



“De Rust Heritage Now” May Newsletter # 5/2019

Southern Cape/Klein Karoo Heritage Forum Visit to De Rust

*As a result of the generosity of those who attended the **De Rust Heritage Visit** on Saturday 30 March, 2019 an amount of R 1 040 was raised in donations for the **De Rust Animal Health Trust**. Garth and Diane and the whole team would like to thank all those who contributed so generously to assist in the treatment of injured and neglected animals from the De Rust area.*

Launch of New “The De Rust Heritage Walking Trail” Booklet

*This booklet is available from De Rust Heritage at a cost of R 35.00 each which will support the next run of the booklet. It is also available at **Rouge Karoo** in Schoeman Street next to the Tourism Office as well as at **Rawson Estates**.*



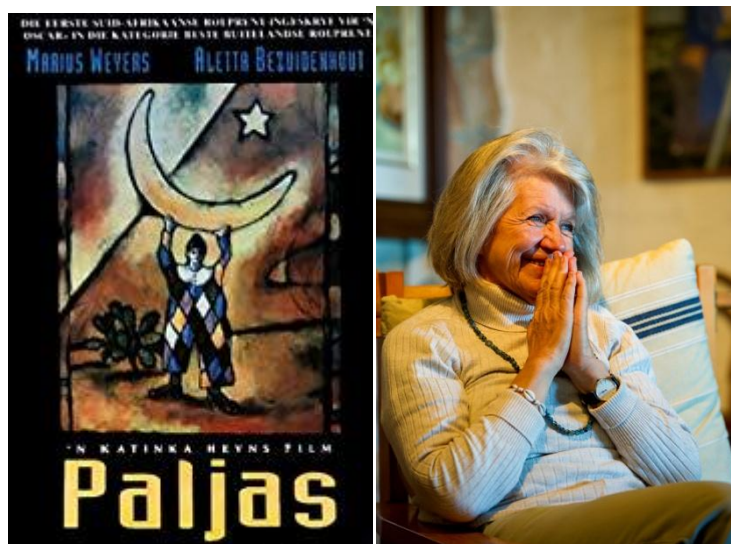
The De Rust Walking Trail Booklet

Planning for “De Rust Heritage Festival 2020”

Following the success of the recent “Heritage Visit” planning is going ahead with the holding of a “**De Rust Heritage Festival 2020** ” which is designed to celebrate the **120th Anniversary** of the founding of De Rust on 20 March 1900.

The Festival will start on the Saturday morning 20 March, 2020 and will extend through to midday on the Sunday 21 March. The program will include the **Heritage Walking Trail**, visits to places in the district like **Vlakteplaas** which is much older than De Rust, **Meiringspoort** and other heritage related sites and topics including a walk on the “wild side” in the **Swartberg** around De Rust.

The will also be a **Dinner and Film Evening** with **Katinka Heyns** at the unique **Santa Maria** facility at Doornkraal on the Saturday evening. Katinka will be showing and speaking about the production of one of her favourite films “**Paljas**” which was written by **Chris Barnard** and **directed by her in 1997** which was filmed in the De Rust District including Doornkraal. Actors included Marius Weyers and Aletta Bezuidenhout and is about a family’s life in the Klein Karoo.



The objective of the “**De Rust Heritage Festival 2020**” is to be both educational and entertaining for all ages in order to cultivate a pride in our heritage going back in history to the early inhabitants of the Klein Karoo.

Further details on the planning of the Festival and the program will be made available shortly on our website www.derustheritage.org.za .

De Rust Heritage Update Meeting

*The **De Rust Heritage Conservation Association** held an update meeting on **Wednesday 10 April, 2019 at the Old Church Hall** in Le Roux Street. The main objective of the meeting was to better inform members and residents of the significant progress made since the re-registration of the **De Rust Heritage Conservation Association** with Heritage Western Cape in August, 2018.*

*Over 20 people attended the meeting and for those unable to be there full details of the PowerPoint presentation are available on the **De Rust Heritage** website www.derustheritage.org.za under **Meeting Information**. This presentation covers the full activities of **De Rust Heritage** over the last twelve months including the major achievements in that period.*

Annual Report to Heritage Western Cape

*The **De Rust Heritage Conservation Annual Report** for the period 01 May, 2018 to 30 April, 2019 has recently been submitted to **Heritage Western Cape**. This is a legal requirement for all registered heritage bodies in terms of the Act and a copy is available to view on the **De Rust Heritage** website in the section **Heritage Western Cape** on the drop-down **Annual Report 2018/19**.*

Oudtshoorn Municipal Tender for Heritage Survey

*The Oudtshoorn Municipal Tender concerning a **Heritage Survey** for Oudtshoorn closed on Monday 25 March, 2019. To date information is still awaited by the two registered heritage organisations – **Heritage Oudtshoorn Erfenis** and **De Rust Heritage** regarding the possible costs. It is however, anticipated that the firm undertaking by the **Oudtshoorn Municipality** to fully involve both **Heritage Oudtshoorn Erfenis** and **De Rust Heritage** in the process in order to ensure informed community involvement will be happening shortly.*

***De Rust** was originally identified as the source of the initial “**Pilot Study**” for **Greater Oudtshoorn** due to its size and relatively well resourced heritage body. We await further communication from the Oudtshoorn Municipality in this regard as a matter of some urgency.*

Heritage Certificate Program – Sponsored by Historical Homes of South Africa
Professor Matilda Burden from the University of Stellenbosch Museum recently conducted an approved heritage certificate program on the various architectural styles to be found in the Western Cape and Klein Karoo from **Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 April, 2019 at the Civic Centre** in Oudtshoorn.

The program was particularly relevant and looked at the full range of architectural styles used historically on a global basis as well as going into some detail regarding those generally employed in the Western Cape.

Matilda also used some of the material available on our website from the book **“The New Amidst the Old – Building in the Klein Karoo”** produced by the **Simon van der Stel Foundation (Southern Cape)** compiled by Hans Franssen in 2006.



Members Attending the Heritage Certificate Program

This is the third heritage program run in Oudtshoorn sponsored by **Historical Homes in Stellenbosch**. Our thanks go in particular to their CEO and Board in supporting this very worthy initiative. In addition, the latest program has provided a solid base of understanding of **Heritage Architectural Styles** in the **Southern Cape & Klein Karoo Region**.

Meiringspoort Challenge - Trail Run & Mountain Bike Race

Preparations for the **“Meiringspoort Challenge”** on Saturday 25 May, 2019 are well advanced with the checking of the trail section in the Swartberg near De Rust having been carried out in the last few days.



Volunteers Checking the Trail Run Course

In addition to the athletes participating in the Meiringspoort Challenge we will be showcasing the Village to **Chris and Juliette Marais from Karoo Space** in Cradock who also write for Country Life Magazine. They will be visiting the area from Thursday 23 to Sunday 26 May and visiting both Oudtshoorn and De Rust.

Visit by Chris and Julienne Marais from Karoo Space

Details of the above visit are as follows:

The **Oudtshoorn** portion of their visit extends from **Thursday 23 to Friday 24 May** where they will be visiting a number of the Feather Palaces and researching their history for a possible article in **Country Life Magazine**. This part of the program is being arranged by **Heritage Oudtshoorn Erfenis**.

They then move to **De Rust** for the week-end of **Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 May** and we will be exposing them to a number of the heritage and other highlights of De Rust and District for a potential **Country Life** article.

On Saturday evening 25 May **De Rust Heritage** will be hosting a typical Karoo Dinner where long term residents of the area will be sharing historical stories and events from the past. The cost will be R 120 per person. **Further detailed information will be made available on our website shortly.**

Request for Further Interesting Historical Information on De Rust & District
De Rust Heritage is asking people who have interesting historical information relating to both De Rust and the immediate district. This will also assist in providing additional information (including photos and maps) for the proposed **“De Rust Heritage Festival 2020”**.

We wish to collect additional related data including photographs and place this on our website in order to enhance the spread of information available. This crucial information often gets lost over time and it is critical that as far as possible we are able to provide a more complete story for our unique region including information of the settlement sites the original inhabitants of the area the **San Bushmen** as depicted on our logo.

In addition to the above we will shortly have a map available on our website of the **“Klein Karoo Heritage Eco-Trail”** covering the area between De Rust and Calitzdorp including Prince Albert and Oudtshoorn. This initiative will be part of the **Greater De Rust Heritage initiative in conjunction with the Southern Cape & Klein Karoo Heritage Forum** in providing more emphasis on the increasing role of heritage and eco-tourism in our area of the Klein Karoo.

Any assistance or available information offered including old photographs in preserving important historical facts in our region which otherwise will become lost over time will be greatly appreciated.

Alan Tonkin

01 May, 2019