



“De Rust Heritage Now”

June Newsletter # 6/2019

Visit of Julie du Toit and Chris Marais of Karoo Space

Julie de Toit and Chris Marais from Karoo Space in Cradock spent three days in De Rust collecting material for an article on the Village and De Rust District. This visit extended over the period Saturday 25 to Monday 27 May, 2019 where they met with a wide variety of residents and experienced a wide range of visits to many different locations.

*These included the **Meiringspoort Challenge Trail Run and Mountain Bike Race** as well as visits to **Doornkraal for Dinner** on the Saturday evening with historical stories of De Rust from Swepie le Roux and an eco-tour looking at a variety of plants including wild pelargonium with **Willie Immelman**.*



Chris and Julie with their Trusty Isuzu Bakkie and the Finish Line at the Trail Run

*Our thanks go to all those local residents and members of **De Rust Heritage** who were part of the “**Team with Chris and Julia**” during the De Rust portion of their visit to the Klein Karoo. A special thanks to Jan and Theresa Venter for assisting with the accommodation for Chris and Julie during their visit. Your assistance and local insight was invaluable in helping to open the window for our guests to this portion of the Klein Karoo and De Rust District in particular.*

*Chris and Julie also spent two days in Oudtshoorn collecting historical information on “**Feather Palaces**” with Peter Gray from **Heritage Oudtshoorn Erfenis** as their local guide on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 May.*



Hazenjacht Feather Palace near Dysseisdorp

*It is anticipated that both visits could result in published articles in **Country Life** magazine with other exciting projects in the pipeline – watch this space.*

Southern Cape & Klein Karoo Heritage Forum.

*In early May we extended an invitation to the CEO of Heritage Western Cape to attend a **Regional Heritage Forum** meeting in Oudtshoorn in June. So far there has been no response but the meeting will proceed as planned as there are a number of pressing regional heritage issues which need to be urgently discussed by the representatives of the various registered heritage bodies in the region. The planned meeting will now be held on **Wednesday 19 June, 2019** in the New Council Chamber at the Oudtshoorn Municipal offices at 10h00.*

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 making this information to the wider public both locally and overseas. In this regard the concept of an integrated tourism package including eco-tourism, heritage and other related activities is essential.*

*Based on this each town has its own page carrying news including newsletters and other related tourism information of general interest. **Further information on this exciting new initiative will become available shortly.***

Greater Oudtshoorn Heritage Survey & Inventory

De Rust Heritage were informed recently that the planned Heritage Survey for the Greater Oudtshoorn area has been postponed until the new financial year commencing in July, 2019. The problem here appears to be a lack of sufficient budgeted funds for the project which by law has to be carried out as part of the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act by the Municipality.

*Following the submission of tenders at the end of March, 2019 all the tenders received were far in excess of the available amount of R 120 000 available in the current budget. **De Rust Heritage** have raised this issue with with the Oudtshoorn Municipality as the original concept was to use De Rust as a “**Pilot Project**” where the budgeted funds available should have been sufficient for the initial survey. **Our on-going discussions with the Municipality continue.***

The De Rust-Meiringspoort Eco-Festival – Spring 2019

The eco-festival will be about the plant diversity of the De Rust area, green eco-practices and preserving a total integrated eco-environment in our area.

In addition, there will also be inputs on waste re-cycling and the importance of good environmental practices including the use of eco-friendly practices such as solar energy and the latest water conservation practices. Contact Willie on 082 952 2001 or Callie 082 455 5487:



DRAFT Program for De Rust-Meiringspoort Spring Eco-Festival 2019

Friday Evening - 20 September, 2019:

- *Welcome and Introduction to the Eco-Festival.*
- *Short talk on the eco-diversity of our region to be held at Doornkraal - Soup and fresh bread and wine from our region.*

Saturday - 21 September, 2019:

Street market in the Main Street of the Village with Eco and Other Products available plus:

- *Various guided eco-walks in the Swartberg*
- *4x4 drive on Barry's Meijer's farm in Meiringspoort*
- *Horse riding to view the Spring Flowers in the De Rust District*
- *Visit to the De Rust Koppie and planting of spekboom*
- *Visit the waterfall in Meiringspoort with music*
- *Dinner at Barry Meijer's farm in Meiringspoort*

Sunday Morning - 22 September, 2019:

Church service at the NG Kerk in De Rust including Plants of the Bible - grapes, pomegranates, figs, olives and almonds

Final planning for the De Rust-Meiringspoort Eco-Festival continues and further details will be available on a regular basis in our Monthly Newsletter.

De Rust

30 May, 2019