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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 June 2017)
Ms L Heunis	-	Subscribers’ Representative (Elected June 2017)
Vacant	-	Local Municipality
Vacant	-	Local Municipality
Cllr A Mboneni	-	District Municipality
Mr Z Sakata	-	DSRAC Representative (Since April 2017)
Mrs A F Kayster	-	*Ex Officio* Member
Cllr J Williams	-	Co-opted in June 2017
Cllr G Mackelina	-	Co-opted in June 2017

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 Booysen	-	General Assistant
Mr J Pylman	-	General Assistant
Vacant	-	General Assistant

BOARD OF TRUSTEE EMPLOYEES

Mr Z Isaks	-	General Assistant (Until 31 March 2018)
Mr W Simmons	-	General Assistant
Mr J Wagenaar	-	General Assistant
Ms V Uithaler	-	General Assistant

RELIEF STAFF

Ms L Du Toit

Mrs S Visagie

Mr B Le Potha

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Ladies and gentleman it is hard to believe that it is once again time to formally report to our subscribers, and the community at large, on the activities of our Museum for yet another financial year that has been confined to the ever-expanding archive of the past. I also find it equally hard to believe that this is my 6th consecutive annual report as Chairman of our Board of Trustees. The time has certainly flown by as our iconic winged Hourglass so wisely reminds.

Dit is vir my baie verblydend om verslag te doen oor n jaar wat, ek glo, in die anale sal voortleef as 'n buitengewone jaar, en miskien selfs 'n waterskeidingsjaar.

Ek sal natuurlik nie so moedig wees om te verklaar dat ons probleme en uitdagings alles tot die verlede behoort nie, maar dat daar wel 'n ommeswaai in die Museum se omstandighede op verskeie fronte gedurende die jaar plaasgevind het, kan sonder twyfel gesê word. Die onderliggende optimisme wat nog nooit ons instelling, oftewel die mense verbonde daaraan, totaal verlaat het nie, het verlede jaar ietwat van 'n oplewing getoon en die jaar weer.

The fact that we have never experienced all-out despondency, despite sometimes desperately serious challenges, is a Blessing from Above. Our Board and staff have certainly been blessed with perseverance, fortitude, diligence and creativity to

serve the interests of our Museum as best they can and I believe that this never-say-die attitude is now bearing fruit and will continue to do so in the future.

The Board has for a number of years, as previously reported on more than one occasion, lodged formal representations with the Department of Sport Recreation Arts and Culture regarding the prevailing serious staffing and financial problems. These representations were made with the express request that the Directorate of Museums and Heritage would permit the Board an audience to convey it's petition face-to-face. Despite many promises the proposed meeting never came to fruition. The Board felt compelled to use every channel and opportunity from provincial to local level to communicate its core challenges and other peripheral issues. This approach clearly ruffled feathers and resulted in the Board receiving a deputation of senior Departmental officials on 19 October 2017. This unprecedented meeting, although not entirely without acrimony, served to expose the Board to the challenging environment in which dedicated departmental officials at all levels are compelled to operate, and afforded the officials an opportunity to announce the Department's firm undertaking to fill vacant posts.

Dit is vir my 'n voorreg om ieder en elk wat op die Trusteeraad dien te bedank vir hul onbaatsugtige diens en vrywillige opoffering in diens van die Museum. Dit is 'n eer en plesier om saam met julle te dien. Ek kan onomwonde noem dat ons vergaderings en algemene omgang altyd vir my 'n plesier is en dat ek nog nooit opgesien het na ons vergaderings nie, ongeag onderliggende werkstresvlakke en uitdagings. Ek vertrou dat hierdie gees sal voortduur tot die einde van ons termyn saam en ook daarna.

We welcomed Joy Williams and Glenda Mackelina onto the Board as co-opted members, to fill long-standing vacancies while we await formal notice from the MEC for nominations for new Board members. Thank you ladies for your willingness to serve, your participation has added a new and pleasing dynamic to the existing Board. The extended term of all MEC representatives expired as long ago as February 2016 and we still find ourselves in the peculiar position that only our subscriber's representatives, Liesl Heunis and Brian Hough, are in fact

legitimate Board members. This notwithstanding we have pressed on to fulfill the necessary role as required by legislation.

What can one say about the staff that has not already been said? Ably and efficiently led by Mrs Kayster they are truly a formidable and winning team. The Afrikaans word “staatmaker” comes to mind as these are people that you can rely on to do their best and to regularly perform well above the call of duty. I wish to convey the Boards sincere appreciation to Mrs Kayster and the staff for running our Museum like a well-oiled machine and coping with the numerous functions with an almost nonchalant efficiency and aplomb. It is certainly easy being a Board member with a team like this at the coal face. Congratulations to Mrs Kayster for receiving the MEC’s Award for Museums and Heritage. She is indeed a worthy recipient of this accolade for fostering and promoting an ethos of excellence at the Graaff-Reinet Museum. It is also most gratifying that other members of staff have also received recognition through promotion and appointment. Mr. Zennevin Isaks who has been in the Boards employ for a number of years has been appointed by the Department to the position of General Assistant and Ms. Denise van Wyk has received a richly deserved promotion from Auxiliary Service Officer to Chief Auxiliary Service Officer.

The Board was also pleased to welcome two new appointments in April. Ms. Sinethemba Citwa (Auxiliary Service Officer) and Mr. Baphiwe Ngandi (Administrative Assistant). It has been very encouraging for me personally to see new faces and experience new personalities at the Museum. I trust that both Ms. Citwa and Mr. Ngandi will slot seamlessly into the team and find happy and fulfilling employment at the Graaff-Reinet Museum.

Nog ‘n nuwe aanstelling is die van Mnr. Curtis Mitchell, (assistent) wat behulpsaam is met die digitalisering van die Museum se fotografiese versameling, sonder twyfel die grootste projek wat die Museum vir baie jare aangepak het.

Die projek is uitsluitlik te danke aan die inisiatief van Prof. Johannes Haarhoff wat die geleentheid geïdentifiseer en aangegryp het en bereidwillig was om die ondervinding wat hy opgedoen het met die digitalisering van die Transnet

fotografiese en tekeninge-versameling kosteloos tot die Museum se beskikking te stel. Die proses wat van stapel gestuur is het reeds 'n idee gegee van die rykdom van visuele bronne, nooit werklik voorheen gekwantifiseer, in die Museum se sorg. Die feit dat waardevolle ou foto's, wat uit die aard van die saak verganklik is, tans 'n baie groter kans op behoud geniet is van massiewe belang vir toekomstige navorsers wat boonop die toenemende toeganklikheid van die elektroniese versameling waardeer. Die tyd, vernuf en entoesiasme wat Prof. Haarhoff so mildelik aan die projek opoffer word opreg waardeer.

It would have been a joyous occasion had I been in a position to report that our financial woes are at an end or indeed that the end of our financial troubles are even in sight, but alas this pleasure is to be deferred to a later date. The status-quo regrettably remains, almost as a warning not to descend into complacency as a result of successes on other fronts. The Departmental subsidy has now been pegged at R230,000.00 for a number of years with little prospect of increase in the near future. The Departmental deputation made it abundantly clear that the subsidy level currently allocated to our Museum cannot change without the regrading of the Museum to a higher bracket. An undertaking was given that the requirements and actions to initiate this process would be made available to the Museum. It is certainly our unwavering belief that this institution should have a greatly elevated profile in the Eastern Cape given its facilities, services provided and levels of excellence. The process of regrading will need to enjoy serious attention in the coming years.

While our underlying financial position is essentially unchanged the continued generosity of benefactors remains cause for optimism. The monthly contributions of Friends and unexpected windfalls are swelling the coffers of our Save Reinet House fund which is now worth in excess of R100,000. It is important that this fund continues to grow so that we will eventually be in a position to fund significant restoration projects in the future. This fund should also serve as a tangible proof that we are not resting on our laurels and expecting benefactors to repeatedly bale us out of sticky situations.

The generosity and goodwill of *The Rupert Historic Homes Foundation* cannot be over-emphasised. This Foundation has for the second year running come to our aid which has enabled the Museum to lavish considerable attention on the Old Residency. I believe this to be the most extensive general renovation of this building since its transfer to the Museum in the late 1970s. While the public aspects of the building are once again neat and clean, the real transformation has taken place out of the public eye at the back of the building where extensive renovation has been concluded. Urquhart House, which was rethatched thanks to the 2016 grant of The Rupert Foundation, is currently under renovation as part of their 2017 allocation.

The Tourism Office is now formally partnered with the Museum in the daily operation of the Old Library Museum the terms of the lease having been agreed to and signed after lengthy negotiations. The Board is pleased that this agreement could be concluded and is hopeful of a long and fruitful association with the committee and management of the Tourism Office. The nurturing of this partnership is undoubtedly of longer term benefit to both organisations.

Ter afsluiting wil ek graag die Vriende bedank vir hulle getroue ondersteuning, maar ons kan soveel meer vermag met die betrokkenheid van meer mense. Die uitbreiding van die ondersteuningsbasis behoort die ywer van elke Vriend van die Museum te wees. Dit sal nie slegs dien om die Museum meer verteenwoordigend te maak nie, maar sal ook ons hand sterk in toekomstige onderhandelinge met owerhede: maar miskien die belangrikste, dit sal vooruitgang in die toekoms verseker. Ons moet almal hande vat om die toekoms van hierdie instelling uit te bou sodat dit groter relevansie kan geniet en die trots van ons hele gemeenskap sal wees.

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, today marks the 59th Annual General Meeting of The Friends of The Graaff-Reinet Museum. I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all. I am grateful to all who have taken the time to be with us here today.

Graag wil ek ook 'n besondere woord van verwelkoming rig aan ons nuwe Trusteeraadslede wat tydens die vorige jaarvergadering geko-opteer is. Reeds tydens hul eerste vergadering het Raadslid Williams en Mackelina hulle merk gemaak. Die vooruitsig om nog vir 'n baie lang tydperk met julle saam te werk, maak my opgewonde.

The past year's political turmoil and resulting economic woes, evident in various sectors of our community and country-wide, have also influenced the heritage sector and thus our Museum. We, for example, observed that people thought twice before spending money on admission to the museum. Visiting museums is apparently increasingly being perceived as a potentially expendable luxury. In addition a government subsidized institution such as ours fails to elicit sympathy for operational and financial difficulties, as claims of this nature are invariably viewed with skepticism in the light of events on the political front. These are the realities that we have to deal with virtually daily with innovation and perseverance. We, nonetheless, remain resolute in our belief of offering a high standard of service delivery and clean and well-maintained museums buildings and premises. Yes, in the face of numerous challenges we

have stuck to our guns and clung to the elation of regular successes no matter how insignificant.

In tandem with an exceptional Board of Trustees, we explored various avenues to ensure the immediate sustainability of the Museum and we hope that word of our efforts will spread. I am happy to report that the *Save Reinet House Fund* has grown to more than a hundred and ten thousand rand, largely due to the generous bequest of C J van Niekerk, an unknown benefactor. This has come at an extremely opportune time. In instances like this I invariably feel that a mere thank you cannot sufficiently express our gratitude. The same goes for all who so faithfully contribute to The Fund on a monthly basis. This growing nest-egg will be a life saver in future times of need. We are extremely grateful for all contributions, both large and small.

The Rupert Historic Homes Foundation once again elected to come to our aid with an extremely generous grant to attend to restoration work on The Old Residency and Urquhart House. The tangible results of their generosity can certainly not go unnoticed by the greater Graaff-Reinet community. We are extremely grateful for their assistance in the uphill, and ongoing, climb which is so much part of heritage conservation. It is indeed comforting to know that our challenges are well understood and our requests for assistance positively received. It has been such a privilege, for a number of years now, to observe the significant changes that this funding has brought about within the museum complex. The increased appreciation levels of visitors is noteworthy and our gratitude towards the Foundation immeasurable.

’n Spesifieke projek wat my, en vele ander, baie na aan die hart lê, is die digitalisering van die historiese foto’s. Soos u kan sien vorder ons fluks met hierdie monumentale taak met Professor Johannes Haarhoff aan die stuur. Ongeveer tweeduisend foto’s is alreeds sedert Augustus 2017, toe hierdie projek ’n aanvang geneem het, gedigitaliseer. Die voorbeelde voor die vergadering op die skerm getoon, is die produk van die ywer en ongekende entoesiasme van Prof. Haarhoff, die sweet van eers Steven Janse van Vuuren en daarna Curtis Mitchell. Die fotograaf Charlene Prinsloo is ook genader wat op haar beurt,

sonder enige beloning, haar kant gebring het en ook haar kennis met ons gedeel het. Op hierdie stadium het ek gemoedsrus dat ons die gepaste bewaringsmetodes toepas en terselfdertyd volledig die omvang en aard van die versameling aanteken. Ons is oneindig dankbaar vir die tyd, energie en oordenking wat Prof. Haarhoff so onbaatsugtig aan die projek wei.

Dames en Here, ons gedy onder die vele hoogtepunte wat hierdie jaar oor ons pad gekom het. Een van die vele hoogtepunte van die jaar is dat ons, na verlede jaar se sukses weer die Sarah Baartman-distrik se Internasionale Museumdag vieringe, Graaff-Reinet toe gebring het. Na my mening is die samewerking en vennootskap wat ons met die verloop van vele jare met die plaaslike munisipaliteit gesluit het, verantwoordelik vir die sukses van die vieringe. Leerders sover as Klipplaat en Steytlerville het oor ons drumpel getrap en statistieke dui daarop dat ongeveer 170 leerders die geleentheid bygewoon het. Dit het ons besoekersgetalle die nodige hupstoot gegee.

Today it is also a great pleasure to welcome our new appointees as Mr Whitlock has mentioned. Colleagues, by now you know that we are a unique institution, we are dynamic and despite numerous challenges, a thriving institution. Since your appointments you have become part of a winning team, you have skills to offer and a valuable contribution to make. Here we do everything possible to create a conducive working environment where you can live out your professional aspirations and grow from strength to strength with the support of your colleagues. I would also like to extend a special word of congratulation to Mr Zennevin Isaks, who after many years of faithful service as a BOT appointee, has received recognition through his appointment to a government post. Miss van Wyk has also received richly deserved promotion: fourteen years is a long time and I am very happy that her loyal and efficient service has been rewarded in this manner.

Miss Booysen and Mr Van Rhyners both celebrated ten years of uninterrupted service to the Museum, congratulations on achieving this milestone. I look forward to writing the next few chapters with you all.

A particular highlight of my personal year was receiving the MEC's award for Museum's and Heritage. The happiness, and satisfaction, brought on by this unexpected accolade was dimmed somewhat by the sudden tragic death of a close family member during the same period. I would like to extend my gratitude to Mr Whitlock, who nominated me, and Dr Malherbe and Mr Hendricks who submitted written recommendations in support of my nomination. It is an honour, and my privilege, to dedicate this award to a phenomenal staff and a most supportive Board of Trustees.

I rejoice in a devoted staff, a wonderful Board of Trustees, supportive Friends of The Museum and a community that has had a change of heart over the past few years, recognizing our commitment towards service excellence. I take pride in the fact that we are committed to accountable and transparent financial management and to document, conserve and display the rich natural and cultural heritage of the area in which we reside. You have my promise that we do this to the best of our abilities and will continue to do so.

FINANSIES

'n Kort Oorsig

Min het aan die finansiële omstandighede van die museum verander. Ons ry nog steeds wipplank tussen 'n tydperk van uiterste geldnood en dan weer 'n tydperk waarin ons net-net daarin slaag om die broodnodige uitgawes te befonds. Vir 'n hele paar jaar is dit al duidelik dat fondse vir onnodige uitgawes nie bestaan nie, daarom probeer ons die elektrisiteits- en telefoonrekeninge so laag as moontlik hou.

Intussen is ons deeglik bewus daarvan dat die toegangsfooie, en nie die jaarlikse subsidie, hierdie instelling dra. Ons besoekersgetalle het nie drastiese toenames getoon nie, en dus bly ons inkomste van toegangsfooie konstant.

Die museum het intussen vanaf Februarie 2017, die trotse eienaars geword van aandele nagelaat deur ene Mev. C J van Niekerk. Aanvanklik was ons onder die indruk, selfs na 'n gesprek met haar regsadviseur, dat hierdie aandele maar baie min werd was. Groot was ons verbasing toe 'n stewige sommetjie in die museum se rekening gedeponeer is. Dit het *Die Red Reinethuisfonds* 'n aansienlike hupstoot in die huidige finansiële jaar 2018/19 gegee en sal dus nog nie in die state weerspieël word nie.

Verskeie opsies is ernstig en by herhaling oorweeg om fondse te genereer. Daar is byvoorbeeld tyd en aandag gewy aan die moontlikheid om spasie aan 'n sekere handvlytwinkel in die dorp te verleen, maar prosedure en munisipale wetgewing het vinnig 'n stokkie daarvoor gesteek. Ons verhuur tans die ontvangslokaal van die Ou Biblioteek aan die Toerismekantoor, hoofsaaklik as gevolg van ons benarde finansiële situasie en personeeltekort.

Die museum het die laaste van die befondsing van die Nasionale Lotery Fonds vir dag-tot-dag uitgawes aangewend omdat daar vir ons geen ander keuse gelaat is nie. Die Trusteeraad, deeglik bewus van die implikasies, moes noodgewonge hierdie besluit deurvoer of aanskou dat die deur van die museum sluit. Dus begin ons elke jaar wanneer die subsidie betaal word, met 'n agterstand van R122,000. Ons het wel ook skouer aan die wiel gesit en verskeie fondsinsamelingsprojekte aangepak. So het ons byvoorbeeld R7 500 ge-in deur Reinethuis se voorkamer vir 'n funksie aan 'n groot versekeringsmaatskappy uit te huur en daarna aan die Nederlandse filantroop Mnr. Thijssen. Ons het ook stoorkamers leeggemaak en die publiek genooi om onaangewinste parafernalia te koop. So kon R10 500 na *Die Red Reinethuisfonds* oorgedra word.

Ons is baie dankbaar aan al ons vriende wat getrou 'n finansiële bydrae lewer. Mnr. Willem Loock se bydrae het die bewaring en digitalisering van die historiese foto's moontlik gemaak.

Ook het die SARS ouditering glad verloop en het ons 'n ongekwalifiseerde oudit gekry.

LINE FUNCTION

Transformation

Slowly but surely we endeavor to attain our transformation goals with the restricted resources at our disposable. Our commitment has not faltered but the means, particularly financial, to see our transformation goals through to fruition continue to elude us.

This institution requires staff and realistic funding to ensure that transformation goals will not remain mere aspirations which can so easily be interpreted as reluctance to effectively address this important aspect. During the past financial year I have observed a decided change for the better in the perceptions of the community toward the Museum. More people have come knocking on our doors for assistance. This change has manifested in small things like the growing popularity of the museums beautiful buildings and grounds as a venue for matric farewell and wedding photo-shoots to more community oriented functions like the opening of *The Spirit of Water* exhibition, a Khoisan Exhibition. We have also attempted to transform our audiences, expand our research to become more inclusive of all communities and broaden the appeal of the collections in our care.

We have come to realise that the establishment and fostering of partnerships is an important avenue to meaningfully address transformation. The invaluable partnerships forged with the Architecture Department of The Nelson Mandela University and the Sobukwe Trust are good examples of this.

We also offered our research and skills transfer services to various organisations including schools, welfare organisations, churches and entrepreneurial endeavors such as *Profit with Purpose* (an initiative started in 2016). In this manner we hope to transform our audiences and stakeholders as well as maintain present partnerships and patrons.

The Theo Thijssen Event

The Oral History Project remains firmly on the cards, as we struggle to find enough manpower to undertake further interviews to allow representative completion of the first phase of the project within budget. Members of the Board have offered their time and expertise voluntarily to see the project through to completion as inexpensively as possible.

Once complete, this will be our biggest transformation initiative to date. This past year the Dutch philanthropist, Theo Thijssen's, vision of organising a social gathering for previously disadvantaged elderly people of the community was realised with a function at Reinet House. General socialising was interspersed with information sessions on Oral History and Heritage and the serving of refreshments. We conducted several interviews during the course of the morning and a selection were saved on a disc and posted to the Netherlands. Theo Thijssen was sadly called to higher service in September 2017, a week before the event.

Regrettably the Museum's partnership with The Owl House in Nieu-Bethesda has ended and with it also the proposed expansion of the implementation phase of the Oral History Project to the Nieu-Bethesda community.

Opvoedkundige Programme

Alhoewel skole baie bedrywig is met sport en ander programme aan die begin van elke jaar, tel opvoedkundige programme momentum op soos die kwartaal vorder. Dit is baie jammer dat baie van ons programme gekortwiek word deur die onbeskikbaarheid en koste van vervoer na die museum.

Sarah Baartman Internasionale Museumdagvieringe

Tóg het baie leerders hul weg na die museum gevind soos die Ekoklub van Union Hoërskool op 3 Maart 2017. Hier het een van ons Trusteeraadslede

naamlik Mnr. Brian Hough tot ons redding gekom en die leisels oorgeneem. Nodeloos om te sê, die program het groot aanklank gevind en was Mnr. Hough 'n groot sukses.

Op 16 Junie het ons die museum tot die beskikking gestel van Mnr. Sakkie van Zyl en 'n groep jongmense wat op 'n Skattejag was. Baie van hulle was nog nooit voorheen in 'n museum nie en het dit terdeë geniet. Ou staatmakers soos *A Day at the Museum* het ook weer te voorskyn gekom en ons het die jaar op 'n hoë noot afgesluit toe ons leerders en onderwysers van die Middelburgse Skool, Ellen Olivier Primêr getrakteer het.

Die hoogtepunt van hierdie jaar is egter onteenseglik die Internasionale Museumdagvieringe van die Sarah Baartman Distrik wat hierdie jaar by Reinethuis gehou is. Lank voor die vieringe wat op 18 Mei 2017 gehou is, is die doel van museums en die belangrikheid van erfenis deur middel van 'n opstelkompetisie onder die aandag van alle hoërskoolleerders in die Dr. Beyers Naudé Munisipaliteit gebring. Hierdie kompetisie het gesogte pryse wat onder meer 'n skootrekenaar en tablet ingesluit het, aan die wenners beloof. Nege van die elf hoërskole in die munisipale area het aan die kompetisie deelgeneem en die leerders wat hul opstelle ingeskryf het, het hul bes probeer. Al die wenners het hul pryse tydens 'n spesiale geleentheid waartydens die burgemeester van die Dr. Beyers Naudé Munisipaliteit as gasspreker, die pryse aan hulle oorhandig het. Die vervoer en middagete van elke leerders is deur die Distrikskantoor geborg. Dié byeenkoms was 'n reuse sukses en daarom het die organiseerders die onderneming gegee dat die vieringe die daaropvolgende jaar weer in Graaff-Reinet sou plaasvind.

Opvoedkundiges programme is deel van ons erfenisbewaringsfilosofie. Ons gebruik die karige hulpbronne tot ons beskikking om aan hierdie filosofie te voldoen en na my mening slaag ons daarin. Ons is egter seker daarvan dat ons soveel meer kan bied indien ons net 'n helpende hand of twee asook befondsing kan kry.

Commitment to Service Delivery

Excellence in service delivery encompasses all aspects of museum operations with particular emphasis on services at the public interface. Services rendered to the public include guided tours of the museums, attending to research enquires, adhering strictly to admission times, opening the museum after hours by special request, accommodating wedding and matric farewell photo-shoots and educational programmes, to mention the most important. However the manner in which the services are rendered is always a primary consideration and every effort is made to ensure that staff are friendly, helpful and efficient at all times.

The museum functions efficiently with a small, dedicated and experienced group of individuals. Staff members at all levels are willing and able to conduct guided tours and effectively relay information to visitors allowing the two administrative staff members to carry the workload that, under normal circumstances, would have fallen onto the shoulders of persons occupying the current vacant positions. Our quarterly reports indicate that more than forty research enquiries were dealt with during the past year.

It is gratifying to report that the Graaff-Reinet Museum has maintained its good service delivery record throughout the year which is born out by a totally complaint-free run for the entire period and numerous records of appreciation communicated via letters, the electronic media and visitors books.

Collections and Displays

Our collections, both in storage and on exhibition, are well maintained and subjected to regular inspections and the implementation of good housekeeping and conservation techniques.

Acquisitioning has become more or less a daily occurrence. Some of the more significant donations during the year were a collection of dolls donated by a Mrs Sylvia Gordon, a Riena Reinet doll, artefacts from the Gangat family, one of

the oldest Muslim families in town, and items from the former Midland Drugstore. Another lovely addition to our collection is a Burmese teak waiting chamber, donated by the Midland Hospital. Our registers indicate that a record number of artefacts were acquisitioned during the course of the year.

In July 2017 Mr Malan Fowler offered his expertise to asses the condition of the *Jan-Felix Lategan Firearms Collection*. Mr Fowler was very satisfied with the condition of the firearms and could find no rust or other damage. The firearms were cleaned and oiled to enhance their rust resistance.

A truly significant accomplishment this year was the commencement of a process to digitise the Museum's collection of historical photographsand additional images. A comprehensive report by the project leader, Prof. Johannes Haarhoff, which forms part of this suite of annual reports, provides more detailed insights into this project. The front cover of this document also gives some idea of the variety and scope of historical photographs in our collection. Every single image will, in time, be scanned at a high resolution and will ultimately be uploaded to a digital platform known as Atom.

Prof Johannes Haarhoff and Steven Janse Van Vuuren

Unfortunately it was brought to our attention that two very small fossils were stolen from our fossil collection and sold on *BidorBuy* on the internet. The local South African Police Service, supported by the South African Heritage Resources Agency, undertook an extensive investigation and the seller was traced but could not be prosecuted as he admitted to buying the fossil from a person unknown to him at a flea market. The docket was closed much to our frustration and that of the Iziko Museum. The "Union High School fossil", a type specimen, has been loaned by Iziko to the National Museum in Bloemfontein, where it is the focus of intense scrutiny and research. It will be returned to Graaff-Reinet later in 2018.

The Graaff-Reinet Museum hosted a transformation exhibition, *The Spirit of Water*, in partnership with the Architecture Department of the Nelson Mandela University. This exhibition formed part of an international programme, *The Way of Water*. Contextually relevant events took place, during a specific period of time, in different coastal cities around the world. 2018.

The exhibition consisted of a series of photographs that captured ancient Khoisan rituals such as the “cleansing ceremony” that took place as part of the programme at Cape Recife, in view of the ocean, where traces of ancient Khoisan fish traps are still visible. Many Khoi Chiefs were in attendance at the opening on the evening of 23 February 2018 including Khoisan X a famous Khoisan activist. The exhibition and its programme leader, Dr. Magda Minguzzi, received welcome media coverage and the exhibition was on view at the Museum until the end of May

Die Uurglas / The Hourglass

Two editions of *The Hourglass* were published during the course of the year and are still available online at www.graaffreinetmuseums.co.za.
I would like to extend a special word of thanks to Prof. Johannes Haarhoff for his most significant contributions to the newsletter. Not only did he ensure that the newsletter remained scintillating but the extensive research that his articles required, is invaluable to promote the academic profile of the Museum.

More than 200 printed copies of the newsletter are distributed locally and further afield.

Online distribution will be favoured in future as a means of saving money on printing and distribution and as a small contribution towards saving the environment.

Vennootskappe

Gedurende die afgelope jaar het die belangrikheid van nuwe en ou vennootskappe weer na vore getree. Die verloop van die jaar het ook die ontstaan en behoud van bestaande vennootskappe gebring. Ek is genader om as adviseur met betrekking tot kulturele aangeleenthede deur *Profit with Purpose* op te tree asook as direkteur van Die Uilhuisstigting te dien. Hierdie pad het in Desember 2017 tot 'n einde gekom.

Hierdie jaar het die Museum ook haar bande met *Boundless*, voorheen bekend as Die Graaff-Reinet Beskermde werkplek versterk. Hierdie vennootskappe is van onskatbare waarde en ons poog om dit te onderhou en die samewerkingsooreenkomste op verskeie manier te verstewig. Dit word op verskeie maniere moontlik gemaak soos byvoorbeeld om op die rade van organisasies te dien. Daar word ook gratis kennis beskikbaar gestel asook die aankoop van dienste en om ons fasiliteite tot die beskikking van ons vennote te stel. Graag wil ek verskeie vennootskappe uitlig en dit sluit in onder meer die vennootskap met Die Dr. Beyers Naudé Munisipaliteit, Die Graaff-Reinet Advertiser, Die Sobukwe Trust, die skole in ons omgewing en ander museums in die provinsie geleë. Daarsonder sou ons nie optimaal kon funksioneer nie. Dit is 'n voorreg om met al hierdie instansies saam te werk.

The 2017 South African Cultural History Conference

The hosting of the annual conference of *The South African Cultural History Association* from 1 – 2 September 2017 was quite a feather in our caps. Academics and Cultural History enthusiasts from all over the country gathered in Graaff-Reinet for a weekend of learned discourse focusing on Cultural History.

Glimpses of the 2017 SAVK Conference

Academics of note who delivered papers on a wide range of subjects included Prof. Johannes Haarhoff, Prof. Matilda Burden and Prof. O J O Ferreira. Topics covered ranged from Rock Art to Anglo Boer War Sites which made attendance of the conference a most worthwhile experience.

I also delivered a paper on the iconic Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe. Our main task as hosts was, however, to ensure that proceedings progressed smoothly and that the conference-goers had sufficient to eat and drink. We threw ourselves with gusto into this event which culminated in a gala dinner in the *voorkamer* of Reinet House. The effort and energy expended on the conference arrangements proved most worthwhile as the many positive comments received on the success of the conference were most satisfying. We could not have presented this event successfully without the hard work of the staff under the

expert guidance of Dr. Ansie Malherbe, member of the Board and avid Cultural Historian.

Bemarking en media-dekking

Tans kommunikeer ons hoofsaaklik met die publiek deur middel van ons Facebook-blad. So het ons byvoorbeeld ons openingsure en nuwe telefoonnommers aan die publiek deurgegee. Dit is verbasend hoeveel mense ons blad lees en hoeveel nuwe volgelinge ons bygekry het. Waar ons aanvanklik eposnavrae gekry het, kry ons tans Facebook-navrae wat ons so spoedig moontlik beantwoord.

Tóg is die geskrewe woord op papier nooit te versmaai nie en verkies baie individue 'n gedrukte weergawe van een of ander publikasie. Hierdie jaar het ons plaaslike koerant, Die Advertiser, verskeie in-diepte artikels oor die museum gepubliseer. Dit sluit onder meer boekbekendstellings, Die Algemene Jaarvergadering, Die SAVK-kongres, die uitgebreide restourasie-werk aan Reinethuis en die Internasionale Museumdagvieringe in. Ons is deeglik bewus daarvan dat koerantspasie glad nie goedkoop is nie en daarom is ons Die Graaff-Reinet Advertiser ewig dank verskuldig.

Hierdie jaar het die tydskrif *Kuier* ook aandag aan Reinethuis se konserveringmetodes gewy en tesame met die opdatering van ons fisiese ligging op *Google Search* probeer ons so relevant as moontlik bly. Ons probeer ook tegnologie tot ons voordeel gebruik en vra dat mense hul aankoms by die museum op hul Facebook-bladsye aandui. Alles vir 'n goeie doel!

'n Ongeskeduleerde onderhoud is gereeld aan die orde van die dag en moes ek onverwags 'n onderhoud oor die museum aan *Ubuntu Radio* en *SABC 2* afstaan. Alhoewel die senuwees geknaag het, was dit gou agter die rug en regstreeks uitgesaai.

ADMINISTRASIE

Die Trusteeraad

Teen hierdie tyd is die feit dat die Trusteeraad se ampstermyn nie deur die LUR vir Sport, Ontspanning, Kuns en Kultuur bevestig is nie alombekend en word steeds geen rede aangevoer waarom dit nie gebeur nie.

Tydens 'n vergadering met die Distriksbestuurder van die Sarah Baartman-distrik soos versoek deur die Trusteeraad, is hierdie kwessie en verskeie ander knelpunte aangespreek Hierdie knelpunte sluit in onder meer die subsidie wat nie volgens die grootte van die museum-vloeroppervlak en inflasie bepaal en verhoog word nie, die vakante poste, die advertering van ampte van Trusteerade en prestasiebonusse vir staatsdiensamptenare. Die distriksbestuurder het wel bevestig dat die advertensie vir vakante poste in koerante sou verskyn en dat poste so spoedig moontlik gevul sou word. Volgens die voorsitter van die Trusteeraad is geen bevredigende antwoord oor sommige van die kwessies en veral in besonder die verhoging van die subsidie, verkry nie.

Twee lede is intussen tot die raad gekoöpteer naamlik Raadslede Joy Williams en Glenda Mackelina wat alreeds positiewe bydraes tot die museumgesprek gemaak het. Geen lid van die raad het bedank nie en kan ons almal net loof vir hierdie onbaatsugtige diens wat hulle lewer en die stryd wat hulle namens die museum stry.

General Administration

For quite a number of years Ms van Wyk and I have had to shoulder additional responsibilities which included duties specifically reserved for administrative assistant and auxiliary service officer posts. This situation increased our respective workloads exponentially.

This notwithstanding I can report with confidence that we have adhered to all departmental time frames with regard to financial and narrative reports, visitor statistics, staff performance reviews, the submission of the service level agreements and strategic and operational plans, the reconciliation of leave and other human resources issues and all other administrative tasks.

We furthermore submitted excise accounts to The South African Revenue Services. All of the above mentioned tasks were being done in addition to core museum administrative functions such as the acquisition of artifacts and the maintenance of the acquisition registers.

Due to a lack of funds I was unable to attend various departmental meetings and workshops as the museum simply did not have excess funds to cover accommodation and travelling costs.

In April 2017 the museum was subjected to an internal audit by Departmental Auditors and we were commended for our efforts. The positive outcome serves as encouragement to continue with our rigorous administrative regime.

Personeelaangeleenthede

Die personeel is die ruggraat van hierdie instelling. Nie net ken hulle die museum soos die palm van hul hand nie, maar omdat baie van ons reeds 'n lang pad met die museum loop, is dit vir ons huis weg van ons eie.

Elke staatsamptenaar is hierdie jaar vir hul diens met 'n bonus beloon. Mej. Blouw was byvoorbeeld na 'n oogoperasie terug op haar pos en bereid om die ekstra myl te stap. Sonder aanmoediging bring elkeen hulle kant.

Deur die verloop van die jaar het Mnr. Steven Janse van Vuuren by ons geledere as assistent van die fotografiese digitale projek aangesluit. Alhoewel hy goed aangepas het, het hy ons gegroet nadat hy woord ontvang het dat hy vir verdere studie goedgekeur is. Mnr. Curtis Mitchell het hom opgevolg en het ook gou sy voete gevind.

Die nuwe aanstellings, alhoewel in die nuwe boekjaar plaasgevind, het almal se las verlig. Ons sien daarna uit om met ons nuwe kollegas te werk.

Graag wil ek melding maak van die ongelooflike manier waarop die personeel die restourasie van die museumgeboue aangepak het. Geen moeite is ontsien om die uitstallings te beskerm, weg te pak en om na al die werk wat baie stof en selfs modder veroorsaak het, weer die museum gereed te kry vir besigtiging deur die publiek nie. Dit is voorwaar 'n riem onder die hart,

FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Restoration work at Reinet House was completed early in June 2017. Work immediately commenced on the compilation of documentation in support of a

detailed funding proposal for submission in respect of the following phase of restoration.

Restoration at The Old Residency commence

Great was our elation when *The Rupert Historic Homes Foundation* awarded R1.6 million towards the second phase of the restoration programme. Work commenced in October 2017. A massive clean-out of all the storerooms and the garage at the Old Residency was launched. We managed to sell most of the excess (non-acquisitioned) items, that had accumulated over many years, on a Facebook "garage sale". By the end of March 2018 restoration work to the Old Residency was completed and the construction crew moved over to Urquhart House.

I am happy to report that restoration work has progressed without significant hitches and wish to commend the contractors, Mr Conrad Kasperski, Mr Ewald Serfontein and X-ray Security, who was responsible for installing the CCTV system, for there outstanding cooperation and organisation. Mr Peter Whitlock also afforded considerable time and effort towards this project to ensure that work progressed according to plan.

General maintenance work was restricted to the most pressing aspects. Mr Van Rhyners had a daunting task repairing the garden after the thatching of the roof at Reinet House. It required blood, sweat and tears to restore the garden to its

former standard. In addition Mr Van Rhyners implement pest control regularly especially in the archive and gun safe.

We look forward to the next phase of restoration (The Old Library Museum) and sincerely hope that *The Rupert Historic Homes Foundation* will once again come to our aid. It will be wonderful to have peace of mind in the knowledge that all core long term maintenance problems have been resolved and that our heritage buildings are in a fundamentally good condition for many years to come.

DANKIES / THANK YOU'S

Dames en Here, dit sluit die verslag van die Hoof van die Museum vir die 2017/18 boekjaar af. Baie dankie vir u volgehoue ondersteuning.

GRAAFF-REINET MUSEUM DIGITALISERING – Deur Johannes Haarhoff

Jaarverslag September 2017 tot April 2018:

Die Graaff-Reinet Museum het in Augustus 2017 'n projek goedgekeur om haar fotomateriaal te laat digitaliseer. Fondse is beskikbaar gestel om 'n voltydse assistent aan die projek toe te wys. Stephen Janse van Vuuren (in 2016 aan Volkskool gematrikuleer) het vanaf September 2017 tot Februarie 2018 hieraan gewerk voordat hy verder gaan studeer het. Curtis Mitchell (in 2017 aan Union High gematrikuleer) het vanaf April 2018 verder aan die projek gewerk.

Die Desembervakansie het van hierdie maand ‘n onproduktiewe maand gemaak. Voordat Curtis aangestel is, is daar dus ses maande lank gewerk tot die einde van April 2018.

Die vordering was bevredigend, met die volgende mylpale wat bereik is:

- Beskikbare katalogusse is oorgetik.
- Alle “los” foto’s is opgespoor, genommer waar nodig, geskandeer en in nuwe houers herverpak, gesorteer volgens grootte en in die kluis geberg – in ooreenstemming met die kurator se vereistes vir langtermynbewaring.
- Die metadata (onderwerp, notas op of agterop die foots, grootte, nommer, en bergplek) is op ‘n uniforme manier by die nuwe katalogus gevoeg.
- Alle geskandeerde beelde is verwerk na die regte grootte en formate vir twee digitale argiewe wat opgestel is. Die eerste is ‘n hoë-resolusie argief vir die Museum se eie gebruik, met ‘n tweede lae-resolusie argief van dieselfde foto’s wat uiteindelik op die internet geplaas kan word.
- Foto’s wat te groot vir skandering is, is goedgunstiglik deur Charlene Prinsloo gedurende April gefotografeer.

Die volgende take lê voor:

- Die rekenaars en skandeerders moet na ‘n nuwe rekenaarlokaal in die Ou Residensie verskuif word.
- Alles is gereed om met die finale uitkenning en betiteling van die foto’s te begin.
- Die assistent se opleiding het reeds begin om die beelde op die AtoM databasis te laai.
- Na die digitalisering van die “los” foto’s moet die voorheen geordende foto’s in lêers en albums aangepak word.

Die eerste foto’s behoort teen die einde van Junie op die databasis te wees, waarna die stelsel prakties gedemonstreer kan word.

VISITOR STATISTICS:

APRIL 2017 – MARCH 2018

Month	No. of SA Adults	School Outreach Programmes	Foreign visitors	Total
April	369	76	142	587
May	305	252	118	675
June	146	61	64	271
July	729	89	125	943
August	252	0	168	420
September	437	45	103	585
October	349	0	268	617
November	209	53	363	625
December	958	0	151	1 109
January	461	0	283	744
February	207	29	385	621
March	231	19	209	459

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
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8	Mrs CM Sheard
9	Mr Willem Loock
10	A & D Short
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