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## NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPE TOWN BRANCH OF THE SIMON VAN DER STEL FOUNDATION NO 2 2014

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### **NUWE LEDE/NEW MEMBERS**

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

Mr & Mrs N Vlok, Mrs L Hooper, Mr & Mrs A Kyle, Mr K Martin, Mr L van Greunen, Mr R Thorp,  
Ms D Herman, Mr S Davidowitz.

### **DONASIES/DONATIONS:**

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

Ms Florence McFarlane

### **RHODES MEMORIAL INTERPRETATION BOARD.**



Rhodes Memorial was opened on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 1912 (Rhodes birthday).

On the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012 the Simon van der Stel Foundation (Cape Town) held a Centenary function in the Tea Room at the Memorial when well know Heritage Architect, John Rennie gave a talk on the design and construction of the Memorial and then conducted members on a tour of the edifice.

The Conservator Trust undertook to provide a sign board giving the history of the site. The Trust's Chairman John Muir spent over two years coordinating the project which required liaison with the Table Mountain Board as well as detailed research and selecting illustrations from archives and libraries. The text on the board has been translated into three languages. We are grateful to John Rennie and design architect Angela Gilbert for their expertise and assistance.

The board was erected on the 31 October, 2014. A second board will also be erected at the restaurant.

John Muir

## HERITAGE SOUTH AFRICA SYMPOSIUM 2014



The three day Symposium, held in Richmond on October 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> at the Richmond Museum and was hosted by Richmond Heritage. Tucked away in the Bo-Karoo, this remarkable town which has its origins in 1843 as a church settlement, located between Vegkop hillock and the Ongers River on the farm *Driefontein*, provided the perfect context for the Symposium which was well attended, with over 60 delegates engaging with the various presentations and lectures and in the rich discussions that followed them. Richmond, usually a quiet

town, was a hive of activity.

At the annual general meeting of Heritage SA that was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, Mr Len Raymond was elected the new Chairman of Heritage South Africa and the other office bearers elected for the 2015 are Carol Ann Podd from Swellendam, Chris Young from Drakenstein, Jacques Stolz from Egoli, Alan Montgomery from Mandela Bay, Jayson Clark from Tulbagh and Beverly-Ann Small from Alberton. After the conclusion of the AGM, the programme commenced with a delicious *potjie* dinner at the MAP (Modern Art Projects) Gallery, the brainchild of Harrie Siertsema, which is housed in a renovated supermarket in a precinct of beautifully restored old buildings, which altogether is a remarkable example of the successful adaptive re-use of old buildings.

After dinner, Professor Walter Peters, a Professor of Architecture at the Department of Architecture, University of the Free State, gave a talk on and screening of Richmond's architecture and built environment and the development of white-washed buildings with *stoeps* or verandas and flat *brakdakke* with cornices and hipped corrugated iron roofs, which characterized the town. Much of this heritage suffered due to the demolition of a large number of these buildings for purposes of implementation of the Group Areas Act, 1950. In the 1970s the town was struck another blow when the N1 national road diverted business away from the town.

The next day commenced with the unique story of Richmond's Saddle Horse Museum including the history and importance of horses in the Richmond area. This was followed by a presentation of heritage proposals for the Richmond area and a strategy for conservation by a lecturer from the Tshwane University Technicon and its students who prepared models that were on view at MAP Gallery.

Thereafter Dr Neil Viljoen, the Curator of Northwards, the Herbert Baker house dominating the Parktown Ridge and home to the Dale Laces from 1904 to 1911, gave a rich account of and delivered an amusing talk on the life of Josephine Dale Lace, who was born in Richmond and went to school in England, and lived in Johannesburg after her marriage to John. Dr Viljoen brought the extraordinary life of Josephine as a Rand Lady in Johannesburg to the fore.



The childhood home of Josephine Dale Lace.

Dr Judy McGuire of Prince Albert who has surveyed 120 of the Upper Karoo farmsteads then spoke about anthropology of the Karoo and Mr Whitlock gave a talk on and screening of remarkable *Sneeuberg* homesteads.

A Venison Evening and Awards Ceremony was held that evening at the Richmond Country Club where a number of awards were made including the prestigious Heritage Association of South Africa Gold Medal to Dr Judy McGuire.

The last day commenced with Prof Bruce Rubidge's fascinating presentation on Palaeontology and Dr Morris' talk on Archaeology. After tea, Graham Viney gave a comprehensive introduction to, and his analysis, *Cape Dutch to Cape English*, of the verandahs added on to Cape Dutch and Karoo houses and presented some superb images which allowed an understanding of the triggers and morphological basis for this process of change.

Those who stayed for the talk on and demonstration of Karoo wool shearing were not disappointed.

Mr Len Raymond's presentation *Save your Town's Heritage* stimulated some productive discussion in the questions that followed. Mr Raymond also conducted a walking tour of the historic houses in the earlier part of the town and the impact of the Group Areas Act, 1950 became more evident. Although fractured, the surviving built environment with its infrastructure of water leads, tree-lined development and urban agriculture behind, is very significant in its own right.

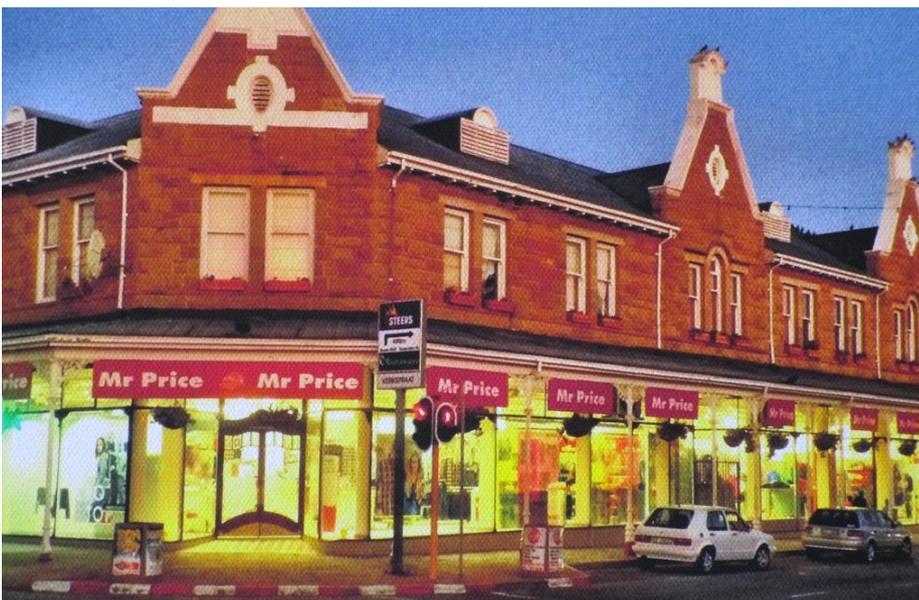
The food provided for the guests made the Symposium even more special and included many Karoo classics such as delicious venison fillet, lamb chops, *roosterbrood* and springbok Carpaccio. Wines from Juno Estate were brought from Paarl and the Muratie Estate wines were flown in by the owner in a light aircraft for the Saturday night wine pairing with Annatjie Reynolds of *Karoo Venison* at the MAP Gallery.

The choirs in the beautiful Richmond church building delighted all those who attended this special event.

The Symposium was considered by all to be the best ever and Richmond will be a hard act to follow.  
Yvonne Leibman

## REVISITING OUDTSHOORN 2011-2014

In August 2011 our members travelled to Oudtshoorn to visit some of the old historic buildings under the guidance of Hazel Jonker, the local historian. One of the old buildings was Prince Vintcent where we met the current owner, Kobus Spies. The name is *Vintcent*, which is French and not 'Vincent'. The *Prince* does not indicate any royal connection but is the surname of the co-owner of the enterprise which started in Mossel Bay, then expanded to George and later to Oudtshoorn. For many years it was known as *Prince, Vintcent & Co*, but in later years the comma was omitted.



Kobus acquired the building in 1995 and decided to make the enterprise as relevant as it was when it first opened its doors as a general dealer/wholesaler and supplier of various goods to the local inhabitants. The building was inaugurated on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1914 and Kobus asked me to help with an exhibition to celebrate the centenary of the building.

The main idea was to emphasise the relevance of the building today – it is very much used. At one stage Marianne, his wife had a private school here, now there are offices for architects, doctors, physio, CANSA, Kobus has his studio in the building, and of course downstairs you have Mr Price!

As 1914 was a very important date. It was the beginning of World War I and it marked the end of the feather boom with the introduction of the motor car. To illustrate the different developmental stages of the building a timeline of the history was shown making use of old photographs of the building and the area around it from 1914 to 2014.

In one corner of the huge open area upstairs we installed a furniture exhibition of items from the time period, an old shop counter with items like an old scale, rolls of material, old iron, copies of adverts from magazines, ostrich feathers and old original ledgers and other documents from the heyday of Prince Vintcent as a shop.

This area is very often used for art exhibitions and as Kobus is a well-known Impressionist artist of Karoo scenes as well as buildings we compiled a display of some of his paintings of well-known sites and buildings plus old photographs to show what it looked like many years ago.

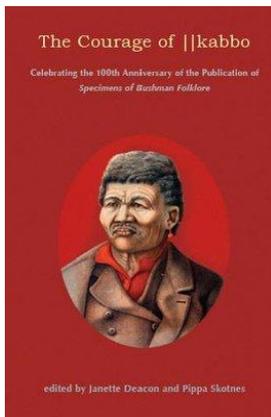
Saturday morning, 1<sup>st</sup> November the day kicked off with a sumptuous breakfast in the courtyard surrounded by old tractors. Outside in the street vintage cars all the way from George were parked. Hazel Jonker with her knowledge of the history of the town gave a talk about events leading to the establishment of the PV building as it is called by the locals. This included the history of the Vintcent family, who excelled in the business world as well as on the sports field, notably cricket.

After Hazel the architect, Johan Smit, who helped Kobus in the rehabilitation of the building told us more about their venture. The building has many Art Nouveau features and can be seen as part of the Arts and Craft Movement. The morning concluded with a fashion show of old dresses and people reminiscing about the past of what they experienced as shoppers, including one of the ex-employees who talked about the good old days before these old shop were usurped by mindless chain stores!

Anlen Boshof

## Bookshelf

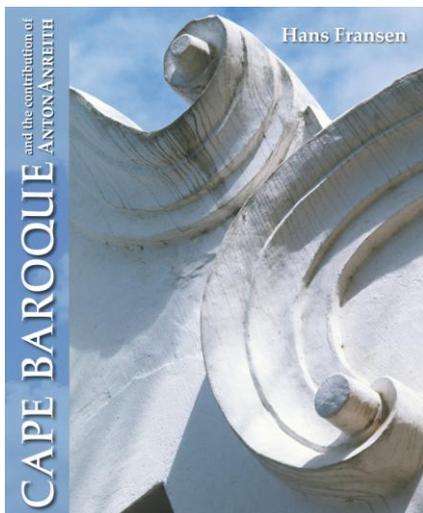
### THE COURAGE OF IIKABOO



The year 2011 marked the centenary of the publication of Wilhelm Bleek and Lucy Lloyd's publication, *Specimens of Bushman Folklore*, a unique and globally important record of the language and poetry of the now-extinct language of the !xam Bushmen. This edited volume celebrates this anniversary. It is named after Iikaboo, a prisoner released from the Breakwater Convict Station in the 1870s, who remained in Cape Town far from home and family and sacrificed the freedom of his final years to teach Bleek and Lloyd his language and make his stories known by way of books. The stories in the Bleek and Lloyd archive are now all that remains of the world view of the !xam.

We will be able to view the exhibition relating to the Bleek archive and San culture at Bertram House when we visit on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015. See new programme for further details.

### CAPE BAROQUE and the contribution of Anton Anrieth. Dr. Hans Fransen



A survey of stylistic modes in architecture, furniture and other applied arts during the VOC period, the 18th century. Liberally illustrated, it traces the influence of European art styles like Baroque and Rococo, which it finds in liberal measure in the celebrated curvilinear Cape gables, the splendid **armoires** with their swelling shapes, their ornamental carved cornices and "aprons". The work of one particularly gifted artist, Anton Anrieth, is described in detail. Fransen's conclusion is that all of this fits right into the international Baroque style, though with a deliciously local flavour.

The book, with 160 pages and over 200 striking illustrations, will be available in the book shops at approx R250. Before that, there will be an official launch. Its production received sponsorship from the Conservator Trust.