
In Clarens

EN OMGEWING / AND SURROUNDS

R15-00

December 2011 Desember
January 2012 Januarie
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Eastern Free State
Tourist Magazine
Oos-Vrystaatse
Toeristetydskrif



A Blessed Festive Season
Geseënde Feesseisoen

Nr. 12



Christmas Feasts

- x 24th Christmas Eve Dinner
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- x 25th Christmas Lunch
Buffet 12:30
- x 25th Christmas Dinner
Buffet 13:30
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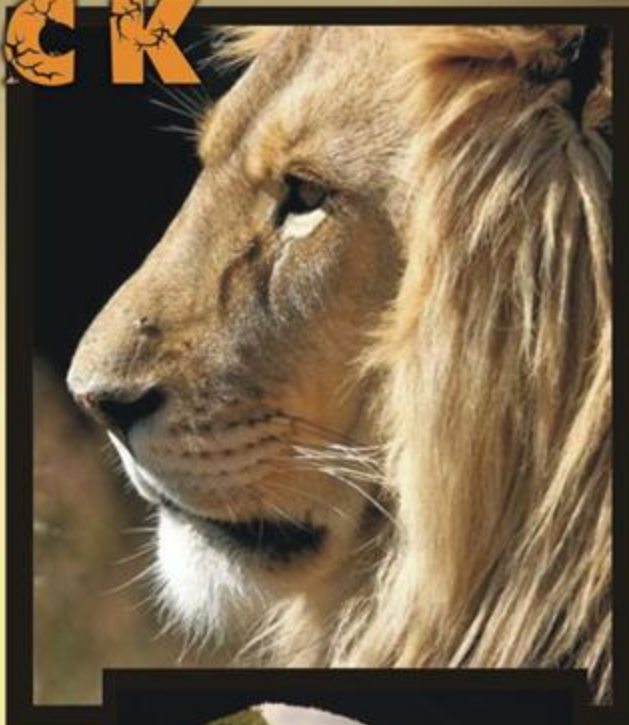


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Letters to the Editor
Briewe
editor@inclarens.co.za

InClarens invites you to tell us how you the reader experienced the Eastern Free State. The last letter we receive before the 15th 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.

We received these mails.

I want to congratulate you on your first year of publishing. A resounding success and we do wish you many more years of printing.

Arthur Leonard, Craighall Park.

Amanda,

Baie geluk met julle eerste verjaardag. Doen so voort.

Deon van Zyl, intekenaar van Dainfern

Baie mooi tydskrif waarop Clarens trots kan wees.

Mia van Aswegen, Broadacres, Johannesburg.

Al 'n jaar lank wat ons die nuus uit Clarens kry. Dankie daarvoor.

Sonia Human, Worcester (intekenaar)

Baie geluk InClarens, ek is nou al vir 6 maande ingeteken en baie dankbaar daarvoor. Ek maak seker ek kry my tydskrif elke maand.

Charlotte Naudé, Wonderboom, Pretoria, (Intekenaar)

InClarens,

A mighty effort you got going here. I recently came across it on the Internet. Sure wish I could read everything.

Frank Duval, Newfoundland.

Thanks everyone for the kind wishes.
Baie dankie aan almal vir julle volgehoue ondersteuning.

In Februarie 2012 maak ons weer so.

Words of mass distraction

by Ric

Words without language, language without words

It had rained the previous day. The much needed moisture was very quickly consumed by a dry and thirsty land.

The trees and shrubs and grasses all seem to be standing taller and prouder. The birds seem to be all the more vibrant and active. There appears to be a deep sense of appreciation by all. Even amongst all this activity there is a stillness on the land that cannot be spoken about. Words are not enough to penetrate into that stillness; that sincere peace that nature abides in. We have the words, but not the language.

As powerful as words may be, they are always only going to be pointers that point towards that which they describe. They can never be the described.

The word is not the thing. So to communicate with nature (where there are no words) words must cease and quietness must begin. The quietening of the thinking mind will always result in the opening of the heart.

Now, we know how difficult it is to quieten the mind. What happens when the body starts relaxing? Does it not start becoming quiet and still? Does it not start becoming part of that stillness in which all life resides? After all, are we not also part of this beautiful earth?

The puddles have almost disappeared. Fresh clouds are rolling across the sky. The wind is starting to present a presence, maybe the rain would return to the afternoon.

Suddenly a large bird landed on a branch very close by. It stood with its well feathered legs gripping the tree with powerful claws. Its face looked fierce but wise, confident but kind. Then it was gone leaving only a screech as it seared into the greying sky.

Language but no words.

Love and respects



InClarens is...

It is that time of year when Clarens comes alive while the rest of the country, especially inland towns and cities, experience a breath-holding quiet time until schools start again in January.

Holiday makers flock to Clarens and surrounds in this time and an exciting holiday vibe sets foot in the whole of the Eastern Free State. The usual quiet Sunday evenings are gone; people walk the streets of Clarens and enjoy the intoxicating night air. They gather at the restaurants and make new friends, and reunite with old ones. In Clarens it is safe to walk the streets due to the Clarens community's efforts to employ and deploy Sector Policing in town.

For those who find themselves holidaying in one of the many towns in the Eastern Free State, InClarens welcomes you and wishes you all a pleasant summer break, and a wonderful Christmas for those who wish to celebrate the event in Clarens and a prosperous New Year. We trust you all will be back in 2012 to enjoy what our beautiful area has on offer.

InClarens bedank hiermee al sy lesers en adverteerders en wens hulle 'n opwindende feestyd toe. Mag die nuwe jaar hartklop-mooi bestemmings optower. Mag julle almal veilig terugkeer nadat julle al die plesiere van die hier te plaatse geniet het. InClarens nooi julle uit om weer 'n draai te maak en lank te bly sodat julle die genoegdoeninge wat die mooi Oos-Vrystaat bied, ten volle benut sal word.

Lekker kuier en lekker lees.

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Geseënde Feesseisoen

A Blessed Festive Season

by Rorschach, Netherlands

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InClarens
EN OMGEWING / AND SURROUNDS

December 2011 Desember

January 2012 Januarie

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Vast is the blue African sky

After months of trying, Mary-ann Pickers was eventually granted an interview with renowned artist Johan Smith. Despite her best efforts to prepare for the interview, she couldn't find any information on the renowned artist, other than the very basic. Mary-ann knew there had to be more to know about the man than where he was born and how he became an artist – and she was not disappointed. She shared her experience with us.

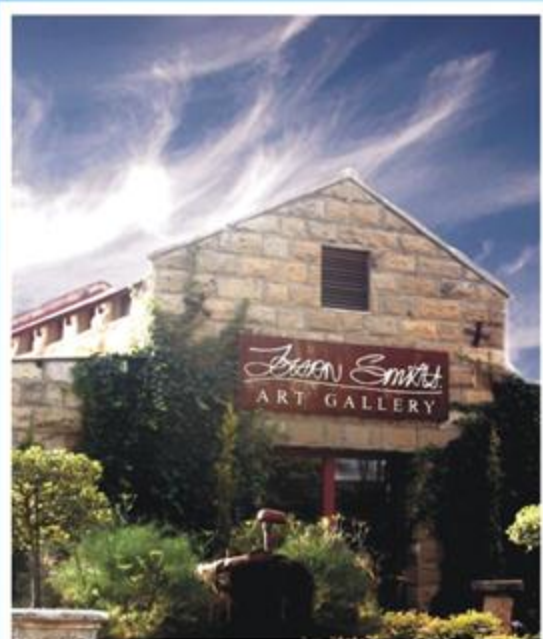
Not only does Johan possess a unique and very rare talent for painting and pottery, he is also a people's person - open and friendly to everyone who crosses his path. He's neither arrogant nor overmodest and this beloved artist of the Windmill Centre, Clarens, relates his life story factually and without ado.

Johan Smith makes no secret of being a man of God and this became evident within minutes after we had started our conversation. He answered to the call and became a minister after having achieved everything he could in the artist's milieu.

In the late eighties, Johan's paintings were on exhibition in a rather obscure little gallery where the Street Caffé is situated today. This suited the young, unknown artist. A little later he moved to The Gallery and when his art became sought after, Johan realised that he was blessed with a rare talent and that he had to expand and open his own gallery. He quit his job in 1995 and became a professional artist. At that time, he also ventured into the property market and acquired two stands, which he sold soon afterwards at a reasonable profit and was able to buy what today is the Windmill Centre.

Life treated him well. He was a successful artist, happily married and he had beautiful and talented children. Yet he wanted more. He wanted to convey his gratitude and he answered to the calling that led him to the ministry. After he decided to follow the road that was pointed out to him, a subtle but distinctive change in his work followed. His work became more and more realistic.

The large open blue skies and smaller images on the horizon became characteristic of Johan



Johan's works are on display at his Johan Smith Gallery, Windmill Centre, Main Street, Clarens.

Smith's work. These spaces were created to allow

the Entity to enter his paintings. Johan subconsciously painted even wider horizons, decreasing the size of the objects in his paintings and opened up the blue skies for what he experienced as God's canvass.

Born in Zimbabwe, Johan studied agriculture at Stellenbosch University. He was transferred to Bethlehem where he started with pottery and later on experimented with watercolours and then with oils.

The use of lines dominates his work and his landscapes are always stripped of detail and pretension, resulting in an uncomplicated, graphic interpretation. Subjects include landscapes, flowers and to a lesser extent people. These days, he works in oil, watercolours and pastel. Johan, being self-taught, has developed a very unique style. Thin application of paint gives a translucent air brush effect which contrasts well with thick palette knife work. Scratching through the paint creates perspective and texture.

His interest in photography and love of nature serve as his main source of inspiration. His landscapes are uncomplicated, with little or no detail, resulting in a naive and quiet interpretation of our vast African sky. In contrast, Johan's florals are colourful, prolific and abundant.

He has received widespread recognition for his art and in February 1998 the Gencor Gallery (RAU) invited him to show his work. Paintings of the artist have also been included in a number of public and corporate collections (SAA, RAU, Telkom, BOE Head Office, Free State Technicon Hotel School, Central East Agricultural Co-op). Johan's positive outlook on life, strong Christian beliefs and the support of his wife, Stienie, and their three sons, Lou, Sebastian and David, have enabled this artist to make good progress in his career as a professional artist in a relatively short period.



Op soek na die dam,
vind ons net
stof



Amanda van Blerk
vertel van 'n vrugtelose
soektog na 'n nuwe
dam die afgelope winter.

Fotos Amanda van Blerk

Gerugte oor 'n nuwe dam in Lesotho loop dik in die Oos-Vrystaat. Nadat navraag gedoen is by die een persoon wat sekerlik die meeste van die onderwerp af weet, pak ons kaart en GPS, piekniekmandjie en koffie en vlieg weg op dit wat vir ons maar 'n dagreis heen en terug is, op soek na die dam.

Sommer vroeg reeds is ons deur die grenspos by Caledoonspoort en vat die pad na Afriski en Oxbow. Dit gaan maklik deur die buitewyke van Butha Buthe en, ywerige fotograaf wat ek is, raak ek algaande al meer opgewonde oor die mooi lig op die berge. Dit is effens bewolk en die son breek plek-plek deur om die spitse in wasige blou te tooi. Maar ons is nie hier vir foto's nie, ons soek die plek waar 'n nuwe dam gebou gaan word. Daar sal ek genoeg foto's kan neem en ons ry so vinnig as moontlik om nog vroeg genoeg te wees.

Ons is deur en oor die eerste pas en nog later verby Oxbow en nog later blink die ski-hang van Afriski in skrilte kontras met die goue winterlandskap.

Die effense wolkies wat die oggendlig so aantreklik gemaak het, is aangejaag deur 'n weste wind wat al sterker waai. Die pad word al slegter totdat die slagat-teerpad oorgaan in 'n baie los gruispad.

Natuurlik neem ons spoed af en alhoewel dit nog relatief vroeg is, vestig die wete langsaam in my gemoed dat nie eers die wonderlike landskap van Lesotho sal kan vergoed vir die harde lig wat al harder word nie.

Ons is net verby Letseng-diamantmyn, toe die weste wind regtig verwoed raak. Hier bo in die berge waar niks hom keer nie, tier die wind. Die kilometers op die GPS word al minder na Mokhotlong toe en ons uitkyk begin na waar ons beduie is.

Senqu-rivier, lees ons op een van die bordjies. Ja, ons moet naby wees en my oog vang die horlosie en meteens weet ek dat ek sal moet uithaal as ek enigsins 'n ordentlike foto wil neem. Die lug is dynserig en vol stof, die normaalweg mooi berge net 'n vae golwing in die verte. My moed loop al by my Hi Tecs uit. Fotogeleenthede is hier nie eers amper nie en ons het nog nie die plek van die nuwe dam gekry nie.

Ons stop by 'n uitkykpunt naby Mokhotlong om foto's te neem. Die wind neem my wind sommer met die oopmaakslag uit my seile. Yskoud, stowwerig en hier hoog sneller as 'n sneltrein. Ek staal my en maak die driepoot staan. Daar doer onder vloei 'n stadige Senqu, hierbo waai 'n vinnige westewind. Ek neem foto's maar kan net nie opgewonde raak nie. Hier is nie wenfoto's nie en ons kry ook nie die presiese plek van die dam nie.

Ons onderskep die hoof van die Lesotho-polisie wat 'n minister moet begelei na iewers en vra of hy weet. Hy is so angstig om ons uit die pad van die minister te hou dat hy nie mooi luister na ons vraag en ons dit nie regtig antwoord nie. Daar is Katse-borde en dit is mos 'n dam en hy stuur ons in ons spoor terug na Mapholeng waar daar ook riviere is. In die dorpie vra ons weer of iemand van die nuwe dam weet en ja, beduie een ons, daar by die junction, regs en so vyftien kilometer verder werk hulle aan die nuwe dam.

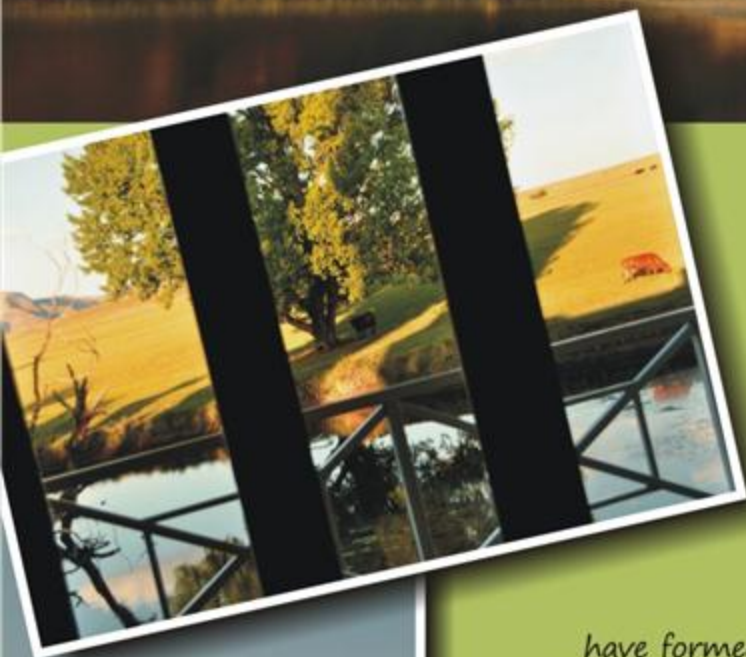
So gehoor, so gemaak en ons ry met 'n geboude maar growwe gruispad in die rigting van Thaba Tseka en Katse. Ons gesels nie meer nie en die mooi landskap word verdof deur laag op laag stof. Die lug is bruin, die veld is goudbruin en die tolbosse tollende ligbruin speke oor 'n dorre, bruin, laslappie-aarde. Alles bruin monochroom. Elke skerp es en elke mini-pas laat die hoop opvlam dat ons op die asemrowende gesig gaan afkom, maar daar is niks nie. Tot die GPS gooi handdoek in met 'n vraagteken oor waar ons ons op aarde bevind en steeds kronkel die pad 'n geel streep oor die einder.

Nou maar die kaart uithaal en ons kom tot die skokkende ontdekking dat die pad ons dalk nie by Katse of Thaba Tseka gaan bring nie. Die kaart dui aan dat die pad halfpad eindig! Die kaart is dalk oud, dié pad lyk nie of hy sommer in die middel van nêrens eindig nie; maar die kans vat? Nee, omdraai en verder gaan soek. Ons sien riviere maar beslis nie die Senqu nie en ook nie een wat naastebly genoeg water het om 'n dam te regverdig nie.

Terug by die grootpad en uit tussen die valleie maak die wind amok. Dit is nie nodig om die besluit te verwoord nie. Asof vanself, draai die voertuig in die rigting van die myn en die huis. Dit is al ná twee en teleurgesteld, moeg en honger hou ons by 'n uitkykpunt stil om te eet.

Die wind en stof en die 450 kilometer in nege uur het ons opgewondenheid getemper. Die nuwe dam het ons nie gekry nie en die foto's rus nou meestal in die herwiningsboks.





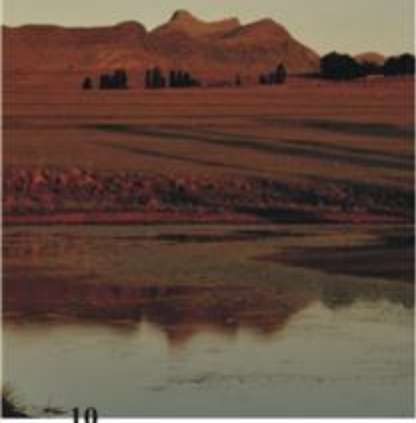
Romantic breakaway or jolly family holiday

Many lovers of the Eastern Free State landscapes regard Golden Gate, which is situated close to Clarens, as the most beautiful area of the Free State. Wind and weather have eroded deep folds into the face of the countryside and

have formed vast rolling hills and in summer, reddish brown clay fields, set under a sky of dazzling blue. This sea of hills, abundantly covered in green weeping willows and crowned by the ever popular Lombardi poplar, provides a stunning backdrop to the Royal Coachman.

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'n Man so uit die grot uit. Andries span sy talente in.
Hoe was hy nou eintlik?

In die vorige aflewering in die reeks het Andries Spies, alias Caveman, die Oos-Vrystaatse kragman, sy staal in Europa gewys en in hierdie deel vermaak en verstrik hy hier te lande.

In Grahamstad vir 'n rofstoei-geveg, wed Andries 'n afslaer, ene King dat hy 'n sak mielies met sy tande, sonder om te rus, oor die plein voor die katedraal kan dra. Dit was in die dae toe 'n sak nog 200 lb (91 kg) geweeg het. Hy doen dit toe maklik en skenk die sak aan Kinderwelsyn, wat King hom toe nadoen.

Die petalje was natuurlik nie om dowe neutte nie, dit was 'n uitstekende promosie vir sy geveg daar, en het nog 'n Caveman-storie geword wat die legende laat groei het. Heelparty legendes het met sy reise bygekom. Hy kon glo met sy kaal vuus 'n gat in 'n verweerde sinkplaat slaat, of dwarsdeur 'n sak koekmeel.

Laasgenoemde episode het hom by Chodos op Harrismith afgespeel. Soos dikwels gebeur het, het iemand weer met hom gekarring oor hoe sterk hy nou eintlik is, en of die of daai storie waar is.

Goed ek sal jou wys, was sy tipiese reaksie. Vir £10 sal ek 'n gat deur 'n meelsak slaan. Twee gewillige ouens hou die sakkie koekmeel vas, Andries trek los en die hele toonbank lê vol fyn meel.

Andries het mense sy lewe lank vermaak met aardighede wat met sy krag te doen gehad het. Hy het 'n voorliefde vir poetse gehad en kon 'n uitdaging, en veral 'n weddenskap glad nie ignoreer nie. Daarvoor het sy kompeterende geaardheid gesorg.

In 1936 word hy gewed dat hy nie van Harrismith af Kaapstad toe kan stap in minder as negentig dae nie. Hy aanvaar die uitdaging sonder voorbehoud en stap dit in 73 dae, 'n gemiddeld van 28 myl per dag in wind en weer. Dit het hy gedoen vir £75.

Andries het in die veertiger jare weer op Diepsloot beginne boer. Getrou en kinders grootgemaak, maar rusteloos gebly, sy kleurvolle persoonlikheid was so kontrasterend soos 'n verkleurmannetjie.

As hy in die omgewing was kon jy jou maar regmaak vir die ongewone, opwinding en avontuur. Nog 'n aspek van hom wat kort-kort opduik is sy buitengewone verhouding met diere. As dit nie graatjiemeerkaaie was nie, was dit jakkalse, of slange, of honde. En tog kon hy na bewering ook soms die eienaardigste goed doen.

Hy het hom glo eenkeer vererg vir 'n balhorige muil, en het dié glo met die vuus tussen die oë geslaan, morsdood in sy vier spore. Op 'n ander keer het hy glo 'n rol doringdraad aan 'n perd se stert vasgemaak wat 'n vreeslike petalje afgegee het. En hy het selfs glo per geleentheid voor getuies 'n hond se oor afgesny.

Die probleem met Andries is dat die legende veel groter was as die werklikheid. Die waarskynlikheid dat bogenoemde gevalle wel kon plaasgevind het, is dus veel kleiner as die alternatiewe moontlikheid. Sy liefde vir perde en honde, en diere in die algemeen, was heeltal teenstrydig met hierdie optrede, soos in Piet de Jager se storie:

In dié tyd boer Piet tussen Clarens en Kestell. Eendag kom 'n kêrel op 'n muil by hom aangery. Hy ry die muil bloots en daar's net 'n riem deur die dier se bek.

“Ek is Anneries Spies” sê hy, “maar die mense noem my Caveman.” “Ja,” sê Piet, “ek het al baie van jou gehoor.”

“Ek wil my muil by jou los, man, ek wil gaan jakkalse jag hier agter julle in die Rooiberge in.”

“Met wat?” vra Piet verbaas, “jy het dan niks by jou nie.”

“Met jou honde, en met die bure s'n,” hoor Piet nog meer verbaas. Kyk dit wil hy darem sien.

Andries het glo net so 'n bietjie met die honde gespeel, en toe fluit hy vir hulle. Die honde is gedwee saam daar weg. Kerneels Bokpoort se honde het ook bygekom, en van die ander bure s'n ook. Andries is net met vuurhoutjies en sout, en die honde daar weg. 'n Dag gaan verby, later drie, later 'n week, sonder enige teken van Andries of die honde.

Na twee weke is hy terug. Die honde spekvat, en hy met so 'n lekker dik bondel jakkalssterte oor die blad. Hy het die jakkalse vir die honde gebraai, sê hy. Destyds is 'n man deur die staat betaal om ongediertes te bestry –met sestien jakkalssterte kon hy dus 'n stewige eis indien.



Die volgende aflewering is die laaste in die reeks. Gaan lees gerus wat voorheen geplaas was by

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Housed in the original Post Office, we specialise in hearty and wholesome country food, freshly prepared to be enjoyed outside in the sun drenched courtyard or inside beside the warmth of an open fire.

Standing up against CRIME



Success stories often have a down side and the Clarens community realised that action was necessary when their tranquil rural existence came under threat.

When the town became a tourism Mecca, a criminal element soon saw it as a potential preying ground. With tourists flocking to the charming town and a carnival-like atmosphere prevailing over weekends, ripe pickings were there to be made!

Clarens, as other developing rural towns, experienced a surge in criminal activities in the past few years. Unemployed youths started to acting as car guards and street vendors - to the detriment and irritation of tourists who wanted to enjoy a quiet stroll through the streets.

Increasing incidents of car break-ins, house breaking and illegal hawking at parking areas became the order of the day.

This led to a realisation amongst residents that drastic measures had to be taken.

The Clarens Sector Policing Forum (Sector 1) took it upon themselves to find solutions and various options were considered. The more traditional forms of civil mobilisation such as a Blockwatch system was difficult to implement due to many property owners not permanently residing in the Village and the high number of senior citizens.

With a seriously understaffed Police Station and greater priorities for the few willing policemen and women to attend to, a more innovative solution had to be found. One of the SPF committee members (an ex

police Captain) suggested the deployment of Police Reservists. After due consultation with the local Station Commander and the legal section of the Cluster (remembering that Reservists are not allowed to be remunerated), a working solution was found.

Following a recruitment drive last year, four individuals (who just happened to be qualified and current Police Reservists) were employed in their private capacity by a SPF committee members in December 2010. So impressed were these benevolent employers by the civic mindedness of their new employees, that they allow them to live out their passion to spend their time on the beat on a permanent basis!

The Reservists fall under the command of the Local Police Station Commander who is sensitive to the unique situation of a Village whose income and future so heavily relies on Tourism. Hand in hand, priorities for the patrolling of the main business areas and "hotspots" in the greater Village are determined and assigned to the Reservists.

The SPF then approached the community of Clarens to help support and lessen the financial burden of the individual employers. Following positive results and with the community increasingly keener to participate, the local lawyer (who incidentally is also a SPF committee member) made his trust account available for the deposit of donations. A secure invoice system was implemented and financial propriety is ensured by an appointed treasurer.

Various big donations have been gratefully received. Last year, the Harley Davidson Club - Steel Wings, donated bicycles to the SPF to assist them in their quest to keep the

Reservists mobile. Individual commercial property owners donated cash and goodwill.

Since the deployment of the Reservists the incidents of both serious and petty crimes have fallen significantly. An intelligence network was established by the Reservists and information on individual criminal elements and syndicates started flowing. Two crime syndicates were busted as a result of the reservists' close interaction and cooperation with the community and various arrests were made following break-ins at guesthouses and private homes.

Has peace and tranquillity returned to the Village of Clarens? One can never prevent crime and those intent on committing mischief. But, through a drastic increase in visible policing, and positive results in the arrest and conviction of some of the main players in the area, our hopes are up! The Village square and business area can once again be visited and browsed without harassment. We continue to patrol the streets of the Village (by night and day!) - Especially the areas known to attract the attention of criminals.

Tourists who enjoy the beauty and peacefulness on their visits often express the wish to make donations to the SPF to assist them to maintain the drive to keep Clarens the sound and safe Village it has always been. In this way development without sacrifice to security is possible and that is what the Forum has achieved in recent months.

Readers who wish to contribute in any way can contact the treasurer, Alwyn Noeth, on 083 383 5148 or the chairman, Johann Lehman, on 083 447 9925.



Fine Property News Clarens - December 2011



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Contact: Mark Webber

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Skype Address mark.g.webber
Office Clarens 058 256 1734
E-Mail markw@fineandcountry.com



There for the catching

Blessed with numerous dams, lakes, rivers and streams, the Eastern Free State has plenty to offer the fishing enthusiast. From game fish to trout in mountain streams, there is something to challenge and entertain everyone.

Many of South Africa's prime fishing spots offer not only good fishing, but are also some of the most beautiful places in a region blessed by Mother Nature. Qwantani, a beautiful resort situated on the mighty Sterkfontein Dam is just such a place. Vast waters and ample space to cast to bass and other fish and where day visitors are welcome.

The gentle art of fly fishing is popular in the Eastern Free State with its bountiful offerings. Many lodges and guest houses boast sizeable mountain ranges where trout flourish in the mountain streams.

Some of these areas can be accessed only with 4x4 vehicles. The up-side of this is that they retain their natural beauty, being somewhat isolated.

Both brown and rainbow trout are to be found, though seldom together.

The trout season starts in September and finishes at the end of May. The best times for fly-fishing are in September and October, and then in April and May. However, many of the country's dams and lakes have no closed season.

For some, bass fishing is the way to go. The bass is an intelligent and thus challenging fish, while being hardy too. This makes it a very adaptable fish, to be found far and wide, and partial to a wide variety of bait.

Carp fishing also has its supporters. Like bass, carp were originally imported into South Africa, and offer an excellent challenge. They also grow to some pretty amazing sizes.

Catch and release is encouraged for both bass and carp fishing.

Bethlehem Star, a farm near Fouriesburg caters for the day visitor fisherman, which is a very rare commodity in the Eastern Free State as these usually are reserved for overnight guests. Visitors are charged per rod which is equally rare.

Eph or Cathy Exley can be contacted on 058 223 0814 for directions and tariffs.



1. Maluti Lodge
2. Lake Clarens
3. Protea Hotel
4. Horeb Butchery
5. Rebellie Game farm
6. Brambleberry on the Golf Course
7. Artzone and InClarens
8. Engel & Volkers
9. Helen Claassen Gallery
10. Clarens Interiors
11. Clarens Breweries
12. Lilliput
13. Street Caffé
14. Ash River Lodge
15. Yoga in Clarens

41. Mont D'Or
42. La Casa
43. The Gallery
44. Lazy Gecko
45. The Post House

33. Clarens Destinations
34. Post Office
35. Clarens House of beauty
36. Richard Rennie Gallery & Art Workshop
37. Sir Henry's Guest house
38. Bon appetite
39. Mountain Odyssey

Bethlehem ↑

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● **Ashriver Outfall**

Clarens Hiking Trail

Town Square Monument

Clarens



● **De Lusthof Gasteplaas**

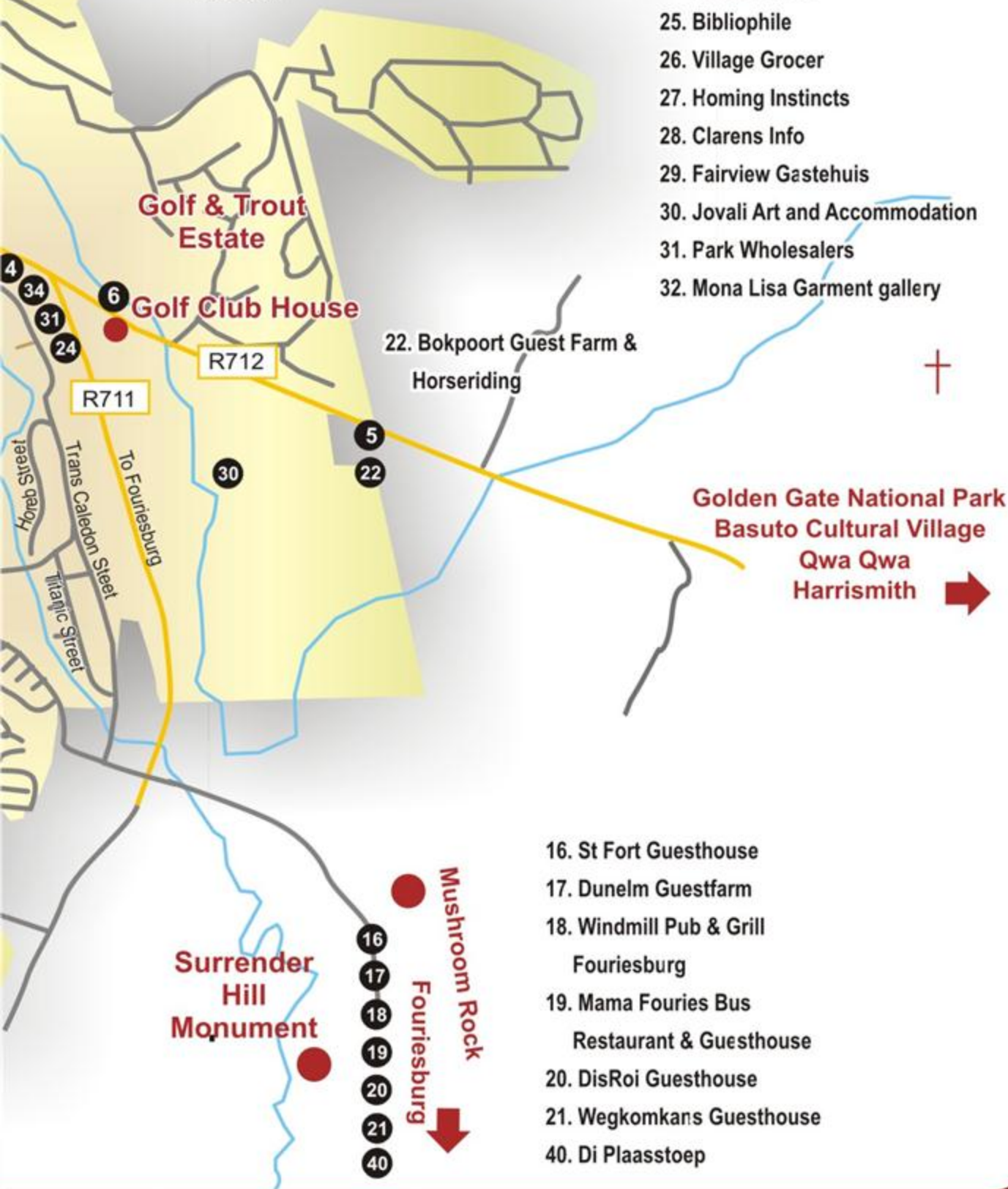
● **Motouleng Caves Heritage Site**





**Clarens Tourism
Forum**

**For any information or directions,
phone 082 963 3398 or 082 923 6907**



- 23. The Blanket Shop
- 24. The Millery and Baruchs
Coffee roaster
- 25. Bibliophile
- 26. Village Grocer
- 27. Homing Instincts
- 28. Clarens Info
- 29. Fairview Gastehuis
- 30. Jovali Art and Accommodation
- 31. Park Wholesalers
- 32. Mona Lisa Garment gallery

- 16. St Fort Guesthouse
- 17. Dunelm Guestfarm
- 18. Windmill Pub & Grill
Fouriesburg
- 19. Mama Fouries Bus
Restaurant & Guesthouse
- 20. DisRoi Guesthouse
- 21. Wegkomkans Guesthouse
- 40. Di Plaasstoep

From divine relaxation to wild mountain rides

So, what does one do when visiting the Eastern Free State?

Simply being out in the country may be all that some of you require. If nature alone doesn't bring total tranquillity, you can be pampered at one of the many spas and wellness centres. Art lovers can linger and browse the some 25 galleries; and for the more daring, Clarens and the surrounding area offer a myriad of adventure tours and activities. This means that whether the visitor wants a relaxing vacation or heart-stopping action-packed experience, it is to be found in the heart of the beautiful Eastern Free State.

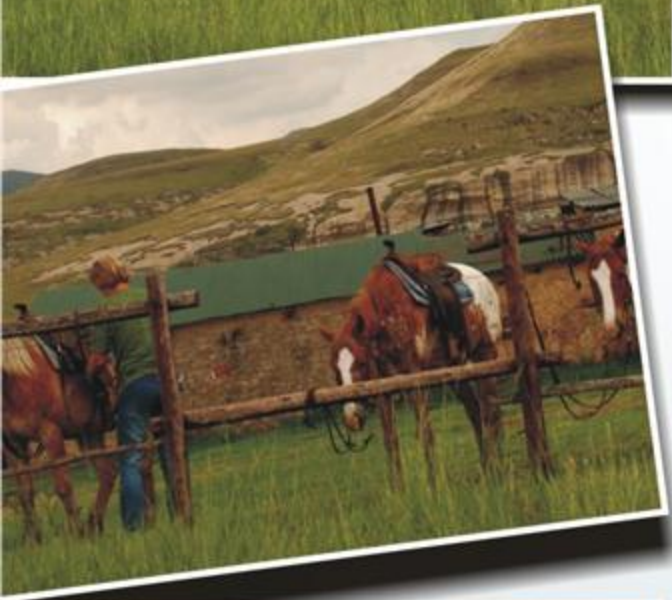
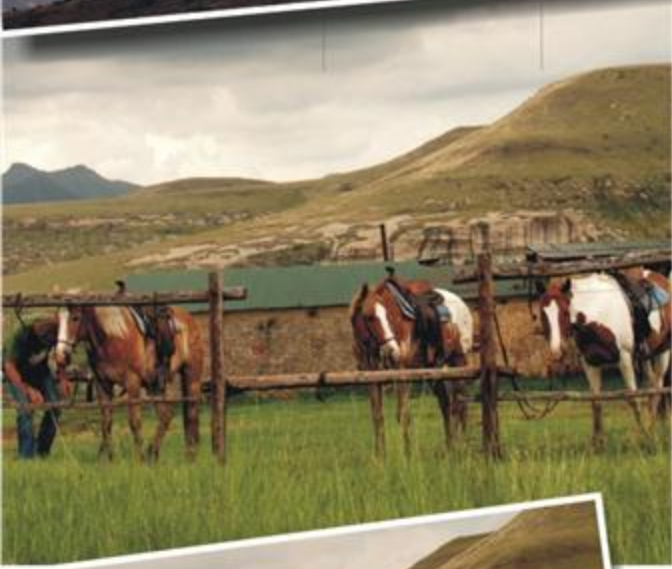
The Drakensberg and the Maluti (Maloti) Mountain range spread into valley upon green valley through the area, offering many hiking trails and bird, small-game and flora expeditions for the milder adventure seeker. Maps can be obtained at various outlets in town. Wim Wybenga is a registered field guide and can be contacted on 072 984 7482. Explore the flora that plays hide-and-seek on the mountain side.

The Snowy Hills horse trail is a two-day riding adventure that takes the rider up into the slopes of the Maluti foothills and onto the highest point on Bokpoort Farm at George's pimple, a breath-taking 2 500 meters above sea level. The horses of Bokpoort are born and bred, as well as trained in the mountainous countryside that is Bokpoort and are surefooted. These horses are suited for both the experienced and inexperienced rider. The trail package includes accommodation, stopover at the cave, meals and accredited guides. Put your life on pause at one of many mountain pools to rinse the dust from your hair and go on to walk the wild and steep mountain side back to the Bokpoort base. Snowy Hills is a two-day, Bokpoort-accommodation and trail package and a must have experience for the adventure seeker.

For the day visitor who wants to ride, Bokpoort is home to Apaloosas, Boerperd and Basotho ponies ensuring every rider the right horse to suite their experience level. More experienced riders can go for exhilarating gallops over the plains or view game and even children under six can take rides on Blackie, the horse that has introduced horse riding to many children and fostered their love for horses.

Horse outrides into the mountains to experience the views and century-old trails can be booked at

+27 58 256 1181 or +27 83 628 5055 or email horses@bokpoort.co.za.



Brave the white foam

Wild in the true sense is white-water rafting on the As River. Now, you don't have to liquidate all your assets to experience the thrill of white water spraying your face. Hold tight, if it is your birthday, you receive half-a-day's rafting, totally free. Although terms and conditions apply, you can enjoy the rapids of the As River to your heart's delight if it happens to be your birthday. So gather your friends and come and celebrate in a way that will let you feel that you are alive. Remember only one gift-voucher per group is allowed.

Outrageous Adventures also offers five-day youth camps in the picturesque town of Clarens.

Teenagers (14 - 18 years) can enjoy an exciting outdoor holiday, clean mountain air, healthy food and lots of mental and physical activities and they will be kept busy with catapult paintball, a night out in a cave, or a hike to the Fertility Cave. The children are exposed to obstacle courses, orienteering and map reading.

To give your child a gift that will last a lifetime,
phone Kallie on 083 485 9654 or
email kallie@outrageousadventures.co.za

The fun and fascination never stop

A short drive from Clarens takes one up into the magnificent setting that is the Drakensberg, where, on a two-hour hike, you can climb the chain ladder and conquer the Drakensberg. Here the Tugela waterfall (at 850m the second highest waterfall in the world) tumbles in frothing splendour down the ravine and the spectacular view over the celebrated Amphitheatre and Devils Tooth holds you in awe.

On the return trip, the Basotho cultural village is where you can experience the tradition of the Basotho nation, from the ancient to the modern-day living. Meet the chief of the village, take a sip of his home-brewed beer, and be welcomed to view his village. On the way to and from the cultural village you will drive through Golden Gate National Park where you will be enthralled by the golden beauty of the sandstone cliffs.

Liphofung means "place of the eland," it was originally a San (Bushmen) shelter, later used by King Moshoeshoe I, of Lesotho and founder of the Basotho nation. It is Lesotho's southernmost National park and on a trip to this National Park, you will be introduced to the spiral aloe - the national plant of Lesotho, well protected bushmen paintings, and the local village where the people still live a simplistic life with no modern amenities. Drink some "motoho" or taste some of the best home-made bread, "madombolo." Remember your passport.

If it is the dazzling side of life you want, contact Ollie Esplin of Clarens Xtreme Adventures on 082 56 36 242 or 27 058 256 1260 to take you to the extreme wild side of the Eastern Free State countryside.



Set out on a sethuthuthu

Sethuthuthu (sound made by a motorcycle and subsequently the Sesotho word for a motorbike) tours are for nature lovers, and not for those who want to speed over obstacles at a flying pace. Slow travel is the name of the game with game viewing and it offers much more to enjoy. Before the excitement begins, you have to complete an obstacle course

with an all-terrain vehicle (quad bike) so that you can "bond" and be able to negotiate the steep inclines and hills on the route.

These tours are thrilling with a twist. It is more than just amusement, since there's some learning in the mix. You are in the countryside, so you will learn about nature and the value it held to the pioneers who were in this area in the 1830s. Niël and Veronika van Schalkwyk will explain some of the intricacies of the sandstone geology of the area.

The three-hour trip is special as a sun downer cruise. Explore a piece of untamed wilderness plenty of game and real adventure!

The early Khoekoen called the Black Wildebeest "gnu" because of the sound (genu) it utters when alarmed. These ungainly grazers were once faced with extinction but are now off the danger list. They differ from the Blue Wildebeest by their long white tails and white manes. Come and experience a different side of wild only three kilometres from Clarens.

From the grandeur of the cosmos down to the world within a water drop, nature enchants us with stunning landscapes, towering forests, fascinating geology, and the never-ending wonder of how our planet is clothed in beauty. If you love nature and want to know more about the rich heritage of the Eastern Free State.

Call Niël or Veronika on
058 256 1569
082 575 6186





When water travels all the way to industrial heartland

Many tourists from Johannesburg visit Clarens. When they do, they drive past one of the largest and most intricate construction projects in the world. The As River Outfall is the culmination of many decades of planning that started in 1950 when engineer Ninham Shand was contracted to determine the viability of exporting Lesotho's water to South Africa.

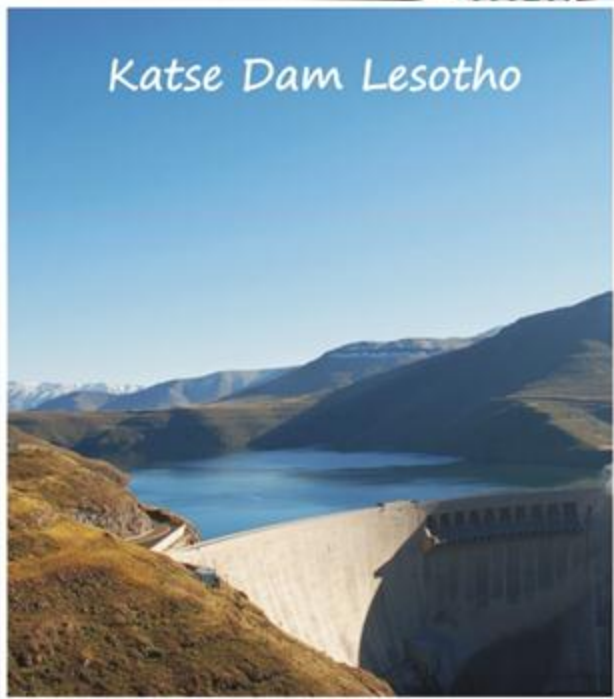
His findings were put on hold, but later studies on the water project were completed in 1986, when a treaty to their mutual benefit was signed between South Africa and Lesotho. This led to the largest international inter basin transfer in the world. The project was initiated not only to provide water to the industrial heartland of South Africa, but also to supply parts of Lesotho with electricity, which would add to the development of the Mountain Kingdom.

Johannesburg is the only major city in the world not situated on a large water source, and lies across the watershed dividing two river basins, the Orange (or Gariep, as it is known today), Senqu (Lesotho) to the east and Limpopo to the west. The result is that water is continually drained away from the city.

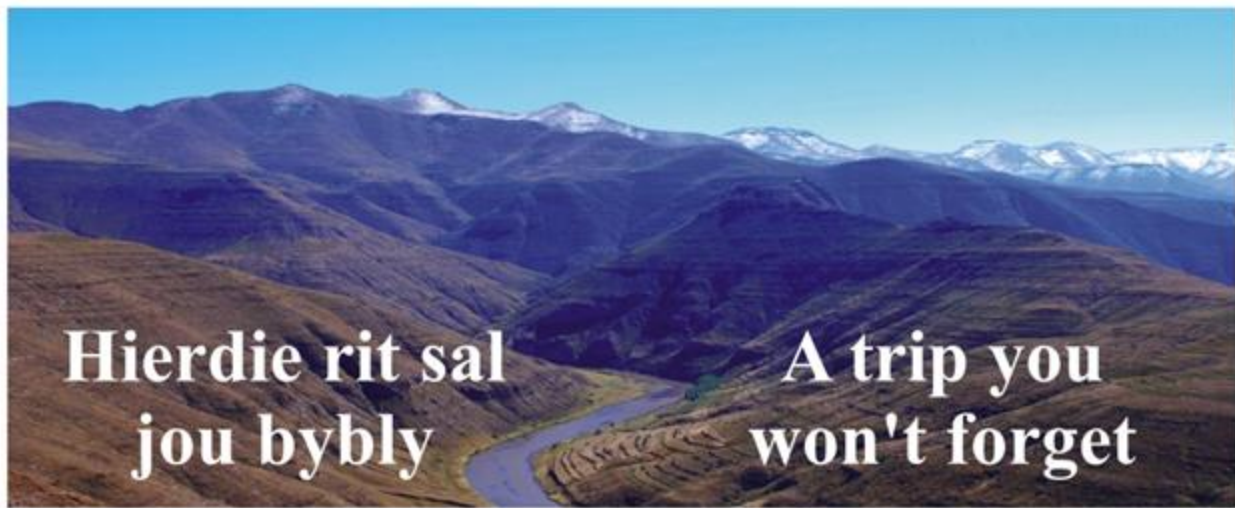
In general, the project transfers water from the upper portions of the Lesotho Highlands to the As River just outside Clarens. The Katse Dam, its wall 185 meters high, was constructed downstream of the confluence of the Bokong and Malibamatso rivers in Lesotho. A transfer tunnel of 45 kilometres was built with three tunnel-boring machines and lined with 300 mm thick concrete due to unstable basalt rock. The water from the tunnel "surfaces" at the As River Outfall, flows into Liebenbergsvlei and Saulspoort Dam near Bethlehem, past Frankfort into the Vaal Dam, from where the much needed water is supplied to Johannesburg.



Katse Dam Lesotho



Don't forget your passport when visiting Lesotho



**Hierdie rit sal
jou bybly**

**A trip you
won't forget**

Daar is 'n kronkelpad deur bergvoue en sneeuspitse, oor ongerepte valleie en verby dreunende waterstrome. Hierdie pad is sommer hier naby, op die skilderagtige Clarens se voorstoep. Binne bereik van elke inwoner en besoeker. Dit is die Lesotho-ervaring.

Wees gewapen met paspoort en voertuig, en word weggevoer na 'n sprokies toneel waar berg en dal, plooi op plooi, uitreik na die blou gebreekte berg-horisonne wat uitdagend wink om verken te word. Die een toneel mooier as die vorige.

Volg die pad vanaf Clarens na die Caledonspoor-grenspos. Die toelatingskoste per voertuig is 'n skamele R20. Ry verder na Botha Buthe, draai regs na Leribe, en later links na Katse, verby Pitseng en Lejone, en dan, sowat drie uur later val die kronkel teepad oor die berg se rug en spreid die water van Katse-dam voor jou oop – oordadig blou agter die 185 meter hoë sementwal. Die hoogste in Afrika.

Moenie haastig wees nie! Die snelheidsperk in Lesotho is in elk geval net vyftig kilometer per uur. Maar wie wil nou haastig wees? Die blou vistas hou jou gebonde en noop jou om gereeld te stop om die verruklikheid op film vas te lê. Maak ook seker om die sitplekgordel vas te maak en dat die voertuig se driehoek op hul plek is. Die Lesotho polisie-cum-verkeersbeamptes is vriendelik en bedagsaam maar duld nie oortreding van die land se padreëls nie!

By Katse Village is daar 'n goed toegeruste restaurant waar heerlike middagetes genuttig kan word. Toere oor die damwal is ook beskikbaar alvorens die terugtog na Clarens aangepak word. Katse-dam. Slegs 'n dagreis ver maar voorwaar 'n rit om nooit te vergeet nie. Dit is die Lesotho-ervaring.

There is a winding road through mountain creases, snowcapped peaks, unspoiled valleys and rumbling streams. This road is very close to picturesque Clarens and within reach of locals and visitors alike. Vehicle and passport are the only requirements to enter a fairy world of mountains and valleys, where horizons beg to be explored.

Follow the R711 road from Clarens to Caledonspoor, approximately 50km. Immigration officials are friendly and efficient. Entrance to Lesotho is a mere twenty rand per vehicle. At the T-junction in the town of Botha Buthe, turn right to Leribe, turn left at Leribe towards Pitseng en Lejone. After two to three hours from Clarens, you will cross a bridge over part of the spectacular Katse dam behind its 185m concrete wall, the highest in Africa.

Do not make haste. The speed limit in Lesotho is 50km per hour in inhabited areas and is enforced. But hey, who wants to be in a hurry!?! You will want to take pictures of the enchanting scenery. Be sure to carry triangles and wear your seat belts to avoid spot fines. The officials are friendly and cooperative providing you stick to the rules.

The restaurant and Lodge at Katse Village serves delicious meals. Tours of the dam wall are also available. It is an unforgettable day trip. A real Lesotho experience.



Check us out! www.clarensxtreme.co.za
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502 Sias Oosthuizen Lane, Clarens, 9707

Bashful beauties of the grassland

The Orchid family is among the largest of the flowering plants with over 20 000 species worldwide. Most occur in the tropic and sub-tropic regions of the planet. It has specially designed flowers to attract specific insects for pollination. Southern Africa has a rich diversity of orchids as well that occurs mainly in the grasslands, writes field guide, Wim Wybenga this month.

November – February is the time of the year when the various grassland orchids come into bloom in the Clarens Nature Reserve. Most of these are fairly inconspicuous and you need to train your eyes to find them among the tall summer grass. I've counted about fourteen species so far in our region, but I'm sure there'll be many more if one considers the abundance mentioned in the literature. The earliest one to come into bloom in the Reserve is *Eulophia clavicornis* (early November) with its purplish brown sepals, white petals and purple and yellow-white lip. Like most orchids, it's used in traditional medicines as a protective charm referred to as Mammetsana in Sesotho.

My personal favourite is the sweetly scented *Disa cooperi* with its conspicuously long spurs that curve upwards and a triangular, green lip. The strongest fragrance is emanated just after dusk when it is pollinated by hawk moths towards the end of January. On steep sandstone inclines of the Scilla walk, the green-flowered *Satyrium parvifolium* with its rounded leaves is often overlooked as it's so well camouflaged. In the Afromontane forests of KwaZulu-Natal and a few secluded ravines of the Eastern Free State, a number of species also occur as epiphytes (growing on trees) or lithophytes (growing on rocks).

All orchid species are listed as protected plants in the Free State Province and are good indicators of undisturbed grasslands. The major threats to their future existence are transformation of grasslands for agriculture, urbanisation, regular veld fires, over-exploitation for traditional medicinal use and overgrazing.

Various indigenous shrubs and trees also come into flower towards the end of January, and producing their seeds. One tree that is of particular interest in terms of medicinal use is the Parsley Tree (*Heteromorpha arborescens*). It is fairly common in kloofs and on the edge of sandstone caves. The main use is to treat abdominal pains and intestinal worms in children by means of an infusion of leaves applied as an enema. Smoke from burnt plant material is inhaled to treat headaches and decoctions from the roots have also been used as a mild aphrodisiac. Recent research has shown that extracts from the roots display strong antimicrobial activity with various deadly bacteria and could perhaps be used to combat diseases like TB and pneumonia in future. The Parsley Tree is easily identified by its conspicuous papery bark that peels off in horizontal layers. Its inconspicuous yellow-green umbel flowers have an unpleasantly strong smell that attracts a variety of insects like flat beetles (*Lycidae*) that feeds on the tiny petals and in turn aids with pollination.



A map of hiking trails within the Clarens Nature Reserve is available at Clarens Destinations for only R5. Clarens Destinations phone no 058 256 1189/1542



Node vertel sy eie droewige verhaal

Die kerkhof op Node getuig van trauma, dapperheid en geskiedenis. 'n Kerkhof is op sy beste nie 'n gelukkige plek nie maar Node se storie klink op tussen die randjies van die Oos-Vrystaat. Terwyl ons die hartseer wat oopgemaak word, respekteer, wil InClarens die verhale van die voorsate wat hierdie vallei mak gemaak het, vertel. Fotos en teks deur Amanda van Blerk

Die plaas se naam, vermoed ek, het hy nie net gekry na aanleiding van die versugting na benodigdhede nie, maar ook omdat die grond letterlik eeue in besit van die Naudé's was. Die woordspeling kan nie bloot toevallig wees nie. Volgens historiese geskrifte was daar net voor 1865 'n rampspoedige droogte wat die inwoners van die area kwaai uitgedun het, asook die wrede strooptogte deur Zoeloe-koning Tsjaka en Basoetoe-koningin Mantatise. Die gebied was onbewoon toe die Naudé's hulle hier kom vestig het en leeus en luiperds was nog 'n weselike gevaar vir die veeboere van die tyd. So word Node op 15/04/1865 die eiendom van David Stephanus Naudé en met die uitsondering van Francois Paulus Naudé, tweede seun van DS, sou daar vir meer as 'n honderd jaar, 'n David Stephanus Naudé aan die roer van die Node-skip wees.

Francois Paulus Naudé, die enigste ander Naudé op Node is op 4 Julie 1871 gebore en trou met Maria Christina Roos. Maria se moeder sterf aan swart masels en haar vader Johannes Gysbertus Marthinus Roos, toe 74 jaar, trek by hulle op Node in. Vir die laaste 21 jaar van sy lewe sou hy deel wees van die lief en leed op Node.

Nou, JGM Roos was 'n legendariese figuur. Afkomstig van Lindley, tweede seun van die vader van die Roos-familie in die Vrystaat, C.J. Roos, trou hy met Anna Elizabeth Bruwer van die Kestell distrik en die verbinding bring mee dat hy die grootste grondeienaar van die eeu word. Hy bereik die rype ouderdom van 95 en beleef en oorleef die Anglo Boere-oorlog, asook die stigting van die klein dorpie, Clarens, aan die voet van die berg Horeb. Op sy en sy kleinseun se aandrang, word die plekkie tussen die berge, Clarens in 1912 vernoem na sy eweknie in Switserland.

Sy kleindogter Susanna Naudé skryf oor sy dapperheid die volgende:

“Hy was 'n baie dapper en onverskrokke jong man en het sy pa se lewe gered toe 'n leeu van agter op dié spring en hy die geweer in die leeu se bek druk en hom dood skiet. Hy was maar net sestien en tog kon 'n mens tot sy dood toe die merke aan sy hand sien.

In die Engelse oorlog (ABO 1899) het hy 'n koeëlskoot deur sy een long gekry en het toe reeds tydens die Basoetoe-oorlog van 1869 'n assegaai-steek in die ander long opgedoen.”

Die lewe op Node het sy loop geneem. Dawie en Aletta Naudé het in die vroeë 1980's die leisels oorgeneem en hul lewens geleë in die reëlmaat van ploeg en plant, kinders versorg en skool toe ry. Soms oorbly by vriende, tennis op Saterdag en kerk toe gaan op Sondag. Dit alles tot daardie donker nag van 18 Oktober in 1990. Die moord op Dawie en sy vrou Aletta was die mees opspraakwekkende gebeurtenis wat die vallei die eeu beleef het. Nie al die droogtes of vloede of motorongelukke kon 'n gemeenskap so skud soos die dood van daardie twee mense nie. 'n Dubbele moord in die vreedzaamste deel van die platteland, was soos wakkerskrik in die nag.

Die begrafnis in die klein kerkhuffie met die sandsteenmuur was hartroerend en sou die meeste van die begrafnisgangers bybly. Die son het geskyn en almal het agter hul hande geskuil om die skerp lig en hartseer af te weer. Die lewe op Node sou nooit weer dieselfde wees nie.

Enige inligting kan gestuur word na Amanda@synapsys.co.za

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Did a mermaid visit Fouriesburg?

The rock art of the Eastern Free State offers many opportunities to relate to the artists that created these exceptional pieces of evidence of their lives. One such painting near Fouriesburg has been the subject of much academic discourse and of speculation by the less informed.

Wim Wybenga tells more.

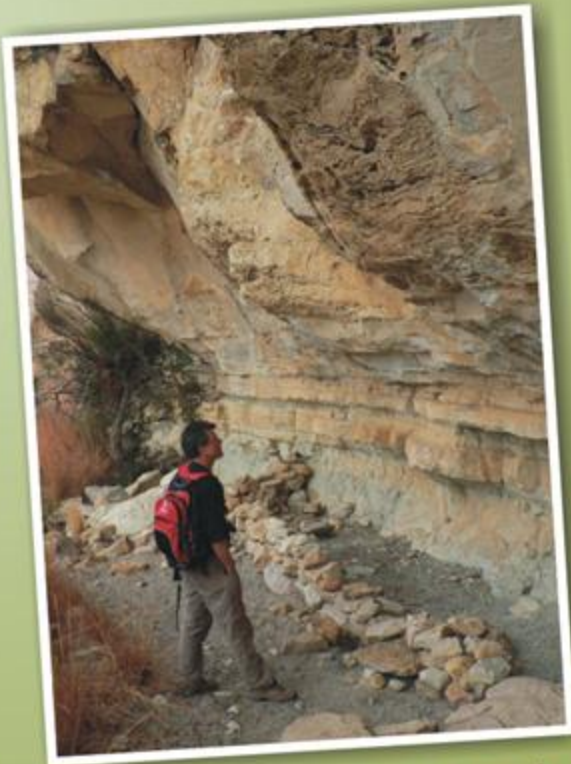
An unusual depiction of fish in a small stone shelter on the banks of the Little Caledon River seems to resemble dolphins. On closer inspection, however, taxonomists have been able to identify these fish as a species of mormyrid (bottle-nosed fish). Mormyrids are restricted to the subtropical rivers of northern KwaZulu-Natal, Swaziland, Mpumalanga and further north – hence these are depictions of a species exotic to our region. In fact, the closest river where they do occur is 300 km away. Further archaeological evidence at these sites (like seashells) suggests that the mountain Bushmen responsible for these paintings travelled to KwaZulu-Natal and traded with resident Nguni groups. One researcher actually hypothesised that they travelled on horseback (which they acquired during their raids) – that is if the paintings are less than 400 years old, but they still need to be dated.

This particular painting forms part of a cluster of similar sites further south towards Ladybrand, Eastern Cape, Lesotho and the southern KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg. It is a unique cluster in Southern African rock art with an idiosyncratic meaning that we have yet to understand.

Fortunately, there are some clues... a clear transformation from man to half-man-half-fish (ichthyoanthrope) is depicted on the rock face. Bushmen believed that all animals contained a potency (or power) that they could utilise to transform into spirit beings able to, for instance, drive sickness away or attract game to their camp. This kind of transformation was usually associated with their trance dance rituals that would carry on for hours during the night. So one thing is certain, the resident mountain Bushmen utilised the potency of the mormyrids for some or other purpose.

Further clues lie in the actual habit of mormyrid fish: Mormyrids are able to communicate with one another, find prey, and detect predators in murky waters or at night, by using electromagnetic pulses. They are nocturnal or crepuscular (active at dawn and dusk). Some Mormyrid species will even give off an electrical shock when handled. The Mountain Bushman probably observed the electromagnetic activity in mormyrids during their vast travels, and translated it as some kind of potency.

The transformation of a person into a fish and taking on its attributes clearly relates to the shamanic Bushman term 'underwater' that is so closely related to the trance dance, during which the shamans apparently travelled to the spirit world in the sky where their ancestors lived, a place that they believed existed beyond the rock face on which they painted these intricate symbols.



*Wim is a registered field guide.
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Adventure on page golf for fun



Your round of golf at The Clarens Golf and Trout Estate begins at the stylish clubhouse, strategically positioned to view the finish of both nines, as well as the magnificent Mount Horeb.

All of the 18 holes meander along and across the tranquil rivulet and its splendid series of trout dams, waterfalls and cascades.

The playing surface of the manicured Kikuyu fairways and bentgrass greens are framed by mature willow and magnificent Lombardi poplar trees, characteristic of the area. This layout is a classic "risk and reward" design. With the fairways wide at the landing areas off the tees, one can easily reach the greens in regulation to your handicap. However, nearly every green hugs the water, so it's a case of play safe to your handicap, or attack the flags to "go low".

On 16 December, OFM and the Clarens Golf and Trout Estate will host the third annual Clarens Fire Association fundraising golf day.

The commitment the volunteers show towards preserving the safety, security and beauty of the Eastern Free State is a testament to true South African spirit. You too can be part of this fun golf day and assist us in raising much needed funds for the CFA. Book your four-ball by phoning Ralph Burls on 058 256 1270 or at golf@theclarens.co.za. Each four-ball green fee will be R2 000.

Included in the four-ball entry are golf hampers for each player. The green fee also covers half-way house plus dinner after the golf, prize giving and a show from one of Redstar Talent's performers.

R10 000 in prizes for the top fifteen teams will be on offer.

It once again, promises to be fun raising funds.

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27 JANUARY | NATIONAL POLICE DAY

Who done it? at the Protea Hotel Clarens

The Adamo Restaurant at the Protea Hotel, offers dinners and lunches for the festive season but once the season is over, they also present a "Murder Mystery Evening" on 26 January 2012.

On 27 January in 1995 the South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act No 68 of 1995) was promulgated and on this day in 2005, the SAPS celebrated its 10th anniversary as a service to the South African Democracy. As of that year, 27 January is celebrated as National Police Day.

Protea celebrates National Police Day with a Murder Mystery Evening – the last aria of Adamo:

It is June 1962, in a luxury restaurant in the small and remote village of Clarens. Adamo, an up-and-coming young singer and son of the owner of a multinational record company, has invited several close "friends" for dinner at one of his father's restaurants.

In this secluded village of the Eastern Free State, murder is discovered and it is left to the surviving guests to unravel the crime.

Phone 058 256 1212 to book for any of these events.

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Frontier Inn and Casino Bethlehem - 058 307 6000



Bring your backpack
and pay the past
a jolly visit



To the casual visitor, Clarens may appear just another little village. Actually, it is a fascinating metropolis appreciated by those in the know. Not only is it an ideal destination for art lovers, but it is also an Eldorado for gourmets, thanks to its numerous star-rated restaurants. It is this reputation that contributed to Clarens being chosen as Free State tourism town of the year. Not only will the visitor find upmarket accommodation in the wings of town, but also affordable backpacking accommodation for hiker and musician alike.

Wedged between the toes of the Clarens Mountain and surrounded by green weeping willows and red sandstone, an old-worldly atmosphere was created over many years of collecting unusual and nostalgic signs and interesting roadside finds. Built around a central courtyard with a fireplace, a stage and an outside bar, the Blast from the Past Backpackers offers all the basics of backpacking with a dorm for girls (and one for boys), a spacious kitchen, two tepees, a cottage and a couple of large family rooms, each with its own bathroom and fireplace.

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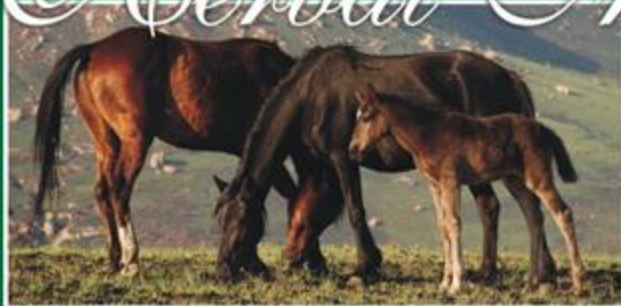
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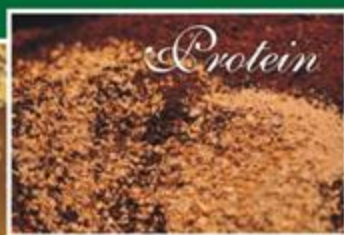
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- Adél Steyn

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staan

ons oë deur die groepleier óp laat lei
teen elke toringspits heen laat gly, die
bloue niet in
dan terug tot waar ons op warm teer
staan en ons eie sneeuwit Afrikakatedraal
vereer

eers tóé glip die verlange uit my los
stil en onaangekondig
soos die winterreën wat ek leer liefkry het
en draai ek my weg,
loop my beminde dorp se strate in

gaan staan styf teen die skurfte van 'n
akkerboom
kyk op na die trapsuutjiegroen blaartjies
gekurf soos 'n kind se skrifpatrone;
hoe hulle die lug pons tot papierwit flenters
en onthou hoe hul eersdaags tot 'n skugter bruin
sal demp en val

ek flankeer vir oulaas met gewels en dakkrulle
spelend bokant die wit geboue
met houtluike waaragter koel geheime talm

en sien verder op hoe die berg, 'n edeldame,
haar rok vertonerig valleï-af spreï

dan stap ek trappies-op by die kafee
na die glasvierkantjies met toffies waaruit my
kinders sou kies
groet weer gesigte by die betaaltoonbank
in Kaapse Afrikaans
en vee my wange af
want dit hou aan en aan om vroegtydig
sag te reën ...

nou moet ek terug die stegies in
wat soos die fyn are van 'n blaar
my weer na die randjie van die dorp lei

terug na die parkeerarea en my motor
na die lughawe, 'n nuwe dorp
waar ek volgende week van nuuts af weer sal
lewe
tussen sy forse sandsteengeboue

en lynige berge:



Harrismith



Stellenbosch

plat soos tafels gedek vir reuse
in 'n wye blou kombuis waar wolke
vanagter die einders oorkook soos melk
en kort na die gasheer met 'n grimdreun uit sy
middagslaap ontwaak
en weerlig flits soos die nagoë van 'n roofdier
die eerste druppels sal val –
voorspel tot elke somermiddagstorm

totdat die herfs kom
en populiere soos geel vlamme begin lek aan die
lug
• weldra deur die barre winter geblus –
om soos skelette te wag op die liefde:

so sal ek toelaat
dat hierdie plek my begelei
tot nuwe lewe:

bophelo bo botjha

See you at

RESTAURANT

THE POSTHOUSE

for a luscious trout!

Located on the legendary Main Street, Post House Corner is divided into several shops and galleries. Included in this area are galleries, delis and a restaurant which was the original post office of Clarens back in the golden days.

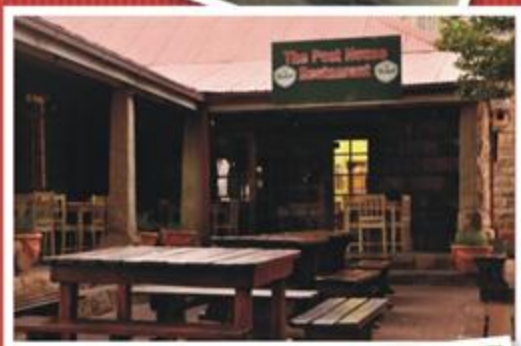
The Post House Corner concept was never planned but simply developed from the need for business space. Here you can hop into a restaurant for coffee and while waiting for it to be served, quickly pop into a jewellery shop or deli. There are two entrances to the Corner. The Main Street and Roos Street entrances

The Post House Restaurant has a host of homey basics and a popular breakfast. Picnic tables in a courtyard just off the village square make this a pleasant people-watching spot.

Ray and Margot took over from Sandy and Martin about a year ago and brought new energy to Main Street. Here you get more than good food; you'll find a large dose of history mixed into the coffee. The Post House was one of the first buildings to be built in the young village. Sturdy sandstone hewn from the ancient surrounds and built to last no matter who eventually inhabited the building. It served as Postkantoor in the early days and later on was much changed and restored and has found a new life as an open air, on-the-stoep restaurant and some charming shops.

Open-air restaurants have mushroomed on the streets of Clarens but none with this unique setting and inimitable backdrop and ambiances. There's just not a match for true tradition and sandstone is truly Clarens's tradition.

The Post House restaurant serves breakfast, light lunches and dinner. Trout is but one of their specialities and when in trout country, why not enjoy it at the Post House? They serve delicious food with panache and flair. Chill out and enjoy a refreshing cocktail on the patio or on the stoep. The restaurant offers a daily menu using the freshest local ingredients. They offer a selection of plates including a Prego platter and typical South African dishes. The servings are generous and promise to satisfy any appetite in true Eastern Free State tradition.



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