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BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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 B Hough	-	Subscriber's Representative (Elected November 2021)
Ms L King	-	Subscriber's Representative (Elected November 2021)
Cllr A Mboneni	-	Sarah Baartman District Municipality
Vacant	-	DBNLM Representative
Mr Z Sakata	-	DSRAC Representative
Mrs A F Kayster	-	Ex Officio

STAFF MEMBERS:

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS:

Mrs A F Kayster	-	Principal Museum Human Scientist
Miss D D van Wyk	-	Chief Auxiliary Service Officer
Mr B Ngandi	-	Administrative Assistant
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

BOARD OF TRUSTEE EMPLOYEES:

Mr W Simons	-	General Assistant
Mr J Wagenaar	-	General Assistant

RELIEF STAFF:

Mr B Le Potha
Mrs S Visagie

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ⁴ CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



Special guests, Friends of the Museum, fellow Board members and staff, it is my pleasure and privilege to report on the activities of the Museum for the 2021/22 financial year.

When contemplating the contents of the annual report it is somewhat of a challenge to allocate events and activities to the particular year under review, a challenge which has been aggravated most recently by “Covid blur”

and the causal knock-on effect with respect to the timing of Annual General Meetings which now, invariably, take place well after the closure of the report year. The continuous nature of museum activities also results in a significant degree of overlap from one year to the next. So you will forgive me if I’m guilty of a degree of repetition, relative to the report of last year, and even minor misallocation of events.

The long shadows of the Covid-19 still darkened the paths of certain aspects of museum life despite the most determined attempts to banish everything Covid

related to the realms of mere memory. Visitor numbers, for example, have yet to recover to pre-Covid levels and the occurrence of sporadic infections locally and the threat of new strains, over-eagerly broadcast with disquieting regularity, and fervour, in both the national and international media, lurk in the deep shadows of the background. I do however believe that we are winning the fight to regain stability and normality owing to the willful and determined manner in which the recovery process has been approached. Our institution, as a direct result, is fortunate to be in a remarkably good position.

The old adage goes “that you make your own luck” or paraphrased in a faith context “you position yourself to be blessed”. I firmly believe in this principle and that by fervently aspiring to honour values like diligence, integrity, honesty, service above self and fairness, in all that one does, and to continue doing so in patience one will reap the positive benefits in time. This, I firmly believe is the ethos which we aspire to in the management of this institution and is manifest to the Department, benefactors and the general public alike.

During the report period the Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture elevated our Museum to full provincial status and we are now counted amongst the five large museums in the Eastern Cape. The other four are, Bayworld, Albany, East London and Amathole. The Board’s sincere gratitude is extended to DSRAC for this resounding vote of confidence in our Museum. The subsidy level has increased dramatically, by a whopping 123%, having been pegged at R230,000.00 per annum since 2014. This together with the one-off Covid relief grant so generously provided by *The Rupert Historic Homes Foundation*, has placed us in a relatively stable financial position. Our appreciation is once again extended to the Rupert Foundation for their generosity.

The Museum’s new-found status is also accompanied by the adoption by DSRAC of a new staffing organogram and we wait with expectation to see how exactly this will play out. I am hopeful that an overriding sense of prudence will prevail when appointments are made by the Department as we, as an institution, have experienced the severely disruptive implications of past inappropriate appointments. We urge that the sound principles of continuity

and local knowledge (and ties) be afforded appropriate status when appointments are made. Past management staff succession, and the understanding of local conditions, have contributed, in large measure, to the success of our Museum.

Major achievements for the year include:

- ❖ The opening of the new re-imagined Rock Art Exhibition
- ❖ The opening of the FISA Exhibition
- ❖ The positive peer review in the SAICE (SA Institution of Civil Engineering) journal of the “Construction of the van Rynevelds Pass Dam”: the Museum’s first venture into the field of formal publication.
- ❖ The ongoing digitisation of the Museum’s image collection and first attempts at obtaining digital copies of local historical newspapers. Volumes of *De Graaff-Reinetter* were scanned, at the National Library of South Africa in Cape Town, by a service provider the cost of which was sponsored by the Graaff-Reinet Heritage Society and coordinated by Prof. Johannes Haarhoff. The ultimate objective is to have an entire digital collection of Graaff-Reinet Newspapers which will eliminate the need for researchers to use the fragile paper volumes.

The Museum remains an important community resource for education, research and as a venue for events. Schools, local and from further afield, are hosted on a regular basis to attend the Museum’s structured educational programs and research requests from near and far are attended to on an almost daily basis, in some instances. We hosted the local public premiere screening of *Tears become Rain* which won the *Rupert Social Arts Prize* in 2020 and also the film *Origins: An Investigation into Khoisan Heritage Sites* by Dr Magda Minguzzi of the NMU Architecture School.

Special acknowledgment is due all the individuals and organisations without whom absolutely nothing would be possible and through whom our successes have come to fruition. The Department Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, and in particular the Directorate of Museums and Heritage, for their interest and confidence in our Museum. To all our benefactors and Friends, but notably *The Rupert Historic Homes Foundation*, for their enthusiastic and generous support.

We, in addition, rely heavily on our partners of many years standing now, the Tourism Office (CTO), for their logistical support in the operation of the Old Library Museum. I wish to thank them for their role in the smooth operation of the Museum and trust that our relationship will advance the goals of both our organisations and that our cooperative relationship will grow from strength to strength. We also acknowledge our new partner Rosalind Goodson and the *Little Gallery* which has now also found a new home under the roof of the Old Library Museum. This is a beautifully tasteful addition to the attractions of the Old Library Museum.

Our staff, under the inspirational leadership of Anziske Kayster, is motivated, efficient, diligent and friendly and is a truly formidable team that deals with challenges with consummate ease. What more could any institution ask for? They, one and all, are the backbone of the institution and deserving of our sincere appreciation for their loyalty and hard work.

I am once again indebted to my fellow Board members for their unwavering support, passion for the Museum and enthusiastic, yet prudent, manner in which they fulfil their mandate. Their solid support and restrained interface in the day-to-day functioning of the Museum forms the basis of the excellent rapport which exists at all levels within the institution. While meetings can often be dull affairs our Board meetings are certainly not and are looked forward to for the fine spirit which prevails and the common sense of purpose of all.

Last, but by no means least, I extend a word of thanks to our volunteers. The name that immediately comes to mind, when mentioning volunteers, is Johannes Haarhoff: Indeed using the term volunteer makes light of the contribution that Johannes has made to the Museum over many years now. He has become an indispensable cog in the workings of the Museum and dispenses his vast knowledge, skills and time so generously for the benefit of the Museum. His contribution is acknowledged with heartfelt gratitude. How much more we could achieve with more volunteers of his caliber!

In closing I make a fervent appeal to continue the drive towards sustainability, excellence, relevance and inclusivity on all fronts so that the Graaff-Reinet Museum may grow from strength to strength in representing and preserving the diverse heritage of our region.

Thank you.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE MUSEUM



Dear Board members, Colleagues and Friends of the Museum,

One of the most overwhelming and at times the most unbearable, impacts during the fiscal year under review, were the effects of the pandemic. Talks thereof permeated our newsletters, museum Facebook posts and reports to the powers that be such as the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture and the Board of Trustees. We practiced museology in an unprecedented time, but as it turned out, the year 2021/2022 was surprisingly one of the best years that we have experienced in a in very long time.

And on that high note ladies and gentlemen, I would like to wish you a very warm welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Graaff-Reinet Museum and express my sincere gratitude that you have taken the time to attend this very important gathering.

Although visitor numbers have returned to pre-pandemic levels during certain months of 2021/22, we have come to realise that visitor numbers are no longer an accurate indicator of our success. One of the factors that contributed to this new mindset is the fact that we have received generous support from sponsors, but most importantly a 123% increase in our annual subsidy, which played a very significant and positive role in our ultimate survival as the pandemic abated. This support enabled optimum functioning of our institution at the start of April 2021, whilst other cultural and heritage institution nationally, still struggled.

One of the highlights of this period was the completion of the improved Rock Art Exhibition. This exhibition, sponsored by the Directorate Museums and Heritage, opened on 29 November 2021 and co-incided with the Annual General Meeting. People, especially learners, flocked to see this exhibition and it has become very popular since its inception.

Die digitalisering van die fotografiese versameling, onder die kundige bestuur van Prof. Johannes Haarhof, het ook 'n nuwe fase betree toe 'n nuwe groep interns aangestel is. Hierdie hande het die werk soveel ligter gemaak en die aandag is verskuif van individuele foto's na al die albums wat in die argief geberg word. Van die koerantvolumes is ook as 'n proeflopie gedigitaliseer. Ons is nog steeds een van die voorlopers op die gebied van digitalisering en daar word beplan om dalk 'n werkswinkel of twee in die toekoms aan te bied. Die koste wat hierdie projek tot dusvêr verhaal het, is werklik minimaal alhoewel fondse wel beskikbaar is om dit aansienlik verder te voer. Die oogmerk bly om op hierdie wyse ons versameling te beskerm en vir die nageslag te bewaar.

Een van ons vele maar baie betekenisvolle projekte hierdie jaar was die publisering van ons eerste volwaardige museumpublikasie: Die Konstruksie van die Van Rynevelds-pas dam boek. 250 eksemplare van die boek is gedruk en teen R300 per boek, is dit voorwaar 'n historiese aanwinst vir enige belangstellende in die geskiedenis van die dorp, wat so nou met water verbind word. Ek is verheug om te noem dat die strooibiljet wat die boek bemark, die eerste prys in die Suid-Afrikaanse Museum Vereniging (SAMA) se ontwerpkompetisie gewen het!

Van ons grootse uitgawes bly die munisipale rekening en die versekeringspremie. Hierdie is ongelukkig deel van ons daaglikse operasionele uitgawes wat jaarliks verhoog.

We were once again the recipients of a *Rupert Historic Homes Foundation* grant when this organization fully funded the maintenance of the thatch roofs of Urquhart House and Reinet House. We remain indebted to the Historic Homes Foundation for their generosity, but also particularly for their understanding that we cannot do our job without the support of our partners in heritage.

Our educational programmes experienced a revival after Covid and during the year, we welcomed a number of local schools but also schools further afield. As previously mentioned, our Rock Art Exhibition brought a new perspective to the Rock Art educational Programme and as always, the little ones enjoyed the gardens and dressing-up in our B-collection for photographs. For the remainder of the year our visitors were still obliged to follow the national Covid-19 regulations according to Lockdown Levels and the museum strictly adhered to this protocol despite the occasional resistance.

Our Facebook page is doing very well, despite the fact that we had to establish a new page in 2021 due to a glitch in the Facebook operating system. We most certainly lost a few followers but gain more when a good friend and I decided to establish a Graaff-Reinet History page to augment The Facebook page of the Museum. This was a great success and attracted followers the likes of a certain Mr Rupert and a well-known history professor. Ms van Wyk also made her successful television debut on the cooking programme *Karoo Kombuis* which aired on the DSTV channel *Kyknet*. This was a wonderful marketing opportunity and Ms van Wyk did a sterling job. At the same time we are also indebted to The Graaff-Reinet Advertiser for always affording print space to the museum and its activities.

The Board of Trustees under the leadership of Mr Whitlock remained a huge support during this difficult time. It is an absolute honor to work with such a dedicated group of museum enthusiast and I look forward to many fruitful years ahead. The number of meetings during the year was reduced due to Covid-19 regulations but the BOT WhatsApp group came in handy and we were adapting quite quickly to this new way of communicating.

We also extend our gratitude for their unwavering support to The Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture and especially Mr Monwabisi Kobese, Mr Sltati Gitywa and Mr Lindixiwa Mahlalela, who has travelled all the way from King Williams Town to be with us here today. It is our wish that the upgrade of

this museum although reflected in our subsidy will be made official real soon since this paper, as they say, would just be the last stamp of approval to confirm our new status as a provincial museum.

With regard to staff matters, during this period Ms van Wyk had to undergo major surgery but was soon back at her post again. In January 2022 I lost a beloved sister in law to cancer. My fellow colleagues are like family and I doubt this will be such a fantastic place of work without them, when we work we do it wholeheartedly and when we laugh and joke we do it abundantly.



Me. Patricia Blouw tydens haar afskeidsgeselligheid

Vandag vind ek dit uiters moeilik om totsiens aan 'n dierbare en geliefde kollega te sê. Mejuffrou Patricia Blouw het besluit om aan die einde van Desember 2022 af te tree. Die besluit was alreeds 'n jaar vantevore geneem maar toe ek so smee en trane stort, het sy besluit om vir nog 'n jaar aan te bly.

Ons albei het in 1997 voltyds by die museum begin werk. So tussen die werk deur het ons ook mekaar se sorge gedeel. Saam gehuil en gelag oor onder andere geliefdes, sterftes en geboortes. Vandag, tydens jou laaste Algemene Jaarvergadering by die museum, wens ek dat die Liewe Heer altyd sal reën gee vir jou werf, dat Hy jou sal behoed en bewaar en altyd aan jou lewe kleur sal gee. Dat jou lampie sal skyn soos altyd en dat jy die liefde wat daar vir ander in jou hart altyd sal uitleef. Daar lê 'n nuwe hoofstuk voor en ek weet jy gaan die beste daarvan maak. Ek wens jou alles van die beste toe Aunty Pat, maar weet net ons gaan jou teenwoordigheid baie mis.

Dames en here die volledige jaarverslag sal op ons webblad en Facebookblad beskikbaar wees. Dit sal ook aan elke individu op ons adreslys gepos word. Maak dus seker dat u naam op die adreslys is. Die volledige jaarverslag lees as volg :



FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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I am very happy to report that our financial statements corroborate the fact that the museum is financially secure and stable. This can primarily be attributed to the 123% increase in the annual subsidy received from the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture (DSRAC) in 2021, which almost eradicated the financial struggles of the past. At present our biggest concern is to maintain the financial health of the institution, to increase visitor numbers, but also to utilise the additional funds to preserve this valuable heritage resource.

Although our income has not attain pre-pandemic levels, *The Rupert Covid Relief* fund were applied to meaningful projects such as the publication of *The Van Rynveld's Pas's Dam* book and building repairs and maintenance work, whilst the remainder of the funds was invested in a separate contingency account.

Apart from the daily operational requirement, the subsidy mainly funded the upgrade of the archival repository, which consisted of the installation of additional shelving and the relocation of lighting, but also a general upgrade of the security system. A high municipal account has become the norm and this, coupled with the high insurance premium, the telephone account and salaries of two Board of Trustee employees and relief staff, comprised a huge portion of our monthly expenditure.

Currently the museum derived its income from admission fees, sales from the museum shop, rental from The Graaff-Reinet Tourism Office, and sporadic catering and fundraising events.

In December 2021 the Yoco and cardless payment Snapscan were implemented/ These new payment methods are undoubtedly very popular but has always saved us an inordinate amount of time on counting and banking cash admission. The majority of payment is currently cashless.

OPERASIONELE FUNKSIES

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OPVOEDKUNDIGE PROGRAMME

Die begin van April 2021, ongeveer 'n jaar nadat die eerste Covid-19 geval in die land aangemeld is, het die museum die stadige maar sekere terugkeer van leerders beleef.



Union Voorbereidingskool besoek Reinethuis

Die Covid-sifting proses waaraan alle openbare instellings volgens die bepaalde inperkingsregulasies moes voldoen, het aanvanklik baie probleme veroorsaak en dit was veral problematies om toe te sien dat die nodige afstand tussen leerders gehandhaaf word. Na verskeie probeerslae is die siftingsproses vergemaklik deurdat skole onderneem het om leerders voor hul museumbesoek te skandeer en toe te sien dat die nodige vorms ingevul en leerders in subgroepe verdeel word. Kleiner groepe het egter beteken dat ons dieselfde lesings verskeie kere per dag moes aanbied. Die besoeke het egter in Julie 2021 opgedroog, toe die inperkingsvlakregulasies verdere museumbesoeke verbied.

In November 2021 het ons egter in samewerking met die weners van die *Rupert Social Art Prize* 'n reeks opvoedkundige werksinkels oor die San gemeenskap en hulle soeke na water by drie verskillende skole in die dorp aangebied, toe nuwe inperkingsregulasies dit toelaat. Tydens hierdie werksinkels is die kort, maar aangrypende flik *Tears become Rain* aan die leerlinge vertoon. Hierdie geleentheid is dan ook afgesluit met 'n openbare vertoning van die flik aan lede van die publiek agter Reinethuis. Die voorkant van die meulhuis het 'n geskikte skerm vir die flikvertoning gebied. Die kommentaar op sosiale media was oorweldigend positief en dit was voorwaar 'n voorreg om deel van hierdie projek, wat tydens die inperkingstyd 'n aanvang geneem het, te wees. Die flik het 'n staande ovasie ontlok.

As deel van die nabetraging oor die flik en die impak wat dit op die Graaff-Reinet gemeenskap gehad het, het ek 'n aanlyn bespreking oor die simboliek van die flik, die herkoms van die San en die betekenis van die flik vir die San gemeenskap van Graaff-Reinet gelei. Hierdie projek se positiewe effek sal nog lank beleef word.¹

Teen Februarie 2022 was die strawwe Covid-19 maatreëls iets van die verlede en het ons die eerste groep leerders van daardie jaar op 16 en 18 Februarie verwelkom waartydens hulle die kenmerkende Karoo huisie van karton kon aanmekaar sit. Op daardie stadium was die vakleerlinge wat in November 2021 deur die Department van Toerisme aangestel is al deeglik ingeburger en het hulle die program behartig wat ons taak aansienlik vergemaklik het.

Leerdergetalle is duidelik deur die pandemie gekelder en het dit aan die einde van die boekjaar geensins die vlak van voor-Covid statistieke bereik nie.

¹ Hierdie bespreking kan by <https://tearsbecomerain.latitudes.online/> gevolg word.

VERBINTENIS TOT DIENSLEWERING

Alhoewel instap-navorsers gedurende hierdie periode beperk is deur die inperkingsmaatreëls, is verskeie versoeke elektronies ontvang. Navorsers van 'n dokumentêre flik is selfs gedurende hierdie periode van argivale materiaal wat onder andere 'n SABC opname ingesluit het, voorsien. Navorsing was oorwegend genealogies van aard alhoewel verskeie navorsingsversoeke oor spesifieke historiese gebeure of verskynsels gehandel het. Dit sluit onder meer die opening van die pad na die Vallei van Verlatenheid, Oubergpas, die Mansklub en die Grootkerk in .



Haldane Murray se grafsteen in Tanzanië

Een van die mees interessantste navrae het oor Haldane Murray wat in 1916 gedurende die Oos-Afrika-veldtog omgekom het, gehandel. Die uiteinde van hierdie versoek is dat die museum 'n foto van Haldane aan die *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* verskaf het wat die foto as deel van 'n opvoedkundige program sal gebruik. Lees gerus meer oor Haldane Murray op ons Facebook-blad.²

² <https://www.facebook.com/104779454989609https://www.facebook.com/104779454989609/posts/the-murray-family-reunion-is-scheduled-to-take-place-from-07-to-11-july-2022-in-/356117436522475//posts/the-murray-family-reunion-is-scheduled-to-take-place-from-07-to-11-july-2022-in-/356117436522475/>

COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

The FISA (Fiduciary Institute of South Africa) Exhibition, established during the lockdown period attracted a good amount of visitors. The opening, held at the end of the fiscal year 2021, was quite a triumph, but at the back of our minds the large group of people in attendance remained a cause of concern. Immediately after the opening, lockdown regulations became more stringent, but this exhibition has once again secured our position on the museum map and the Board of Trustees is very grateful that this museum was selected for this project. Not only is the FISA exhibition a huge attraction the media coverage that accompanied the opening and establishment of the exhibition was a significant plus point.

Another exhibition which began to take shape amidst strict lockdown regulations, was the upgrade of The Stone Age and Rock exhibition featuring the Townley Johnson Collection.



Toetie Dow cutting the ribbon with the assistance of Peter Whitlock
at the opening of the new Rock Art Exhibition

With the help of various key role players such as The Rupert Art Foundation, the amazing graphic designer from *Country Mouse Design* Ms Nicola Woods, artist Ms Liesl King, renowned archaeologist Dr. Graham Avery and Dr. David Woods and the museum staff, the exhibition was completed in record time. The opening coincided with the Annual General meeting, held in November of 2021. The museum is especially indebted to the Rupert Museum for the use of 26 Rock Art images from their Townley Johnson collection which now forms the focal point of the display. This exhibition was the highlight of the year and we are indebted to the DSRAC for funding the cost of the entire upgrade. Please visit this exhibition or read more about it on our Facebook post of 25 November 2021.³

Quite a number of significant artifacts were donated to the museum. These items were meticulously recorded and assimilated into our collection as part of an exhibition or placed in archival storage. Special mention has to be made of the two water colour portraits of Prof. Jan Felix Lategan and his wife, a small collection of farm and other implements by Mrs Elizabeth Voster, an entire collection of historical documents in bags from the archive of the *Grootkerk* as well as a collection of miniature wagons including a superb replica of a postal carriage.

Another highlight of this period was the painting of the Voorkamer of Reinet House and changing the exhibition, which was augmented with all the newly acquired artifacts from various donors. These included family portraits, leather bounded Bibles, and two tea and coffee sets donated by Dr. Isobel Mc Dougal, a Murray descendant. The staff was hard at work for a day or two and the result was very refreshing. We also changed the reception area of Reinet house and created additional space for space in compliance with the Covid-19 safety protocols.

³ <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063792652994>

November 2021 witnessed the annual intake of tourism monitors, a project piloted by the Department of Tourism. With four additional pairs of hands, Prof. Johannes Haarhof was able to continue his work on the digitization of the photographic material. The attention shifted to all the images in albums and the new tourism monitors were tasked to list and categorize all the albums and providing them with sequential numbers. Considerable progress were made in this regard during their internship period, as they also commenced cataloguing all images on exhibition.



2021 / 22
TOURISM
MONITORS

The museum collection both on exhibition and in storage, is in pristine order. The posterity of these historical items is depended on daily cleaning, monthly fumigation and thorough and frequent scrutiny. Rev Basson's ox wagon was maintained, the copper and silverware at Reinet Hose have been given a thorough cleaning and all artefacts on exhibition were subjected to the same treatment. New acquisitions

spent time in the fumigation chamber before being assimilated into the collection. Daily housekeeping is at the order of the day despite a shortage of staff which often impedes the best of our intentions. We are however, often on the receiving end of compliments and accolades about our collections and the exceptional condition of our collections.

DIE UURGLAS

Alhoewel slegs een Uurglas die lig gesien het, was dit 'n uitgawe propvol interessante inligting wat digitaal versprei is. Die pandemie het talle veranderinge genoodsaak en dit het selfs die verspreiding van 'n harde kopie van ons gunsteling nuusbriëf ook gekelder. Gelukkig het baie van ons aanhangers toegang tot die internet en het hulle dus groter waardering vir die digitale kopie gehad omdat dit ook makliker elektronies gedeel kon word.

PARTNERSHIPS

Our partnership with the Department of Tourism was renewed with the November 2021 intake of tourism monitors. 4 monitors reported for duty for a yearlong internship programme. They would receive in-service training in the tour guiding, customer care and visitor liaison.

The Local Tourism Office is still renting a space at The Old Library whilst keeping an eye on the museum and its visitors. The pandemic also impacted this organisation negatively and the Board Of Trustees agreed not to implement an increase in rental fee.

During this period, we were once again made aware of the valuable partnership we have cemented with the Rupert Foundation over the past few years. Not only did the Rupert Historic Homes Foundation fund the cost of recompacting the thatch roofs, but a new loan agreement for the Townley Johnson art work currently on exhibition at The Old Library, was also signed. The museum is extremely grateful

for their continued support and from our side we will adhere to our promise of sustainable conservation and heritage resource management.

The Graaff-Reinet Museum remains a part of The Eastern Cape Museum Collective, as well as other heritage institutions. As such we persist in our commitment to reciprocal dissemination of information pertaining policies, museology, vacant posts and funding opportunities between the museum fraternity locally and abroad. Of particular interest is our ties with the Sobukwe Museum, The Rupert Museum in Stellenbosch and Graaff-Reinet, The Graaff-Reinet Heritage Society, The Owl House and Fossil Centre in Nieu-Bethesda and The Landesmuseum in Hannover, Germany.

UITREIKINGSPROGRAMME

Uitreikingsprogramme is hoofsaaklik beperk tot virtuele programme. Die museum het die publiek probeer betrek deur historiese inligting op die Facebookblad te deel wat onder andere nuusbrieffartikels en bydraes van die publiek ingesluit het. Die nuwe *Graaff-Reinet History*-blad is ook in 2021 geskep omdat museumbesoeke drasties gedaal het en ons 'n manier moes vind om die publiek van die belangrike rol wat die Museum in die gemeenskap speel, te herinner. Die blad het binne 'n rekordtyd een duisend lede gewerf en tydens 'n spesiale geleentheid gereël deur die Graaff-Reinet Erfenisvereniging het, is ek versoek om die ontstaan van die blad te bespreek. Dit was a gulde geleentheid om die blad en die museum te bemark.

Een van die hoogtepunte hierdie jaar was die publikasie van die eerste volwaardige museumpublikasie: *The Construction of the Van Ryneveld's Pass Dam*. Hierdie boek is 'n inisiatief van Prof. Johannes Haarhoff na aanleiding van 'n vier-jaar lange projek wat die digitalisering van die museum se fotografiese versameling behels het en ook deur Prof. Haarhoff van stapel gestuur is. Die boek bestaan uit

'n versameling historiese foto's uit hoofsaaklik die William Roe versameling wat die bou van die dam in Graaff-Reinet beskryf.

Die boek is deur verskeie akademiese geresenseer en is amptelik op 02 Desember 2021 tydens 'n spesiale geleentheid bekend gestel. Die strooibiljet wat die boek bemark het ook die Suid-Afrikaanse Museum vereniging se ontwerp-kompetisie vir strooibiljette en brosjures in September 2021 verower.

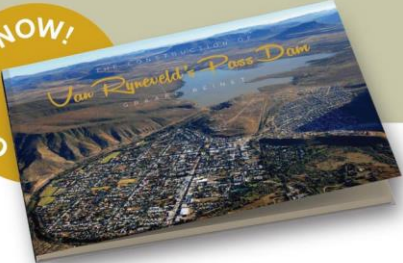
Die digitalisering van die fotografiese versameling onder die bekwame leiding van Prof. Haarhoff is gedurende hierdie periode dan ook deur die toerisme moniters voortgesit en die aandag is verskuif na die foto's in albums en op uitstallings. Al die albums is volgens grotes, beskrywings en temas gekategoriseer en 'n katalogus is opgestel.

Intussen is die AtoM (Access to memory) Argief opgegradeer en van die foto's uit die versameling wat alreeds gedigitaliseer is, is op hierdie platform opgelaa. Enige persoon wat dus toegang tot die internet en 'n dataverbinding het, kan hierdie platform gebruik. Die digitalisering van die koerant-volumes het ook 'n aanvang geneem en 'n proeflopie geborg deur


Die Graaff-Reinet Erfenisvereniging het belowend gelyk. Die Museum sal egter bykomende befondsing moet verkry om hierdie taak aan te pak wat in samewerking met die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek, waar volledige volumes van hierdie koerante geberg word, gedoen sal word.

A riveting read!
Uncover the fascinating, historically accurate course of action taken to supply water from the Sundays River to Graaff-Reinet.

ON SALE NOW!



THE CONSTRUCTION OF
Van Ryneveld's Pass Dam
GRAAFF-REINET



An annotated selection of historical photographs depicting the building of the dam, known as Nqweba Dam since 2001, which supplied free-flowing water to all the properties of the urban centre.

A publication of the
Graaff-Reinet
MUSEUM

Die van Ryneveldpasdam-strooibiljet

Ons fliekvertonings het hierdie jaar ook 'n dokumentêr ingesluit wat binne twee weke na die *Tears become Rain* fliek-vertoning by Reinethuis gehou is. Dit is gebaseer op navorsing wat Dr. Magda Minguzzi, verbonde aan die Nelson Mandela Universiteit in Gqeberha, onder the Eerste Mense van die gebied gedoen het. Die titel van die dokumentêr is *Origins: An Investigation into Khoi-San Heritage Sites*.



Tydens die opening van die dokumentêr: *Origins: An Investigation into Khoi-San Heritage Sites*

Tydens die geleentheid is 'n Khoi-San ritueel uitgevoer en leerders het die gaste met tradisionele Khoi-San danse beïndruk. Ook is 'n lied deur 'n plaaslike kunstenaar, Leon Jaftha geskryf, wat die waarde van die behoud van die Khoi-San tale bepleit het, bekendgestel. Dit was 'n baie emosionele geleentheid wat groot byval onder die plaaslike Khoi-San gemeenskap gevind het.

MARKETING AND MEDIA

During the period under review, the museum encouraged a number of significant engagements in the local and other media. The local newspaper, *The Graaff-Reinet Advertiser* is our primary partner in this regard and afforded print space to the opening of the Rock Art and FISA exhibitions and The Annual General Meeting. The FISA exhibition in particular, also featured in an April issue of *The Eastern Cape Herald* and was afforded additional airtime on the radio station *Algoa FM*. We remain grateful to the Public Relations Team of FISA under the expert guidance of Lucy Rayburn, who created this marketing opportunity for the museum well into the new financial year.

A particular highlight this year was when Miss van Wyk made her television debut on 10 June 2021 on the cooking programme *Karoo Kombuis* which aired on KykNET. She did an exemplary job as she was quite at ease, confident and very knowledgeable about Reinet House. The programme had a re-run in July 2021 which afforded the museum double the publicity and invited many visitors to our door.



A scene from the *Karoo Kombuis* filmed at Reinet house

Our social media pages are going strong. The 1000th member to the Graaff-Reinet History page was awarded with free admission to the museum complex. He and his family was ecstatic and enjoyed the visit tremendously.

ADMINISTRATION

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees has entered the third year of their term of office which commenced in 2019. The Board is functioning optimally, but also effortlessly. Each member brings a special skill. Set to the table ranging from expertise in heritage and museology, community involvement, arts and craft and finances. We are extremely grateful for their support during very challenging times brought on by the pandemic. During all of this they remained steadfast and calm under the expert guidance of Mr Peter Whitlock, the chairman of the board.

Their term of office will be entering a much calmer period as the financial woes which characterized the past ten years will soon be a problem of the past with the increase in subsidy. I am confident that they will live up to their reputation of managing the museum with care and consideration.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Administrative tasks continued during this period. It primarily consisted of various monitoring meetings as well as board meetings every second month. All management meetings were held virtually and as such it was extremely cost-effective and time efficient. At the Board meetings and two-weekly staff meetings Covid-19 safety precautions were implemented and many of us struggled to comprehend what was being said behind the ever-present mask. The absence of refreshments also reminded all of the safety precautions we were compelled to adhere to. Lockdown level one and the discontinuation of mask only became a reality later that year.

All Performance Management Reviews were timeously submitted and the leave records updated and maintained. By January 2022 we were compelled to submit all reviews online and we duly complied. The new online platform known as *Isisele*, experienced various and regular glitches which was a cause for concern. This however, was combatted with a manual leave and PMDS record system.

Miss Denise van Wyk deserves a special accolade for her diligent and sterling work as the museum's financial officer. Her work is of a high standard and as a result the auditing process is a straightforward and uncomplicated one.

Regular narrative and financial reports were also submitted quarterly as part of the monitoring process. These reports also included visitor and learner statistics. Since this museum is now regarded as one of the five large provincial museums of the province, regular semester reports were also presented at managerial level. To date the board of trustees were not officially informed about the newly upgraded status of the museum and await correspondence in this regard.

PERSONEEL AANGELEENTHEDE

In Mei 2021 is 'n dringende memorandum uitgestuur waarin alle personeel versoek is om vir diens aan te meld. Die personeel van die Graaff-Reinet Museum het intussen alreeds in September 2020 vir diens aangemeld. Alhoewel inentings teen Covid-19 geensins verpligtend was nie, het alle personeellede verkies om teen die virus ingeënt te word, dus het hulle nie nodig gehad om deel te neem aan die geskeduleerde inentingsprogram wat deur die Department van stapel gestuur is nie. Teen 17 Januarie 2022 is daar dus besluit om na normale besigheidsure terug te keer.

Vir baie van ons was die terugkeer na normale werksure 'n uitdaging en het dit tyd in beslag geneem om daaraan gewoond te raak. Ons het aanvanklik vroeg gesluit omdat ons as 'n Covid-19 maatreël nie die

perseel kon verlaat tydens die etensuur nie en verplig was om op die perseel te bly. Ons het egter vinnig daaraan gewoond geraak en die normaliteit van gewone werksure verwelkom.

Soos reeds oor verslag gedoen, het ons weer as gasheer opgetree vir vier toerisme monitors wat as deel van 'n opleidingsprogram deur die Department van Toerisme, aangestel is. Die museum gaan gebuk onder 'n personeeltekort wat met die verplasing van 'n personeellid in 2020, vererger het. Die toerisme monitors sou hoofsaaklik gemoeid wees met opvoedkundige programme en as toergidse diens doen. Dit sou hopelik die druk op die personeel verlig. Hulle het dus in November 2021 aangetree en was van groot hulp toe Me. van Wyk 'n operasie moes ondergaan. Prof. Haarhoff het ook baie tyd met die monitors spandeer en het hoofsaaklik daarop gekonsentreer om hulle vir die arbeidsmark voor te berei, 'n gaping waaraan daar nie op skool aandag geskenk word nie. Hy het onder meer gekonsentreer op die verskillende vaardighede wat jong mense kan aanleer en ontwikkel, hoe om 'n begroting uit te werk en hoe om 'n gesonde nuuskierigheid aan te kweek, veral oor die werk waarin jy jou bevind. Sy hulp in hierdie opsig word baie waardeer.

Die aflospersoneel, Mnr. Brian Le Potha en Me Sharmein Visagie, het weer diens gedurende naweke en openbare vakansie dae hervat nadat ons noodgewonge hul dienste tydens die Covid-pandemie moes beëindig. Alhoewel dit 'n uiters moeilike besluit was om te neem, het hulle verstaan dat die museum nie oor die nodige fondse beskik het om hulle langer in diens te hou nie. Gelukkig het die verhoogde subsidie ons toegelaat om hulle kontrakte redelik spoedig te hernu. Ons bly hulle ewig dankbaar vir die lojaliteit teenoor die museum en ons sien uit na 'n wonderlike werksverhouding vorentoe.



FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

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It was quite a momentous task to get the museum precinct into the same excellent order as before the pandemic. The closure of the museum during the height of the pandemic, coupled with an extensive drought made the task even more challenging. By September 2021 Mr van Rhyners had the gardens well in hand and the increase in funding from the Department allowed the Board of Trustees to identify areas which required conservation and restoration.

We immediately embarked on mending all the leaking roofs, with special attention given to the roofs of Reinet House and the Old Library where a leaking roof would have created havoc with the mural of the Rock Art exhibition.. All the alarm systems were also subjected to a maintenance check and upgraded where necessary to combat the spike of crime in the vicinity of Reinet House.

One of the biggest maintenance projects of this period was the recompaction of the thatch roofs. We are indebted and grateful to *The Rupert Historic Homes Foundation* who funded this restoration project with an amount of R221 990.

Routine maintenance work amounted to significant expenditure. The maintenance burden was increased when the ablution facilities suffered major damage when stop cocks and fittings were vandalised and or stolen. Locks were also damaged and required replacement as well as doors at Reinet House which bore the marks of attempted forced entry. Break-ins remain an enormous headache for staff and additional time is allotted every morning to scrutinize every corner of the premises for tell-tale signs of attempted break-ins.

At the end of the financial year, the precinct including collections and gardens, were in pristine order which elicited many compliments from visitors. We remain committed to the conservation and restoration of the museum and we will do everything in our power to

ensure its longevity. We take our custodianship ship of this wonderful heritage resource, very seriously.



BEDANKINGS

Die museum is weer op die been na 'n baie moeilike jaar. Dit was voorwaar 'n oorlewingstryd en een van die grootste faktore wat ons staande gehou het, was die befondsing van Die *Rupert Historiese Huise Stigting* gedurende die pandemie ontvang.

Dank gaan ook aan Die Departement van Sport, Ontspanning, Kuns en Kultuur vir die aansienlike styging in die jaarlikse subsiede. Dit maak voorwaar deure oop en maak dit vir ons moontlik om berge te versit. Ons pak verseker ons taak as die bewaarders van erfenis met nuwe ywer aan.

Danksy befondsing van mense wat erfenisbewaring op die hart dra en al ons vriende van die museum wat deel is van 'n wonderlike gemeenskap, het ons as 'n span hier by die museum nuwe lus en ywer om die jaar aan te pak. Ons sien verseker uit daarna!

Ek dank u.

VISITOR STATISTICS:

APRIL 2021 – MARCH 2022

Month	No. of SA Adults	No. of Children	School Outreach Programmes	Foreign Visitors	Total
April	297	105	2	3	405
May	237	88	1	1	326
June	148	8	0	0	156
July	17	3	0	0	20
August	209	26	0	0	235
September	255	27	0	6	288
October	295	28	0	9	332
November	280	12	0	6	298
December	414	138	1	13	565
January	393	28	0	6	421
February	241	79	1	7	327
March	235	25	0	12	272

Visitor Statistics: April 2021 - March 2022

