

# InClarens

EN OMGEWING / AND SURROUNDS

R15-00

October 2011 Oktober  
[www.inclarens.co.za](http://www.inclarens.co.za)

**Eastern Free State  
Tourist Magazine  
Oos-Vrystaatse  
Toeristetydskrif**



art by Karla van den Bergh

*Nr. 10*

*Karla van den Bergh*



  
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**The Festival** kicks off on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 12h00  
through to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 15h00.

**ART:** Some artists demonstrating on the square:  
Ruth Walters and Sam Tshabalala .....

In-house gallery demos at some galleries  
Richard Rennie, Tina de Beer, Clarens Galleries, Essensual Art ...

## **Wine Tastings in all participating galleries and on the square.**

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Demonstrations and tastings of Beef Stroganoff,  
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Chocolate Brownies, Chai Tea, Pasta and Vegetarian dish .... to name but a few.

### **MUSIC:**

Some of the local talent includes:  
Vanessa & Andre, Violet Somedays, Denzl & Hensie, Marchelle, Basotho Ladies, Fire Fighter Choir  
rounding off with the Gospel Program on Sunday morning .....

### **WELLNESS:**

Be pampered with hand and foot massages,  
neck and shoulder massages and early morning **yoga** sessions.

### **For the CHILDREN:**

Historical stage performance, Bushman painting-style demo  
story telling by Neil & Veronika,  
Craig Babcock performance group – stilt walking, face painting, fire breathing, juggling,  
balloon sculptors .....

**Exhibitions of Adventure activities**  
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# **CLARENS VISUAL ARTS FESTIVAL**

**7, 8 & 9TH OCTOBER 2011**

Enter the sms competition and stand a chance to win two night's stay, midweek in the heart of Clarens. Sms Poplar to 078 800 6121

Letters to the Editor  
Briewe  
editor@inclarens.co.za



InClarens invites you to tell us how you the reader experienced the Eastern Free State. The last letter we receive before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, will win a gift voucher to the value of R150,00.

InClarens nooi lesers uit om aan ons te skryf en te vertel hoe julle die Oos-Vrystaat, Clarens en InClarens ervaar en wat julle graag meer van sal wil lees en doen. Die laaste brief wat ons voor die 15e van die maand, wen 'n geskenkbewys ter waarde van R150,00.

Winning letter this month comes from Anne Cronje, of Secunda.

Dear Amanda,

I have to congratulate you with the wonderful magazine. We spent one night in Clarens but will return soon. We too want to pop across the border and we want to drift over the Clarens hills in a hot air balloon as well.

There is just a tiny problem. We tried to make reservations for the one night we were to spend in Clarens and most of the guest houses refused us because of that. If guest houses are not prepared to book one night only, they should mention that on their ads or on line booking systems. It would save the customer a lot of time and money. Thanks to Dan and his team who complied to our one night's stay. When next we're in Clarens which will be soon, we'll join him at his marvellous pub for longer.

Clarens is a very special place and you should try and keep that specialness intact.

Anne Cronjé

#### PHOTO COMPETITION ON FACEBOOK

A marvellous prize of a weekend for two at the Lake Clarens Guest House is at stake and you can load up your pictures of any Eastern Free State restaurant or eating institution onto the InClarens Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/inClarens](http://www.facebook.com/inClarens) Photo competition.

Closing date for the competition is 30 November 2011.

Photos can be mailed to InClarens, P. O. Box 201, Clarens or emailed to [editor@inclarens.co.za](mailto:editor@inclarens.co.za)

# Words of mass distraction

by Ric

## Nature dances for joy

Being here in the Maluti Mountains, one soon becomes aware of the immense beauty. The vastness of the mountains, the undulating hills have no boundary – no divide.

It is Spring and much is happening. A lot of doing is taking place without any human 'doer' doing a thing. The trees, the birds, all the insects and small plants are in such jubilation. The Great One is at play.

Unlike nature, man's world is full of doers. All preoccupied with their own doing in their own movement in space from here to there. Both physically and psychologically.

We live on a planet that is always here, always present. It can never be absent, or there. Thank goodness or there would be no life!

Can we as humans live in the here and now? And what would be the quality of the thinking in that state of presence? Would we still do so much harm to this beautiful home of ours we call Earth?

The sun is now high in the sky. The mountains have taken on a hazy blue hue. Everything is so relaxed in its being.

Can a mind that is relaxed and quiet bring into expression that which is immeasurable? In other words, can the Great One dance and play through us, as it does through nature?

The little beetle that has just landed on this page, with yellow dots and many legs is smiling at me through its beauty: "yes, of course you can!" And then it flies away, leaving behind it a feeling of: "you don't have to do anything – just be receptive."

Being available for the Dancer and living that dance brings us so much closer to our place in nature.

Consider sacred geometry. It is a term used for geometry that cannot be measured. It is a movement from here to here. It has no beginning or end. It is expansion rather than measurement. It is studied in science as part of physics and taken spiritually as that which is complete or whole. The Orientals know it as the movement of chi (energy). Language will always be limited in translating it. It translates itself.

So, if language is the bridge from here to there, could living art not be the bridge from here to here?

InClarens is..

Wil jy nou meer. Clarens hou kunstefees. Een met musikante en prentjies, kos en allerhande interessante geure en mense. Ons hou van kuns; ons hou ook van mense. Kom geniet ons wonderlike omgewing en kom eet vanaf 7 tot 9 Oktober en geniet of koop sommer ook 'n kunswerkie of dans saam in die maanlig. Hulle waarsku dat die fees teen volgende jaar nog nie vergete sal wees nie.

The curtain was raised on the World Cup on 9 September with a spectacular opening ceremony which included Maori dancers and the haka was performed with urgency. The race for the Webb Ellis trophy ends on Sunday 23 October. But long before that showdown, the people of Clarens will be doing a little dance of their own. The sandstone cliffs will echo the music of local and national performers and wherever you look, you will see a picture.

Join us on the joyous trip to art, music and gastronomy and after that, feel Clarens's great World Cup atmosphere at one of the many restaurants for a champagne breakfast to celebrate (keep your fingers crossed) the return of the golden cup to our shores with the Du Plessis brothers leading the triumphant contingent.

Front Cover Picture:

Art by Karla van den Bergh  
edited by Vanessa Coetzee

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# In Clarens ingeweef

*As jy 'n opsomming van Clarens se geskiedenis wil hê, het 'n mens net twee name nodig. Minnie di Mezza en Gertie de Jager. Die De Jager-susters van die komberswinkel, "The Blanket Shop" het Clarens in hulle murg, vertel Amanda van Blerk met fotos deur Lorraine Aucamp.*

Die winkel is die oudste besigheid in die dorp en die eienaars woon hul lewe lank al hier. Minnie se kinders, Carlo en Sarah, het ook hier grootgeword en Carlo se kinders geniet vandag die ruimte, rustigheid en natuurskoon wat Clarens so besonders maak.

Tydens ons besoek aan die komberswinkel gesels die twee heerlik terwyl hulle klante help en voorraad uitpak. Gemoedelikheid en tevredenheid straal uit hul menswees. Hulle ken die dorp en al die ou geskiedenis. Hulle het mos hier grootgeword van net na die uitspanning voor hul winkel se deur gemaak is. Daar waar die ossewaens op pad Bethlehem toe uitgespan het om die diere blaaskans te gee.



Oom Carel de Jager het die besigheid in 1946 begin maar was reeds voor dit al 'n alombekende besigheidsman. Selfs voordat hy die besigheid begin het, was hy 'n bekende gesig op die plase in die distrik. Hy het met donkiekar sy rondgaande besigheid bedryf en eers later 'n trok aangeskaf om die nodige te doen. In al die geskrifte wat ek my hande op kon lê, noem hulle oom Carel as besigheidsbrein van formaat.

Sy dogters het by hom geleer. Minnie vertel hoe ingewikkeld die destydse merkstelsel was. Die kosprys in kode, 'n datum en verkoopsprys moes op alle items verskyn en deeglik geboekstaaf word. Hoe die goed met die spoorwegbus aangekarwei moes word. Sy vertel van die verteenwoordigers wat daar aangedoen

het -tot tien op 'n dag. Vandag is dit anders en makliker en het hulle in pas van die moderne tegnologie gebly. Maar die winkel is en sal altyd 'n hoogtepunt wees omdat dit uit oud en nuut saamgestel is tot 'n uniekheid wat min hulle kan nadoen.

Hulle het albei hul skoolloopbaan in Clarens begin en later in Bethlehem klaargemaak. Hulle vriende was die mense wat Clarens help vorm het en Minnie noem hulle: Van Zyl, Van Eeden, Liddell, Mousley, Roos en Steyn. Die name van die strate van Clarens, dit is ons mense.

Toeriste van Johannesburg kom die winkeltjie binne en hul word hartlik ingenooi. Duidelik is dit nie hulle eerste besoek nie en ken hulle die pad om die outydse toonbanke in na die hart van die komberskoninkryk. Komberse is in bonte verskeidenheid opgestapel tot teen die dak, maar onnodige voorraad is daar nie. Die susters ken hulle komberse en weet wat hul klante wil hê. Of dit nou toeriste van Gauteng; plaaslike klandisie of komberskopers uit Lesotho is. Hier kry jy jou kombers wat knus om jou skouers of knieë sal pas.

Sonder hierdie twee komberskenners kan Clarens nie eers probeer om Fees te hou nie. Nadat al die galerye deurgestap is en nadat al die restaurante besoek is, en nadat al die mense musiek gemaak het, as jy nie in die komberswinkel was nie, het jy nie die fees bygewoon nie.



# The art festival's feminine side

## Tina de Beer

Being an artist in Clarens is not easy. It takes hard work and masterly skill to fulfil the urge to paint the beauty that surrounds not only Clarens, but the Eastern Free State. Tina de Beer is a master of her trade. She loves painting the Eastern Free State countryside and these paintings never hang in the gallery for long.

Tina paints mostly in oils. Her childhood mentor N.H. Brettell taught her how to interpret what she sees and introduced her to the principals and the materials of art. She enjoys painting with oils because of the wetness of its texture and she believes she can do anything with it. But versatility allows her to also paint in watercolours and mixed media.

Painting is the primary force in her daily life and Tina learned and practised art for a long time before she considered her work to be art. Today, art to Tina de Beer is the culmination of her life experiences. She gratefully celebrates her talent and refuses to mass produce her work.

Commissions are undertaken, within her own style and she is well known for the extreme effort she puts in to satisfy her clients' requirements, be it buck from the Kruger National Park or a wheat land in the Free State.

Tina de Beer Gallery  
Cell 083 228 9258  
Main Street  
Clarens

## Marchelle the singing violinist

Clarens is hosting a visual Arts Festival from 7 to 9 October and there sure will be many paintings, as well as pottery and other crafts produced by as many different artists on exhibition. Marchelle, however, is a picture all of her own, as well as an accomplished violinist who will be performing at the Festival. There certainly will be other musicians too such as Rooibaardt and the choirs of Kgubetswana with the team of the Working on Fire at the forefront, but Marchelle is Clarens's own singing violinist.

Marchelle performed at the media launch of the Festival and she rendered many well-known songs from yesteryear and some more recent hits. She played works of Mozart and switched to jazz with the same ease of voice and cord. Her sweet voice carried to the corners of the building and visitors to the launch at Addy Hoyle Gallery, tapped and swayed to the clear sounds. What could have been just another Wednesday afternoon was transformed into a contagiously joyous and festive occasion that lasted much longer than the afternoon. Visitors to the launch enjoyed wine and snacks, together with paintings and speeches -but most of all and beyond the small talk and laughter, there was Marchelle's voice entertaining in the background.







## Artists of Kgubetswana

Sam Tshabalala and Morgan are born and raised in Kgubetswana, Clarens. They went to school here and know the area like the back of their hands. They know where to go to find the best pictures to put to canvas. Both are enchanted with the beauty of their home town and succeed in communicating this adoration to the viewer.

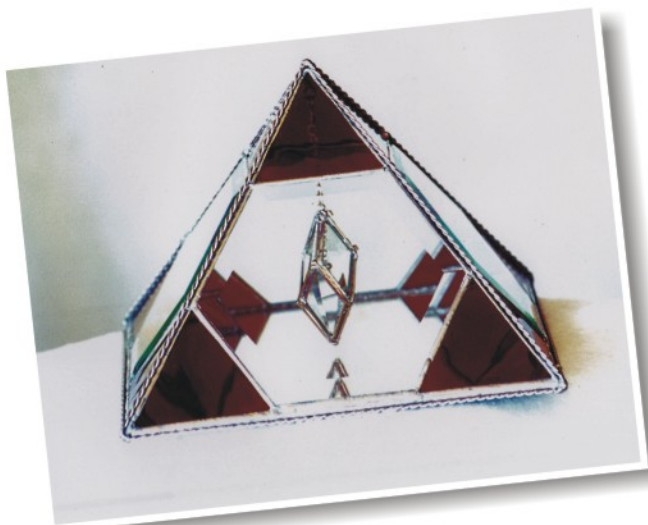
Compared to other artists painting in and around Clarens, they are inexperienced but use their energetic youth to their advantage. They often visit cosy little corners in the countryside to paint their realistic pictures. They don't shoot photos and paint at home; no, they will take their easels and start early on a trek up the mountain side or out of town to be able to finish the framework before the day fades. Afterwards they will then easily change a scene to fit in with their idea of what visitors to Clarens will want to see.

Morgan is very proud of his painting which could have been dubbed the "Clarens Welcome".

"These walls are imaginary and so is the inscription 'Welcome to Clarens'," he smiled. "But these sandstone cliffs are near the Maluti Lodge. They are real enough."

Sam is not as forthcoming with information as to where he found the scenes that lead to his classical portrayal of the countryside. It is everywhere and not in one place only, was all he was prepared to divulge. He uses mainly soft pastels to portray the marvellous landscapes that make Clarens the special place it is.

These two young artists are exhibiting at the Clarens Art and Info Centre just off the square.



## Ric the Sculptor

He lives art and handles nature with care. He sources wood in the veld and polishes it to its natural lustre. Glass and silver take on a new life in his hands. Walking the fields, Ric finds pieces of wood and combines them with glass to create magical and mysterious objects of art. And he refuses to be called an artist. He is just an instrument for art to happen and the joy of a finished staff or glass pyramid with its triangles reflecting the pureness of light is reward enough.

Ric will be exhibiting his unique art at the Clarens Visual Arts Festival.



## Karla van den Bergh

Karla van den Bergh has many virtues, one of which is painting very realistic, brightly coloured and exceedingly beautiful paintings of various subjects. Her paintings consist of clearly defined lines, realistic colours and abbreviated and punctuated life on canvass. From those clear lines and dramatic reds one can only assume that the artist is an extrovert. She would have to be to courageously, almost arrogantly, apply bombastic red paint contrasted with black lines in which a story is so clearly told.



*Karla van den Bergh at The Gallery on the Square.*

And yet, with feminine touch, she also combines beige and rosy pink flowers on an enormous canvas and lets the viewer in on a little secret that is a secret no longer, only to swing round and happily paint a simple scene that defines the emotion of a life lived unstintingly.

In evaluating Karla van den Bergh's work, there is a clear line drawn by life itself. Her painted figures let you believe that they are real and in a perpetual beginning of an end. No mystique here, only life's little dramas and indulgences of real life paintings. But she looks at her collection and smilingly calls it art on a positive note. Positive yes - ironic too - but mainly beautiful art.

Louise Barton's road came full circle when she settled in Clarens some two months ago. As a maternal descendant of the well-known Commandant Fick after whom Ficksburg was named, life took her on many highways and byways, to foreign shores that became her homeland, but she returned to her roots. Maybe unintentionally, but to her roots all the same.

She excels in watercolours but Louise enjoys other mediums too; she loves nature and focuses on the beauty that surrounds her, whether here in the Eastern Free State or elsewhere. A certain scene will grab her and lead her to the easel. She will mix and adjust to her satisfaction, and the end result is an eye pleaser and outstanding work.

Growing up in Zimbabwe and being friends with renowned Richard Rennie, who taught her the inside-outs of painting and artistry, it was almost a natural conclusion that she would be settling in Clarens. After attending many of Richard Rennie's workshops at the guest farm Sunnyside and at Richard's studio a block away from her new little gallery next to the Protea Hotel, she is now proudly Clarens.

In Clarens wishes her a long and successful stay in Clarens.

*Louise is available at her gallery throughout the festival and she can be contacted on 082 337 0264*

## Louise Barton



## Helen Claassen

Helen Claassen het sowat twee dekades gelede as jong en onbekende kunstenaar, 'n plekkie in Clarens kom oopskop. Bruce Weyer het toe 'n paar galerye in die dorp gehad en daar was nie eers 'n handvol kunstenaars in Clarens nie.

Alhoewel sy nie in Clarens bly nie, is sy 'n dogter van die Oos-Vrystaat en gade van 'n boer uit die distrik, Petrus Steyn. Sy bring die meeste naweke deur in haar galery in die Meander, Clarens.

Haar werk is alom bekend en sommer baie besoekers aan Clarens neem een van haar pittige realistiese skilderye huis toe. Haar werk versier huise en kantoorruimtes regoor Suid-Afrika. Haar joviale geaardheid word duidelik in haar werk weerspieël en wanneer jy haar hoor lag en gesels, sien jy daardie gemaklike skoon lyne van haar werk duidelik voor jou geestesoog.

Sy is ma en vrou en haar man ondersteun haar in alles wat sy doen. Helen se seun werk ook nou saam aan die maak van rame en esels. Gemaklike familie om mee te gesels en kuier. Gemaklike skilderye wat ewe gemaklik in die voorhuis of slaapkamer kan hang.



Helen Claassen Gallery,  
Meander Centre, Clarens.  
Tel: 058 256 1494  
Cell: 076 574 0343

## Johan Marais

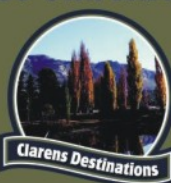
Johan Marais hails from Pretoria and has been exhibiting at the Maluti Lodge for the past two years. His recent works portray an abundance of brightly coloured flowers on canvas adorning the walls of the Lodge's lounge. Johan painted, among others, three panels of floral joy for the Festival and combined the new, merry trend with his more realistic landscapes of the Eastern Free State.

As bonus this artist reduced the prices of these masterpieces and they are now within reach of more people.

Fresh and new for the Festival, Johan's works are on show at the Maluti Lodge

Johan Marais 083 275 1732  
Maluti Lodge 084 412 3259





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# En toe wip Andries hom

*Ná skool het Andries alias Caveman op een van die familieplase gaan boer, soos sy ander broers. Hy sou seker 'n normale lewe gelei het as dit nie vir die gebeure van Oktober 1929 was nie. Dit het sy lewe verander en op die ou end van hom 'n internasionale sportman en 'n baie bekende persoonlikheid gemaak, skryf Leon Strachan in die tweede deel oor Caveman Spies.*

Vroeg een oggend daardie lente, het sy buurman op Diepsloot by hom aangekom en hom die ding vertel. \* Andries was blykbaar so ontsteld dat hy 'n tas gepak en van die plaas af weggestap het; sonder om sy voordeur te sluit, of reëlings te tref vir die versorging van sy vee of hantering van die oeste op die land.

Binne 'n jaar hierna het hy in meer lande professioneel geveg as wat die gemiddelde bokser in 'n hele loopbaan doen. En hy sou eers weer tien jaar later terug wees op die plaas.

Vroeg in 1930 het hy 'n paar kleinerige gevegte in Johannesburg en in Durban gehad. Hy het glo sy opponente voor die voet uitgeslaan – Andries het begin slaan as die klok lui en nie opgehou totdat die teenstaander op die vloer bly lê nie. Aan verdediging het hy hom blykbaar nie veel gesteur nie, en dis daardie woeste, opwindende manier van veg wat hom sy bynaam besorg het. Na 'n geveg by die Seemans-instituut in Durban, waar hy gereeld geveg het, het 'n Engelse predikant, Miles Cadman, hom Caveman gedoop. 'n Naam wat hom lewenslank sou bybly en hom veral goed in sy stoeiloopbaan te pas sou kom.

Sy gebrek aan verdediging in die kryt sou hom egter later in sy lewe baie duur te staan kom want hy het te veel houe geabsorbeer. As Andries net 'n uitgeslape bestuurder kon gehad het wat sy loopbaan opgebou het voordat hy teen beter opponente losgelaat is, kon hy werklik groot roem behaal het.

Maar met Andries se onafhanklikheid en hardkoppigheid was daar nie sulke moontlikhede nie. Hy was 'n ekstrovert en adrenalien-junkie en het hom nie veel aan ander se opinies gesteur nie. Geld was ook nie vir hom belangrik nie, wat hom in 'n sekere sin roekeloos en onverantwoordelik gemaak het.

So is hy dan sonder 'n promotor, afrigter of bestuurder Engeland toe. Hy het 'n tussendeekaartjie op 'n skip gekoop en is met net £10 in sy sak en 'n ekstra stel kakieklere weg. Vir

sy legendariese krag was Andries eintlik verbasend klein. Hy was ongeveer 5' 10" lank, maar het sterk voorarms en groot hande gehad, en vingers wat soos trosse piesangs aan sy hande gehang het. In gewone klere het hy glad nie buitengewoon gelyk nie want hy was geensins uitermate gespierd nie. Sy verbloemde krag het hy meesal tot sy voordeel gebruik.

In sy eerste geveg in Engeland het hy sy opponent met net een woeste hou uitgeslaan. Omdat hy nie groot of vreeslik gespierd was nie, is hy gewoonlik onderskat, voordat sy reputasie hom vooruit geloop het. Hy kon dus nog 'n hele klompie opponente uitknikker voordat voornemende vegters opgeraak het. Toe is hy oor die Engelse Kanaal vasteland toe.

In Stockholm was daar 'n relletjie wat baie tipies aan hom was. Die taal was 'n bietjie van 'n probleem. 'n Skeidsregter het die geveg teen Anders Anderson na die derde ronde probeer stop oor Anderson op sy voete uit was. Spies kon nie verstaan wat aangaan nie, want die man staan dan nog. Maar toe die skeidsregter aan hom pluk om sy boodskap deur te kry, vererg Caveman hom. Toe slaan hy sommer dié ook uit. Van die toeskouers en beampptes takel hom toe, maar hulle het ook vir Spies onderskat. Hy het glo by die hotel aangekom net in sy boksbroek en bokshandskoene.

*“Sonder die Andries Spies-legendes sou die Oos-Vrystaat ongetwyfeld veel armer gewees het. En as Andries se buurman nie daardie noodlottige oggend so onverwags op Diepsloot aangekom het nie, sou hy miskien net 'n baie interessante boer gebly het. Na koffie het die buurman glo ongemaklik op 'n riempiestoel rondgeskuif en toe vir Andries die nuus gegee dat sy (Andries se) verloofde stilletjies met 'n vriend van hom getroud is en die hasepad gevat het. Die twee was glo te bang vir die gevolge as die sterke derduiwel van die verhouding sou te hore kom.”*

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## PHOTO COMPETITION

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Send photos of any restaurant in the Eastern Free State to [editor@inclarens.co.za](mailto:editor@inclarens.co.za)



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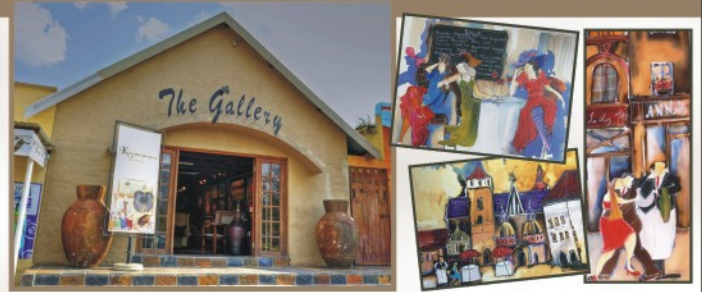
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# They set sail in the mountains

*Roger Webster is a South African historian and sought-after speaker who has addressed a variety of audiences. He has won many awards and no one can doubt his ability to relate a story. After many fruitless attempts to contact Mr Webster, InClarens decided to publish this wonderful story that allegedly played out in QwaQwa in the Eastern Free State. It was first published by Sunday Times in September 2009.*

*Pictures were taken on site at the coordinates provided by the author.*



## The Homeward Bound

*Roger Webster looks at the settlers who didn't want to stay*

With the end of the Zulu war in 1880, plenty of immigrants from all over the globe started coming to what was then Natal - including a group of Norwegians lured to South Africa by glowing reports from the master of a Norwegian mission ship.

Until then, according to the Norwegian Settlers Association, Norwegians had been settling in large numbers in America, but in July 1883 a group arrived at the Marburg Mission Station, on the hills outside present-day Port Shepstone.

Unfortunately, there was a terrible depression during the 1880s and Natal was severely hit, to such an extent that even the newly established local shipping service between Port Shepstone and Port Natal had been curtailed and many immigrants were being forced out of their new homes to seek opportunities further afield.

Three such unfortunates were the Norwegians Inguald Nilsen, his brother Bernhard and one Zefanius Oslen. The seamen, who had all the skills necessary to repair ships, started to

wander up the coast, finding odd jobs wherever they could.

Their luck hadn't changed by the time they reached Durban, so the trio decided to turn inland towards the newly settled and developed farms in the Drakensberg area, which were in great need of skilled workers.

The trio eventually reached the mountainous Witsieshoek area (now Phuthaditjhaba) of the Orange Free State Republic.

There, in this most beautiful part of our country, they all found jobs.

Just imagine the journey: Marburg, Durban, Witsieshoek ... over 400km all on foot!

Initially, the Norwegians enjoyed the work and the climate, but their homesickness soon began to grow.

They were all skilled in ship-building and, as they were seafarers by trade, the three eventually decided to build a ship and sail home.



But they didn't head back to the coast to start the work: like Robinson Crusoe, they built the ship where they were living at the time, designing a 4¾ ton vessel 6m long and just over 2m wide.

Whenever they had spare time, the three logged local timber, cutting and drying it, slowly accumulating all the necessary material and equipment and then starting on the carpentry work.

The ship took over two years to complete and they christened her "The Homeward Bound". In January 1886, she was ready to start her long, downhill trip to Durban.

Imagine the scene in the mountains!

The Nilsen brothers and Oslen lashed "The Homeward Bound" to a long, wheel-based commissariat wagon - pulled by a full span of oxen - and said their farewells to the local farmers, who had all come to see this amazing event. Never had anybody even dreamt of such a feat, let alone witnessed it.

Two months later, at the end of February 1886, the wagon bearing "The Homeward Bound" arrived in Durban. The townsfolk were astonished: this was the first seaworthy vessel ever to come out of the Free State. When they heard that it was going to set sail for Norway, they were dumbfounded. After many parties and much pomp and ceremony, on May 2 1886 "The Homeward Bound" bade farewell to the thousands gathered on the Durban quayside, and sailed off towards Cape Town.

The local papers were full of the story, and the news spread nationally and then internationally: "The Homeward Bound" and her crew had become celebrities.

Her passage was watched with intense interest and curiosity by people all over the world. Her every move was



charted and watched, as all passing ships had instructions to report on her progress.

The voyage was extremely hazardous for, being a small craft, "The Homeward Bound" had to hug the shoreline most of the time. When bad weather threatened, she would anchor in a suitable bay along the coast to wait out the storm. Spotting her became a favourite pastime along the South African coast and, wherever she docked, the townsfolk would treat her sailors as heroes, and refuse to accept payment for food or supplies.

Then the long haul started: Cape Town to England. The world held its breath.

On March 20 1887, a full 10 months after setting sail from Durban, "The Homeward Bound" arrived safely in the English Channel.

To the salutes of harbour tugs, the tumultuous, blaring welcome of every ship's foghorn, and a full military parade with band playing, the tiny craft was escorted into Dover harbour. The crowd lining the pier went mad with excitement as the world smiled and sighed in relief.



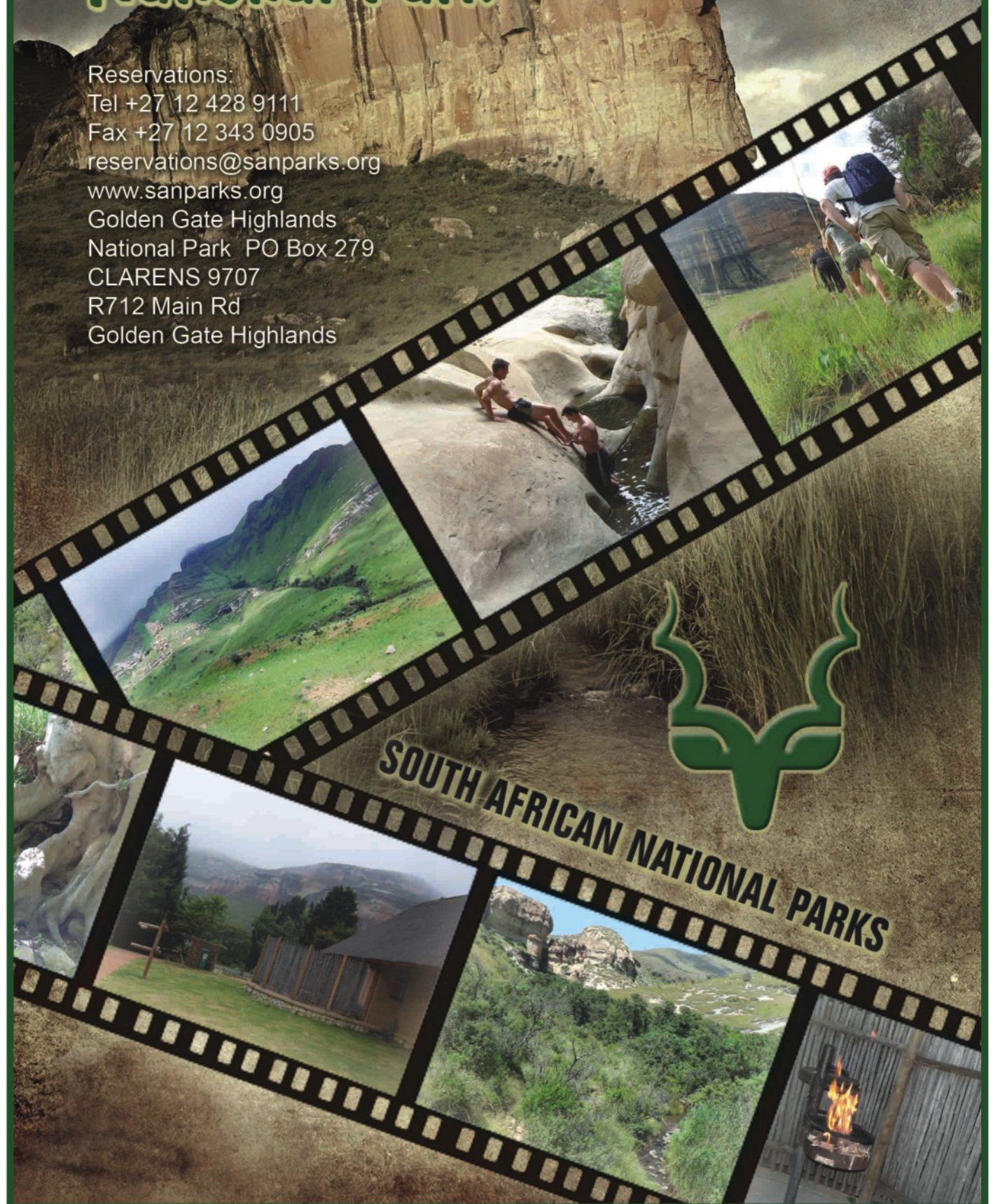
The men were the toast of London. They were entertained by royalty and Queen Victoria even bought the tiny craft and put it on display at Crystal Palace.

The sale of the "Homeward Bound", plus a generous amount paid to the men for public talks and appearances, ensured that Oslen and the Nilsen brothers enjoyed first-class travel back home to their beloved Norway - where they were feted as heroes.

And so, three brave new settlers to South Africa, from faraway Witsieshoek in a little corner of our beloved country, slipped from the stage of international fame, never to be heard of again.

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# Ready in an emergency

*Paballo's nursing care @ Clarens is not only ready in an emergency but also rendering nursing care to the Clarens community in a non-denominational, non-political and non-racial environment. They work hand in hand with the local clinic, doctors and specialists in Clarens, Bethlehem and other centres, writes Dawn Wainright.*



How many small country holiday destinations can offer you and your family the peace of mind of a professional nursing service should it be required? No one likes to think of getting sick while travelling, but Paballo's Nursing Care @ Clarens is here to help. Henriette and Antoinette are both registered professional nursing sisters with 60 years of experience between them and both reside in Clarens. So if a child or a member of your group should get sick, fall, or sustain any injury, our nurses are on hand and on call.

Paballo's Nursing Care @ Clarens was registered as a trust in April 2008, and is managed by a board of five trustees. It is also a registered non-profit organisation (NPO) and a public benefit organisation (PBO), which means that donors can obtain tax benefits for their financial support.

Our nurses are often called out to assist the many travellers and tourists who visit the village and surrounding areas. They also have a large patient base of permanent residents in the community. A comprehensive stock of first aid and medical equipment and supplies is held for the nurses to be able to provide their patients with the necessary assistance.

Henriette and Antoinette's services are also used at large events, and they have experience in providing the necessary support for various types of functions.

Our nurses are also involved with voluntary outreach programmes, such as the training in basic first aid and CPR with our Clarens Village Conservancy Field Rangers. They are always on call in case of veld fires (which frequently occur in this area); ready with help for burns and to supply oxygen in cases of smoke inhalation. They have also helped with emergency care for people involved in vehicle accidents that have happened in this area.

We are able to carry on this very vital and necessary nursing service by charging reasonable rates for medical assistance and by fundraising and donations.

## *Contact details:*

*Henriette Hohne 082 327 1035*

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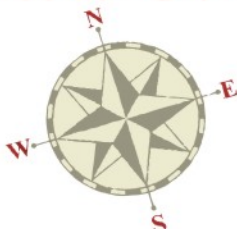
● **Ashriver Outfall**

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# Clarens



● **De Lusthof Gasteplaas**

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# Be where it's all happening

*Poplar Place is one of those self-catering accommodation units that the cliché 'one of the best kept secrets' refer to. Situated in the heart of Clarens and inconspicuously tucked away behind the Johan Smith Gallery, it is as private as your own home, yet near enough the business hub to explore Clarens on foot.*

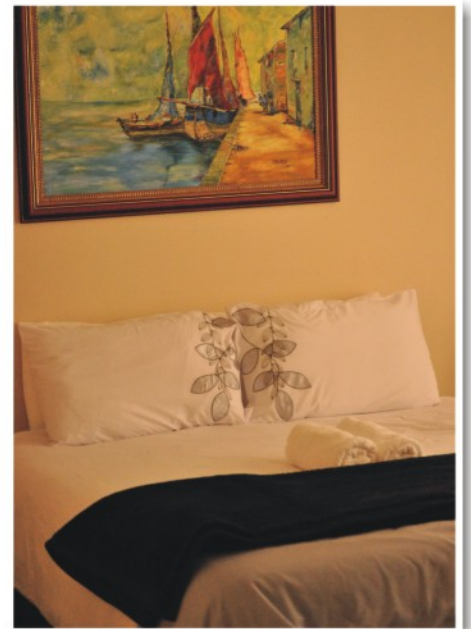


Poplar Place is a fully equipped, spacious, three-bedroom home that has been converted into a holiday retreat. This home from home will ensure that your stay in the picturesque village of Clarens holds only fond memories.

It is just a step away from the Artist's Café where good meals are served and the Purple Onion deli is just right for that special snack at tea time. Around the corner you will find everything you'd expect to find in Clarens. One of the oldest galleries is within a stone's throw of the front door.

Poplar Place comfortably sleeps six - one double and four single beds and there is alternative budget accommodation available which sleeps four. And the best news is that you may book for one night only, but you will want to stay longer and if you do, there are packages available for your convenience. No fuss no frills. Here you can enjoy a sunrise second to none where Mount Horeb reflects in the windows of this very homely house in the heart of the Jewel.

**Book your place in Clarens's heart at Poplar Place by contacting Karen or James on 058 256 1404 or email to [artistcafe@bhm.dorea.co.za](mailto:artistcafe@bhm.dorea.co.za) [www.clarenswindmillcentre.co.za](http://www.clarenswindmillcentre.co.za)**



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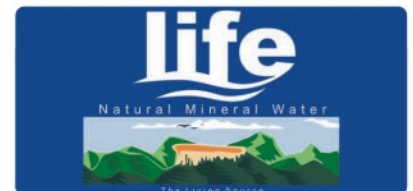


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# All the way from Clarens

When the newspaper article from the University of California Berkley publication The Bear Facts crossed my desk, I blinked when I read the heading: 'CCMH Golden Paw of the Quarter, Marion van Eeden!'

Van Eeden is not a common name to come across in the USA and I read the article with growing admiration for a young rural girl who excelled and made her mark in the faraway state of California.

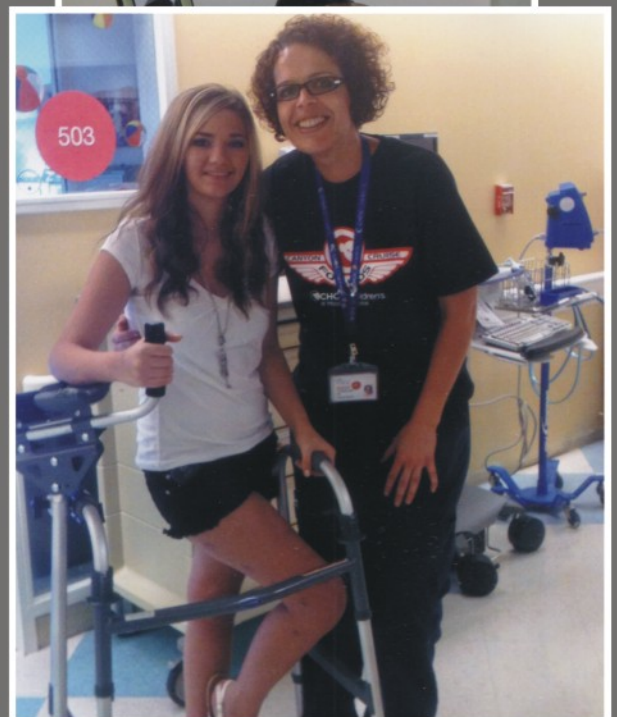
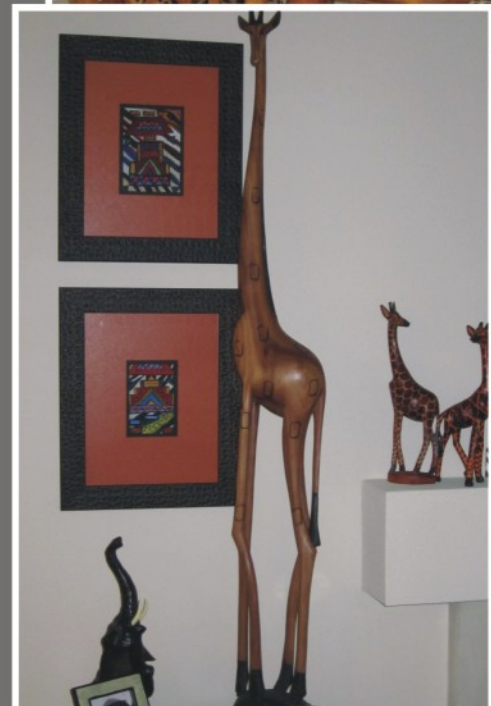
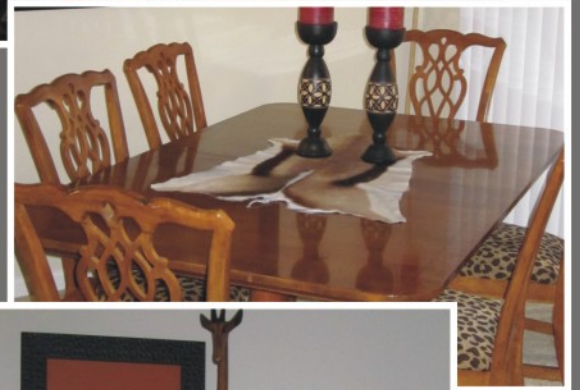
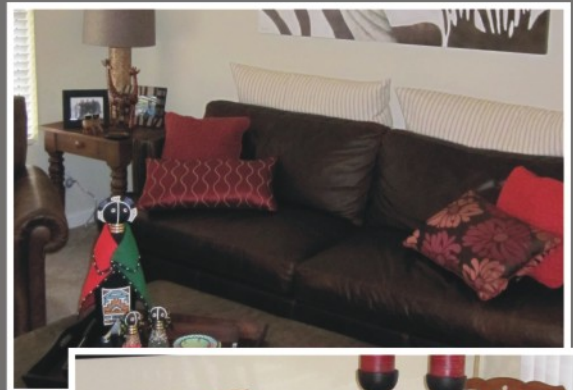
'Choc Children at Mission Hospital's newest Golden Paw of the Quarter, Marion van Eeden, a clinical nurse in the Paediatrics unit, travelled a long way to be a nurse at CCMH. Originally a nurse in South Africa, she became interested in being a paediatric nurse in the US.'

The article continues with how Marion finally became part of the team at this Californian hospital and concludes: 'Without a doubt, the staff and the patients at CCMH are lucky to have her on their team.' The last sentence of the article is really heart-warming. 'She also speaks two languages from her native country – Afrikaans and Sotho.'

Yes, you've guessed right, Marion, or as she is locally known, Marli, is that tall dark-haired young lady who used to play soccer with other kids in the dusty village streets. Or went for a swim in the Kloof. Her ancestors ruled Clarens and who will ever forget her grandmother, the nimble Tant Teg? Her grandfather was the first herbalist in town and they are both buried in the Clarens cemetery. Her roots go back to the Clarens before it was called the Jewel of the Eastern Free State.

Today Marli is a role model for all staff and before she received the Golden Paw for excellence, she was nominated for several times. She has been noted as an exemplary nurse and is often assigned to the most challenging patients. Her confidence, skill and professionalism have been noted to be growing and she received 39 Kudos (forerunner of the Golden Paw award) since 2007.

But Marli never forgot her native country. She decorated her apartment using an African theme and affectionately refers to it as her little piece of Clarens Africa in California. She also tried her hand at painting with astonishingly good results. But first and foremost she is a South African born and raised, nursing in California with a good sense of African art. In Clarens celebrates with her, her achievements in a far country and looks forward to welcoming her home on a well-deserved time of rest and reunion with her family.



# Matoet het saam met Clarens grootgeword

*Matoet se storie moet vertel word, skryf Marina van Zyl van Clarens. Matoet verjaar eersdaags en sal dan 90 jaar oud wees. Saam het sy en Clarens hulle kinderskoene aan die voet van die berg ontgroe.*

*Photos by Vanessa Coetzee*

Matoet het nooit getrou nie, maar haar moeder, Roos, tot met haar dood op 103 versorg in die huis wat meester Fanie vir haar in Kgubetswan laat bou het. Sy het as twintigjarige by die pastorie van ds. Otto begin werk en ná hulle vertrek in 1946 by destydse skoolhoof mnr. Stoffel de Witt, in die kliphuis aan die einde van Hoofstraat ingeval en 61 jaar daar bly werk. Selfs nadat die De Witts in 1950 weg is, het sy sonder om 'n tree te verpas, die nuwe Van Zyl-gesin aanvaar en begin versorg.

Matoet het die huishouding waargeneem, kos gekook, konfyt gekook, vrugte ingelê en gedroog, koek gebak en blomme bewerk. Niks het vir haar hande verkeerd gestaan nie. Sy is besonder lief vir blomme en menige steggies en plantjies is met Clarens-inwoners uitgeruil.

Die Van Zyl-kinders Louise, Jacobus en Jean was baie lief vir haar, alhoewel sy hulle met 'n ysterhand regeer en getugtig het. Matoet was drie jaar deel van die familie toe die jongste gebore is. Natuurlik was hy haar oogappel en witbroodjie. Sy het hom bederf met 'n bottel melk net soos hy daarvan gehou het tot hy skool toe is. Maar sy het ook "gesplit" op die kinders se stoutighede, wat dan op 'n ordentlike loesing vanaf Meester uitgeloop het. Dan was Matoet minder gewild.

Met die dood van Meester van Zyl in 1988, het Matoet by Louie van Zyl ingetrek. "Om na die nonna te kyk," het sy



gesê.

Die twee het 'n besondere verhouding gehad en saam na die sepies op die televisie gesit en kyk maar ook saam Bybel gelees en gebid. Kleur het geen verskil gemaak nie en al Louie se vriendinne het dit so aanvaar. Matoet was deel van die Van Zyls. Wanneer die kinders kom kuier, is daar gereeld oor en weer geskinder.

Matoet sê Nonna maak haar klaar en ma Louie het weer klagtes oor Matoet gehad. Net soos twee susters dit sou doen.

Louie van Zyl is tien jaar ná haar man oorlede en Matoet was ontroosbaar. Die vriendin wat sy so lank versorg het, was skielik nie meer daar nie. Die kinders wat sy help grootmaak het, het nie een meer in Clarens gewoon nie en wat sou nou van haar word?

Maar sy het verniet gevrees. Matoet se eie suster is genooi om by haar in te trek sodat hulle die huis kon versorg wat nou vakansiehuis vir

kinders en kleinkinders sou word. Bykomende hulp is in diens geneem en Matoet het hulle onder haar duim gehou. Van die dorp het sy alles geweet en gereeld verslag gedoen oor almal se doen en late.

In Oktober 2008 sien Matoet die terugkeer van haar oogappel Jean, toe hy en sy vrou Marina die huis in Hoofstraat betrek het. Haar vreugde ken geen perke nie toe sy toegelaat word om aan te bly in haar huis agter die huis. Die nuwe geslag gaan op in Matoet en telkens wanneer hulle kom kuier, kry sy haar spesiale geskenkie. Net soos sy hulle pa bederf het, so bederf hulle haar nou in haar later jare.

Sy is verknog aan die televisie en getroue Bok ondersteuner en 7e Laan kyker, haar gesondheid is goed en sy verneem nog gereeld na die welstand van die ou Clarens-inwoners. Groete word hier gestuur nie aan Mannetjies Roux nie maar aan maruti en nooi Le Roux en nonnas Minnie en Gerty by die komberswinkel.

*InClarens* wens Matoet 'n geseënde nuwe lewensjaar toe op 10 Oktober.



**Mathoto Anna Mokoena**  
**Gebore 10/10/1921**





# Frontier competition winner



The winner of the coupon competition presented by the Frontier Inn and Casino in the August edition of InClarens, is Mike Hauptfleisch. In the picture he receives the voucher for a weekend stay for two at the Casino.

*Congratulations!*

## Hangin' in there!

*Come on Clarens, join in and help colourize the town.*

In addition to producing fresh organic vegetables and herbs, Mark and Helen Boucher of Glen Lyon Farm have diversified into providing a comprehensive landscaping service known as Real Earth. A recent development is to supply the most exquisite, colourful and versatile hanging baskets. Bella baskets are reusable weather resistant, require no liner and have side window panels, enabling planting to cover the whole basket, suitable for flowering plants or even culinary herbs. A maintenance or replacement service ensures a beautiful display throughout the seasons. These baskets will provide gardeners with hours of pleasure and imagine just how colourful the streets of Clarens would be if every business showed off its basket with colourful joy at the Clarens Festival.

*For any enquiries contact Helen on 076 574 03433.*



# For the love of animals... and of food

When you pick up a puppy from the warmth of its mother and you bury your face in its soft pelt or look into its startled eyes and feel its heart beat rapidly in your hand and with soft strokes over its head you try to calm its fear for the unknown, you know there are other puppies and animals that are not as fortunate as this one settling in your lap. If you have never felt these tender emotions towards any animal, you need not read any further. But most of us at some point experienced the softness of a young animal and the protective feeling it evoked.

In many instances in the townships there simply isn't the means to properly care for a family let alone a bitch with 10-15 pups or a mule that has to carry a bag of meal into the mountains.

Dr Kathrine Barker veterinary practitioner in Fouriesburg and Clarens, saw many neglected animals across the Eastern Free State and an independent, non-governmental veterinary welfare organisation (trust) was formed in February 2011. This stemmed from the sterilisation programme she established in 2004. The Cluny trust, with Heather Pieterse as liaison, serves the needs of animals owned by impoverished residents.

On 17 September, Cook for Cluny was held on Clarens square to raise funds. It was a festive occasion and went along with much laughter and serious cooking. Winners and losers were irrelevant, although the winning team received the Cluny Animal Trust floating trophy which will be kept at Kathrin Barker's veterinary surgery in Clarens.

The cooks competed and judging was taken care of by Mandy Prior and speaker of Dihlabeng Angie Noosi. Roy Jankielsohn opened proceedings and cooking started in all earnest.

Clarens restaurants and individuals were well represented by Walter Siviter and Ric Fry (Grouse and Claret); Simon Kerr (Phat Chef); Duncan (278 on Main); and a team from the Protea Hotel. A team from a local estate agency lead by Gordon Jefferys joined, and so did Anne-mari (Yoga instructor) and Gert de Lange with a vegetarian potjie; Katherine Barker and Malcolm Woolmore; Johann Lehman and Les Thake; and Bernie and Eve Platte with Judith Frost. In the end it was the Eish Team that took top honours.

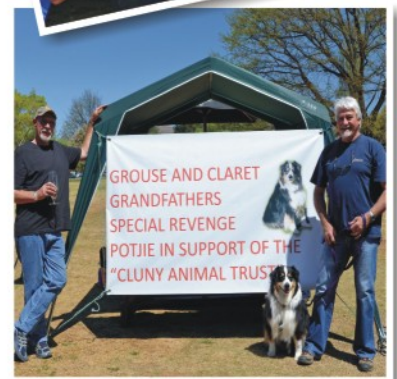
Bernie and Eve Platte with Judith Frost. In the end it was the Eish Team that took top honours.

There were venison, Cape Malay curry, seafood, lamb curry, beef shank and oxtail, German, pork, Eland curry Impala, Blesbok cumin with dried cranberries. Morocco was represented by the vegetarian potjie of Yoga instructor Anne-mari and the winning combination came from the Great Trek team: lamb shank with samp and sugarbeans.

R5390 was raised and a happy crowd enjoyed the fruit of the day's work.

Further donations can be made to: Cluny Trust, Standard Bank account number 035 278 846, Bethlehem branch (code) 055 033. Also be on the lookout for the Cluny collection tins. Your small change can make a big difference.

**Banking Details: Cluny Trust, Standard Bank  
account number 035 278 846, Bethlehem branch (code) 055 033.**



Photos by Kieta Wyer

# Noughts and crosses

A few years ago Anél Lehman needed hands to help out at the Golf and Trout Villas which were booked to capacity. She sent word with one of her staff members that there would be job opportunities for a few persons but when about 50 jobseekers turned up the next day, she knew straightaway what the real need in Clarens was.

She discussed with her husband this state of joblessness in Clarens and the very next week her plan gained momentum. Sewing machines were acquired. Anél taught the women of Kgubetswana how to sew and they started making quilts. Crossword puzzle patterns and no intricate designs -like chequered chess boards. Quilt after quilt rolled from under the sewing machine needles. Since they started, they have never been able to keep up with the demand.

“If I can get hold of more second-hand sewing machines, I can do more,” says Anél, “I cannot buy new sewing machines to teach the unskilled; I need sturdy second-hand ones that can last another five or six years. As soon as they are skilled, I can give them the more sophisticated machines.”

Because the designs of these quilts at Clarens Interiors are not as intricate as those of American origin and because they are constructed by Africans, the seamstresses like to refer to them as African designed quilts. The combination of texture and colour play a larger role here than small and detailed patterns

resulting in a much more modern version of bedding quilts.

These African quilts are on display at Clarens Interiors, Anél's shop on the square and that is where browsing visitors and locals can see and buy handmade, self-designed quilts.

“When visiting the shop, they see the finished product and they can consider the price and budget, there and then. No hidden extras between estimation lines or added costs of an interior designer.

With the simple and plain design they can tie together an entire colour scheme of any bedroom in one quilt, each square representing the colour combinations of the bedroom.

Down filling is on the cards too at Clarens Interiors and lightweight easily cleanable fabric is used to cover cushions and pillows in almost any size and shape. You order those, they do not stock and while you browse the shop, the ladies will sew it all together and you leave with a cushion, napkin or even table cloth to your satisfaction.

Biggie Best fabrics and designs is a trusted brand name in South Africa and has decorated many a South African home for many years. Various custom-made covers are also available at Clarens Interiors and on display for the duration of the Clarens Visual Arts Festival. Certainly an art to behold and something to feast your eyes upon.



Clarens Interiors  
320 Market Street, Clarens  
058 256 1391



# Little ones have big travel plans

A discovery journey by Da Gama, Livingstone, Van Riebeeck and Columbus to new and exciting and sometimes scary places is what is on the cards in Clarens Primary's school concert – the first in many years.

Principal Annatjie Coetzee says the children are ecstatic with excitement about their lively show that promises to bring members of the audience to their feet to dance. Her main objective was to encourage all the learners to participate and have fun.

"We also want to raise much needed funds for the school. The children have been practising hard and I guarantee the show will be good," says Annatjie. She called upon everybody who holds the children of Clarens dear to attend.

There will be two evening performances at the Martie Lotz Hall. The performance on 25 October will be especially for the parents, but family and friends will all be welcome. The show on 26 October is for all the locals. The concert starts at 18:30 and tickets at R25 per person are available at the school or can be bought at the door on the night. Should you be unable to attend, a donation will be much appreciated.

For information, please call 058 256 1331.

Standard Bank Bethlehem,

Account Name: Clarens Primary School,

Account Number: 040748294.

## Tickets are available!

**CLARENS PRIMARY PRESENTS:**

# What a wonderful world!!!!



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