



Graaff-Reinet MUSEUM



Supported by The Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts & Culture

(Incorporating Reinet House, The Old Library, Urquhart House, The Old Residency and The Military History Museum)

P.O. Box 104, Graaff-Reinet, 6280 Tel: 049 892 3801 Fax: 049 892 5650

Vision

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

Mission

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr M E Fynney (Chair)	-	Premier's Representative (Resigned November 2012)
Mrs H J W Baartman (Chair)	-	Subscribers' Representative (Since January 2012)
Mr P Whitlock (Vice Chair)	-	Premier's Representative (Since January 2012)
Mrs P Wallis	-	Premier's Representative
Mr D S Smith	-	Premier's Representative
Mr J Daniëls	-	Subscribers' Representative
Mrs E van Wijk	-	Premier's Representative
Cllr F E Sigonyela	-	Municipal Representative
Cllr T Nonnies	-	Municipal Representative
Mrs A Malherbe	-	Premier's Representative
Miss T Majoka	-	Premier's Representative
Mr A Gradwell	-	Premier's Representative
Mrs L Lipshitz	-	Premier's Representative
Dr R Stauth	-	Premier's Representative
Mayor K E Kekana	-	Premier's Representative

PERSONNEL

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Mrs A F Kayster	-	Principal Museum Human Scientist
Vacant	-	Chief Auxiliary Service Officer
Mrs J J De Gama	-	Senior Auxiliary Service Officer (Resigned on 31 December 2012)
Miss D D van Wyk	-	Auxiliary Service Officer
Miss V Z Pika	-	Auxiliary Service Officer (Transferred on 1 October 2012)
Mrs N A Jacobs	-	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 J Isaks	-	Tradesman's Aide

BOARD OF TRUSTEE EMPLOYEES

Mr D van Wyk	-	Retired
Mr Z Isaks	-	General Assistant
Mrs C Williams	-	Museum Assistant

RELIEF STAFF

Ms Y Arnesen		
Ms L Du Toit		
Mr D van Wyk		
Dr O Prozesky	-	Resigned in November 2012
Mrs V Du Plessis	-	Since June 2011
Mrs L Struwig	-	Since April 2012

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM, HEAD OF THE MUSEUM, AND PERSONNEL,

Thanks for the opportunity to say a few “gevleuelde woorde”.

On 18 May 1994, I was part of a group of ladies who were invited on a guided tour through the four museums. First stop, Reinet House. I was overwhelmed! The treasures of generations, entrusted to the safe-keeping of the Graaff-Reinet Museum, left me flabbergasted.

Needless to say, that Sunday my entire family was marched to the museum. Tannie Dora du Pisani was on duty. This was the beginning of a long acquaintance.

Shortly after that, I was approached by a young lady, Sarie, to do calligraphy for a certain project. When I returned the completed work, Sarie had already left. I remember the heavy smell of lavender floor polish, the precious collections on exhibition, and the atmosphere of dignity and history taking hold of my senses. I just knew that this is where I will be happy.

As luck would have it, there was a vacancy, I applied and 7 months later started at the Graaff-Reinet Museum, on 1 July 1994. My art background, love for all kinds of crafts, my dexterity, love of history and reading, appreciation of heritage and verbal skills stood me in good stead.

Due to strange logistics, I had to manage a small manual switch-board, I was really a captive in the Old Residency and ran my legs off whenever the monster started to wrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr and demanded my attention. The fact that I had a colleague with lots of family and friends who needed constant communication, gave me a hard time. That was the first change I accomplished ~ an automatic telephone system.

However, this enforced captivity gave me the opportunity to read through all the files and afforded me the time to get acquainted with the collections and their provenance. The correspondence and minutes on the files gave me insight into the challenges and issues of managing the museums.

That was just the beginning of the transformation of Hermi Baartman. The 15 years at the museum enriched my life. I have met numerous people from all walks of life, and still come across them in strange places.

My outstanding and heart-felt memories at the Museum are of the support from a small section of the community. Without the Friends of the Museum the job is deprived of any pleasure. There were the ladies of the Garden Club, the donations from the banks, the inheritance from Mesdames Bonnet and Whitlock which gave the Graaff-Reinet Museum a good push financially. The love for the Museum instilled by Mrs Beth Minnaar and the deep well of knowledge I could partake from, shared so selflessly by Mr Teddy Whitlock will always be a good memory.

I laud the chairmen and members of the board of trustees who gave selflessly their time and energy to the Museum. I see Ansie Malherbe over there. She taught me my first museum procedure and methods. Together we have walked many miles. Peter Whitlock was there on my first day to welcome me. We are still sitting around the same table. My best wishes to all

future chairmen and board members.

I commend all the museum personnel for their outstanding service through the years. Their commitment has always been a great source of inspiration to me. Museum people need a special quality to face obstacles and challenges on a daily basis. To survive you need initiative, creativity, and good judgment. If all government officials were as devoted to their task as the museum personnel is, this country would run on well-oiled wheels.

The prospect of an increase in the annual subsidy is really heartening. It is just not fair to expect government officials to battle financially, in this case, merely to keep the museum-doors open. In the rest of this country government officials work as permitted by their budget. If there is no money to pay the telephone bill, the telephone is cut off - electricity not paid, the doors are closed.

Recently the MEC stated that it is the duty of the Board of Trustees to generate funds for the museums. In a town like Graaff-Reinet where life is a constant struggle, the donor-well is tapped dry. Some board members are on the board

because of their love for the cause but are not really in a position to generate funds for a government supported institution. It is in cases like these where museum-people feel a deep resentment because they are aware that hundreds of thousands of Rand are squandered on futile exercises, and they wish that just a drop of the plenty can roll into the museum's purse. They mentally calculate how just a fraction of the money would have fixed a museum roof and would have made short work of a damp-infested wall.

At the recent celebration of International Museum Day, much was said on the expectations people have of our museum. They would like to see a vibrant, modern, institution with all kinds of technology and modern features. It must be remembered that the duty of the museums is first and foremost to preserve the artifacts and items already in their care. Museum ethics and the museums ordinance prohibits the neglect of collections. It would be totally irresponsible to dump existing collections and at any cost bring in the new. There are already museums in the Eastern Cape depicting diverse aspects of history, to duplicate these would

be foolish. We must try to look at another angle, not yet depicted.

The Graaff-Reinet Museum with its four magnificent nineteenth century buildings, housing a variety of collections, and artifacts reflects a wide spectrum of the history and lifestyle of the area. The unique fossil collection is the ancient heritage of all of us, the Sobukwe Wing brings local political history to the fore and Slavery and the long Road to Restitution reflects the tragic past of forced removals.

However, renewal is always welcome. It is my experience that any new exhibition offers the opportunity to open new doors to research and interest. A new exhibition is exhilarating, and encouraging of personnel to familiarize themselves with new anecdotes to entertain visitors.

I would like to plead with all of our friends present to be devoted supporters of the Graaff-Reinet Museum. Encourage people to visit the museums, give your advice and offer help when needed.

The Graaff-Reinet Museum is without doubt this town's biggest asset. No small town in all of

South-Africa can boast with five excellent museum buildings and such a variety of collections as are housed in our buildings. Let us cherish it!

The Museum is always there for public relations projects, television programs, radio programs and special events. The entire community gains from the credibility and prestige of the Graaff-Reinet Museum, but after any successful event all seem to disappear and forget that this great resource also needs constant maintenance and personnel to keep the doors open to the public.

The numerous hospitality establishments in Graaff-Reinet and surrounding areas know very well that they can direct tourists to the Graaff-Reinet Museum, every day of the week, but Christmas. 364 days in service of our historical town.

It is really very sad that the community cannot be bothered to support the Museum. In an effort to scrape together desperately needed money, requests for donations are sent to each and every Friend of the Museum. Very little, if any, response is received.

The few people who bother to support the street stall, have to buy back their donations. Just a handful of Friends bother to attend the AGM. This year, as last year we were addressed by very interesting and knowledgeable key-note speakers.

I will be leaving Graaff-Reinet shortly. My daughter Ursula is moving upwards, career-wise and little Lalla needs her Oumi. Vredendal, our new home, is the complete opposite of Graaff-Reinet, but I might have time to write my book, do some painting again and see where there is something interesting to do. Best wishes and thank you for many years of friendship.

THANK YOU

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE MUSEUM

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For some it can be very tiring listening to the annual report, year in and year out and on top of that, it seems as if the status quo remains. Staff shortages and lack of funding are at the order of the day and we are still struggling to make ends meet. Nothing has changed; in fact, our situation has become worse over the past year.

However, for us, working at the museum each day, is different. We do all kinds of interesting things, meet many interesting people and characters, we laugh about our problems and put our heads together to ensure that it does not impact negatively on our positive attitudes. To us, it is just unfathomable that there are some who just do not love this place as we do and that there are those who just do not care.

Have you noticed how many times the Graaff-Reinet Museum appeared on National Television this past year? So much so, that we take television appearances in our stride! Have you noticed how many times the museum featured in the local and national newspapers and magazines? Yes, numerous times!

The Graaff-Reinet Museum is one of the biggest assets that this town has, but unfortunately only people from outside this community and outside the borders of this country show us just how valuable, an asset this museum really is. If an international conference is hosted in town, the organizers come running to ask us to show visitors around, we have to bend over backwards if people need the museum, whatever the reason may be. Unfortunately, when the museum are in need, those who are suppose to be our allies, our friends, our stakeholders, our protectors, disappear. It is an unfortunate situation, but one cannot keep quiet any longer. You demand that we lovingly care for your heritage, and yes, we are paid to do that, but what have you done for this museum today?

I would like to say to all here present today, thank you for caring, and thank you for loving this museum as we do and we hope that you would spread the word that the museum is doing very well even under trying circumstances.

We were very shocked when Mark Fynney, after several years as Chairman of the Board, resigned because of a change in his personal

circumstances. Mr Fynney needs a standing ovation for his dedication, loyalty and commitment to this museum and we were very sad to say goodbye to such a wonderful individual.

With the restructuring of the Board, Mrs Hermi Baartman was elected as chairperson and Mr Peter Whitlock as vice-chairperson. We have great faith in these two individuals, their commitment and love for the cause will go a long way. We appreciate their willingness to fill these important vacancies on our board, which is not an easy task. To be a board member is an unselfish task and is definitely not financially rewarding. Thank you to all the board members who assist in running this museum, who remain committed despite many frustrations and challenges.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Overview of the finances

Our financial situation, as always, is cause for great concern. We had to prioritize expenditure and were left with no other option but to close the doors of some museums over weekends and public holidays. Closing the doors of a museum was never considered an option but we do not have the money to pay relief staff. Funding day-to-day expenditure such as water and electricity, takes precedence. We

considered retrenching staff, but we are unable to operate effectively without the help of the dedicated individuals on our staff.

Insurance and day-to-day expenditure take a big bite out of the subsidy, but these are the things we deem as necessary. We have to insure our buildings and equipment and as previously mentioned, we have to pay our water, telephone and electricity bills to function optimally. To counteract the damages of inflation and the increase in living expenses, the Board of Trustees agreed that the admission fees be increased, that no unnecessary travelling and accommodations costs be incurred and that a new telephone system, much cheaper than the outdated system, be installed. The Board also decided not to embark on any new ventures such as new exhibitions and related outreach programmes. The implementation of these cost-cutting measures has been very effective and we are still able to survive for the coming months until our annual subsidy is transferred.

The good news is that our subsidy Service Level Agreement shows that the Department has increased our subsidy from R106,000.00 to R186,000.00 We are very happy about this and will surely use these extra funds to do what is so desperately needed. I would like to

commend our previous chair, Mr Mark Fynney, for being a champion when it came to donning the proverbial armor and fighting for an increased subsidy.

The Department is quite aware of the many challenges, especially with regard to finances, experienced in the museum sector. This was evident when Mrs Baartman and I, together with other heads of museums and board members, met with the MEC in March of this year. We were glad that a platform was provided to air our grievances and we appreciated the fact that the MEC availed herself to attend such a groundbreaking meeting. This meeting will become a quarterly institution.

Fundraising

Our fundraising efforts raised enough money to keep us afloat. Not only did we host the *Ses Snare* concert, we also had our annual street stall in December 2011. The conference venue at the Old Library also earned a few Rands as well as the gardens of Reinet House which were used to take wedding and Matric ball pictures.

The Museum shop overhaul was completed. The display cabinets received a coat of paint and we bought new chairs and a coffee table. We stocked the shop with crafts such as handmade bags, hearts and birds, and made preserved

guavas, chutney, jam and piccalilli relish to sell in the shop. Since our micro manufacturing licence for the distilling of Withond was approved, we were once again able to make Withond liqueur, lemoncello and apricots in Withond. The museum shop is very profitable and we would welcome any donation that we may sell in the shop. We also obtained permission from the Graaff-Reinet Tourism Office to use the line sketch of Spandauskop as a new logo to be printed on wine decanters and glasses. We made a whopping R6,000.00 when the SAP Academy bought all our stock!

I would like to thank Mr Smith for taking matters with regard to our micro manufacturing licence into his own hands. His visit to SARS was a great success since shortly thereafter our licence was issued.

Even though a Withond Festival Proposal was submitted to the Cacadu District Municipality timeously, Mayor Kekana reported that the Municipality was not in a position to fund the event. Without funds, this event could not get off the ground and the museum was requested to seek funding elsewhere.

We also hosted the Vintage Car Association of South Africa and organized a fun quiz and flea market to entertain them. This was also very

profitable for the museum but more stalls would have been appreciated.

Besoekers en Besoekersgetalle

Ons besoekersgetalle is 'n aanduiding daarvan dat die museum nog steeds 'n belangrike toeriste aantreklikheid is, selfs ten spyte van die verhoogde toegangsgelde. Chantelle en Buks Marais is van ons gereelde kliënte en die groepe wat hulle bring, is baie welkom. Die Drifters, wie oorsese besoekers op avontuurkampe neem, klop gereeld aan ons deur en hou ons op ons tone. Hierdie jaar was daar 'n groot skaarste aan televisie persoonlikhede alhoewel ons kan spog dat Blackie Swart en die Ses Snare somer op een dag die museum besoek het. Mei en Junie is tans ons still maande en daar gaan dae verby waarop geen besoeker gewaar word nie. Dit gee ons egter kans om alle administrasie op datum te bring, nuwe uitstallings daar te stel en navorsing te doen voordat die toeriste seisoen 'n aanvang neem.

Ons besoekersboeke bly steeds 'n bron van inspirasie (en humor) met aanmerkings soos: *Good but kinda old, Bou voort op die goeie werk, They had a luxurious life, Fabby!, Wil nie loop nie!, Die beste versameling van sy soort, Brilliant!, Very moving, Byzonder mooi en in goede staat, Mees omvattende museum ooit, Mooie leuken*

versameling, Groete aan Annie (?), Die hout- so mooi!, So interesting, informative and well presented, Ag, waars die dae met mooi goed!, Outydse i-pods, cd spelers en kameras, Nice visit and explanation received! Fantasties hoe die mens slim kan wees! Hoekom glimlag niemand in die foto's nie?, Klein GP(7jr) vind dit baie interessant en Flippen cool!

Ons besoekers kom nog steeds van wyd en syd en word ons veral gedurende die toeristeseisoen met Nederlanders, Franse en Duitsers oorval. Vir Amerikaners is ons maar skrikkerig met hul 'been there and done that' houding maar tog kry hulle iets in ons museums wat byval vind.

Die toegangsffoos bly nog steeds ons grootste bron van inkomste waarsonder ons eenvoudig nie kan oorleef nie. Ons leuse bly dus: besoekers eerste!

LINE FUNCTION

Transformation Projects

The museum embarked on many transformation projects and these are as follows:

- Upgrade of the Rock Art Exhibition: Mrs Baartman made a huge paper maché structure, which resembles a prehistoric cave and added the most fantastic rock art paintings to it. Spekkies

and aloes were planted in containers and were added to the Rock Art Room at the Old Library. This really livened up the whole room.

- The Day of Reconciliation Celebrations: this event took place on 15 & 16 December and required meetings with all stakeholders to ensure a successful event. Politics intruded and the MEC had to intervene since emotions were running high. The museum became the administrative centre, a responsibility that required a lot of time and energy.
- The Restoration of the Sobukwe grave: Even though the restoration of the grave was a heritage project, the museum as heritage institution was once again tasked to liaise with all stakeholders involved with the restoration of the Sobukwe grave. This very daunting task put our mediation and negotiation skills severely to the test. We are proud to announce that the grave was successfully restored and that the museum played a pivotal role.
- The Sobukwe Heritage workshops: instead of having the ceremonial handover of the gravestone to the Sobukwe family, Dini Sobukwe requested that the money be put towards hosting a workshop for the youth to educate them about heritage

and the conservation thereof. These workshops were held on 9 and 10 March and required the participation of the museum. We were proud to be associated with such a worthwhile project.

- Establishment of a local Heritage Structure: On 7 September 2011 I was tasked to organize a meeting with the aim of putting together a local heritage structure
- Khoi & San relationship: this year the aim of the museum was to work more closely with the local Khoi & San tribes in Graaff-Reinet. Numerous meetings were held with the Khoi & San leadership and a small exhibition of books donated by Chief Toetie Dow, was established.

Outreach Programmes

It is of great importance that the museum is seen and heard, thus we grab every opportunity to promote the museum and what it stands for.

This past year, we hosted a *Women with Heart* talk on the Laubscher dolls. The ladies enjoyed it very much and we enjoyed the opportunity to mingle with the community.

The Museum also had a stall at the Karoolus Festival and even though we were no richer in coin than before the festival, we were richer in friendships forged.

The local Department of Education has become one of our greatest allies and we are very happy to work with them. In October 2011, we exhibited our Slavery and Rock Art Exhibitions during their District Heritage Celebrations and it gave us the opportunity to show that we welcomed working with other governmental departments.

From 20 to 25 June 2011 the museum participated in the Cacadu District's Public Service week. We visited towns where there are no museums and each of us took turns to promote the museum in Jansenville, Somerset East, Klipplaat and Steytlerville.

Educational Programmes

Our Educational programmes, while filled with fun and laughter, taught learners that heritage and the preservation thereof is of great importance. It also taught them to have a greater appreciation for our own, and other cultures. With this in mind, the museum was once again able to host four educational programmes, one per quarter, as promised in our operational plan.

One of the educational programmes, the Historical Building Programme, featured on *Pasella* and it showed how the museum promotes a love of historical buildings amongst learners.

This year we also launched the Beadwork programme, during which learners were showed how to make their own beadwork article. They had fun completing an activity sheet and watched a Power Point presentation during which they investigated the origin of beads. I would like to thank Roelien van der Putte for treating the learners to hotdogs and ice creams. It was much appreciated!

Bemarkings - en media aangeleenthere

Soos reeds genoem is die museum die ideale televisie-persoonlikheid: die geboue en uitstallings is altyd skitterblink en altyd gereed vir aksie. Ons is baie dankbaar vir die wonderlike publisiteit wat ons die pas afgelope jaar ontvang het, waar van die mees interessantste seker die Graaff-Reinet advertensie was.

Ons het ook op die joernaal program *Pasella* verskyn, is verfim deur 'n rolprentspan was navorsing oor hidro-breking in die Karoo gemaak het en het 'n foto van Haldane Murray verskaf wat in Kyknet se program oor *Formidable Vroue* gebruik is.

Ons danbaarheid teenoor die Graaff-Reinet Advertiser is onbeperk en ons waardeer ten seerste elke stukkie koerantspasie wat aan ons afgestaan word. So het ons ook in verskeie nasionale koerant-publikasies

verskyn waaronder *The Daily Dispatch* en *The Weekend Post*.

Groot was my verbasing toe ek een oggend oor die radio hoor dat daardie middag se *Loslip* inbel program oor die Graaff-Reinet Museum se spoke sou handel. Biddend dat dit nie enige negatiewe publiseit vir die Museum sou beteken nie, het ek naels gekou en gewag. Gelukkig was dit 'n wonderlike program met hope gratis publiseit vir die museum want sommer die volgende dag was daar een of twee mense wat die Museum se sogenaamde spoke les wou opsê!

International Museum Day

All those who attended our International Museum Day Celebrations will agree with me that it was big and grand. The brunt of the organizing of the Provincial Celebrations, which were held in Graaff-Reinet, fell onto our shoulders. We met the challenge head on with great gusto and put our organizing and liaising skills at the Department's disposal to coordinate what was termed "the best and biggest Provincial Museum Day Celebrations that the Province has ever seen". To say that we worked hard, is an understatement since putting together a memorial lecture, a gala dinner, organizing a main event and hosting the MEC and the relevant Parliamentary Portfolio

committee is not child's play. The Museum received high praise and I am well aware that I could not have done it without the help of my family of staff members.

Goeie Dienslewering

Baie poste is vakant en selfs met die gebrek aan goed-opgeleide, vrywillige en hardwerkende mense poog ons steeds om die beste diens te lewer. Ons beantwoord alle navrae, sorg dat ons gereed staan om besoekers te ontvang en beantwoord alle korrespondensie.

Ons museumversamelings is netjies, blink en skoon en bevat beskrywings in drie tale. Ons het geen probleem om museums na ure oop te hou na gelang van die behoefte van die besoeker nie en poog ons steeds om met verlengde besoekure gedurende die feesseisoen, die besoeker te akkommodeer.

Ons bring ons kant wanneer mense vertoë rig teen die sloping of verandering van historiese geboue en selfs teen die hidroliese breking wat die Karoo heeltemal kan vernietig. Ons staan reg om ons kollegas, hetsy in die erfenissektor of museumsektor, met raad en daad by te staan en ons doen ons deel om Toerisme in Graaff-Reinet en die omgewing te bevorder.

Selfs al werk ons met 'n handjievol bevoegde en bekwame mense, is ons

trots om te kan sê ons is voorstanders van goeie dienslewering en dat ons ons daartoe verbind.

Exhibitions

Funding for establishing new exhibitions is non-existent. This however, was not a deterrent and we were able to put together a Victorian underwear exhibition. Mrs Baartman painted an appropriate backdrop and with the help of Mr Van Rhyners and Pylman, we painted female torsos and selected suitable items from the clothing archive. In no time, we had a new exhibition, which did not cost us a cent.

New acquisitions also expanded our exhibitions. We have a policy of putting all acquisitions on display and nothing sits in the archive. New acquisitions are displayed for the enjoyment of all our visitors. We received very interesting acquisitions this year: a portable spinning wheel, a snake bite serum kit, a Victorian hand whisk, numerous items of clothing, a Victorian piano, a box of dolls, a mine detector, and of course, a model of a Keystone water drilling machine. We also received an embroidered carpet, a toy singer sewing machine and a concertina in a box. We are so glad that people are entrusting us with their heritage,

Please remember that we are experts in preserving it for posterity.

Die Uurglas

Die museum se nuusbrieff word nog steeds twee keer per jaar versprei en vertel van ons doen en late. Rig asseblief 'n kort epos aan die museum indien u hierdei publikasie per epos wil ontvang. Soedoende word kostes laag gehou.

ADMINISTRASIE

Trusteeraad

Nie net was Mark Fynney se bedanking 'n groot skok nie, Elizabeth Buisman se aankondiging dat sy en haar wederhelf vir ses maande van die jaar oorsee sal wees, het die trusteeeraad 'n groot knou gegee. Die Museum benodig trusteeeraadslede: individue wie die museum se belange op die hart dra en op wie ons kan staatmaak. Om 'n trusteeeraadslid te wees is 'n edele beroep sonder winsbejag en sonder aansien. Die Trusteeraad vergader elke tweede maand en is onmisbaar vir elke museumkurator: hulle hou die dorp se erfenis in trust en hou 'n wakende ogie oor die finansies van die museum. Die Trusteeraad is ook 'n regsentiteit wat belangrike besluite oor die museum en die bestuur daarvan, moet neem.

PERSONEEL

Ons sukkel nog steeds om van Me Pika se verplasing en Mev De Gama se bedanking te herstel. Die werkslading van elke personeellid het eksponensiëel gestyg en alhoewel die gees gewillig blyk te wees, praat die liggaam 'n ander storie.

Vooruitsigte vir die toekoms lyk droewig en dit lyk nie asof al ons vakante poste binnekort gevul sal word nie. Tans beskik ons oor drie administratiewe personeellede en vyf algemene assistente. Die Trusteeraad befonds een museum assistent en twee algemene assistente. Groot probleme ontstaan egter wanneer 'n personeellid onverwags siek word of met vakansie gaan. Algemene assistente hou dan die deure van museums oop, maar die nypende personeeltekort het 'n groot invloed op werkverrigting.

Relief Staff

The Relief staff component was also weighed down by misfortune and hardship. Ms Leonie du Toit became very ill and often had to stay in Port Elizabeth where she received medical treatment. Ms Lulette Struwig came to our rescue and we are still very happy with the services of Ms Yvonne Arnessen, who now mans the Old Residency and The Old Library.

Reinet House is our biggest problem at present and there are times that Mr van Wyk has to work for a whole weekend and on public holidays. Working long hours takes its toll on Mr van Wyk, who remains very willing to assist in this regard. Unfortunately, Dr Oscar Prozesky, who shared these shifts with Mr Van Wyk, resigned when the Board requested him not to sell his books and bottled water at Reinet House after complaints received by visitors.

HALLO EN TOTSIENS

Daar is baie wat die Museum vaarwel toegeroep het. Ons mis hulle verskriklik maar wens hulle terselfdertyd vrede en voorspoed toe: Mark Fynney, Liz Buisman, Jessie de Gama en Vuyokazi Pika.

Dan verwelkom ons met graagte Margaret Jantjies wat by ons geleedere as algemene assistent aangesluit het asook Me Lulu Struwig, as deel van ons aflosspan.

Laaste maar nie die minste verwelkom ons klein Durin Booysen wat onder moeilike omstandighede die lig gesien het. Die klein bulletjie raak by die dag groter en is sonder twyfel sy mamma se trots.

FACILITY MANAGEMENT

With the limited resources at our disposal, we try our very best to keep our collections, grounds and buildings tidy and well maintained.

Unfortunately, there are times when we have no other option but to spend money to fix what is broken or to replace what was stolen. This past year we had one break-in and we had to repair the water wheel.

We tried to curb and prioritize expenditure but had to replace the alarm systems at Urquhart House and the Old Library quite unexpectedly.

Luckily, we have maintenance experts in the persons of Mr van Rhyners, Pylman and Isaks who are very capable of lending a hand when it comes to mending and fixing. This past year they fixed the leaking roofs at Reinet House and the Old Residency. They also built a wall in the garage at Urquhart house to keep burglars out. They are very knowledgeable when it comes to the maintenance of the water wheel and they are not deterred by a broken sash window. The museum is very lucky to have such capable individuals who are so willing to go the extra mile.

DANKIES / THANK YOU'S

Hierdie jaar will ek glad nie mense uitsonder nie, maar wees verseker jul bydrae, raad en hulp word glad nie as vanselfsprekend aanvaar nie. Ek moet egter 'n spesiale woord van dank aan Dr Dercksen rig vir 'n baie welkome finansiële bydrae asook al die gastehuse wat gratis

akkomodasie aan die Ses Snare verskaf het.

Ek wil graag almal aanmoedig om af en toe die museum te besoek. Ek waardeer elke geselsie en word die dag korter as tyd met vriende gedeel word.

Baie dankie.