

Greyton SENTINEL



No 27 June 2018

Monthly publication for Greyton and surrounding communities

R20

NEW HEADLINE NEW HEAD TEACHER

Marli Hoffman, the recently appointed Principal of Greyton House Village School (GH), has an impressive CV. Her career in education has spanned preschool teaching assistant, teacher, principal and eventually director of the Little Ashford Preschool Group (LAPG), the largest privately owned preschool group in South Africa. After completing a BCom degree in Marketing Management at Stellenbosch University and a post graduate qualification in advertising she realised that her future lay in education. 'My interest in children goes back as far as I can remember. I have a passion for education and preparing the youth for a future that is unknown and developing a thirst for knowledge within children that will enable them to become the best versions of themselves that they can possibly be'.

Marli was born and raised in Pretoria. She explains that her older brother Nico lives in Stellenbosch 'with his amazing wife Nylde and their two children. My mom and dad also live in Stellenbosch. We are an extremely tight-knit family. I am not married but have a partner, Melanie van Zyl, who designs and customises furniture.

Her workshop is a stone's throw away from the school in Heuwelkroon'.

GH is in a rural village. Marli is an advocate of technology often citing Futurist Jim Carroll, '65% of children in preschool today will work in jobs and careers that do not exist yet'. Marli is clear. 'For me it is all about BALANCE and exposing children to as many things as possible, to create life-long learners. I think technology can be incorporated into the curriculum without moving away from the uniqueness of being a village school. It should not be used in isolation but rather to enhance the learning experience.'

Why GH, why our small village school? There must be greater challenges elsewhere? Why Greyton at all? Why our cul-de-sac on the R406? Marli explains, 'When I stepped away from the daily running of Little Ashford I felt I was ready for a lifestyle change. LAPG became a corporate and even though it is an educational company my passion has always been to be involved with children and be part of their daily lives. At LAPG I was working a desk job at head office. At Greyton House I get to be

around children daily and impact their lives directly. I feel Greyton House is already an amazing little school with an immense amount of potential and I am extremely excited about being part of helping it to reach its full potential.'

Marli has many interests, enjoys many things. 'I LOVE food!! Cooking is my therapy.' My love for reading was sparked and nurtured by my mother who is an avid bookworm. She brought us up on Roald Dahl. I read every night before going to bed. I am also a big art lover and do a bit of painting when I get the time. I enjoy the bush. There is just something about the bush that relaxes me completely. I always say a weekend in the bush feels like a week-long holiday. I wish I liked movies, but I am incapable of staying awake.



Marli Hoffman and the Grade 3 and 4 class of Greyton House

Continued Overleaf

Continued from Front Page

Movies have the same effect on me as sleeping tablets have on other people. I am lucky if I make it past the trailer.' No Oak & Vigne movie nights then. Besides being an aesthete, she's also an athlete having swum for South Africa at school and she continues to swim for exercise.

She has two pets and one pet hate. The former are her two dogs, Vlekkie a Toy Poodle and Foof, 'a mixed breed half Pekinese, half something, alien if you want my honest opinion'. The latter? 'When things are moved around and not put back into place.' There you go kids, you've been warned.

We asked her 'What have you come to know about Greyton since arriving? Good or bad? Any surprises? 'I am amazed by how open and welcoming all the parents, staff, children and residents have been. It is really refreshing to feel part of the community in such a small time.'

Teacher Marli, Miss Hoffman, welcome to Greyton!

Greyton Leiwater

September 2018 to May 2019

It is time again for the completion of applications for the supply of Leiwater. An application form for the forthcoming season can be obtained from the Theewatwateskloof Municipality (TWKM) offices.

It will be understood by all that the drought, which has officially been declared a national disaster, has impacted severely on the ability of the Municipality to supply Leiwater on a regular and sustainable basis. In an endeavour to ensure the fairest possible distribution between all Leiwater users should water become available, TWKM has determined upon a number of

changes to be made to the operation of the Leiwater system for the duration of the forthcoming Leiwater season.

1. If there is sufficient rainfall, Leiwater will be released and charged for on a month to month basis. (Subject to the approval of the 2018/2019 Municipal Budget at the end of May 2018.

2. Leiwater users will be billed in respect of any month in which Leiwater may be released. In so far as the supply during any one month is concerned, the risk of the supply not being fully sustained for such month must remain that of the Leiwater users, as has always been the case.

3. For the duration of this coming season, all weekly time-slots will be limited to 30 minutes per Leiwater user. This should ensure that each user gets a fair share of the Leiwater available and that the Leiwater dams at the Gobos and Noupoort have time to fill up overnight.

In addition to all this, in recognition of the hardships and difficulties Leiwater users faced last season, should it be able to do so, TWKM may release and supply Leiwater for short periods of not less than a week at a time during the winter months before the commencement of the Leiwater season in September for users to fill their dams.

Finally, as we all know, the Greyton Leiwater system has historically played a valuable and significant role in the development, growth and popularity of the whole of Greyton. Notwithstanding the devastating drought, which we are all enduring and which still persists, the continued existence of the Greyton Leiwater system remains a treasure and an integral part of Greyton's history, reputation, and future.

Be part of continuing history and tradition of Greyton.

Complete the application form today and submit it by 25 June 2018. No late applications will be accepted after the cut-off date.



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Beards Chatting
5pts single; 20pts the pair © Brian Dawes

EDITOR’S SPACE

This is our 27th issue. What to write? Probably best to begin with a reminder. There will be no July or August issues. The next *Sentinel* will be out on September 1st. Also, December 1st will be the last issue published by Sam and myself. There may be a new owner, perhaps not.

I’m struck by what a peculiar world we now live in. Windsor, Saturday May 19, the marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Five days earlier on Monday, May 14 the United States Embassy was officially opened in Jerusalem. Both were televised, colourful, thousands present at each with millions watching on TV. At the former a British Royal and an American actress were the focus. At the latter the protesting Palestinians and not the celebrating Israelis and Americans became the central feature of the event. Television split screens showed what looked like a Trump campaign rally in Jerusalem side by side with Israeli soldiers shooting dead 62 Palestinians, many of whom were children, and wounding a further 1,360 in Gaza.

This is not the place to opine on the whys, wherefores, and righteousness or not, of the latter. I am merely struck by how quickly such a significant occurrence in Gaza was displaced in the public consciousness, helped in no small part by the media, by the frivolity and triviality of the latter.

The tragedy, for both Israel and the Palestinians, of May 14 will have undoubted repercussions in the Middle East and beyond now and for years to come. The tat, sorry memorabilia, produced to commemorate the marriage of the sixth in line to the throne will provide fodder for car boot sales for years to come. The United Kingdom is no longer a world power. It really has no place on the UN Security Council. So why the interest in Royal Weddings? Probably levity, gaiety, triviality, pageantry, and of course THE DRESS.

Mark 



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FunDza Literacy Trust

Gillian Kingston

Do you have problems getting your young adults to read? Can't get them off their cell phones? How about turning their cell phone into an educational tool and encouraging them to download an app that will give him or her access to hours of reading – free of data charges!

University of the Third Age (U3A) Greyton recently hosted Dorothy Dyer of the FunDza Literacy Trust, a South African non-profit organisation dedicated to improving literacy among teens and young adults. In the audience that evening was local FunDza Fanzwriter Shuneen Adams, along with three readers and potential writers, Alicia van Wyk, Leigh-Allen Smit and Chloe Theunissen. When not caring for her family, Shuneen writes in her precious spare time and has so far had two stories published on the FunDza Fanz page.

FunDza aims to create and publish materials specifically aimed at teens and young adults who have not previously been identified as readers. Through experimentation and research FunDza learned that young people are more likely to become readers if they are introduced to texts that are meaningful to them so creating local content that speaks to young readers hearts and minds, and that reflects their circumstances, is of paramount importance.

The organisation works both with print and electronic materials and FunDza Fanz readers can access popular fundza.mobi content through their mobile phones, tablets or computers. Most importantly, feedback shows that the stories, articles, blogs and resources are encouraging reading for pleasure, as these few comments illustrate:

'I didn't want to put it down. I wanted to know more.'

'I loved the book ... It was written in South Africa ... It wasn't something about the suburbs. It was local ... it was about people in the townships!'

Around 250,000 users visit FunDza monthly! There are different ways of accessing the content:

- FunDza website – <http://live.fundza.mobi>
- the Android app – FunDzApp, or
- theFunDza app on FreeBasics.com (available free of data charges to Cell C in South Africa and other mobile partners in the rest of the world).

Read about Dorothy and Shuneen meeting up in Greyton in the FunDza blog at:

<http://www.fundza.co.za/meeting-fanz-writer-shuneen-adams>
(There are links to the two pieces written by Shuneen at the end of the blog.)

If you too would like to become a FunDza writer or want to find out more? Use the website or email FunDza at writing@fundza.co.za | Tel 021 709 0688 | Fax 086 619 7713



Shuneen Adams and Dorothy Dyer

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Beetles Sunday Outreach

Marshall Rinquist

On Sunday May 6 we welcomed the roaring sound of 24 different types of VW Beetle and two similar types of VW Kombi to Greyton. It was a community outreach event from which 150 adults and children benefited.

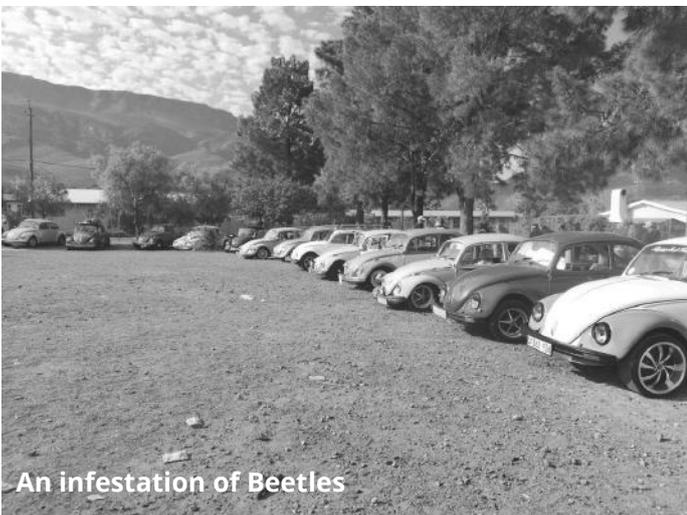
It all started a few weeks ago at the Saturday morning market during a friendly chat with Beetle Club member Abdulla Kader from Cape Town. The club's name is 'Air Cooled Fanatics' which is obviously unique to the Beetle. After chatting awhile he mentioned that the club would like to do an outreach in Greyton as most of the club members had never been to Greyton. We continued chatting and decided on a date for the event and by May 6 we were good to go. The convoy of Beetles arrived safely in Greyton and the outreach event took place in Heuvelkroon, opposite the Greyton Primary school.

The day was enjoyed by all. The Country Conquerors played their unique brand of Reggae to entertain the crowd and about 150 children received a meal to eat. There were party packets for the younger children and stationery packs for the school-goers. This was really a great event, not just for the outreach, but for the all VW Beetle lovers as there were some interesting conversations about the cars while on show in Heuvelkroon.

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Meet Richard Williams – Old Potter's Assistant Brewer

Mark Worsley

My chat with Richard was early on a slightly chilly and drizzly morning. While the weather called for a bracing ale, the time of day did not lend itself to depleting the output of his labour. Pity. For Richard is Tatenda's right hand man, the assistant brewer at Old Potter's Brewhouse.



Richard was born in Worcester, schooled at Caledon and after 12 years with the Ambulance Service, and a two year spell at The Post House as a maintenance supervisor, discovered his true calling as a brewer of beer.

A Greyton resident for many a year he used to travel to Worcester almost daily when working for the Ambulance Service there, not easy, not at all. Now it's but a shortish stroll to work, and a much nicer environment it is too.

Richard has completed an advanced brewing course at Banana Jam, Cape Town, and plans to complete the Institute of Brewing and Distilling (IBD) certification in the not too distant future.

Beer isn't the only love of his life. Long married to JD, nearly 20 years, they have three children, the youngest being 17. JD works for well-known local chocolatier Richard von Geusau. What a pairing! Beer and chocolate. Happiness is.

Back to beer. Richard's preferred choice of the Potter's stable is Flower Child, their India Pale Ale (IPA). If he has to drink a non-craft beer his go-to quench is Windhoek Lager.

Music is another passion. He enjoys jazz and says 'I love to sing'. Richard's a member of both the New Apostolic Church Choir and Janie Greeff's Community Choir. He's also learning to play the trombone, although it's early days yet. He began about six months ago.

There is more to the man than hops, melodies, and chocolate bars. He isn't a bad runner and favours a distance of 10 kilometres. Now, jogging, running call it what you will is one thing, rugby quite another. Richard admitted to supporting the Blue Bulls, the Blou Bulle! I suppose every man needs a vice. As the Bulls' Union is 80 this year and the *Sentinel* has always respected the elderly, enough said. Richard, it was great talking to you, and well done moving away from transporting real ailments to crafting real ales.



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Balance Sheets

Nick Downing, Overberg Asset Management

An optimal share portfolio is constructed around companies with a long-term competitive advantage and good corporate governance. **While the valuation of the investment is a key factor, a sound balance sheet is essential. Strong balance sheets protect wealth.** When dark clouds appeared, Steinhoff was brought down overnight by a weak balance sheet. On the other hand, despite negative reporting from Viceroy and substantial attention from short-sellers Capitec, with a strong balance sheet, held its own.

When is a balance sheet strong? The golden thread running through strong financial statements is CASH. Cash is king! The three crucial figures in a balance sheet health check are the level of debt and of cash on the balance sheet and the level of cash flow in the income statement. First, a strong balance sheet has more assets than debt, the more the better. Second, if a large portion of the assets is held in cash, this is better still. Third, a strong balance sheet is supported by a strong income statement. A company should have the ability to generate strong cash flows from its operations. The cash will flow from the income statement to the balance sheet.

The five companies with the strongest balance sheets in the world are Berkshire Hathaway, led and founded by Warren Buffett, Apple, Alphabet (formerly Google), Microsoft and Tencent, one third owned by Naspers. Let's look at Apple. To say that the three crucial figures for Apple are strong, is a massive understatement. First, it has \$269 billion in cash. Second, it has 'only' \$97 billion of debt. Third, Apple generates annual cash flows of \$51 billion. The company's debt of \$97 billion can easily be settled within two years from the strong cash flows. Or it can simply 'pay back its debts' from the cash in the bank. A war chest of cash is a great asset.

Closer to home, a company with a strong balance sheet is Mr. Price. First, cash in the bank is a healthy R1.8 billion. Second, debt is low at a comparatively negligible R50 million. Third, the annual cash flow is R427 million (2017). Mr. Price can use cash flow to settle its entire debt within just two months! This is faster than Apple's two years. At Mr. Price, cash is king.

When dark clouds gather, it is vital to own companies with strong balance sheets. These companies will have several strategies to not only manage and survive but also to benefit from economic downturns. In the end, they are in the enviable position of being able to 'bleed' their competition out of business or to buy them out at bargain prices.

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Beyond the E To the End of an Island

Philip Engelen

I've always enjoyed visiting rather unusual places. Sadly my lovely wife Sandra doesn't always feel like joining me, such as when I went to North Korea two years ago. But that's another story. I was indeed fortunate when she said yes to São Tomé. We have recently discovered the delights of flying with TAAG Airlines from Cape Town via Luanda to Lisbon. It was while flying back from Lisbon last year I was flicking through the in-flight magazine and saw that TAAG fly to São Tomé, with the flight from Luanda only about three hours. I leaned across to Sandra and said, 'I've found our next trip'. 'Where to?' she asked. 'São Tomé'. To which she responded, 'Where the heck is that?' – as did most of our friends when I mentioned it to them.

Flights and Airbnb accommodation booked, we set off around 3pm on a coolish November afternoon from Cape Town. We landed at São Tomé on a warm, rather sticky evening, at around 10pm. We had arranged an airport transfer to our accommodation, and were driven through very quiet streets, passing many an old crumbling colonial building along the way. There were more stray dogs on the road than cars. We eventually arrived at our Airbnb and had a very good night's sleep under our mosquito net.

We awoke early to the sounds of fishermen calling to one another. We peered out over our palm-fringed balcony to be astounded by a stunning view of the sea and half a dozen very small fishing boats.

São Tomé is not a big island lying in the Gulf of Guinea, off the western coast of Central Africa, just north of the equator. Recalling the quiet roads, we decided to hire a car. We booked a little Suzuki Jimny Jeep, which was brought to us the next morning. The car hire chap was a relaxed Frenchman. When I brought out my driving licence and credit card he said, 'Oh, we don't need those. I know you can drive, otherwise why you would be hiring a car? Credit cards are hardly ever seen or used on São Tomé, so only cash please to pay,' he said with a rather cheeky grin. Sandra said, as she often does, 'Pay the man Philip,' so I reached for my wallet. He gave us the keys and was just disappearing when I asked where I should drop the car off? 'Oh, just park it near the airport terminal and put the keys under the right-hand front wheel.' With that he was off.

We spent the first couple of days pottering about, driving around on the very bumpy roads, drinking lovely local coffee and cocoa and doing some food shopping in the Korean supermarket in the capital. If you like colonial architecture and old Romanesque churches, you'll love São Tomé city.

And then the day came when we decided to drive to the end of the island. We had about a quarter of a tank of petrol which we thought would be fine, as we would fill up at a petrol station along the way. Little did we know, that there are very few petrol stations in São Tomé! We later found out that there are only three outside the capital. I kept on driving with the two of us of us keeping a sharp look out for petrol stations, but nothing doing. Sandra was becoming very worried, (so was I, but thought best not to show it, stiff upper lip and all that) and she suggested that we turn around. I replied that I didn't think we had enough petrol to get us back, so best to press on regardless. Coasting downhill in neutral trying to save petrol, we eventually arrived in a very small fishing village at the end of the island. With no petrol station in sight and thinking that we would have to spend the night there, I went into a little hole-in-the-wall type of shop to ask where the nearest petrol station was. An old lady gave me a wide toothless grin and said, 'I sell the petrol'. I asked how much for a full tank, to which she nodded to a little lad who had come scampering out with his older brother. They were carrying four five-litre plastic water bottles filled with petrol! I grinned at Sandra and breathed, 'We are saved!' as the two brothers started to fill up our little Jimny. When the tank had been filled I paid the old lady, and we drove off with a huge sigh of relief. We took a slow leisurely drive back and counted our blessings. We had several other adventures while on São Tomé, but will never forget our trip to the end of the island.

And in answer to your questions about São Tomé? Discovered in 1471, and later a Portuguese colony, the island gained independence in 1975. Known mainly for Cacao exports, it has a very small tourist industry and is well worth a visit. As by way of a post script, our very own spaceman Mark Shuttleworth owns an upmarket lodge on the smaller, neighbouring island of Príncipe.

Philip and Sandra Engelen, although now resident in The Mother City, will always be Greytonians. They are fondly remembered as past owners of The Greyton Lodge – Editor

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Greyton Drinking Water and Human Rights

Greyton Council (GC) and Greyton Residents and Ratepayers Organization (GRRO)

Our South African constitution gives us rights. Does this mean anything? Seriously? Indeed it does. There have been quite a few court rulings that show that our judges take our rights seriously. Our constitution starts by stating 'The state must respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights in the Bill of Rights.'

Under the heading ENVIRONMENT we find, 'Everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being'.

Do the executives of our municipality understand this? Maybe. For approximately the past 10 years no capital has been allocated to restoring Greyton's crumbling drinking water pipes.

There is an emergency team of skilled artisans that fixes leaks within four hours, but the overall integrity of the pipe network is always worse after such repairs. It is like using electrical tape to fix water leaks in your home; the squirting at the leak can be stopped but the corroded pipes are still corroding and the next leak is coming soon.

The water we receive from the taps in our kitchens is sometimes toxic, occurring more frequently in the last year or two. People are getting serious bladder and intestine infections that do not respond well to routine antibiotics. The Theewaterskloof Municipality (TWKM) elected representatives who make decisions on our behalf have demonstrated that they think that other, more important things need to be done with very limited resources. That does not change the fact that the residents of Greyton, including Heuwelkroon, are legally entitled to a healthy environment.

Provision of safe drinking water is a fundamental right and should be one of the highest priorities. We are testing this idea using the administrative tools provided by our Western Cape Government through a team known as the Green Scorpions. The Green Scorpions are groups of investigators assembled, when needed, to investigate environmental crimes. On May 1 GRRO filed a formal request for an investigation with the Western Cape Directorate of Environmental Governance. This 'Report on Unauthorised Activities ... Non-compliance with NEMA General Duty of Care' was accompanied by a document containing motivating detail from GRRO and GC.

Courtesy mails have been sent to both the Mayor and the new Municipal Manager informing them that the Green Scorpion investigation had been requested. Now we await some action.

If any reader would like the full copy of the report compiled by GC and GRRO please email me at mark@greytonsentinel.news - Editor

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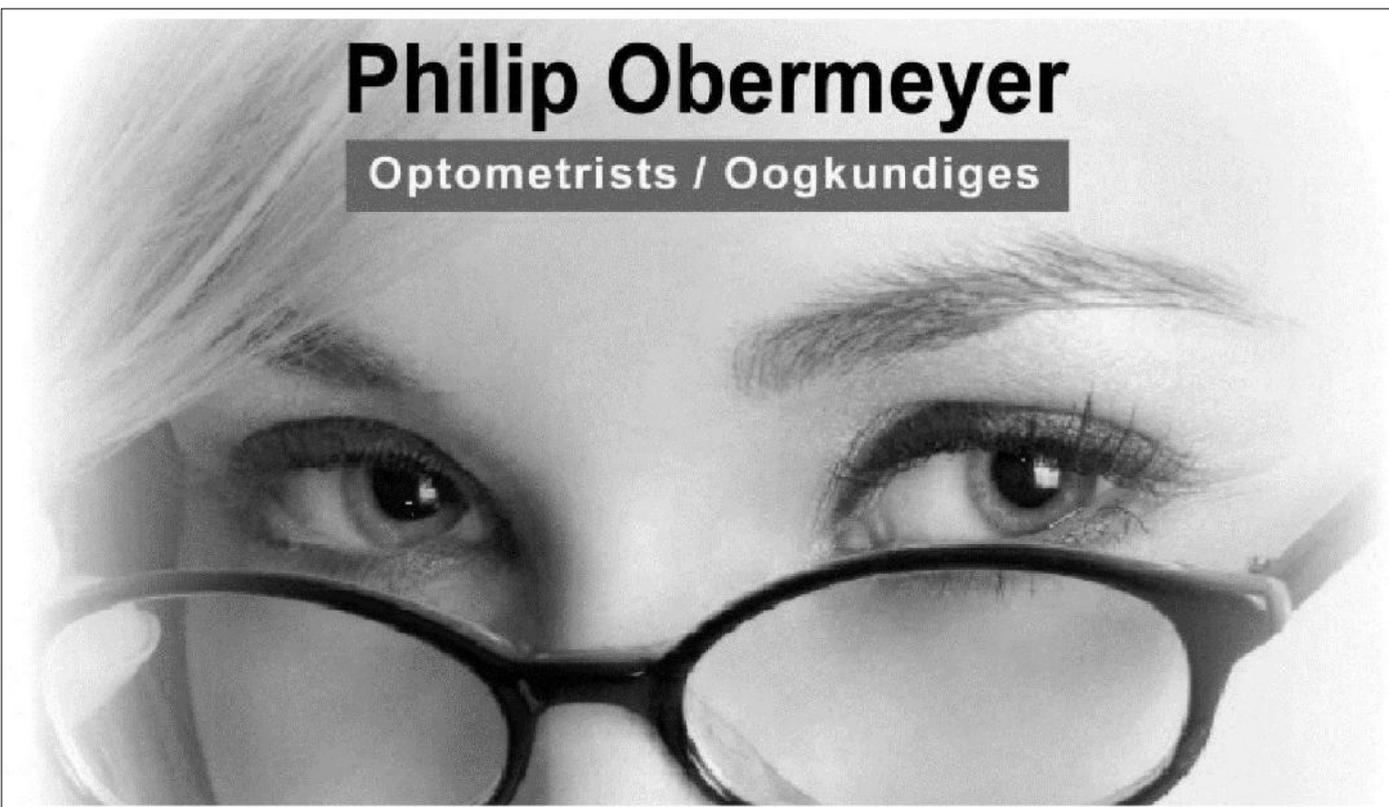
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Older pets are often obese because they exercise less and we like to spoil them with 'treats' but obesity can shorten a pet's life by up to two years or more, and leads to illnesses like diabetes, heart disease, kidney ailments and arthritis.

Many older pets suffer from arthritis but because animals are instinctively good at hiding pain, their owners may not realise it. Immune function and kidney function also decline with age.

Dietary adjustments may help improve clinical signs or even slow progression of disease. For cats with chronic kidney disease, for example, a diet that is lower in phosphorus and contains omega-3 fatty acid may help to slow it down. Reduced sodium foods may be useful in dogs with congestive heart failure.

As your pet ages, it is important to have him or her checked by your vet at least twice a year. To aid digestion, consider feeding your pet several meals a day instead of one large serving. Older pets are also more prone to dehydration so always ensure he/she has access to fresh, clean water at all times. Water intake should be constantly monitored.

A pet is considered senior after the age of 7. Chat with your vet about your ageing pet's needs and with a few modifications to his diet and lifestyle, he could live to a ripe old age.

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Greyton Tourism Association (GTA) Newsletter

Di Dawes

Here we are again – relaxing into Winter, nights drawing in and the evenings becoming cold. However, seasonal changes are certainly not deterring our intrepid visitors! Gone are the days when Greyton was a summer season destination. Our statistics demonstrate a static flow of visitors – people love visiting our beautiful valley regardless of the season. Maybe even because of the season! The winter months have their attraction, particularly if you are an outdoor pursuits enthusiast – cycling, walking, running. The temperate winter days are ideal for energetic activities and those cold, dark winter evenings are perfect for cuddling up to a log fire, wrapping in a blanket for a movie or a good book. Many holiday homes have indoor braais and outdoor fire pits – there is nothing better in winter for lifting spirits and re-charging batteries. Restaurants, pop up events and cafes have log fires, blankets and patio heating. The winter light and sunsets are truly spectacular. It is a sociable time of year and our accommodation and eateries reflect this with their special guest welcome.

In May, Getaway magazine published an online feature with 27 things to do in and around Greyton and Genadendal. Some obvious and some not so obvious attractions – even local people will be surprised by the sheer volume of interesting activities on offer. Often when you live in a town you live in your own routine and don't see the delights of the area on offer to visitors. Perhaps we should encourage a 'Locals' Day' series that offers our attractions for residents to discover and enjoy? It certainly seems to work on Wednesday evenings at Potter's Inn. Residents are often the hosts of visitors, as accommodation owners and as family or friends and are great publicity for local activities – our residents are our town ambassadors and have great influence over visitor choices.

As this edition makes print, the Classics for All festival will have been and gone for another year. The preview concert at The Oaks in April was just fabulous. The setting, the décor, the staff engagement, the effort and the food were just wonderful. The music was breathtakingly beautiful. It really bodes well for the real thing! This festival is evolving into a local festival of note and a big thank you to all of those involved – including organisers, musicians and performers, staff, sponsors and hosts – great work.

The main event for the month of June is the 2018 Greyt Escape ride on Saturday and Sunday the 16th and 17th of June. The organisers have created a two-day package for this year's event – contact GTA for more information. It is anticipated to be widely supported with visitors and their friends and families making a long weekend in our idyllic space.

There is no doubt that Greyton Rocks! So, keeping to the rock theme, GTA is launching a Greyton Rocks scheme whereby river stones, or other stones, are painted by residents and visitors and then left in various places along paths and pavements for tourists and residents to discover. The idea is for the person who finds a Greyton

Rock, to then leave it somewhere else, or take it home, but then they should leave a rock that they have painted themselves somewhere to replace the one they have taken. This idea was given to us by a local resident and member, Jenny Hughes, and we think it is just so funky, fun and inclusive. We will be encouraging everyone to participate in readiness for the Greyt Escape weekend. Coffee bars and the GTA office can keep a supply of unpainted pebbles for people to turn into a Greyton Rock. Look out on the market for paint kits and rocks to purchase. As usual, GTA is not for profit and all proceeds go to local charitable causes.

Winter months mean misty dark mornings and early dark, dusky evenings. Please remain aware of personal and public safety while outdoors. Drivers, please be particularly vigilant of cyclists, walkers, runners, children, animals, wild life – our sleepy village encompasses freedom for all on our roads but awareness and safety is paramount. Where possible be bright at night – wear something light!!

This is the last *Sentinel* for a couple of months, so with that in mind, the following includes as many regular and planned events as possible. Visitors are welcome to call into the GTA office on Main Road – Roslyn and team are, as always, ready to help and assist. They also have up to date knowledge and information about What's On ...

So far, this is what we have (not an exhaustive list – do ask GTA for an up-to-date activities list):

- 1 June | Folk at the Farm | Swallow Hill
- 16 – 17 June | Greyt Escape MTB
- 28 July | Animal Welfare Society Event
- 1 – 2 September | The Greyton Tour is a non-competitive 2-day MTB stage event. MTBs and newcomers.
- 28 – 29 September | Pie Run Gravelgrinder MTB
- 5 October | Summer Folk in the Garden starts | Greyton Lodge
- 27–28 October | Rose Fair
- 23 – 25 November | Greyton Art Walk
- December | To be confirmed | Greyt Treasure Hunt

I'm sure this list is but a taste of what is on offer, but whatever you do, have a wonderful winter time and please remember to contact the GTA (254 9564) with any ideas, groups or events you would like us to help promote.

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Greyton Baboon Monitor Programme

Kathy Kelly

Nine months after the implementation of our Baboon Monitor Program, it has proved to be an excellent example of what can be achieved if baboon management is tackled proactively.

Since the program started, baboons have spent an average of just 1 to 2 hours per month in the village, with most of the raids attributed to our lone male, Sylvester, who has kept the monitors on their toes. As he is on his own it is much easier for him to stay out of sight of the monitors, but it is a great testament to the team that when he gets into the village it only takes them an average of 10 minutes to chase him out again.

One thing is clear from the last nine months – the monitor team will need to keep adapting and re-strategising to keep the troop out of the village. The food rewards in Greyton year-round are enormous and simply too much of a temptation for our wily neighbours to be given up easily!

We are very grateful to Johan Viljoen of Theewaterskloof Municipality (TWKM), who has confirmed that he will fund four monitors for another year. It is now up to residents to continue contributing so that we can 'top up' the salaries as well as pay the full salary of a fifth monitor. Thank you to those residents who are ensuring the project continues; we encourage other residents to come on board and help spread the load.

Many residents may have personal experience here or elsewhere with baboon damage and the violent retaliation of humans, and of how baboons gradually habituate and expand their 'territory' into urban areas. The most compelling argument for supporting the programme must surely be the experiences of people living in baboon harassed areas around Cape Town such as Tokai, Scarborough, Kommetjie, Hermanus and Pringle Bay. We may just be lucky, but currently we are a rare example of a community successfully nipping baboon incursions in the bud, before these escalate into entering homes, damaging properties and severely impacting on people's lifestyles.

With aggressive and often lethal management of problematic baboons still the norm throughout South Africa, our Baboon Monitor Programme shows that non-lethal or aggressive solutions are feasible and create not only job opportunities in communities where unemployment is rife, but also opportunities for advancement.

This month we say goodbye to our team leader, Morne de Boer, who has been offered fulltime employment elsewhere in the village. Many residents have got to know Morne during his time with us, and his larger than life presence will be sorely missed.

What many people don't know is that Morne's job as a baboon monitor was his first since getting out of rehab. It gave him an opportunity to prove himself, which he certainly did, and he was promoted to team leader where he has been a real mentor to his team. He will continue to provide input and support by joining our volunteer Management Team.



Morne de Boer hands over his binoculars to newly appointed team leader, Wilmohr Williams

Wilmohr Williams has been promoted to team leader to fill the very large shoes left behind by Morne. Wilmohr is passionate about our natural environment, and we are excited about this growth opportunity for him.

Volunteer Baboon Management Team: Andrew White, Janet Ravenscroft, Kathy Kelly, Colleen Begg, Mike Kock, Stuart Shearer, Johan Viljoen (TWK), and Lawrence Odendaal (Cape Nature)

If you would like information on how you can contribute to keep the program running, please email or visit: greyton.baboons@gmail.com

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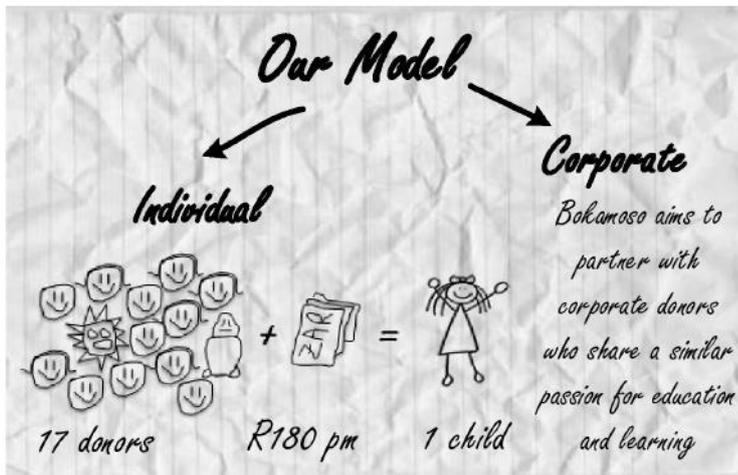
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The Concept

The Detail



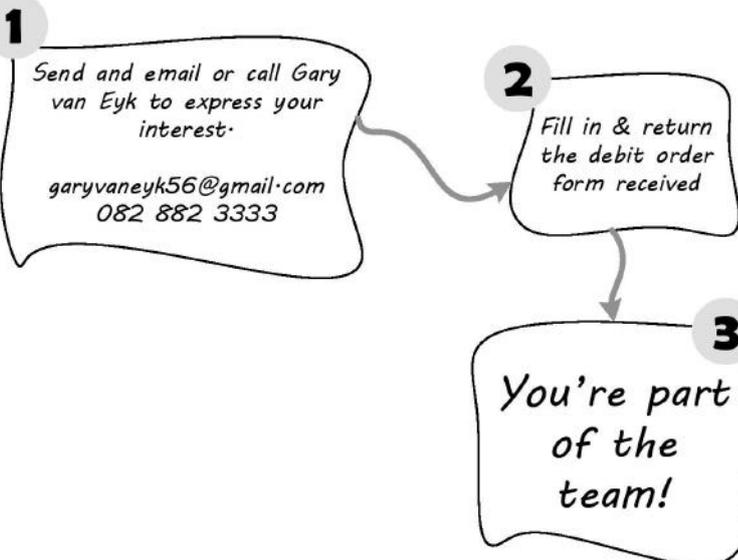
Bokamoso Trust and Greyton House have teamed up to establish The Overberg 51 Club. The goal is put three additional learners from disadvantaged backgrounds through the Greyton House Bursary Programme this year. For every 17 donors we're able to fund a child to attend Greyton House, who provide quality English medium education from foundation level.

Education is a fundamental right to all and is essential in uplifting the youth of South Africa. It provides children with an exceptional opportunity to improve their own livelihood and to uplift their family and community.

The Bokamoso Education Trust was set up with this belief in mind - to be a vehicle through which individuals and corporations can make donations that are accumulated and set towards the educational expenses of disadvantaged children.

Bokamoso's primary vision is to enable as many children as possible, who would otherwise not have had the opportunity, to get a world-class education. We have therefore undertaken the responsibility to provide the necessary financial support for each child's education (Grade 000 to 12). Furthermore, we facilitate the opportunity for donors to take an active and personal role in the child's development through mentorship, should they wish to do so.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO



QUESTIONS?

Please contact us at:

www.bokamosotrust.org.za
Cathrine@bokamosotrust.org.za

A few FAQ's

What does Bokamoso mean? – Bokamoso means “The Future” in Setswana.

What is our 2018 mission? – 55 children across 6 schools!

What about parent accountability? – Every parent contributes a donor slot for their child! This is on a sliding scale according to their income.

Tax Benefits? – We issue donation receipts and according to our Section 18A certificate enabling you to receive a tax benefit.

What if I'm a corporate? - We'd love to partner with you! Please contact Cathrine at cathrine@bokamosotrust.org.za

Hermanus FynArts 8 – 17 June 2018

Festival goers can expect ten exhilarating days celebrating the arts at this annual classic-feel arts festival and winter school showcasing more than 150 artists, 90 musicians and speakers, 11 chefs, authors, wine makers and a massed choir.

Highlights in the Spotlight

Hugh Masekela to be honoured

The 2018 Hermanus FynArts Legacy Award will be presented posthumously to Hugh Ramapolo Masekela, the legendary South African trumpeter, flugelhornist, cornetist, composer and singer. Last year Bra Hugh accepted the invitation to attend the Festival to receive the award. On 23 January at the age of 78 years, the esteemed musician died after a protracted battle with cancer. His sister, Barbara Masekela, poet, educator and activist will accept the award on Saturday 9 June 2018 at the opening session of the Strauss & Co Lecture Series. Barbara was South Africa's official ambassador to UNESCO and served as the democratic South Africa's first ambassador to France and later appointed as ambassador to the USA.

Festival Artist – Kate Gottgens

Kate Gottgens, among southern Africa's most accomplished painters, will present an exhibition of new paintings curated by Marilyn Martin. Her ability to mystify the 'normal' and depict the 'uncanny' in her laconic paint application is widely recognised.

Concerts

The Opening Concert, this year performed by Camerata Tinta Barocca and a number of soloists, will be a wonderful and uplifting start to the festival. On the opening Sunday,

Richard Cock's concert will be a first for the Overberg: a rousing celebration of well-known and much-loved choruses and solos from operettas and operas with Johan Slabbert and Cecilia Rangwanasha, winners of the ATKV Musiqanto Award, in 2014 and 2018 respectively. The soloists promise a memorable performance with their superb voices and stage presence. The accompanying 100-strong choir will be supported by an orchestra of 34 musicians.

Watch the Experts Cook

Eleven chefs will take part in the popular series of demonstrations which include not only a tasting portion of the prepared dishes, but also a tasting portion of a paired wine. On the programme are: **Benjamin Conradie**, executive chef at Grootbos Private Nature Reserve; **Craig Cormac** of SALT on the Paul Cluver Estate; **Rickey Broekhoven** from The Restaurant at Newton Johnson; **Sebastian Smith** from NomNom Eatery in Somerset West; Chef Patron **Greg Henderson** of Forage, at Wilderkranz; **André Kruger** of Stonehouse Cheese near Stanford; executive chef **Oliver Coetzee** of Birkenhead House, Hermanus; **Tullishe Roux**, chef at the restaurant at the Hermanus Golf Club; award-winning chef de cuisine **Gregory Czarnecki** of Waterkloof restaurant in Somerset West; **Christiaan Campbell** of Die Werf Restaurant at Boschendal; **Rudolf van der Berg** of the Burgundy Restaurant in Hermanus will team up with **Danie Vorster** of the Overberg Honey Company.

The full programme is at hermanusfynarts.co.za. Tickets at Webtickets and Hermanus Tourism. Call Chantel for more information at 060 9575371.



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hermanusfynarts.co.za for the full programme, to subscribe to the FynArts newsletter and for updates
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Mike Ash's Workplace Top Tips: #7

To Be a Good Employee?

Dependability – Often, employees repeatedly arrive late, call in sick, or do not show up at all. When someone fails to show, the impact is felt beyond the person. Others must now pick up the slack.

Dependability comes down to trust. Employers must be able to know for certain that employees will do what is expected of them. They cannot afford to handhold and coddle workers who agreed to do a job when they were hired—and then do not do it.

What if the tables were turned? Imagine if you worked hard for two weeks and when it was time to get paid your employer paid you late or not at all. What if you had to constantly remind a boss to provide you with the tools and resources needed to do your job? You would be extremely unhappy.

Strive to be a dependable employee. Legitimate issues do occasionally occur that can force you to miss work or have to adjust deadlines, but this should be the exception not the rule. Advise your employer immediately, do not just assume someone will cover for you and never mind – they do mind and it erodes your value if it is not managed properly.

By your actions, show people that you keep commitments. A dependable and productive worker stays on the payroll.

To Be a Good Employer?

Flexibility – People are busier than ever today. There are more stresses today than in past years.

Employees like to be involved with family. Working-age people are taking care of their parents and their kids. Things can go wrong and do go wrong and while it's unfortunate it is a reality. People want to know that there is flexibility with the job so they can take a call or schedule an appointment without a bunch of red tape to work through.

Employees also want to know if it's possible to work from home. Even if they can only work from home on some days it's a nice perk to be able to offer prospects.



Greyton Plants

Marshall Rinqest

Our plant of the month for June is the Sour fig / Suury.

As it prefers sandy soil you'll find it along Vlei Street near the water and along the banks of the Riversonderend River.



Why go looking for it? Well it has a multitude of medicinal uses. Firstly, the sappy green juice in the leaves is antiseptic, antibacterial and anti-fungal. Secondly, the pulp or juice from the leaves can be applied to skin wounds and burns and it's also very good at stopping bleeding. And thirdly, the sap can be gargled. Do so for mouth and throat infections and feel the difference in just half an hour. Chewing and swallowing the sap or juice helps mouth and stomach ulcers, dysentery, digestive problems and diarrhoea.

Last, but definitely not least, rubbing the juice against a baby's gums will help during teething.



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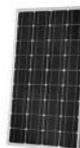
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What are the Guidelines we use in Property Valuations

We are always happy to visit and conduct a current valuation for any Greyton Resident, and at no cost to the homeowner. Although you may not wish to sell, you may want a valuation out of curiosity or for estate or insurance purposes.

We deliberate very carefully to reach a correct valuation and to this end we keep detailed statistics on sales in Greyton. Although they may be somewhat helpful, we don't rely exclusively on online valuation tools as these are purely objective and don't accurately consider other factors which apply to Greyton's unique market. The combination of our qualifications and ongoing training plus many, many years of invaluable experience of the Greyton property market give us a more comprehensive base from which to work.

These are the important criteria we consider when valuing, using a combination of different factors:

- Recent comparative Sales – Is our most important starting point
- Size of Buildings – Number of bedrooms, bathrooms, living rooms, garage/s etc
- Condition of Buildings – Whether needing maintenance, renovation or upgrading
- Quality of Finishes – Kitchen, bathrooms, flooring, built-in cupboards etc
- Flow, ambience and configuration of the interior – Today's buyers generally expect light, sun and easy flow, and this does not necessarily depend on the house being orientated north!
- Size of Plot – Bigger is not always better. Implications are cost of maintaining a garden, water restrictions. Fewer people require a large garden
- Condition of garden – There is value in an established and well maintained garden
- Position in the Village – Quieter and more established wooded areas are what people favour
- Views – Mountain views definitely add value
- Miscellaneous – Access to water such as wells/boreholes, lei water dam, irrigation system, security system, storage, style of house are some other factors
- Properties currently on the market – Although this is taken into consideration, the current asking prices of some properties are not a true reflection of their values.

Although we do not take into account the way the property is furnished or whether it is neat and tidy or not, this can influence buyers first impression.

Monique Hess and Beverley Blumberg

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