

ISSUE/UITGawe 316

JULY/JULIE 2024

Western Cape Municipal By-Elections Results

Michael Hendricks

On Wednesday, 19 June 2024, the Electoral Commission in the Western Cape conducted six municipal by-elections in the province. They were held in the City of Cape Town - Metro (Wards 64, 105 and 113) and Beaufort West (Wards 1, 3 and 6).

The overall results show that the Democratic Alliance (DA) managed to retain all its three seats in the wards contested yesterday in the City of Cape Town - Metro. In Beaufort West, the DA won all three seats previously held by the African National Congress (ANC) and the Patriotic Alliance (PA) respectively.

In Beaufort West, the results are as follows:

- **Ward 01** - October Haarvoor of the Democratic Alliance is the new councillor. The DA won a seat previously held by the ANC in the 2021 Municipal Elections with 42,02% of the total votes cast, compared to 35,90% during the 2021 Municipal Elections. Voter turnout was 55,55%.
- **Ward 03** - Georgina Juliana Dumpies of the Democratic Alliance is the new councillor. The DA won a seat previously held by the Patriotic Alliance (PA) in the 2021 Municipal Elections with 41,08% of the total votes cast, compared to 42,95% during the 2021 Municipal Elections. Voter turnout was 55,37%.

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- **Ward 06** - Elvico Links of the Democratic Alliance is the new councillor. The DA won a seat previously held by the Patriotic Alliance (PA) in the 2021 Municipal Elections with 37,35% of the total votes cast, compared to 42,95% during the 2021 Municipal Elections. Voter turnout was 55,37%.

cont. on pg. 2/...

Legendes Armand en Sean Aucamp besoek ons museum

Michelle Van Der Gryp

Op Vrydagoggend, 7 Junie 2024, word ons hier by die Fransie Pienaar Museum deur twee bekende Suid-Afrikaanse akteurs, Armand en Sean Aucamp-Van Noordwyk verras. Armand speel natuurlik die rol van die bekende Tom Niemand, in Boekklub wat hier in ons kontrei, Merweville, geskiet is. Sean is bekend vir sy rol as die rugbyspeler Reitz Bekker in die kykNET-sepie 'Getroud met rugby' en was ook voorheen hier by ons as Platteland aanbieder. Hulle wil dadelik meer weet oor die museum en die geskiedenis van die dorp. Uit die aard van die saak word daar stories geruil en vertrekke bekyk soos ons deur die kamers met uitstellings beweeg.

Armand skerts ook dat sy Pa baie van geskiedenis hou en die museum baie sou geniet het. Sean meen weer dat hy die keer ander artefakte raaksien as met sy vorige Platteland opname en geniet die uitstellings. Alles by die Fransie Pienaar Museum word so aangebied dat elke besoeker hulle tyd kan neem om deur alles te kyk en vrae te vra. Sommige besoekers kom net gou in om 'n gedeelte van die geskiedenis te kom navors, waar ander ure spandeer om alles spreekwoordelik "op te slurp".

Die museum personeel het ook gehelp om items aan ons bekende besoekers uit te wys en ons dorp se ryke erfenis oor te vertel. Daar is ook spookstories oorvertel wat hulle hare laat rys het. So kon hulle 'n unieke ervaring van die dorp en sy mense kry en iets voel van die gees van ons dorp. Sean het genoem dat hy met die volg. op bl. 2/...



Armand en Sean Aucamp saam met museum personeel Foto: Verskaf

from pg. 1/Municipal By-Election Results

31,40% during the 2021 Municipal Elections. Voter turnout was 61,19%.

In Cape Town the results are as follows:

- **Ward 64** – the new ward councillor is the Democratic Alliance's Izabel Sherry. The party retained the seat it won in the 2021 Municipal Elections with 97,64% of the total votes cast, compared to 85,10% during the 2021 Municipal Elections. Voter turnout was 28,38%.
- **Ward 105** – the new councillor is the Democratic Alliance's Francois Berry. The party retained the seat it won in the 2021 Municipal Elections with 89,06% of the total votes cast, compared to 76,89% during the 2021 Municipal Elections. Voter turnout was 25,69%.
- **Ward 113** - the new councilor is Susan Iris van der Linde. The party retained the seat it won in the 2021 Municipal Elections with 97,96% of the total votes cast, compared to 84,01% during the 2021 Municipal Elections. Voter turnout was 20,00%.

IEC Provincial Electoral Officer, Michael Hendrickse, said: "I am heartened by the fact that although we have just come out of the National and Provincial Elections (NPE2024), voters still took time to vote in the by-elections. It augurs well for the Local Government Elections in 2026."

South African citizens who are not registered to vote are reminded they can still do so by visiting www.elections.org.za. ■

van bl. 1/Legendes besoek museum

besoek die Fossielkamer geniet het, omdat die vorige besoek so kort was. Armand het die vertrekke in die museum en veral Outa Lappies se storie baie waardeer. Dit is 'n unieke museum in die sin van dat mense 'n holistiese terugblik kry indie verlede van ons kontrei en Prince Albert.

As ons kyk na die bewusmaking en die belangrikheid van erfenisbewaring is dit inderdaad ons bekendes wat ook 'n rol kan speel om museums behoue te laat bly. Hulle deel die besoek op sosiale media en met ander moontlike belangstellendes wat dan besluit om ook 'n reis te onderneem en die museum te besoek. Dit kan 'n unieke manier wees om meer mense na ons dorp en sodoende die museum te lok.

Hulle het ook foto's geneem en die geruime tyd wat hul hier spandeer het was vir ons ook motivering om weer met blink idees na ons erfenis te kyk. Soos die twee later vertrek kry 'n mens sommer 'n riem onder die hart en iets voel kompleet asof Tom Niemand se karakter weer wil sê: "Almal het 'n storie". So vertel ons hier by die museum Prins Albert se storie.

Dankie vir die besoek Armand Sean! ■

**FRANSIE PIENAAR MUSEUM**

The Fransie Pienaar Museum, which was awarded the best museum in the Western Cape in 2017, is the guardian of the history of Prince Albert. The antiques and artefacts on display were largely collected by Fransie Pienaar (b. 1898). There are also exhibitions on the Swartberg Pass, Gamkaskloof (Die Hel), the Stone Age and fossils. Tel 023 5411172

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Melvin Dirkse

Melvin Dirkse is a Development Coach with a private practice in Psychology & Education and also an Advisory Board Member of Department of Applied Legal Studies, Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Email: mdirkse@md-consulting.co.za

Die politieke landskap van Suid-Afrika het na die 2024 algemene verkiesing, 'n radikale politieke metamorfose ondergaan. Met die kom van 'n regering van nasionale eenheid, betree ons land 'n ongekende terrein. Te midde van hierdie verwikkelinge het ons dinamiese jong leiers nodig om die pas aan te gee.

Nuwe jong leiers is nou nodig om volhoubare landsverandering te skep. Energieke, ambisieuse jong mense met dryfkrag, morele oortuiging en verbintenis tot transformasie. Dit is bemoedigend om te sien jonger parlementslede gaan deel vorm van die Nasionale Vergadering. Mosotho Moepya, voorsitter van die OVK, voer aan dat daar 12 lede tussen die ouderdom 20 en 29, 67 lede tussen die ouderdom 30 en 39, en 110 lede tussen die ouderdom 40 en 49, in parlement gaan dien.

Daar heers 'n behoefte vir die skep van 'n kultuur van leierskap wat die vermoë het om die huidige klimaat van kwesbaarheid, onsekerheid, kompleksiteit en dubbelsinnigheid die hoof te bied. Doeltreffende leierskap is dus noodsaaklik in ons plaaslike gemeenskappe, besighede en regeringstrukture.

Die onvoorspelbaarheid van die huidige globale gesondheid, sosiale, geopolitieke en ekonomiese onsekerheid vereis dit, dat jongmense aanpasbaar is. Hulle moet die uitdagings van 'n voortdurend veranderende wêreld moet baasraak.

Gemeenskappe smag na dinamiese jong leiers met die vermoë om verskeie uitdagings gelyktydig aan te pak en praktiese oplossings op spoedige wyse toe te pas. Die burgemeester van Kaapstad toon bemoedigende leierskap eienskappe en is bereid om kwessies soos vervoer, infrastruktuur ontwikkeling, werkskepping, en finansiële groei, daadwerklik aan te spreek.

Ek stel dus die volgende eienskappe voor waarna ons jong leiers moet streef:

Oortuiging: 'n Leier sonder oortuiging is 'n rampspoedige leier. 'n Leier moet uit oortuiging optree, asook beslissend wees in sy aksies, onwrikbaar bly te midde van 'n krisis en tog nederigheid toon. So 'n leier dwing respek af en is veel meer effektief om vertroue in hul volgelinge te skep.

Eerlikheid en opregtheid: John Maxwell maak hierdie kragtige opmerking, "mense gee nie om hoeveel jy weet nie, totdat hulle weet hoeveel jy omgee." Eerlikheid en opregtheid is sigbaar wanneer 'n leier empatie toon met die pyn en leiding van gewone mense. Effektiewe leiers luister na die verbale, asook die nie-verbale interaksies van hulle gehoor en reageer proaktief daarop.

Visie en Vasberadenheid: Waar daar geen visie is nie, vergaan die mense. Jong leiers wat doelgerigtheid aan die dag lê, sal tot gevolg hê, dat hul organisasie en



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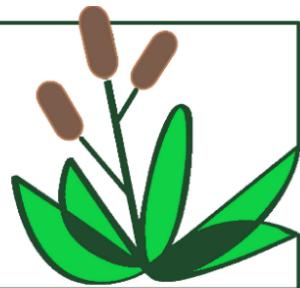
sy lede groter inkoop en ondersteuning sal hê vir hul visie.

'n Visioenêre leier bied leiding aan elke lid van sy span, beklemtoon hulle persoonlike rol in die organisasie, asook die oorkoepelende rol wat die organisasie self speel. 'n Kombinasie van vasberadenheid en passie sal tot gevolg hê dat langtermyndoelwitte verwesenlik word.

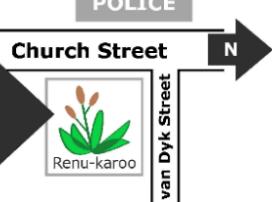
Risikonemers: Dinamiese leiers waag dit om anders te wees. Hulle praat nie net oor risikoneming nie, maar tree beslissend op en voer planne met oortuiging uit. Suksesvolle leiers misluk en maak foute, maar benut die ervaring as 'n groeiproses en ontwikkel nuwe en meer kreatiewe maniere om bestaande probleme aan te spreek.

Die impak van swak leierskap is duidelik in byna alle sektore van ons land. Tog is die Suid-Afrikaanse demokrasieprojek steeds haalbaar as jong leiers bemagtig, gementor en afgerig word om 'n nuwe innoverende standaard vir die nasie te stel.■

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Your Legal Questions Answered

Ponder That Post – Defamation in the Time of Social Media

Gavin Jordaan, Associate: Litigation



The public at large have been turning their attention away from the traditional sources of news, information, and social interaction because of the advent of social media, and particularly the uber commercialization thereof in the past decade. Inevitably the result is that most individuals are active on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or a myriad of other social media outlets offering similar services. If not, consider for instance that friendly local neighbourhood WhatsApp group established for the benefit and security of all residents.

The availability and use of these alternate media sources should of course be applauded. What does however potentially present a problem is the ease with which original content can be further disseminated and / or agreed with either via comment, tagging or onward posting, as such potentially casting the net for a defamation claim wider than was traditionally the case.

Defamation in South African law is aimed at protecting a person's dignity and/or reputation. When assessing a claim for defamation, our Courts will enquire into the presence or absence of the following requirements:

- i. Did the publisher have the intention to defame?
- ii. Were the statements wrongful?
- iii. Was there a published defamatory statement made about the complainant?
- iv. Did the complainant suffer harm (damages) because of the defamatory statement?

For purposes of the current article, these requirements, and the defences available thereto will not be fully canvassed, suffice it to say that our Courts base their decision as to whether defamation has occurred, on the facts of each case.

In the past, before social media became mainstream, claims for defamation were in the vast majority of instance limited to the source of the publicised statements given that they would invariably appear in printed media. Social media has considerably changed this landscape given that potential defamatory statements made by an originator can now be disseminated and / or agreed upon by several secondary consumers exposing themselves to potential action in their personal capacity or as part of a specified group.

This is clear based on the following principles which have been exposed by our Courts recently:

- i. You don't have to be an originator of potential defamatory statements to be held liable for defamation.
- ii. Simply sharing or liking a third-party post can be seen as defamation.
- iii. Where you are tagged in a defamatory post and fail to remove yourself or disassociate yourself from the post, it can be seen as defamatory.
- iv. Even if a specific individual's post in isolation may not be seen as defamatory, several different individual's posts can be seen as defamatory when viewed as a whole.

Given the widening net for defamation claims, specifically in relation to individuals who may or may not be the originators of potentially defamatory statements, it is worth noting that any Constitutionally guaranteed right is subject to limitations, including the right to Freedom of Speech. It is thus well advised to carefully consider not only your own individual social media posts, but also the entire thread of posts relating to any matter under discussion.

The additional care that needs to be taken before engaging actively in group discussion and / or comment online is even more apparent since the active and well publicised pursuit by the Human Rights Commission of various individuals making racial comments online.

Of course, in your eagerness to avoid being associated with defamatory comment on social media originating from a third party, do not neglect to carefully consider any content originating from yourself.

Remember, if in doubt, do not post.■

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Karoo Night Sky – July 2024

Case Rijsdijk



The month starts with a waning crescent Moon that becomes new on the 6th, with full Moon following on the 21st. There are three meteor showers to look out for this month; first the Piscis Australids peaking on 28 July, the delta Aquariids peak on 31 July as do the alpha Capricornids; all should be visible for most of the night, look in the NE sky.

The winter evening sky is, as I have mentioned in previous years, great for astronomers, but not very exciting for the casual observer. The reason why astronomers enjoy this period is because the Milky Way stretches from southeast to northwest across the sky with the centre of our galaxy, a much-studied region, overhead. The only well-known and easily recognizable constellation is that of the Scorpion, with the brilliant red super-giant star Antares at its heart. Almost overhead it is also probably the only constellation that looks a little like its namesake!

Looking south the Southern Cross and the Pointers are high up in the southwest with Canopus and Achernar, just to the west and east of south respectively and very low. Looking north the bright star Vega is visible low in the northeast, with Arcturus low in the northwest in the constellation of Bootes.

There are several aspects of the morning sky that are powerful reminders of the cyclic nature of our lives. Mars and Jupiter dominate the morning sky in the east and it is interesting to see how they slowly move closer towards each other by the end of the month the planet Saturn can be seen low in the northwest.

By the end the month evening sky, just after sunset, has the two inner planets, Mercury and Venus, low in the NW and on the 31st they will be in a vertical line with the bright star Regulus between them.

Also towards the end of the month, Orion makes a welcome return, rising in the east, with the loose grouping of the Hyades to the left, and isiLimela

(Pleiades) in the northeast. Each morning it appears higher in the sky and eventually dominates the evening sky by November

This is also an ideal opportunity to see the Milky Way's twin: the Andromeda galaxy. It will be at its highest, but still low above the northern horizon and appears as a small fuzzy patch of light well to the left, of isiLimela: look directly north a hand-span above the horizon. It is easy with binoculars. It is the remotest object visible to the naked eye being 2.5 million light years away. Mrs Ples (I believe now master Ples) was walking on Earth when the light we see today left the remote galaxy! Remember when you do find it that fuzzy patch is a city of stars: around 300 billion of them and is often seen as a twin of our Milky Way galaxy. You will need a clear northern view and be as far away from city lights as possible. It is well worth getting up for, weather permitting, and is a reminder of the beauty of our night skies.■

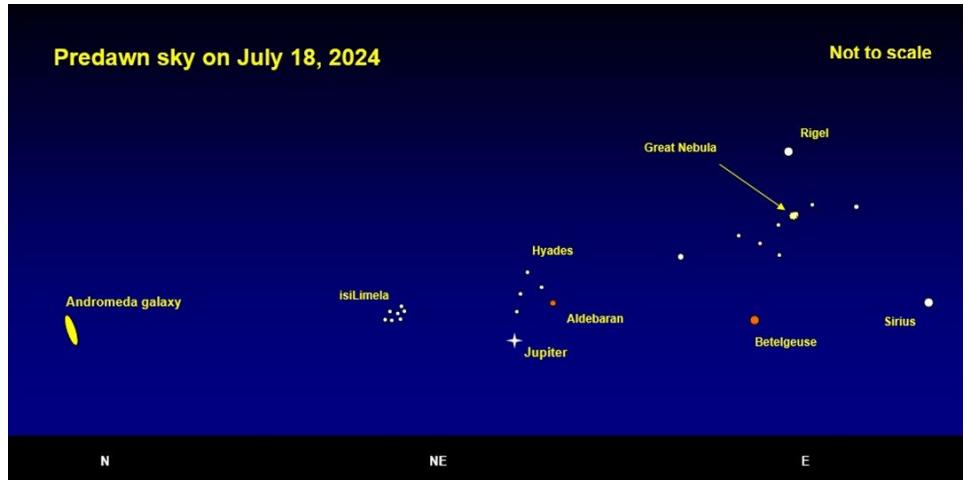


Diagram: Case Rijsdijk



There has been a great deal of solar activity recently, leading to many images of Auroras. This striking aurora display was captured in 2016 just outside of Östersund, Sweden. Six photographic fields were merged to create the featured panorama spanning almost 180 degrees. The green colour comes from ionized oxygen from a highly active solar eruption. Photo: Case Rijsdijk



'n Keur uit Rose se versamelbrokkies

'n Privaat nuusbrief oor geskiedenis uit die Karoo met die goedgunstige toestemming van Rose Willis

Vertaling: Linda Havenga

VREEMDE WETTE VAN DIE OU KAAP

In die 1750's, toe Ryk Tulbagh Hendrik Swellengrebel opgevolg het, as die laaste Nederlandse goewerneur van die Kaap, het hy 'n paar streng en beperkende wette ingestel. Daar was gesê dat hy baie geliefd is en as "die vader van die volk" beskou word, maar hy het besluit dat niemand met 'n laer klas as 'n junior handelaar 'n sambrel mag dra nie - vreemd as 'n mens die Kaapse weer in ag neem. Burgers moes 'n vol handelaar wees om die Kasteel in mooi weer met hul sambrel oop te kon betree. Almal moes stop en uit hul koets klim as die Goewerneur nader gekom het. Daar is ook van alle mans verwag om hul hoede af te haal as hulle by die goewerneur se huis verbygaan. Geen vrou onder die klas van die vrou van 'n junior handelaar mag 'n syrok of 'n rok met sy versierings of borduurwerk dra nie en geen vrou, hetsy in of buite rou, mag 'n rok met 'n sleep dra nie. Daar was 'n groot boete van 25 Riksdaalder daarvoor. Min vroue is toegelaat om diamante of mantels te dra – of selfs te besit. Dit was bekend as die Pracht en Praal (pronk- en luukshede) regulasies, sê mev P Troller in Ou Kaapkolonie.

MOENIE GAAN AS JY 'N INVALIDE IS NIE

Teen die draai van die vorige eeu het dr. Ernest Graham Little, 'n hoogs gerespekteerde Britse geneesheer, mense aangeraai om ter wille van hul gesondheid na Suid-Afrika te reis. Little was in beheer van die velafdeling by St. Mary's-hospitaal, in Londen, waar hy voortdurend die voordele van soneskyn aan sy pasiënte verduidelik het. Hy het ook, in sy hoedanigheid as senior geneesheer by die *Last London Hospital for Children*, gedurig vir ouers vertel hoe voordelig dit sou wees as hul kinders buite kon speel. Terwyl hy by St George's Hospitaal en die *London City Hospital for Chest Diseases* was, het hy voortdurend die lof van Suid-Afrika se vars, skoon, helder, Karoo-lug besing. Hy was vol vertroue dat die oopstelling van die land deur die Britte 'n kragtige ontwikkeling van gesondheidsoorde oor die binneland sou meebring, sowel as uitgebreide groei in destydse nuwe velde vir gesondheidswerkers. Na dr Little se mening sal die land se natuurlike terapeutiese klimaat, grond en omgewing die vooruitgang van byna enige verraderlike siektes kan bekamp. Slegs invalides, het hy gesê, moet weens vervoerprobleme afgeraai word om na Suid-Afrika te gaan. Hy het geprofeteer dat hierdie probleem sou verbeter namate die bevolking en gesondheid toeneem, en dat dit mettertyd "die standarde sou bereik wat deur Engelse vereis word". Hy het bygevoeg: "As jy jou kan indink

hoe Londen sou gewees het as *British Rail* nie ekstra treine vir die Kroning laat loop het nie, dan sal jy 'n idee hê van die opeenhoping en ongemak van vervoerstelsels in Suid-Afrika tans."

LEWE OP DIE OSEAAN

"Die reis na Suid-Afrika, een van die aangenaamste en gesondste reise in die wêreld," het dr Little gesê. "Op sigself is dit verfrissend vir beide gees en liggaaam. Daar is twee uitstekende reis keuses – langs die ooskus deur Duitse stoombote of deur Union Castle, wat die monopolie van die weskus roete het. Die ooskusroete word aanbeveel vir diegene wat aan seesiekte ly, aangesien vaartuie nooit langer as vyf dae op see is nie. Onthou egter dat reis in Februarie, Maart of April ongemaklik warm is en hou in gedagte dat Duitse kookkuns nie na die smaak van alle Engelse is nie. Die see kan rof wees langs die Union Castle-roete, maar die weer is meestal aangenaam en kos op hierdie skepe is vergelykbaar met dié van 'n eersteklas Europese hotel. Albei lyne dra mediese personeel." Hy het bygevoeg dat Bucknall Brothers, Rennie, White Star, German East Africa Lines en Shaw Saville begin om mededinging op "die Suid-Afrika-roete" aan te bied. Persone wat aan ernstige griep ly, sal hul krag herwin op die seereise, het hy gesê en bygevoeg: "Ek het ook buitengewoon goeie resultate gesien in gevalle van aanhoudende slapeloosheid. Die meeste pasiënte het hul slapeloosheid op hierdie reise heeltemal oorwin. Een pasiënt, wat tekens van 'n senuwee-ineenstorting en algemene verlamming getoon het, het sy konsentrasie en geheue binne 'n paar weke op see herstel." Little het pasiënte wat aan Tering ly aangeraai om te reël om op die dek te slaap om "die bedompigheid van die kajuite" snags te vermy. Die meeste stoombote het 'n koei of twee gehad om babas van vars melk te voorsien, het hy gesê, maar om moeders te troos het bygevoeg dat 'n voorraad melk voldoende gesteriliseer is vir die stoombote voordat hulle Engeland verlaat het. "Hierdie melk hou gewoonlik vir die hele reis," het hy gesê.



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IN DIENS VAN DIE HERE EN ONDERWYS

Pastoor Andreas Johannes Abrahamse het 'n baie betekenisvolle rol in die Groot Karoo gespeel. Hy het in 1930 sy werk as Sondagskoolonderwyser by die Lutherse Sendingkerk in Kaapstad begin en dit so geniet dat hy studeer het om evangelis te word onder dominee C G Kohl. Toe hy in 1936 kwalifiseer, is hy op Calitzdorp, in die Klein Karoo, geplaas. As gevolg van sy groot liefde vir kinders en sy besorgdheid oor hul opvoeding, het pastoor Abrahamse 'n skool (met 'n huis vir 'n onderwyser) by Kraaldoorns gestig. Sy dienste strek tot by Groenfontein waar hy 'n ou klipgebou bekom het om vir Sondag- en midweekdienste te gebruik. Hy voltooi sy kwalifikasies in die 1940's en bedien mettertyd gemeentes in Anysberg, Avontuur, Dwyka, Floriskraal, Grootplaas, Haarlem, die Koup, Korsten, Laingsburg, Matjiesfontein, Matroosberg, Misgund, Touwsrivier, Worcester. Hy het hierdie gemeenskappe bedien op beide geestelike en opvoedkundige vlakke



*Union Castle Liners in East India Docks, London in 1902
foto: Wikipedia*

GEFOKUS OP ONDERWYS

Pastoor Abrahamse het 26 jaar op Laingsburg deurgebring, waar hy vir 'n geruime tyd die bestuurder van 'n klein vier vertrek skooltjie was. Mettertyd het hy bywoning tot sewe klasse opgebou. Dit het aanhou groei en na 'n ruk het die regering dit oorgeneem. Hy was verantwoordelik vir die ontwikkeling van baie ander skooltjies regoor die Karoo. Dit het skole vir die kinders van plaaswerkers en spoorwegwerkers ingesluit. Vanaf Laingsburg het pastoor Abrahamse gemeentes langs die spoorlyn tot so ver noord as Deelfontein bedien. Hier het hy 'n piepklein twee klaskamer skool gehad. Op Beaufort-Wes het hy 'n gemeente van spoorwegwerkers gestig wat vanaf Drie Susters en Kromrivier na die dorp verplaas is. Hy het hierdie gemeente gehelp om grond te bekom om 'n skool op te bou. Pastoor Abrahamse het as lid van die Lutherse Raad van Kerke gedien. Volgens inligting wat deur sy vrou en dogter verskaf is, het hy 'n belangrike rol gespeel in die vorming van baie Lutherse streek kerke. Hy was die eerste president van die Kaap-Oranje Bisdom. Hy was 'n stigterslid van die Federasie van Evangelies-Lutherse Kerke in Suider-Afrika. Hy het die *All African Lutheran Church*-vergadering in Tanzanië bygewoon, was 'n afgevaardigde na 'n vergadering in Madagaskar, en terwyl hy in daardie land was, het hy as gas prediker in sommige ander gemeentelike kerke gedien. Hy het ook gehelp met die verskuiwing van die Lutherse Kweekskool. Sy vrou, Cathleen, was 'n medewerker en het uiteindelik as 'n leier van die Vroueliga op bisdom-, kring- en gemeentevlak gedien. Sy het hom innig liefgehad en het voortdurend beide morele en geestelike ondersteuning aangebied. Sy was ook 'n aktiewe en suksesvolle fonds insamelaar.■

NG Kerk Prins Albert

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'n Echte plattelandse dorpskuier

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VOLG DIE SKAKEL NA DIE INSKRYWINGS VORM

A Selection from Rose's Forgotten Highway Express

A privately published monthly newsletter covering snippets from the Karoo and Forgotten Highway with the kind permission of Rose Willis.



AGREED TO ESTABLISH A TOWN

Douglas lies near the confluence of the Orange River and its main tributary, the Vaal River, about 100 km southwest of Kimberley. It was founded in 1848 as a mission station on the farm Backhouse, by the Reverend Isaac Hughes who had been working along the Vaal River since 1845. In 1867, a group of Europeans from Griquatown signed an agreement giving them the right to establish a town there. It was named after General Sir Robert Percy Douglas, Lieutenant Governor of the Cape Colony from 1863 to 1868. He was the son of General Sir Howard Douglas, the 4th Baronet of Carr. First commissioned at the age of 14, Robert became Colonel 2nd Battalion of the Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire) Regiment. In January 1864 he was made Colonel of both, the 2nd West India Regiment and the 98th Regiment. He was also Commissioner of the Ionian Islands at one stage.

Worth a visit is De Neus, a scenic spot 14km from town, on the confluence of the rivers and Driekopseiland where about 3 000 rock engravings and petroglyphs are spread over a large area of glacial pavement in the Riet Riverbed. Some portray animals, but most are abstract or entoptic designs relating to San religious experiences. Then, there is the Douglas wine cellar, established in 1968, which produces a wide variety of table and dessert wines. Douglas privately-owned airfield, 4Km northeast out of town, has an asphalt runway 1.5km long and 14m wide.

There was some action at Sunnyside Farm on 1 January 1900 during the Anglo Boer War, when Lieutenant-Colonel Pilcher, commanding a mixed force of Australians, Canadians and Imperial troops from Major-General Sir Elliott Wood's force at Belmont, surprised and routed a Boer commando. They then occupied the town of Douglas for one night before returning to Belmont. British casualties were 2 killed and 2 wounded; Boer losses were about 15 killed and 38 prisoners.

SMALL AND NON-DESCRIPT, BUT POWERFUL

Isaac Hughes was a rather small, non-descript, British Calvinist missionary and preacher who started a mission station that became Douglas. He was born to Welsh parents Edward and Mary Hughes in Manchester. His father came from Bontuchel in Denbighshire and his mother from Brynsiencyn in Anglesey. After some time in Sheffield and Rotherham he, in 1822, replied to an advertisement placed by the LMS for an artisan / carpenter and blacksmith. He stated that he was 24, and descended from religious parents both of whom were deceased. He got the job, so on 18 August 1823 he married Elizabeth Jones who was born in Oswestry in Llangollen on July 20, 1799.

They left Britain a month later on 24 September from Gravesend on a ship bound for Cape Town. They arrived on 30 December. Isaac and Elizabeth had nine children. Their eldest daughter, Jeremina was born in Prieska. He initially worked as a blacksmith and reached Kuruman only in August 1824 and there their son Isaac was born. They then went on to Griqua town in late 1827 and there seven more children were born before Elizabeth died on January 7, 1845. She is buried in Philippolis. Isaac became a missionary in 1839 and working in Lattakoo, and Grahamstown. After Elizabeth's death he worked along the Vaal River. He married a missionary's daughter, Anne Magdalena Vogelgezang, in 1850 and they had 4 children, the eldest of whom was born in Griekwastad. They went on to open a new station in on the farm Backhouse, this later developed into the town Douglas. He died on 23 June 1870 after a 47-year career.

MYSTERIOUS BOOKLET

There was much more to Isaac Hughes than meets the eye. A mysterious handwritten copy of one of the earliest grammars of a Bantu language lies, almost unknown, in the National Library in Cape Town. This is a work, on the Tswana language, written by Isaac Hughes. It shows him to have been a man with a logical mind and considerable ability as a linguist. His work on the language, and the help he gave to the American missionaries Lindley,

Wilson and Venables, who stayed at Griquatown in 1835, are recorded in Edwin Smith's *Life of Daniel Lindley*.

On December 28, 1835, Daniel Lindley wrote: "Mr Hughes of this place was pleased to make himself exceedingly useful to us by preparing a grammar of the Sichuana language, which had never been done before, and by enabling us to make a vocabulary containing between two and three thousand words, which is also a new work, the first and therefore the best, of its kind. This kind brother has sat many a long hour with a company of Bechuanas to help him in giving us the meaning of Sichuana words. But the grammar he prepared for us is by far the most important document we have received."

This little book is extremely valuable, and fascinating as it takes cognizance of pitch or tone of syllables, and even uses marks to indicate them. It refers to the "euphonic concord" and lists eleven noun classes. In the second place, it is a linguistic "Whodunit?". How did it come to be that pioneer work of this caliber was, in its own time, unknown to most other workers in the same field? Why was it not printed? How did it fall into oblivion? Who made the present un-named copy? And when did he make it, and what is its history? No one knows! This early, almost entirely unknown Tswana grammar was apparently compiled gradually, between 1828 and 1858. Isaac Hughes mentions finding printed fragments of the Lord's Prayer in Tswana at Griqua Town in 1824. Isaac Hughes's book is one more proof of the vital significance of that central period of the nineteenth century in the story of African language development. ■



Driekopseiland – Rock engravings
Photo: Pinterest

'n Dag in die Klein-Karoo Calitzdorp

Petrus JS Vermaak

'n Dorp wat jou betower met sy outentieke sjarme. Sy unieke wêreldbekende wyne, karaktervolle treinstasie, argitektuur, natuurskoon en vriendelike mense. Vandag se besoek was 'n nostalgiiese ervaring.

Nostalgie - Calitzdorp

Op die skerm van my denke
'n Herinnering wat opdoem uit die verlede
se ervarings en gebeurtenisse
van 'n Klein-Karoo dorp
se nostalgiiese waarnemings en kennis
In my wese koester ek jou gedagtes
vol van gister se vreugdes en vrese
waar 'n geheue se drome 'n leeftyd oorspoel
sodat ek kan drink
uit die soet van gister se helder lewenspoel
Die jare stap aan maar jy stap saam
nooit sal jy sterf terwyl 'n leeftyd taan
al wil jy ons soms in ouderdom verlaat
skenk jy ons vele skatte
vir ons nagelaat
In bekende melodieë hoor ek jou stem so soet
wat my terugvoer na vele oomblikke wat my begroet
my denke word gevul met lewensspreuke wat jy herroep
om my te herinner
waar 'n hoër orde my eens beroep
Wat is 'n lewe sonder nostalgie
hoe sal ons ooit kan leer sonder jou ewige gefluister
herinneringe- die geduldige leermeester
'n Hemelse gawe geskenk
deur 'n Ewige Meester.■



Calitzdorp Fotos: Peet Vermaak



The Story of a Happy Cell

Merril Wilson NN

Your body is made up of billions of me,
microscopic is what we be.
Each one, a complicated factory, excellent
fuel required, for efficiency.

I'm a cell, and can't help but sing, when
provided food, with zing!
What foods have zing? you may well ask!
Anything that grows, lives, and rots fast!
You may need suggestions to clarify what's
meant by living food, so, standby!

Fruits and vegetables, in colours galore, make
me sing, and cry for more.
Fresh meat, fish, seeds and nuts, make me rich.
All feed my soul creating energy so fine
tiredness, cramps, and pain decline.
Dis-ease vanishes, in no time!

Now a grain of pink salt under the tongue opens
my gates, before water is done.
I'm then hydrated, and feel just fine,
well balanced and happy, how divine!

So, forget the bread, chips, cookies and cake,
fizzy drinks, sugars, and alcohol, make me quake!
I feel sleepy, and oh! so tired, please
stick to water, by your side.

Food and health go hand in hand to
live without the doctor's brand.
So choose what's best every time you eat, and
all your cells will be complete.

Please follow these simple rules I ask, and
I'll reward you, with a happy heart.
A wave that soars, making me sing the
praises of the person, whose body I'm in.■

On the Farm

Mary Peddie

Those of liberal sentiment, they say,
Feel most strongly when the problem's far away.
Lapses of behaviour in one's own backyard
Strike the big-hearted liberal terrible 'ard.
Likewise, I can proclaim myself a muscophile
Since none has molested my garden in a very long while.
It can be very dry in this part of the Karoo.
Snails don't like it much - I do.■

Boesmangeraamte se versteende vrou (Slot)

Herman Labuschagne

Niemand het eers gemurmureer toe hulle struikelend en swetend deur die krapperige Karoo bossies moes sukkel terwyl hulle die goedkoop kis na die graf moes dra nie. Sy het nie beplan om vir hom 'n diens te hou nie, maar die dominee het self opgedaag en inisiatief geneem. Sy kon hom dit tog nie belet nie.

Langs die graf het hy iets gelees. 'n Vers van alle trane wat weggevee sou word. En toe van alle sondes wat vergewe sou word, as mens daarvoor vra. Die eerste vers het gepas by die begrafnis, maar die ander vers, dié het sy geweet dat hy aan haar opgedra het. Almal het dit geweet, en verleë na die grond bly staar terwyl die dominee dit lees.

Hoewel dit haar ongemaklik gemaak het, het sy dit waardeer. Hy, die dominee in wie se gemeente sy opgeteken was, maar wie se kerk sy nooit besoek het nie. Hy wat vir oulaas tog na 'n verdwaalde skaap kom soek het. Die dominee en die ouderling, wie die man wat nou 'n lyk was jare gelede van sy werf afgejaag het, het aan haar sy gestaan tydens die ter aarde bestelling. Die ouderling wat 'n swart sambrel oor haar gehou het, soos 'n wolk van sonde. En sy het na die hemele gestaar, ver oor die brandende vlaktes van die landskap, en geweet dat haar tyd nou min raak. Op meer as een manier.

Eendag, het sy geweet, sou sy van haar sambrel ontslae moes raak. Maar nie nou al nie. Nie nou terwyl die son so warm was, en die koelte so welkom nie. Ook dit, sou eenvoudig te skynheilig wees.

Anderkant die graf was daar die dokter met sy dik nek en vriendelike ou bulhond gesig. Die prokureur met sy vormlose baadjie en sy half-skewe neus wat op sy gesig ingeskroef was soos 'n snawel in 'n kinderkonsert masker.

Die sersant was ook daar, met donker sweetkolle onder die arms van sy tuniek, en nog twee swart strepe teen sy dik rug af. Dan was daar ook nog die begrafnisondernemer met sy seunsgesig wat aanwysings gegee het oor hoe om die kis in die graf te laat afsak, met ekstra lang toue.

Hy het vertroostend probeer glimlag toe sy sy oog vang. Sy kon sien dat dit meer as net vertroosting was van een wat sy werk reg doen. Dit was 'n

glimlag om haar te laat weet dat hy sy deel doen om 'n geheim te bewaar.

Die ondernemer het 'n graaf kom hou sodat elkeen grondjies op die kis kon gooi. Sy het nie grond geneem nie. Net 'n klip wat in die gruis gelê het. En dit het sy ingegooi sodat dit die deksel tref en twee maal hop voor dit bly stil lê het. En dit was vir haar 'n mooi geluid. Dit was vir haar iets soos 'n musiekstuk. Die laaste drie note wat 'n makabere komedie afrond. Soos iets wat Mozart nog wou geskryf het. Die donkerste deel uit sy beroemde Onvoltooide Simfonie.

Na die tyd het die begrafnisgangers vir 'n kort tydjie in die sonkamer kom sit en tee drink. Die dokter en die prokureur het gou gegroet en gery want tyd is geld, en geld was min in hierdie klein gemeenskap.

Maar die sersant het effens langer aangebly, want die Staat het vir sy tyd betaal op so 'n manier dat mens dit nie kon agterkom nie.

Toe hy sy derde snytjie melktert in sy bord skep, het hy gesug.

"Hy het heeltyd van sampioene gepraat in die hospitaal, en ook toe hy my gebel het," het hy nadenkend opgemerk.

Toe het hy haar reguit in die gesig gekyk en bygevoeg: "Snaaks tog, want waar op aarde sou sampioene ooit vandaan kom in hierdie dorre droogte? Dit was maar net nog een van sy stories wat net nie vir my sin gemaak het nie. En die staatsaanklaer het saamgestem..."

Die sersant se oë was as-vaal. 'n Rare kleur vir 'n man. 'n Vreemde kleur vir enige mens, maar een wat by die Karoo gepas het. Amper soos haar eie.

"Wanneer jy hier weggaan," het die sersant bygevoeg, terwyl hy 'n krummel van sy bultande tuniek afvee, "moet jy tog onthou dat hoewel julle nooit huis deel van die gemeenskap was nie, ons nogtans almal aan jou kant was. Ek dink jy het dit self gesien vandag. Ons skinder en ons baklei meeste van die tyd. Maar hier in die Karoo is ons nog regte mense. En wanneer dit by familie kom, dan staan ons saam. Jy hoef dus nie te bekommer nie."

Ons is 'n dorp wat 'n geheim kan hou."

Met die woorde het die sersant swaarlywig opgestaan en afgebuk om haar op haar voorkop te soen. en met knarsende

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voetstappe in die gang afgestap sonder om terug te kyk of totsiens te sê. Hy het die rooi tassie langs die kierie-staander geïgnoreer asof dit nie bestaan nie.

Sy het bly sit terwyl sy die gaasdeur agter hom hoor klap. Die vrolike geblaf van die ou hond wat saam met hom na sy bakkie gedraf het. En die geluid van die Ford se enjin toe hy dit aanskakel. En so het sy bly sit, tot lank na sy sy voertuig nie meer kon hoor nie. Al wat oorgebly het, die geluid van 'n verdwaalde brommer wat op en af teen die glas ruit bly stamp het.

Dit was byna nie nodig om in te pak nie. In haar kop het sy jare gelede al uitgewerk hoe sy dit sou doen. Sy was lank nie meer nostalgie nie. Al wat sy geneem het was die nodigste in klere. Haar musiek sertifikaat. En haar kinders se portrette teen die muur. En dit was al.

Sy ouers se portrette het sy net so teen die muur gelos. Die ou oom met sy ylgeknippe snor en die tannie met haar skilpad bekkie wat al die jare net stilswyend gekyk het as hy haar slaan en die kinders ignoreer en met sy stiltes kneus.

Sy het die varings in die sonkamer vir oulaas natgegooi, die teekoppies en bordjies gewas, en netjies weggepak, en die vuilgoed drommetjie buitekant gaan leegmaak. Daarna het sy die sleutels van die heilige koei geneem, en vir 'n oomblik langs die stoel gaan staan waar hy sy laaste maal geëet het. Sy laaste maal. Die sleutel tot haar vryheid... Sy het nie teruggekyk nie. Net by die venster uitgestaar en probeer luister of sy nog haar kinders se vrolike stemmetjies kon hoor, toe hulle nog klein was. Voordat hulle geleer het om in fluisterstemme in die huis te praat.

En toe het sy uitgestap in die agtermiddag hitte in, en die gaasdeur agter haar laat toeklap vir die laaste maal.

Die heilige koei.

Dit is wat sy die motor genoem het wat onder die lendelam geroeste sinkplaat afdak gestaan en oud word het. Dit was nooit eers vir haar mooi nie. Die *Chevrolet Commodore* was groot en swaar op brandstof. Sy metaal goue kleur het vulgêr gelyk in die vaal Karoo, soos die ryding van 'n plattelandse pimp. "Wat is 'n pimp nou in Afrikaans?" het sy gewonder. Die motor was boonop outomaties, en sy was ongemaklik daarmee.

Hy wou nooit hê sy moes daarmee ry sodat sy kon vertroud raak nie. Die motor was sy afgod wat hy eendag huis toe gebring het, en toe nie weer in die oë kon kyk nie. Hy het dit gekoop met geld wat kos uit sy kinders se monde geneem en sy boerdery gebreek het. Hy wou hê dat die motor net vir kerk toe ry gebruik moes word. En na hy nie meer kerk toe wou gaan nie, het die motor meestal net bly staan soos 'n groot, plat beskuldigende vinger, wat reguit na die kombuis gewys het.

Hy het die motor elke Vrydag laat was, maar self byna nooit daarmee gery nie. Of selfs daarna gekyk nie. Seker net daaroor gedroom terwyl hy saans sy glas vol skink. Sy het haar goeters in die motor gepak en haar twee werk volkies gaan groet. Dit was nie veel van 'n afskeid nie. Hulle het haar jammer gekry, dit weet sy. Maar hulle respektvolle stilte en simpatieke kyk was vernedering wat sy nooit kon ontsnap nie, en dit het altyd tussen hulle gestaan soos 'n olifant in die vertrek. Sy het elkeen driehonderd Rand in die hand gestop vir hulle lojaliteit.

En toe het sy die agterdeur oopgemaak en met moeite die ou hond ingelaai. Sy was nooit vir hom lief nie maar hy was getrou. Hy het darem dikwels saam met haar by die ou Boesman se graf gaan lê en hyg tot sy klaar gehuil was. Of totdat die stilte haar getroos het, in die tyd toe al haar tranе opgeraak het. Dit sou verkeerd wees om hom daar te los na al die jare. En die kat. Die kat wat haar dogter persent gekry het toe sy in die hoërskool was, en wat nie kon saamgaan Engeland toe nie. Die kat wat haar skoot nog effens warm gelê het toe haar hart reeds koud geword het.

As die diere ongesteld raak langs die pad, het sy al reeds besluit, sal sy nie bekommern nie. Die krediteure sal die kar in elk geval later nog kom haal, en as die heilige koei besmet terugkom sal dit haar nog beter pas. Die krediteure wat haar man se brandewyn glas al die jare vol gehou het. Hulle kan self skoonmaak agter die gemors.

Sy het die plaashek oopgemaak, en oop laat staan. Die tweede en die derde plaashek ook. En toe het haar wiele reg gesdraai. 80 km voor haar was 'n bergstreep. 'n Plek waar dennebome groei en waar paddastoele in hul skadu staan. Presies nes in die biblioteek boek wat sy geleen het.

Roomkleurig soos haar rok, en sag en kwesbaar soos haar siel. Maar dodelik as 'n mens dit op die verkeerde manier gebruik.

Daar was 'n bedrukte swangerskap in die lug van die Karoo maar sy het nie omgegee nie. Anderkant die berge, het sy geweet, wag daar bevryding. 'n Ontsapping na vars lug en seewind na 27 jaar.

Sy het 'n klein bietjie geld gehad wat niemand van geweet het nie. Uit die boedel van haar moeder, te danke aan die prokureur. Dit was lank nog nie genoeg nie. Maar sy het nie veel verwag nie. Sy was in elk geval nie op soek na 'n einde nie. Net na 'n begin. Oor die dorre vlaktes van die vaal Karoo het 'n goue komeet oor die landskap heen verskiet – met 'n lang grys stofwolk agterna wat homself na 'n halwe myl onwillig probeer uitkanselleer het.

Sy was op pad huis toe vir die eerste keer in haar lewe, hoewel sy nog nie geweet het waar dit was nie. Maar dit was 'n goeie gevoel. En agter haar, sonder dat sy eers in die spieëltjie gekyk het, het een blou donderwolk met loodgrys orrelpype in die laaste lig gehang terwyl die water uitsak oor die Boesman en sy graf. 'n Klein bietjie troos en genade vir 'n vernielde wêreld.

Sy het dit nie eers gesien nie, maar so sou sy dit wou gehad het. Vir die ou Boesman. En vir al haar man se blomme wat sy reg na die begrafnis, nadat almal weg was, op die Boesman se graf gaan sit het.■



Foto ter illustrasie

Wil jy 'n Karooplaas koop? (Deel I)

Dirk De Kock

Dalk droom jy al lank daaroor om 'n plaas in die Ceres/Tankwa-Karoo te koop. Sommer vir 'n eie naweek-wegbreekplek om bietjie van die stad se gewoel te ontsnap, stilte en rustigheid te ervar, en les bes 'n paar skape aan te hou. Skaapvleis in die winkel is hoeka so duur! Maar hoe weet mens jy koop 'n plaas met goeie weiding vir die skape?

Die antwoord is eenvoudig: Gaan kyk na die bossies en word wys!

'n Vriend van my wat by Botrivier boer, sê altyd, "As jou kos fabriek reg is, kan jy baie diere aanhou". Dit gesê, moet mens in ag neem dat skape kieskeurige vreters is; hulle vreet beslis nie alles wat groen op 'n plaas is nie. Om optimum te groei en te produseer, moet hulle die regte voeding kry.

'n Skaapboer wat sy diere op natuurlike weiding laat voed, boer in die eerste plek met sy veld (Karoo-veld) en in die tweede plek met sy skape; altyd in daardie volgorde.

'Goeie' Karoo-veld bestaan uit 'n gediversifiseerde plantspesie samestelling wat in balans met mekaar is; met ander woorde, daar is gesonde kompetisie tussen spesies om hulpbronne soos grondvog en sonlig.

Die een plantspesie domineer nie die ander nie. Voortdurende swaar oorbeweiding deur skape veroorsaak dat meer smaaklike spesies mettertyd uitgevreet word. Gevolglik kry minder smaaklike of onsmaklike spesies die voordeel om die veld te begin domineer, want hulle kompetisie (die smaaklike plante) word stelselmatig verminder/uitgeskakel.

Oor tyd heen verander die plantspesie-samestelling van die veld dus na enkele nie-smaaklike plantsoorte; swak Karoo-weiveld dus. Dit is wel moontlik om goeie en swak Karoo-weiveld van mekaar te onderskei deur wat ek 'indikator'-bossies noem.

Goeie weiveld word gekenmerk deur smaaklike bossies waarvan skape hou en wat hulle graag vreet; met swak weiveld is dit die omgekeerde.

Een van hierdie indikator-bossies van swak Karoo-weiveld is Scholtzbos. Ander name daarvoor is armoedsbos, gombossie, witbossie. Armoedsbos is eintlik baie beskrywend, want as jy té veel van hulle op jou plaas het, is armoede jou besliste voorland! Wetenskaplike naam: Petronia pallens. Houtagtige struik tot 60cm hoog. Witterige stamme met helder, donkergroen blare. Blom September - Desember; blomme is heldergeel; taai/ gomagtig indien jy daaraan raak. Verkies heuwelagtige terrein en/of vlaktes; klipperige en kalkagtige gronde.



Scholtzbos Foto: Verskaf

Dit is 'n pionierplant, wat beteken dat dit eerste op kaal grond vestig. Pioniergewasse berei die grond voor vir plante hoër op in die suksesieleer, naamlik die subklimaks-en klimaksplante.

Scholtzbos word nie deur vee gevreet nie, tewens dit kan akute lewervergiftiging by skape veroorsaak sou hul wel daarvan vreet. Geen ander plante groei naby hulle nie en

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hulle maak ook nie plek vir plante hoër op in die suksesseleer nie. Een van die plantsuksesselemodelle rakende natuurlike veld, is die sogenoemde 'inhibisiemodel', waar voorgestel word dat pioniersplante, soos Scholtzbos, stowwe in die grond afskei wat verhoed dat ander (meer vreetbare?) plante hulle opvolg.

Scholtzbos produseer ook baie meer saad onder toestande waar veld swaar oorbewei word (2.7kg/ha) teenoor 1.1kg/ha wanneer veld net lig bewei word, het 'n wetenskaplike studie bevind (Milton & Dean 1993).

Aangesien Karoo-struikveld waarin Scholtzbos voorkom langlewend is (tot 150 jaar) en Scholtzbos ook nie geredelik plek maak vir opvolgspesies in die suksesseleer nie, is die blote vermindering/onttrekking van vee nie genoegsaam om veldherstel/veldverbetering - soos dit was voor jarelange swaar oorbeweiding - te bewerkstellig nie.

'n Karoo-plaas wat 'n oupa laat oorbewei het, gaan dus nog by sy kleinkinders spook!

Word vervolg...



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Skelmstreke

Stoffel Lombard

Die motor is blou. Ligblou en donkerblou. Dit is splinternuut en mooi. Dit het vlerke. My pa sê dit is nie lank nie, dan sal motors vlieg. Dit is 'n 1959 Chev Impala. Die motor sleep 'n streep stof agter hom aan op die grondpad na ons plaashuis. Ek en my pa volg die stofstreep tot hier by ons. Die motor kom tot stilstand in 'n wolk van stof. Dit wieg grasieus, dan gaan staan dit stil. Die stof wat die motor gevolg het, sak af tot op die grond. Dan gaan lê dit stil en verdwyn, asof dit nooit daar gewees het nie.

Ons boer in die Karoo. In die Graaff-Reinet distrik. Dit is winter. Dit is koud. Dit is die begin van die Jagseisoen.

Die motor se deur gaan oop. 'n Man klim uit. My pa sê die man is 'n skelm. Hy het ryk geword deur sy skelmstreke.

'n Week gelede was my pa doenig in sy studeerkamer. Hy laai patronen vir die 30.06 jaggewere. Sy kleinneef kom jag. My pa sal een van die gewere vir hom leen, soos in die verlede.

My pa konsentreer. Hy maak aantekeninge in sy notaboek. Hy staan op, sit 'n patroon in die 30.06. Hy gaan na buite en lê aan na 'n teiken, honderd tree weg. Die skoot knal. Hy skud sy kop. Hy is nie tevrede nie. Hy gaan terug na die studeerkamer. Hy kom later uit. Lê aan na die teiken. Die skoot klap. Hy glimlag.

Hy gaan terug na sy studeerkamer. Steek sy pyp op en sit behaaglik terug in sy stoel. Hy kyk na sy notaboekie. 'n Glimlag speel om sy mondhoek. Hy is tevrede met wat hy ookal gedoen het. Hy gaan voort om tien patronen te laai.

Vyf vir hom. Vyf vir sy kleinneef, Pierre. Hy plaas hulle in twee verskillende patroonsakkies. Een vir hom. Een vir sy kleinneef.

Die rykman met die skelmstreke.

My ma het so drie jaar gelede begin om met lê-hoenders te boer. Dit het klein begin. Die laaste jaar stuur sy eiers na die mark in Port Elizabeth. Haar boerdery het groot geword. Dit het in 'n boerdery in 'n boerdery ontaard. My pa boer met skaap. My ma boer met hoenders. My pa spring soms in om hand by te sit met die hoenderboerdery.

Daar het egter 'n probleem ontstaan. Baie van die eiers wat na die mark gestuur word, kom gebreek daar aan. My ma was nie betaal vir gebroke of gekraakte eiers nie. Van die sowat honderd dosyn eiers wat maandeliks na die mark gestuur word, is daar gereeld so drie dosyn eiers wat of gebreek, of gekraak was. Dit is volgens die markagent. Die markagent is my pa se kleinneef, oom Pierre. Die ryk man met die skelmstreke.

'n Jaar gelede het my pa spesiale kaste laat maak om eiers in te laat vervoer. Dit was toe my ma eiers aan die mark begin verskaf het. Elke kas het vyf laaie gehad. Elke laai het plek vir vyf dosyn eiers gehad. Elke eier was in sy eie holte wat met vilt uitgevoer was, geplaas. Die eiers kon nie rondrol of skuif nie. Die laaie kon uittrek. Daar was 'n deur voor met 'n grendel. Die eierkaste was mooi en stewig. Hulle het handvatsels gehad om hulle mee te dra. My pa het gesê eiers kan nie in hierdie kaste breek nie. Hy het die kaste as 'n geskenk vir my ma op haar verjaarsdag gegee. 'n Jaar gelede.

Hy het die kaste soms geïnspekteer wanneer hulle van die mark af teruggekom. Die laaste keer was 'n week gelede. Die

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FOR QUOTES

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dag waarop hy sy kleinneef, vir vanjaar se jag genooi het. Dit was ook die dag waarop hy die patrone gelaai het. Dit was ook die dag toe my pa verneem, dat drie dosyn eiers stukkend by die mark aangekom het. Drie dosyn eiers waarvoor my ma nie betaal sal word nie.

Op die dag van die jag was dit koud. Ons het truie en baadjies aan. Die volk wat die Springbokke sal aanjaag, is ook lekker warm aangetrek.

Oom Pierre word afgelaai by sy uitkykpos op 'n heuwel. Onder hom lê die droë rivierbedding met doringbome wat tot teen die oorkantste randjie strek. Bo die bome se toppe, is die grensraad waarslangs die Springbokke gaan kom. Die voetpaadjie is duidelik sigbaar. Dit is soos die kraai vlieg, honderd-en-vyftig tree ver. Die probleem is, hier kan jy nie sien waar jou skoot val indien jy mis skiet nie. Daarvoor sorg die bome in die agtergrond. My pa het dié voorsitplek met 'n rede gekies.

Ek het by my pa gesit. Ek het daai tyd nog nie geskiet nie. Ek was ses jaar oud. Hy het vier Springbokramme geskiet. Hy het nog een patroon oor gehad. Ons luister. Oom Pierre se vyfde skoot klap. My pa sê: "Kom ons gaan haal oom Pierre."

Oom Pierre het geen bok geskiet nie. Hy is bietjie verleë maar ook kwaad. Hy sê my pa het met die geweer se teleskoop gepeuter. Verlede jaar het hy twee ramme met twee skote geskiet.

My pa stuur my om 'n klip op een van die pale van die grensraad te gaan sit. Toe ek terugkom, laai hy oom Pierre se geweer met die oorblywende patroon. Hy korrel na die klip. Die skoot knal. Die klip spat in stukke. Hy sê vir oom Pierre die geweer makeer nik. Dit is die man agter die geweer. Ek sien oom Pierre raak effens rooi van skaamte of woede. Hy het maar 'n kort lont. My pa sê mans met rooi hare se lont is altyd kort.

By die huis braai ons die lewer van die een bok. Nadat ons klaar geëet het, sê my pa vir oom Pierre daar is iets in die skuur wat hy graag vir hom wil wys.

Die skuur was vroeër 'n perdestal. Nou dien dit as 'n stoer. Teen die een muur is daar staalpenne waарoor die perde se saals

gehang het. Teen die oorkantste muur staan my ma se lee eierkaste. Die laeie is uitgetrek en staan regop teen die muur. Die groen vilt is skoon. Daar is nie enige kol of vlek nie.

My pa vra vir oom Pierre of hy enige vlek of kol in enige van die laeie sien. Hy sê nee. My pa gee toe vir hom die laaste jaar se state van die mark wat die getalle gebreekte eiers aandui. Die man raak rooi in sy gesig. Hy vra of my pa dink hy is 'n skelm. My pa antwoord "Ja." Die man raak nou erger rooi.

Ek sien sy hande word vuiste. Ek dink my pa het dit ook gesien. Hy slaan na my pa se gesig. My pa buk. Dit is mis. My pa se linkerhand kry die man voor die bors aan sy baadjie beet. Sy regterhand hier by die broek se lyfband. Hy lig oom Pierre bokant sy kop soos 'n sak mielies. Hy stap met hom na die oorkantste muur. Die man skop en swaai sy arms. Hy gebruik lelike taal. Nou is sy gesig so rooi soos die lewer wat ons netnou gebraai het.

My pa korrel fyn. Die man spartel en spook. Die punt van die saalpen gly in onder die man se baadjie se pante en kom uit agter by die kraag. My pa los. Oom Pierre hang in die lug. Hy swem daar in die lug. Sy arms en bene skop wild. Hy skreeu op my pa. My pa draai om en stap uit. Hy maak die skuur se deur agter hom toe.

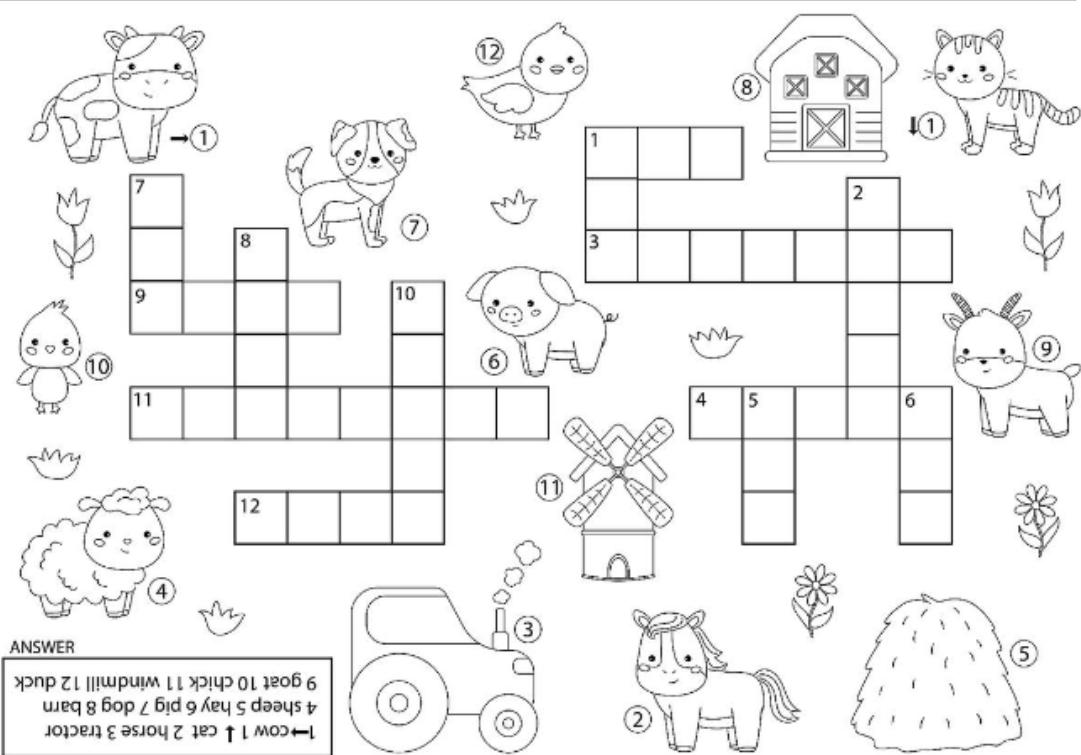
So 'n uur later is die vier Springbokke klaar geslag en hang in die gaashok onder die koeltebome. My pa maak die deur van die skuur oop. Alles is stil daar binne. Oom Pierre het klaar geswem. Of hy vinniger as Ryk Neethling van later jare sou wees, weet ek nie. Hy is redelik uitsem en nog rooi in die gesig.

My pa vra of sy bui gesak het of nie. Hy antwoord nie. My pa draai om en stap na die deur. Die man roep agter my pa aan. My pa stap terug en vra hom weer dieselfde vraag. Hy antwoord ja. My pa vra of hy seker is. Hy antwoord 'n flou ja.

My pa vat hom weer voor die bors en aan die lyfband. Lig hom effe en trek hom van die saalpen. Hy sit hom op sy voete neer. Sy bene knak. Hy gryp na my pa se baadjie om regop te bly. Hy leun teen my pa. Sy kop teen my pa se skouer. Hy begin huil.

volg op bl. 19/...

kids



Note from Dr Sue Milton-Dean: Please send your contributions to me, at renukaroo@gmail.com and I will share them with Adele Hattingh, the publisher, so that we can decide how to group the articles or photos and when to publish them. Articles should be short (no more than 800 words) and preferably accompanied by a photograph, illustration or cartoon drawing in jpg format. We cannot guarantee that articles received will be published in the same month as they are submitted. I look forward to learning many new things about our natural surroundings and the village gardens that connect us with nature.

Harvester Termites and Heuweltjies

Dr Sue Milton-Dean

Termites are not popular in homes in Prince Albert, especially when they appear through the mud-baked brick in the walls of the old houses. The knee-jerk reaction is to call pest control and poison the colony.

Here we highlight recent research of Dr Michele Francis, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Soil Science at Stellenbosch University (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfU-LlycUOA>), and explain how these insects help other animals to survive drought, increase plant diversity and sequester carbon in the Prince Albert area.

Harvester termites (*Microhodotermes viator*) are yellow-brown insects about 1 cm in length with shiny heads. Their food is dry sticks and leaves, for which they scour the veld, arrange the debris in neat circular piles and carry it through tunnels to their underground nests. They digest the unpalatable woody food using gut bacteria in the same way as sheep and cattle use bacteria to digest their food.



Harvester termites gathering food on Wolwekraal Nature Reserve. Photo: Supplied

The underground nest is a hard clay ball buried a meter or so below the soil. Although termites are short-lived, their colonies survive for thousands of years: Francis and colleagues considered them to be the oldest termite colonies on Earth! Every day the termites clean out their nest, dumping droppings, discarded food and their dead colleagues onto the soil surface above the nest. The dumps are nutrient-rich like their



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Heuweltjies with flowering asbos Photo: Supplied

dumping compost, but also rather salty and rich in calcium because the alkaline chemistry of the droppings is like wood ash.

The wind blows fresh droppings across the landscape, fertilizing the surrounding vegetation, but over the millennia the remainder accumulates, forming a mound of soft soil called a *heuweltjie* over the termite nest. *Heuweltjies* show up after rain as greener patches in the veld and are easily recognized by the tall asbos with their pink flowers. On Google Earth the *heuweltjies* can be seen as regularly spaced white dots across the landscape.

These termites are the basis of Karoo food chains. They are eaten by ants, spiders and beetles, lizards and agamas, birds such as chats, larks and scrub robins, mammals including elephant shrews, meerkats, mongooses, bat-eared foxes and aardvark. Termites thrive in drought because they feed on dead plants. This means that termites are a dependable food source for all these animals through drought years. Diggings of aardvark, as we showed in an earlier *Prince Albert Friend* article, is essential for survival of honeybees on Karoo plains, but without termites, there would be no aardvarks and no honeybees. ■

The *heuweltjies* are colonized by a distinctive set of succulents and saltbushes that thrive in alkaline soils. The most famous of these is the asbos (*Mesembryanthemum junceum*) that was used by indigenous people to clean hides, and later by settlers who used the ash from the burned bush, mixed with sheep fat, to make soap.

After a few hundred years the droppings on the *heuweltjies* fossilize forming white calcrete which contains huge quantities of carbon as calcium-carbonate (kalk). Termites are therefore helping to remove excess carbon from the atmosphere, and in the Western Cape are probably much more effective than spekboom (*Portulacaria afra*) in doing this because *heuweltjies* cover more of the Karoo than does this miraculous succulent shrub. ■



Heuweltjies seen from the air Photo: Supplied

van bl. 17/Skelmstreke

My pa vat hom om die skouers en sê hy is jammer. Hy het die patrone wat hy vir hom gegee het, gedokter. Hy het hulle met veel swaarder punte gelaai as waarmee die geweer ingestel is. Twee van die Springbokke is vir hom.

Oom Pierre is die volgende dag terug na Port Elizabeth. Twee springbokke in die *Chev Impala* se kattebak. 'n Brief van my pa op die sitplek langs hom. Die brief het hom toestemming gegee om die karkasse te vervoer, sou die polisie hom stop.

My ma het tot die dag van haar dood, nooit van die gebeure in die skuur te hore gekom nie. Die gebeure het net tussen ons drie mans gebly.

Oom Pierre het elke jaar daarna weer kom jag. My pa het nie nodig gehad om sy patrone weer te dokter nie. Ek dink nie my pa se kleinneef het baie daarvan gehou om in die lug te swem nie, want daar was nooit weer eiers wat gekraak of stukkend by die mark aangekom het nie. My ma se eirkaste het skoon gebly. Na dié "onderonsie" was sy altyd ten volle betaal. ■

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**R 1,8m**

A very versatile and uncomplicated cottage on a large plot in town. Characterized by an enormous open plan living, kitchen and entertainment area with French doors to covered veranda and the rustic low maintenance garden. Open plan kitchen with multiple cupboards and expansive worktops! Fabulous evaporative cooling system throughout! Two good sized bedrooms serviced by single bathroom. Single garage and double carport. This property lends itself to upgrade and extensions and represents superb value for money in Prince Albert.

R 2,3m

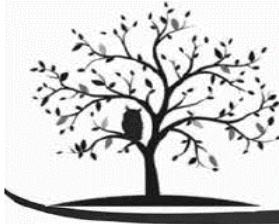
Step into a world of complete simplicity and understated elegance in this recently renovated Karoo home. Characterized by ice white walls and cool screed floors this charming home is the perfect foil for retro edgy furniture or contemporary classic fare. Expansive open plan living, dining and kitchen area with access to covered east facing stoep. The rear door gives access to the large low maintenance garden. Three bedrooms with the main luxuriously en suite. The family bathroom is a statement in cool black and white and doubles as a guest loo. Very appealing and very good value for money!

**R 3,1m**

This immaculate family home offers an easy modern lifestyle in a very quiet and secluded cul de sac. The home is characterized by its enormous open plan living & dining areas with excellent flow to two covered verandas, one overlooking the north aspect private garden, the other with beautiful mountain views. The living area has a wood burning stove, the exceptional open plan kitchen has granite tops and more cupboard and storage space than one could wish for! 3 double bedrooms, (main en suite) each with built in cupboards & direct access to the covered verandas. Family bathroom. The north facing veranda with built in barbecue. A dedicated laundry is adjacent to a workshop/utility room, & triple covered parking is provided for. Extras include rainwater tank, alarm and total off the grid solar power!

R 2,85m

Ideal lock up and go low maintenance home in a quite secure crescent. Open plan living with a well-appointed kitchen opening onto a sheltered covered veranda with built in braai and views of the iconic Sir Herbert Baker 'Pastorie'. Two bedrooms both en-suite with air conditioners. Spacious garage with plumbing for a washing machine and Inverter and batteries with solar panels. 5000 litre rainwater storage tank in a low maintenance garden. Lovely mountain views from the front veranda.



Kontrei Eiendomme

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Charlene vd Linde – 071 228 2980
kontrei@023.co.za



R 1,65 mil

An opportunity in the main road of Prince Albert! In the Business Hub of our vibrant town, are two historic buildings that used to be part of the farm Sonskyn: A one-bedroom cottage with a lovely north stoepie, and a small shed - fitted with electricity, toilet and basin. Double plot: 2,000 m².



VERKOOP!

Herman and Marié Smith van Pretoria het dadelik waarde en potensiaal in hierdie eerlike eiendom in Jan Louwstraat gesien. Hier gaan hulle hul eie stempel kom afdruk en ons kan skaars wag vir die resultaat: Eers vir die vakansiehuis, wat later aftree-huis sal word... Welkom in onse dorp!



R 1,75 mil

Purchase this large home with its impressive amount of accommodation at a bargain price. Five bedrooms, bathroom with separate toilet. Lounge with original fireplace, kitchen with old Esse stove. Laundry, pantry, study. Two outbuildings, staff toilet. Small garden with trees. Plot: 706 m².



R 2,25 mil

A ten-year old barn-style building that has been carefully crafted into a chic cottage that offers lounge, eat-in kitchen, bedroom en-suite and guest toilet. Double glass doors lead to a deep stoep with calm blinds giving privacy and shelter against sun and wind. Established garden on 495 m².



R 2,5 mil

Sal hierdie oulike en perfek netjiese huisie op haar knus erfie jou soos 'n handskoen pas? Hoofslaapkamer en-suite; gastekamer - baie kaste! Badkamer met plek vir wasmasjien. Kombuis met volop werkvlakke. Kaggel. Beskutte braaistoep; private tuintjie. Goeie sonpaneelstelsel. Erf: 382m².



R 2,85 mil

A neat, cheerful and modern home in a private crescent. Spacious living area, brilliant white kitchen. Two bedrooms en-suite, both with air-cons. Tiled throughout, friendly stoep with built-in braai. Large garage with space for washing machine. Good 5 kVA solar system. Plot size 293 m².



R 3,48 mil

'n Ruim, netjiese huis in die Bodorp op sowat 4,500m², met toegeruste boorgat. Drie slaapkamers met twee mooi badkamers. Sitkamer/eetkamer. Gesellige kombuis met ingeboude braai. Lekker kuiertoep. Waskamer. Buitetoilet. Groot motorhuis met kaste. Afdak. Ongelooflike uitsigte!



R 3,5 mil

Double story thatch with open-plan one-bedroom home on top floor and one-bedroom flat downstairs with own entrance. View-site stoep with smart pool. Double garage - electric doors. Workshop. Laundry. Well-kept garden. Pleasant living with income-producing option. Plot: 428 m².



R 4,5 mil

This property will suit the enlightened designer, potter, artist, craft worker, corporate company, extended family. View this superior space! Upstairs: 3 bedrooomed home plus separate flat. Downstairs: Studio, workshop, double carport, laundry. Pool. Borehole. Easy garden. Views! On 1,580 m².

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R1 900 000

1543m² PROPERTY FOR SALE

2 BEDROOM / 1 BATHROOM

This solid family home comprises of 2 bedrooms, 1-bathroom, open plan dining room, living room and kitchen. Double carport and a single garage. Evaporative water-cooling system. Karoo water wise garden. Contact me today to view.

WEB ref RLS955673

Marelize – 082 804 3364

R2 700 000

2861m² PLOT FOR SALE

A vacant stand located adjacent to Spar, featuring approved conceptual plans for retail establishments. This property presents a promising opportunity for prospective buyers.

WEB ref 949938

Essie – 083 387 1199



R3 200 000

749M² PROPERTY FOR SALE

3 BEDROOM / 2 BATHROOM

Victorian Beauty consist of high ceilings, Oregon floors, sash windows with shutters, bullnose verandas and colloquial plasterwork. North facing sun room, study, living room with wood burning stove and a country style kitchen. Outbuildings & Splash pool.

WEB ref RLS948869

Marelize – 082 804 3364

R6 900 000

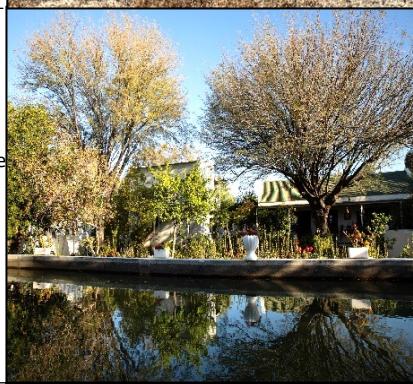
1.5Ha PROPERTY FOR SALE

3 BEDROOM / 2 BATHROOM

An unbelievable lifestyle awaits the buyer of this unique property, comprising of three title deeds. Landscaped gardens. 5 Guest cottages on the main erf. The other two erven form a little 'farm' of about 6000 sq. meters.

WEB ref RLS945239

Essie – 083 387 1199



R4 300 000

999m² PROPERTY FOR SALE

Open-plan reception area, 2 rooms, 2 guest bathrooms, outdoor barbecue, kitchen, en-suite bedroom, dining room and lounge. The upper level comprises of a lounge, 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. 2 Single garages, 3 storage rooms and a tool shed.

WEB ref RLS948701

Marelize – 082 804 3364

R6 500 000 Negotiable

15Ha FARM FOR SALE

Olive farm on the Dorps river! 15 ha with stunning views, mature olive trees, a generous lei water allocation and a very consistent borehole. The cement dam is fitted with a new filter and pump.

WEB ref RLS934831

Essie – 083 387 1199



R3 800 000

1331m² PROPERTY FOR SALE

2 BEDROOM/1½ BATHROOM

Klaarstroom Village, 1906 Church Building. Oregon pine flooring, 5.5m high pitch double volume ceiling and swivel church windows. Covered patio. Views. Borehole. Original Church bell.

WEB ref RLS950055

Marelize – 082 804 3364

R1 320 000

3661m² PLOT FOR SALE

Presenting a .36 ha vacant stand in town with scenic views of the Swartberg Mountains. The flat and clean plot is ready for construction. A registered borehole on-site provides a reliable water source, delivering 5000 litres of water per hour.

WEB ref 949666

Essie – 083 387 1199



Karoo Aquaponics

Ailsa Tudhope

There's farming of an unlikely kind now taking place in Merweville (100km from Prince Albert).

It's just two months since Karoo AQUAPONICS planted their first little seedlings. Their buildings were created from the stones, rocks and riverbed sand, which was to hand in this dry, Karoo environment.

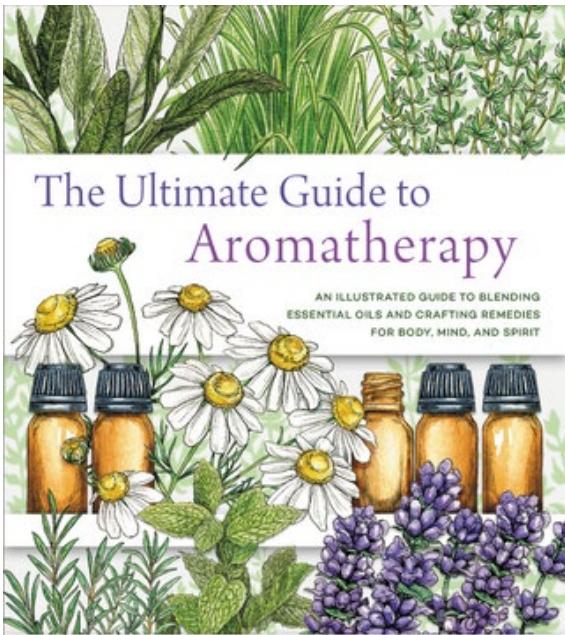
In their aquaponic system the fish provide fertiliser to the plants, through the process of nitrification. The plants in turn, purify and breathe new life back into the water. Repeating this cycle keeps the body of water fresh and sustains the life of the plants, the natural micro and macro organisms and the fish.

<https://www.youtube.com/@KarooAQUAPONICSMerweville>

Karoo Aquaponics Merweville is keen to share their knowledge and welcome visitors. I have been able to buy their salad bags in our local SPAR. ■



MUNICIPAL LIBRARY Prince Albert - Leeu-Gamka - Klaarstroom Library Book Review



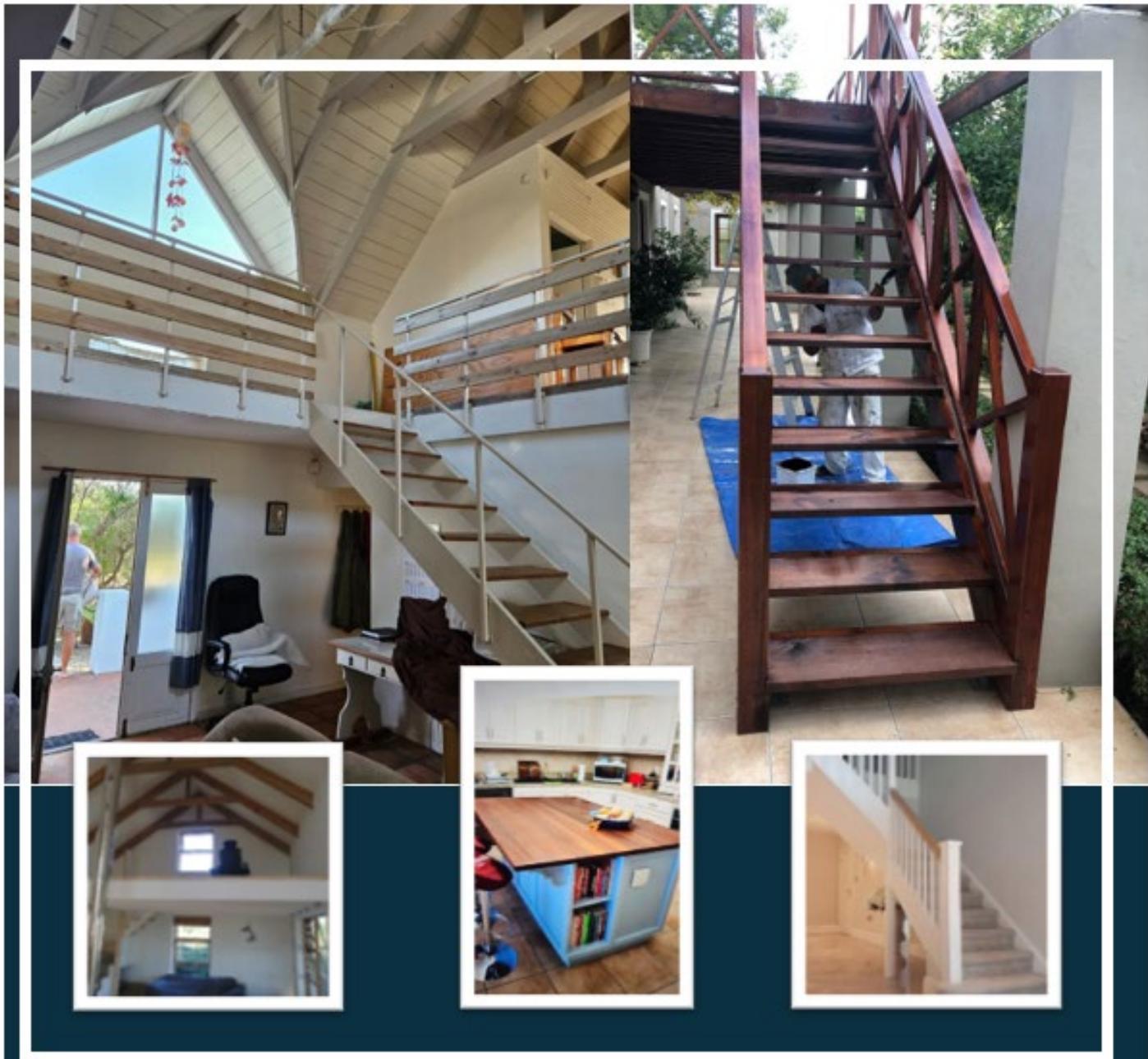
Jade Shutes & Amy Galper

The Ultimate Guide to Aromatherapy

Amy Galper & Jade Shutes

Written by two of the leading voices in aromatherapy, Amy Galper and Jade Shutes, The ultimate guide to aromatherapy is a progressive, comprehensive approach to using aromatherapy and essential oils for healing and wellness. Essential oils have been used across all world cultures for thousands of years. While popularity of aromatherapy has endured, the methods and applications of the craft have evolved. This book is the modern practitioner's guide to working with aromatherapy and essential oils. Using techniques developed over decades of teaching, you will learn the science of aromatherapy and how essential oils interact with our sense of smell, brain pathways and skin. The guide also includes over 50 plant profiles, plus recipes and blends for health and beauty.

Included are remedies for digestive health, immunity, women's health concerns, and more. Drawing on the authors' unique methodology and expertise as aromatherapists, herbalists, and healers you will learn the art of blending formulations with great skill and discernment. This book is a must-have primer for anyone interested in the healing properties of plants. ■



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Contact Us:

EMAIL: raewynn@worldonline.co.za

CELL: 083 440 1555



FARR Blanket Donation Drive

Christel Botes

We are excited to launch a Blanket Donation Drive to aid in keeping community members of all ages warm this coming winter.

Assist the Foundation for Alcohol Related Research (FARR) by donating a warm blanket to our initiative!

Preloved blankets of all sizes are most welcome.

Let's keep babies, children, pregnant women, the elderly and other community members in need warm this winter.

Donations can be delivered to the FARR Head Office:
Unit 5 Amber Place
Amber Close
Bellville
Cape Town

Alternatively, deliver your donation to any of our Project Offices in:
Western Cape: Vredenburg, Prince Albert or
Merweville Northern Cape: Hanover, De Aar,
Philipstown, Petrusville, Britstown or Upington
Eastern Cape: Graaff-Reinet or Burgersdorp
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For more information contact Liska White at
info@farrsa.org.za / (021) 6862645■



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Fransie Pienaar Museum



KOM STOOK SAAM

Het julle geweet,
Ons Fransie Pienaar Museum het 'n werkende Stookketel? (*Distilling Kettle*)

Kom kuier - Lets keep this unique tradition alive in Prince Albert.

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Enquiries: 060 927 9486



Fransie Pienaar Museum

Roosterkoek, smoor en wors is nog 'n ou tradisie and will be made on the fire.

Friday 12th July from 14h00 . . . till the last drop is poured.
Tickets are limited as we are "stooking" / distilling one batch only!

Tickets available on Quicket from 1st June 2024.

- R130 gets you 2 Roosterkoek, smoor en wors and 4 Witblits shots, or
- R70 gets you 1 Roosterkoek, smoor en wors and 2 Witblits shots, or
- R40 gets you 2 Witblits shots, or
- R30 gets you 1 Roosterkoek, smoor en wors.

**As no drinks / cold drinks will be available for sale,
please bring your own.**

**The Witblits Team look forward to welcoming you
at the stookketel, behind the Markie.**

Alle fondse gaan na die Fransie Pienaar Museum.

Enquiries: 060 927 9486.

Prince Albert Skills School – Who, why, and where?

Dr Christelle Van Zyl

Who are we? Prince Albert Skills School (also known as PASS) is an NGO that focuses on empowering local youth who haven't thrived in the traditional schooling system. Established in 2017 with a boys' class, PASS opened a girls' class in 2022. Today, they educate roughly 30 learners between the ages of 13 and 19 with the dedication of three teachers: Rodine Barends, Mariette Heskwa, and Kenneth Myburgh.

Why do we exist? Not every child excels in a traditional schooling system. PASS recognises that some learners benefit more from a hands-on learning approach and require different support during their teenage years. The school provides not only psychological and emotional support but also equips learners with valuable life skills and technical training. Despite facing various socio-economic problems, these young learners are actively working towards a brighter future.

Where are we located? You can find PASS on De Beer Street. The Zwartberg High School has generously made space available on their property for PASS to operate. Look for the new PASS sign at the entrance gate at the Zwartberg sports ground. Follow the gravel road next to the rugby

field until you reach the blue buildings. The school borders on the Fransie Pienaar Museum. Their facilities have grown significantly, expanding from a single classroom and kitchen to include an office, storage unit, and a dedicated girls' class, with further expansion plans underway. The learners' dedication is evident throughout the school grounds! A testament to their skills is the new fencing and large entrance gate, a project that has significantly transformed the look of the school. Initiated in late 2023 with their teachers' guidance, the project was completed by May 2024, with the gate officially rolling into use. Another ongoing project and a feast for the eyes is the school garden, which showcases the learners' commitment and hard work.

PASS welcomes visitors with open arms! If you're interested in meeting the learners and finding out more about their mission, please contact Rodine Barends at 078 517 1923 or email SkillsSchoolPA@outlook.com. ■

Any donations of equipment, materials, food, or funding are always appreciated.

ABSA, PRINCE ALBERT SKILLS SCHOOL, Prince Albert, Acc Nr. 9330930936, Branch Code 632005.



Photos: Supplied

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Foster Care can change Lives for the Better

Sharna Fernandez

On 31 May we celebrated World Foster Day – a day to raise awareness and educate people about the foster process and support foster families around the world.

The number of reported cases of child neglect and abuse in the Western Cape has continued to increase, driven by population growth, fragmentation of families, and households facing harsh socio-economic conditions. This has resulted in more children in need of protection and placement in alternative care.

Over 40 000 children are in foster care in the province, placed either with safety parents or foster parents. The Western Cape Department of Social Development (DSD) monitors these cases through the innovative Foster Care Web-based Monitoring Tool.

Provincial Minister of Social Development, Sharna Fernandez, recently met with foster parents in Cape Town who shared their incredible story. Two years ago, Ayesha* and Faadiel Ismail* became foster parents to Faadiel's brother's four young children. Their biological parents were battling with substance abuse. Last year the children's baby brother joined the family, turning just one year old this month.

"Initially we were only going to foster two of the children, but when we saw them playing, we knew we had to keep them together. It was the best decision we could have made. When they first came to us, they couldn't read or write as they were not in school. We got them into a school and now they are doing so well. We are very proud of them," said Ayesha.

"These children have had a rough start in life. One of the boys

was shot in gang crossfire when he was a baby, the older girl was burnt with hot water, and another boy was on treatment for tuberculosis when they first came to us. We want the best for them. We are not rich, but we have been able to make sure the children have what they need. We have been blessed to receive support from the community, their school, and the DSD social worker, Moeneeb Martin, who has walked this journey with us," said Faadiel.

"This is an incredible story of hope. These kind-hearted individuals saw children in need of a safe and loving environment and opened their home to the children despite having three of their own," said Minister Fernandez.

"If you have a heart for helping a vulnerable child in need of a safe and caring home, please consider becoming a safety or foster parent. You have the power to change a life for the better. As Child Protection Month comes to an end, I also wish to remind people that every child has the right to be protected from abuse and neglect. Do your part in ensuring these rights are upheld, and report instances where you see abuse taking place," concluded Minister Fernandez.

If you are a child or a parent who needs our help, or you'd like information on becoming a foster or safety parent, please call our toll-free number 0800 220 250 or visit your nearest Department of Social Development local office. You can also visit <https://www.westerncape.gov.za/service/children-and-families-programme>

*Not their real names ■

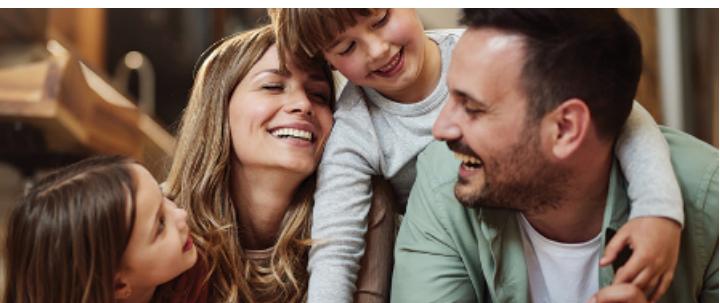
Sekerheidsreël 26:

BEPLANNING IS SOVEEL MEER AS NET 'N WENS VIR 'N GOEIE LEWE.

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Goeie Diere Eienaars maak só

Paula Oelofsen

Tannie Gertruida Leigh van 3 Outa Lappies Singel roep van binne dat ons maar kan inkom. Sy voel nie lekker nie, en lê in die bed met haar hond Ogies en haar twee katte, Thabo en Blommie by haar. "Hulle slaap elke aand by my in die kooi," sê tannie Gertruida. Ogies was net van sy ma gespeen toe hy by haar kom bly het vier jaar terug, en die twee is sedertdien onafskeidbaar. Van daardie tyd af was PADS (Prins Albert Dieresorg) ook deel van tannie Gertruida se lewe. "Brenda en PADS help verskriklik baie, en dit stel my so gerus om te weet hulle is daar om te help as ons iets nodig het. Ons stap al jare saam. Ek gaan dood oor my diere. Hulle is my hele lewe."

Enige een wat al ooit alleen gebly het, en die onvoorwaardelike liefde en lojaliteit van 'n dier ervaar het, sal weet waarvan tannie Gertruida praat. Hulle het die vermoë om 'n leemte in mens se siel vol te maak wat net hulle kan. Ons is gemaak met 'n spesiale plek in ons harte vir troeteldiere, en daardie plek kan geen mens en geen stokperdjie of ander tydverdryf vol maak nie. Dit vat hulle onskuld en woordeloze boekdele wat hulle tot ons spreek met hulle oë en soene en drukkies.

Tannie Gertruida vertel dat mense baie keer geneig is om hard met diere te praat of hulle te slaan, en dat dit hoegenaamd nie nodig is nie. "Diere is so sensitief, en hulle verstaan wat ons vir hulle sê! Hulle het ore, hulle kan hoor, en hulle verstaan. Praat met hulle." Sy sê Ogies het nog nooit nodig gehad om pak te kry nie, wanneer sy met hom praat dan hoor hy. "As mens net vir hom se 'voetsek' dan kan jy sien dat dit hom seermaak. Die stertjie sak sommer so af en jy kan sien hy verstaan dat dit 'n wegjaag is."

Vir haar is haar diere familie, en dit beteken om hulle met dieselfde liefde, omgee en respek te hanteer. Ogies en kie eet wat tannie Gertruid eet, en mens kan sien hulle eet lekker. Hulle slaap heerlik warm in die huis, en kry dieselfde liefde en vriendskap van tannie Gertruida as wat hulle vir haar gee.

Dankie aan almal wat PADS ondersteun om mense soos tannie Gertruida te help om 'n goeie lewe vir hulle diere te gee. Skakel gerus vir PADS by animalwelfarepa@gmail.com of 071 571 8600.

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Tannie Gertruida. Photos Supplied



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Shofar Church Prince Albert.

We live in a very carnal-minded world. Almost everything is about Labels and Status symbols, and all the outward signs of wealth and success.

Where do we as Christians stand in all this?

Once more labels spring to mind! Pentecostal, charismatic, evangelical. There are so many labels even in church circles. Each label conjures up certain pre-conceived ideas. Traditional; conservative; denominational.

Well, very simply put - Shofar Church is a Family! A diverse group of people who live in fellowship with God and with each other.

Imperfect we may all be, but we care about each other! The greatest commandment in its simplicity is: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and love others as you love yourself. Matthew 22:36-40.

This we aspire to do. This love is real, both for God and others! We strive to fulfil this commandment and the great commission. And to take the gospel into all the world. Matt 28:16-20.



We are people just like everyone else, but with a huge difference: we are motivated by love. Loving God and others. Come and join the Shofar family on Sunday at 9am. Our Father IS Love.

Sunday service - Swartberg High School Hall @ 9am
Bible study - Crosby Street, Tuesdays @ 18:30
Youth Bible study - Crosby Street, Thursday @ 18:30



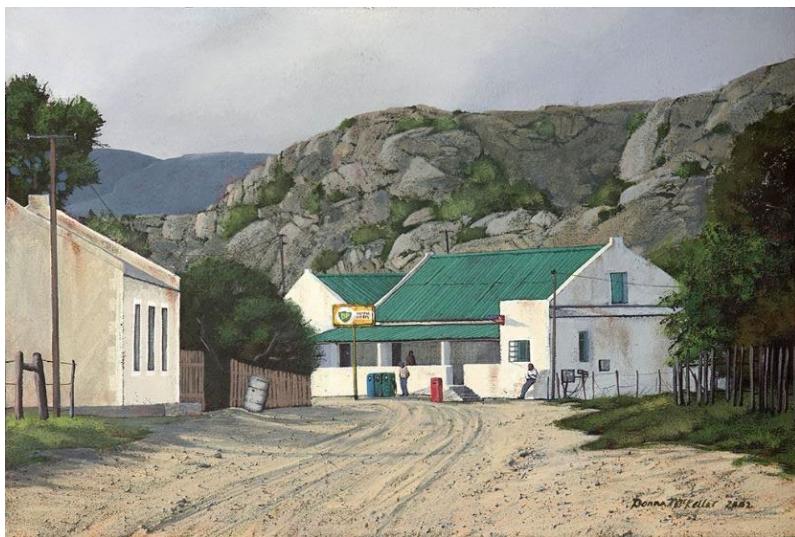
Karoo Cameos Series
Hosted by the Karoo Development Foundation

Klaarstroom Part I

Klaarstroom reminds one of the mythical Brigadoon, the mysterious Scottish village that appears for only one day every 100 years. Some see it, some don't.

Most people who travel from Beaufort West to Oudtshoorn, through the famous Meiringspoort, miss the magic of this tiny village where time has taken a breather. Hidden by a bend in the road and tucked against the mountains, Klaarstroom, a tiny hamlet once named Pietersburg, has a special charm.

The village is situated 60km east of Prince Albert, 95km north-west of Uniondale and 96km from Willowmore. Located picturesquely at the northern end of Meiringspoort, it is a popular venue for farm holidays and mountain bike enthusiasts. Dotted along its winding gravel main street are an English church, Dutch Reformed Church Hall, several historic houses, a police station, old school, and a general store, still with its antique petrol pumps. Lucerne fields enfold it and the Swartberg Mountains dwarf it. This tranquil spot once was a bustling oasis on a busy route to the coast.



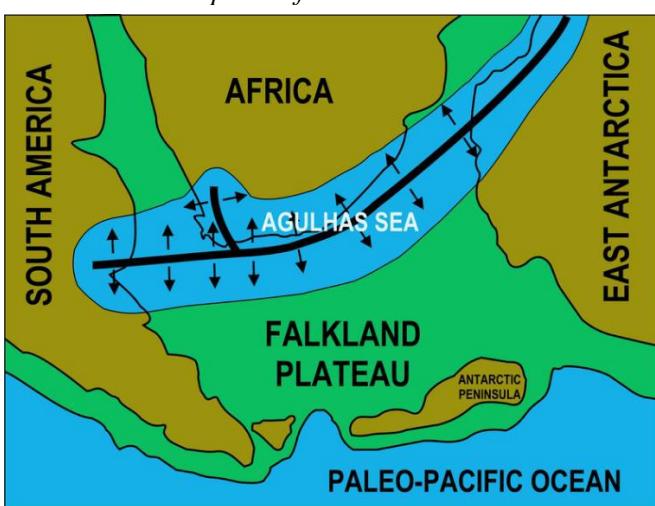
Donna McKellar, Klaarstroom Photo: Rose Willis
Klaarstroom: Ancient place of clear waters

Named for its clear water, the tiny hamlet of Klaarstroom is the source of many tales. It was the site of South Africa's first wool washing plant and the home of the country's last transport rider. It is also the curator of a great love story. Beautiful Helena de Vries, said to have been the secret love of one of South Africa's greatest poets, CJ Langenhoven, is still a poignant memory on the farm Gideon's Hoop. But, while theirs was a love that was not to be, its memories still permeate the area like the fragrance of an ancient rose.

CROSSING THE MOUNTAIN BARRIER
The opening of Meiringspoort to shorten the route to Mossel Bay, the nearest port, contributed to the economy and brought Klaarstroom to life. The Swartberg is the formidable barrier which straddles all the roads from the Karoo to the southern Cape, and until suitable crossings were found, the wool clip had to be transported around the mountains – a tedious journey by ox.

This mountain barrier was created by vast geological forces. About 500 million years ago Gondwana had consolidated as a continent and what is today northwest Africa was positioned over the pole. Gradually Gondwana moved northward and as it drifted the supercontinent experienced tension and as it stretched and thinned rift valleys began to form. One of the rifts extended eastwards forming a seaway, the Agulhas Sea across the southern part of what is now South Africa. An eight km thick bed of sediment accumulated on the floor of the Agulhas Sea and gave rise to the rocks of the

cont. on pg 33/...



Sediment deposited in the Agulhas Sea are today preserved as the rocks of the Cape Supergroup Photo: Rose Willis Klaarstroom:
Ancient place of clear waters



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from pg. 31/Klaarstroom

Cape Supergroup.

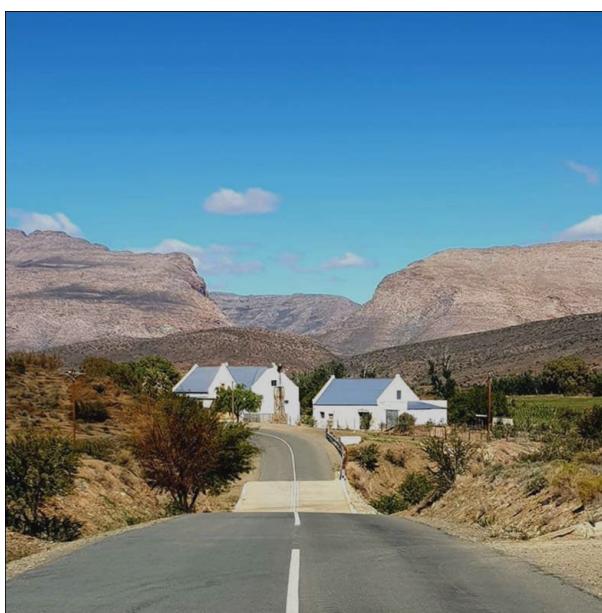
The oldest (and lowest) sedimentary unit of the Cape Supergroup is the Table Mountain Group, 480-410 million years ago, laid down as sandstone. This is the same material from which Table Mountain in Cape Town was formed. Above it, the Bokkeveld Group was laid down around 410-380 million years ago, and finally the Witteberg Group (about 380-350 million years ago).

As the mountain chain of the proto-Swartberg was being pushed up by continental collision forces, water from the mountain range drained to the north and eventually filled the newly developed Karoo Sea, which formed north of the developing "Swartberg" mountain range and covered most of the surface of South Africa.

Much later, as Gondwana began to break up 182 million years ago, and the neighbouring continents of Antarctica and South America drifted apart, a new coastline developed along the southern margin of Africa. Since 180 million years ago, rivers eroding *northwards* from the coastline to the Swartberg range now run *southwards* from the mountain source toward the sea. The Groot River has a very circuitous route. It has its source on the northern slopes of Swartberg; from there, it flows *northwards* and then *eastwards* to Klaarstroom, and then *southwards* through Meiringspoort, where it joins the Olifants River near De Rust. From there, this meandering flow of water travels to the sea.



Klaarstroom North of the formidable Swartberg



Klaarstroom, with the Swartberg looming in the background. Photo Pieter Olckers

Meiringspoort is now traversed by the main N12 north-south road from Beaufort West to the coast. The first, rather rough road through the pass opened in 1858. It is very different to the Swartberg Pass, as the route follows the path of the Groot River, which has eroded through the surrounding mountains to form a deep canyon. The soaring cliffs on either side show fantastic exposures of folded and refolded Table Mountain Group rocks. The route crosses the river 25 times, a remarkable feat of engineering – but this meant that the road was susceptible to flooding.

To be continued

NEXT MONTH: PART 2 – IN SEARCH OF A SHORTER ROUTE...

Karoo Road Trips – 12 Handy Tips

Chris Marais - Karoospace

Some of us believe there is no finer physical journey in the world than a Karoo Road trip.

You might beg to differ, and offer up routes like the Silk Road, Route 66 in the USA, Australia's Great Ocean Road or even long stretches of back-of-beyond Namibia.

But if you currently find yourself travelling in South Africa, or if you live here and feel like a real escape to pure space and open skies, then a Karoo Road trip beckons.

Here are **12 traveller's tips** for your next adventure in south Africa's Heartland:

1. Become a **biltong fundi**. We specialise in kudu biltong, beef biltong, ostrich biltong and springbok biltong. We present it dry, moist or wet, depending on how you like it. Stop at the little butcheries along the way, make comparisons, go on a biltong-tasting expedition. Biltong is great road food;
2. Keep **lots of water** in the car. Eating biltong is thirsty work, you could get hung up photographing a windpump or a distant bokkie – so keep water levels topped up;
3. We grow excellent **walnuts and pecan nuts** – and they go down very well with your water and your biltong. What's more, you won't feel bloated at the end of a day's driving;
4. Never pass a **padstal** by. Unless you've ventured in, you'll forever wonder exactly what they're selling. And if the shop owner is friendly, you'll end up spending some time there and gaining a few local insights. And, of course, topping up on biltong, water and nuts;
5. Head off to your local petro-port and buy a good old **road map**. Sometimes a GPS can't handle the terrain out here;



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6. Go off the beaten track from time to time. Unlike the rest of Africa, life in the Karoo doesn't revolve around the N1 highway;
7. The Karoo has a select grouping of **excellent hotels**, from Matjiesfontein to Graaff-Reinet, Cradock to Steytlerville, Calvinia to Gariep.
8. The standards of our **self-caters and guest houses** are rising every day, and the prices are still way below what you pay in the city;
9. We really pride ourselves on our collection of **farm stays**, where you and the kids can chill out for days on end;
10. We have some **serious chefs** in the Karoo who have adopted the local cuisine and given it their own spin. Look out for the best restaurants;
11. Drive slow, **don't drive at night** and keep an eye out for sleepy truckers or wandering kudus on the road. And please avoid our meerkats and tortoises – we love and cherish every one of them;
12. For best planning, visit our **Ebookstore** and get the 3 for 2 offer: Karoo Keepsakes I, II and 101 Karoo Towns here:
<https://karoospace.co.za/ebooks/product/launch-special-3-2/>



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H A N D E L

Mission Possible

Christel Botes

The theme of FARR's (Foundation for Alcohol Related Research) 2024 Alcohol Harm Reduction seminar in Beaufort West was "Mission Possible", with a focus on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) in the community. The seminar was held in the Dutch Reformed Church Hall, Beaufort West and attended by 42 attendees.

Reverend Kenny van Rensburg opened the seminar by reading from the Bible and sharing the text from Jeremiah 29:11 "...plans to give you hope and a future", thereby setting a positive atmosphere for the day.

Dr. Jaco Louw from FARR was the keynote speaker for the day. He explained that FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) is the umbrella term used for the number of conditions caused in the foetus (unborn baby) due to prenatal alcohol exposure. Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), which is the most popular term used by the public, can be seen as the most severe form of FASD. FASD is worldwide the most common cause of preventable intellectual disability.



Dr Jaco Louw during the AHR seminar Photo: Supplied

FARR's research, since the organization was founded in 1997, reports a vast number of reasons why women drink during pregnancy. The driving factors are complicated and include biopsychosocial aspects such as physical health, genetic vulnerability, drug effects, peers, family circumstances, family relationships, coping skills, social skills, self-esteem and mental health status. Some of the social causes refer to society's belief and expectation that a "mother to be" should know and that the perception off those around her matters. For example, it is acceptable, in the community for a woman to use alcohol, but the same community expects that as soon as this woman falls pregnant, she must immediately change her behaviour, abstain from any alcohol use (irrespective of why she was drinking) and prioritise the wellbeing of her foetus (unborn baby). This behaviour change is supposed to take place without any support.

Dr Louw also described the effects of alcohol on the foetus, children, adolescents, adults and ultimately the family. He



reiterated the importance of the support provided to pregnant women by her partner, family, friends and the community at large to have an alcohol-free pregnancy. Change is hard, ask anyone who have ever tried to stop smoking or lose weight.

In his presentation Dr Louw also discussed importance of support to individuals living with FASD and their families. The aim should be for these individuals to be able to have a healthy, fulfilling lifestyle and independence (as far as possible). This can be facilitated by providing routine, structure, clearly communicate rules and repetition.

He furthermore explained the 5 W's of prevention and support, namely:

1. Why? (What is the goal I'm aiming for?)
2. Who? (Who can help me? Who can I reach? Who can I support?)
3. What? (What will I say? What will I do?)
4. When? (When can I fit this discussion into interactions? When is the most important time to have these discussions?)
5. Where? (Where are resources available? Where am I likely to find those who need help?)

Principals James July, from Klawervlei Primary School, and Selme-Louise van Wyk, from Vuurvliegie Akademie, shared their experiences and what they are implementing in their schools to "break the mould" of perceptions, myths and resistance in order to help children to reach their, maybe limited, but full potential.



James July, principal Klawervlei Primary. Photo: Supplied
36

Sophia Jaftha, a member of the FARR Support Group for Senior Citizens as primary caregivers, shared her experience as a member of this group. The FARR Community Worker, Janine Paulsen, briefed the audience on the “Do You Have 3 Minutes© programme” and the FARR Community Worker, Anquenic Devenish, shared information about the “Knock-Knock© Early Childhood Development Programme”.

The attendees agreed, that despite numerous challenges, each contribution, however small, can have a significant impact in terms support provided to pregnant women not to use alcohol during pregnancy, as well as supporting those who are living with FASD and their caregivers. Collectively, we can contribute to make this MISSION POSSIBLE.

The seminar was sponsored by Aware.org who is also funding the project in Prince Albert, Leeu Gamka and Merweville.■

For more information, feel free to contact the FARR Project Coordinator in Prince Albert, Ms Christel Botes, at: princealbert@farsa.org.za

Tel: 072 483 4336

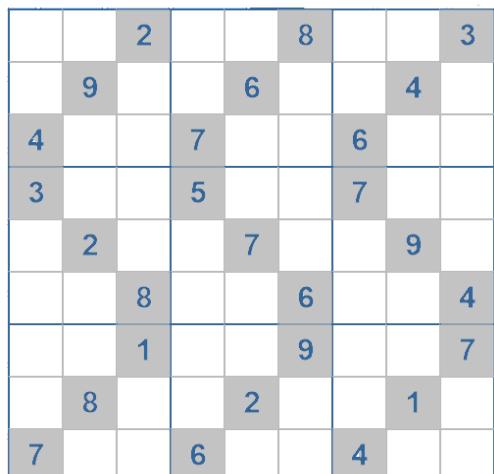
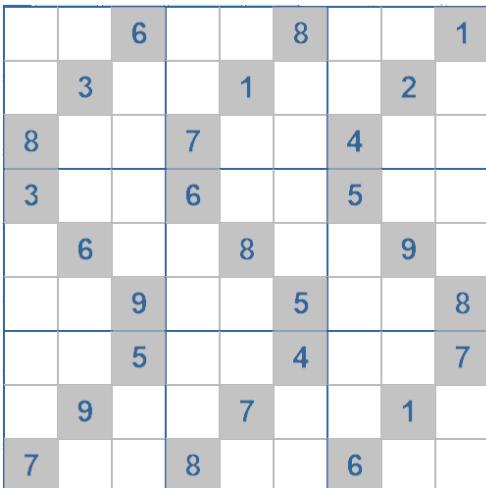


*Selme-Louise Van Wyk, Principal Vuurvliegie akademie.
Photo: Supplied*



Sophia Jaftha. Photo: Supplied

Extreme

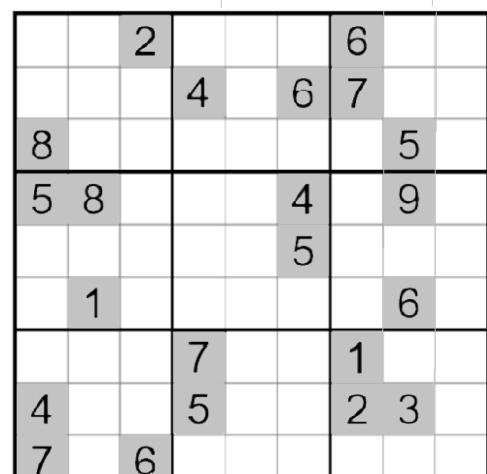
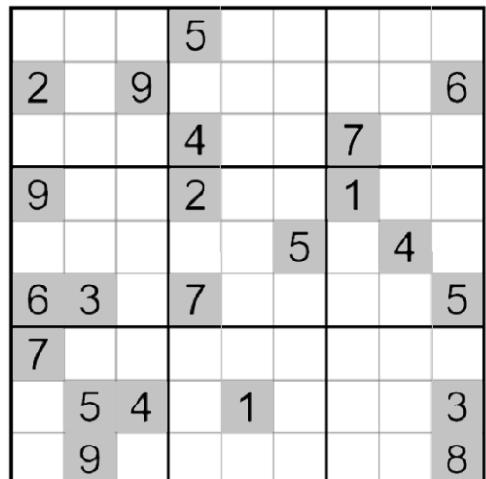


SUDOKU



Solutions on pg. 39

Hard



MUNISIPALITEIT van PRINS ALBERT

Rig alle korrespondensie aan:
DIE MUNISIPALE BESTUURDER
Privaatsak X53, Prins Albert, 6930



E-pos / E-mail: adminklerk@pamun.gov.za

KENNISGEWING NOMMER 95 / 2024

AANSOEK OM VERWYDERING VAN GOEDEKEURINGSVOORWAARDE ERF 489,

PRINS ALBERT

AANSOEKER: MARGARET GAY VAN HASSELT
EIENAAR: CLIVE HUGH VAN HASSELT WILL TRUST
VERW. NO: PA489
EIENDOMSBESKRYWING: Erf 489, PRINCE ALBERT
BESKRYWING VAN VOORSTEL: Aansoek Ingevolge Artikel 15(2)(h) van die Verordening op Grondgebruikbeplanning van die Prince Albert Municipaliteit vir oorweging van aansoek verwydering van goedkeuringsvooraarde op Erf 489, Prins Albert

Kennis geskied hiermee in terme van Artikel 45 van die Verordening op Munisipale Grondgebruikbeplanning vir Prince Albert Municipaliteit dat die bovenoemde aansoek ontvang is en ter insae lê gedurende weeksdie tussen 07h30 en 16h00 by die Kantoor van die Planning & Development Facilitator, Kerkstraat 33, Prins Albert.

Enige skriftelike kommentaar in terme van Artikel 50 van die genoemde Verordening kan gerig word aan die **Munisipale Bestuurder, Prince Albert Municipaliteit, Privaatsak X53, Prince Albert, 6930, Faks No: 023 - 5411321, e-pos: adminklerk@pamun.gov.za** voor of op **VRYDAG 2 AUGUSTUS 2024**, met vermelding van u naam, adres, kontakbesonderhede, belang in die aansoek en redes vir kommentaar.

Telefoniese navrae kan gerig word aan die Planning & Development Facilitator, **Ms. M Vele by Tel. No 023-5411320**. Die Municipaliteit kan weier om kommentaar te aanvaar na die sluitingsdatum. Enige persoon wat nie kan skryf nie kan gedurende die kantoor ure van die Municipaliteit na ondergemelde kantoor kom waar Ms. Burnadette Wildschut sodanige persoon sal help om sy/haar kommentaar en/of besware af te skryf.

**I HENDRICKS
MUNISIPALE BESTUURDER**
28 JUNIE 2024

This notice is also available in English

Munisipale Kantore
Kerkstraat 33 • Privaatsak X53
PRINCE ALBERT 6930
Tel: (023) 5411 014
Faks: (023) 5411 321

MUNICIPALITY of PRINCE ALBERT

Address all correspondence to:
THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER
Private Bag X53, Prince Albert, 6930

Tel 023-541 1320, Fax 023-541 1321

NOTICE NUMBER 95 /2024

APPLICATION FOR REMOVAL OF CONDITION OF APPROVAL ERF 489,

PRINCE ALBERT

APPLICANT: MARGARET GAY VAN HASSELT
OWNER: CLIVE HUGH VAN HASSELT WILL TRUST
REFERENCE NR: PA489
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: ERF 489, PRINCE ALBERT

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: Application in terms of Section 15(2)(h) of the Municipal Land Use Planning By Law for Prince Albert Municipality for removal of condition of approval on Erf 489, Prince Albert Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 45 of the Municipal Land Use Planning By-law for Prince Albert Municipality that the above application has been received and is open for inspection during weekdays between 07h30 and 16h00 at the Office of the Planning & Development Facilitator, 33 Church St, Prince Albert.

Any written comments in terms of Section 50 of the said By - law may be directed to the **Municipal Manager, Prince Albert Municipality, Private Bag X53, Prince Albert, 6930, Fax No: 023 - 5411321, e-mail: adminklerk@pamun.gov.za** before or on **FRIDAY 2 AUGUST 2024**, stating your name, address, contact details, interest in the application and reasons for comment.

Telephonic enquiries can be directed to the Planning & Development Facilitator, **Ms. M Vele at Tel. No. 023-5411320**. The Municipality may refuse to accept comments after the closing date. Any person who is unable to write may come to the undermentioned office during office hours where Ms. Burnadette Wildschut will assist such person to transcribe his / her comments and / or objections.

**I HENDRICKS
MUNISIPALE BESTUURDER**
28 JUNIE 2024

This notice is also available in English

**I HENDRICKS
MUNICIPAL MANAGER**
28 JUNE 2024

Hierdie kennisgewing is ook in Afrikaans beskikbaar

Municipal Offices
33 Church St Private Bag X53
PRINCE ALBERT 6930
Tel: (023) 5411 014
Fax: (023) 5411 321

NOTICE NUMBER 96 /2024

APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT DEPARTURE: RELAXATION OF STREET BUILDING LINE ON ERF 462, CHURCH STREET, PRINCE ALBERT

APPLICANT: KURT WERNER BUSS
OWNER: HEROLD LOCHOTZKE
REFERENCE NR: PA462
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: ERF 462, CHURCH STREET, PRINCE ALBERT

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: Application in terms of Section 15(2)(b) of the Municipal Land Use Planning By Law for Prince Albert Municipality for permanent change of land use right for relaxation of street building line on Erf 462, Church Street, Prince Albert Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 45 of the Municipal Land Use Planning By-law for Prince Albert Municipality that the above application has been received and is open for inspection during weekdays between 07h30 and 16h00 at the Office of the Planning & Development Facilitator, 33 Church St, Prince Albert.

Any written comments in terms of Section 50 of the said By - law may be directed to the **Municipal Manager, Prince Albert Municipality, Private Bag X53, Prince Albert, 6930, Fax No: 023 - 5411321, e-mail: adminklerk@pamun.gov.za** before or on **FRIDAY 2 AUGUST 2024**, stating your name, address, contact details, interest in the application and reasons for comment.

Telephonic enquiries can be directed to the Planning & Development Facilitator, **Ms. M Vele at Tel. No. 023-5411320**. The Municipality may refuse to accept comments after the closing date. Any person who is unable to write may come to the undermentioned office during office hours where Ms. Burnadette Wildschut will assist such person to transcribe his / her comments and / or objections.

**I HENDRICKS
MUNISIPALE BESTUURDER**
28 JUNIE 2024

This notice is also available in English

**I HENDRICKS
MUNICIPAL MANAGER**
28 JUNE 2024

Hierdie kennisgewing is ook in Afrikaans beskikbaar

Municipal Offices
33 Church St Private Bag X53
PRINCE ALBERT 6930
Tel: (023) 5411 014
Fax: (023) 5411 321



SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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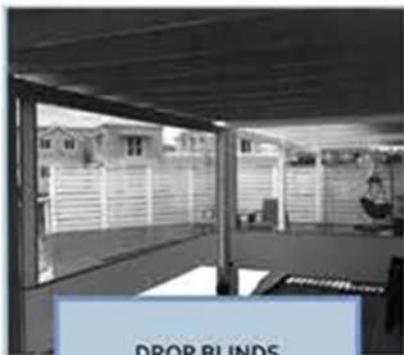
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PRINCE ALBERT BLINDS & AWNINGS

BLINDS
AWNINGS
SHUTTERS
SHADEPORTS

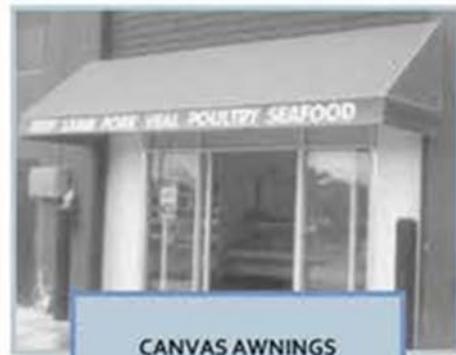
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