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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

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Mr P Whitlock (Chair)	-	Premier's Representative (Since February 2019)
Mrs P Wallis (Vice Chair)	-	Premier's Representative (Since February 2019)
Miss T Majoka	-	Premier's Representative
Mrs E Buisman	-	Premier's Representative
Dr A Malherbe	-	Premier's Representative
Mr A Gradwell	-	Premier's Representative
Cllr J Williams	-	Premier's Representative
Mr D S Smith	-	Premier's Representative (term expired in December 2018)
Mr B Hough	-	Subscribers' Representative (Elected June 2018)
Ms L Heunis	-	Subscribers' Representative (Elected June 2018)
Vacant	-	DBNL Municipality
Cllr A Mboneni	-	District Municipality
Mr Z Sakata	-	DSRAC Representative
Mrs A F Kayster	-	<i>Ex Officio</i> Member
Cllr G Mackelina	-	Co-opted in June 2017 (term expired in February 2019)

# STAFF MEMBERS

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## GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Mrs A F Kayster	-	Principal Museum Human Scientist
Miss Denise van Wyk	-	Chief Auxiliary Service Officer (Since April 2018)
Mr B Ngandi	-	Administrative Assistant (Since April 2018)
Miss Sinethemba Citwa	-	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
Mr Z Isaks	-	General Assistant (Since April 2018)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEE EMPLOYEES

Mr W Simmons	-	General Assistant
Mr J Wagenaar	-	General Assistant
Ms V Uithaler	-	General Assistant (Resigned)

## RELIEF STAFF

Ms L Du Toit	Mr B Le Potha
Mrs S Visagie	Mrs S Du Pisanie

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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Special Guests, Friends of the Museum, Museum Staff and fellow Board members it is hard to believe that the time has once again come to provide a formal review of the activities of the Museum at the end of yet another financial year. Time certainly does fly as we are so pointedly reminded every time we peruse a copy of the Museum's newsletter or raise our eyes up to the front gable on climbing the stairway and entering our stately Reinet House. This occasion also serves to confirm to us all present that our institution has, often against the odds, successfully negotiated another year.

The odds certainly do seem to be stacked against many institutions and particularly institutions of this kind, a fact born out by faltering and dysfunctional institutions throughout the province. We are indeed sadly currently living through a period of failing public and administrative institutions.

When pondering this situation the question arises as to what it is, what special virtue, has apparently given our Museum the edge? Why do we continue to buck the odds and maintain a degree of success that few in the Province have maintained?

I must say at the outset the observations made are neither made with a smug, false sense of achievement nor to denigrate and diminish the very real challenges that Museums face but rather as a measure of the full extent of our blessing and as a very real reminder that we too could fall prey to similar adversity at any time in the future.

My conclusion is that we have had the good fortune, or indeed have been blessed by the gift of special people, in the the most general sense, both from within our institution and without. Looking back we have benefited from virtues like loyalty, dedication, self-sacrifice, passion, generosity, stability and continuity all of which are fairly rare commodities in the corporate world today. These traits one can liken to the ideal of family: so we may indeed be entitled to regard ourselves all as members of the Graaff-Reinet Museum family.

Significant credit must go to my fellow MEC appointed Board Members who voluntarily continued to provide the statutory oversight required by regulation notwithstanding the fact that their terms had long expired. This is true testament to their loyalty and dedication despite speculation and uncertainty regarding the legitimacy of the Board.

Thankfully this uncertainty dissipated with the unexpected publication of the notice, by the MEC, for nominations for new Board members in October last year and the subsequent re-appointment of virtually all the previously serving members ensuring continuity of governance and policy.

We welcomed Councilor Joy Williams onto the Board and bid Mr. Daniel Smith, who has relocated to Port Elizabeth, farewell after many years of faithful service on the Board. His vast experience of public life and the regular joke and anecdote will be greatly missed at Board meetings. Councilor Glenda Mackelina's term as co-opted Board member also ended in February with the

appointment of the new Board. We thank her for her willingness to serve and for her contribution to the functioning of the Board. The continuity of leadership of the Board was also endorsed by the new Board with my re-election to the position of Chairperson. I am not entirely sure that I am deserving of this vote of confidence but nonetheless accept it with gratitude and with an undertaking to discharge my duties to the best of my ability with the support of the new Vice-chairperson, Mrs Pat Wallis and the other Board members.

For the first time the Department provided a formal induction workshop for Board Members in February. The emphasis was squarely placed on best practice in corporate governance the powers of the Board and museological innovations.

It goes almost without saying that the digital revolution and its proclivity to spawn all manner of applications and facilities is the driver behind innovation in museum practice. I must admit to have been very much out of my depth in this sphere and most of what was said was almost entirely lost on me. However thanks to the efforts of Prof. Johannes Haarhoff our “old world” image has been greatly mitigated by the highly professional manner with which he is conducting the process of digitizing the Museum’s image collection. Professor Haarhoff has become an invaluable member of the Museum family whose dedication, passion for the task in hand and self-sacrifice is acknowledged with sincere gratitude.

Although it may appear rather belated I would now, on reflection on the theme of continuity, like to pay tribute to Mrs Hermi Baartman for the invaluable work that she did during her tenure as head of the Museum and the for link she created in the succession of Mrs Kayster to this post. It was indeed a blessing that Mrs Kayster was ultimately appointed to this post which opened the way to a period of renewal and innovation in the institution. We are also delighted that Ms. Van Wyk found her well-deserved Departmental promotion

within the Graaff-Reinet Museum as she is a most worthy adjutant to Mrs. Kayster. It is an honour and privilege for me to acknowledge every single member of staff for the loyalty, dedication and frequent self-sacrifice which they make for the benefit of the Museum. You can count yourselves as most worthy and esteemed members of the Museum family. A trait that I possibly omitted to mention in my preamble is frugality, this discipline has been honed to become of prime benefit to the Museum in its continued battle against the vagaries of financial decline. The need for frugality gains in importance with the passage of each year, in an economically inflationary environment, as there is still no prospect of the Departmental subsidy increasing above the R230,000.00 mark where it has stagnated for a number of years now. The need for the effective and innovative use of the Museum's heritage resources for financial benefit is likewise gaining in importance in this most challenging quest for financial sustainability.

While the old adage, with its rather apologetic tone for family oddities, may go that you can choose your friends but you cannot choose your family we are indeed privileged that we have such loyal and generous friends that have chosen to join our family notwithstanding any perceived oddities. We still receive regular, and on occasions most generous, donations which are steadily accumulating to form the nucleus of what will hopefully eventually become a tidy nest-egg for future maintenance programmes. These contributions are gratefully acknowledged. The Museum is also viewed as a reliable and secure custodian of valued artefacts which are donated with surprising regularity. The prospects of accommodating truly noteworthy collections holds promise for the future.

It would be a gross omission not to recognize the truly massive contribution which the Rupert family and family trusts have made to the Graaff-Reinet Museum. Their loyalty, generosity and influence have been of inestimable value to our Museum in executing special projects and the acquisition of



collections over many decades. The late Dr Anton Rupert's passion for his birthplace and the community that molded him was essentially the catalyst behind the restoration of Reinet House after the 1980 fire and the restoration of Urquhart House in the early 1990's. This loyalty and generosity continues in the ongoing financing of maintenance and restoration of our buildings by the Rupert Historic Homes Foundation. The Old Library is currently undergoing a truly extensive refurbishment and will soon be a fine advert for our institution at the very heart of our town.

In conclusion I believe a call for realism to be of critical importance. It would clearly be foolish to underestimate or disregard the significant challenges which we face on literally a daily basis, however we should draw courage and motivation from the challenges successfully overcome in the past, honour the vision of our predecessors and forge ahead with renewed passion and faith.

While we are very inclined to bewail the lamentable absence of dynamic and responsive action and meaningful financial backing from Bhisho we should not lose sight of the fact that the future of our Museum is in our hands as members of the larger community and more specifically as subscribers. We should constantly be asking ourselves if we are truly satisfied, as Museum Family, that we are doing everything within our power to support and promote the interests of our Institution. This is a challenge in which we dare not be found wanting!



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE MUSEUM

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Dames en Here, wat 'n voorreg om weer die pas afgelope finansiële jaar se hoogtepunte en laagtepunte met u te deel. In die meeste gevalle sukkel ons om die laagtepunte in herinnering te roep omdat ons verkies om net die goeies te onthou. Dit het in die meeste gevalle met finansies te make, maar ten spyte van al die klagtes oor 'n tekort aan fondse, is ek telkens in my skik dat ons nog heeltemal in staat is om 'n jaarvergadering te kan hou. Graag rig ek dus 'n hartlike woord van verwelkoming aan al ons vriende, Trusteeraadslede en kollegas by die 60ste

Algemene Jaarvergadering van die Graaff-Reinet Museum. Dit is voorwaar 'n riem onder die hart om al ons museumvriende weer onder een dak te hê.

I would like to extend a special word of welcome to our newly appointed officials who are not as new, and green, as when they were appointed in April 2018. Unfortunately I could not formally report on their appointment at our last AGM as this occurred in the new financial year which commenced in April of last year. I am very happy today to officially welcome you into the fold of The Graaff-Reinet Museum. It has been a pleasure working with you and I sincerely hope that you feel the same way too.

The highlight of the year was almost certainly the appointment of the new Board of Trustees in January 2019. At the first meeting of the new Board, Mr

Peter Whitlock was unanimously elected as chairperson and Mrs Pat Wallis as vice-chairperson. Together with Dr. Ansie Malherbe, Cllr Joy Williams, Mrs Elizabeth Buisman, Ms Thandeka Majoka and Mr Andy Gradwell they will be steering the ship for the duration of their term, a duty shared up until now with the dedicated current subscribers' representatives Mr Brian Hough and Mrs Liesl King. At the end of 2018 we bid farewell to Mr Daniel Smith and held a farewell luncheon at The Drostdy Hotel in his honour. Mr and Mrs Smith were on the verge of relocating to Port Elizabeth at the time. Our best wishes accompany him and Mrs Smith on their future endeavors.

It is such a pleasure to welcome all the newly elected board members. Although your appointment is now official, I acknowledge your unfailing dedication to your duties despite lacking official status owing to protracted administrative delays on the part of the Department. Thank you for your patience and willingness, but especially the ethical approach with which you conduct your custodianship.

Dames en Here, ons is in die finale fase van restourasie. Dit sal voorwaar 'n wonderlike oomblik wees as ons die laaste kwas neerlê en die laaste spyker inslaan. Ons is ewige dank aan die *Rupert Historiese Huise Stigting*, wat hierdie restourasieproses sedert 2016 befonds het, verskuldig. Ek wil amper sê dat wat restourasie betref, daar niks meer is om te doen nie, maar ongelukkig is restourasie 'n aaneenlopende proses. U voortgesette bydraes tot die Red Reinethuis Fonds sal dus baie waardeer word en sal ons ook die kans gun om, op die basis wat die *Rupert Historiese Huise Stigting* gelê het, voort te bou. Ons maak staat op en waardeer u volgehoue ondersteuning. Terselfdertyd wil ek my dank uitspreek teenoor alle skenkers wat nie die moeite ontsien om elke maand tot die fonds by te dra nie. Ons is veral baie dank aan 'n jarelange vriendin van die museum verskuldig wat onlangs haar weg oopgesien het om 'n ruim skenking te maak. Ons waardeer haar vrygewigheid maar weet egter dat sy sou verkies om anoniem te bly.

Graag maak ek melding van die wonderlike artefakte wat gedurende die jaar in ons sorg toevertrou is. In Oktober verlede jaar het 'n vragmotor 'n hele paar houers met artefakte op ons drumpel afgelaai. Met geen idee wie die skenker is nie het ons begin om die versameling te sorteer. Dit blyk toe dat die skenker 'n agterkleinkind van Frans Karel Te water Naude was. Die versameling wat uit honderde foto's, knope en seëls, skilderye deur haar moeder geskilder, dagboeke en dokumente bestaan, is vervolgens aangewins, geberg en of op uitstalling geplaas. Baie van die skilderye is ook deur Anton Welz, die antikwaar evalueer wat hul waarde as "sentimenteel" bepaal het. 'n Versameling van vyf-en-veertig poppe is ook deur Mev. Rina Haarhoff van die Paarl ontvang wat tans in die kelder van Reinethuis tot groot vermaak van mas en dogtertjies, te siene is. Moet ook nie die tapisserie en borduurwerkversameling in die eetkamer van Reinethuis vergeet nie, dit is voorwaar 'n wonderlike toevoeging tot ons versameling.

My job is still as exhilarating as the day that I arrived at the Museum. I have encountered many interesting people over the years: many with whom I have established firm friendships. I was especially saddened by the unexpected passing of Dini Sobukwe whose dry sense of humor appealed to my own. He was a good friend and will be fondly remembered.

Ladies and gentlemen, we look forward to another eventful and exciting year ahead. We remain committed and dedicated to the mission and vision of this heritage institution. Please lend us a hand as we continue to strive towards excellence. I would like to extend a special word of gratitude to the staff of the museum. Colleagues you are the backbone, no far more than that, you are the heartbeat of this institution and we cannot move forward without your assistance, your friendship and wonderful spirit.

Thank you.

# FINANCES

## *An overview*

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The Museum coffers are regularly depleted. In such a small town, everyone competes for a piece of the pie. The town bore witness to many new interventions and initiatives this past year, but the hope remains that the community will increasingly view heritage as a meaningful and significant aspect of our town, and region, and that this will find reflection in increasing support as in the past.

We are quite willing to think out of the box to raise additional funds and during the course of the year we hosted, and catered for, a Pam Golding function, participated in and sold refreshments to “Stoeptasters” and purchased the remaining stock of saleable items at a closing-down sale at a very reasonable price. We work hard for very little money, but we also use fundraising opportunities to be visible, to market ourselves and to forge partnerships.

Unfortunately unforeseen expenses presented additional budgetary challenges. During the fiscal year under review the generator, used for lighting during load shedding, went on the blink and a new generator had to be purchased. The newly appointed staff members had to attend a week-long induction session in Grahamstown, a major and unexpected expense which the museum could ill-afford. In addition, the sprinkler system at Reinet House required urgent maintenance which strained the finances even further. Load shedding and the irregular municipal water supply also had its effects on the finances of the museum.

*The Save Reinet House* account is becoming a tidy little nest-egg. The fact that the Museum has been utilising *Lotto* funds towards operational requirements

is indicative of the underlying financial insecurity. The *Lotto* has thankfully agreed to this concession as the alternative, namely to close the doors of the institution, is simply incomprehensible and untenable.

We were more than pleasantly surprised when the museum received a significant bequest from the van Niekerk estate. Inherited shares, initially thought to be worthless realised R64,000.00. A number of other Graaff-Reinet institutions also inherited the same amount of money late in April 2018. The funds were invested but unfortunately no additional information could be found on the mystery benefactor, C J van Niekerk.

## OPERASIONELE FUNKSIES

### *Transformasie*

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Ons transformasie-doelwitte bly buite ons bereik aangesien ons nie volledig kan transformeer voordat ons nie transformasie op alle vlakke aangespreek het nie. Dit sluit onder meer versamelings, gehore en om die gaping in die historiese rekord op 'n inklusiewe wyse aan te spreek, in. Ongelukkig word die proses hoofsaaklik deur die gebrek aan befondsing ondermyn: ons benodig fondse benodig om transformasie aan te spreek. Intussen gaan ons voort om ons uitstallings so inklusief moontlik te maak en ons gehore te verbreed. Ons kry byvoorbeeld al hoe meer artefak-skenkings uit die bruin en swart gemeenskappe en is ons al vir etlike jare by inklusiewe uitreikingsprogramme betrokke.

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## Educational Programmes

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One of the highlights of our educational programme is The International Museum Day Celebrations. During the past financial year the Museum enlisted the support of the Dr. Beyers Naudé Local Municipality. An essay competition, with fantastic prizes, was launched on 26 March and the celebrations took place on 11 May at Reinet House. The day before the event Albany Museum and Bayworld “took the museum” to the community and visited Spandau Secondary School with their mobile museum. Other schools in the community were also invited to attend this mobile museum outreach.



Rev Gerald Buisman with a group of Grade 4 Union Preparatory School learners

The International Museum Day celebration was once again a huge success. We have hosted the celebration for two consecutive years but it will be arranged by the Somerset East Museum in the new financial year.

April 2018 saw the first educational programme of the quarter with the annual visit of Marmer School, a private school. Prof. Johannes Haarhoff led the programme with an interesting discussion on The Anglo Boer War and the involvement of Graaff-Reinet, after which the group were escorted on an impromptu tour of The Anglo Boer War sites in town.

Special mention should be made of The Union Schools, our firm partner in education. During the course of the year we entertained the Grade 8 and 9 learners, hosted the school’s eco-club and presented *The Historical Building*

*Programme* to the Grade 4's in March 2019. We enjoyed sharing information with an enthusiastic group of well-behaved learners.

Our volunteers deserve special thanks. They are ever-willing to apply innovative instructional methods for the benefit of the learners and gladly assist wherever and whenever they are able to.



**A group of Lingcom Primary learners**

We also embarked on an extensive outreach during which we presented *The National Symbols Programme* and our personal favourite, *The Rock Art Programme*, to Lingcom and Isibane Primary Schools. We spent a good few hours at each school during which learners had the opportunity to touch and feel artefacts,

complete a fun-fact booklet and view a Powerpoint Presentation.

During the course of the year a number of schools from all over the country paid the Museum a visit. This can be largely attributed to the number of sporting events hosted by local schools but word of mouth advertising and marketing definitely also played a role. Lingcom-week is always very interesting as we get an opportunity to introduce learners to the museum and the collections. Some of them have never seen the inside of a museum, which makes our job challenging but especially satisfying. We are introduced to the naughty grade 4's, well-behaved grade 5's, the inquisitive grade 6's and blasé grade 7's. At the end of the week we are bone-tired with many stories to tell.



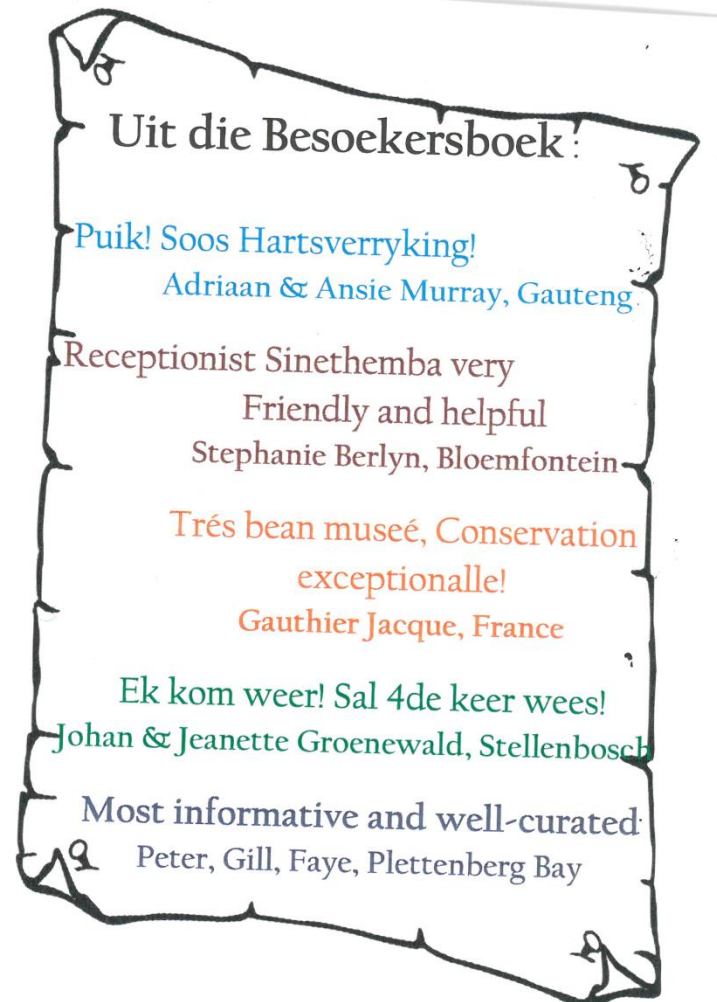
## Toewyding tot Dienslewering

Dit is ongetwyfeld 'n skaars vaardigheid om almal deesdae tevrede te stel. Mense het rare versoeke wat byvoorbeeld nagtelike besoeke aan die museum insluit. Ongelukkig is die museumversameling en die veiligheid daarvan, ons eerste prioriteit en is die versoek nie onderhandelbaar nie.

Graag voorsien ons historiese en genealogiese inligting op 'n gereelde grondslag. Foto's kan egter nie meer onvoorwaardelik en sonder 'n kopieregfooie aan navorsers vir publikasie of bemarkingsdoeleinde beskikbaar gestel word nie. Die Trusteeraad het, na vele oorweginge, besluit om 'n kopieregfooie op alle foto's te plaas aangesien dit as 'n bron wat fondse kan genereer beskou word. Die Museum vra ook al 'n geruime tyd 'n navorsingsfooie aan beide amateur en professionele navorsers.

Aangesien dit 'n standaardpraktyk is, is mense, amper sonder uitsondering, gewillig want hulle besef dat die fondse aangewend sal word vir die onderhoud en beveiliging van die versameling.

Ons het 'n paar interessante navorsingsversoeke ontvang wat onder meer navorsing oor brakdakke in Karoo-argitektuur, 'n versoek om die Lewack familie as afstammeling van James Murray op te spoor asook die kopiëring van 'n volledige Graaff-Reinet Advertiser om 'n verjaarsdag te vier.



Alhoewel daar 'n duidelike toename in besoekersgetalle was bly besoekers baie entoesiasties oor die museum en word dit ook so in die besoekersboek aangeteken. Besoekers kom nog steeds van regoor die land asook van oorsese lande soos Nederland, Frankryk, Brittanje en Duitsland. Japanese en Amerikaanse besoekers is raar.

Alle navrae is binne afsienbare tyd beantwoord en ekstra moeite is gedoen om navorsers met ander in verbinding te bring.

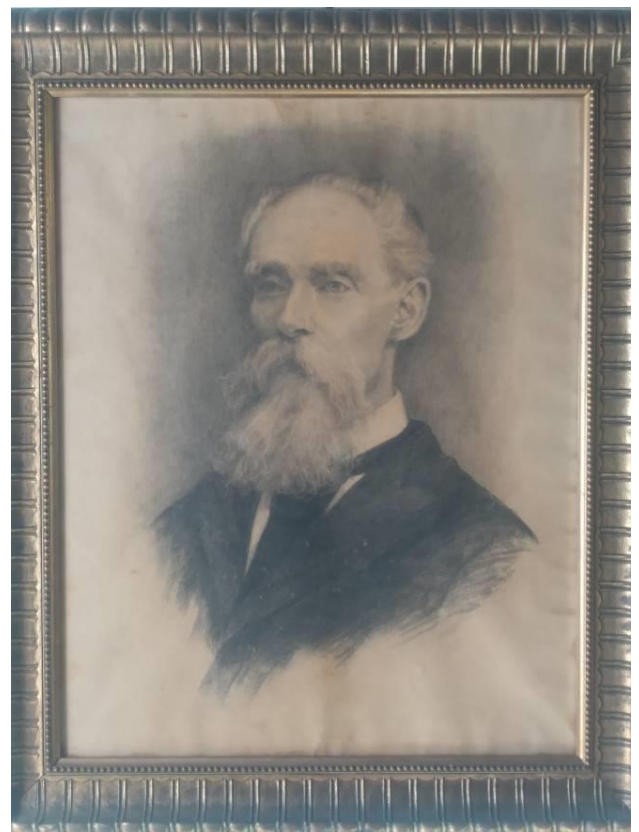
Ons poog ook om die deure van al die museumgeboue gedurende naweke oop te hou en almal te hulp te snel wat ons dienste mag benodig. Ons versoek, en verwag, dus ook dat die publiek ons dieselfde hoflikheid betoon wat aan hulle gebied word.

## *Collections and Displays*

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Funds for new exhibitions are non-existent, although we are canvassing The Directorate Museums and Heritage for financial support for the upgrading of the San and Rock Art exhibition as well as a new Oral History Exhibition. Hopefully these exhibitions will be established by the end of the next financial year.

The donation of artefacts is a regular occurrence. People find the collections to be well-maintained, displays to be neat and tidy and the general appearance of the Museum, pleasing.



Charcoal drawing of Frans Karel Te Water Naudé  
(from the Genevieve Meyer Collection)

I am very happy to report that the “Union High School fossil” has returned safely. Dr. Elize Butler from The National Museum brought it all the way from Bloemfontein. The fossil was removed from the wire contraption it was initially mounted on and placed onto a surface moulded especially for this purpose. It has now been placed in a glass case and is once again on display at The Old Library.

The rest of the fossil collection was also maintained by The Iziko Museum’s curator of paleontology, Dr. Claire Browning. In addition they showed us how to pack up the fossils in preparation for the restoration of the building. Some of the specimens were also taken back to Cape Town for cleaning. We have now also ensured that all the display cabinets are also fitted with locks.

The entire collection at Urquhart House was thoroughly cleaned and once again placed on exhibit after completion of the renovation work on the building. It was very hard and tedious work which had to be repeated at the end of August 2019. September also saw the execution of the annual maintenance regime of the peach pip floor, albeit a few months after the end of winter. The Military Museum was re-opened to the public on Monday, 22 October, but not before it was subjected to a through cleaning of all the display cases, ceilings, floors and walls. All the panels and photographs were removed from the walls before renovation. Once the picture rails had been replaced the staff commenced with the tedious process of re-hanging and putting everything in order. Luckily we took copious photographs of the entire exhibition before it was dismantled. This helped tremendously but one or two labels still managed to be misplaced. The benches and flower pots in front of the museum were also painted and the museum has a new and fresh look.

Getting the archive back to its former orderly condition remains a challenge. The floor was tiled and unfortunately the tilers decided to move the whole collection by themselves. In addition some of the shelves were broken and pieces of shelving and supporting slats disappeared. We have cleaned every

single item we could lay our hands on in the archive. The floor tiles also needed a good cleaning as dust settled on the wet sealant. A well organised archive is not easy to come by and will still require much time and effort.

Most of our photographic glass plate negatives have now been digitised an exercise which Prof. Haarhoff regarded with the highest priority. Miss Citwa has been tasked to re-number the scanned glass photographic plates. Although Prof. Haarhoff was very busy with other projects he still found the time in October to meet me at the Transnet Heritage Library in Johannesburg. This was a wonderful experience and I feel very privileged to have viewed the enormous collection and to have chatted with Yolanda Meyer, the information specialist responsible for the collection. We are grateful to Mr Koos Grobbelaar who also donated a collection of glass plates to the Museum. These were duly digitised and assimilated into the collection. This important project is thus well under way.

The firearms that were stolen from our collection were returned by the local South African Police. Since the theft, the entire Museum complex has been fitted with a CCTV system thanks to *The Rupert Historic Homes Foundation*. The camera system is a wonderful deterrent to would-be thieves. Needless to say the occasional strange antics of bona-fide visitors are also captured by the cameras often to the great amusement of the staff.

All artefacts, including the entire Meyer collection, the tapestry and embroidery collection and the doll collection, were recorded. In addition most new items spent time in the fumigation chamber in preparation for incorporation into the collection and exhibitions.

## Die Uurglas / The Hourglass

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*Time Flies*

Twee uitgawes van ons nou reeds bekende nuusbrieff het die lig gesien. Graag bedank ons Prof. Haarhoff en Dr. Ansie Malherbe vir hul geskrewe bydraes. Ons het weereens besef watter wonderlike primêre bron *Die Uurglas* vir toekomstige navorsers kan wees.

Die volgende stap sal wees om al die vorige nuusbriewe te digitaliseer. Vorige uitgawes van *Die Uurglas* is op ons webtuiste [www.graaffreinetmuseums.co.za](http://www.graaffreinetmuseums.co.za) te kry.

## Partnerships

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A most significant partnership was forged with *The Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA)* at the end of 2018. Eight interns from *The Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency* arrived on our doorstep on 12 November. Four interns were placed with the new vintage car museum while the remaining four, stayed on at the Museum as part of our community service initiative. We are very happy to work with, and train, these young people who would otherwise have had neither income nor opportunity to obtain a qualification.

They are all enrolled in a tour guiding course presented by *The Pambili Institution* in East London and travel to Port Elizabeth for weeklong lectures once a month. During their first two weeks at the museum they were tasked to research the history of Graaff-Reinet, the museum buildings and collections and write narratives of their findings which had subsequently to be presented to the group.



To their great surprise and a degree of consternation they were instructed to review the work of their peers. This was quite a learning experience for some, in particular for those who perceived the exercise, from the outset, to be trivial and a bit of a joke.

On conclusion of the course and internship they will receive a qualification and be fully trained tour guides.



Miss Lizaan Reid and Miss Asiphe Mgawu, interns from ECPTA, hard at work

Our partnership with the *Sobukwe Trust* continues as the interns from *ECPTA* stationed at The Sobukwe Museum, attend the formal lectures presented by the Head of the Museum. In addition, the Museum also facilitated the donation of a painting of Robert Sobukwe, which Mrs Hermi Baartman painted quite a number of years ago for a PAC academic of Swedish descent, to the Sobukwe Museum. The painting was duly transported from Cape Town and handed over to The Sobukwe Trust.

We also managed to forge a new partnership as the Museum became involved with *The Stars of the Karoo Variety Concert* held in May 2019. Mr Ngandi and the Head of the Museum committed a considerable amount of time to ensure that the program was compiled according to specification, timing each item and filling out forms. The satisfaction of seeing an event come to successful fruition was immeasurable.

Reinet House featured prominently in many Facebook posts for *Stoeptasting 2018*. Although the event was not as profitable as we had hoped, the advertising and exposure did us a world of good. The Museum is very happy to be associated with this event.

## ***Bemarking en media-dekking***

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In Julie 2018 is 'n nuwe koerant, en filiaal van *Die Burger*, in Graaff-Reinet bekendgestel. Hierdie koerant, *The Karoo Express*, word gratis versprei en lesers in onder andere Graaff-Reinet, Cradock, Willowmore en Middelburg word bereik. Elsabe Pienaar van Middelburg is die aangewese joernalis wat berigte oor Graaff-Reinet skryf. Sy het alreeds gesorg dat koerantspasie aan verskeie artikels oor die museum afgestaan word en bied 'n interessante kinkel op historiese inligting alreeds bekend.

Ons is baie dank verskuldig aan *Die Graaff-Reinet Advertiser* met wie ons al 'n lang pad stap. Hulle het veral lesers gereeld aangaande die restourasieproses op hoogte gehou. Ons is deeglik bewus van die koste van koerantspasie en waardeer die mediadekking dus soveel meer.

Ons Facebook-bladsy het 'n goeie aantal aanhangers. Op hierdie wyse behou ons kontak met die breë publiek. Om tyd aan Facebook te wy is ons nie altyd beskore nie, maar tog bly dit 'n vinnige manier om inligting te versprei.

Ons het ook gedeel in televisie-optredes. *Showville* is byvoorbeeld in Oktober 2018 uitgesaai en 'n ongeskeduleerde televisie-opname in Reinethuis is deur 'n plaaslike toergids gelei.

# ADMINISTRATION

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## *The Board of Trustees*

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In October 2018 The Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture of the Eastern Cape quite unexpectedly invited nominations for persons to serve on a new board of trustees. Nine nominations were submitted of which seven were successful. The Board commenced their term of office of 5 years on 01 January 2019. Mr Peter Whitlock was unanimously elected as chairperson and Mrs Patricia Wallis as vice- chair. The Friends of The Museum representatives are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

Cllr Ayanda Mboneni was appointed to represent the Sarah Baartman District Municipality, Mr Zandisile Sakata is the departmental representative whilst the seat of the DBNLM remains vacant.

Board meetings occur once every two months as regulation dictates that six board meetings be held annually. The Board strictly adheres to this regulation.

## *Algemene Administratiewe Sake*

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Aangesien Mej. Van Wyk in April 2018 in 'n bevorderingspos aangestel is, het sy baie van die administratiewe pligte oorgeneem. Baie ander pligte is ook derhalwe na Mnr. Ngandi verskuif. Mnr. Ngandi hanteer alle verlofaangeleenthede en Mej. Van Wyk sekere ander personeelaangeleenthede, soos byvoorbeeld om nuwe personeellede met hul toetrede tot die staatsdiens te help. Haar prioriteit bly egter die finansies en is sy ook dus verantwoordelik vir finansiële verslae wat aan die Trusteeraad en die Department voorgelê word.



Alle verslae is binne die vasgestelde periode ingedien. Dit sluit onder andere finansiële, beskrywende en kuratorsverslae in. Intussen is alle verlofrekords versoen en op datum gebring. Alle statistieke en voltooide vorms, as bewys van opvoedkundige programme, is ook binne die vasgestelde periodes ingedien.

Die dienskontrak, wat as motivering vir die oordrag van die jaarlikse subsidie dien, is ook betyds ingedien. Die getekende kontrak is vergesel deur die jaarverslag, die jaarlikse besigheidsplan, die 3 – 5 jaar besigheidsplanne, die begroting en 'n finansiële projeksie vir die nuwe finansiële boekjaar soos deur regulasie bepaal.

Ons dien ook maandelikse aksyns en doeanebelastings-opgawes, deur middel van die SARS E-filing-portaal in, en word gereeld ge-oudit.

Gedurende die jaar het ons een dissiplinêre-aksie gefasiliteer en geboekstaaf. Daar word ook gereelde personeelvergaderings gehou. Ongelukkig het die Museum se finansiële situasie dit onmoontlik gemaak om vergaderings, waarvoor reis-en akkommodasiekoste aangegaan moet word, by te woon.

Wat administrasie betref, het ons waarlik ons vinger op die pols.

## *Staff Matters*

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The speed at which the Departmental staff recruitment process was finalised took us quite by surprise. After the shortlisting process, interviews were conducted over a period of two days and appointments were made on 1 April. I am happy to report that Ms van Wyk received a promotional appointment to the post of Chief Auxiliary Service Officer and Mr Zennevin Isaacs, formerly a Board employee, as General Assistant. Miss Sinethemba Citwa (Auxiliary Service Officer) and Mr Baphiwe Ngandi (Administrative Officer) both new appointees to our staff, assumed duty before 09 April and have adapted well.

Staff remains the backbone of this institution and this past year all have endeavored to work harder than before. After the euphoria of the new appointments wore off the staff found themselves once again noses to the grindstone. One challenge to the workings of the well-oiled machine was the constant interruptions to provide detailed explanations of basic employments issues which the more experienced staff have working knowledge of and almost take for granted. Newly appointed staff received a week-long induction session in Grahamstown which covered museum policy, finances, overtime and weekend work and all other human resources and labour issues. Our aim at the Museum is to instill a sound and responsible work ethic in all the members of the team, transferring the necessary skills, whilst fostering an enthusiasm for heritage and museums.

All staff members were commended for their enthusiasm, hard work and loyalty with an annual Departmental cash bonus awarded to performing staff members. We are all very grateful that commitment and diligence is recognized in this manner.



**Mr Jason Wagenaar**

Unfortunately we had to bid farewell to the intern appointed for the digital photographic project. He went in search of greener pastures. The Board decided not to appoint a new intern and unfortunately Prof. Haarhoff had to carry on by himself, with the occasional assistance of Mr Ngandi. We are very grateful to Prof. Haarhoff for his patience during trying financial times.

Mr Jason Wagenaar lost his father during December 2018. Our thoughts and prayers went out to his family during a very difficult time in their lives. Miss Blouw had to undergo several operations to restore her failing vision. The

operations were a huge success and she recovered completely. To our great consternation Mr van Rhyners was admitted to Mercantile Hospital in Port Elizabeth for an emergency appendectomy. He recovered well.

Special mention should be made of the manner in which staff approached the ongoing building restoration process. It seemed as if restoration work would never cease. They embarked on continuous cleaning including polishing, cleaning windows, washing curtains and floors. They did a sterling job as it is not easy to clean up after building contractors have vacated what is to them a mere construction site. Their commitment, patience and initiative are to be commended and appreciated.



## FACILITY MANAGEMENT

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Restoration at the Old Residency was completed and the result is really pleasing. We have received numerous complements, including one from Deon Herselman of *The Rupert Historic Homes Foundation*. The alarm system at The Old Residency had to be replaced at a cost of more than R2000.

We accommodated various matric farewell photoshoots at Reinet House. The building, and adjacent gardens, make for a lovely photo backdrop and is quite in demand as a result.



Restoration was almost completed at Urquhart House and this museum was opened to the public by the middle of June after which restoration work on The Military Museum commenced. The Museum's sound management with regards to the funding of the maintenance and restoration projects apparently stood it in good stead as *The Rupert Historic Homes Foundation* once again approved an application for a considerable amount, submitted in July 2018, for the restoration of the Old Library. Work commenced at The Old Library in February 2019. All relevant parties, including The Tourism Office, agreed that the work should be done in phases so as to minimize disruption to their operations.

On Monday 4 February the staff cleared out the Sobukwe and Slavery Rooms and the Conference facility. We placed media notices, including on *Facebook*,

that the museum would be closed until the completion of the restoration process.

The Museum was also plagued by mischief over the past year. A break-in at The Old Library resulted in a window pane being smashed, the plasma screen of The Tourism Office being stolen and the slashing of an electrical cable. The Tourism Office submitted an insurance claim and the Museum repaired the damage to the electrical installation. Nothing could be seen on the CCTV system and it is assumed that the stolen screen was pulled through the broken window pane, a feat which seems absolutely impossible. The second break-in occurred at Urquhart House. Although they tried to remove the padlock, they could not gain access as the outside door was locked. All the locks had to be replaced after the break-ins in August. The break-ins inevitably result in significant fruitless expenditure.

## DANKIES / THANK YOU'S

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Dames en Here, dit sluit die verslag van die Hoof van die Museum vir die 2018/19 boekjaar af. Baie dankie vir u volgehoue ondersteuning. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead. I am assured that we can count on your continued support, as always.

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# VISITOR STATISTICS:

## APRIL 2018 — MARCH 2019

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Month	No. of SA Adults	School Outreach Programmes	Foreign visitors	Total
April	356	12	93	461
May	414	265	38	717
June	218	41	26	285
July	519	0	96	615
August	236	0	94	330
September	319	67	77	463
October	385	173	274	832
November	144	0	280	424
December	683	0	176	859
January	257	0	162	419
February	180	384	189	753
March	330	0	178	508

# SAVE REINET HOUSE FUND

## DONOR'S LIST

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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	M Weyer
8	Mrs CM Sheard
9	Mr Willem Loock
10	A & D Short
11	The Heritage Society
12	Mrs E Maasdorp
13	Mrs M Muskett
14	Mrs J Hobson
15	Mnr A Van Biljon

