conservation and preservation of historical buildings in Graaff-Reinet. Rupert managed to gather donations from businesses and individuals from all over South Africa in support of this worthwhile project.

Although considered to be one of the richest men in South Africa, Anton Rupert remained humble and as always, a part of Graaff-Reinet.

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Mej. Pam Barkley en Mev. Lintz het 'n groot blok Transkeise Swartstinkhout en twee groot geraamde spieëls geskenk. Jare gelede was Mev. Lintz se vader die inspekteur van houtwerk, in die destydse Transkei. Met sy aftrede het die onderwysdepartement drie blokke van die hout aan hom geskenk. Uit een is twee spieëls gemaak, Mnr Watermeyer het die blok deurgesaag en afgewerk en nou word staalraambankies gemaak, waarop die blokke sal rus. Die twee vrygewige dames sal goedgunstiglik help om die onkoste daarvan te dra.

NEW FACES
AT THE MUSEUM

To our great consternation,

Mr James van Rhyners, our gardener, decided to retire after ten years of sharing our ups and downs.

Mrs Pat Angles, one of our relief staff, also decided, after more than nine years, to bid us farewell for a well earned rest.

Mrs Siena September also decided to leave us for greener pastures.

These members of our museum family will be sorely missed, but we wish them well in all their endeavors.

At the same time we would like to welcome the brothers Smith, and Miss Theresa Jacobs who were appointed because of their willingness to work over the week-ends. Miss Leonie du Toit and Mrs Anita van Tonder have also joined our team as members of the relief staff.

Welcome to our family. We are very glad that you have come to share your lives with us. We hope that you will be happy at this special place and that you will come to love and appreciate it as much as we do.

Our benefactors

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the generous financial contribution made by Montego feeds, first national bank and the rynheath foundation.

Thank you for your interest in the museum and for supporting our efforts.

To all our loyal friends of the museum, to all who have donated books and to all who have brought a friend to see our exhibitions, Thank you for helping to keep our doors open.

Kind regards

Anxiske Kayster & Staff

NEW MUSEUM HOURS

WEEKDAYS

REINET HOUSE
08h00 – 17h00

THE OLD LIBRARY, THE OLD
RESIDENCY, URQUHART HOUSE
08H00 - 13H00 & 14H00 – 17H00

SATURDAYS

REINET HOUSE & OLD LIBRARY
09H00 – 15H00

OLD RESIDENCY
09H00 – 12H00

URQUHART HOUSE
09H00 12H00

Closed two Saturdays of the month.
Please contact Museum for schedule.

SUNDAYS

REINET HOUSE & OLD LIBRARY
09H00- 16H00

OLD RESIDENCY
09H00 – 13H00

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

REINET HOUSE & OLD LIBRARY
09H00 – 17H00

Learners are invited to visit the museum free of charge on a Friday afternoon, if in school uniform.

Members of the Community are invited to visit the museum free of charge on the first Saturday afternoon of a month.

Editorial staff

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