



GRASSHOPPER COUNTRY
*The Great Brak River
Museum News Letter*

2 Amy Searle Street
Great Brak River

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Phone 044-620-3338

Fax 044-620-3176

Email: gbrmuseum@
intekom.co.za

Contributions by Ina Stofberg
Editor Rene' de Kock

Issue 10 of 2007

Dear Friends

We are a bit late this month with your editor having taken a few days leave. September especially the latter end was a very busy month with much to celebrate which decided us to make this issue a commemorative one and show you some of the many photographs taken during the heritage festivities.

I must thank each and everyone on our small museum committee who all worked so hard to make Heritage Day such a success.



**Great Brak River
Passenger Rail Service
1907-2007**

Organised by Allen Duff of the George historical society and starting Monday the 17th, the Transnet museum commemorated the opening of the railway passenger service from Mossel Bay to George with a full dressed up replay and a steam engine trip drawn by the 111 year old locomotive. Several members of the Great Brak River museum in period costume were also invited to attend the event.



Amongst the many ladies colourfully dressed for the occasion were Taffy Sherling, first left, JoanAnn Robertson (retired member), Kay Schroeder (past chairlady of the Great Brak Museum) and friend.

The engine used was a 4-6-2 loco which was originally built by Neilson & Co. in Glasgow during 1896 and subsequently pulled



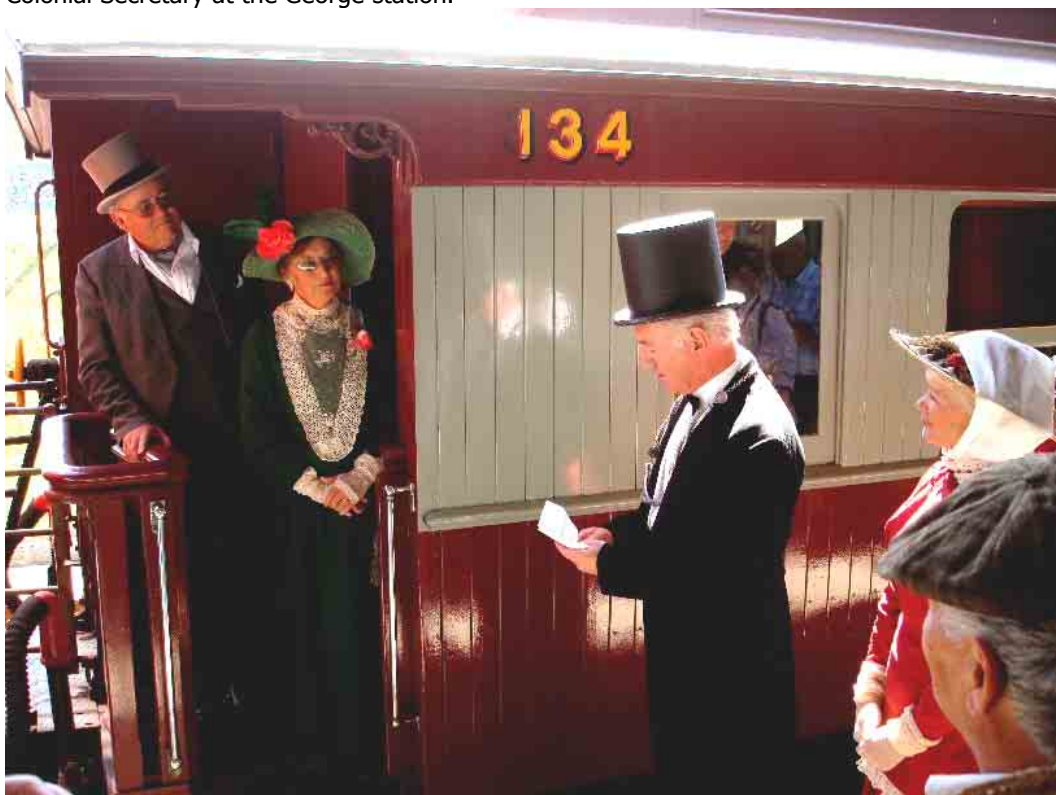
the first train during the opening of the Mossel Bay to George railway line in 1907. The engine has since been partially rebuilt and drew the ceremonial train on the re-enactment of the official opening and again during the following week at the Mossel Bay festivities when it pulled municipal and other dignitaries the short trip from Hartenbos to the Dias museum.



Two happy passengers Magriet Cillier and Ina Stofberg from the Great Brak River Museum and Information office.

Acting the part of Sir Peter Faure (Harry Wesson), the Cape Colony's Secretary, officially opened the railway to George 100 years ago, on Wednesday 25th September 1907.

The then mayor, Mr Borchers and his wife (Iain and Liza Campbell) on the right in top hat and tails welcomed the Colonial Secretary at the George station.





Wednesday the 19th, the museum was visited by a party of 80 school children from the Milkwood Primary school in Mossel Bay. The school party was divided in two for the Great Brak River Museum visit to enable every one to thoroughly view the exhibits.

Whilst waiting one group enjoyed a side visit to the largest known Pepper tree in South Africa which is to be found at Chris Spies's art

gallery. Chris managed to photograph the group whilst telling them stories about the fairies that inhabit the tree. Having thoroughly enjoyed their outing, the school has promised a return trip next year to check the tree's growth.

Monday the 24th, September

Heritage day at the Great Brak River Station.

Notwithstanding the gloomy weather predictions the day started off well with the Hartenbos Drawers holding their fifteen km road race starting which started from the 100 year old Great Brak River station to Glentana and back initially along Morrison Road. A 5 km fun run was also included. Despite a few hitches, the race produced some fine running. This race will now be featured annually on the SWD calendar.

Shortly after the race the fair with numerous stalls opened at 9.30 am. The Trans Karoo restaurant opened for breakfast and all day to provide snacks, light meals and a barbeque (It was also National Braai day in South Africa).



This is the first time a fair was held at the station grounds under the numerous trees and from various comments voiced by visitors; the site was considered an improvement to the village out span.

At 10.55 am Tootsie arrived with a companion loco and ten coaches. Ten coaches are far too heavy for a single loco and in the past a garret engine (a locomotive with an ancillary close coupled engine) was employed. The garret is unfortunately out of service necessitating the use of twin locos. These were needed for the return journey as the railway line rising out from Great Brak

River station has one of the steepest slopes in the Western Cape.

The passengers on the train ride from George to Great Brak River were entertained by the Great Brak River's "Boys Brigade Brass Band" and those passengers who purchased tickets from the museum were given a party pack consisting of fun items, sweets and biscuits and a cold drink.



Hand work from the recently formed Great Brak River CRAFTS WORKSHOP went on sale for the first time. This workshop has been created with funds received from the department of Arts and Crafts and provides employment and skills training in craft manufacture for the unemployed young residents of Great Brak River.

Seen here are Charite Abrahams, Elmien Erasmus and Cayvonnia Koert hawking their gift trays.

Some more good news, an art collector from Cape Town has purchased the painting "**Tree of Knowledge**" by Chris Spies and the Great Brak River museum funds has been increased by more than R 8000.00. We wish to again thank Chris for his very kind and useful contribution to our Museum funds.



Enjoying the tranquility and shade of the Trans Karoo resterant deck at the station, are museum committee member Robert Smith and his wife Brenda.

Whilst many visitors adjourned to the restaurant for lunch, families with children walked to the beach to enjoy swimming in the river mouth, playing on the vast sandy beach or surfing in the gentle sea waves.



This serene photograph of the railway line and station, with the Island in the background, was taken at a very quiet time whilst one of the chefs enjoyed a quiet relaxation with his dog.

Shortly thereafter the visitors streamed back to greet the train returning from the round trip to Mossel Bay and for those to board their coach and to return to George.

The evening was rounded off with a three course supper backed up by the resident pianist and with many of the patrons wearing traditional garb from 100 years ago a grand time was had by all. Shown below are most of the museum committee members enjoying their evening meal.



THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Hope's Hands on Crafts Workshop at the museum will be held on **Tuesday 16th October at 9.30 a.m.** The class will be doing "Iris folding Christmas Card". Contact Hope soonest at 044-620-5124 or 083-378-1232 for full details including costs. Don't forget to bring your kit box.

During November, their will not be a class but a special away visit.

12 Oktober 2007: Groot Brak Musiekgroep se maandelikse byeenkoms vind om 18:30 in Ellen van Rensburg Biblioteek in Groot Brakrivier plaas. Die Tema is Rossini se vergete "Maometto Secondo". Almal welkom. Bring asseblief eie verversings. Vir enige verdere navrae kontak vir Etienne by 0723072709

13 Oktober 2007. Kerkjol – 'n Basaar met 'n verskil. Groot Brakrivier vlooiarkterrein (oorkant Spar Groot Brakrivier) Aangebied deur VGK Friemersheim. Vir navrae kontak Willie Wentzel 044 8791275

13 Oktober 2007: Tuinroete: Botaniese Tuin Fynbos Fees. Plantverkoping : 'n beter-as-ooit verskeidenheid pragtige inheemse plante – moenie dit misloop nie. Kom vier die lente. – Caledonstr 49, somer naby die treinspoor, en kort by die Moriarty Omgewing Sentrum. Ry gerus in, daar is genoeg veilige parkering onder toesig.

19 & 20 Oktober 2007: Floramoss - Roos en Blommefees/ Rose and Flower Festival, Diaz Museum, Mosselbaai. Toegang R 6.00 vir volwassenes en R1.00 vir kinders. Vir enige navrae kontak die Koördineerder Armand Hattingh 044-6965878; 0738923732

Future Events

28 November 2007: Chinese aand – sonder rou vis. Vaaljapie in Klein Brakrivier. Die klem val op lekker eet en gaan baie informeel en prettig wees. Chinese kos met 'n Vaaljapie "twist". Gaste is welkom om volgens die Tema aan te trek. Slegs plek vir 16 persone. Kontak hulle by 044 6965878

Points to Ponder

- Many of life's circumstances are created by three basic choices: the disciplines you choose to keep, the people you choose to be with; and, the laws you choose to obey. - Charles Millhuff
- I am a nobody, and nobody is perfect; therefore, I am perfect.
- How come we choose from just a couple of people to run for president and hundreds for a beauty pageant?

Brain-Teaser



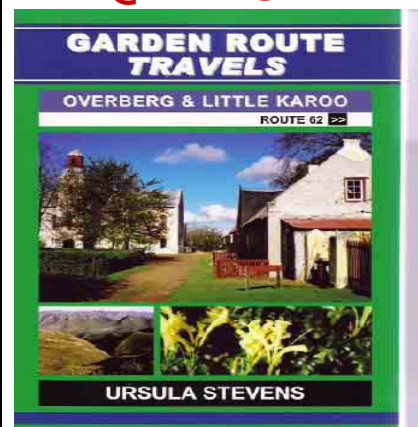
Can you make out what's written above?

****[See answer somewhere else in this newsletter.]

SA Tourism Snippets

- As of 1 August 2007, all foreigners arriving in SA, irrespective of their reason for visiting the country, will be required to fill in an arrival form and a departure form on leaving the country.
- Church Street in Tulbach has the largest collection of provincial heritage sites in one street in South Africa. It has thirty-two!
- The annual wildebeest and zebra migration in the Serengeti of Tanzania begins in November when the wildlife start to move away from the dry season towards the Maasai Mara in Kenya.

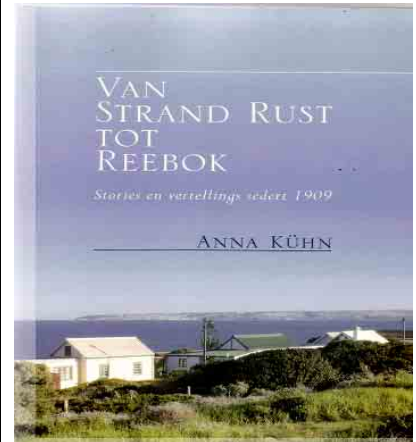
**FOR SALE AT THE MUSEUM
@ R145.**



S A - Did you know?

- The area of Porterville is said to be the only place in the world where the rare yellow disa is found
- Evidence shows that before the seas rose many thousands of years ago, the Keurboomstrand cave near Pletenberg bay was 80 km inland.
- There is a Rawsonville in the USA that is now a ghost town.
- The graves of the last leaders of the Hessequa Khoi communities, Klaas and Markus Sabata can be found in Bontebokskloof near Swellendam.

SLEGS R120 Te Koop by Museum



ERFENISDAG 24 SEPTEMBER 2007

STOOMTREIN PADWEDLOOP

Die Grootbrak Museum sê baie dankie aan die volgende persone wat vroeg opgestaan het Maandagoggend om lafenis vir die drawwers te bied.

**PAT MCGREGOR
INA STOFBERG
LINDA KIRSCHNER
PETA-LYN WARD ABLE
MARULIN GOODGER**



Die twee sonnige gesiggies het *Ilita Lodge* verteenwoordig. Hulle het met die louere weggeloo vir die oorspronklikste waterdienspunt en het ons oorweldig met hulle warm entoesiasme.

Baie dankie!!

**** In black you can read the word GOOD, in white the word EVIL. This visualizes the concept that good cannot exist without evil or that good is the absence of evil.



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