

## HERITAGE WATCH!

### Riverfront Project/New Road

On the backburner has been a road to take heavy transport through central Malmesbury. The purpose of a route is beyond doubt – anyone travelling down Bokomo Road is aware of the volumes of trucks navigating through, causing obstruction.

But what is in question is the actual route. If you look at the present erf map of Malmesbury the path is clearly delineated.



The problem is THE ACTUAL ROUTE! It veers alongside the Diep River and straight through the area with the highest remaining density of old buildings in Malmesbury. At stake are the remnants, already seriously compromised, of the old town.

Swartland Heritage Foundation are of the opinion that another option should be sought. Simultaneously, a plan for the old area is envisioned. One has to be realistic – Malmesbury does not have a drawcard to bring visitors to the area – it is after all a working town.

But with growth in the Cape, and the West Coast in particular, something is needed for the future: new business, job creation: a vibey Riverfront area, encompassing the old, yet moving on. A complimentary project that will create a focus, a unique feature for a town of this size and development in the Cape. It needs broad vision and a courageous attitude . . . yet imagine the benefits.

The first step is canvassing; we need to believe there is public concern about this project – we'll need **your** support! We'll keep you informed.



## AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE FUND

A fund to help the States of sub-Saharan Africa improve the preservation of their cultural and natural heritage has been launched. The African World Heritage Fund will also help to boost the number of African sites on Unesco's World Heritage List.

Sub-Saharan Africa is severely under-represented on the list. Despite great cultural and natural diversity, only 65 of the 812 World Heritage sites are to be found in this region. They constitute 43% of the sites on the list of World Heritage in danger.

South Africa has donated R20m to help launch the fund, while India and Israel have also pledged contributions.

*whc.unesco.org*

## Swartland Survey

At a feedback meeting at Swartland Municipality recently, Graham Jacobs and his team reported that the identification of buildings and areas of sensitivity has begun.

This is a vital part of the programme as the Swartland region is seriously under threat from indiscriminate development; only when the municipality has a solid reference system in place can properties and areas of cultural importance be protected.

The survey will provide this database and once all buildings and sites are quantified and listed, will provide an ongoing reference for all future alterations and development.

## OUTINGS with Drakenstein Heritage

- August 9 Wednesday (Women's Day)  
Morning only. To the Agter Groenberg
- Aug 10-31 Annual series of four Winter lectures  
Each Thursday evening
- Sept 9 Saturday full day outing to Overberg  
In Rivieronderend district
- Sept 21-24 AGM of the national body,  
**Heritage South Africa**, and Symposium
- Oct 21 Saturday afternoon outing. Return to the  
Swartland. Details to be advised
- Nov 24 Friday evening. Drakenstein Heritage AGM  
Contact Cathy Raymond on 021-872 9252 for details.



registered with Heritage Western Cape no: HWC/RCB/03/05

PO Box 303, Malmesbury 7299

Tel/fax: 022-448 1660 • Cell: 083-540 6131

E-mail: [orchard@waccess.co.za](mailto:orchard@waccess.co.za)

SELECTED PROJECT 1

**Alphen House, Malmesbury**

One of the town's prized possessions has recently been renovated by Harold and Natalie Becker of Riebeeck Kasteel.

A surprising property, hidden as it is in the residential part of Malmesbury above Bokomo Road it exposes a time when the town was developing with a certain amount of affluence. Once you investigate this area, it becomes evident that there are some particularly valuable and unique structures from the Victorian to Art Deco periods.

The entrance foyer is especially attractive, with wonderful coloured glass panels, inset floor and most of all the painted murals on either side. Damaged over time by structural movement, they have now been restored by Louwena Brand of Riebeeck Kasteel.

High ceilings throughout are typical of the period as are the tiled fireplaces. It has a protective veranda alongside one elevation of the house.

Despite the high standard of restoration it must be noted that there was no consultation with Swartland Heritage Foundation, nor as far as we know, with Heritage Western Cape. Section 34 of The Heritage Act states that no person may alter or demolish any part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources agency.



*Details of the entrance floor and mural, and above. the house during the early stages of renovation*

The house was recently featured in the Swartlander and it is reckoned to be on the market for above R3m, indicating the value of properties in Malmesbury.

SELECTED PROJECT 2

**The Old Tiger Oats Buildings, Moorreesburg**

These poor old complex continues to decline, attacked by vandals, weather, and sold off in stages, permitting indiscriminate destruction of a fine example of Victoriana.

As far back as 1998 the National Monuments Council (now SAHRA) stated: *The NMC would certainly not be prepared to consider approving the demolition of the old Tiger Oats Buildings and would suggest that the potential for creative re-use and restoration/renovation of the complex be explored.*

When I first encountered the complex my instinctive reaction was to think. "Wow, in London, New York, Paris . . . these would be very desirable buildings, ripe for converting into residential or whatever . . ." When you consider the burgeoning film industry in the Cape – not that far from the Cape Town, convenient, spacious and invariably cheaper than city rates.

There must be a practical use for such buildings. Further described by the NMC: *In our opinion the complex is as significant as some of the (few) remaining industrial buildings in Cape Town, particularly the Old Castle Brewery in Woodstock and SA Breweries in Newlands.*

Does Moorreesburg deserve the destruction of these buildings? NO! We have requested that SAHRA take up the matter. If there is suspicion that these structures have been wilfully neglected then there is scope within the Heritage Act for substantial fines or sentences, as well as enforcement of reconstruction. I think the town deserves to see their reinstatement.



As an aside I had a phone call a while back from an old time resident of Moorreesburg who had lived there many, many years ago. He remembered Tiger Oats as a major employer in the town and the staff as essential contributors to the local rugby team.

**TWENTY CAPE HOUSES – A tribute to Gabriel Fagan**  
Published by Bree Street Publications

Recently published is a tribute to Gabriel Fagan, architect, and restorer of buildings such as Tuynhuys, Boschendal Estate and a Swartland feature, Ongegund, General Smuts' birthplace in Riebeeck West. This particular project involved relaying the clay floors and all the old windows were repaired and retained. The book is a sample of his contribution to architecture in the Cape over the past five decades.

**SELECTED PROJECT 3**

**The Old Sendingkerk, Malmesbury**

The proposed changes for this site have been ongoing for a number of years now.

The church and Dominee’s house play an integral part in the history of this town, having housed the coloured group before being forced out to other premises in Wesbank.

Initially purchased by Philip Gerber, it became clear that in order to maintain the church as an inter-denominational place of worship, the rest of the erf would have to be subdivided and sold off to provide capital.

When we initially consulted, we expressed our concern that the old Dominee’s house should be preserved, and any new buildings on the site should be sympathetic to the existing.

The church itself has undergone some essential maintenance, having the roof repaired and some of the external plaster restored. A new doorway was inserted, revealing the situation of an original window. The church, despite damage caused when it was a store for WPK, still retains some amazing windows, doors and other features.

The prospective new owners of the proposed subdivided area have consulted with us and expressed the view that they would like to renovate and make additions sympathetically.

Because of the nature of the complex we have insisted an zHeritage Impact Assessment (HIA) be done and we will pass final comment on production of plans.



*Top: street view before repairs to the main church building*

*Above: interior of the church illustrating the original situation of the doors shown on the left – these were moved at an earlier stage*

*Bottom: revealing the placing of a window during replastering*

*Left at top: the Sendingkerk in 1871*

*Left at bottom: the same aspect before present renovations. The structure to the left of the church was a school separated into two halves for boys and girls*



**PHILADELPHIA FARMS**

On Saturday 8 April 2006 the Drakenstein and Swartland Heritage Foundations linked up on the Slentpad under the watchful eye of the three white Eskom experimental power-generating windmills. From there we went in convoy to **KLIPHEUVEL**, owned and farmed by the Blanckenberg Family. This is an interesting werf with a much-changed homestead. Most likely an H or U shaped house originally, but the roof is now slate with a square pedimented gable bearing the date 1876. What appears to be the front door, together with its rather unusual lead window, is now on the side of the house opening onto a Victorian veranda. At the back is an original bo-en-onder door with a planted frame.

Behind the homestead are three old outbuildings partly modernised, in that the thatch is gone and the roofs have been lifted. At the turn of the 20th century the cattle and wheat farms in the area were thriving and this family wealth is responsible for the many changes to farmsteads.



The farm **DASVLEI** was granted to Adriaan de Waal in 1826 and has belonged to the Mostert family since 1833. The T-shaped homestead, with a front gable dated 1936, has been much altered over the years. The thatch is gone and a Victorian veranda has been added to the front. But the interior is little changed with flush door and window frames, large window panes one of which is inscribed with the date 1891.

There are two wall cupboards in what is now the passage and interesting pillars (possibly art deco) in the entrance/lounge/dining area. An old barn on the werf is possibly the oldest building on the farm.

**UITKYK** on the Botterberg Road has been in the Herholdt Family for several generations and was completely restored in 1998 with a Karoo-style flat roof (sealed with lime/seashells and whale fat), and thin framed casement windows opening inwards. The original date of 1787 has been transferred on to the front of the house although little remains of the original except a few beams, two wall cupboards, some single panelled doors and an 1850's screen door in the voorkamer. Our host had forgotten to tell his wife that we were coming, but despite her shock at finding 25 people standing on her doorstep at 10:30 in the morning she graciously allowed us to wander around her beautifully furnished and decorated home. The bell tower on the werf is original but no longer in use.

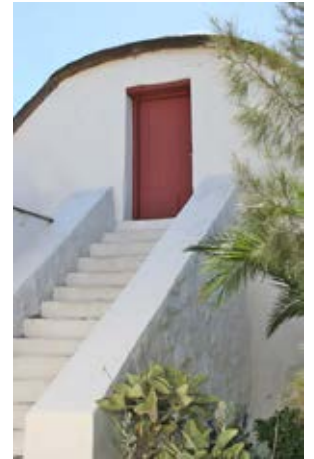


By then it was tea time and what a spread was laid on for us at the restored **Old Mill** in **PHILADELPHIA**. This early 20th century corrugated-iron structure has been innovatively restored by local artist Pieter van der Westhuizen incorporating a chapel, restaurant, and convention facility and gallery with the old mill workings forming the centre focal point. After stuffing ourselves with cookies and cakes we went for a walk in the delightful village of Philadelphia. Buildings of note there are the Blikhuisie, a cute pink corrugated-iron house with a fretwork veranda c1900, the post office, again much altered with two plain gables one dated 1904 and the other 1914, and an elegant corner house with doors opening from all rooms onto a wrought iron veranda. At the top of Main Street is Helena se Winkel. This is a twin gabled building with a chamfered corner entrance and a wrought-iron veranda c1890. Inside is the unmistakable smell of a platteland store - soap, boiled sweets, mieliemeel and parafin. But technology has caught up with the shop and some of the party bought their lotto tickets there simply for the fun of it.



**SWELLENGIFT** was a quitrent farm granted to Andries Stephanus Gorbrechts and his brother-in-law Michiel Adriaan de Kock in 1832 and the date on the domer gable 1823 indicates that the house was built before the quitrent grant was made. The name of the farm points to the inclusion in the quitrent of loan land given out during the time of Governor Swellengrebel (1739-1751). This is one of the few houses in the Swartland that is more or less intact. It was probably built as a long house and is now T-shaped with an extra wing half way down the tail. The homestead is still thatched and has four double casement windows with shutters on the front and heavy buttresses supporting the end walls.

Unfortunately we were unable to view the interior. But we did climb the koppie behind the house and were rewarded with wonderful views of Table Mountain, Simonsberg, Die Pieke, Paardeberg and Kasteelberg.



For information about Swartland Heritage, or a copy of one of the leaflets alongside (in English or Afrikaans) contact Chris Murphy:

[orchard@waccess.co.za](mailto:orchard@waccess.co.za)

Membership forms may be obtained from Sue Burton:

[suburton@intekom.co.za](mailto:suburton@intekom.co.za)

For only R40 (single) or R60 (couple) per annum you will be helping preserve our heritage in the Swartland!



## Challenges of Heritage in the Age of Hope

A seminar held at the Nelson Mandela Gateway 13 May 2006, organised by the Dept of Arts and Culture and the National Heritage Council.

Introduction and keynotes by:

Imam Allie Gierdien *Vice Chair Heritage Western Cape*

Hannetjie de Preez *Chief Director Cultural Affairs*

Ebrahim Rasool *Premier Western Cape*

Adv Mangcotywa *CEO National Heritage Council*

Beverley Crouts *Provincial Manager SAHRA*

The morning was set aside for workshops dealing with:

- community museums • state aided museums
- geographical names • archives, libraries and symbols
- Khoisan heritage • heritage resources • heritage training
- heritage legislation • slave heritage • living heritage

And in the afternoon these subjects were reported back:

### COMMUNITY / STATE MUSEUMS

- there are problems post 1994 of relevance of museum material to the current market
- challenges of dealing with traumatised societies needs to be addressed
- museums can aid the healing process.

### GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

- these are in fact heritage as they come from and affect history and there is a need to change derogatory names
- there is a need for the Dept of Arts and Culture to create a national register, and
- guidelines needed from NHC for changing and/or correcting names

### ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES

#### and HERALDRY

- as Africans, we tend not to register our symbols, so they are often hijacked by institutions, etc for their own use
- symbols could be added to archive web site with explanations – there is no mechanism for preserving records digitally
- remove Latin from symbols from heraldry – use African idioms, and include all communities

### KHOISAN HERITAGE

- 1st languages of Southern Africa (percentage of Afrikaans language contains Khoi and San references)
- Khoi and San need to be custodians of their own culture and they have very little land ownership (sites are being lost because of rampant development)
- roles of the Khoi and San must be taught in schools – too much history is locked up in archives – it is much easier to retrieve European history

### HERITAGE RESOURCES

- heritage is central to putting us back on track
- need for inventory, not only of experts, but at community level
- should be a vibrant, young subject for everyone (should not be studied as ancient relic, but as something vital for survival)

### HERITAGE TRAINING

- appreciation of arts and culture must start with the youth (new curriculum provides scope, but teachers are not motivated)
- teaching of preservation of own (family/cultural group) heritage must be encouraged
- fines for breaching Heritage Act no deterrent to breaking the law – strengthen Act to protect our heritage

### SLAVE HERITAGE

- the affects of slavery and colonialism still have to be addressed – we must forge a relationship between countries which drove slavery, and South Africa
- heritage is not only for schools, but family, spiritual, traditional – the history of slavery is not well known
- indigenous information must be transferred to the younger generation and languages protected

### LIVING HERITAGE

- definition: part of contemporary culture: oral, ritual, musical, language . . .
- education at home is less focused than at schools, therefore heritage studies need to be stressed in formal education – curriculum needs addressing
- ‘if and elderly person dies, it’s like a library burning down’ – African idiom for losing living heritage

#### *A key question:*

What is South African about South African culture?

#### *Key comments/observations:*

- culture is the glue of our society (– best described as our ‘soul’)
- there is conflict in market values on land where the market is demanding a different set of values (evidenced in the Western Cape where the intrinsic cultural/architectural landscape is fast being altered for developmental reasons)
- heritage is not the preserve of old white men in tweed jackets, smoking their pipes!
- capital investment in heritage is virtually non existent
- ‘remove colour – start being human – we must decolonise ourselves’ – *Basil Coetzee*
- ±2 000 declared heritage sites in the Western Province
- original castle of Van Riebeeck was on the site of a Khoi kraal
- 1658 was the first black/white battle on the Liesbeek River (near present day Valkenberg)
- young Khoi maidens were initiated at the confluence of the Liesbeek and Black Rivers
- 2010 is the 500th anniversary of the first battle of the Cape (perhaps use football world cup as vehicle for promotion)
- there is a need for a ‘Heritage Year’, perhaps 2008, to focus on the need to gather and document our cultures.

These are selected observations of the proceedings of the day and are my personal interpretations. I was particularly impressed to see such cross cultural representation, and across age groups. It is gratifying to see government departments being so proactive in an area often viewed as of having no major significance.