



Inaugural Meeting of Southern Cape/Klein Karoo Heritage Forum

Venue: O'Flinn's at Le Roux Dorps huis Museum, High Street, Oudtshoorn

Date & Time: Thursday 17 January, 2019 @ 10h30 for 11h00

Minutes

Present: Natie de Swardt – ***Simon van der Stel Foundation***
Penelope Meyer – ***Heritage Western Cape***
Hazel Jonker – ***Heritage Oudtshoorn Erfenis***
Johan Smit – ***Heritage Oudtshoorn Erfenis***
Ian Canning – ***Prince Albert Cultural Foundation***
Philda Benkenstein – ***George Heritage Trust***
Marnus Barnard – ***De Rust Heritage Conservation Association***
Alan Tonkin – ***De Rust Heritage Conservation Association***

Apologies: Maryth Meise – ***Simon van der Stel Foundation & Calitzdorp***
Judy Macquire – ***Prince Albert Cultural Foundation***
Jonathan Spence – ***Prince Albert Cultural Foundation***
Carina Wiggill – ***Heritage Mossel Bay***
Pieter Schoeman – ***De Rust Heritage Conservation Association***

Welcome by Dr Natie de Swardt, Council Member: Heritage Western Cape & Chair of the Simon van der Stel Foundation (Southern Cape): Natie de Swardt provided an introduction to the what heritage actually is as well as the role of heritage in a multi-cultural country such as South Africa. This particularly applies to the variety of our various language and cultural groupings as well as the values and pride of identity each cherish and possess.

He also provided an overview of how the various pieces of legislation from the **National Heritage Resources Act of 1999** through to provincial and local government and how heritage bodies in our communities had an important role and part to play.

Introduction: The need for the Southern Cape/Klein Karoo Heritage Forum

Alan Tonkin provided an overview of why the meeting had been arranged including the perceived need for a more decentralised structure for **Heritage Western Cape** as well as the need for better co-ordination between **regional heritage bodies in the Southern Cape/Klein Karoo including Prince Albert**.

The major benefits among others were seen as follows:

- **Better Communication** with HWC and other registered regional heritage bodies including possible use of De Rust Heritage and other websites.
- **Proposed HWC restructuring initiatives** including persuading **Heritage Western Cape** that a decentralised model would produce better efficiencies in both management time and effectiveness.
- **Better Co-ordination** of Heritage Efforts in the **Southern Cape/Klein Karoo Region** and with other heritage bodies nationally. This would be a direct benefit of having a Regional Heritage Forum.
- **Improved Communication with Local Municipalities** particularly on the better understanding of the **National Heritage Resources Act**.
- **Emphasis on Co-ordination of Heritage Education & Training Efforts** as offered by **Professor Matilda Burden and others** with emphasis on the **overlapping and interdependent roles** of local heritage bodies and municipalities as laid out in the **National Heritage Resources Act of 1999**

There was a broad discussion around the points raised and the type of role a “**regional heritage body**” should play. It was generally agreed that better local and regional co-ordination was seen as a direct benefit of this type of initiative.

It was also agreed that that the role of a regional heritage forum was not to create more bureaucracy. In addition, individual heritage bodies would retain their current status and independence at the local level. However, where websites existed Links would be created for easy access and communication.

Decisions: However, in the key areas of better communication, improved co-ordination and heritage training for both local government officials and members of registered heritage bodies there was definitely space for a structure of this type. This would facilitate a better understanding of the role of heritage on the ground in our communities while at the same time boosting tourism, job creation and sustainable communities as a positive aspect of this.

Joint meetings and visits on a rotational basis would also be arranged as required in order to facilitate this process. This approach could also be used in the future as a model by HWC for other regions in the province.

Following further discussions it was agreed that the formation of a **Regional Heritage Forum** the “**Southern Cape/Klein Karoo Heritage Forum**” would benefit all participating bodies with regular quarterly or at least bi-annual meetings as required in order to discuss issues of common interest.

The first regional visit for the Southern Cape/Klein Karoo Heritage Forum is scheduled for the village of De Rust on Saturday 6 April, 2019. Further details will follow shortly in terms of timing and cost.

It was also agreed that the CEO of Heritage Western Cape would be invited to attend at least one of the regular scheduled meetings of the Regional Heritage Forum each year in order to share information with members on an interactive basis as well as exploring new approaches to heritage management.

General: As the meeting discussion had covered a wide range of topics and views no additional issues were raised by delegates for discussion.

Closure: The meeting concluded promptly at 12h30

Alan Tonkin

Convenor: Southern Cape/Klein Karoo Heritage Forum

18 January, 2019

Note: These minutes are also available on www.derustheritage.org.za