



NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPE TOWN BRANCH OF THE SIMON VAN DER STEL FOUNDATION NO 1 2015

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:

Ms C Driver, Mr & Mrs C Hoal, Mr L Le Roux.

DONASIES/DONATIONS:

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

Mr & Mrs R Jeffery, Lt Kol Loubser, Mrs SE Collins, Mrs E King, Mr M Deacon, Mej M Swart,
Mej C Beyers, Mrs J Raubenheimer.

STELLENBOSCH BESOEK



Woensdag, 20 Mei was dit Stellenosch se beurt om ingeval te word deur ons lede. Weer eens 'n perfekte sonnige dag wat 'n rariteit kan wees in laat-Mei. Ons het by die bekende Moederkerk ontmoet waar Philip de Bruin en Hannes Theron ons ingewag het. Die kerk se geskiedenis en ontwikkeling is nou verbonde aan die dorp se geskiedenis en die klein museum binne die kerk gee 'n goeie opsomming hiervan. Hennie Vos, bekende historiese-argoloog het hier by ons aangesluit.

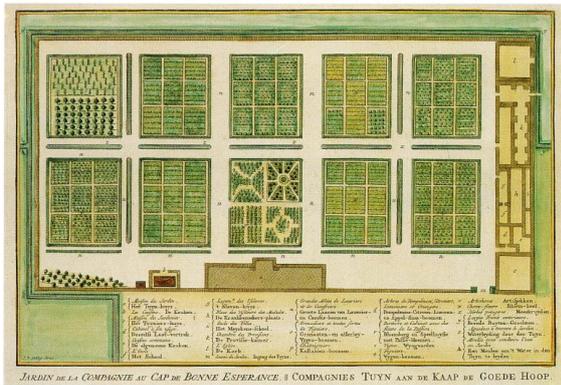
Die volgende aandoenplek was die argief van die NG Kerk Sinode op die perseel van die Kweekskool. Alta Vrey en Marlene Schoeman het 'n baie oulike uitstalling gedoen om te wys waaroor hul werk gaan en ook hoe daar na die bewaring van die ou dokumente omgesien word. Dit sluit in 'n besoek aan hul ondergrondse bewaarplek. Hulle museum bevat interessante artefakte van bekende figure in die kerkgesiedenis en hul databasis is ook deeglik op proef gestel deur van ons lede wat inligting oor familieledede gesoek het.

Ons laaste besoek was aan die Fakulteit Teologie (Kweekskool) waar prof Hendrik Bosman ons ingelig het oor die geskiedenis van die terrein asook die gebou. Waar die Kweekskool vandag is, het die eerste drostdy (1686) van Stellenbosch gestaan. Hierna het ons saam met Hennis Vos na die uitstalling van artefakte gaan kyk. Daar is klipwerktuie van die vroegste inwoners tot stukkie porselein van latere tydperke. Die uitstalling sal teen November klaar wees en daar word ook aan maniere gedink om dit oop te stel vir die publiek. Die tuin rondom die gebou is op die oomblik 'n lushof en 'n besoek op sy eie werd.

CAPE TOWN as a Refreshment Station.

As you will see from the new programme we have two events highlighting Cape Town’s original reason for existence: supplying the passing ships with fresh produce. A talk by author Dr Patricia Davison based on her newly published book ‘Oranjezicht: Recalling the Past, Cultivating the Future’ focusses on the old farm Oranje Zicht and then there is a tour of the new vegetable garden in the Company Gardens itself.

Recreating the old farm on the disused bowling greens on the site of Oranje Zigt has also honoured our heritage and become a huge success being a very popular venue for Capetonians to acquire fresh fruit, vegetables and many other farm products right in the middle of the City Bowl. The Company Gardens where this first started has long since morphed into a valuable and much enjoyed pleasure-park so it is great to see that its original purpose is being honoured by a new vegetable garden modelled on traditional patterns.



The Kolb Plan of the Company Gardens



The current layout of the vegetable garden.

Wind was a major problem in the early days so the gardens had to be split up and protected by windbreak hedges. Water was also channelled through rills to irrigate the gardens.

In 1652, a refreshment station was established at the Cape of Good Hope by the Dutch East India Company (Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie – VOC) to supply fresh produce to its ships sailing between the Netherlands and the East. The VOC Vegetable Garden project recreates elements of the original garden, which extended well beyond the limits of the present area of the Company’s Garden. Hard work and perseverance paid off and by November 1653 it was reported that the garden could produce enough to supply passing ships. The VOC Vegetable Garden is not only a visitor attraction, but also a resource to exhibit and teach urban-agriculture skills to those interested in growing food in an urban context, and help to promote food security.

The VOC Vegetable Garden was completed in June 2014 and was established on the site of the old conservatory, between the rose garden and the Company’s Garden administrative offices. The vegetable garden was designed as a collaborative project between the City of Cape Town’s Heritage Resources Management Branch and City Parks. The design was informed by archival drawings of the Company’s Garden by De Meilon, as well as other historical references and material.



Then



Now

The design reflects the original Dutch quadrant layout of the Company’s Garden. Stone-lined open irrigation channels, reminiscent of the Dutch ‘leiwater’ or water channels, still visible in parts of the Company’s Garden, provide water to the vegetable garden. The water is piped from the Stadsfontein spring in Oranjezicht.

The VOC Vegetable Garden is a working vegetable and herb garden, which includes historical varieties of indigenous traditional medicinal herbs, European culinary herbs, vegetables and fruit trees, including various berry varieties. It is surrounded by rustic wooden pergolas, which have grape varieties and granadilla growing on them, as well as espaliered pear and apple tree species interplanted with heritage climbing rose species. Seasonal varieties of vegetables are grown, including artichokes, Swiss chard, beetroot, onions, tomatoes, sunflowers, celery, rocket, capsicum, rhubarb, lettuce and cabbage. Companion plants, such as wild garlic, zinnias and marigolds, are planted among the vegetables to provide colour and attract pollinators. All gardening methods are based on organic and permaculture principles.

The VOC Vegetable Garden project highlights the need for urban food gardens and promotes the development of community gardens in undeveloped open spaces in Cape Town. It is hoped that this will attract the attention of potential investors to support existing food gardens and stimulate the creation of new ones. Woolworths has partnered with City Parks and provided financial support for the maintenance of the vegetable garden, as well as backing educational programmes that invite the public to participate in theoretical and practical vegetable gardening one-day courses.

Urban food gardens are becoming a feature of many cities. Cape Town has examples such as that created around the Central Methodist Church in Greenmarket Square by Allan Storey and the many that are being created in the townships by groups of unemployed youths which are valuable resources for fresh vegetables in the deprived areas and practical projects to teach children in the schools how vegetables grow and how important they are proper nutrition. In other cities around the world people are finding creative ways of utilising unused land, even roof tops of residential developments,

BESOEK AAN WELLINGTON



Woensdag, 15 April het ons lede 'n besoek gebring aan Wellington waar 'n heerlike sonnige herfsdag ons ingewag het. Die verwelkoming by die Breytenbach-sentrum deur Anne-Ghrett Coetzee en ons gids, Christine Siebrits was net so hartlik.

Die sentrum is vandag 'n multidisiplinêre kultuursentrum vir opleiding en omgang met beeldende kunste, musiek, drama en skryfkuns. Verskeie werkwinkels word aangebied aan vroue uit histories-benadeelde gemeenskappe sodat

hul vaardighede kan aanleer waardeur hul 'n inkomste kan genereer. Een van hierdie projekte is die maak van inkopiesakke vir die bekende Kamers Vol Geskenke se markte landwyd.

'n Ander baie oulike venue by die sentrum is die Bôrdienghuis-teater waar op 'n gereelde basis vertonings aangebied word wat wissel van musiek tot kabaret en drama.

Na 'n lekker koppie koffie en muffins het ons die pad gevat saam met Christine en ons eerste aankloplek was die NG Kerk van 1840 met die imposante standbeeld van Andrew Murray van 1923.

Hierna het ons deur die historiese kern van die dorp gestap en verskeie ou geboue is aan ons uitgewys terwyl ons op pad was na die Hugenote Kollege se kampus waar Andrew Murray se huis, Clairvaux van 1892, vandag nog steeds bewoon word. Ons was gelukkig om die binnekant van die Goodnow Hall te kon sien waar daar 'n uitstalling is oor bekende opleidingskolleges vir onderwysers wat nie meer vandag bestaan nie. 'n Ander bekende gebou is Cummings Hall van 1896 wat tipies is van die laat-19de eeuse Herlewinstyl. In Mei 2008 het 'n brand daar uitgebreek wat feitlik al die houtwerk vernietig het. Die buitekant en dak is intussen herstel, maar nie die binnekant nie en dus staan die gebou leeg.

Ons voorlaaste besoek was aan die Wellington Museum waar daar 'n afdeling is oor die vroeë geskiedenis van die dorp asook meer inligting en artefakte van Andrew Murray. Net skuins oor die pad is daar die restaurant Perfect Place wat sy naam goed gestand gedoen het en aan ons die smaaklikste middagete verskaf het.

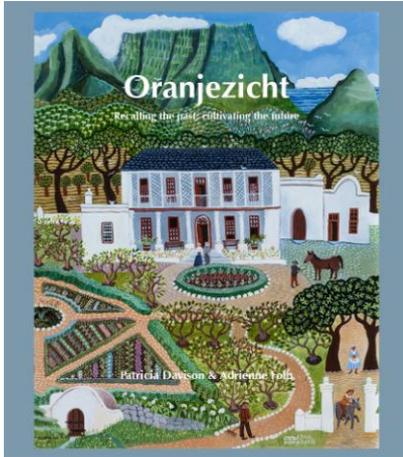
Anlen Boshoff

Should you have lost your NMC bronze plaque due to metal theft, do not despair! Very high quality ceramic replicas are now available at R500 each. Please contact Martiens van Bart at kultuurkroniek@gmail.com or tel 072 740 5203.

BOOKSHELF

Oranjezicht. Recalling the past; cultivating the future

by Patricia Davison & Adrienne Folb



This book arose from an informal gathering of friends in the barn of the historic Oranjezicht farmstead late in 2013. All agreed that there was a story to be told about the people who, centuries ago, had lived and worked in this place and how their lives connect with our own.

Oranje Zigt was the largest market garden in Upper Table Valley (now the City Bowl) owned by seven generations of the Van Breda family. The land was worked by slaves whose traditions from the East influenced life at the Cape, and who later became part of the multicultural population of Cape Town.

Water from springs that arise on Table Mountain, used by the indigenous San and Khoekhoe people long before Europeans arrived, enabled Oranje Zigt to thrive but was later diverted to support the growing town. This led to the farm's decline, and the emergence of the suburb of Oranjezicht.

The historic Van Breda homestead remained in place until 1955 when it was demolished to make way for a bowling green which eventually fell into neglect. Through community effort, this green was transformed into the Oranjezicht City Farm. While recalling the past, the book celebrates the making of the Farm and the philosophy that enlivens it.

ISBN 978-0-620-64876-9 Selling price: R250.00 incl. VAT
Enquiries: email - cityfarm@ozcf.co.za or 083 628 3426

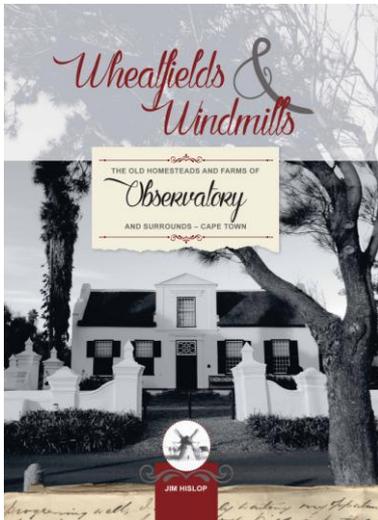
TITLE: Wheatfields & Windmills, The Old Homesteads and farms of Observatory & Surrounds

AUTHOR: Jim Hislop

PUBLISHER: Self-published

ISBN: 978-0-620-61886-1

Available at all good bookshops.



It's easy to forget that Observatory in Cape Town, or Obs as residents call it, was once a rural area and home to nomadic Khoi pastoralists and some of the first free burgher farms in the country. Once there were fields of wheat and barley where today rows of Victorian and Edwardian terraced houses stand.

The aim of author Jim Hislop's first book – *Wheatfields & Windmills, The Old Homesteads and farms of Observatory & Surrounds* – is to celebrate the Observatory area's early architectural heritage. Included in the 144-page, A4, full-colour book are maps, information and photographs of the old Cape Dutch and Georgian buildings that survive, and those that are now long gone, plus references to the free burghers and slaves who farmed here.

Coornhoop, Valkenberg, Varsche Drift, Westoe, Nieuwe Molen, Mostert's Mill and Oude Molen are just some of the old buildings

covered in this fascinating book.

The author:

Jim Hislop is a Cape Town-based amateur historian who grew up in Mowbray and works as an editor in Observatory. Apart from writing and self-publishing *Wheatfields & Windmills*, he also did most of the layout, photography and illustrations. Jim is also the founder of the Facebook group, *The Cape's Threatened Buildings*. His late father's collection of books on old Cape buildings fired his interest in the area's architectural heritage, and a Sunday drive with his parents as a child to see the old ruins of the now-restored Valkenberg Manor, provided early inspiration to write this book. Jim will also be giving us an illustrated talk on his new book on Saturday 11th July. See the new programme.

Both authors will have their books available at their talks.