



***“De Rust Heritage Now”  
April Newsletter # 4/2019***

***Southern Cape/Klein Karoo Heritage Forum Visit to De Rust***

***On Saturday 30 March members of the Southern Cape/Klein Karoo Heritage Forum visited De Rust. Visitors included members of the Simon van der Stel Foundation (Southern Cape), Heritage Oudtshoorn Erfenis, the Prince Albert Cultural Foundation and De Rust Heritage.***



***A total of 80 guests assembled on the lawn at Voelgesang for coffee and rusks at 09h30 and were treated to some stories of the early days in De Rust by Pieter Schoeman, the current owner of the original family farm De Rust, which has been in their care since 1899.***

*The guests split into two groups to facilitate communication during the tour and the first was escorted to view the **Old Mill at Voelgesang, Vredelus Homestead** and the **NG Kerk, Old Church Hall and Pastorie** – all of which are **Provincial Heritage sites**.*



*The second group started at the **NG Kerk** and proceeded through the Village, viewing a number of the well-preserved properties with interesting histories.*





They returned to **Voegesang for the Old Mill and Vredelus** sections of the tour. Later both groups drove to the **“Tante Maria” venue** at Doornkraal for lunch.



After lunch Swepie le Roux the owner of the family farm **Doornkraal** provided additional historical background to the farm. This included the role played by his grandfather and how the family moved from Bakenskraal to Middelploas and finally to Doornkraal, which was then undeveloped.



The meeting concluded with thanks to the organisers after which the **Simon van der Stel Foundation** members held their AGM, while many of the other guests viewed the old homestead from the garden – see original painting above.

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

At the lunch the new “**De Rust Heritage Walking Trail**” booklet was launched. This is linked to our website page [De Rust Historical Walk](http://www.derustheritage.org.za) on [www.derustheritage.org.za](http://www.derustheritage.org.za). The booklet was sponsored by **Klein Karoo International** and we would like to thank them for their support.

**The booklet is available from De Rust Heritage at a cost of R 35.00 each which will support the next run of the booklet. Over 25 of the booklets were sold at the lunch and over R1 000 was raised for the De Rust Animal Health Trust – many thanks to all who contributed to this initiative.**



## **Planning for “De Rust Heritage Festival 2020”**

Following the success of the “**Heritage Visit**” there are to be discussions regarding holding a “**De Rust Heritage Festival**” in 2020 which is the **120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the formation of the Village of De Rust in March 1900.

The Festival would officially start on the Saturday morning and would extend through to midday on the Sunday. The program would include the Heritage Walking Trail, visits to places in the district such as Vlakteplaas, which is much older than De Rust, as well as Meiringspoort and other heritage related sites and topics, including the walk in the Swartberg around De Rust. Further details on the Festival planning and a program will be available later in the year.

## **De Rust Heritage Update Meeting**

The **De Rust Heritage Conservation Association** will be holding a further update meeting on **Wednesday 10 April, 2019 at the Old Church Hall** in Le Roux Street. The main objective of the meeting is 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.

For those unable to attend the meeting the full details of the PowerPoint presentation are available on the website under **Meeting Information**

*including the notice of the meeting, dated 18 March, 2019 which was also posted in the Village.*

### **Oudtshoorn Municipal Tender for Heritage Survey**

*The closing date of the Oudtshoorn Municipal Tender for a **Heritage Survey** was Monday 25 March, 2019. To date no information has been made available to the two registered heritage organisations – **Heritage Oudtshoorn Erfenis** and **De Rust Heritage**, relating to the number of organisations tendering, nor their proposed costs.*

*It is anticipated that the above information will become available shortly, in terms of the previous commitment 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.*

*The Village of De Rust was originally identified as the source of the initial “**Pilot Study**” for Greater Oudtshoorn due to its smaller 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 – Historical Homes of South Africa**

***Professor Matilda Burden from the University of Stellenbosch** has agreed to run an approved heritage certificate program on the various architectural styles to be found in the Klein Karoo from **Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 April, 2019**. In this regard we will be using some of the material available on our website from the publication “**The New Amidst the Old: Building in the Klein Karoo**” compiled by Hans Franssen and published by the Simon van der Stel Foundation (Southern Cape) in 2006.*

*The program will be conducted in Oudtshoorn and all of the registered heritage bodies in the region have submitted the names of those wishing to attend. There has been an excellent response to this program and twenty candidates from all the heritage bodies in the **Southern Cape/Klein Karoo Region** have been selected to attend. This program was oversubscribed and it is good to see such an excellent response to an initiative of this type.*

### **Request for Further Interesting Historical Information on De Rust & District**

***De Rust Heritage** is asking people to share any interesting historical information they might have relating to both De Rust and the immediate*

*district. This will also assist in providing additional information (including photos) for the proposed **De Rust Heritage Festival 2020**.*

***We wish to collect related data and place it on our website in order to enhance the spread of available information. Crucial material 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 that of the original inhabitants the Khoi-San, as shown on our logo.***

**Alan Tonkin**

*01 April, 2019*