



GRASSHOPPER COUNTRY
The Great Brak River
Museum News Letter
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 Great Brak River

December 2010
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 www.greatbrakriver.co.za
 Editor Rene' de Kock

Dear Museum Friends

Issue 12 of 2010

Museums are not only there to display the past but are required to conserve these **COLLECTIONS** for posterity. We need every little bit of help that we can get. How about becoming a member of the museum. Single members R30 and families R40 per annum. Deposit the amount with your email details in the FNB bank with account number **62201449172 (branch Langeberg mall)**

DECEMBER month is for the family. The Great Brak River Museum wishes you all a festive and enjoyable season. This month, we have included those holiday programs that are available and some interesting places to visit, however, do visit our info office for more information. Apologies if we have left you out. This year we have been overwhelmed with copy.

DURING DECEMBER ONLY WE WILL BE OPEN ON SATURDAY MORNINGS the 4th, 11th, 18th 9.30 to 12.00 Noon

Mossel Bay Tourism has very recently printed a user friendly brochure on what to do in Mossel Bay called "Do Stuff". If you are not able to obtain a copy from the information offices please send me an email and I will forward you a pdf copy or download from <http://www.visitmosselbay.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/MBay-Things-To-Do-pdf.pdf>

Do also remember that the Great Brak River Info office is part of Mossel Bay Tourism and will display members details provided they are not longer than two pages.

Great Brak River has several good art galleries (see write ups) and both Haughton Bennett and Chris Spies have their work on display. Haughton will be exhibiting at the museum while Chris is having an exhibition of 24 lithographs (no title) at his gallery in Station Road during the whole of December. (They will also be shown at the Artkaroo in Oudtshoorn & the Braytenbach centre in Wellington.)

Thursday November the 11th was the **TOURISM AGM** and a Mr Rene' Bongor of 'Eight Bells' was elected as the new Chairman. The past chairman Neels Zietsman who has served for a number of years has retired due to ill health and we wish him well with his forthcoming hip operation.

The **FUND RAISING EVENT** at De Dekke to raise funds for the Conservancy was very successful see insert for more detail.

Recently Great Brak River received two additional **BLUE SHIELDS** for the restoration of two heritage homes. The Mossel Bay Heritage Society selected two buildings in Great Brak River for presentation of Blue Shields. This award is given



The Museum is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 9 am and 4 pm and on Wednesdays from 9.00 to 12.30 pm.

Short of a book to read during the **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**. Pre-owned books on sale in the Museum Shop....Every week day morning and afternoons when the museum is open.

Proceeds go to museum funds

Although the water situation has improved, we are still on rationing. Use water sparingly

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry reports that at the end of the fourth week in November 2010, our **Wolwedans** dam water level is **32.0% full**.



for re-establishing their Heritage buildings back into a good state of repair and to maintain them.

The first residence is 'Wolwedans Farmhouse' owned by Johan and Coralie van Heerden. Recently research showed that the farmhouse was already built when they were a posting house in 1812. We are not sure if the complete building was there in 1812 but part of it must have been standing. Latrobe, a famous traveller, speaks about the refreshments received and the fresh oxen that were yoked to the wagons to pass over the old road over the Great Brak Heights.

The second residence to receive a Blue Shield is 'Westbank' owned by Henry and Lesley Rae Dowling. In 1973 Westbank was considered for restoration but was not on the essential list. Thirty seven years later it has become one of the most important historical buildings in Great Brak River. The Dowling's have provided a large amount of preservation to the house to restore it to its former glory. The gardens, especially the trees, are spectacular and are many years old.

During early January Guy Harris will be giving a talk at the Great Brak River Museum on **TRAVELS TO MY ANCESTORS 'DIGS'**. Guy is the Facilitator and Chairperson of the Working Group, Mossel Bay Caves Edutainment, "ROOTS OF MODERN HUMAN BEHAVIOUR FOUNDATION"

The talk will cover a non scientific overview of the key findings of the archaeological digs to date and the plans to use them to transform the profile of Mossel Bay and Great Brak River Tourism by attracting more, longer staying, higher paying, off season tourists to the Mossel Bay area.

Did you know that our tides are becoming higher with stronger rip tides forming? The unpredictable weather and increasing wind speeds are partly responsible. **PLEASE WARN HOLIDAY MAKERS** to take special care when swimming in the sea and the river mouth. Whilst the river water around the island is high due to the rains and mouth closure, it is safe for swimming; the water around the Charles Street Bridge area is still possibly polluted. For the latest information please contact the museum.

- 1) **POWER BOATS** larger than 3 hp are not allowed to operate on the sea side of the railway bridge.
- 2) The **WOLWEDANS DAM** is accessible from the walking trail which is in poor condition. Maps are available from the Info office. No picnicking is allowed at the dam.
- 3) More than 1400 **WATER CONNECTIONS** in the Mossel Bay municipal area have already been fitted with restriction devices as they have continued to use more than their maximum water allocation.
- 4) The news on other **PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS** in Great Brak River are: the Sunnybrae development is still on ice and may be cancelled; there is a request to develop the Riversyde property into a retirement facility with additional apartments. The latter is still in the exploratory stage and further details will follow when available.
- 5) From the Burger 25th November 2010, Eugene Gunning reports "The Eden district municipality is trying to get international status for **GEORGE AIRPORT**. This is part of a larger attempt to attract more foreign tourists and investment from Asia and Pacific Ocean countries in particular. Eden mayor advocate Faried Stemmet said in an interview on Wednesday that plans are still at an early stage - but that plans are definitely on the table.
- 6) We wish to thank Schalk & Jennifer Blanche for their donation of materials and wool.

In September 2009 the **Wolwedans** dam water level stood at **44.50%** full and water restrictions were introduced.

Tafeltjie Dek

Open 7 days per week
Mon- Fri- from 8 – 5
and Sat & Sun from
8 am – 1 pm.
Tripe to be served
daily.
Special Christmas
lunch – R180 per
person for 12 pm.
Booking essential

De Katte (De Dekke Complex)

Call 044-620-4440.
Open daily for
breakfast, teas and
lunch

Transkaroo

Open daily for lunch
and Dinner.
Call 044 620 4163

Iiita Lodge (with a view to die for)

We also cater for those
special Breakfasts,
Lunches and Dinners.
Advance booking
essential.
Call 044-620-4143

Leani kwekery

Phone 044 620 2565
18 Dec – Andre
Swiegers @ 8 PM. R80
22 Dec- Jannie de
Bruyn ventriloquist
Christmas breakfast
and lunch

Peperboom:

Open every day in
December from 8.30
until late.
Special Christmas
lunch @ R225.00 per
person. Be there at
11.30 am.
Contact number:
044 620 3081

WHAT A PARTY !!

Contribution by Aussie
Eybers
Great Brak River
Conservancy



Friday Night 5 November and HUNDREDS of people of all ages rocked till late night to the music of Clint & Co.

This very popular band from Gauteng performed their ever popular Creedence Tribute at De Dekke. As is the case with a popular show, cars lined the parking areas as normally is the case in High Season!

What was different from the normal December parties is that it was mostly locals from Great Brak River, Mossel Bay and George that supported this fund raising event.

The Dana Bay Rockers supported with many of their members rocking till the last note!

Clint, lead singer from the band informed the audience that the first rock show he ever attended whilst studying at Rhodes University, was that of Lesley Rae Dowling. In a special tribute he performed one of her hits "Fire", and much to the delight of the audience, Lesley rushed on to the stage and performed the number with Clint.

Not only is the funds collected from this event going to strengthen the financial reserves of the Conservancy considerably, but lots of interest was created about the activities of the Conservancy. The Committee would like to thank all supporters and sponsors for making this evening such a wonderful success.

December, Haughton Bennett exhibits at the Museum

After a number of successful exhibitions in Johannesburg and after selling their business there, in 1998 Margery and Haughton retired to Tergniet near Great Brak River. Here I started painting again.

We then moved to Fraai Uitsig and at the age of 71, when I was made redundant, I started painting in earnest with a view to supplementing a very feeble pension and for the pure joy of exercising a God-given talent.

Several years ago Haughton successfully exhibited some of his paintings in the museum.

His other talent is being able to play the church organ with feeling.



Because of their high standard, I am not sure that they can be considered amateurs but these recent photographs have been taken by a reader in Reebok and I feel they should be recorded. I have added some text to identify the subjects.

Both main photos are by Mike Taylor in their garden in Reebok.

The above is a male Malachite Sunbird in eclipse plumage when they resemble females but are somewhat greener. Although more common in the South of

the country, they are a great attraction to our gardens.



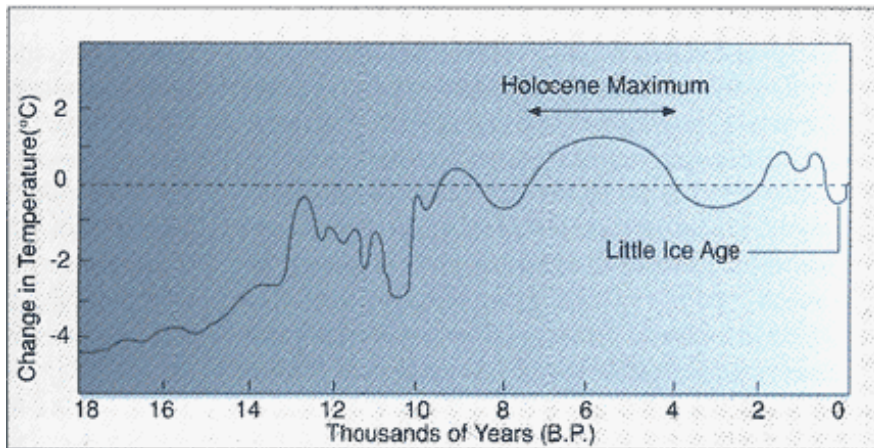
Sally Adam has identified the spider below as a type of flower crab spider and has provided a couple of varieties she has found on the farm - some species are able to slowly change their colour to suit the flower they are on. They catch other insects by ambushing them.



Crab spider
Misumenops
catching a bee for lunch.

There are various subspecies of *Misumenops* which can each be individually identified by the position and structure of their eyes.





The historic city of Dubrovnik *flooded for first time ever.*

Russian *meteorologists are predicting the country's coldest winter in a thousand years. November 2010*

Cape Town prepares for rising sea levels *13 May 2008. The City of Cape Town is undertaking an in-depth study into the predicted impact of rising sea levels on the city's vast coastline, so as to identify risks and begin planning for strategies to minimise the*

implications of climate change.

Newspaper report JUNEAU, Alaska — *"Global warming conjures images of rising seas that threaten coastal areas. But in Juneau, as almost nowhere else in the world, climate change is having the opposite effect: As the glaciers here melt, the land is rising, causing the sea to retreat.*

Greenland and a few other places have experienced similar effects from widespread glacial melting that began more than 200 years ago, geologists say. But, they say, the effects are more noticeable in and near the town of Juneau, where most glaciers are retreating ten metres a year or more.

Relative to the sea, land here has risen as much as three metres in little more than 200 years, according to the 2007 report. As global warming accelerates, the land will continue to rise, perhaps a further metre more by 2100, scientists say".

The 2002 World Cup final was played in a stadium built on pillars over a swamp. *"Yokohama used to be one of the world's most flood prone cities. Like the nearby Japanese capital Tokyo, it's built on a flood plain. Japan is a world leader in civil engineering to control flooding and conserve wetlands. As the venue for the 3rd World Water Forum, it's fitting that the Changing Currents season kicks off with coverage of how the host country is managing its water".*

Confirming previous findings around the Atlantic Basin, *"a team of researchers has reported that sea levels along the East Coast of America are rising faster than at any time in the past 4,000 years. Among other things, the research suggests that the Greenland ice sheet may have begun melting well before humans noticed the loss."*

For the past 6,000 years (many centuries before the first known written records), the world's sea level has been gradually approaching the level we see today.

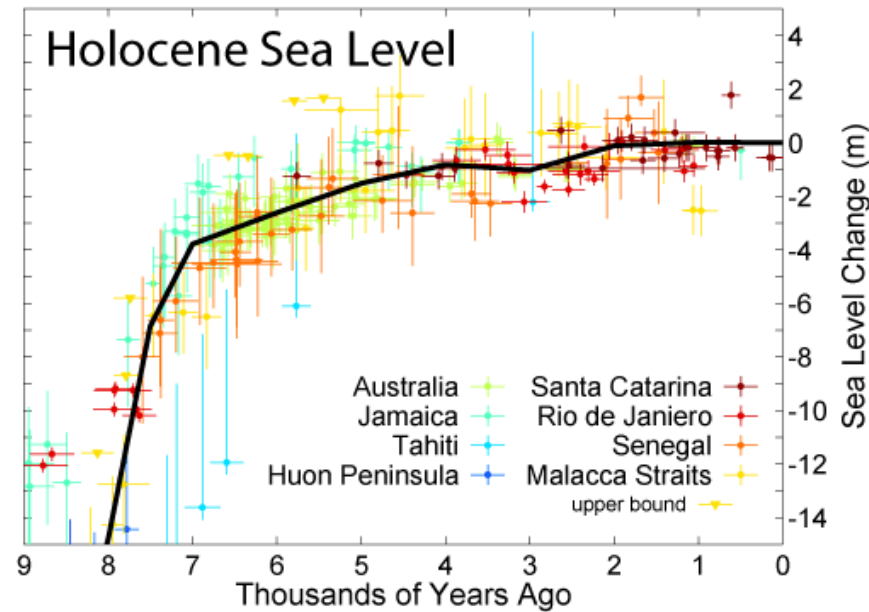
A joint study from the United Nations and the World Bank finds that losses caused by natural disasters across the world could triple to \$185-billion annually by the end of this century, even without taking into account the impact of climate change.

What are the true facts and how do they affect the residents of Mossel Bay and Great Brak River.

The storm damage which occurred during March 2007 did a lot more damage than was originally noted.

The backlash from the high waves entering the Great Brak River mouth swamped portion of the Island and the resulting sea water caused the death of many trees which died when their roots were left covered with salt water. With the extended light rains received during the past two months some trees have partially broken out into leaf but still may need to be removed.

The average current sea level rise has occurred at a mean rate of 1.8 mm per year for the past century, and more recently, during the satellite era of sea level measurement, at rates estimated near 2.8 to 3.1 mm per year (1993–2003). Current sea level rise is due significantly to global warming which will increase sea level over the coming century and longer periods. There is still some dispute whether the present sea level is raising due to Industrial or Natural Global warming or to both. However it cannot be disputed that the sea level is rising.



Increasing temperatures result in sea level rise by the thermal expansion of water and through the addition of water to the oceans from the melting of mountain glaciers, ice caps and ice sheets. At the end of the 20th century, thermal expansion and melting of land ice contributed roughly equally to sea level rise, while thermal expansion is expected to contribute more than half of the rise in the upcoming century.

On our local coast, the estimate is about 1.5 mm per annum. This is over and above the fact that our shore is rising at roughly 1.0 mm per year. There is no guarantee that this rate will remain stable.

Right throughout the world the sea level is also changing both upwards and in several places it has in fact fallen, however, in the overall, it is rising. For instance in the Maldives, those attractive holiday Islands off the coast of India, the sea level is falling but by 2050 the islands will all be covered by the sea and it will no longer be a holiday paradise. *Book you trip now.*

What causes these ups and downs? If it was only 1.5 mm per year or 15 mm per ten years it should be simpler to deal with but the amount is escalating and with sudden changes in wind and wind force, the damaging effect is much greater.

The Kwa-Zulu–Natal coast was also severely hammered and many of the coasts beaches were washed back into the sea. Whilst the damage can be prevented in the short term by building strong dykes or




walls it is probably cheaper to re-sand the beaches after each major storm. Kwa Zulu coast has a larger problem in that the rise in sea level is greater than in Mossel Bay.

For the Great Brak River Island it may not be easy and the only long term solution is to build a sea wall around the island.

Damage to the Kwa Zulu Natal Coast during March 2007

What's on at the museum in Great Brak River this month?

Month & provisional date	Description	Supported by	Contact person
December	Pre-owned books on sale in the Museum Shop....Every week day morning. Both English and Afrikaans books available from R4.00 each	The Museum for museum funds	The museum 044-620-3338
December Month	Display of Art by Haughton Bennett		The museum 044-620-3338
December Month	Various Programs and Events See elsewhere in news letter for more details	The village and various organisations	Information available from the museum Or at 044-620-3338
2011			
January	Pre-owned books on sale in the Museum Shop....Every week day. Both English and Afrikaans books available from R4.00 each	The Museum for museum funds	The museum 044-620-3338
6th January 6.30 pm	Of special interests to our tourism members and visitors, Guy Harris will be giving a talk at the Great Brak River Museum on TRAVELS TO MY ANCESTORS DIGS. Guy is the Facilitator and Chairperson of the Working Group, Mossel Bay Caves Edutainment, "ROOTS OF MODERN HUMAN BEHAVIOUR FOUNDATION"	Museum Tickets R 70.00 per person. For museum funds	Contacts the museum @ 044-620-3338 for a glass of wine & finger supper tickets. We can only accommodate 30 persons. Advanced booking is absolutely essential.
Digging at the Pinnacle Point Caves.		<i>The talk will cover a non scientific overview of the key findings of the archaeological digs to date and the plans to use them to transform the profile of Mossel Bay and Great Brak River Tourism by attracting more, longer staying, higher paying, off season tourists to the Mossel Bay area.</i>	
15th January Extreme starts at 6.30 am at Oudtshoorn. Last finishers 5.30 pm	The 5th running of the iconic 121 km Attakwas Extreme Mountain Bike Challenge and the 52 km Attakwas Mini Mountain Bike Ride. The Extreme will start at the Chandelier Game Farm in Oudtshoorn, travel past Eight Bells and end at Pine Creek Resort in Great Brak River near Mossel Bay - while the Mini will start and end at the Resort.	Dryland Event Management Shop 10 Queens Square Queens Lane Oudtshoorn 6620	GENERAL ENQUIRIES Carel Herholdt: 0823791177 carel@dryland.co.za Mini starts at 9.30 am at Pine Creek.
15th January Mini starts at 9.30 am at Pine Creek			
15th January	Community Event followed by Museum Committee Members Year End get together.	Museum	The museum 044-620-3338
For more details on what's on in our area email Hennie & Rene with a request for their news letter: mcpjhb@metroweb.co.za			

Some things to do in Great Brak River

- Art Exhibition at Spies Venter. During December will be Open each market Saturday..
- **Pine Creek Karavaan Park** has no programme but they do have students from Stellenbosch University that take under privileged kids from Greenhaven & Wolwedans to the beach every day from the 18 th Dec – end of December.
- **Fleemarket** opposite Spar every Saturday in Dec plus special Christmas market just before Christmas Contact Paula 082 788 2461
- On **16 Dec Carols by candlelight**- interdenominational song and Bible reading evening opposite Spar from 7 pm onwards. Please bring a candle.
- **ELLEN VAN RENSBURG LIBRARY**

INVITES ALL CHILDREN UP TO 14 YEARS TO VISIT ON THESE SPECIAL DAYS:

15 December 2010 - 10 tot 12 PM : – Musiek Day R10 per child with refreshments

22 December 2010 - 10 to 12 PM: – Paint Day- R10 per child with refreshments

29 December 2010 -10 to 12 PM– Paper Day - R10 per child with refreshments

Koste is slegs R10 per kind vir al die voorraad en ligte verversings word bedien.

Let wel: Die Biblioteek sal op die volgende dae gesluit wees of vroeg sluit:

Library will be closed or close early on these dates:

16 December-- -- closed

24 December – - closes 1 pm

31 December – - closes 1 pm.

GREENHAVEN LIBRARY – all projects start at 10 and finish at 1 pm

Fri 17 December 10 am – 1 pm. Colour-in competition Free to children from 5 – 10 yrs old.

Monday 20 December- Face painting – free to kids 5 – to `10 yrs old

Dinsdag 21 Desember – Listen to wonderful stories being told from 10 am until 1 pm
for children 5 -10 yrs old.



SA Tourism and Other Snippets



Tourism Information
by Ina Stofberg

TOURISM SNIPPETS

-South African National Parks (SANParks) has announced a change in the management of the **Wild Card** from Infinity with immediate effect.

This change will enable SANParks and its partners to provide relevant benefits to loyal cardholders. The current Infinity Wild Card will be replaced with the distinctive new Wild Card, as the 'old' card will no longer be accepted at Wild Card partner parks and nature reserves after **December 31**. Wild Card holders are urged to update their membership details so they can have continued access and receive the new card. The Wild Card programme provides nature lovers with unlimited access to some of Southern Africa's premier conservation areas.

- Earlier this year, National Tourism Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk launched the 'I'm a South Africa fan' campaign that encourages all South Africans to continue to Fly the Flag by supporting our national sports teams and being welcoming and friendly hosts.

-In September, Tourism Month, celebrations concluded on World Tourism Day in Limpopo, where the nine provincial finalists in 2010/11 Emerging Tourism Entrepreneur of the Year Awards were announced; the winners of the global [Adventurers Wanted](#) campaign proclaimed **South Africa to be the world's best adventure destination.**

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Garden Route boasts the biggest breeding ground of Southern Right Whale at Witsand (San Sebastian Bay). These giants migrate from Antarctica to calve and breed and usually appear in June with their numbers increasing between August and October. This whale is a baleen whale with a bow shaped lower jaw and a head that is up one-quarter of its body length. The whale can grow up to 55 feet long.
- The town of Grabouw was named after the German town of Grabau, the birthplace of Willem Langschmidt, who was the owner of the original farmland called Grietjiesgat. It is said that he did much to populate the town in those days as he fathered 23 children.
- The history of Knysna dates back to 1804 when the mysterious and legendary George Rex arrived here. Rex was rumoured to have been the illegitimate son of King George III and after purchasing the estate at Melkhoutkraal he decided to settle his family in Knysna. Knysna's most famous visitor was George Bernard Shaw who loved it so much he stayed for five weeks and wrote "The black girl in search of God".
- The town Hermanus was named after its first inhabitant, Hermanus Pieters, who roamed the area selling labour and tending sheep. At that time the area north of Hermanus was a leper colony and it was here that Hermanus heard of the trail that led through the mountains to the sea. Hermanus nowadays is also the only place on earth where the Whale crier keeps visitors informed about the whereabouts of whales.

(Thanks & Acknowledgment to: AA Travel Guide, Tourism Update & South African Tourism News)

INTERESTING FACTS

- Clown fish can alter their gender as their social status rises.
- Gregorian chants can cure dyslexia.
- Bob Hope donated half a million jokes to the Library of Congress.
- Bees perform a valuable service for the flowers from which they steal.
- Your tongue is the strongest muscle in your body.
(and probably the most dangerous too)

SA IS HOME TO:

LARGEST LAND MAMMAL

(The largest specimen ever recorded weighed over 8200 kg and stood more than 3.7 m at the shoulder)



African Elephant



Least Dwarf Shrew

SMALLEST MAMMAL

(Averaging 79 mm in length, including its tail, and weighing 3-4 gm)

Herold Wines

The owner of Herold Wines near the top of the Montagu pass paid the Information Office a visit recently and brought along some brochures and told us all about this beautiful farm where one can pay an unannounced visit any day of the week except Sundays when they are closed.

The vineyard is in the small but noteworthy Origin of Bo-Langkloof.

One can do the following on this attractive farm:

- Picnic at any of the lovely spots
- Taste & buy wines
- Enjoy a light meal
- Cellar tours
- Walk along the vineyards & the Fynbos
- HOURS Monday – Saturday 10 am – 4 pm
- Contact: 072 833 8223 or heroldwines@xsinet.co.za
- Visit the Information office for a brochure

DE DEKKE HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

This is the place to go when looking for a true family restaurant offering live entertainment from Wednesdays through to Saturdays for the young and old. At this popular restaurant one can dance the night away and for the hungry there is a large ala carte menu. Ladies bars is also available ensuring an all round service. Treat yourself and your family for a fun evening at this lively venue. A liquor store and wine shop are on the premises for your convenience and Antique lovers can browse in the biggest Antique Shop in South-Africa.

Monday – Saturday: 11h00am – Late
Closed on Sundays

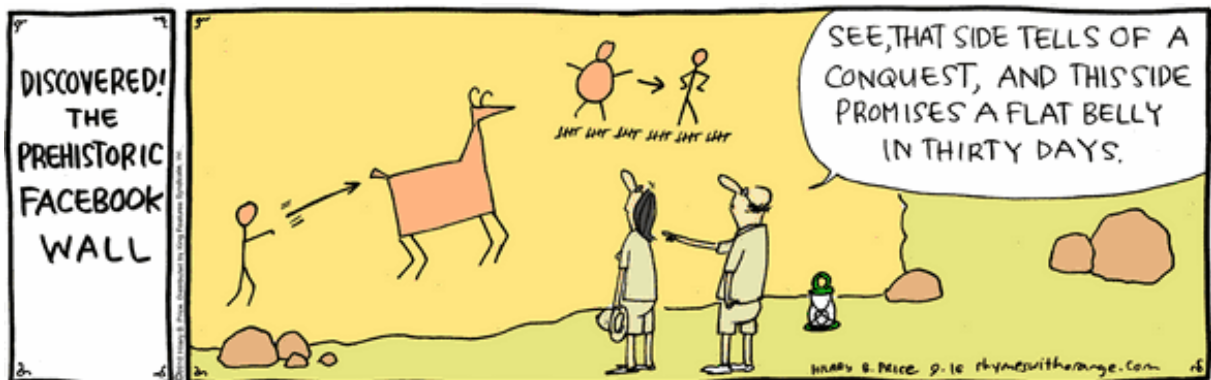
Tel / Fax: 044 620 2531/2501
GIDA : 084 514 2161
E-mail: dedekke@telkomsa.net
Website: www.dedekke.co.za

DESEMBER PROGRAM

04/12 CHRISTO & COBUS
11/12 FLASHBACK
18/12 KARIN FERREIRA
31/12 DJ LOTS OF PROMOTIONS
01/11 DJ
08/11 NIC STEVENS

DANCE EVERY NIGHT FROM 10th DESEMBER

DE DEKKE THE PLACE TO BE



Beaufort West. If you know the problems we have had with our water shortage consider this little town on the N1 where the main dam in the mountains has dried up completely and they do not have sea water to treat.

The town is surviving on borehole water only and the water table is sinking fast.

Please pray for them.



ART@39LONG



Well worth a visit is our quaint art gallery- ART@39LONG- situated at 39 Long Street in Great Brak River. A beautiful collection affordable art by new signature and established artists that should satisfy the connoisseur. Carefully chosen paintings, sculptures, ceramics, art on glass, pottery, wooden pieces etc. fill the interior.

Work by Mien Greyling, Spies Venter, Thijs Nel, Fiona Rowett, Salome Briers, Charmaine Haines, Frans Boekkooi, Elise du Toit, Marittie de Villiers, Alan Gray, Marina Scholtemeyer, Stephen Parsons, Raymond Westraadt, Marguerite Beneke and Sheena Ridley to name but a few are exhibited.

Tea/coffee and cake of the day can be enjoyed in the lovely garden. The gallery/venue is ideal for small functions e.g. weddings, birthday parties, small conferences, workshops etc. for parties of up to 60/70 people. Cinema Nouveau films are screened on the last Thursday and Sunday of most months.

PROGRAM:

2 December 2010 @19.30 - Art Film - THREE COLOURS WHITE - Tickets cost R35.00 p.p.
Wine and snacks available.

8 December 2010 @19.30 - Francois and Elisabeth Fourie (from "Wil jy dans Carina ?" fame)
Tickets cost R120.00 p.p. and include a light meal and a glass of wine.

19 December 2010 @ 19.30 - Art Film - MOULIN ROUGE - Tickets cost R35.00 p.p.
Wine and snacks available.

All enquiries can be directed to Dries-0825585244 or Elaine-0825763338.

OUR NATURE CORNER

PHOTO'S AND TEXT;
SALLY ADAM



ALTHOUGH we often encounter the 10-Spotted Ground Beetles (*Thermophilum decemgutatum*) on our perambulations along the farm tracks, they're generally moving too rapidly to be photographed. One cool morning in October I came across some early risers who hadn't warmed up sufficiently to escape my lens. Several of this individual's spots are obscured by dirt.

As you may guess by its athletic appearance, the ground beetle is a predator of other ground-dwelling insects.



Crassula is a large genus boasting around 300 species. You will probably have seen the attractive "sosaties" (Above *Crassula rupestris*), which can be found in stony places in the Little Karoo. This one lives on a dry, north-facing slope on the farm. A couple of hundred meters away, on a shady, moist bank, there is a large community of another *Crassula* species, Below *C. orbicularis* or "kliblom".



Currently flowering on the farm - in the fynbos area there are many *Ceratandra grandiflora* plants in flower. This orchid species likes moist hillsides and sandy flats. It occurs in a narrow band along the Southern Cape coast.

Ceratandra grandiflora is pollinated almost exclusively by a single species of monkey beetle (Hopline Scarabaeidae). Experiments with artificial flower traps indicate that color alone can explain the attraction of beetles to *Ceratandra grandiflora*, despite the absence of a floral reward.

Bands in Great Brak River

Great Brak River is fortunate in that it has one than one marching brass band.

During October, the Founding Day of the Boys Brigade band was celebrated. The Great Brak River Boy's Brigade band turned 50 years old. The Boy's Brigade Band came into existence on the 17th November 1960. They are now part of the Greenhaven Congregational Church.



They have a membership of 60 members with 20 – 25 players in the brass band. Captain André Mondo is the band leader. Originally the band was started to keep the young people off the streets.

Both Photos from the Boy's Brigade.

Historically William Alexander Smith established the first Boys Brigade unit in 1883 in Scotland. It was first used as a means of

attracting the youth to Sunday School (Sabbath School). The structure of the Boy's Brigade follows a military rank pattern. Smith's way to avoid boredom was to increase the level of participation and make a noise thus the marching band was started. The Boy's Brigade strives for the participation of the youth and teaches them discipline from a young age.



When I interviewed Captain Mondo he said the band always needed musical instruments and funds to encourage the work they were doing. On Founder's Day they were blessed with donations from the local businesses.

The Congregational Church was founded in the early days of Great Brak River in 1869. In 1899 a Band of Hope was formed in connection with I.O.T.T. (Independent Order of True Templars). The brass band was frequently used for functions in the village. The Greenhaven Congregational Church moved to its present site in 1978.

The Star of Bethlehem Brass band from Great Brak River fared exceptionally well at a recent

Christmas Choir competition held in Worcester. This competition is presented by the Christmas orchestra- union of Worcester and the surrounding areas and was held on Sunday, 2 March 2008. The Star of Bethlehem band- and choir walked away with the trophy for the best dressed band and came third in the Drum Major category.

The Star of Bethlehem brass band was formed on 5 February 1952 and one of the founding members, Clifford Jacobs, is still a well-known personality in the area. The band grew from its original 10 members to a band and choir of 71 members in 1969. In 1981 the membership declined due to a lack of funding. According to Mr. Pietman Davids, one of the band members, they are aiming to uncover the hidden talent of the village of Great Brak River. In 1985 they started going to churches to find those individuals who have no platform to develop and live out their talents.



Captain André Mondo leading the Boy's Brigade Band.

Today the band has 71 members with instruments that include the baritone saxophone, tenor saxophone, alto saxophone, soprano saxophone, clarinet, banjo and guitar. Despite financial challenges such as the making of costumes, Mr Davids and Mr Anthony Everts kept the band going. At one time when the financial situation was dire the members decided to have some events at their own homes to acquire funds.

The Star of Bethlehem Brass band gradually made progress in the music world. When this band arrives at competitions it is often whispered that the "competition" has arrived. As residents of Great Brak the Star of Bethlehem is known as the choir that makes its own shoes.



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