



NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPE TOWN BRANCH OF THE SIMON VAN DER STEL FOUNDATION NO 2 2010

NUWE LEDE/NEW MEMBERS

Ons wil graag die volgende nuwe lede hartlik by die Simon van der Stel Stigting verwelkom:
We wish to welcome the following new members to the Simon van der Stel Foundation:

Mnr E Rode, Mrs JE Thomas, Mr L van Niekerk, Ms L Cox, Mrs C van Papendorp, Ms Jean Sleigh,
Mr & Mrs Jeff Hodges

DONASIES/DONATIONS

Ons bedank graag vir die volgende donasies van lewenslede en gewone lede:
We are extremely grateful for the donations received from our life and general members:

Miss D Swart

WEEKEND AWAY IN TULBAGH

If you did not manage to join us for the annual weekend away, which took us to Tulbagh, you missed three jam-packed days of beautiful places to visit, good food and wonderful camaraderie. It was no mean feat to organize accommodation and meals for so many people without a single hitch along the way.

We met at 2.30 on Friday afternoon, on the outskirts of Wolseley, to view a blockhouse on the railway line from Cape Town to the North, on one of the Dacey family's fruit farms. Natasha Dacey regaled us with the history and restoration of the blockhouse, after which she took us to the Cape Dutch style homestead, La Plaisante probably built around 1771, now occupied by her brother-in-law, the oldest of the Dacey brothers.

From there a 30 minute drive to Tulbagh, where we were accommodated in various venues of The Cape Dutch Quarter, which offered very comfortable, amenable en suite rooms.

At 7'o clock we gathered at Readers restaurant for a glass of sherry and a talk on the history of Tulbagh, by Henry Aikman, the conservation architect, who now lives in Tulbagh.



Saturday morning was crisp and clear, with a definite nip in the air. After a good breakfast in our B&B, we met Jan du Toit, a gentleman with many irons in Tulbagh's business fire.

He was our host for the morning, and introduced us to Anneline Fredericks, a Tulbagh resident all her life, who experienced the earthquake as a child, and able to tell very lively tales about the event, as well as give a guided tour of the Dutch Reformed Church.

We visited the Earthquake museum as well as one of the restored houses, which had been refurbished as a museum. We walked

down Church Street to look at all the different gables, which have been beautifully restored since the earthquake.

This route took us to van der Stel Street and the Christo Coetzee Gallery. Behind an old façade, Jan du Toit and Christo Coetzee's son have created a really beautiful space to exhibit Christo's paintings.



It was a treat to be shown this wonderful collection of South African art, and to walk through the artist's home, with all the amazing "Things" he had collected.

Mrs. du Toit came out tops with a delicious cup of coffee and carrot cake – plattelanders really know the art of hospitality.

For a wine tasting and picnic lunch, we drove to the old Drostdy. This old magistrates court, designed by Thibault has beautiful proportions and sits elegantly on a rise in the green landscape. The interior, restored

by Gilbey's, who own the property, is filled with rare and magnificent antiques. It is now a wine tasting facility that smacks of splendour, style and graciousness.

We were treated to a wine tasting paired with appropriate snacks to enhance the flavour of the different wines followed by a picnic lunch to be enjoyed on the Drostdy's large stoep.

Next stop was to bring us down to earth, and "to see how the other half lives" in Andrew's words - we visited Steinthal, a facility for children with social problems.

There is a Rhenish Mission Church on the property, which was part of the original Rhenish Missionary. A sad place really, with scores of children who have been removed from the care of their parents.

Anyone who wishes to donate children's books or encyclopedias, is welcome to contact Mariette Pitlo who will take them to Steinthahl for their library. We then went to indulge in the most heavenly chocolate imaginable, at Moniki chocolate factory, in the ancient barn beside one of the most beautiful minor Cape Dutch houses in the Cape, Schoonderzicht. We were given a guided tour of the interior of the house, by the young Dutch couple who are the present owners of this little gem.

Back to town for a spruce-up before the evening braai in the courtyard of one of the houses that several Foundation members were staying in.

Next morning the "Magnificent Weather" spell had been broken! The rain bucketed down.

In spite of this ¾ of our party made their way over the Michell's Pass to Ceres, where we visited the Tograyers Museum, which was specially opened for us on a Sunday. It was fascinating to see how the transport industry had its roots in these primitive beginnings.

It was agreed by all those that had braved the torrential rain to come to Ceres, that going for a half hour walk to see San rock art was perhaps stretching things! So we made straight for the Op die Berg Restaurant via the Gydo Pass, where a "plattelandse" Sunday lunch, of enormous proportions, awaited us. It was a fitting end to a delightful weekend.

Text Mariette Pitlo photos by Hartmut Nowak

CHANGES IN OUTINGS CANCELLATION POLICY

The recession has not left the Foundation unscathed and rising costs and reduced interest have made the committee relook at our operations.

As from the beginning of January 2011 we will only credit members for cancellations giving 5 full working days notice – e.g.

Cancel by 5pm Friday for the following weeks Saturday outing.

Further e.g.– cancel on Friday 1st for outing Saturday 8th.

For weekday outings cancel 5pm Tuesday 1st for outing Wednesday 8th.

This gives us more time to fill vacancies from the waiting list. As a number of our outings incur costs, provision of tea or lunch, costs of guides etc we need to confirm our numbers and commit to payment in advance.

We had three outings in the past two months where the final numbers were between 25 and 30 percent less than the booked total.

We would also ask members wherever possible, to book and communicate by email. Our Secretary is paid on an hourly basis and we would like to reduce the time she spends on telephone calls.

To assist with fund raising we would welcome members donating unwanted books on heritage, old buildings, architectural and conservation subjects, for us to sell at the AGM. Please email the secretary - pbhebbert@mweb.co.za or phone 021 794 7464 to arrange collection of these.

John Muir, Chairman

BEWARINGSMAN OORLEDE

Hannes (Johannes Lourens) Malan is in September op een-en-tagtigjarige ouderdom oorlede na 'n motorongeluk. Hy het in 2000 'n goue medalje van die Stigting Simon van der Stel op Stellenbosch ontvang vir sy bewaringswerk en was 'n seun van 'n voormalige Eerste Minister, Dr DF Malan.

As boorling van Stellenbosch word Hannes soms makliker onthou vir sy bewaringswerk aldaar, maar sy invloed strek veel verder as dit. As joernalis by *Die Burger* sedert 1957 het hy 'n belangrike rol gespeel in die bewaring van verskeie historiese geboue in die Waterfront en in die stadskom van Kaapstad, bv die bekendmaking van planne om oorbrûe te bou wat tot die sloping van historiese geboue in die Buitengracht en Breestraat sou lei. Sluit ook hierby in die Lutherse kerk in Strandstraat. 'n Direkte gevolg hiervan was die totstandkoming van die bewaringsliggaam Cape Town Heritage Trust waarop die Stigting Simon van der Stel ook verteenwoordiging het. Ander historiese geboue in Kaapstad wat ook deur sy bemiddeling gered is, is die Sendinggestig in Langstraat, Ons Huisie in Blouberg asook Klein Zoar, die Woltemade-huis.

Hannes Malan was vir talle bewaringsprojekte op Stellenbosch verantwoordelik, maar sy betrokkenheid het verder as die beboude omgewing gestrek. Hy was verantwoordelik vir die verklaring van 1500 ha in Idasvallei as bewaringsgebied deur die destydse Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede en hy het ook 'n stokkie gesteeek voor 'n tonnelprojek van die voormalige departement van waterwese wat die bewaringsgebied van Jonkershoek sou skend.

Hannes Malan was voorwaar 'n man wat vir bewaring geleef het en wat die daad by die woord gevoeg het.

Bron: Artikel deur Martiens van Bart *Hy het vir bewaring geleef*, *Die Burger*, 02.10.2010.

Anlen Boschoff



HERITAGE DAY 2010-11-08

On Heritage Day (24th September), Cape Town Mayor, Dan Plato, again made time in his schedule to unveil another Blue Plaque in Constantia. Last year the plaque commemorated the Strawberry Lane community, this year the Constantia Anglican Chapel that once stood in front of the current High Constantia Shopping Centre on Main Road, Constantia. Survivors and descendants of the displaced community also came out in force and marched behind the Young Guiding Stars Sacred String Band from Christ Church to the site of the unveiling.

In 1859 Mr James Vipan Gotobed, petitioned Bishop Gray to build an Anglican Chapel in the Constantia Valley. The committee was from St John's Church, Wynberg. Funds were raised. Bishop Robert Gray laid the foundation stone in July 1860. In all probability the chapel was designed by his wife, Sophy Gray. It was a brick chapel with a thatched roof. The manse and a school for coloured children were completed a few months later. The Bishop preached at the opening service on the 15th October 1861. The ground was given by Sebastian van Reenen of High Constantia (now Schoonstat) (whose wife was Anglican and her father was Col. John Graham, who founded Grahamstown) for road widening by the Divisional Council in 1953. The Chapel was demolished and the Ministry was to move to Christ Church Constantia. After a welcome tea at Christ Church, John Muir took anyone interested for a tour of the original graveyard.

CASA LABIA – END OF YEAR FUNCTION



Pictured, left, is our Vice Chairman, Ian Pretorius, thanking Estelle Jacobs who gave the members attending our End of Year function at the beautifully restored Labia home in Muizenberg a memorable and highly informative tour of the house and the artworks on display there. The tour was followed by a reception with delicious eats from the in-house restaurant and lots of excellent wine. I am sure it is safe to say that a good time was had by all and it was a fine way to end the programme of outings for the year.

Photo: Ronnie Lange

RESTUARANTS WITH HISTORY

Bread – Café-Boulangerie-Deli

The Bromwell Boutique Mall – 250 Albert Road, Woodstock Telephone 021 447 4730

Open Monday – Saturday 9am – 7pm

Woodstock is going through a renaissance of change from modern buildings to sensitive recycling of older properties.

The former Ohlsson's Cape Breweries Hotel, The Bromwell, has had a major make over.

Built in 1927 as a 16 bedroom hotel with bars, off sales and a dining room, it was a typical Brewery Hotel promoting the breweries product.

The distinctive Lion motif has been kept on the exterior wall and incorporated into wrought iron railings internally. Now a bright reddish pink, the building is easy to find and a parking area off Albert Road, has a security guard. The original Burmese Teak doors and windows have been restored. The restaurant has an outside terrace, the bakery with delicious breads baked on the premises and the deli, occupy the ground floor. Up a parquet clad wooden stairway, the bedrooms have been converted into an easy flow display area, offering designer homeware items, art, gifts and sculpture. Each room has a touch pad screen giving details of products and prices. The old bar back has been incorporated into a bookshelf in the library upstairs, overlooking the covered courtyard. An interior decorators delight. The restaurant serves breakfasts on modern stylish tableware, light lunches and the Terrace is popular after work for its cocktail menu.

A Cappuccino costs R19, a freshly baked croissant with jams R30 and hot chocolate R21.

Not cheap, but well worth a visit and allow time to visit the upstairs displays.

John Muir, Chairman

BOOKSHELF

Cape Landscapes: Sir John Herschel's Sketches 1834–1838

B Warner

In 1834, Sir John Herschel, one of the most noted astronomers of his time, arrived at the Cape to spend four years observing the southern sky. Among his many talents, Herschel was an accomplished artist, skilled at using the optical device known as a *camera lucida*. During his time at the Cape he produced over one hundred exquisite landscape sketches, depicting the Feldhausen estate in Wynberg, where he lived, and scenes he encountered on his trips to Cape Point, Table Mountain and further afield, to places such as Caledon, Franschhoek, Stellenbosch and Paarl.

These landscape drawings make an almost unparalleled contribution to the art and historical record of the Cape in the early nineteenth century. The drawings are reproduced in this book, together with a narrative text, which provides extensive background material to the life and work of John Herschel, and sets the illustrations in their historical and geographical context. The result is an evocative picture of the Cape Peninsula and environs, at a time when they were still largely wild, but beginning to develop agriculturally and culturally in directions that culminated in the late Victorian period.

About the author

The author, *Brian Warner*, gained doctorates from both Oxford and London Universities, and became head of the Department of Astronomy at the University of Cape Town in 1972, initially holding the title of Professor of Astronomy. From 1999 to 2004 he was Distinguished Professor of Natural Philosophy and is now retired. For several years he chaired the Board of Trustees of the South African Museum, and is currently Vice President of the International Astronomical Union.