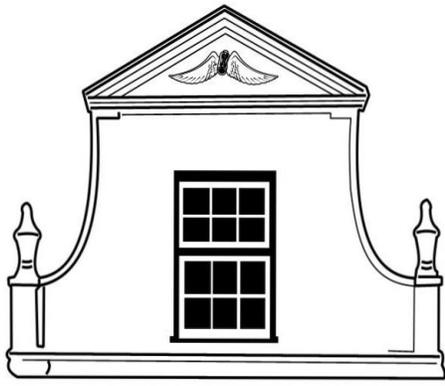


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Graaff-Reinet MUSEUMS

Vision

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

Mission

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

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr P Whitlock (Chair)	-	Premier's Representative (Since June 2012)
Ms T Majoka (Vice Chair)	-	Premier's Representative (Since June 2012)
Mrs P Wallis	-	Premier's Representative
Mr D S Smith	-	Premier's Representative
Mrs E Buisman	-	Premier's Representative
Dr A Malherbe	-	Premier's Representative
Mr A Gradwell	-	Premier's Representative
Mr B Hough	-	Subscribers' Representative (Elected July 2016)
Ms L Heunis	-	Subscribers' Representative (Elected July 2016)
Vacant	-	Local Municipality
Vacant	-	Local Municipality
Mr A Mboneni	-	District Municipality
Mr V Mini	-	DSRAC Representative (Until October 2016)

STAFF MEMBERS

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
Vacant	-	Auxiliary Service Officer
Miss X P Blouw	-	General Assistant
Mr J van Rhyners	-	General Assistant
Miss K Booyesen	-	General Assistant
Mr J Pylman	-	General Assistant
Vacant	-	General Assistant

BOARD OF TRUSTEE EMPLOYEES

Mr Z Isaks	-	General Assistant
Mr W Simmons	-	General Assistant (Appointed in January 2017)
Mr J Wagenaar	-	General Assistant (Appointed in January 2017)
Mr M Reid	-	General Assistant (resigned in July 2016)
Ms V Uithaler	-	General Assistant

RELIEF STAFF

Ms L Du Toit		
Mrs L Steynberg		
Mrs S Visagie		
Mr B Le Potha	-	Since January 2017

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



Our Annual General Meetings seem to recur with increased frequency with the passage of time. The ink, it feels, of last year's report is still damp to the touch and the sweep of a hand may smudge the memories of the previous year that was. Our expectations for 2017 are also still fresh with hopes for a better year ahead. However, now that the time has come to once again compile a review of the year, the optimism is somewhat tempered by the events and general collective experience of the period. This having been said, it is true that every year has both positive and negative aspects and how these are perceived and weighed up colours one's general perception of the year.

I am pleased to report, with some conviction, that the 2017 financial year can in retrospect be viewed with a generally positive complexion. The Staff, Board, associates and benefactors can proudly take full credit for the achievements of the year as the product of hard work, cooperation and perseverance set against a background of the less than ideal economic conditions. It goes without saying that it was a constant day-to-day battle to ensure that the Museum remained functional and that the looming specter of reduced service delivery and even partial closure was kept at bay.

The curtailment of expenditure and ways of boosting income have been the overriding concerns of Board and staff throughout the year. Austerity has become the name of the game! Although numerous ideas have come to the fore most have failed to reach practical implementation: yet others have been implemented with a degree of inconvenience. A good example of a measure that reached implementation was the removal of the Opticon telephone system and the installation of individual telephone lines to the respective Museum buildings. This has netted a significant monthly saving of up to R4,000.00 albeit at the expense of convenient communication for staff and public alike. This change has taken a good deal of time to grow accustomed to but has been worth every cent. While it is regrettable that measures of this nature need to be adopted it is however a certainty, as long as the current financial position persists, that new saving opportunities will be implemented should they present themselves in the future.

The official term of office of the current Board ended on 31 October 2015, but was extended by the MEC for a period of 3 months in November 2015 to allow for the institution of the nomination process for a new Board. The 3 month period expired in the 2016 financial year. Nothing further has transpired in this regard and the status of this renewal process is unknown. The legal standing and future of the current Board is therefore uncertain, however what is certain is that the Museum cannot function legally without a Board of Trustees. These circumstances have thankfully not affected the operation of our Board and all remaining members actively participate in the bi-monthly meetings and fulfill all additional duties and responsibilities with dedication and enthusiasm. Thank you for your interest in, and dare I say passion for, our Museum which manifests most significantly in the encouragement and support provided to Mrs. Kayster and the staff. I am convinced that the individual loyalty of Board members to the Museum is massively encouraging to the staff who, more often than not, work under tremendous pressure.

In contrast, the lack of participation by the municipal and departmental representatives to the Board, who have not attended a single meeting, is deeply disappointing as municipal councilors and senior departmental officials could (and should) be important conduits of information to higher authority and provide channels of communication and influence to the benefit of the institution.

The single biggest disappointment remains the apparent negligent attitude of the Directorate of Museum's and Heritage Resources of the Department of Sports, Art and Culture who despite countless official approaches, over a period of years, have still made no effort to meet with the Board to discuss the serious challenges which face the Museum. Undertakings have been given by senior officials on a number of occasions but absolutely nothing has come of them. The Board acknowledges the critical importance of the Department in the operation of the Museum and as a senior partner in the future prosperity and well-being of the Museum, so the fact that all attempts at constructive engagement have come to naught is a source of tremendous frustration and concern.

The Board once again bid Mrs. Hermi Baartman a sad farewell as her stint as co-opted board member came to an end with her relocation to Beaufort West. Her enthusiasm, experience and passion for all aspects of the Museum are greatly missed but her significant legacy and influence lives on in her absence.

We cannot, in my view, heap enough praise on our dedicated and resilient staff who bear the brunt of the restrictive financial and personnel environment in which we are forced to operate and yet continue to perform wonders in the administration, financial administration, operation, service delivery and promotion of our Museum. Words fail to convey the Boards appreciation and admiration for the manner in which Mrs Kayster and her team are able to keep things afloat and provide services to the community well above the norm. You are truly punching well above your weight! The loyalty and dedication of each and every member of staff has not gone

unnoticed and it is my pleasure, on behalf of the Board, in this public forum to acknowledge with gratitude the massive contribution of the staff. If wishes could be granted I'm sure the Board would join me in wishing the alleviation of all the pressures of your situation by the filling of every single vacant provincial post with the ideal candidate and the provision by province of a realistic subsidy. One can but hope and dream!

Our partnership with the Community Tourism Office has been of tremendous benefit to the Museum both financially and operationally. The fact that our staff involvement at the Old Library is reduced to the minimum, and the knowledge that there is always willing and able staff in attendance, lifts a tremendous burden from the shoulders of the beleaguered Museum staff. It is also most gratifying that the building of positive communication channels is a priority and that operational issues that have arisen have been dealt with promptly and constructively. Thanks to Marizanne and her Committee and Priscilla and the staff of the Tourism Office for the significant contribution you have made to the smooth operation of the Museum. We are hopeful that this partnership will be a long and mutually beneficial one

The National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund has audited and approved the expenditure on the Oral History project, but sadly this project has taken a bit of a back seat owing to the pressing staff shortage and the flagging enthusiasm of the majority of the volunteers who have not performed according to expectation despite considerable time and effort having been invested in their training. The project has now also expanded to Nieu Bethesda, with the co-operation of the Owl House Foundation. It is hoped that adequate oral histories will in due course be recorded, transcribed and interpreted to mount an exhibition and produce a film as envisaged. The Museum is committed to transformation and to convey a balanced interpretation of our community, in line with Departmental policy, but it is a sad fact that transformation projects are the first to be sacrificed as a result

of the inability of the Department to constructively and effectively fulfill their critical responsibility towards the Museum.

It is on the maintenance front that this year has been particularly encouraging. I am sure that everyone is aware of the developments, at particularly Reinet House, and has noted the press release in the Advertiser announcing the fantastic grant, in excess of R2 million, which we received from *The Rupert Historic Homes Foundation*. This money has allowed us to undertake the urgent (and massively expensive) restoration and maintenance work that has been the source of major concern to the Board for many years. It is hard to explain the sense of relief experienced with the lifting of this enormous burden from the shoulders of the Board and staff. Suffice it to say that the slow process of physical restoration of Reinet House has been accompanied with a lifting of spirits and greater optimism. Work that was undertaken includes the complete replacement of all the thatched roofs, the single largest expense, and the complete renovation of the exterior of the Reinet House complex including the restoration and replacement of decayed doors and windows, restoration of ironmongery and decorative ironwork, repairs to the stoeps and pergolas, repairs to the leaking flat roof and general repairs and painting of all buildings and boundary walls. The restoration process was completed about a month ago and I'm sure you will agree that the Reinet House complex now once again looks absolutely immaculate. The wagon house, probably the most neglected building in our complex, has not received significant attention since its construction in the 1970s but now looks resplendent with its new thatch roof, sparkling white walls and black gates. The fifty year old thatching of this building was in particularly poor condition and its replacement alone would have been an impossible financial burden for the Museum. It has been nothing short of a blessing to have been in a position to do as much as we have and without a single financial burden. We, and here I include the entire Graaff-Reinet community, certainly owe *The Rupert Historic Homes Foundation* a massive debt of gratitude. This stroke of good fortune does however not mean that *The Save Reinet House Fundraising* project has been terminated, on the contrary we will

need to renew our efforts to slowly but surely build up a dedicated maintenance fund for the future. Other work remains to be done, as we all know old buildings require constant attention to ward off decay. The Old Residency, Old Library and Urquhart House will all need attention in the not too distant future. The fact remains that we cannot rest on our laurels and expect benefactors to come to our rescue. We as community must take the lead and show our positive intent in a drive towards greater sustainability. One cannot therefore underestimate the value of each and every donation that you, our Friends, have made to *The Save Reinet House Fund* and we acknowledge all big and small gifts with sincere gratitude.

I will, in closing, like to thank you for your loyal support and challenge you to help us to broaden our support base and build on the positives of the past. Let us together strive for inclusivity, sustainability and excellence. Let us not be dragged down by the mounting forces of mediocrity, apathy and corruption. Let us continue building up this Museum so that it may become an institution relevant to all our citizens and of which all can be justifiably proud.

I thank you.

Peter Whitlock: Chairman of The Board of Trustees

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE MUSEUM



Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of The Board, Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the 58th Annual General Meeting of The Friends of The Graaff-Reinet Museum. Your presence is; as always, highly appreciated and we are indeed very grateful for your continued interest in this institution.

A significant part of my responsibilities is to record and report on the operations of the museum. As I reflect on the past fiscal year I realise that most of our strategic goals have been executed with a continuous spirit of dedication and loyalty which cannot go unnoticed.

The Board of Trustees, and the staff of the Museum in particular, add value to this institution in various ways. Your persistence in the uphill climb towards excellence and sustainability should be applauded and I am humbled by your commitment. We live by our motto of service excellence and good governance.

The lack of support from our directorate remains a sad state of affairs and has had a negative impact on so many levels. At the same time it has compelled us to intentionally reposition ourselves which has in turn spawned new and innovative ideas, many of which have their origin around a morning cup of tea.

Hierdie jaar het egter soveel hoogtepunte gehad dat dit die laagtepunte heeltemal oorskadu. In baie opsigte is ons oneindig verryk deur die volgehoue ondersteuning van organisasies en individue wat onbaatsugtig geskenk het, nie net finansiële nie maar op soveel ander maniere. Hier kan ek nie nalaat om die enorme skenking van *Die Rupert Historiese Huise Stigting* te noem nie. Die welwillendheid van hierdie organisasie het tot ons redding gekom in 'n tyd toe ons raadop was. Die restourasie van Reinethuis is voltooi en woorde kan nie reg laat geskied aan die eindresultaat nie. Dit maak ons opnuut dankbaar vir die wonderlike ondersteuning van *Die Rupert Historiese Huise Stigting* ontvang en is dit terselfdertyd 'n tasbare herinnering aan ons strewe na die behoud van erfenis.

In Oktober 2016 het ons ook die voorreg gehad om 'n groep Duitse Museumkundiges met tipiese Karoo-gasvryheid te ontvang. Hierdie, wat die voorloper was van 'n toekomstige simbiotiese verhouding met die Neder-Sakse Museum in Hannover, was uiters geslaagd en is hul drie-daagse besoek afgesluit met 'n konserveringswerkswinkel waar nuwe tegnieke uitgeruil is. Terselfdertyd kon ons nie nalaat om die unieke kulturele en natuurlike Karoo-landskappe met hulle te deel nie. Graag spreek ons ons dank uit teenoor die Dr. Beyers Naudé Munisipaliteit vir hulle ondersteuning gedurende die Duitse besoek.

Our Educational Programmes are a journey of discovery, not only to the learners who regularly participate in the programmes we offer every quarter, but also to others in whom we have canvassed potentially new sets of stakeholders. In September 2016 we embarked on a vigorous and intense training programme of cultural history students affiliated to the Sobukwe Museum. The two and a half day workshop introduced the interns, aged between 19 and 26, to Cultural Heritage, Heritage and History and tangible and intangible Heritage. Theory was put into practice with examples such as the architecture of Umasizakhe, bread baking, cemetery hopping, contemporary music, religion and crafts.

In May of this year, although not part of the fiscal year under review, we had the honour of hosting the International Museum Day Celebrations for the Sarah Baartman District. It was a resounding success with bands playing and learners singing. At this Museum we know that education is the most powerful weapon for changing the world and we use it to the best of our ability. Over the past financial year we have hosted various school groups not only from Graaff-Reinet and the surrounding areas, but also from further afield. Our educational repertoire includes a fancy dress and our very own version of the *Amazing Race*.

Ons versameling is deur verskeie interessante skenkings aangevul waarvan 'n paar besondere toevoegings is. Dit sluit in die Stockenström artefakte waarvan in die plaaslike koerant berig is, 'n wonderlike versameling mediese instrumente en paraferalia, 'n uitgebreide versameling poppe asook briewe, onoopgemaak, wat dateer uit Die Tweede Wêreldoorlog. Nie ons of die skenker het die hart gehad om hierdie briewe, geskryf aan 'n geliefde eggenoot, oop te maak nie en so sal dit bly. Ons bly toegewyd aan ons versameling wat gedurig aan liefdevolle aandag onderwerp word.

Ladies and Gentleman our financial management ethos is sound and robust with continued endeavors towards sustainability and transparency. During this past financial year this institution was submitted to various auditing procedures from external bodies and I am delighted to report that the South African Revenue Service, The National Lotteries Distribution Fund and National Treasury presented the Graaff-Reinet Museum with unqualified audits and commendable remarks. We can consequently review the past financial year with great satisfaction but also a certain degree of disappointment that with the necessary funds at our disposal it could have been textbook-perfect.

Today we celebrate our loyal supporters who continue to surprise us with their philanthropy. We also take pride in outstanding staff and board members and I am particularly honored to be part of such a vibrant line-up of players. Lets continue to pass the ball to each other, lets support one

another and may our back-line and forwards be as strong, diligent and lightening-quick as ever.

FINANCES

An Overview

Our financial outlook remains dismal and all hopes of a modicum of relief are crushed by attitudes of disinterest and indifference. I continuously convey our dire circumstances to senior management, emphasizing the fact that this institution will not endure the hardship beyond the next financial year, but to no avail. The economic crisis that is evident throughout the country has also come knocking on our door, deterring corporate donors and reducing the prospect of an increase in governmental funding.

The NLDTF or Lotto grant is all that kept this institution afloat as a portion of the grant was applied to the operational requirements of the institution. After reconciliation of the financial records it was established that an amount of R214, 983.17 was utilized from this fund, a fund earmarked for the Oral History Project. Fortunately, the NLDTF approved the additional expenditure such as electricity, telephone and banking costs and we were once again in the clear. The remaining funds however, must be directed towards The Oral History Project, which renders our financial situation untenable as our coffers remain empty.

In a desperate attempt to generate cash and conserve our financial resources, an increase in admission fees was introduced in June 2016. In addition, our insurance brokers negotiated a reduction in monthly premiums and we were forced to rid ourselves of the massive financial burden of a telephone system we could no longer afford. Although this led to a considerable saving of R4000 on the telephone system alone, it is a mere drop in the bucket.

On a more positive note, the museum experienced a very good tourism season which gave our income a much-needed boost. The funding application to the amount of R2,1 million to *The Rupert Historic Homes Foundation* was approved and our concern regarding the thatch roofs and rapid deterioration of Reinet House became a thing of the past. The restoration work was completed in May 2017.

I am very happy to report that the Museum is the proud owner of shares left to us by the late Mrs Jean van Niekerk. Upon investigation, we realised that the shares are worth very little, but the gesture is very much appreciated. It is an indication that the welfare of the museum is still a concern of many and hopefully will encourage others to follow suit in the near future.

LINE FUNCTION

Transformation

As a governmental organisation, The Graaff-Reinet Museum is continuously tasked to embark on transformation initiatives: to transform our audiences, our collections, the research that we embark upon and ultimately, our exhibitions. This however, is not an easy task, hampered by funding and the slow process of change. In our very own way we endeavour to make our museums more accessible to the public by instituting free-access programmes to learners and the elderly. We also offer our research and skills transfer services to various organisations including schools, welfare organisations, churches and entrepreneurial endeavours such as the newly established *Profit with Purpose*.

Our commitment to transformation is continuously questioned by uninformed individuals who neglect to apprise themselves of the effort that this institution applies to its transformation curricula. Our Oral History

Project remains the most ambitious transformation initiative which we will see through to successful completion in the near future.

Die Mondelinge-oorleweringeprojek

Hierdie projek word gekortwiek deur 'n tekort aan menslike hulpbronne, 'n situasie buite ons beheer. Weinig van dié wat hulself beskikbaar gestel het om onderhoude te voer en boonop die gratis opleiding ontvang het, het oorgebly om onderhoude te voer. Die inligting tydens onderhoude versamel, vorm die basis vir die behoud van die projek wat die daarstelling van die uitstalling en die publisering van 'n boek insluit. Tot dusvêr is baie min vooruitgang in hierdie verband gemaak.

Intussen het die Uilhuisstigting egter aangedui dat hulle graag die grense van hierdie projek na Nieu Bethesda sou wou verskuif. Die Graaff-Reinet Museum beskou dit as 'n gulde geleentheid om meer mense kosteloos op te lei wat dan hopelik ook onderhoude in Graaff-Reinet sal kom voer.



Sodoende mag ons dalk net genoeg material versamel om teen 2018 die uitstalling op die been te bring.

Die finansiële bestuur van hierdie projek het ons tot die uiterste beproef en het ons tot die slotsom laat kom dat dit nie 'n maklike taak is nie.

Ons het dit egter op die beginsel van openlikheid en deursigtigheid gedoen wat 'n suksesvolle resep blyk te wees. Al die bykomende uitgawes is deur die Nasionale Lotery Fonds goedgekeur en hulle het ons ook 'n kans gegee

om die nodige inligting te versamel om die projek te voltooi. Die ongekwalifiseerde oudit was vir ons 'n hoogtepunt.

Educational Programmes



Our commitment to providing an alternative educational resource for all learners, locally and further afield, was fueled by the enthusiasm of our partners in education such as the Sobukwe Trust, the local schools and our volunteers.

In many instances learners find it extremely difficult to visit the museum due to transport constraints. Some learners come from very disadvantaged areas and simply cannot muster interest to participate in an educational programme due to social problems such as the lack of food.

In these instances, we rely on our partners, such as the Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality to assist with food and transport.

One of the educational programme highlights of the year was the three-day training course on Cultural History presented to the interns of the Sobukwe Museum. This course put our resourcefulness to the test, but our volunteers and partners stepped up to the plate with such alacrity that a very scintillating experience was enjoyed by mentor and trainee alike.



Our gratitude is extended to Mr Peter Whitlock, Dr Ansie Malherbe, Mr Patrick Hector, *Profit with Purpose*, Mrs Jackie Bezuidenhout, Captain J R Marais from the local Police Services, Graaff-Reinet Correctional Services, Mr Toetie Dow and The Drostdy Hotel. Although some expenses were incurred, a profit of more than R5000 was recorded.

The past year witnessed a decided growth in our ingenuity with the presentation of a mini *Amazing Race*, in conjunction with Union High School teacher Jenny Street in July 2016. She recorded the event as follows:

On Friday afternoon 29 July, Union's Eco Club enjoyed a fun-filled mini Amazing Race at the Reinet Museum complex. Anziske Kayster, curator of the Museum and Jenny Street, Union's Eco Club Manager, designed a questionnaire on historical facts housed in the three museums of the Reinet Museum complex. At the sound of the bell, 16 learners, ranging from grades 5 to 7, began to animatedly explore the areas of the three museums in search of answers. The museum staff provided clues or pointed them in the right direction. Many footsteps were traced and shrieks of excitement were heard as they raced back and forth in search of answers. Exploring the 'dungeon' section fueled a great deal of excitement as the children joined forces scouting this "creepy" area. It felt like the eyes of the many dolls and life-sized models were watching the learners wherever they went, so you can just imagine the squeals

of excitement emanating from below. After a busy hour the bell sounded and the children raced towards the finish line. While they enjoyed refreshments, their questionnaires were assessed and thereafter, the prize giving was held under the old vine. Caroline Cairns from Grade 6 won first prize (R120 and a family voucher to visit the museum). Sisipho Arnols, also from Grade 6, won second prize (R75) and Jenna-Lee Jansen, a grade 5 student, won third prize (R50). The bus was a hive of chatter on the way back to school as the excitement of the afternoon was relived. Congratulations to all participants!

In August of the same year, an *Amazing Race* was also presented to government officials from all the departmental offices in Graaff-Reinet. But this was not the last to be seen of the *Amazing Race* as June 2017 saw the return of this exciting event, although bigger and better, once again led by the capable Ms Jenny Street whose zeal for this project knows no limits. We owe her a debt of gratitude for directing young feet to our Museum.

In November 2016 more than eighty Grade R learners from Ryneveld Primary School passed through our hands whilst participating in our new *Dinosaur and Friends* programme. Their lunch was sponsored by the Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality.



Hundreds of children visit the museum every year and they seem to find it particularly enjoyable. Our *Day at The Museum* programme is still the front-runner with the Grade 4's, with the *Rock Art Programme* a firm second.

We owe the success of our educational programmes to committed individuals who are not afraid to lend a helping hand. We look forward to

an interesting year ahead as we continue to strive towards excellence in education.

Toewyding tot dienslewering

Ons verbind ons tot uitstaande dienslewering met die beperkte bronne tot ons beskikking. Hierdie jaar het ons vele klagtes ontvang oor die toestand van ons geboue en perseel. Hierdie klagtes het egter vinnig opgedroog nadat uitgebreide restourasiewerk aan Reinethuis en die grasdakke voltooi is.

Die tekort aan personeel het ons egter genoop om navrae en begeleide toere slegs per afspraak te reël. Met slegs Mej. van Wyk en myself tot beskikking, verg dit uiterste beplanning om toere en navorsing te onderneem. Dit verseker dat alle besoekers onverdeelde aandag kry asook klientebevrediging. Baie besoekers verkies nog om telefoniese navrae te rig oor toegangstye en navorsing terwyl dit soveel makliker sou wees om dit elektronies te doen. Ons sorg ook dat die webblad en Facebook-blad gereeld opgedateer word met die jongste inligting soos byvoorbeeld toegangstye en gebeure en word alle navrae wat per e-pos aan die museum gerig word, so spoedig moontlik beantwoord.

Genealogiese navrae is aan die orde van die dag en daar gaan nie 'n week verby dat daar nie ten minste vyf of meer van hierdie navrae ontvang word nie. Die navorsingsfooi wat die museum vra dra by om kostes te dek, maar kan egter nie opmaak vir die ure wat aan die navorsing spandeer word nie. Gedurende die feesseisoen word ons gewoonlik verras deur 'n oorfloed van navrae van besoekers wat ons stormloop. Elke navraag word egter sorgvuldig ondersoek en die inligting aan die kliënt “verkoop”.

Intussen het ons weer eens daarin geslaag om die deure van al die museums gedurende vakansiedae en naweke ook oop te hou. Gelukkig kan ons op die hulp van 'n uitstekende aflosspan, wat onder moeilike omstandighede en teen 'n skamele vergoeding getrou die deure van die museum oop hou, reken.

Hulle verdien besondere vermelding, veral Mej. Du Toit en Steynberg wat jarelange ononderbroke diens aan die museum lewer.

Die Algemene Assistentie hou getrou die deure van die museums oop. Hulle is gekonfyt in kaartjie- en museumwinkelverkope asook om inligting aan die publiek weer te gee. Hulle is ons behoud.

Exhibitions and Collections

In July 2016 our firearms collection received a severe blow when three pistols were stolen from the collection. Fortunately, a suspect was apprehended and one of the firearms retrieved. The suspect, at that stage employed at the museum on a part-time basis as a gardener, was found not guilty by the courts and released although he confessed to stealing one firearm. The Museum was compelled to institute an early audit of the firearms, a long and tedious process. All the fire arms were unscrewed from the walls and the numbers verified.

We were obliged to increase the security regime pertinent to the gun-safe and no-one is now allowed to enter without supervision, an additional strain on the limited human resources at our disposal. We also had to review our photographic, copyright and media policy which requires written permission from the Board of Trustees for interviews and or picture-taking of our collection. A credit line is also to be used in any publication and adherence to copyright rules and regulations is insisted upon.

This past year we continued to safeguard our collections by implementing good housekeeping techniques. Best control was duly concluded and archival and collections management strategies implemented. Mr Buks Vögel managed to restore the old fretwork clock. The Vögels and Mrs E Vorster also sponsored a display case which ensured additional protection. We are in their debt.



The Urquhart Collection of medical artifacts

All the labels were re-typed, laminated and replaced in preparation of a visit of the German museuologists. The acid-free boxes in the archive received labels and the newspapers were covered with bubble wrap as proposed by a colleague.

Our collection keeps on growing. Noteworthy additions include a large collection of medical artefacts donated by Mrs Urquhart, a former matron of a hospital in Cape Town and an extensive collection of dolls donated by Mrs Sylvia Douglas.

The dolls will require quite a large display case as we believe they should be put on display for the enjoyment of our visitors.

Mr Everett Murray donated books and letters written by his father during WWII. All the acquisitions were meticulously entered into our acquisition books and cross-referenced with the three-card system.

Our dedication to the acquisition process was rewarded during an Internal Departmental Audit which required the verification of the acquisition register with the artefact received. We passed with flying colours.

I am also happy to report that, before his departure in November 2016, Dr Cramer and The Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI) which he represented, has agreed to donate the quilt and fracking exhibition to the Museum. A contract to that effect was signed and the quilt, worth an astronomical R100 000, was insured. We are very grateful for their generosity and the trust they have in this institution.

Die Uurglas / The Hourglass



Gedurende die afgelope jaar het twee uitgawes van Die Uurglas die lig gesien, en wel in die eerste en laaste kwartaal van die jaar. Ons Kersuitgawe het baie kommentaar en komplimente ontvang asook die jongste uitgawe wat vanaf 5 Mei 2017 beskikbaar is. Ongeveer 250 eksemplare word uitgestuur na skole, kerke, alle vriende van die museum en ander belanghebbendes. Die Uurglas en Algemene Jaarverslag is ook elektronies beskikbaar by

www.graaffreinetmuseums.co.za.

Graag wil ons alle skrywers wat deur die jaar tot hierdie publikasie bygedra het bedank. Dit het verseker dat ons nuusbrieff relevant en interessant bly en dat ons kontak met die publiek behou.

Partnerships

We regard partnerships with various institutions and organisations as an invaluable contribution to our sustainability. During the year we fostered new and exciting collaborations.

Of particular importance is the partnership with the Local Tourism Office. In addition to contributing to our income, The Local Tourism Office supplied the museum with the means of keeping the doors of the Old Library open. We look forward to the expansion of this partnership under the newly appointed office manager, Mrs Priscilla Kasperski.

Our alliance with the Sobukwe Trust and Museum, as well as other departmental museums, has given rise to further collaborative initiatives of skills transfer and expertise exchange. We hope to explore this exciting new venture in the near future. At present, we are involved in the designing of a tapestry-timeline to augment the display at The Sobukwe Museum. Their interns, already trained in tour guiding and Museuological principles, have also put their time and energy at the disposal of the museum. Their assistance with various projects is of immense value.



At The Uitenhage Museum

We remain firm partners with the Department of Education and the local schools, which guarantees feet into our museums.

The Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality has also joined us in this venture and we cannot wait to see what the future holds regarding the growth of our educational programmes. We have succeeded in rallying schools from Klipplaat, Willowmore, Steytlerville and Jansenville to become part of our educational initiatives.

The Graaff-Reinet Museum is also in the process of establishing brand-new alliances with *The Owl House* in Nieu Bethesda, *Profit with Purpose* (a platform which showcases entrepreneurial skills of local families) and *Boundless*. (The Graaff-Reinet Protective workplace for the Disabled) - a community project now administered by *The Karoo Community Church*.

Marketing and Media Coverage

At The Graaff-Reinet Museum we covet any publicity that is not detrimental to our collections. During the past year we had various “encounters” with the media who arrived on our doorstep unannounced, demanding access to capture our collections on film. The Sobukwe exhibition, for example, is subject to severe copyright restrictions and cannot be filmed at random. In addition, the security of our collections can be compromised with random recording of unique and priceless artifacts, the focus of many unscrupulous individuals. The Board of Trustees was accordingly compelled to implement restrictions as previously mentioned. The requirements were also published on our website and Facebook page.

Thankfully the media also provided numerous positive spin-offs. Our local media partner, The Graaff-Reinet Advertiser, afforded unlimited print-space to the museum and various articles pertaining to collections and events were published in the newspaper during the year. We are quite aware that print-space does not come cheap and we are grateful for the exposure so generously granted. The article on the establishment of *The Save Reinet House Fund* created awareness of the challenges being experienced with the ongoing maintenance of our buildings. The community heeded our pleas and began contributing to the fund.

An article on Reinet House also appeared in *Mango Juice*, the magazine of Mango Airlines that follows routes to Zanzibar and Namibia. I was also radio-interviewed by *Classic FM* and *SABC 2 TV* about the Sobukwe exhibition.

The new museum pamphlet, designed and printed by Mr David McNaughton of *Karoo Connections* and sponsored by The Heritage Society, has seen the light of day and has replaced the old, quite expensive, museum brochure. These are available at all five museums.



Launch of The Book Men of The Mendi by Brenda Shepherd

The Museum had the wonderful opportunity of presenting two book launches during the year which generated much publicity for the Museum. We are very grateful to authors Mrs Brenda Sheppard, *Men of the Mendi*, and Ms Maxzell Lerm,

Nervhada, for introducing us to a new way of encouraging visits to the museum. We wish them fantastic book sales.

Besoek van n Duitse afvaardiging van Museoloë

Drie Duitse Museoloë het in Oktober 2016 besoek aan die Graaff-Reinet Museum afgelê as deel van 'n ooreenkoms tussen museums van die Oos-Kaap en die van die Neder-Sakse deelstaat in Duitsland.

Alhoewel hul fokus hoofsaaklik op die bewaring van museumartefakte gerig is, het ons hulle ook die geleentheid gebied om die Karoo en sy kulturele tradisies te beleef. Hulle het 'n uitgebreide program gevolg en het die dorp met baie nuwe ervarings en insigte verlaat. Ons is baie dank aan die ruimhartigheid van individue en organisasies verskuldig wat die sukses van die Duitse besoek verseker het:



Mnr David McNaughton van *Karoo Connections*, SANPARKE, Karoo Taksidermie, Die Uilhuisstigting, Mnr Peter Whitlock, Dr Ansie Malherbe,

Die Sobukwe Trust, Mnr Cedric Witbooi, *Gold Rush Casino* en die Dr Beyers Naudé Munisipaliteit. Die besoek is afgesluit met 'n konserveringswerkwinkel wat deur die Duitsers aangebied is. Ons voorsien wonderlike moontlikhede vir die toekoms.

ADMINISTRATION

The Board of Trustees

The term of office of the current Board of Trustees expired in October 2016, but was extended by a directive from the Office of The MEC for Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture until the end of March 2016. No further directive has been received since, placing The Board of Trustees in an effectively indeterminate state.

In the absence of such instruction, board members agreed to continue to serve on the board until such time as a new Board is formally constituted.

The current board is vibrant and strong, committed in their task to ensure the sustainability of The Graaff-Reinet Museum. Under the vigilant and experienced eye of chairman, Mr Peter Whitlock, the board has taken a firm stand against the challenges that this institution faces. The Board should be commended for their dedication to the preservation of museum buildings and their efforts to raise funds during difficult economic times. They are experienced individuals who have been serving as members of the board for many years, some more than fifteen years. Their devotion is remarkable.

Algemene Administratiewe Sake

Die feit dat ons gereeld beskrywende en finansiële verslae aan die Department voorlê, gaan nie ongesiens verby nie en het die getroue verslaglewering ons goed te staan gekom toe ons onlangs aan 'n interne audit onderwerp is. Gereelde verslaglewering is een van die kriteria wat bydra tot

'n ongekwalfiseerde oudit en gelukkig het ons daaraan voldoen. Mej. Van Wyk, wat verantwoordelik is vir die finansiële verslag, en ek lewer getrou maandelikse en kwartaallikse verslae aan die Direktooraat, Die Trusteeraad en die Sarah Baartman Distrikskantoor. Dit sluit onder meer 'n volledige rekonsiliasie van uitgawes en inkomste asook besoekersgetalle in.

Terselfdertyd vul ons ook gereeld doeane en aksynsbelastingsaanslae van die Suid-Afrikaanse Inkomstediens in om sodoende te verseker dat ons Withond kan stook en verkoop. Alhoewel nie deel van ons take, verseker Withond-verkope dat noodsaaklike inkomste gegenerer word.

Wat ander administratiewe aangeleenthede betref word die verlofregister en aanwinstregister akkuraat bestuur aangesien hierdie register ook ge-oudit word. Die reëls en regulasies word getrou ge-implementeer en word daar elektroniese rekords asook handgeskrewe rekords gehou.

Staff Matters



The highlight of the year was the twenty years service recognition awarded to myself, Ms Blouw and Mr Pylman. Our long service bonuses, together with certificates of recognition were conferred in February 2017. We have all spent many a happy day at the museum and are privileged to have received the tutelage of Mrs Baartman. We look forward to the next twenty years.

During the past financial year The Board provided employment to Mr Zennewin Isaks, Miss Valerine Uithaler and Mr Michael Reid, until July 2017 when to our great dismay and disappointment he was arrested for attempting to sell pistols from the firearm collection. He did not report for work after the incident and although we saved on a salary, it will take a long time to recover from the trauma caused by this incident.



In addition, Ms Yvonne Arnesen tendered her resignation after serving on our relief staff for more than ten years. She will be sorely missed as she proved herself to be considerate and always willing to assist whenever an extra pair of hands was needed. Our relief staff is also dwindling and museums will have to close over weekends and public holidays if further relief staff members are not recruited. We cannot afford to pay them or have permanent staff taking time off to compensate for weekend duty, when we need them at work during the week. Mrs Visagie and Mr Le Potha have also recently worked at Reinet House on weekends but unfortunately they too have to hold down permanent jobs which restricts their availability.

It came as quite a shock when it was announced at The Extended Directorate's Management Meeting that none of the vacant museum posts will be filled. There is reportedly no funding for these posts as the Directorate has been reprimanded for over-spending on staff remuneration. It seems as if museums are very low on the priority list of the Department yet the museums are, in truth, the showcase of the Department.

Staff members have performed very well under extremely trying circumstances. All, except one, were awarded service bonuses for outstanding performance.

They have exceeded expectations and excelled in all their performance reviews. They are certainly deserving of this kind of recognition which builds staff morale and enthusiasm. All staff reviews, contracts and leave registers were timeously submitted.

During the year a number of staff mourned the loss of various family members. We kept them firmly in our thoughts and prayers during their time of mourning.

FACILITY MANAGEMENT

During the course of the year we embarked on many small maintenance projects, none of which can however, compare to the restoration of the thatch roof and the exterior of Reinet House. For many weeks after the submission of our application, we had our eyes firmly fixed on *The Rupert Historical Homes Foundation* and were elated when the funding was approved.

A cleaning spree was imminent as we watched the thatchers and builders go about their work. As soon as the thatching of Urquhart House was completed, cleaning commenced from top to bottom: in three days everything was once again in a pristine state. Mr Whitlock had matters, with regard to restoration, well in hand and was often seen walking the premises. After one false start, we finally commenced a through cleaning of Reinet House after the building crew had vacated for the Christmas recess. Ms Blouw and Ms Booyesen excelled and had things well in hand in next to no time. An extra pair of hands in Mr Simmons came in handy and within the space of eight hours Reinet House was not only presentable but shining.

Early in January 2017, the building crew returned and work once again commenced in earnest and they completed the facade, this time without having to close the museum.



Restoration work was completed in April 2017 and attracted numerous positive remarks from visitors to the museum. This is a huge burden lifted from our shoulders. Mr van Rhyners has been preparing the garden for replanting where trees and shrubs were removed during the renovation. *Trees for Africa* also sponsored twenty trees which were planted all over the premises.

Our fire extinguishers and reels were serviced at the beginning of December 2016 and our alarm systems were tested to ensure that all were in good working order. The water wheel and generator were also repaired. The alarm system at The Old Library has been the cause of many problems and the alarm company received repeated call-outs. Luckily the problem has now been resolved and the alarm is working perfectly with the assistance of new remotes.. Vandals damaged the spotlights on the stoep of the Old Library at regular intervals during the year. Mr Van Rhyners has generally succeeded in fixing the spotlights but a professional electrician had to be summoned to do repairs on occasion. In addition, the glass panels in the door opening to the side halls at The Old Library were installed.

DANKIES / THANK YOU'S

Dames en Here, dit sluit dus die verslag van die Hoof van die Museum vir die 2016/17 boekjaar af. Baie dankie vir u volgehoue ondersteuning.

VISITOR STATISTICS:

APRIL 2016 – MARCH 2017

Month	No. of SA Adults	School Outreach Programmes	Foreign visitors	Total
April	595	21	95	711
May	237	43	96	376
June	354	35	51	440
July	661	16	131	808
August	299	20	277	596
September	331	8	91	430
October	404	0	107	511
November	193	68	141	402
December	713	0	125	838
January	536	0	238	774
February	211	0	376	587
March	316	27	295	638

SAVE REINET HOUSE FUND

DONOR'S LIST

1	Mr W & Mrs H Jansen
2	Mrs Thandeka Majoka
3	The Rupert Historic Homes Foundation
4	MJ Brodie
5	EC Brodie
6	Magdalene Olivier
7	V H J Molteno
8	M Weyer
9	Mrs CM Sheard
10	Mr Willem Loock
11	A & D Short
12	The Heritage Society
13	Mrs E Maasdorp
14	Mrs M Muskett
15	Mrs J Hobson
16	Mnr A Van Biljon