



(for public release after the Board of Trustees meeting)

**15th July 2020**

**K A Munro, Chairperson**

**ANNUAL 2020 - CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT OF THE  
JOHANNESBURG HERITAGE FOUNDATION.**

**Part 1 - The Year 2019 – 2020**

**Introduction.** Our world is a different place to that which we knew in 2019 when JHF last convened its Annual General Meeting and I took over from Brett MacDougall. We have been forced to adjust to lockdown, social distancing, masks and we follow daily Covid-19 statistics. Virtual tours and zoom meetings have taken the place of gathering for tours and at the research centre. People work from home and our JHF office at Northwards has temporarily closed. We all worry about the virus - catching it and surviving it, the future of our work and income. We connect on what's app groups: we value home, family, humour and kindness.

Johannesburg Heritage was hit hard by the Covid -19 pandemic. Many of our members are older and our tour program had to be cancelled and postponed. We began to bounce back during May with Eira switching her office to her home and we began to correspond with our members. Flo and Brett ran on line Facebook quizzes. Flo and her sons developed a superb virtual tour program. Thus, during the last few months, we have risen to the challenge of a new world. We still serve the cause of heritage with vigour and consider it as important as ever.

I thank our members for paying current subscriptions and remaining loyal to the cause of heritage.

I thank the Board of Management for their leadership and commitment.

I thank Maggie Savage for handling all legal, tax, UIF and financial submissions.

Thanks to Sarah Welham and the friends of the Cemeteries group for all the effort and research

I thank the staff of JHF for their loyalty and their readiness to work from home, rise to the challenge and then in June to cut their hours by 20 per cent, enabling us to reduce our costs.

I thank Eira Bond, our administrator for setting up a home office at the end of April and working from home and Di Steele for continuing to monitor our finances.

**The following people served on the Board of Management during the 2019 - 2020 year  
Kathy Munro (Chair), Flo Bird (Vice Chair), Brett McDougall (Vice Chair and  
Treasurer), David Forrest, Colin Wasserfall, SJ De Klerk, Brenda Adam, William Gaul,**

**Alex Parker, Wynand Dreyer, Diana Steele, Monique Jefferson, Nici Noble, Wynand Dreyer, Reverend Tsepo Matubatuba, Eira Bond (Secretary of the Committee). Regrettably, Alex Parker resigned during the year.**

**Sarah Welham directed the Friends of the Cemeteries program and presented reports to the Board of Management.**

Regular bi-monthly meetings of the Board of Management were held - with reports presented by each portfolio holder. Thanks, Flo for making your home available for these meetings. We held our last round table meeting in March 2020, and this was followed by an on-line Budget meeting in May 2020. Thank you to every member of our Board of Management.

**Four newsletters** were sent out during the year and were well received. The newsletter is an effective means of communicating with our membership.

**The Tour Program.** We successfully ran full weekly tours in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2019 and almost completed the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020 before the Covid Lockdown followed. We had a wonderful series of tours arranged in Quarter 2 of 2020, but this has been put on hold and instead we switched to some imaginative on-line tours. SJ de Klerk managed the tour planning and we were delighted that David Fleminger came on board to think about new options and directions. SJ worked on a tour of the Jameson Raid and some new cemetery tour planning, now unfortunately placed on ice. David came up with ideas for heritage hikes.

**The Walmart Award** to Brett. A highlight of the year was the award of the Walmart Global Giving award to Brett McDougall. An amount of R138,674.68 was received from Walmart in January 2020. The donation was in recognition of work performed by Brett in restoring the Orange Grove Stream in the #sparkkindness campaign. It is the intention of the Johannesburg Heritage Foundation to use the donation to continue work along the Orange Grove Stream, at the Hilson Bridge, where severe erosion has occurred, and at the Orange Grove Waterfall. Also, to improve promote accessibility to House Bleloch and the Waterfall. Congratulations Brett!

**The 2019 Heritage Weekend.** A successful Heritage weekend of many tours was organised from our base at the Holy Family College in October 2019; and included a full program of tours, talks, a book sale and garden teas and lunches. I thank everyone who worked hard to make this event a success.

**Our donors and backers.** I thank the Jim Joel Trust, the Johannesburg Heritage Trust ( Neil Fraser) , Maggie and Neil Savage (Robson Savage), The City of Johannesburg, The Mackenzie Trust, Mrs Strilli Oppenheimer and William Kentridge and GHl architects, James Ball and the Heritage Portal for publicising our events. We appreciate the bequest of the late Miss P C Proeske, a member of JHF from 1995. We thank Stillwater Sports for including JHF in the list of sponsored charities for the 2019 FNB 10 KM Joburg City Run.

We also wish to express our appreciation to the Northwards Trust for providing the office and the plans room on the ground floor of Northwards. We make a small contribution to the Northwards Trust. We also thank the Holy Family College for their welcoming us as this enables us to run the JHF Resource centre and library. The funds we assign to rental at Northwards and to two bursaries at the HFC contributes to the maintenance and

preservation of these two very important heritage buildings and reaffirms our commitment to the preservation of Johannesburg's heritage.

I also wish to acknowledge the ongoing support of Eric Itzkin and his office in the administration of the City of Johannesburg

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**Corporate Members – 2** Barrow Construction and Robson Savage.

**Residents Associations – 7** Forest Town RA, Lower Houghton RA, Norwood Oaklands RA, Parktown RA, Upper Houghton RA, Westcliff RA, Parkview Residents Association.

**Individual Adult – 81**

**Family – 42; Pensioners – 126; Country – 1**

**Honorary Life – 14; Reciprocal – Egoli – Jacques Stoltz** (recently relocated to CT).

## **TOURS TALKS AND OUTINGS (Portfolio SJ de Klerk)**

During the previous twelve-month period, the Foundation organised in excess of twenty interesting outings and talks, all of which were well attended. These events, amongst others, included various visits to historic cemeteries, a bus tour of the famed art deco architecture of Johannesburg and a visit to the Strauss Auction House in Houghton. More outings and talks were arranged, but unfortunately our activities were curtailed because of the Covid 19 lockdown. David Fleminger organised an exploratory heritage hike across the Linksfield Ridge for the planning team, and this will form part of a future program.

Fortunately, the rich history of Johannesburg and surrounding areas provide ample opportunities for future talks and outings. It seems there is a definite need to offer Sunday afternoon outings on foot and we intend to fill this gap in the future.

We remain very grateful to our researchers and guides who offer talks and outings of extremely high standards to participants.

## **WORK OF THE JOINT PLANS COMMITTEES**

The Johannesburg Heritage Foundation runs three Joint Plans Committees that assess heritage impact assessments (HIAs). The National Heritage Resources Act makes specific provision for interested and affected parties to comment on HIAs prior to their submission to the PHRA-G, and indeed comment is required to have been sought by the Act and by the PHRA-G. We have registered as an interested party with the PHRA-G in a number of areas, and a full PHRA-G submission should be sent to the relevant Joint Plans Committee for comment. Most of the work of these committees comes from Section 34c of the National Heritage Resources Act which requires permits for buildings/ structures more than 60 years old i.e. anything built before 1960. That comprises of most of the City's old suburbs and now includes parts of Sandton, Soweto and Randburg. Ideally we need still to take the old south into our spread of interest- but we need keen volunteers to assist.

## **JOINT PLANS COMMITTEE REPORT: JUNE 2020 (William Gaul)**

The Committee decided, when the national lockdown became inevitable, to suspend meetings until it becomes safe to resume. Each constituent grouping within the Committee agreed to consider applications within their own sphere of interest, and to convey the outcomes to the Chair, so that a record could be maintained.

Prior to the lockdown and cessation of full Committee meetings, the way forward on the *Duntreath* mansion gutted by fire was discussed; subsequently, a Zoom meeting was held with a prospective purchaser of the property and his architect.

It was again made clear that the Committee was firmly of the opinion that what remained of the house should be incorporated into any new structure, but that the Committee would not become involved in there-design of the interior. This matter remains in abeyance.

The Committee undertook a site visit to 45 Main Street, and offered comments and suggestions on the proposed revamping of this important building. Whether or not Anglo American intends retaining this property after their move to Rosebank remains uncertain.

Otherwise, the Committee has continued considering and commenting on applications made in the various suburbs under its purview, while continuously trying to get to grips with the Council document known as the Nodal Review – a document which has serious implications for our suburbs and all who live in them.

Finally, it is with deep regret that we record the loss of one of our founding members, Michael Fleming. Michael has been a stalwart throughout the life of the JPC, and his wisdom and gentle humour will be sadly missed.

#### **JOINT PLANS COMMITTEE – EAST (Chair – Kathy Munro)**

This Committee's geographical reach is over the whole of the eastern part of the city and many properties have hit the 60 year dateline, the challenge is to persuade property owners, architects and developers to acknowledge heritage and adopt the procedures for working with the PHRAG. This Committee assists and supports architects and planner in a positive manner and cooperates with the PHRAG. Dr Alex Parker who was the founding chair of this committee has resigned from this Committee, owing to pressure of work and the chairmanship taken over by Kathy Munro. During lockdown, the monthly meetings were suspended for three months, but an on line meeting was held in June.

#### **THE JOINT PLANS COMMITTEE WEST (Chairperson Wynand Dreyer)**

##### **Some Long-Running and Important Issues**

The JPC West was actively involved in, or maintaining a watching brief over, a wide range of issues in all areas, west of the City-centre. These include the ***Social Cluster Development in Brixton, Pageview – Fietas Museum*** where Salma Patel is holding out, in the face of City failings and corruption in the area, this time, with an overlay of Central Government failure on the long-outstanding Land Restitution, ***Brixton Reservoir*** on the fields of the Brixton Primary School, ***Krause Street – Task Academy***, the historic Muslim School, ***NG Church, Paarlshoop and Christ Church, Mayfair, Rossmore Properties on which the PHRA-G upheld the appeal of the adjacent owner on the basis of that the developer failed to scale down "to protect other heritage resources that may be influenced by the proposed development"***, ***the City Engineers' Compound and Workshops on*** Solomon Street, on which the site was put out to tender and awarded by the Johannesburg Property Company,

for redevelopment. With Blue Plaques erected the JPropCo has gone quiet, **Marks Park – Main Club House** one of Johannesburg’s oldest buildings (1887), **Mining Permissions** for West Wits, the Soweto Cluster and Valley Silts on which an appeals are pending, **Bad Properties in Brixton and Richmond**, **Student Accommodation** in Sunnyside on the site of the former Richmond Laerskool as well as **Typical Applications** sometimes in collaboration with the relevant residents’ association, but mostly alone, putting priority on heritage preservation, which is interpreted quite broadly in the context of Inner-City suburbs, where neighbourhoods are more significant than individual parts of the built environment, finding that many PHRA-G and Planning Applications are retrospective.

**Blue Plaques** Further to the Plaques for the Solomon Street site, a number of sites have been identified in Emmarentia, Northcliff, Fietas, Mayfair and the reinstatement of the lost plaque on the Brixton Steps, which need research and funding.

**Municipal Interaction** Under pressure from the Council Oversight Committee, City Transformation Planners refocused the **Nodal Review** on the SDF2040, which provides protection for our ridges, rivers and RSDFs. The revised and extended policy was adopted by Council.

*JPCW members represented the JHF at City Planning functions for:*

- **World Town Planning Day:** Planning a Better Joburg for Tomorrow and
- **A Development Planning Forum:** On levying of Development Contributions.

### **ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING ARCHIVE (Mary Boyeasse, The Resource Centre’s work at Museum Africa)**

Mary Boyeasse has completed the data records for City and Suburban. This involves researching earlier buildings and companies since this is an industrial area which includes some rather stylish 1950’s factory blocks. Her work in recording the building plans which will be transferred to Museum Africa has kept her very busy during lockdown. These architectural drawings were selected usually for their fine draughting quality but also for social and historical interest as with the compounds and the blacksmith’s shop in Newtown and very early housing in Vrededorp, Richmond and Sunnyside. A few blue prints were found for a railways station in Cleveland and corrugated iron housing for railway staff - location unknown. We retain an Excel record and when the Museum opens Mary will accession them and put them into acid-free pockets which she has to measure, make and seal before going into storage. This Architectural Drawing Archive which we undertook as a project in 2013 boasts some very beautiful drawings, many for buildings like Friedenheim which have long since been demolished. But it also presents a picture of Johannesburg as it has grown from the small and humble cottages of 1892 and bakeries which became churches through very fine Edwardian buildings to the Art Deco and a few from the later eras.

The JHF has endeavoured to ensure this fascinating record remains for researchers of the future whether they are studying early architects or specific areas or even building types. A warehouse from the 1920’s is very different from what we see today. Because the drawings come from the City of Johannesburg’s collection and were transferred to the Municipal Museum, they remain available to the general public. There was a time when Building Control destroyed the plans for buildings which had been demolished to make room for all

the new buildings being erected. The JHF has enabled more space to be available while retaining the valuable heritage of drawings.

GLH architects, our sponsors, have agreed to scan all the drawings we transfer to Museum Africa. We get the scans to add to our digitised data and we give the City the scans as a record for their files and if they want them we can provide Museum Africa with a copy. Xavier Huyberegts has been most helpful and supportive.

### **BEZ VALLEY WORLD WAR 1 MEMORIAL - RELOCATION TO BEZUIDENHOUT PARK (Brendan Hart/ Yasmin Mayat)**

JHF has been a partner (together with the City of Johannesburg) to relocate the Bezuidenhout Valley World War I memorial to Bezuidenhout Park, in view of the damage suffered by the memorial at the original site. It proved to be a difficult decision as it required all heritage stakeholders to support a radical solution to an impossible social situation. The process of relocating the memorial has been challenging. A new site was chosen at the Bez Valley Park (the location of the original Bez Valley farm). The project nears completion. The existing stone wall has been beautifully reconstructed by Barrow Construction as a donation. The memorial stone itself which was very badly damaged has been repaired/restored. We appreciate the support of the Johannesburg Heritage Trust (Neil Fraser) for the financial support. We thank Eric Itzkin of the City of Johannesburg for leading the project. We thank Johannesburg City Parks for their cooperation. We congratulate Brendan Hart and Yasmin Mayat as the architects, and Barrow construction for their superb stonework. The original war memorial site will be redesigned as a usable public space with a commissioned artwork by Andrew Lindsay. Once complete we shall invite our members to visit the Park and view the new memorial. We regret an official opening has been postponed because of the corona virus.

### **JHF BLUE PLAQUES (Portfolio Colin Wasserfall)**

There have been challenges with the installation procedure, from choosing which houses, people, and events are worthy of a plaque to the wording of the plaques. To contain these challenges a Blue Plaques Committee has been set up, which will oversee the process from selection to installation. The committee anticipates that it should take no more than two to three months from application to installation. Once the selection and approval has been obtained, the first step, as with everything, is funding. The next step is the research, and then the most difficult, the actual wording. Getting the words in the right order within the word limit while sticking to the rhythm unique to Blue Plaques is the biggest challenge. Finally the editing, making sure the grammar is correct. Often this step is omitted, which can lead to quite an embarrassing situation, especially when the mistakes are picked up *after* the plaque is installed. The Blue Plaque policy and procedures document has been prepared with grateful thanks to all involved and in particular Barry Budler of Upper Houghton. We welcome the cooperation in this work on the part of both the Lower and the Upper Houghton Residents Association. We see an important role for Residents Associations in championing blue plaques.

There are a number of Blue Plaques in the starting box, champing at the bit, ready to start the procedure which will lead to them being unveiled throughout the City. We look forward to adding worthy, significant plaques to the JHF stable during the course of the rest of 2020, and may it end swiftly.

### **EDUCATION REPORT (Portfolio Brenda Adam)**

We were extremely fortunate to receive two grants for our tours to Museum Africa last year, one from the City of Joburg and the other from the Jim Joel Fund. This hands-on tour is aimed at Grade 5's and covers part of their curriculum focused on Early Man in Southern Africa. It includes learning about the San, the Khoi and the African Farmer, discovering archaeology and how a dig works, hearing about the history of the Newtown Precinct and having fun finding Joburg Firsts.

This tour is aimed at schools with limited resources where children do not have the opportunity to go on bus tours, and affords them the opportunity to learn about the history and heritage of the city they live in. Eighteen tours were completed at the museum, with another 11 scheduled before June, but due to the lockdown these had to be put on hold for the foreseeable future.

Three local schools were sponsored by Barrow Construction for the Herbert Baker tour at Northwards and along Rockridge Road.

Another six 'Now and Then' tours were held at Holy Family College, these were paid for by the schools.

Our aim is to expose children to the importance of the heritage of their city in a fun and engaging way.

### **LOSS OF MICHAEL FLEMING AND HERBERT PRINS. (Flo Bird and Kathy Munro)**

Michael Fleming and Herbert Prins passed away in April. In paying tribute to Michael, Flo has written about Michael's work for JHF

For years Michael Fleming went through the building plan files at the City's building plan archives. He covered 27 Townships. He started with stand 1 and went through until he reached the end. Some files would be missing and some empty, but there are well over one thousand for Parkview. For Jeppestown, Bez Valley Yeoville, Berea, Bertrams, Judith's Paarlant and Lorentzville we drove the streets together and looked at the houses where Michael had marked the drawings as worthy of archiving, but also looking at other houses, photographing them and grading them. More recently in the last 15 months we learned to rely on Stacey to check the Google views for confirmation whether the buildings were still there and whether they had been changed beyond recognition or their heritage value could be confirmed. We started in Parkview but there were so many high walls that we became intensely frustrated and gave up. That was the last township Michael and I drove. We knew Richmond and of course there was nothing left in Sunnyside – just one little house.

Michael usually worked for 4.5 hours at a stretch. I don't know how he did it alone, working under very uncomfortable conditions. His contribution was monumental.

All of that information has been digitised and the basic information is available on our website – date, name of owner, name of architect and if there were records of major alterations. The northern suburbs were often less law abiding than the poorer areas when it came to having alterations approved.

Herbert Prins established and ran the Egoli Heritage Foundation but collaborated closely with JHF. Herbert was a member of the Board of Trustees of the JHF and for many years was a wise advisor. Herbert played a huge part in professionalising heritage studies and setting high standards in the research and writing of HIAs. His obituary appeared on the Heritage Portal.

### **TOUR LEADERS RECRUITMENT & TRAINING PORTFOLIO (Portfolio David Forrest)**

The Foundation ran a training course for aspiring Tour Leaders in 2019. This year's training was run by Luanne Grant and Dave Gurney and we thank Luanne and Dave . The course was advertised widely as a free course and was not restricted to JHF members. We then had to persuade the people who completed the course to join JHF and this ultimately resulted in some new members. Over 20 people signed up for the course and 14 completed it.

The course included both classroom lectures and practical onsite training. The syllabus included how to plan and develop tours, planning tour routes, commentary – the use of a microphone controlling and handling a tour group. Luanne commented that the group was one of the most pleasant she had trained – they were interested participants, all quick learners and all had lots of fun.

A tour leaders meeting took place to introduce the newly qualified tour leaders to the more experienced tour leaders and the Board of Management. Mr Ian Botha from NSA Global Security gave an excellent talk on security aimed at keeping tour groups safe during a tour.

A second meeting/ training session was planned with a talk from a well-known speaker, however had to be postponed due to the national lockdown.

### **REPORT ON the RESEARCH CENTRE (Flo Bird)**

While the lockdown has meant the closing of the Research Centre those who could work from home have done so. In fact it was essential to our sanity to have work to do. When Holy Family College opened again we were allowed to return to the Centre, but under stringent precautions for our older researchers and no visitors permitted. Thanks to Diana we could answer several queries which came in. Silas even photocopied extracts from Town Council Minutes for one student's master's thesis on tree planting in Johannesburg 1886-1914 which I was able to scan and send on. Sarah produced the information and many of the photographs for our first Virtual Tour which replaced the one we had planned The Nineteenth Century graves in Braamfontein Cemetery presented by Clare van Zwieten and myself. Mary completed the data sheets for City and Suburban.

GLH architects delivered 10 boxes of journals on architecture, green buildings and property development which have been sorted and articles retained where they apply to Johannesburg buildings. This has added considerably to our records on new buildings especially in Rosebank and Sandton. Adrienne Feldner has worked on a stick of 483 building plans scanned for Michael Fleming so that has also expanded our data. All of this is now being digitised.

Mary Boyeasse worked on the architectural drawings for Museum Africa and continued doing so during the lockdown. She has more than 300 drawings ready to be archived at Museum Africa. Adrienne Feldner catalogued 480 drawings Michael had identified as worthy of archiving and these had been scanned by GLH.

### **CONSERVATION (Flo Bird)**

There has been an extraordinary hiatus caused by the MEC who allowed the PHRAG to lapse at the end of last year and failed to advertise for nominations so we are still sitting without a PHRAG Council. This had nothing to do with Covid 19, effectively we have a statutory body which has gone AWOL. Unsurprisingly applicants and developers appeal to the JHF for decisions.

In 2019 JHF sponsored the restoration project at the Church of St John the Divine in Belgravia and that work was concluded with the fumigation of wood borer done by Colin Barrow on a pro bono basis. Thank you Colin. We also sponsored stained glass window repairs in two churches.

The only restoration project we are pursuing is the Hilson Road Bridge project, which is financed by the Walmart Award Brett won and involves shoring up the banks of the Orange Grove Spruit which have collapsed with each downpour and started undermining the little stone bridge – the first of its kind in Johannesburg.

### **WORK IN SOWETO LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELDS - PROMOTING HERITAGE IN PREVIOUSLY DISADVANTAGED AREAS (Flo Bird's focus)**

**Orlando East:** The 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Orlando High School which is the oldest high school in Soweto offered an opportunity for fostering pride in the school's heritage. Together with the James Mpanza Foundation we erected honours boards; listing the distinguished alumni and were amazed to find a Princess, an Anglican Archbishop, the past head of the Methodist church and a State President amongst eminent scholars and football giants. Nicknamed *The Rock* on account of the barren and rocky ground on which it stands, we also presented a blue plaque which is attached to the huge boulder which stands in the grounds. A plaque at the oldest public swimming pool in Soweto acknowledged the role of Father Trevor Huddleston in collecting funds and getting the pool built in Orlando East.

**Fietas.** We are looking for support from Freedom under the Law to take action against the City of Johannesburg on its scandalous failure to implement the instructions of the City Ombudsman as well as its abject failure to return property in Fietas to the families from whom it was taken during the Forced Removals. Twenty-six years into democracy 51 stands remain in the hands of the City when there is constant demand for the return of the land.

**Noordgesig and Riverlea.** We have three blue plaques in process and will do a virtual tour "unveiling" these. They cover Chris van Wyk the poet and storyteller of Riverlea, Vesta Smith struggle leader in Noordgesig and the Ebenezer Church in Noordgesig, the first church cum school running two sessions each day to meet the demand for education in the newly established township.

**Dube** is scheduled to have another 3 plaques (Duma Nokwe, Gibson Kente, and PQ Vundla) plus one for Orlando West for Ellen Kuzwayo and one for Robert Sobukwe in Mofolo.

## **DIGITISATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2020 (Portfolio Diana Steele)**

The scanning of the property files is very nearly complete and our digital files now contain over 52,000 documents. The index of the properties as well as our Heritage List has been updated on our website.

We have been incredibly fortunate to have received a digital file containing about 480 beautiful plans from Michael Fleming's work in extracting the old plans of mostly demolished buildings for archiving to Museum Africa. These are now being added to our digital files.

The Covid-19 virus has forced those of us who have the facilities to work from home but has meant no scanning has been done during the lockdown period until the end of May. From June we will be able to work on a skeleton staff basis resulting in fewer hours and slightly less progress at the Research Centre.

### **NATIONAL LOTTERY COVID 19 FUNDING (Initiative managed by Merle Ruff)**

In May this year, the National Lottery Commission (NLC) advertised that they were considering urgent funding for organisations that were struggling during COVID 19. We sent in an application on 15 May 2020, requesting R 200.000.00 which would enable digitisation and research centre staff to work from home (hardware, private network, connectivity). We were told to call mid-June, we had had no response by early July.

### **FRIENDS OF JOHANNESBURG CEMETERIES (Portfolio Sarah Welham)**

This group was started in 2018 and we have signed up around 50 members. We also have a Facebook page and a WhatsApp group for easy information sharing re events etc.

There have been several headstone cleaning mornings in Braamfontein cemetery which have been supported by our followers and members, with great enthusiasm. City Parks has been instrumental in helping us clear away unwanted vegetation, so we are working in partnership with them. In Brixton cemetery, we had a morning of lifting of fallen headstones which was prompted by the need to turn over the stone of one of Johannesburg and Kimberley's most colourful characters, namely Stafford Parker.

We have been in consultation with one of the Monumental Masons regarding the straightening of one of our most prominent headstones in Braamfontein. That was about to happen when Lockdown arrived, so we are anticipating this work to continue before the end of this year. All other plans we had e.g. a noticeboard outside the Braamfontein offices to help orientate visitors have been put on hold, as has a big Fundraiser we had planned for earlier this year.

A major project which was initiated by us was the digitisation of all burial records for all of Johannesburg's cemeteries by the Family Search (Church of Latter Day Saints) group. Some of these registers are in poor condition due to frequent handling and it is imperative that we save the information while we still can. This should start before the end of this year.

### **THE WILDS - (JHF in partnership with James Delaney and the Johannesburg City Parks Department – new Chair Andre Marais)**

The Wilds has had an excellent year with continued active citizenry and volunteering enabling the replanting of flowerbeds, planting trees, restocking of the nursery with

thousands of cuttings, stone walls to stop erosion, and restoration of pathways and the compost area. James Delaney raised R203 453, in the last financial year. A significant project was fencing in the eastern boundary on Munro Drive, and installing special commemorative gates for the centenary of Munro Drive.

One of the greenhouses (which houses succulents) was damaged by a fallen tree, but this resulted in JCPZ's insurance company employing a contractor to restore it. The restoration has been interrupted by the lockdown, but work has started up again. Flo is leading the project to restore the 2<sup>nd</sup> greenhouse which houses the cycad collection.

We are in the process of establishing a new JHF sub-committee for the Wilds. This will be chaired by Andre Marais and the first task will be to get a new MOU into place.

I thank everyone who has contributed to the writing and revision of this report.

**K A Munro, 15 July 2020**