



“De Rust Heritage Now”

July Newsletter # 7/2019

HWC Meeting with Southern Cape & Klein Karoo Heritage Bodies

A meeting between senior staff and Council Members of Heritage Western Cape and representatives of registered Heritage bodies in the Southern Cape and Klein Karoo region was held in George on Tuesday 18 June.

During the meeting there was frank discussion on the role that HWC should be playing, as well as a number of related issues particularly around better communication.

More Autonomy for Some Identified Local Municipalities

*Following the above meeting it was agreed that in the case of the structures within the **Greater Oudtshoorn Municipality** there was an opportunity in terms of the current structure to assess the role of the Municipality in order to allow for the grading of **Level 3 properties**.*

In terms of grading and the comment by Heritage Western Cape at the meeting that in the last year they had graded over 3 000 applications in Cape Town. Why are the majority of these not being carried out at the local level?

*In addition, in the case of **De Rust** where a **Heritage Survey** had been conducted some years ago by **Professor Franco Frescura** and his team from the then University of Port Elizabeth (now Nelson Mandela University) this could be assessed as a first step towards having the Village formally graded.*

Another important point raised at the meeting was the lack of legal follow-up from Heritage Western Cape on cases where infringements were currently going unpunished. It was suggested by the HWC Legal representative that in many cases the best option was for municipalities to pass additional by-laws with sufficient sanction to cover this more effectively.

The above issues are currently being discussed at Heritage Western Cape as well as at the local level by Heritage Oudtshoorn Erfenis and De Rust Heritage directly with the Oudtshoorn Municipality.

Follow Up to Chris Marais and Julianne Du Toit's Visit to De Rust

*Since the visit to De Rust at the end of May, 2019 their article has been submitted to **Country Life Magazine** and it is anticipated that it could be carried in the September edition of Country Life which is on the shelves from mid-August, 2019. We await final confirmation on this date. We also look forward to a further visit from Chris and Julie in the Spring with another project we are currently discussing with them.*

The Issue of Values: Values are often quoted by people at all levels of society but are seldom really understood – most people who quote “values” often believe that all should share their value system. This is not the case as seen below quoting from the work of Prof Clare Graves and Dr Don Beck.

Equally, the issue of “heritage” is seen differently at different stages on the values spectrum. As an example a person who is battling just to survive is certainly not going to be interested in anything “heritage” and may in fact be part of destroying - rather than building heritage just to stay alive:

- ***Values of Existence: Staying Alive at all Costs***
- ***Values of the Tribe: The Tribal Order and Good of the Tribe - Ubuntu***
- ***Power Now Values: I want “Power Now” not later but NOW***
- ***Values of Stability: Building a Stable and Safe Society for All***
- ***Values of Enterprise: Innovation/Industry and Success***
- ***Green Eco-Values: Saving the Environment and Our World***
- ***Integrated Global Values: Understanding the Global Values Mix***

*Each individual globally is a mix of a number of the above values and the predominant value in their mix is how they will in all probability react. The question of values and change are critical in terms of the individual worldviews and how each person sees their world and manage change. **It is important to note that no single value or mix of values is better or worse than others – it is how to best manage these constructively for the improved welfare of all.***

*Based on the above research over more than 70 years, there is significant real world evidence to show that in South Africa in particular we have the “**full mix**” of values which are not always evident in many other countries. Based on this we need to carefully consider how to tackle many important issues including heritage. Heritage will succeed or fail depending on the understanding of how to manage the “**values mix**” present in our community, region or country.*

Understanding values is the key to building sustainable communities at both the micro and macro level. This in turn results in successful communities, regions and countries with positive values being in the majority mix.

Launch of Klein Karoo Heritage Eco-Trail

*We have recently launched the Klein Karoo Heritage Eco-Trail including the towns of **Uniondale, Prince Albert, Klaarstroom, De Rust, Oudtshoorn and Calitzdorp**. The tourism potential of this Eastern Region of the Klein Karoo is enormous and what is required is a window to assist in taking this information to the wider public both locally and overseas. In this regard the concept of an integrated tourism package directly linked to building “**sustainable communities**” including eco-tourism, heritage and other related activities is essential – see <http://www.derustheritage.org.za/> under **Klein Karoo Heritage Trail**.*

Tourism is the growth industry of the 21st Century and our objective is to ensure that the Klein Karoo region builds on this for a sustainable long term future. Linking heritage directly with tourism and particularly eco-tourism is a key component in building sustainable long-term communities.

De Rust

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