

THE DROSTDY MUSE NEWS



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Greetings

Museums countrywide are experiencing challenging times. State funding for new projects and personnel is limited, and as with many other institutions in South Africa, museums need to be innovative in creating viable projects that both serve the community and bring additional funds to the coffers. The Drostdy is no exception and the Board and staff are tackling this challenge with enthusiasm. Watch this space for news of new projects!

Museum commemorates important national events



The Drostdy celebrated 10 years of democracy by launching a special exhibition at the Railton Library on 29

March. The exhibition honoured the lives of Swellendam residents who have contributed significantly to the development of a democratic society in their hometown. Congratulations to them all. They are:

Rev Rhodes Arendse – participated in peaceful protest marches until 1993. Elected mayor in 1994. Conveyed the Freedom of Swellendam on President Nelson Mandela.

Hanli Matthysen – First female commander of the South African Fleet's catering school. Returned to Swellendam in 1984 and among other civic contributions, was one of the founders of Swellendam Alive. She passed away in 1992.

Adriaan Mocke: Opened a remedial school in 1964, which developed into the well-known Olyfkrans College. An important role-player in establishing partnerships between the community and overseas countries.

Cynthia Tobias: Retired from nursing, she has made an enormous contribution to the community with her voluntary work and her services as

chairperson of the ACVV. Has received a number of awards that recognize her selfless service to the community.

Paul Treu: One of the most talented people to come from the SA Rugby Football Union's development programme. He represented SA at the students' World Cup in Italy in 1992, and played against France in 1993, amongst other international tournaments. He was appointed the Sevens Team's coach in 2003/2004.

Maréne van Zyl: A skilled musician, she was elected as a town councillor in 1995, deputy mayor in 1996, and mayor in 1997. She was the first woman mayor of the town, which she has served tirelessly, concentrating on housing, skills development and the aged.

Melinda Zass: Developed an interest in politics during the 1976 uprising and broadened these interests during her years at UWC. She was involved with the Swellendam Youth Congress and was jailed for 14 days for her political activities. Also involved in the formation of the UDF and has since served on numerous professional bodies, including the SA Democratic Teachers' Union.

The exhibition featured the images of these Swellendam folk along with those of prominent national figures who

contributed hugely to the birth of a new democratic society.

Umndyadala Esitalatweni 21 March



I-Drostdy yaququzelela umnyhadala wesikhumbu zo wosuku lwamalungelo abantu. Mndyadala lowo wawubanjelwe kwesinye sezitalato zase - White City E-Railton. Iqela lakwa Xhosa lomxhentso, umboniso, amaqela omculo wolutsha kunye namaqela omculo wabantu abakhulu, ngawo awathatha inxaxheba namalungiselela lomndyhadala, umdyaro wonikezelwano (Relay Race). Ubuququzelelwe liqela lase Olyfkrans College laphinda kwalona lwathatha inxaxheba.

Ababukeli nabahlali bomkelwa liwngu lebhunga uMnumzana Barend Da Silva, Tizzie Mangiagalli kunye nosodolophu uMnumzana uNewman yena wenza nengcaciso ngamalungelo abantu. Wonke umntu waziva onwabile enochulumanco kakhulu kuko konke okwakusenzeka, kodwa wona umyalezo wosuku waphuma ngokufanelekileyo nangokuncomekayo.

Freedom Day Workshop



To commemorate Freedom Day, a workshop was organized at Swellendam Secondary School on the Freedom Charter. The facilitators were David Langeveldt and Tizzie Mangiagalli. Learners took part in discussions on the subjects of language rights, freedom of speech, and environmental rights. Group work involved further debate and the completion of worksheets. Later each group of learners reported on their own discussions. 'Some amazing comments came out of this workshop,' said museum manager, Tizzie Mangiagalli. 'I hope to extend our work in the schools.'

Children bake 'stokbrood' by the barrel-load!



In celebration of International Museum Day, Drostdy Museum staff decided to feature the development of wheat farming in the Overberg, with the

emphasis on farming, harvesting and threshing methods, and the tools of the trade in those bygone days of threshing floors and winnowing.

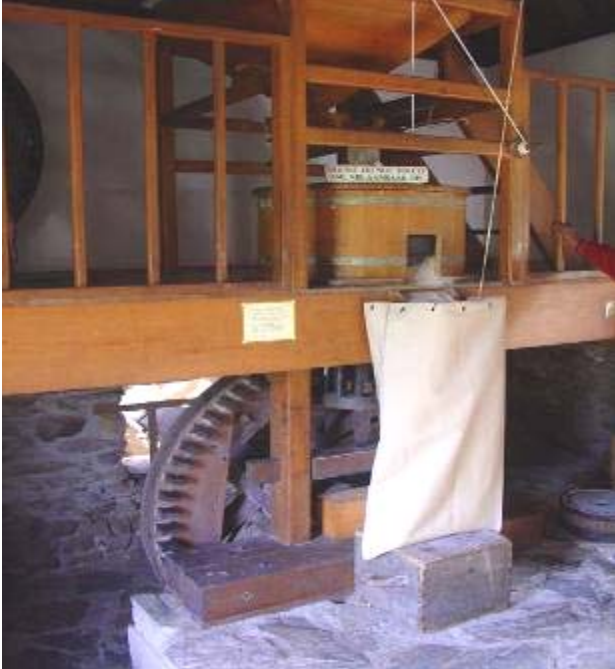
What better way to showcase the Drostdy's water mill and threshing floor, rich store of traditional farming tools, and the old baking oven, the theme being 'From wheat-ear to bread'.

And so on Friday 20 May the first group of 270 grade 9 learners from Swellendam Secondary School gathered for an experience they would never forget. Led by Jomien Havenga, Brent Kellies and the young museum ambassadors, they were first provided with a full tour of the museum, and then learnt about ploughing, sowing, harvesting, threshing and winnowing. Finally the process of milling the wheat into flour.

In between snippets of old folklore provided amusement, including that of whistling up the wind. The workers of those days would whistle for the wind, knowing only too well that without the wind the wheat could not be winnowed.

Having witnessed the slow process of milling in the Drostdy's own millhouse, the highlight of the morning was the baking of the learners' own 'stokbrood'. As Jomien put it, there were plenty of deformed, raw or burnt little loaves, but the learners tucked into them with an appetite. Smiling syrup-smearred faces bore witness to the success of a programme that will be the talk of the town, as learners at all the area's schools impatiently wait their turn to visit the Museum and make 'stokbrood'!

Broadening education opportunities



Inside the Watermill

The 'stokbrood' project is a good example of how the museum is playing an active role in broadening learning opportunities for the children of Swellendam. The museum also offers pre-school programmes and the ambassador's programme, which provides youngsters with a sense of pride in themselves and in their local museum. Despite ten years of democracy, in truth we are still a fractured society and urbanisation has meant that many children are separated from their parents or live in poor or squalid conditions. Children carry the knowledge gained by experience at an early age into their adulthood. As Ezekiel Mphahlele wrote in his biography: *'We learned a great deal at the fireplace, even before we were aware of it: history, tradition and custom, code of behaviour, community responsibility, social living and so on.'* Staff at the Drostdy Museum is keen to provide useful learning experiences for the children of the community in an

effort to bridge the gap created by fractured homelife.

Newsflash!

Tenders have been invited from interested parties to manage the restaurant at Zanddrift on a contract basis for a period of three years. It should not be too long before the new tenants are announced. Visitors to the museum will then be able to enjoy a traditional meal in this beautiful old homestead that once graced a farm in Bonnievale. As with all government tenders, certain conditions apply, and interested parties can contact the museum manager, Mr B Mangiagalli, on (028) 514 1138 for more information. Applications must be on the official forms, and close on 10 June 2005 at 12 noon.

Luiperdseep

Seep! Ja, ja, ek weet dis net die ou gewone middel om skoon te maak. Vandag is daar soveel middele wat gebruik kan word om 'n sekere taak makliker te maak, iets vir die stoof, iets vir die teëls, iets vir jou hare, iets vir skottelgoed, maar toenterjare was daar net seep en wat meer is, die huisvrou of boervrou moes dit self gekook het, want dit was nie so geredelik beskikbaar nie. Ons het heelwat resepte en voorbeelde van boerseep, want ons mense was kranige seepkokers wat dit tot 'n fyn kuns ontwikkel het.

Om verstaanbare redes, is seep nou nie iets wat ons graag as 'n artefak wil hê nie, want dit kan net 'verdwyn'. Nogtans is daar 'n paar stukke van die seep wat ek hoop altyd daar sal bly, die seep wat tydens die Boere-oorlog deur die krygsgevangenes op die eiland St Helena en elders uitgekerf is. Sommige het hul name, datums en

ander geskiedkundige besonderhede ook nog op die seep aangebring.

Jan Lodewyk Kleynhans van die plaas Klipdrif aan die voet van die Langeberge by Heidelberg, was sewentien jaar oud toe hy in 1861 besluit het om te gaan jag. Met die hulp van sy honde en roer het hy 'n luiperd gekwes. Die dier het in 'n boom op gevlug en in 'n lae mik bly lê. Terwyl die honde die luiperd aan die voorkant besig gehou het, het Jan die dier aan die stert beetgekry en getrek. 'n Kat rem mos vorentoe as dit aan die stert getrek word. Toe hy kon bykom, het hy die dier met sy knipmes die doodsteek agter die blad gegee.

Ek kan net dink hoe trots so 'n jongeling op die heldedaad sou wees. 'n Ma bly mos nooit agter nie en om dié heldedaad nog meer spesiaal te maak, het sy seep gekook van die luiperd se vet. Reg geraai, ons het 'n steen van daardie einste seep wat deur sy kleindogter, Mev H. C. Hopkins in 1966 aan die museum geskenk is.

Ed's note: *We hope you will visit us to view this piece of special soap yourself, but we nevertheless are keen supporters of wildlife conservation!*

New exhibition at the Drostdy

On the evening of Wednesday 25 May, the Swellendam Trust held its AGM in the museum lecture hall above the Drostdy. Manager Tizzie Mangiagalli was the first speaker of the evening, introducing the new exhibition on Cape folk or vernacular architecture. Stunning photographs and text deal with subjects such as the vernacular cultural landscape, cottages and castles, interiors, and elements of destruction of our architectural vernacular heritage. These include

fire, storms, earthquakes, neglect, political events such as the institution of the Group Areas Act, and urban development. Conservation and restoration also receive significant coverage, and there is a tribute to renowned vernacular photographer and author, James Walton. A truly stunning collection of photographs illustrate the subject.

This is a stimulating and beautiful exhibition not to be missed. Do yourself a favour, pay a visit to the Old Schuur above the Drostdy building and spend some time viewing the Western Cape's architectural beauty and diversity, and projects to conserve it.

Reflections on Swellendam in 1803, a place of culture and learning ...

'One of the most important places we trekked through was Swellendam, the capital of the district of the same name. A number of houses inhabited by blacksmiths, wainwrights and other craftsmen and merchants forms a street which runs up the church. A bridge thrown over a roaring stream enables pedestrians to use the road and facilitates access to the house of the magistrate. We stopped there, and were surprized at the culture and knowledge that marked all the members of den Heer Faure's family.'

(From the diary of Augusta de Mist, written in 1802 and 1803, recording her journey with her father into the hinterland.)

*As you have read, there is much going on at Swellendam's Drostdy Museum. Pay us a visit, enjoy the exhibitions and see what's new!
Till next time,*

The Editor.

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