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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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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)
Vacant	-	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 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.

Peter Whitlock

Chairman of the Board

06 July 2023



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE MUSEUM

Dear Chairperson, Members of the Board, Mr Mahlasela, Our guest speaker Prof. Grab, Friends of the Museum and Colleagues

The Annual General Meeting is always such an auspicious occasion for the museum staff. It is the culmination of weeks of preparation with considerable time being allocated to what we will be offering in the way of refreshments: a very important consideration indeed. However, we also put our noses to the grindstone to ensure that our financial statements are completed timeously, minutes and agendas distributed and that this important event appears in all your Facebook feeds and in Instagram and twitter accounts.

With this having been said, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 66th Annual General meeting less than eight months after the last AGM, held in November 2022. We had to reconsider the date of the AGM as attendees seem to dwindle in the summer months. Today, I am however, very glad to note the much improved attendance. Ladies and gentleman, your attendance is, as always, highly appreciated.

The past year has been both challenging and transformative for the Graaff-Reinet Museum. We have been plagued by terrible burglaries,

attempted burglaries and random acts of vandalism. My computer and our generator, amongst other lesser items, were lost to burglars. The National Monuments Plaques were targeted by vandals and scrap metal thieves. The damage caused by the break-ins, and abortive break-ins, was devastating and adversely influenced our finances, day-to-day operation and have exposed all the shortcomings in our security system. We however, took immediate measures to enhance our security protocols which included the installation of additional external security beams, perimeter lighting and the installation of an entirely new security system in the outbuildings at Reinet House. We have thankfully not experienced burglaries recently, but must remain vigilant nonetheless. All staff members are also now familiar with the plethora of new security systems as safeguarding the premises, and our valuable collection is, as always, a shared responsibility and one that is of the utmost importance to all.

Ons finansiële posisie blyk stabiel te wees en tot dusvêr is daar geen rede tot kommer nie. Die volledige verslag wat kort na hierdie vergadering beskikbaar sal wees, dui daarop dat besoekersgetalle aansienlik gestyg het en dat ons wel weer die voor-Covid merk bereik het. Die groot oorsese groepe wat sowat 'n dekade gelede die museum besoek het, is ongelukkig iets van die verlede en die grootste groepe wat die museum tans besoek is beperk tot tussen tien en twintig individue. Reinethuis bly die grootste aantrekkingskrag gevolg deur die Ou Residensie, Die Militêre Geskiedenis Museum, Urquharthuis en dan die Ou Biblioteek. Besoekersgetalle by die ou Biblioteek het drasties afgeneem, selfs gedurende spitstye soos Stoeptasting-naweek en gedurende die feestyd. Ons grootste uitgawes gedurende die fiskale jaar sluit in, onder andere, enorme munisipale kostes, ons versekeringspremie en bybetalings op verskeie versekeringseise. Tog doen ons ons uiterste bes om ons finansies op 'n volhoubare wyse te bestuur en is sekere koste-effektiewe maatreëls geïmplementeer soos om energiebesparende gloeilampe te installeer, papierverbruik te verminder deur byvoorbeeld nuusbriewe, jaarverslae en notules aanlyn en digitaal beskikbaar te stel asook die digitalisering van ander administratiewe prosesse. Vergaderings met die Departement word

tans hoofsaaklik op 'n aanlynplatform aangebied, liefers as om lang afstande te ry, wat uiters kostebesparend is.

Despite all of these obstacles, we have consistently endeavoured to fulfill our mission of preserving and promoting cultural heritage. The museum's diverse exhibitions and programs, for example, aim to engage visitors of all ages and background by offering a rich exploratory experience of cultural history. One of the highlights of the past year was the opening of the Frederick Emmanuel Hufkie Permanent Exhibition. This exhibition captures the essence of Graaff-Reinet's struggle history: as a rugby ignorant Hufkie's involvement in the transformation of national rugby was a particular revelation to me. The opening ceremony, which attracted more than 200 people, and the bust of Rev Hufkie of which the museum is now the honoured custodian, are the products of a magnanimous effort of a group of alumni of Spandau High School. During the course of the year, we also mounted *The dress that made her a Missus* exhibition, a new Victorian wedding dress exhibition and the van der Merwe Cinematographic exhibition at the Old Residency. The latter was augmented by QR code labels which can be scanned by any smartphone device to obtain additional information. Our educational programme was revised to include a new component: a colouring-in programme for pres-schoolers and learners with challenges. We also partnered with local schools to provide curriculum-aligned programmes, reaching a significant number of learners and educators in this manner.

Een van die hoogtepunte gedurende die periode onder bespreking, is die boekbindings-slypskool wat in Augustus 2022 deur die veteraanboekbinder George Wentzel, in samewerking met die Rupert Museum, gehou is. Die slypskool, wat beperk is tot 20 deelnemers, het groot byval gevind en het slegs positiewe kommentaar ontlok. Dus is daar besluit om die werkswinkel weer hierdie jaar in Augustus aan te bied en word u hartlik genooi om hierdie kans van 'n leeftyd te benut en so spoedig moontlik daarvoor te registreer.

In Julie 2022 het ons ook die Murray-familie terugverwelkom by Reinethuis, die huis van hul stamvader Andrew Murray, tydens die 200

jarige herdenking van sy aankoms in Graaff-Reinet. Dit was voorwaar 'n baie spesiale geleentheid en ter voorbereiding is Reinethuis opgeknop en is daar ook onderhoudswerk aan die binnekant van die gebou gedoen, nuwe etikette aangebring, foto-collages hernu en uitstallings verander. Bykans 300 afstammeling van Andrew Murray het die geleentheid bygewoon wat ons besoekersgetalle en toegangsfooie 'n hupstoot gegee het. Nie net het Reinethuis 'n lekseltjie verf gekry nie, maar daar was genoeg fondse tot ons beskikking om aandag aan Urquharthuis en die Ou Residensie ook te skenk. Selfs ons waterwiel is nou weer, na 'n lang periode van ongebruik, in 'n werkende toestand tot groot vermaak van oud en jonk. Tans is die museumkompleks in 'n besonders goeie toestand en is die kommentaar in die verband slegs positief.

With regard to our collections, I am happy to report that the museum archive recently underwent a remarkable upgrade, thanks to the efforts of our skilled volunteer, Prof. Johannes Haarhoff. Prof. Haarhoff's expertise and handiness were put to excellent use as he spearheaded the construction of new shelving units, specifically designed to accommodate our extensive collection. With meticulous care, he ensured that each shelf was sturdy and tailored to meet the archival requirements. Our dedicated team simultaneously undertook the colossal task of relabeling every archival container, the entire process bringing a new sense of order and accessibility to the collection. The containers, once scattered and disorganized, now proudly bear accurate and consistent labels, facilitating efficient retrieval of historical artifacts. In addition to the meticulous relabeling and paper replacement, the team organized all containers and portraits systematically, and the newspaper collection chronologically. This new arrangement allows for easy navigation through the archive, creating a coherent timeline of historical events and milestones. Thanks to the invaluable contribution of Prof. Haarhoff and the collaborative efforts of our dedicated personnel team, the museum archive now stands as a testament to their unwavering commitment to the preservation of our rich heritage. Researchers, scholars, and enthusiasts alike can now delve into our collection with ease, discovering the captivating stories of the past in a space that reflects the importance of our cultural legacy.

Die personeel was begeester deur die nuus dat die Graaff-Reinet Museum verhoogde status, as een van die vyf groot provinsiale museums, verkry het. Dit het harde werk en bloedsweet gekos om die pas vol te hou met 'n beperkte organogram en geen vooruitsig van nuwe aanstellings nie. Daar is groot dank verskuldig aan elke lid van die personeel wat so bereidwillig (en vol entoesiasme) is om die ekstra myl te loop. Tussen die slegs nege van ons, wat in Desember 2022 verminder het na slegs agt as gevolg van Me. Blouw se aftrede, het ons daarin geslaag om 'n ongekwalfiseerde oudit verslag te kry, deel te hê aan 'n erfenis braaibroodjie-kompetisie, twee keer televisie-verskynings te maak, 'n paar keer die plaaslike koerant te haal en nog steeds aandag aan al ons daaglikse take te gee. Baie baie dankie aan ieder en elk. Julle is ongelooflik en saam hou ons mekaar se hande hoog. In dieselfde asem wil ek graag ons dank aan 'n wonderlike, vreeslose Trusteeraad, onder leiding van Mnr. Peter Whitlock, uitspreek. Julle is die ruggraat van hierdie museum en dit skop 'n mens nie agter elke bos uit nie. Ek bid die Liewe Heer se seën oor elkeen van julle toe, nie net die raad nie, maar ook elke kollega wat help om hierdie wa deur die drif te trek.

In conclusion, we extend our gratitude to the community, museum patrons, the department of Sport Recreation, Arts and Culture, law enforcement, and all our partners and stakeholders for their unwavering support and cooperation during these challenging times. We remain committed to preserving and promoting heritage and history. Our promise remains to adapt, innovate and engage with our audiences to ensure that the legacy we received endures. We look forward to another eventful year and we hope that we can count, as always, on you unwavering support.

Here follows a detailed report:



FINANSIËLE AANGELEENTHEDE:

Soos uit die finansiële state blyk, is die museum se finansiële posisie stabiel. Dit verg egter harde werk, omdat die subsidie nie altyd in al ons behoeftes voorsien nie. Daar moet uiters konserwatief met die huidige begroting omgegaan word en bly die onderhoud van die museum-kompleks en uitstallings asook die salarisse van Trusteeraad-personeel, ons prioriteit.

Nuwe uitstallings en die modernisering van uitstalruimtes sal byvoorbeeld glad nie deur ons huidige subsidie gedek kan word nie omdat operasionele kostes soos 'n enorme munisipale rekening en versekeringspremie alreeds meer as die helfte van die departementele befondsing in beslag neem. Befondsing vir groter projekte soos die opgradering van uitstallings en broodnodige onderhoudswerk, bly maar beperk.

Tog het ons daarin geslaag om onderhoudswerk aan Reinethuis en Urquharthuis te doen (ten bedrae van ongeveer R50 000), om die waterwiel weer in 'n werkende toestand te kry, om die slawe-uitstalling in rame te monteer en om rakke vir die argief te bou. Soos reeds genoem, is baie dank aan Prof. Haarhoff verskuldig wat uit afval palet-hout van die Montego-groep die rakke met behulp van Mnr. Van Rhyners aanmekaargeslaan het.

Die jaarlikse subsidie is eers in Junie gedeponeer. Hierdie vertraging veroorsaak dat ons baie uitdagings, hoofsaaklik van 'n finansiële aard die hoof moet bied. Een van ons grootste uitdagings was beurtkrag en moes ons inderhaas planne beraam om hierdie kopseer die hoof te bied. Met die hulp van Prof. Haarhoff het ons die moontlike aankope van elektrisiteit-omskakelaars begin ondersoek en gewapen met hierdie kennis het ons die nodige aankope gedoen. Beide Urquharthuis en die Ou Residensie het hierby baat gevind en kon ons ononderbroke met ons werk aangaan.

Ons finansiële situasie het egter 'n groot knou gekry toe die museum die teken van inbrekers word. In drie afsonderlike voorvalle is daar by Reinethuis, Urquharthuis en die Ou Biblioteek ingebreek, wat telkens tot groot skade gelei het. Die grootse terugslag was toe my rekenaar tydens een van hierdie inbrake gesteel is en die elektrisiteit-omskakelaar onherroeplik beskadig is. Die verlies van inligting wat oor twee dekades versamel is, was onbeskryflik. Die hoeveelheid data op hierdie rekenaar was van so 'n aard dat dit nie op 'n Google stoorruimte gestoor kon word nie. Om bykomende stoorruimte te koop, was eenvoudig te duur. Gelukkig het die versekering die onkoste vir die vervanging van my rekenaar gedek, asook die vervanging van gesteelde items en die herstel van deure en vensters, maar die museum was nogtans genoop om die bybetalings te betaal. Die sekuriteitsmaatskappy het die koste van die vervanging van die omskakelaar gedek.

Na 'n volledige bestekopname, het die Trusteeraad besluit om die sekuriteitstelsel op te gradeer: nuwe beligting en infrarooi sekuriteitsstrale is geïnstalleer, asook lemmetjiesdraad rondom die perimeter van museum-persele. Die diefwering en veiligheidshekke is ook versterk. Intussen moes die personeel ook hul sekuriteitsmaatreëls aanpas en verskerp en moes hulle byvoorbeeld leer om die sekuriteitstrale te aktiveer. Al die inbrake is aan die Department

gerapporteer en moes spesiale verslae aan die risk manager geskryf word. Die Assistent-bestuurder van Museums en Erfenis het die museum op 29 Augustus 2022 om homself van die skade te vergewis. Elke inbraak is by die SAP gerapporteer en het 'n saaknommer ontvang.

Deur die loop van die jaar het ons verskeie fondsinsameling-pogings van stapel gestuur. Withond bly die museum se beste verkoper. Ander pogings was minder suksesvol maar tog het ons ons bes probeer. Wat wel duidelik is, is dat fondsinsameling-pogings 'n bykomende las op die personeel en ons hulpbronne plaas, veral as kaartjies vir byvoorbeeld konserte, nie goed verkoop nie. Die boekbindings-werkswinkel in Augustus 2022 gehou, was egter goed ondersteun en terselfdertyd kon ons 'n interessante werkswinkel aan die publiek bied. 'n Tweede werkswinkel word in Augustus 2023 beplan omdat hierdie een so goed ondersteun is.

Ongelukkig is 'n baie klein bedrag ge-in deur die verhuring van 'n gedeelte van die Ou Biblioteek aan die toerismekantoor aangesien hulle formeel versoek het op 'n drastiese korting op hul huurtarief, weens finansiële uitdagings. Die Trusteeraad het hierdie versoek toegestaan en huurgeld is verminder vanaf R2500 tot R1000 per maand om hulle tegemoet te kom. Dit het 'n bykomende las op die museum geplaas aangesien hierdie huurtarief nie eens die elektrisiteitsrekening dek nie. Daar is onderneem om die tarief in herooring te bring sodat die kantoor se finansiële omstandighede verbeter en hully byvoorbeeld finansiële hulp van die munisipaliteit kry.

Intussen het *The Little Karoo Galery* ook sy intrek in die Ou Biblioteek geneem. Die Trusteeraad was van opinie dat dit tot voordeel van die museum sal wees aangesien dit 'n bykomende aantreklikheid vir al ons besoekers mag wees. Ongelukkig kon die eienaar slegs twee maande se huurtraief betaal aangesien besoekers skaars was en sy nie van die kunswerke kon verkoop nie.

Ons is dus hoofsaaklik afhanklik van ons jaarlikse subsidie. Intussen word dit aangevul deur toegangsfooie, inkomste van die museumwinkel en *ad hoc* fondsinsamelingsgeleenthede. Ons probeer ons bes om ons finansies met groot omsigtigheid te bestuur en is dankbaar vir die hulp verskaf deur die plaaslike firma, *van Wyk Theron*, wat ook ons finansiële state oudit.



OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS:

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES:

Educational programmes at the museum are well underway. At the start of the new year, we had already received bookings until August.

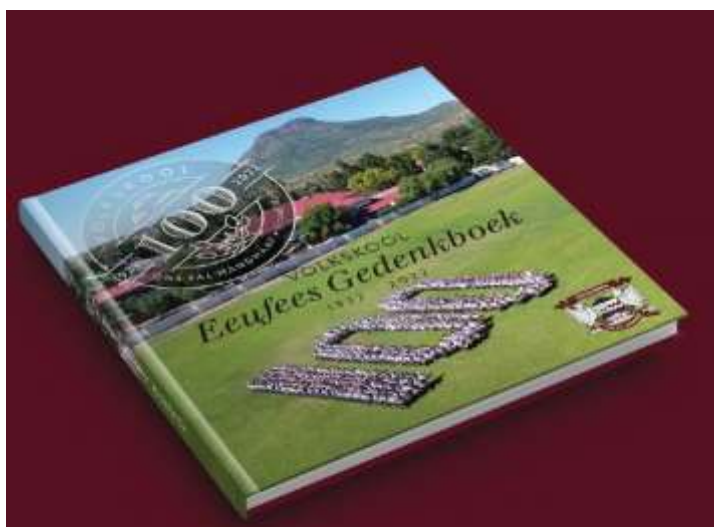


One of the local schools that frequents the museum is Union Pre-school. This year, their visit occurred right before winter in May. As always, the learners enjoyed it immensely, especially since the restrictive measures of the Covid-period were a thing of the past. We are immensely grateful for the help of the tourism monitors from the Tourism Monitor Project of the Department of Tourism, who commenced duties at the museum in November 2021. With their assistance, we were able to accommodate large school groups. The monitors also became familiar with the programs that we offer very quickly, and in this regard, they were assets. One of the highlights of the year was the "Day at the Museum" program, which was presented to the grade seven learners from Narsing Street Primary School. The learners dressed up in our B-collection, and beautiful pictures of their visit were posted on Facebook.

School visits have increased over the past year, and every single learner was welcomed with open arms. We have once again made *Twinkl's* best museums to visit in South Africa. Please see the webpage at <https://www.twinkl.co.za/blog/twinkls-best-museums-to-visit-in-south-africa-in-2023>. We have also embarked on a collaborative educational programme with *Twinkl* during which they will provide the museum with educational resources to be used in our Rock Art and Fossil programmes.

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE DELIVERY:

Over the past year, our museum has received a considerable number of genealogical and general research enquiries.



We provided a great deal of attention to researchers who helped in compiling Volkskool's centenary publication. In order to gain

insight into particular periods in the history of the school and to provide accurate background information about the town, we consulted a number of newspapers for this purpose.

Due to the complete cancellation of the Covid-19 lockdown regulations, we are now able to accommodate walk-ins as our archive has opened to the public once again. We have assisted a number of film producers and researchers in obtaining information about Dr. Anton Rupert, as apparently, there is a documentary about his life in the making.

We received an interesting enquiry asking for information about the traditional Boeresport known as *lyfgooi* or *ondergooi*, which refers to wrestling among the Voortrekkers. However, we could not find any evidence of this practice in our archive. Nonetheless, according to a book on Voortrekker entertainment supplied by Dr. Ansie Malherbe, it was practiced in Graaff-Reinet at cultural events.

We have been helping many learners with their assignments, providing them with archival information and conducting interviews about South Africa's apartheid-past and life thereafter. We also conduct research for newsletters and exhibitions, which is a part of our daily tasks. This year, we researched text for the Frederick Emmanuel Hufkie exhibition, the cinematographic exhibition, and *The Dress that Made Her a Mrs* exhibition.

Our archive is our biggest resource, and we have given special attention to upgrading it. The upgrade was done in phases, starting with the production of custom-made panels by Prof. Haarhoff. We obtained palet wood from the local Montego dog food factory, and Mr van Rhyners patiently removed all the nails and screws. The wood was repurposed, and with the assistance of the tourism interns, all the archival material was recategorized and relabeled. The material was then placed into acid-free boxes lined with acid-free paper. After this exercise, we

suddenly had more space available in the archive. We regularly implement pest control and good household techniques to keep an eye on this collection in storage. The archive is regularly fitted with energy saving light-bulbs and pest control measures are implemented.

Another highlight was the filming of the *Stigting vir die bemagtiging van Afrikaans se Graaffrikaans* documentary, which was led by the famous South African actress and producer, Sandra Prinsloo. The filming took place from August 26th to August 28th, and the museum was responsible for arranging meetings with people who speak this Graaff-Reinet lingua franca. This was not an easy task, as most recognized speakers are generally between 70 and 80 years old. The filming took place at various locations, including Reinet House, all thanks to an article about the subject that was published in the museum newsletter back in 2012.

It is such a pleasure to report that Prof. Haarhoff has once again compiled a research document worthy of publishing. He has, on behalf of the museum, updated the register of the old cemetery between Cradock and Stockenström Streets. From 1844 to 1910, it was the main cemetery in town and therefore of great historical value. The project, however, was more than just a mere update, as the new register was constructed from scratch integrating all the earlier records, new photographs, new records, as well as other historical information pertaining to the cemetery. Moreover, it now also contains the links between husbands and wives as far as could be determined – information not normally found in registers of this type. The idea is to have a limited number of this new register printed in the new fiscal year for our own use in fielding genealogical enquiries from the general public. This will be a not a for-sale book, but a research and reference document largely composed of pages and pages of tables with names and dates. Therefore not nearly as ambitious as the book on the Van Ryneveld's Pass dam.

The objective would be to have a proper, professional document to reflect positively on the Museum and its endeavours.

This is such a worthwhile project and one which will allow the museum to expand its genealogical resources. The objective is that eventually all the cemeteries in town will have its own register and that it will be divided into volumes.

The museum still attracts visitors from all over the world. While most of them are from the Netherlands, there are also patrons from other countries such as the USA, Germany, France, the UK, China, as well as from SADC countries like Mauritius, Namibia, and Mozambique. Interestingly, many Dutch visitors find something in Graaff-Reinet that reminds them of their home. However, according to our visitor and admission book, the majority of our visitors are still domestic patrons.

Visitors continue to be impressed with the museum precinct, friendly staff, and collections, as noted in the visitor book. Some of the remarks that stood out were::

Exceptional! Beautiful!

Incredible, informative and friendly

Ongelooflike versameling, so netjies!

Looked like we're in Holland. Nice!

Kultureel verrykend!

Pragtig uitgestal!

Military Museum fantastic!

Pragtig! Pragtig! Pragtig! Kon die geskiedenis voel !

COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

One of the highlights of the year was the opening of the Frederick Emmanuel Hufkie Exhibition. After months of negotiations with an alumni group from Spandau High School, the museum agreed to accept and provide exhibition space for a bust of this struggle icon from Graaff-Reinet. The museum board also approved the design and production of information panels to accompany the bust and provide information to visitors. The bust, created by renowned visual artist Irvin Mlungisi Nkwanyana, was the centerpiece of this panelled installation. The exhibition was formally opened with over 200 people in attendance on October 8, 2022.



*The opening of the
F.E. Hufkie Exhibition*

Reinet House was the focus of all our attention as the preparations for the Murray Family Reunion began in earnest in June. The big dining hall, study and small dining room received a coat of fresh paint, all the labels were replaced and the pictures re-hung. Pictures in the study, for example, were grouped with information on the Grootkerk and the first ministers in one group and the Murray family portraits were arranged according to the family tree. All other pictures were grouped according to themes, such as the development of Reinet House, streetscapes, and the establishment of the Seminary. Pictures were grouped into montages which are hopefully more “easy on the eye”. In the bedroom, the drapes around the four-poster bed were repaired by one of the casual employees who to our surprise exhibited consummate skill with a needle and thread. The result was amazing and can, in my opinion, be regarded as a truly authentic restoration.

Prof Haarhoff has commenced with digitisation of some of our key literary sources. The first is the dissertation of Dr Theo Botha on the Anglo Boer War. The whole system works wonderfully, although it does take time to scan each page. We will most probably also scan The Lantern, and possibly Cosmo Henning’s dissertation of more than 600 pages: a daunting task which may have to wait its turn in favour of more manageable works.

During this period, we also completed work on the cinematographic exhibition and it was open to the public in December 2022. The collection was donated by the children of Mr. van der Merwe, who started a "cine" in Graaff-Reinet. However, we have run out of space as only a limited amount can fit into the room. Two display cases used in the Rock Art Room were transferred to this exhibition, and two others were sourced from the storeroom. Old movie posters and extracts from magazines were professionally framed at considerable cost, and these, as well as the "CINE" signs, now adorn the walls.

The exhibition "The Dress That Made Her a Missus" was completed in time for the influx of visitors during the December/January holidays. The exhibition primarily consisted of Victorian wedding

dresses and was an absolute pleasure to curate. Visitors and teachers from a school in Cradock who visited the museum while we were working on the installation received it well. The clothing is very fragile and will have to be rotated often. In this way, we will have something new and interesting to offer patrons at the end of every year. It is hard work to choose items to put on display and additional security measures such as locks to display cases are implemented.



One of the most fascinating donations received this quarter is a collection of miniature wagons that includes a postal carriage donated by Reana Visser from Pretoria. The collection was made by Reana's father, who owned a building supply business in Graaff-Reinet and also had his own band. He also played the organ in a church. Unfortunately, he succumbed to Covid-19 in 2020 at the age of 94. Currently, the collection is on display at Reinet House.

The museum takes great care in maintaining its collection, both on display and in storage. The preservation of these historical items is ensured through regular cleaning, monthly fumigation, and frequent inspections. Each artifact is given the same level of care, with new

acquisitions undergoing fumigation before being assimilated into the collection. Despite a shortage of staff, daily housekeeping remains a top priority, though it can be challenging at times. All the wagons, for example, were treated with a mixture of linseed oil and mineral turpentine. Nonetheless, the museum frequently receives compliments and praise for the exceptional condition of its collections.

THE HOURGLASS

Although only one Edition of The Hourglass was published, it was an issue packed with interesting information that was digitally distributed. The pandemic necessitated numerous changes, even impacting the distribution of a hard copy of our favorite newsletter. Fortunately, many of our followers have access to the internet, thus they had a greater appreciation for the digital copy as it could also be easily shared electronically. Access past and recent copies of The Hourglass at <https://graaffreinetmuseums.co.za/newsletters/>.

VENNOOTSKAPPE

Die Toerisme Kantoor huur steeds ruimte by Die Ou Biblioteek terwyl hulle terselfdertyd 'n oog oor die museum en sy besoekers hou. Die pandemie het hierdie organisasie ook negatief beïnvloed en die Raad van Trustees het saamgestem om geen verhoging in huurgeld te implementeer nie. Ons hoop dat dit 'n mate van verligting in hul benarde finansiële situasie sal bring. Die dorp maak staat op die inkomste uit toerisme gegenereer en op hierdie manier dra die museum ook sy deel by.

Ons het ook die vennootskap met die Departement van Toerisme gedurende hierdie periode voorgesit deurdat ons vier

toerisme-monitors, as deel van 'n internskapprogram van genoemde department, geakkommodeer het. Gedurende die loop van die jaar het twee van die monitors egter onttrek. Intussen het ons gevind dat die program baie ongestruktureerd is en dat dissipline moeilik toegepas word as gevolg daarvan. Die program wat teen einde Mei 2023 tot 'n einde loop, help ons egter om ons nypende tekort aan personeel die hoof te bied, terwyl die monitors in-diens opleiding ontvang in toergidswerk, kliëntediens en argivale praktyke.

The museum is still reliant on the Rupert Historical Homes Covid-relief fund. These funds were donated to the museum to help mitigate the financial impact of the lockdown period when the museum was closed. The fund has already contributed to the publication of the Van Ryneveld Pass Dam book, and now it will be applied to the Cradock Street Cemetery Register. The Rupert Historical Homes Foundation has a vested interest in the museum, which we welcome and appreciate.

The Graaff-Reinet Museum is an important member of The Eastern Cape Museum Collective, along with other heritage institutions. We are committed to actively sharing information on policies, museology, job vacancies, and funding opportunities within the museum community, both locally and internationally. We have strong connections with institutions such as the Sobukwe Museum, The Rupert Museum in Stellenbosch and in Graaff-Reinet, The Graaff-Reinet Heritage Society, The Owl House and Fossil Centre in Nieu-Bethesda, and The Landesmuseum in Hannover, Germany. These partnerships are valuable in helping us reach our objectives.

UITREIKINGSPROGRAMME

Gedurende die periode onder bespreking het die museum op verskillende wyses na die gemeenskap uitgereik. Tydens hierdie

hierdie inisiatiewe het ons so ver as moontlik, kostes probeer beperk. Ons Facebook-blad en die Graaff-Reinet Geskiedeins blad wat ook deur die museum bestuur word, is gebruik o ons nuusbriewe en geleenthede te bemark. Terselfdertyd het ons die museum gedurig onder die aandag van die publiek gebring deur interessante historiese artikels, anekdotes of slegs kort feite op die blad te plaas.

Ons was ook betrokke by Graaff-Reinet se nominasie in Kyknet se Dorp van die jaar kompetisie en is die geleentheid gebied om 'n kort verskyning op hierdie kanaal te maak. Dit was gratis publisiteit wat vir die museum baie beteken het.

Die Murray-familie reünie het die museum ook 'n uitstekende geleentheid gebied vir gratis publisiteit and alle pogings is aangewend om Reinet Huis van bo tot onder skoon te maak. Klein groepe is gedurende hierdie geleenthede op besigtigingstoere geneem en Mnr. En Mev. Whitlock het die museum verteenwoordig tydens 'n gala-geleentheid wat die Saterdag-aand gehou is. 'n Spesiaal-ontwerpe boekmerk en Vriende van die Museum-aansoekvorm is ook tydens die geleentheid in elke familielid se verwelkomingspakkie gesit. Die Museum se bydrae tot 'n reünie-boek het ook paslik erkenning geniet.

Wat verdere uitreikingsprogramme betref, is daar 'n praatjie by Union Hoërskool aangebied ter viering van vroue-maand in Augustus 2022.

'n Boekbindings-kursus is ook in samewerking met die Rupert Museum in Augustus 2022 gehou. Mense van so ver as Ladysmith en Richmond het vir die kursus ingeskryf. Die werkwinkel was uiters suksesvol en daar is onmiddellik navrae gekry oor die volgende werkwinkel. George Wentzel wat die kursus aanbied is voorwaar 'n kenner op hierdie gebied. Sy kennis kan almal wat in boeke belangstel net toto voordeel strek.



Ons was ook betrokke by die formele opening van die Sobukwe Museum op 15 Desember 2022, wat saam met Versoeningsdag-vieringe geval het. Ons was veral betrokke by reëlins van die amptelike opening en Me. Majoka het as Trusteeraadslid die museum tydens hierdie geleentheid verteenwoordig.

MARKETING AND MEDIA

Planning for the new website is already underway, and a local service provider has been appointed to upgrade it. This area was identified as a priority when the museum's subsidy was increased. Additionally, new museum brochures were designed and printed by a local graphic design company called *Country Mouse* and printed by *Reinet Studio*.

During the review period, the museum engaged in several significant events in local and other media. The Graaff-Reinet Advertiser, our primary partner, provided print space to historical landmarks in Graaff-Reinet, including the museum and buildings

in streets in the Horseshoe area, as well as a visit from the Bloemfontein-based Doll Society.

In September 2022, the museum partnered with the Graaff-Reinet advertiser during heritage month to organise and present a South African *Braaibroodjie* competition. Three participants were selected from a number of entries. They were eventually invited to produce a delicious *braaibroodjie* for a panel of expert judges at Reinet house. The winner received a wonderful prize, and the event was a showcase of Graaff-Reinet's cultural tradition.



Participants in the Braaibroodjie Competition

A particular highlight this year was the opening of the Hufkie exhibition, which was given print space and exposure on various other digital platforms and social media pages. Our social media pages, including the Graaff-Reinet history page, are going strong and have reached more than 1,500 members in a short space of time.

Finally, we are grateful for the exposure afforded to the museum through various social media pages regarding the restoration and full functionality of our water wheel.



ADMINISTRATION

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees has embarked upon the fourth year of their tenure, which commenced in 2019. Six board meetings are held per annum. The Board is effortlessly fulfilling its duties and operates efficiently. Each member possesses a unique expertise, spanning heritage and museology, community engagement, artistic craftsmanship, and financial acumen. They remain unwavering and composed under the adept leadership of Mr. Peter Whitlock, the chairman of the board. We extend our gratitude to every board member who willingly and enthusiastically supports the museum, offering their time in service of heritage.

ALGEMENE ADMINISTRASIE

Administrative aangeleenthede is een van ons primêre doelwitte en sluit die opstel van kwartaal- en finansiële- verslae, rekords en personeel-aangeleenthede in.

Die Algemene Jaarvergadering is een van die hoogtepunte op ons administratiewe kalender. Tydens hierdie geleentheid word die finansiële verslag vir goedkeuring voorgelê en nuwe verteenwoordigers van die Vriende van die Museum gekies. Dit is 'n verpligte jaarlikse byeenkoms soos wetlik vereis. Dit bied ook 'n geleentheid aan die publiek om vrae aan die Trusteeraad te rig en verduidelikings of antwoorde te kry. Ter voorbereiding maak ons seker dat die finansiële state ge-oudit word en die jaarverslag voorberei word.

Gedurende jaar is die nuwe assistent-bestuurder, Mnr. Lindi Mahlasela, aangestel as ons departementele bestuurder. Sy ervaring in die museumwese en die uitdagings wat museums telkens die hoof moet bied, het hom die ideale kandidaat vir die pos gemaak. Hy het onmiddellik sy kennis en insig tot ons voordeel aangewend en 'n groot verandering is onmiddellik bespeur. Ons wens hom alle sterkte toe.

Alle bestuursvergaderings word nog steeds virtueel gehou. Dit is uiters koste- en tydbesparend. Personeel vergaderings word op 'n tweeweklikse basis gehou en wel meer indien ons 'n fonds-insamelingspoging of die opening van 'n uitstalling beplan.

Een van die hoogtepunte van hierdie period was die bywoning van die Museum Indaba vanaf 01 tot 02 Maart 2023 by die Oos-Londen Konvensiesentrum. Die reis was besonders uitputtend maar die

interessante en gepaste besprekings het opgemaak daarvoor. Ons was veral geïnteresseerd in die museumwetgewing-werkswinkel en die nuwe museumwet wat aanpassings verg en het ons ook die museum van die 21ste eeu-bespreking interessant gevind. Baie meer werkswinkels van hierdie aard is nodig. Ons is veral dankbaar omdat Me. Joy Williams ons as trusteeeraadslid ons vergesel het.

Me. Denise van Wyk verdien besondere vermelding vir haar ywerige en uitmuntende werk as die museum se finansiële beampte. Haar werk is van 'n hoë standaard en as gevolg hiervan is die ouditeringsproses 'n ongekompliseerde een. Haar take behels die aanvra van kwotasies, die betaling van rekeninge, om die salarisse van personeel volgens uur gewerk vas te stel, om eise by die versekeringsmaatskappy in te dien en om met die finansiële rekords op datum te bring en verslae daarvan op te stel.

Verslae oor besoekersgetalle en uitreikingsprogramme word ook op 'n maandelikse basis aan die department gestuur. Ons word ook telkens versoek om opleiding oor administratiewe aangeleenthede soos projekbestuur en dissipline in die staatsdiens te ondergaan en het ons alreeds drie van hierdie tipe werkwinkels bygewoon. Dit het ook 'n werkwinkel oor etiese optrede in die staatsdiens ingesluit asook 'n werkwinkel oor die bestuur en bemagtiging van staatsdienswerkers.

Gedurende hierdie jaar het ons ook openbare konsultasievergaderings onder leiding van Mr Mahlasela gereël, waartydens die publiek kommentaar op museum- en erfenis-wetgewing kon indien. Dit het in August 2022 plaasgevind en inwoners van Cradock en Somerset-oo asook Nieu-Bethesda en Aberdeen het die vergadering bygewoon.

Ongelukkig het al die inbrake vereis dat daar telkens 'n verslag aan die rampbestuurder en hoof van die department gerig moet word. Dit het

op drie geleenthede plaasgevind en het vereis dat die inbraak by die polisie diens aangemeld word en vergesel word deur 'n saaknommer.

STAFF MATTERS

This year, we experienced continuous absence of two staff members. This led to repeated consultations with the Labor Relations section of our department and various written submissions. As a result, we faced severe staff shortages. However, we were fortunate enough to receive an increase in subsidy which allowed us to pay a small stipend to Ms. Shania Syfens, a tourism intern who requested to do her practical work at the museum until the end of June 2023. Ms. Syfens proved to be a very enthusiastic person, intent on offering the patrons a most rewarding experience. In March Ms Amorey Fletcher, another intern also started a voluntary internship at the museum. The two tourism interns who will complete their tenure in November 2023, is still lending a helping hand and we are very glad for their assistance, especially with educational groups, events and guided tours.

Ms. Blouw's retirement send-off was held at Coldstream restaurant on December 15. Everyone was in good spirits, although the occasional tear marked the proceedings. It was a happy event, and Mr. Whitlock thanked Ms. Blouw for 25 years of exceptional service while wishing her all the best in her future retirement endeavors. Ms. Blouw welcomed her retirement gift and conveyed her thanks for 25 years of working in a happy and rewarding environment. She said that she was reluctant to say goodbye to her colleagues, who had become like family, but promised to keep in touch.

In September 2022 Ms Margaret Nkxanka joined our team as a general worker on a three-day-per week basis. She has adapted very well and

is acquitting herself in an exemplary manner. She is an asset to the museum and it appears as if she might be a worthy successor for Ms Blouw.

Mr. Brian Le Potha and Ms. Sharmein Visagie deserve recognition for their decade-long commitment to keep the doors of the museum open over weekends and public holidays Their passion and reliability inspire colleagues. They truly are invaluable assets.

During this period, Mr Ngandi lost his grandmother. Some of us also contracted Covid-19 and it appears as if Covid was still a threatening situation.



FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Regular maintenance work is necessary to keep our museum in good condition. This includes repairing leaking roofs, filling in chipped wood, and plastering. In addition, we need to implement good household practices to keep pests away and protect our collection. Unfortunately, this year we faced numerous break-ins which added to our maintenance burden. Several sturdy locks were damaged and needed

replacement, and some of the doors at Reinet House showed signs of attempted forced entry. This has put an additional strain on our budget.

The major restoration of Reinet House and Urquhart House to prepare for the Murray family Reunion, also commenced. After consulting various service providers for the work specifications and requesting quotes, we received only two quotes. Eventually, we awarded the contract to Mr. Wiseman Bokwe who completed the work in record time. The staff quickly got to work polishing and sweeping after weeks of closure to the public. We were also able to undertake further maintenance work at Urquhart House as we had received enough funds from the Covid-19 relief grant awarded by the Rupert Historic Homes Foundation in 2020.

The steel access staircase and corrugated iron gutters of the archive at Urquhart House were replaced as they had rusted through completely and required urgent repairs. The staircase had become very unstable. After lengthy consultations, challenges, and test runs, the water mill was finally re-commissioned by *Embee Installations* with the help of the local electrician, Mr Minnie. It was quite an expensive exercise as the wheel was also fitted with a token slot machine, which became quite an attraction. The repair of the water wheel was featured in the local newspaper

The museum is exceptionally well-maintained, with pristine buildings and grounds that showcase its historical value. Its outstanding precincts make it a popular destination for photo shoots, drawing visitors and admirers from all around. This reputation is thanks to the unwavering dedication and enthusiasm of our small yet devoted staff team. Despite our modest staff size, we put our hearts into preserving the museum's appearance. Through our collective hard work and

passion, we strive to maintain the museum's reputation as a place of beauty and inspiration for all who visit it.



BEDANKINGS

The museum is back on its feet after a very difficult year. It was truly a struggle for survival, and one of the biggest factors that kept us going was the funding received from the Rupert Historical Houses Foundation during the pandemic.

Our gratitude is also extended to the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts, and Culture for the significant increase in the annual subsidy. This truly opens doors and makes it possible for us to move mountains. We certainly take on our task as custodians of heritage with renewed zeal.

Thanks to funding from people who hold heritage preservation close to their hearts and all our friends of the museum who are part of a wonderful community, we as a team here at the museum have new enthusiasm and dedication to tackle the year. We definitely look forward to it!

Thank you.

Anziske Kayster

Hoof van die Museum: 06 Julie 2023



VISITOR STATISTICS:

APRIL 2022 – MARCH 2023

Month	No. of SA Adults	No of Children	Foreign visitors	Total
April	203	54	18	275
May	184	62	10	256
June	137	60	35	232
July	575	161	48	784
August	232	56	74	362
September	285	58	86	313
October	502	81	78	661
November	213	108	61	382
December	467	52	72	591
January	241	60	104	405
February	144	19	145	308
March	169	95	143	407
			TOTAL	4 976

Visitor Statistics: April 2021 - March 2022

